

SPENCER NEW LEADER

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Free by request to residents of

East Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield, Brookfield, Leicester and Spencer

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Friday, February 21, 2025



Courtesy

The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District leadership team congratulates David Prouty High School student-athletes on a successful recent competition. With a competing team of five athletes on the mat, the DPHS cheerleading program took part in its first competition of the season on Feb. 15, placing third out of eight teams.

North Brookfield selectman, Town Administrator announce resignations

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD — Less than a year into his first term on the Select Board, Vaughn Schlegel has stepped down.

At the Feb. 11 Select Board meeting, Chairman Jason Petraitis read a resignation letter released by Schlegel, whose last day was Feb. 10.

"I want to thank all of you that put your faith in me, to elect me to this prestigious office to help oversee and manage our beloved town," read Schlegel's letter to the community. "I cannot thank you enough for the trust and support you have all given me. I also want to thank everyone who works for the town, who have helped to make North Brookfield a better place to live and who I have had the pleasure of working closely with in this shared vision."

Added Schlegel, "However, due to a certain individual who has harassed me both in my elected role and my personal job by contacting my employer to force my hand, I have made the difficult decision to step down as your Selectman. As many of you know, I work for the Post Office. And as a federal employee, there are certain regulations under the Hatch Act Law that prohibit certain political activities by federal employees."

Although Schlegel's non-partisan role as a selectman is allowed under the Hatch Act, participating in discussions with residents or sending emails to town employees while on the job is prohibited, he outlined in the letter.

"Technically, I can participate in my elected role after hours; however, I would not find myself able to effectively stay engaged and communicate with town employees in a timely manner," Schlegel's letter read. "If I cannot give being a selectman my all, then I do not want to take up this position where someone else can give it more time and effort."

Elected in May 2024, Schlegel was off to a promising start in his first term, praised by several residents for strong communications and commitment to

Turn To **RESIGNATIONS** page **A9**

Local health officials urge caution amid severe flu season

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — With nationwide flu cases surging to levels not seen since 2010, officials are urging area residents to take precautions.

According to CDC statistics, an estimated 310,000 flu hospitalizations have occurred throughout the country since Oct. 1. The flu is blamed for at least 13,000 deaths in the U.S. over that period, and local officials are worried about recent spikes in cases.

"It is not possible to know the exact number of people who have experienced flu illness in the United States because not everyone who gets sick with flu will seek medical care or be tested for influenza," read a statement released by the CDC.

Area health officials urge residents to take several steps to stay protected against the flu.

"To avoid getting the flu, the best way is to get the flu shot," said Spencer Health Agent Lisa Daoust. "Also, washing your hands; avoid other sick people; cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing; clean and disinfect surfaces; and practice good health habits in general, such as eat a balanced diet, drink plenty of fluids, and exercise regularly."

Norovirus outbreaks have also increased nationwide

Turn To **FLU** page **A9**

LHS welcomes Shrewsbury students into CTE program

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Following the establishment of a new partnership, Leicester High School has welcomed students from Shrewsbury into its career technical education (CTE) program.

With a 5-0 vote in November 2024, the Shrewsbury School Committee approved a memorandum of understanding, selecting LHS as its preferred CTE school.

Last month, LHS accepted four Shrewsbury students into its program. They began their studies on Jan. 21, and school officials are thrilled with the early results of the integration.

"All is going well so far. We are starting small," said Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Brett Kustigian. "I use the metaphor 'crawl-walk-run' with the administrative team when it comes to new challenges and building programs. We are learning a lot with the pilot and building for the future."

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New year brings promotions at Spencer PD

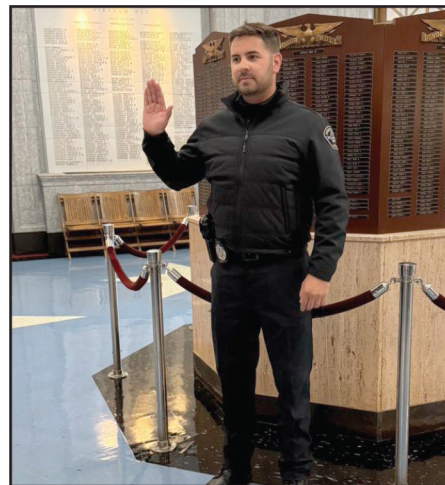


Spencer Police Detective Christopher Inzerillo has been promoted to the rank of sergeant.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — Police leaders were excited to start the new year with several personnel actions that augment the department.

At a Select Board meeting last month, Spencer Police leaders announced the promotion of Det. Christopher Inzerillo to the rank of Sergeant with the SPD. The promotion was made following the retirement of



Officer James Flagg was hired as the newest member of the Spencer Police Department.

Sgt. Randy Berg. "Sgt. Inzerillo has been an integral part of the Spencer Police Department since November 2011. Before joining our team, he served with the Barre Police Department and brought a wealth of experience from his time as a medic with Worcester EMS," read a statement released by the SPD. "His diverse background and steadfast commitment to public safety make him an exceptional leader as he steps



Spencer Police Officer Joshua May was recently promoted to the rank of sergeant.

into this new role." Additionally, the SPD welcomed Officer James Flagg as the newest member of the department. Flagg will assume the patrolman position previously held by Sgt. Inzerillo.

"We are excited to announce the addition of Officer James Flagg to our team. Officer Flagg joins us after

Turn To **PROMOTIONS** page **A9**

LMS students take part in History Day competition



Courtesy

Leicester Middle School students recently took part in the Leicester History Day Competition.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER
 LEICESTER — Sixth and seventh graders at Leicester Middle School recently took part in the annual Leicester History Day Competition. Held on Feb. 7, the fifth annual event enabled students to present their research projects to community judges and guests. This year's projects were centered around the theme of "Rights and Responsibilities in

History." Several special guests were invited to attend the event, including school district leaders, retired teachers, local legislators, and members of the Massachusetts Historical Society. "We also utilize our History Day to provide an opportunity for students across all grade levels to evaluate history and build leadership skills," said LMS social studies teacher Norman Everett. "We utilized 38

Leicester High School students to serve as judges. They viewed our LMS projects and provided feedback." Roughly 20 eighth grade students also participated in the event as room leaders. They were responsible for greeting guests and managing equipment in each room where students were presenting work. For school district leaders and local legislators, it's always a thrill to visit the school and view the students' projects. "Every year, our students rise to the occasion with outstanding projects and awe-

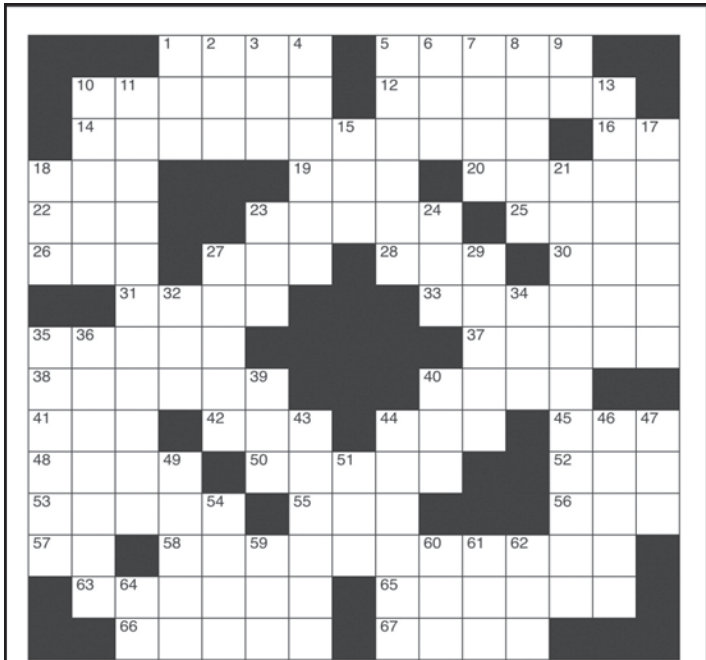
some presentations," said Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Brett Kustigian. "Students dress to impress, speak intelligently, and they represent what is best about Leicester Middle School." Students can choose to present their projects through different forms, including exhibits, documentaries, performances, or websites.

At the conclusion of the judges' review phase, 48 students were selected to move on to the next round of the National History Day program. These students will compete against their peers from across central and west-

ern Massachusetts at a regional competition hosted by Leicester Middle School on March 8. "Here, students will compete for a spot at the state competition on April 12," Everett added. If students are selected to advance from the state competition, they will compete at the national event held in Washington, D.C.

LMS officials thank all guests who attended this year's event, including State Senator Peter Durant; State Representative Paul Frost; Superintendent Brett Kustigian; Leicester School Committee mem-

ber Dylan Lambert; retired teachers Judy Playe, Diane Lavaille, and Deb Campanale; and MA Historical Society members Elyssa Tardiff, Heather Baxter, Kayla Clark, Alex Moleski, and Paula Sampson. "I always enjoy visiting our schools, and this visit was particularly interesting because I got to see projects on Harriet Tubman and also on nuclear energy," Sen. Durant said. "The students were enthusiastic, and it was great to see the fruits of their labors."

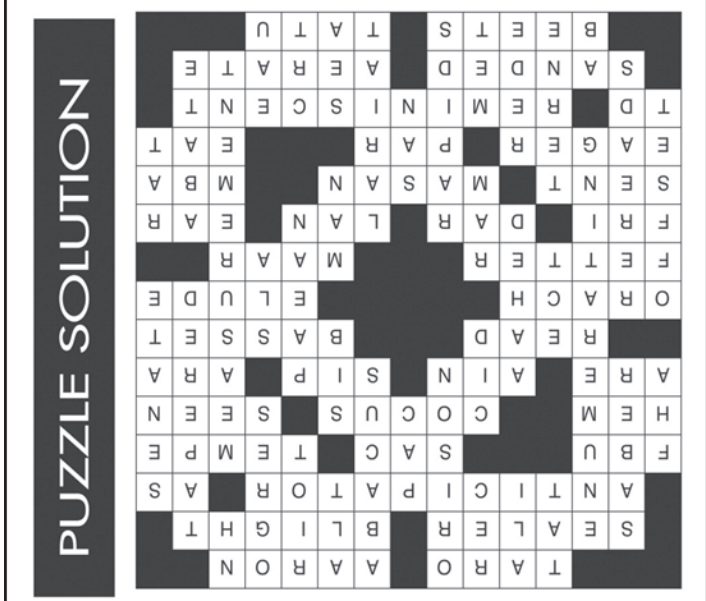


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Tropical Asian plant
- 5. Yankees' slugger Judge
- 10. Helps to preserve food
- 12. Plant disease
- 14. One who predicts
- 16. Equally
- 18. Burundian franc
- 19. Pouch
- 20. Arizona city
- 22. Surround
- 23. Hard, heavy timber
- 25. Witnessed
- 26. They ___
- 27. French river
- 28. A way to drink
- 30. Small constellation
- 31. Peruse a written work
- 33. Type of hound
- 35. Plant of the goosefoot family
- 37. Evade or escape
- 38. A way to confine
- 40. Volcanic crater
- 41. Weekday
- 42. Women's service organization (abbr.)
- 44. Local area network
- 45. Sensory receptor
- 48. Posted
- 50. Tibetan pastry
- 52. Licensed for Wall Street
- 53. Very willing
- 55. Golf score
- 56. Consume
- 57. Touchdown
- 58. Tends to remind
- 63. In a way, smoothed
- 65. Poke holes in the ground
- 66. Herbaceous plants
- 67. Taiwanese river

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Body art
- 2. Boxing's GOAT
- 3. Film for posterity (abbr.)
- 4. Prayer
- 5. Calculating machine
- 6. Keyboard key
- 7. Outburst
- 8. Man-eating giants
- 9. New Hampshire
- 10. Type of sword
- 11. Counting
- 13. Pants style
- 15. Political action committee
- 17. U.S. government legislative branch
- 18. Civil Rights Act component
- 21. Contractors take one
- 23. Spanish soldier
- 24. A person's brother or sister
- 27. Expressed pleasurer
- 29. Song of praise
- 32. Shock treatment
- 34. Patti Hearst's captors
- 35. Counteract
- 36. Goes over again
- 39. Popular Dodge truck
- 40. Male adult
- 43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
- 44. Rope used to lasso
- 46. Become less intense
- 47. Subway rodent
- 49. Lead alloy
- 51. Japanese honorific title
- 54. Advise someone
- 59. Famous NYC museum
- 60. Ocean
- 61. Cathode-ray tube
- 62. Cologne
- 64. It starts with these two



Leicester school officials join area legislators, volunteers, and community leaders at the program.

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Libraries reach out for public support

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — Area library fans came together last Friday at Pearle L. Crawford Public Library to start their annual push for library support from the Legislature. In the process, they got an update on some of the bills being proposed, pro-

and con-. Naturally, the core of them were those seeking funding for the Mass Board of Library Commissioners (which provides grants to most public libraries), the Mass Center for the Book (which promotes literacy and supports Bay State writers), and more general state library aid.

According to Commissioner Karen Traub, "it's been a while since we've seen an increase," but that's particularly important now with "the challenges we've seen lately."

Those include an increased push for censorship in some places, increasing need for English-language education, proposed federal cuts, increasing costs for materials, and more.

Regarding the MCB, Traub noted that promotes the annual reading challenge with a different theme monthly (some audience members said what they were reading), Letters about Literature (where students write to authors culminating in a Statehouse ceremony), Children's Literature Festival and book awards.

For some people, she added, libraries were their "only contact with the outside world" during the pandemic, and some credit them with saving or changing their lives.

One of those was Dudley resident Kate Evanski, a teacher

in Auburn.

"The library is and always has been my safe place, my happy place," she said.

In poetry, she told the story of how being able to escape to the library, especially to Tolkien's books, helped her "quiet the noise" and get through her father's unexpected death as a teenager.

In the library, she recalled, "I was no longer the girl who'd just lost her father. I was just a girl reading a book. I was free."

Eventually, fiction "pulled me from the depths of despair," she said.

For Ed Bazinet, the library has been his refuge for 80 years. He recalled his first book in the late 1940s was about an egg in a barnyard hatching into a strange chimera creature that faced discrimination from other beings until it saved their community. To him, that book made him see the importance of "how you look at something through your difficult eyes ... and come to understand its purpose."

Both of those messages resonated with Jason Homer, Worcester's library director, who said libraries are safe spaces open to everyone "regardless of your belief system." He talked about how they need to be safe for the staff, too, promoting the Safe Spaces for Librarians bill, which aims to protect "people facing direct threats over materials that are in their libraries."

Furthermore, Homer talked about the Act for Free Expression (S.141/H.625), which aims to challenge book bans in schools. According to its text, it expands student rights to specifically include "receive information, includ-

ing through materials determined to be educational and age-appropriate... by the school library teacher" or whomever selects such materials, based on policy drafted by the school committee that includes a process for book challenges. It also gives students, parents and guardians the right to challenge book removals.

One issue, he noted, is that Massachusetts doesn't require librarians be certified in K-6 schools, and many don't have one. To him, that raises the question of "where are they getting digital literacy knowledge" and other issues.

On the finance side, Homer said a growing concern is e-books. The publishers charge libraries three to six times more per copy (up to \$120 each) than they charge everyday people, and each copy goes away after 26 check-outs or two years, forcing the library to repurchase them repeatedly. That's "wasting taxpayer money," he argued, advocating for HD.1221/SD.2329 to correct such abuses. The bills prohibit contracts that stop libraries from "disclosing any terms of [their] license agreements" or "require or enable libraries to violate the confidentiality of patron records." It also creates a board to investigate how to make library prices be the same as everyone else's, let the library determine loan periods, prohibit license and number of loan-out restrictions and other things.

CWMARS Executive Director Jeanette Lundgren said digital and physical item use has been growing, with a 5 percent increase in physical check-outs (10 million items) and 26 percent in digital (3 mil-

lion items). The library network now has 165 members, including 18 new, small ones in the last four years, some of whom now have their first online catalogs.

She described libraries as being in "very trying times. We don't know what will happen at the federal level, and we don't know its impact on the state

budget."

Lundgren and others urged library lovers to contact legislators with their personal stories of why libraries matter to them. They noted such stories, even brief ones, matter far more than form letters.

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

In Loving Remembrance John Soboleski III

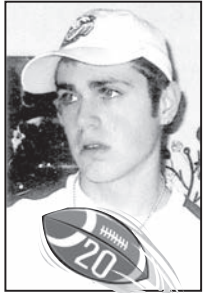
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You left us too soon and too suddenly. Our hearts ache when we think that we cannot tell you happy birthday anymore. May God rest your soul. Birthday wishes we send to you today To a star in the sky not so far away Engraved in gold on a cloud above... Just for you, with all our love. Happy Heavenly Birthday

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- Boys Grades 7th & 8th 9:45am-10:55 am
- Boys Grades 9th-12th 11 am-12:10 pm
- Girls Grades 4th-6th 12:15 pm- 1:25 pm
- Girls Grades 7th-8th 1:30 pm-2:40 pm
- Girls Grades 9th-12th 2:45 pm- 4 pm

Tryout # 2: March 1, 2025

Location: Oxford High School (100 Caruncle Dr Oxford Ma)

- Boys Grades & Girls Grades 4th-6th (9am-10:25 am)
- Boys & Girls Grades 7th & 8th (10:30 am-11:55 am)
- Boys and Girls Grades 9th-12th (12 pm-1:30 pm)

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Audio Journal's Random Acts of Music set for May date

WORCESTER — "Random Acts of Music," drawing on the great and varied musical talents of Worcester, will present an evening of dining and entertainment at the Hogan Ballroom at the College of the Holy Cross on Saturday, May 31. Audio Journal, the radio reading service for the blind and print disabled, returns to Hogan Hall in Worcester for its annual fundraising event. A ticket purchase, sponsorship or donation in support of this event, will help Audio Journal continue broadcasting news, information and entertainment to individuals in Central Massachusetts who are blind or print disabled.

"The entertainment aspect of the evening will include jazz, classical and folk standards of vocal and instrumental, solo and group artists. The event promises to be filled with surprises contributing to a musical night to remember," according to Executive Director Harry Duchesne of

Audio Journal.

Starting at 5:30 p.m. with a cash bar, silent auction and raffle opportunities, the show and dinner are set to begin at 6:30 p.m. A single ticket costs \$75 with tickets for two at \$130. A table of eight costs \$500 with a table of 10 for \$600 in the front two rows. The dinner meal choices offered are chicken, fish, vegetarian/vegan, special choice for those with dietary needs.

This year's silent auction will begin online on April 1 and will be open to the public. The online auction will end the morning of the event and will continue as a live auction the night of the event.

"The silent auction and raffle offerings

at Audio Journal events are exceptional and are the cause for enthusiastic bidding," says Duchesne.

Audio Journal's mission in Central Massachusetts is to connect individuals with a visual impairment, or an inability to access print material, to their communities through broadcasting of local news, information, and entertainment with exclusive programs and content. Listeners hear broadcasts via an iPhone and Android App, smart speaker (Amazon Echo), internet, telephone, cable TV, or a special receiver tuned to Audio Journal's frequency. Audio Journal's 170 volunteers read newspapers, magazines, books,

grocery and retail flyers, health information, and more. There are more than a dozen specialty programs including Speaking Volumes, Radio Active Theatre and Talking Topics and Another Point of View. This local reading service for the visually impaired and print disabled is a valued source of information and companionship.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!

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Friday's Child



Hi! My name is Jaxen and I have a fabulous smile and laugh!

Jaxen is very active and happy! He enjoys playing catch, riding in golf carts, and rocking in outdoor gliders. When Jaxen wants to relax, he is very cuddly. Jaxen loves Disney music, especially the soundtracks from Trolls and The Greatest Showman.

Jaxen
Age 9
Registration # 8388

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/8388>

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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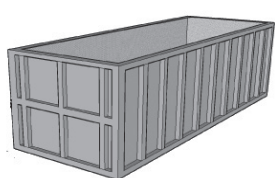


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Celebrating Garlic's Greatness!

A recent bout with the cold/flu virus that is going around prompted me to rediscover the healing benefits of garlic. The truth is, I didn't have the energy, time or patience to wait half a day at the doctor's office to get checked out, so I took matters (and a bunch of garlic bulbs) into my own hands. The result? I was feeling "practically perfect in every way" (to quote Mary Poppins) in about four days!

While garlic isn't meant as a substitute for medical attention, the inexpensive and tasty herb can be a good first step in warding off a cold or flu. Read on for some old fashioned garlic home remedies, several of which have appeared in previous columns through the years.

Note: Garlic is a natural herb so please check with your physician before eating large amounts of garlic or while on any medication.

Did you know centuries ago, the bubonic plague killed one in three Europeans, but garlic vendors (who wore garlic braids around their necks) were among those who were largely spared? The belief back then was that the plague was spread by vampires; thus the legend that vampires are afraid of garlic was born. Today, we know that raw garlic contains a

natural immune boosting compound. The more garlic you eat (and apparently the vendors ate plenty) the stronger the hike to your immune system.

Garlic is praised as an antibacterial, antiviral and antifungal remedy, and in fact, scientific studies reveal that people who eat garlic regularly suffer less from colds than those who don't. In addition, research shows taking garlic at the onset of a cold can reduce the time taken to recover. But it's important to know that garlic must be fresh for optimal benefits. Garlic's active ingredient, allicin, is destroyed within an hour of smashing the clove. So eat fresh garlic, or run it through a juicer in a vegetable drink for best results.

Garlic was once called Poor Man's Penicillin, and it's no wonder. According to Tanushree Podder, author of "You are what you Eat," an average clove of garlic contains substances equivalent to 100,000 units of penicillin (about 1/5 the average dose), without its side effects! Research even indicates garlic may be efficient in preventing heart disease and cancer. More studies show garlic reduces cholesterol and high blood pressure, and may even help regulate blood sugar for pre-diabetics.



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

But here's the kicker: to reap most of these long term health benefits you need to eat one to three fresh cloves per day for at least three months before positive results are seen.

The book, "The Healing Power of Garlic," suggests garlic nose drops can kill the viruses that cause cold or flu. Here are the book's instructions on concocting the drops: Crush some garlic to obtain juice, and add ten parts water and mix well. Apply as you would regular nose drops.

According to a home remedy published long ago, if you place a clove of garlic on each side of the mouth between the teeth and cheek, a cold will disappear within a day. It's worth a try!

Colds and flu are often accompanied by congestion. Users of this generations-old homemade expectorant claim it works better than costly commercial brands.

Ingredients: one white onion, chopped;

three cloves garlic, chopped; sugar to cover. Directions: Place onion in a deep bowl. Cover with sugar; and allow mixture to set for at least an hour. A syrupy juice will result. Take a spoonful or two of the mixture to relieve congestion.

According to Prevention magazine garlic is among the top nine "power foods" that best boost immunity. They are: Yogurt; Oats and Barley; Garlic; Fish; Chicken Soup; Tea; Beef; Sweet Potatoes and Mushrooms.

Did you know garlic is quick and easy to grow? It can even be grown on a windowsill indoors! And the garlic plant does not give off an odor, so plant away!

To do: Save a clove from a garlic bulb and remove all the skin. Plant pointed end up in a container with soil to which you've added a layer of pebbles for drainage. Feed with fish emulsion every couple of weeks. Keep the soil moist and in a sunny area, and in about four weeks your plant will be nearly a foot tall!

Spicy foods such as garlic may be the weapon to battling mucus. Studies show foods such as chili peppers, horseradish and garlic help reduce congestion by driving out

mucus. How? The same agent that induces tears also helps thin out excess mucus.

The combination of hot, steaming chicken broth with a dash of garlic and hot pepper has proven especially beneficial to thin mucus. As a bonus, garlic has antibiotic properties that aid the immune system.

Did you know? Garlic is an herb that has a reputation for igniting romance. Long ago, Tibetan monks were forbidden to enter the monastery if they had been eating garlic, due to the belief it stirs up passion. The Greeks and the Egyptians also used to hail garlic's aphrodisiac properties.

Garlic has also been hailed as a natural tick repellent. A natural spray for grass and garden can be made by pureeing in a blender three peeled cloves of water and about two cups of water. Strain out the garlic and then dilute it with enough water to make a gallon. Add a couple of drops of liquid dish detergent to help it dispense. Spray the grass and foliage where people congregate and along wooded borders.

Some folks are also convinced eating garlic during the summer

months helps prevent mosquitoes and ticks from biting them!

Win a Three Course 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.

SOPHOMORES NAMED TO HONOR ROLL AT BAY PATH

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School congratulates the following students in grade 10 on being named to the honor roll for the first quarter of the 2024-2025 school year.

High Honors

Anais Annette Alamo-Abad, Lillian Lauren Araujo, Boden Richard Barrell, Brett Julius Beltzer, Alexandria Helene Blanchard, Sagasse Mpolo Budimbu, Clara Mae Burlingame, Jenna Lynne Cianci, Trinity Chevelle Crompton, Benjamin Jackson Cryan, Luciana Isabel Flores, Brooke Nicole Fuller, Jady Marie Goodwin, Emma Grace Harrington, Vikram Kanchan Jha, Jayme Douglas Kenney, Jared Thomas Magnusson, Emily Arlene Malia, Thomas Andrew Nault, Johnny Ly Nhan, Katie Ann Putnam, Jason Timothy Richard, Jordyn Alexandra Sabotka, Owen Wajer Sanford, Isabella Christina Sepulveda, Kyle Dennis Twombly, Ryan James Ugrinow, Jazzelle Gia Wolverson, Jackson Robert Young

Honors

Saleta Hellen Alves, Trevor Riley Amaral, Winifred Donna Aucoin, Collin William Bachand, Kennadie Taylor Balcunas, Vincent Louis Balducci, Zaclayia Rose Ballard, Benjamin Whitman Bassett, Lyla Rose

Beauchene, Samantha Mackenzie Belanger, Kayleigh Rose Bissell, Alyssa Rose Bonneville, Benjamin Russell Boulmetis, Gavin Gradley Boyd, Alexia Rose Brown, Olivia Raychal Burgos, Ariana Kathleen Byrnes, Bella Kristina Calnan, Michaela Sarah Carter, Evalynn Rose Cedillo, Miya Elizabeth Chauvin, Keziah Sage Chipman, Leianna Marie Collins, Liam Zachary Colon, Eric Murphy Day, Hunter William Defosse, Livia Cassandra Deluca, Madisson Clara Drewry, Brianne Nyarkoa Dwomoah, Molly Elizabeth Dwyer, Elizabeth Joyce Eccleston, Dylan Michael Filipkowski, Samantha Lynn Fleck, Aria Faith Fournier, Jinnette Lynn Goguen, Adrian Dariusz Golemo, Dakota Rylie Goodwin, Liam Reed Greenwood, Julia Abigail Holton, Colin Paul Hurley, Dominik Ignatovich, Evangeline Noelle Jackson, Kelsey Rose Karlowicz, Finnian John Keefe, Owen John Kennedy, Abena Kwartemaa Kwarteng, Benjamin Mitchell Labbe, Sangey Dawa Lama, Maximilian Thomas Lapriore, Ethan Michael Lemire, Damon James Libby, Perry Khai Lima, Apollo Ridge Logan, Julie-Anna Marie Marchetti, Jack Moriarty Maroney, Christopher Warren Martin, Aaron Robert Mazur, Finn McDaniel, Ava June McKelleck, Joshua Daniel McLaughlin, Johannys Marie Melendez, Nicholas Isaac Meneguzzo, Jayden Anthony Minardi, Alexis Kayla Moore, Miles Joseph

Moriarty, Miguel Angel Mosqueda, Nathaniel Thomas Munson, Kaiya Rowan Murphy, Anastasia Marie Nieuwenhoff, Daniel Anthony Nowlan, Sarah Hazel O'Donnell, Elijah Ziarre Orfori, Jacey Okyere-Tawiah, Izabella Grace Paquin, Matthew Dean Parmenter, Kiley Marie Paronto, Aylah Mae Patraw, Mayli Ann Pedersen, Iban Alexander Pelaez, Kyla Carmen Farai Pierre, Ava Marie Rennie, Isabella Lynn Richard, Dani Roemer, Leilani Marie Rohena Torres, Yarisbeth Michelle Rojas, Jennavicia Marie Roseberry, Julian Benjamin Saez, Isaiah Omar Santiago, Ella Lanmei Schofield, Kayla Lynn Schroeder, Michael Ryan Scott, Jannessa Ellie Sepuka, Lucas Clement Silva, Zachary Stephen Sirard, Tiano Joseph Caole Sousa, Hadleigh Anne Splaine, Logan Frederick Stake, Dylan Robert Strzelewicz, Arianna Jayde Thomas, Rachel Lynnette Torres, Nicholas Aiden Tremblay, Timothy Nicholas Tripp, Bryce Joseph Vautour, Sophia Ann Vigeant, Bradey Matthew Weeks, Connor Patrick Welsh, Christopher Paul Willey, Nico Anthony Yacavace, Lucy Vivian Zaleski

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Dr. Bhaumik

I was invited to a Super Bowl party in LA, so I figured—why not? I flew out, rented a car, and as I wound my way up the hills of Bel Air, I realized this wasn't just any party. The address led me to an opulent mansion owned by Dr. Mani Bhaumik—a scientist, entrepreneur, and someone whose life story made the Super Bowl seem like just another event.

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

subject poverty in a remote village in India, so poor his family had trouble meeting basic needs. He didn't receive his first pair of shoes until he was a teenager, but he made up for his lack of resources with an unstoppable hunger for knowledge.

Opportunities were scarce, and success was predetermined. Still, as destiny would have it, he lived with Mahatma Gandhi for a time, absorbing the wisdom of one of history's most outstanding leaders, not knowing that he, too, would one day leave a profound mark on the world.

Through sheer determination, he earned a place at the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology, where he pursued physics and eventually became the institution's first doctor-

al graduate.

In 1959, he set his sights on the United States to pursue postdoctoral research at UCLA. Arriving in the U.S. with almost nothing, he faced an entirely new set of challenges. He was an immigrant scientist in a time when opportunities for foreign researchers were not easily handed out.

But failure wasn't in Dr. Bhaumik's nature. His relentless curiosity and determination eventually led him to breakthrough research in laser technology.

In 1968, he secured a position as the director of the laser technology lab at Northrop Corporation, where he played a pivotal role in the development of the excimer laser. This technology would later revolutionize vision correction, leading to the LASIK surgery that mil-

lions rely on today.

Yet, his success wasn't limited to science alone. Dr. Bhaumik had an entrepreneurial spirit that allowed him to expand his work beyond research labs and into the world of business. His ventures in technology and industry earned him a fortune, enabling him to become a philanthropist.

Adding a touch of Hollywood glamour to his rags-to-riches story, He dated Eva Gabor and was featured in an episode of "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous" with Robin Leach!

Despite reaching the pinnacle of both scientific and financial achievement, he sought something even more significant. The fundamental questions of existence. How does science intersect with spirituality? Could quantum physics explain the mysteries of

consciousness? Was there a higher power woven into the fabric of the universe?

These questions led him to write "Code Name God," a book exploring the intersection of cutting-edge physics and the search for meaning.

He wrote, "There is a grand design in nature, and that grand design is the reflection of a grand intelligence."

Dr. Bhaumik didn't frame this as religious doctrine—he wasn't preaching faith in a traditional sense. Instead, he proposed that science itself, through the discoveries of quantum mechanics, points toward a unifying intelligence behind the cosmos.

Dr. Bhaumik's journey isn't over. Even now, he stays up late writing research papers, speaking at conferences around

the world, and funding initiatives that promote education and science.

While many might have retired to enjoy the fruits of their labor, Dr. Bhaumik remains as driven as ever; not for more success, but for deeper understanding; he's still asking questions, exploring, and giving back.

I finally turned my attention back to the game. But as I watched the players fight for victory, I couldn't shake the thought—here we were, celebrating champions on the field, and yet I was in the presence of a different kind of champion.

If there's one lesson to take from Dr. Mani Bhaumik's story, it's this: whether you're on the field, in a lab, or just navigating life, never stop learning, never stop striving.

The game was on, the food was great, and the energy in the room was electric—but being someone who is fascinated by those who have accomplished great things, I was more interested in getting to know Dr. Bhaumik than in watching the game.

As I spoke with him, I realized his life's journey was extraordinary.

He was born into

What goes up must come down—or does it?

BY CHRISTOPHER MALLON
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, PROGRAM MANAGER
LPL REGISTERED PRINCIPAL, THE CAPSTONE
PLANNING GROUP
LOCATED AT CORNERSTONE BANK

Most of us have visited an amusement park and been on a rollercoaster at some point in our lives. Some people love these fast paced, stomach dropping, thrill rides—while others prefer to keep their feet planted firmly on the ground. Imagine for a moment you are buckled in, slowly ascending a rollercoaster's giant peak. As you steadily climb higher and higher, your heart rate and nerves start to increase. Why? Going up the hill isn't scary—but the inevitable drop back down is.

When it comes to investing your money, the same emotional scenario can play out. Seeing your account value climb higher over time isn't scary... it's great! But the fear of a big drop can be terrifying. Sadly, for some people that fear can become so paralyzing they avoid investing all together and forgo potential growth.

Is there any way to eliminate those potential drops? Is it possible for an account value to go up... but not back down? The short answer is yes. Certain products have been created for that specific purpose.

Most investors understand that traditional long-only investment products like stocks, mutual funds, and ETFs, offer upside growth potential. They also understand these investments can be volatile. Volatility is defined as "the potential to change rapidly and unpredictably". In other words, values can go up... and values can go down. A la the rollercoaster.

Insurance companies realized investors were looking for alternatives to the scenario above. If they could create a

vehicle which provided upside potential and eliminated the "drops", they'd have a powerful product with lots of demand. Enter stage right: fixed-indexed annuities.

A fixed indexed annuity (FIA) is a long-term investment that combines growth potential with protection from market downturns. If you're an investor willing to give up "a portion" of the market's upside, the insurance company will in-return guarantee to protect your principal from loss.

While not all FIAs are alike, here are some of their common features:

Fixed term: to structure these products insurance companies typically require a term of 5 years or more. If you need to make a withdrawal, many allow for 10% free withdrawals per year (without penalty)

Principal protection: when your contract ends, you are guaranteed to receive at least 100% of your initial investment back

Earnings: potential earnings are paid at the end of each year and based on the performance of an underlying index. Earnings are usually "capped" at a certain level. For this example, let's assume your cap rate is 10 percent based on the S&P500's performance.

If the S&P500 was up +7 percent: you would be credited +7 percent for the year

If the S&P500 was up +15 percent: you would be credited +10 percent for the year (remember the 10 percent cap)

If the S&P500 was down -20 percent:

you would receive zero earnings for the year...but experience no loss!

Tax deferral: FIAs have tax-deferred status which allows you to benefit from compounded growth

Should investors have all their money in a fixed-indexed annuity? Absolutely not. But when used appropriately, they can be a powerful tool for some of your assets. This is particularly true for individuals in or around retirement that do not want to experience the potential "drops" of the stock market. FIAs can be a great compliment to traditional portfolios of stocks, bonds, and mutual funds -- and help to smooth out their overall volatility.

To determine if a FIA is appropriate for you, it is important to analyze your individual financial situation and goals. Working with a qualified financial planner that is also insurance licensed can be helpful in this process. He or she can help educate you on the pros and cons of different options, and how they may or may not be suitable for your needs.

Apparently not "everything that goes up has to come down" after all.

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Fixed Indexed Annuities (FIA) are not suitable for all investors. FIAs permit investors to participate in only a stated percentage of an increase in an index (participation rate) and may impose a maximum annual account value percentage increase. FIAs typically do not allow for participation in dividends accumulated on the securities represented by the index. Annuities are long-term, tax-deferred investment vehicles designed for retirement purposes. Withdrawals prior to 59 1/2 may result in an IRS penalty, and surrender charges may apply. Guarantees are based on the claims-paying ability of the issuing insurance company.

Quaboag Historical Society accepting scholarship applications

REGION — The Quaboag Historical Society is proud to announce its annual scholarship program, designed to support high school seniors with a passion for history and a commitment to preserving the past.

This \$1,000 scholarship aims to assist students planning to pursue higher education in any historical related field. The scholarship is only offered to a student who resides in one of the Quaboag Plantation towns of Brookfield, East Brookfield, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Warren, or West Brookfield. It is offered to a current high school senior planning to enroll in a college or university for the upcoming academic year who will pursue a degree in one of the following fields: Education, History, Museum Studies, Anthropology, Women's Studies, American Studies, or Archaeology.

Students wishing to study closely related fields are encouraged to apply. The application deadline is May 2.

For applications or more information, please contact Jeff Robbins at jefrobbs@charter.net or 508-579-4786.


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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Baby, it's cold outside

Newsflash: it's cold. Our little neck of the woods here has finally hit frigid sub-zero temperatures. Folks may be running low on fuel, or even running empty, causing frozen pipes to burst. Fuel companies are scheduled two weeks out in some cases, and several customers are feeling stressed due to the financial burden this cold weather brings. Our only advice is to hold on tight and think about how toasty things will be when temperatures soar into the teens and low 20s again.

The winter solstice on Dec. 21 has passed, and the days are getting longer... and, we hope, sunnier. One perk to this post-New Year's time is that, well, the holidays are over. The hustle and bustle starts in late November and doesn't calm down until the week following New Year's. Is it overrated? Maybe. We hope you are all able to relax in the days ahead.

When weather hits sub-zero, it's hard to remember why we live here. We live in New England because winter, for the most part, is fun and manageable. We love our snow sports, the smell of wood stoves cranking and the beauty of the snow-capped mountains.

Some of you may think of our ancestors who had to cut chords of wood by hand all year long just to prepare for the harsh New England winters. Houses way back when had no insulation or the walls were stuffed with straw and mud. Common houses were much smaller, therefore easier to keep heated with one wood stove. The fireplace was the focal point of a colonial home and was the place where family members would talk and work on small projects during the evening. The average size of a house according to today's standards is about 2,600 square feet. A home of that size hundreds of years ago was often occupied by the wealthy, who were able to afford to put a wood stove in each room of the house. Children of ten slept in lofts where the heat would rise and often shared a bed with siblings, using body heat to keep warm.

In days of old, people used thick curtains and down comforters to keep the heat in. Before bedtime, many would use a bed warmer, which was a brass pan with a long handle that was filled with hot rocks. Foot warmers were popular as well. These fancy contraptions were made of a wood framed tin box also with heated rocks that would be placed by the feet under the comforter. This heating method was used for trips in the horse and buggy as well. Church goers would bring their own boxes of heat and blankets to keep warm during a Sunday service.

Important to note is the fact that over the years humans have increasingly adapted to warmer weather as a result of modern technology. Our ancestors were able to withstand much colder temperatures and remain more comfortable in colder temperatures than we do today. All of that aside, we are pretty lucky to have the conveniences we do during these cold blasts.

Since winter is not nearly over, here are a few tips with regard to winter survival. Avoid frost bite and frost nip at all costs. When the water molecules in your skin cells freeze, they die. Once this happens, they can cause damage to your muscular and nervous systems. Exposed skin can develop frostbite within 30 minutes with winds of 10 mph and a temperature of -5 degrees. If you are outside and find your hands freezing, the warmest place for them to go is under your armpits, the warmest part of your body.

Another culprit is hypothermia. When your body hits 95 degrees you're entering the danger zone. When your organs start to drop in temperature they begin to shut down. If you notice yourself shivering or lacking coordination, it's time to get warm fast. Other more severe symptoms include low energy, difficulty speaking, a weak pulse and the cessation of the shivers. It's important to stay well nourished during any time spent outside, as your body needs that energy to stay warm. Always have a Snickers bar or something similar handy just in case. Staying hydrated is a must as you need water to keep your nervous system running properly. One rule of thumb is to never eat snow while trying to survive in frigid temperatures. Your body will be forced to warm it from the inside which wastes energy and can cause hypoglycemia. Try to keep your heart rate up as cold temperatures cause your heart rate to decrease. A higher heart rate will generate heat within your body however be sure not to do so much that you start to sweat, cold and sweat are never a good combination.

We hope none of you ever find yourselves in a situation where you need to implement any of the information above, however knowledge is power. Stay warm, summertime is just about six months away, where we will of course crank the air conditioning and complain about the heat and humidity.

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shell game or "Squid Game?"

To the Editor:
As I monitor what is going on in Trump World, what I see bears a lot of resemblance to the life and death consequences of the squid game.

For those who are unfamiliar, on green light we move forward, while red light has life and death consequences.

An example would be the richest man in the world halting food distribution that has produce from our farmers, rotting on docks, or collecting storage charges, while people are starving. Elon has picked up the Trump style of justification, that being blatant lies. We have not spent a dime on profilactics, unless you count that the term also applies to vaccinations prior to disease outbreaks, like polio, tuberculosis, measles etc.

Sean Penn and the multiple personalities are not on our payroll, except to the extent that their charitable work is tax deductible.

Did you hear that Elon Musk took Jeff Bezos' ex-wife to task for making a large charitable donation? She responded- by doubling it.

I also thought the shell game might apply, although these shells, though not completely clear, have sufficient transparency to perceive what is being done. Does anyone remember when Trump would not release his taxes to the voters? Does anyone have a rational for why he has released our social security and taxes to Elon Musk and his cadre of brown shirts? Does anyone realize these are the selfsame people that worked to assemble the computer banks at his AI facility? Does anyone think "Big Brother is Watching" is fantasy? As a boomer, I recall when Dick Tracy talking to people on his wrist-watch was pure fantasy? I can now pull a phone out, and talk to a granddaughter in Hawaii and grandson in North Carolina, at the same time.

Let's first talk about US Aid, which not only served thousands of the most destitute, hungry and sick people in the world, but holds the doors closed where our enemies would love to get leverage. I mentioned the rotting food and starvation, storage fees and disease outreach,

but you are also firing 10,000 of what amounts to missionaries, doing God's work, from farmers to shipper and packers to aid workers on site. Please do not go into a church and contribute a few bucks for missions and starving children, while supporting this.

You and I may think half billion a lot of money, but Musk's influence buy is a pittance to a man whose net worth went from \$40 billion to \$400 billion, and just doubling where he stands now will make him the world's first trillionaire. He has just offered \$100 billion to buy out his AI partner. It is his intention to put X into the banking business, in competition with Venmo. He has just ordered the shutdown of the Consumer Protection Agency, that recovered \$18 billion for consumers from banks and lenders engaging in illegal practices.

I am told Elon's endearment to Trump is largely his willingness to pick up the tab for his less than billion dollars in fine debt. That said, it is unclear who works for who. Trump has said he was surprised by Musk's actions. Who actually is the boss?

A quick civics lesson, that most of us got in elementary school, is that there are three co-equal branches of government to balance each other's power Congress makes the laws, courts rule based upon them and the executive, who is charged with enforcing the laws.

VP Vance has charged that courts are interfering with the presidential powers. He may think this because a court that is packed with Trump appointed judges, has essentially said whatever a president does is not illegal. The reason this all came before the court was that he already had a history of ignoring laws.

Where does that leave us? The president totally controls the clown shows in court and congress. Will weaponize the DOJ as he sees fit, will ignore the constitution, and pursue a foreign policy agenda that even a cartoonist could not conceive of.

KEN KIMBALL
BROOKFIELD

Family unity

To the Editor:
The time is now for an immediate infusion of appreciation, understanding, comprehension and desire by working together as strong, cohesive independent, family units. These family teams working with other families with the same aspirations, desires and goals, bringing to our great nation, truth, fairness, decency, honesty and always compassion. It's imperative for all of us to continue to identify, expose and destroy the evil self-serving threats and acts that are destroying the very fiber of our existence. Enough is enough. The time is now.

The path to victory for all of us is

Think carefully before wishing for the failure of your country

To the Editor:

In the Feb. 14 edition of this paper, I noticed an increasing number of letters to the Editor from people opposing the election of President Trump, his policies, & decisions he's making to help the United States from the last four years of vastly unpopular decisions made by extreme liberal politicians who clearly didn't have the best interests of the American people in mind.

Liberals are crying about the decision to have Elon (not Leon, as one writer posted) Musk head the newly formed DOGE agency to look into uncovering government waste. "He's not an elected official," they say. Well, neither was Kamala Harris as the Democratic presidential candidate. In what primary was she chosen to be the candidate for President? Joe Biden's choice for Transportation Secretary was Pete Buttigieg, former mayor of South Bend, Ind., who had absolutely

no experience in transportation except on starting his car. At least Elon has business experience in running successful businesses, such as Twitter or "X," & laid off a significant portion of the company's staff he felt was not necessary. Americans know that government wastes millions of our tax dollars on pork barrel spending projects & other wasteful projects. Why let that continue?

One writer mentions allies: "Do we still have any?" With the number of foreign diplomats wanting to renew good relationships with us, the answer is clearly "yes." Trump got elected by promising to make decisions best for America, such as lowering the inflation inherited by the Biden administration, eliminating the open border policies of the far-left liberal agenda which was allowing thousands of illegal criminals to enter our country, & other far left unpopular policies & decisions such as allowing male athletes to compete against female athletes. I always thought Democrats stood up & defended women's rights, not in this case.

I also noticed the title of the editorial, "Reserve your judgement." While not written about this past election, there are sections of this editorial which could apply: "We all go through challenging times, but that doesn't mean we all handle them in the same way." "Do we really want to be a society that has stopped supporting one another?" Just because this past election didn't go your way is no reason to wish failure on this administration, in doing so you wish for the failure of our country. Is that what you anti-Trumpers really want? Be careful what you wish for...

JOHN SHOCK
CHERRY VALLEY

What to know before "reversing" your retirement



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After working for decades, you may have been looking forward to retiring. But what if you decide to "reverse" your retirement?

You could rejoin the workforce for any number of reasons. You might need the added income to help pay for your living expenses, but you also might miss the social interactions with co-workers, or simply desire more purpose or stimulation in your life.

And if you do un-retire, you'll have plenty of company. More than 13 percent of previously retired baby boomers returned to the workforce in 2023, the highest level in five years, according to data from LinkedIn, the online career networking platform.

When pondering the decision to go back to work, you'll want to evaluate the advantages and the possible drawbacks.

First, let's look at the benefits of rejoining the workforce. By improving your cash flow, you may be able to do more of the things you enjoy, such as traveling. And you might also be able to reduce your debt load, which can free up even more cash. You might also use the extra money for other purposes, such as contributing to a tax-advantaged 529 education savings plan for your grandchildren.

Furthermore, depending on where you're returning to work, and whether you go back full- or part-time, you might gain access to your employer's benefits programs. If you aren't already enrolled in Medicare, you could find it financially advantageous to sign up for your employer-sponsored group medical plan. And you may also be able to contribute to your employer's 401(k) or similar plan. Even if you're not eligible for an employer-sponsored retirement plan, you can contribute to an IRA if you have any earned income.

And here's something else to think about: By bringing in income from employment, you may be able to take less out each year from your existing 401(k) and IRA, giving them a chance to potentially grow more. (Once you turn 73, or 75 if you were born in 1960 or later, you'll have to start taking withdrawals from your traditional IRA and 401(k). With a Roth IRA and 401(k), you're not required to take withdrawals at any age.)

Now, let's consider some potential areas of concern about returning to the workforce. If you've been taking Social Security, your 2025 benefits will be reduced by \$1 for every \$2 earned above \$23,400 if you haven't reached your full retirement age, which is likely between 66 and 67. In the year in which you do reach your full retirement age, your benefits will be reduced by \$1 for every \$3 earned above \$62,160. Starting in the month in which you reach your full retirement age, you can earn as much as you want without losing benefits. (Also, Social Security will then recalculate your payments to give you credit for the months in which your benefits were reduced due to your earned income.)

Another area of concern might be your Medicare premiums. Because these premiums are based on your income, they could rise if you start earning more money. Also, if your income increases enough, you might be pushed into a higher tax bracket. Ultimately, you'll want to weigh the pros and cons of returning to work. If it seems the advantages outweigh the disadvantages, you may well enjoy embarking on your "second act" in the working world.

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.

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Seeing things differently

To the Editor:

Thanks, Ken Kimball and Kevin Kane. Reading your letters is like watching "The View" in print. It's amazing how liberals and conservatives see things differently.

Ken, you're complaining about President Trump not lowering food prices — prices, I'll remind you, that went up during the previous administration. He's been in office for only three weeks! Changing things ruined over four years can't be fixed in a few weeks. Or can they? Who knew we had hostages in Venezuela? How long were they there? Did the previous administration try to get them home? The mainstream media would have surely reported that for Biden if they had. I guess inviting other countries to empty their prisons into our country was more important than getting Americans held in foreign prisons home.

You also complain about his C677abinet's competency. You thought Biden, Harris, Mayorkas, Levine, Blinken, Garland, Austin, and Buttigieg were competent? Just to name a few. Biden was obviously not mentally competent. You're lying to yourself if you think otherwise. Even the Democratic party admitted it when they crowned Kamala the candidate and pushed Biden out of the race. Austin oversaw the biggest embarrassment our armed forces have experienced. The pullout of Afghanistan was complete incompetence. Mayorkas sat like a deer in the headlights, claiming to all of us the border was secure. It wasn't. Complete incompetence, or worse, a planned invasion. On the border issue, you state that Biden defended border security by supporting a UN Charter, all while millions of illegals crossed our border in front of our eyes. It was like watching the "mostly peaceful protest" while a city burned in the background. What use is a charter if it's not enforced? Incompetent.

And Levine...well, enough said.

And Kevin, the government you claim President Trump is building is the very type of government liberals did create. Dismantling it is necessary to bring it under some form of control. Our DOJ, FBI, CIA, DOE, and most government departments have become offices not serving the people, but being used against them. If you don't believe the DOJ was used against political rivals, Christians, or parents in the past four years, you were watching a different country. You think the departments being dismantled were meant to "protect us from bad practices," but they are the bad practices!

I also find it hard to understand the left's desire to protest government audits. We all know our government wastes money, but seeing it firsthand is an eye opener and disheartening. How can you oppose saving your hard-earned money, unless you are benefiting from the waste. Our founding fathers warned us about the government buying votes. You can cry wolf, but the cuts won't be missed. I hope we start seeing names associated with this wasted money. Who has benefited from our lack of oversight? Elizabeth Warren's reaction suggests we know where her interests lie. I welcome the transparency.

I know, Ken & Kevin, we'll never see eye to eye. Trump Derangement Syndrome is real, and there seems to be no cure. If the golden age Trump talks about actually happens, you will both say "it's only 14 carat gold, not 24 carat. He's a failure!" I, for one, do not believe President Trump is the answer for all our problems, but I do believe we are on a better track than before. Only Jesus can fix it all, and I await that day, but until He comes again, I will be ever grateful for the laughs you guys supply me. Thanks.

PAUL BOUVIER
SPENCER

Chinese antiques



In this column, I'll be discussing Chinese antiques, which came in at number 9 on my recently updated top 10 antiques and collectibles list.

Chinese time periods are referenced according to dynasties, indicating a succession of rulers from the same family. Some of the earliest are the Xia (Hsia) Dynasty from 2100-1600 BCE and the Shang Dynasty circa 1600-1050 BCE. Some more recent ones are the Ming Dynasty from 1368-1644 and the Qing (Ch'ing) Dynasty from 1644-1912. Chinese antiques are referred to by the century in which they were made or the dynasty when they were produced. For example, a vase from 1500 would be referred to as a Ming vase. China's dynasties lasted until 1912. The Republic Period took place from 1912-1949 and it has been the People's Republic of China from 1949 through the present.

Since 2007, China has had a policy that antiquities being exported must be from 1912 or later; when dynasties no longer ruled. There is also a requirement that exported pieces can't be "cultural property." As a result of the policies, I haven't found anything particularly valuable in collections of Chinese memorabilia that were obtained in the last 18 years.

However, there are plenty of Chinese antiques that came to America before the stricter regulations went into effect. For example, jade pieces have been selling very well. In 2023, we auctioned a jade incense burner that brought \$700. An 18-karat gold and jade ring went for \$800 in 2021. Three small jade figures, including one with a gold chain, fetched \$2,100 last year. We sold a Chinese silk tapestry with dragon

designs for \$1,800 last year. Over a decade ago, we sold a 17th century bronze figure (pictured in the accompanying photo) for several thousands of dollars.

I've reported on some major finds of Chinese antiquities in past columns. I previously wrote about a \$35 Connecticut yard sale find of a 15th century Chinese bowl that brought over \$700,000 in a 2023 auction.

There are many other stories of Chinese items bringing astronomical results with even post-1911 items sometimes bringing high figures. A 1968 stamp from China's Cultural Revolution depicted China in red. The government destroyed the stamps because they didn't include Taiwan in red. A few copies escaped destruction, and one sold for \$2 million in 2018, according to the South China Post and other sources. Artist Qi Baishi's "Twelve Landscape Screens," that was painted in 1925 became the first Chinese artwork to top \$100 million, selling for \$140.8 million at a 2017 Beijing auction.

Older pieces can bring some jaw-dropping figures. A 17th century bronze bowl with Phoenix head handles and gold accents sold for \$4.9 million in 2019. The family had been storing tennis balls in the bowl when an auctioneer spotted it, according to CNN.

A UK Daily Mail article published last month described the sale of a family heirloom vase that took place over a decade ago. During the 1970s, a family brought the vase to an appraiser on a British Broadcasting Corporation show called "Going for a Song." The appraiser believed it to be a "clever reproduction" worth £800 (slightly over \$1,000). The family later brought the piece to another auctioneer who told them that it was "either the best replica in the world, or it's worth millions." When it was auctioned in 2010, it ended up reaching £53 million (\$66.75 million). The family described as "not having a lot" was overwhelmed with the mother brought to tears. The story didn't end there, though, because the buyer backed out. Fortunately, the sale was

negotiated with another buyer. Thankfully, this family hadn't been storing their tennis balls in the fragile vase.

We are still working on a large one consign Civil War memorabilia auction, Beacon Hill estate auction, and a comic book, sports memorabilia, and collectibles auction. We are always accepting consignments of quality pieces for future auctions. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

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



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Renowned appraiser to visit area

NEW BRAINTREE — Area residents are invited to dust off their treasures and prepare for a fascinating appraisal event. Set for March 22 from 1-3 p.m., the program will take place at the New Braintree Historical Society museum (10 Utley Rd., New Braintree). Renowned appraiser and auctioneer Kenneth Van Blarcom, of South Natick, will conduct an individual appraisal and history of your item. Guests in attendance will be able to learn about the item and its historical significance.

“The Society is thrilled to have Mr. Van Blarcom’s expertise here in New Braintree. His impressive credentials include antique appraisal positions with Shreve, Crump and Low, Co. and a Boston Directorship at the fine art and antique company of Skinner Auctions,” read a statement released to promote the event.

Over his 40-year career, Van Blarcom has conducted more than 850 auctions. For the March 22 program, each guest will have a limit of two items for appraisal (no jewelry). The cost per appraisal is \$5. Refreshments will be served at the event. For more information, visit <https://newbraintreehistoricalsociety.org/> or call 508-867-3324.

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Cornerstone Bank now accepting applications for annual scholarships

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, is inviting high school students who are interested in pursuing studies in business or finance to apply for the Bank’s 2025 scholarship program. Cornerstone is awarding \$2,500 scholarships to 16 students who best demonstrate achievement in academics, extracurricular activities and community involvement. Applications are being accepted through April 8.

“It’s always inspiring to hear fresh ideas from young people interested in pushing our industry forward,” said Cornerstone CEO Todd Tallman. “The more we support and invest in these teenagers now, the brighter the future will look for all of us.”

Applicants must submit an official transcript and GPA from their guidance office and be on track to graduate high school in 2025. They also must provide a one-page typed essay based on the following prompt:

Describe your career goals and the steps you are taking to achieve them. How will this scholarship help you overcome challenges and support your path to success?

Interested students should complete and submit the application found here: cornerstonebank.com/community/scholarship-form. Recipients of the scholarship will receive funds after successful completion of the first college semester; and upon presentation of an official copy of the first-semester transcript and second-semester bill. For more information, please visit cornerstonebank.com/scholarships.

North Brookfield Cultural Council announces grant recipients

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The North Brookfield Cultural Council is pleased to announce the approved grants for FY25:

- Davis Bates- Celtic Celebration
- Friends of the Town House- Cool Kids Choir and art show display racks
- Friends of the Stone Church- Spring 2025 Concerts
- Haston Public Library: Gravestone Girls, One Up Games, Castle Nitro
- Nick Kachulis - Life with Bill: A New Model for Aging
- Sue Lewandowski - NBCARES2HELP- Community Resource
- Music Dance- Rondae Drafts- Hip Hop Chair Dance for Seniors
- North Brookfield High School Student Council- Christmas in North Brookfield
- Deborah Roberts Kirk- Intro to Watercolor
- Athol Historical Society- Uniquely Quabbin Magazine
- Dennis Wise- The Theft of Dignity

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RESIGNATIONS

continued from page A1

improving the town. Fellow officials and residents told the New Leader they were sad to see Schlegel leave, but they understand that unforeseen complications often make public service positions challenging. In recent years, local communities have hemorrhaged elected officials on high-ranking committees like select boards and school committees.

As a result, many towns have endured lengthy vacancies on important boards, while others have struggled to make progress due to a carousel of new faces within their leadership structures.

"I really appreciated working with Vaughn. He worked really hard for this town, and it's too bad," Select Board Vice Chair Elizabeth Brooke Canada said of the situation.

Despite spending less than a year on the Board, Schlegel was grateful for the opportunities he had



Courtesy

North Brookfield Selectman Vaughn Schlegel announced his resignation this month.

to assist residents and move the town forward.

"I would like to thank the rest of the Board of Selectmen for making working with them productive and agreeable in the best interests of the town," Schlegel's letter read. "I will still continue to serve North Brookfield as a letter carrier for the Post Office, and I will continue to stay active and engaged as a citizen."

Added Schlegel, "I've enjoyed my time in this role you've entrusted me

in, the difficult challenges, and helping our residents overcome their difficulties. I am optimistic about the coming changes to our town that I have

helped to be a part of, that will soon start taking place in the months to come."

Schlegel's term wasn't set to expire until 2027.

In other North Brookfield news, Town Administrator Michael Szlosek has announced his resignation, effective April 5.

During the Feb. 11 Select Board meeting, members voted 2-0 to accept Szlosek's resignation.

FLU

continued from page A1

over the past month. The Leicester Regional Public Health Coalition has provided its member towns with several educational materials to help residents avoid the virus. These include an online fact sheet prepared by state officials, as well as CDC prevention guidance.

"Let's do our part to keep ourselves and others healthy during the norovirus season," read a

statement Brookfield officials posted on the town website, which includes norovirus prevention information provided by the Leicester Regional Public Health Coalition.

Norovirus symptoms include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Other symptoms can include headache, fever, chills, and muscle aches.

Norovirus is usually spread by eating or drinking contaminated food or drinks, or by close contact with an infected person.

"The best way to avoid norovirus is wash your hands; clean and disinfect surfaces; and practice good food safety, meaning cook shellfish to an internal temperature of at least 145 degrees, wash raw fruits and vegetables thoroughly with clean, running water; and drink water from a safe water supply," Daoust said.

Also, officials warn against preparing food for others while you are displaying symptoms or recovering from an infection. Additionally, resi-

dents should remain at home for at least two days after symptoms stop.

Norovirus is one of the most common annual causes of foodborne illness in the U.S. Norovirus cannot be treated with antibiotics, and people usually get better without medical attention within two days.

To learn more about ways to prevent the spread of illness, or to access helpful educational materials, visit www.mass.gov.

CTE

continued from page A1

Both the Leicester and Shrewsbury districts previously sent students to Assabet Valley Vocational-Technical High School for CTE programming. A combination of factors made these arrangements no longer possible.

"Assabet Valley is no longer accepting students from nonmember districts, as the demand for CTE has increased," Kustigian told the New Leader in a previous statement. "The Massachusetts

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education mandated that CTE schools cannot accept students from nonmember districts when they have a waiting list of students from member communities."

With students' interest in CTE programs continuing to increase each year, Kustigian is eager to connect with Shrewsbury officials to inquire about a potential partnership. The current enrollment figures for both districts made for a perfect match, officials said.

"Shrewsbury is a much

larger school system than Leicester, with 419 students in the senior class. Space is a perpetual problem at Shrewsbury High School," Kustigian added. "On the other hand, Leicester, with the purchase of the former Becker College, has plenty of space, and a slight decrease in enrollment."

Looking ahead to the next phase of the partnership, Leicester school officials are in the process of introducing their CTE program to middle school students in Shrewsbury. This will allow for the program to expand by generating interest and creating a pipeline of

younger students eager to participate, officials said.

"[LHS] Principal Zawada went to Oak Middle School in Shrewsbury, and we had an open house for Shrewsbury eighth graders," Kustigian said. "We have 27 applications from interested Shrewsbury eighth graders for 25 slots."

The Leicester Public Schools team will conduct a lottery on Feb. 24 to determine which students receive placement in the program. Families of applicants will be notified of the results.

Wilson launches campaign for Selectman



Courtesy

Leicester's Kellie Wilson has announced her candidacy for a Select Board seat.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Lifelong resident Kellie (Lyon) Wilson has announced her candidacy for a Select Board seat.

As she begins her run toward the June 10 Annual Town Election, Wilson is sharing with residents her vision for improved municipal efficiency, communications, and transparency.

"I love this town and deeply care about all of our residents," Wilson said. "My only agenda is to honestly, openly, and transparently represent the interest of each and every one of those constituents."

An RN currently working at UMass Memorial Hospital, Wilson previously served as a substitute school nurse in Leicester. She has always had a passion for protecting the health and well-being of her patients, and she is committed to helping improve the quality of life for all residents through municipal service.

Like many residents, Wilson has expressed frustrations over the town's handling of various opportunities since the pandemic. Additionally, Leicester has lost several elected officials and employees who resigned in recent years amid tensions at Town Hall.

"I've watched our community make great plans and some strides, only to see indecision, inaction, or personal agendas slow or derail the process," Wilson said. "Those actions most often cause unnecessary added cost, which in turn threatens other town needs."

Added Wilson, "I want to bring the logic and discipline of a trained professional to my town's Select Board, so that we can move on a thoughtful, affordable path of growth

and progress."

Wilson and her family have been heavily involved in their community through several organizations and roles. Her husband, Mike Wilson, has spent years volunteering as an officer and coach for Leicester Little League, in addition to serving as a volunteer and on-call Leicester firefighter. He currently serves as Captain of the Leicester Fire Department, as well as the town's Fire Inspector. Moreover, he was recently appointed as a much-needed town Building Inspector.

Wilson's mother, Mikki Lyon, and her sister, Megan Bouchard, have served as longtime volunteers for several town events. These include school functions, holiday celebrations, and Parks/Recreation programs.

Wilson's father, Frank Lyon, devoted his career to serving as the Superintendent and Water Commissioner of the Leicester Water and Sewer Department. He was also a volunteer firefighter.

In her bid for a Select Board seat, Wilson is inspired by the same community commitment that fueled her family members during each role and volunteer project.

With Leicester facing many important decisions in 2025, Wilson is hopeful to help turn the page on past divisions within Town Hall by focusing on teamwork and solidarity.

"The people of Leicester are my inspiration to run for Select Board. I want to be an active participant in the decision-making process that impacts our town, without hidden agendas," Wilson said.

The Annual Town Election will be held on June 10 from 12-8 p.m. All precincts will vote at Town Hall.

Early voting and absentee ballots will be scheduled by the Town Clerk.

PROMOTIONS

continued from page A1

working for five years with the Hopedale Police Department, bringing valuable experience and a strong commitment to serving the community," the SPD statement read.

During last month's Select Board meeting, Officer Flagg was officially sworn in. Police leaders and town officials are looking forward to his service to the community.

"We were honored and blessed to have Sgt. Randy Berg serve the community for many great years," said Town Administrator Jeffrey Bridges. "With the retirement of Sgt. Berg, new opportunities for fresh leadership in the department are available and we look forward to what Sgt. Inzerillo will bring to the position. Moreover, we welcome the addition of Officer James Flagg to the department and anticipate his quality service to the Spencer community."

Meanwhile, Officer William Bartlett will take over the detective duties previously held by Sgt. Inzerillo.

"Officer Bartlett has been with the Spencer Police Department since 2019. Prior to joining the team, he worked for the MBTA Police. The department is excited to see him step into this important

role," said Spencer Police Chief Michael Befford.

At a Feb. 10 Select Board meeting, the SPD announced the promotion of Officer Joshua May to the rank of sergeant.

May has been a member of the SPD since 2018. Previously, he worked for the Assumption University Police Department and also served as a dispatcher for the Leicester Police Department, gaining valuable experience in law enforcement and emergency communications.

"In his new role, Sgt. May will be taking on a

supervisory position on the midnight shift, ensuring the continued safety of our community during the overnight hours," the SPD statement read. "Please join us in congratulating Sgt. May on this well-earned promotion. We are confident that his leadership will be an asset to both the department and the residents of Spencer."

S P D leaders are looking forward to seeing the many benefits of the recent pro-

motions and additions.

"With these changes, the Spencer Police Department continues to strengthen its command staff leadership and its commitment to the safety and wellbeing of the community," Befford said.

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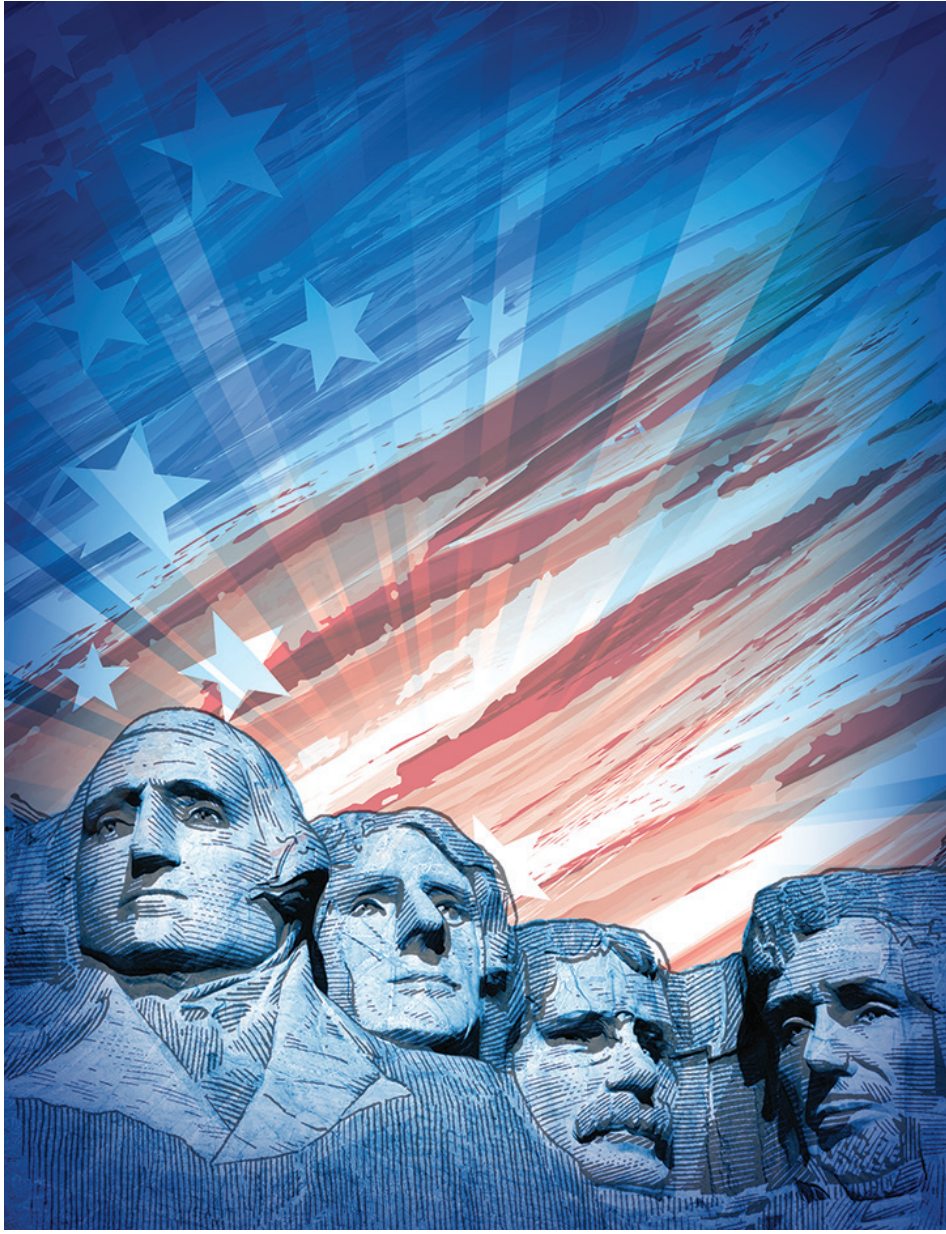
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Interesting facts about U.S. presidents



Americans celebrate President's Day each year in mid-February. Though some may see the holiday, which is celebrated on a Monday, as a great opportunity to book a three-day weekend getaway, others may be inspired to learn about the many men who have held the highest office in the United States. For the latter, the following are some interesting facts about U.S. presidents, courtesy of

History.com.

- Founding father and first U.S. president George Washington was a man with many hobbies, including dog breeding. Alex Hager of the Presidential Pet Museum told History.com that Washington likely developed his passion for dog breeding as a result of his love of fox hunting. Indeed, the American Kennel Club considers Washington the father of the Amer-

ican foxhound. It's also worth noting Washington's predilection for giving his dogs humorous names, including Drunkard, Tippler and Sweet Lips.

- The country's fourth president, James Madison, was a slight man. Madison was five-foot-four and weighed just over 100 pounds. Madison might have put on a few additional pounds had he lived to enjoy the snack cake brand Dol-

ly Madison, which was inspired by the fourth president's wife, Dolley, and introduced in 1937.

- John Quincy Adams might be most recognized as the first man to follow his father and hold the office of the president. However, the sixth president had a notable career even after his time holding the highest office in the land. John Quincy Adams argued before the Supreme Court in a case that freed African captives who had rebelled aboard the slave ship Amistad. That rebellion and its subsequent court case was later dramatized in the 1997 Steven Spielberg film "Amistad," in which Adams was portrayed by Welsh actor Anthony Hopkins.

- It took some time before the United States had its first American-born president, but that happened upon the election of Martin Van Buren in 1837. Prior to Van Buren's victory, all presidents had been born before 1776 and were thus British subjects at their time of birth.

- Many Americans fought long and hard to secure the right to vote, but one president never voted until his own name appeared on the ballot. Zachary Taylor, the nation's twelfth president, acknowledged he had never voted prior to 1848, the year he was elected president.

- Only two men in U.S. history have been elected to serve non-consecutive

terms as president. The first to do so was Grover Cleveland, who served as the nation's twenty-second and twenty-fourth president. That feat was not replicated until it was pulled off by Donald Trump, who was elected in 2016 as the nation's forty-fifth president and then again in 2024.

- Some presidents are more soft spoken than others, but perhaps none have been more reserved than the thirtieth president Calvin Coolidge. When a female visitor bet Coolidge that she could get three words out of him, Coolidge simply replied, "You lose."

- Thirty-third president Harry S. Truman's name is somewhat misleading. The middle initial "S" is not an abbreviation for any particular name, but rather an homage to his grandfathers Anderson Shipp Truman and Solomon Young.

- Richard Nixon, the nation's thirty-seventh president, was a highly skilled poker player. In fact, during his time serving in the United States Navy during World War II, Nixon won substantial sums of money playing poker; funds he ultimately used to finance his first politi-



Did you know?

Trivia fans may know that American president Benjamin Harrison, who served from 1889 to 1893, was both preceded and succeeded in office by Grover Cleveland. But Harrison has another notable distinction on his presidential résumé. Harrison was the country's twenty-third president but the first to hire a woman White House staffer upon his selection of Alice Sanger as his presidential secretary on January 2, 1890. History.com suggests Harrison's appointment of Sanger might have been an effort to extend an olive branch to the women's suffrage movement, which was gaining momentum during the time Harrison spent in the White House. Though Sanger was named to the White House staff 135 years ago, the United States has still not seen a woman elected to the office of the president.

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Salem Lockney named to Simon's Rock Dean's List

GREAT BARRINGTON — Each semester, Bard College at Simon's Rock recognizes superior scholarship through the Dean's List. Salem Lockney of Leicester has earned a place on the Dean's List for the fall 2024 semester. To be eligible for this honor, a student must carry 14 or more credits and achieve a grade point average of 3.5.

About Bard College at Simon's Rock
Bard College at Simon's Rock, founded in 1966 and nestled in the bucolic Berkshires, is the only college in the country specifically designed for highly motivated students ready to enter college early, usually after the 10th or 11th grade. Simon's Rock offers a challenging program in the liberal arts and sciences, taught in small seminars by supportive, highly-trained faculty. The Princeton Review's Best 382 Colleges rates academics at Simon's Rock higher than Harvard and Princeton. For more information, visit simons-rock.edu.

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Cierra Rossi named to Champlain College Trustees' List!

BURLINGTON, Vt. — Cierra Rossi of Brookfield was named to the Champlain College Trustees' List for the Fall 2024 semester.

Students on the Trustees' List have achieved a 4.0 grade point average for two or more consecutive semesters. Rossi is majoring in Professional Writing.

Making the Trustees' List is a tremendous achievement. Many of the high achievers balance their career-focused classes with jobs, internships, clubs, and volunteering. We congratulate you on this great accomplishment and honor.

Founded in 1878, Champlain College is a small, not-for-profit, private college in Burlington, Vermont, with additional campuses in Montreal, Canada, and Dublin, Ireland. Champlain offers a residential undergraduate experience from its beautiful campus overlooking Lake Champlain. Additionally, Champlain College Online provides an expansive portfolio of online degrees and certificates, reaching students across all 50 states and U.S. territories, while fostering strategic partnerships with forward-thinking workforce organizations. The College is known for its distinctive and innovative approach to career-focused education and its Upside-Down Curriculum, which helps students be ready for work, ready for life, and ready to make a difference. Champlain is ranked as one of the "Best Colleges" by U.S. News & World Report for 2025, and was named one of the "Best 390 Colleges" by The Princeton Review for 2025, including among its "Best Northeastern colleges." For more information, visit www.champlain.edu.

Salve Regina University announces Dean's List

NEWPORT, R.I. — The following students were named to the Dean's List during the fall 2024 academic semester at Salve Regina University. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 for full-time students completing at least 12 graded credits, or a semester grade point average of 3.8 for part-time students completing at least six credits.

Molly Miarecki of W. Brookfield
Payton Prouty of Spencer
Jacob Stolberg of Rochdale

Salve Regina University is a Catholic, coeducational institution of higher education founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1947. For more than 75 years, Salve has offered rigorous, innovative academic programming in the liberal arts tradition that prepares students to be global citizens and lifelong learners. More than 2,700 undergraduate and graduate students from around the world are enrolled at Salve in 48 undergraduate majors, 13 master's degree programs, combined bachelor's/master's programs, and doctoral programs.

Every undergraduate student engages in Salve Compass, a four-year transformational program through which they develop the experience, skills, and wisdom required for a fulfilling career and to make a positive difference in the world. The University is also home to the Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy, a multi-disciplinary research center focused on the intersection of politics, policy, and ideas. For more information visit salve.edu.



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LEGALS

**TOWN OF SPENCER
Public Hearing – March 10, 2025
6:00 PM McCourt Social Hall
157 Main Street, Spencer, MA
FY 2025 Town of Spencer
CDBG Application**

The Spencer Board of Selectmen will conduct a Public Hearing on March 10, 2025, at 6:00 PM at McCourt Social Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA and via virtual meeting. In the event the meeting is cancelled due to inclement weather, the hearing will take place during the next rescheduled Board of Selectmen meeting. For information on cancellations and rescheduled meetings, please visit: <https://www.spencer-ma.gov/board-selectmen>.

The public is encouraged to attend this hearing to discuss a FY 2025 application by the Town of Spencer to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing & Livable Communities for up to \$850,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds. The project currently under consideration is the Pearl Street Improvement Project. Additional projects may be discussed and may be included in the grant application.

All persons and organizations with questions or comments regarding the grant application will have an opportunity to be heard. Written comments may be submitted to the Spencer Town Administrator, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA 01562, Attn: Jeffrey Bridges. If awarded, the Town of Spencer will be responsible for administration of the grant program, with assistance from the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC).

If you are not able to attend in-person, you may dial in from your phone: 1 866 899 4679 Enter Access Code: 479-429-349 or from a computer, tablet, or smartphone:

<https://www.gotomeet.me/TownofSpencerMA/boardofselectmen>

The McCourt Social Hall is handicapped accessible. Persons who require special accommodations to attend the public hearing in-person should contact the town at least one week prior to the hearing date at (508) 885-7500 ext. 155. For further information, contact Joe Ferguson at CMRPC at (508) 459-3359 or at jferguson@cmrpc.org.

Town of Spencer, MA
Board of Selectmen
February 21, 2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing on the proposed Tantasqua Regional School District budget for 2025-2026 will be held on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria of Tantasqua Regional Junior High School, in accordance with M.G.L., Chapter 71, § 38N. A copy of the proposed budget is available at the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 320A Brookfield Rd., Fiskdale, MA.

NOTE: The regular school committee meeting will begin following the Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m.

Michael Valanzola
Chairman
Tantasqua Regional School District
Committee
February 21, 2025

(SEAL)
THE COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL
COURT
Docket Number: 24 SM 004179
ORDER OF NOTICE

To:
Heirs, Devisees and Legal Representatives of the Estate of Paul T. Burke; Tandi Burke and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq): JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Spencer, numbered 94 Clark Road, given by Paul T. Burke to JPMorgan Chase, NA, dated March 23, 2007, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 40973, Page 223, as modified by a certain modification agreement recorded on January 5, 2018, and recorded with said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 58283, Page 157,

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 March 31, 2025, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on February 12, 2025.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
26861
February 21, 2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing on the proposed Sturbridge School District budget for 2025-2026 will be held on Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria of Burgess Elementary School, in accordance with M.G.L., Chapter 71, § 38N. A copy of the proposed budget is available at the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 320A Brookfield Rd., Fiskdale, MA. Samantha Kaitbenski
Chairwoman
Sturbridge School Committee
February 21, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court**

**Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200**

**Docket No. WO25P0425EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

Estate Of:
**Amelia May Hale
Date of Death: 04/13/2005**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Donna M Hale of Bloomfield CT** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:

Donna M Hale of Bloomfield CT be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the 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 03/11/2025.**

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

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 07, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
February 21, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street**

**Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P0476EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
**Lucille H Witaszek
Also known as:
Lucille Henrietta Witaszek
Date of Death: 12/31/2024**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **James P Witaszek of Warren 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:

James P Witaszek of Warren 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 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 03/11/2025.**

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

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 10, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
February 21, 2025

At the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, in the McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, a public hearing will be held on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard: Notice of Public Hearing – Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals

Special Permit– Applicant: Vertex Towers, LLC/ Owner: Stephanie Underwood: Location: 46 Greenville Street, Spencer Assessor's Map R28-15. The applicant is seeking a Special Permit under Sections 4.8.5 (Wireless Data Facility) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to install a Wireless Data Transfer Facility to include a 120' tall monopole style tower. The property is in the Suburban Residential (SR) zoning district.

February 21, 2025
February 28, 2025

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 25 SM 000316 ORDER OF NOTICE TO: Brian Burnham 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 27 Roys Drive, given by Brian Burnham to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for USAA Federal Savings Bank, dated September 7, 2012, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 49584, Page 116, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's 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 March 17, 2025 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on February 3, 2025 Attest: Deborah J. Patterson Recorder
February 21, 2025

To the owners of the hereinafter described parcels of LAND situated in the Town of Leicester in the County of Worcester and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to all concerned: You are hereby notified that on Monday, March 10, 2025 at 10:00 AM local time in Leicester Town Hall, 3 Washburn Square, Leicester, MA 01524 in the gymnasium, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 60, Sec 52 and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Treasurer, it is my intention to assign and transfer the Tax Title held by the Town of Leicester covering the following described parcel to the highest bidder at public auction, for all taxes thereon with interest and all necessary and intervening charges of any balance of said taxes, unless the same has been paid in full before that date. The minimum bid for the unit will be the aggregate amount of taxes, interest and fees due on the account for the property that remains on the list below on the day of the Auction. In the event there are multiple parties bidding the same price, the bidding will go up in increments of \$1,000.00. All Bidders must pre-register by Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 2:00 PM. To pre-register, please call the Treasurer's Office at 508-892-7004. Rules of sale will be available at the Office of the Treasurer. Brooks Paul N and Brooks Mary located at BROAD ST in Leicester, MA containing 0.263 Acres of Land and recorded at the Worcester Registry of Deeds- Book/Page 5215/599. Minimum bid: \$5,072.69.

Brooks Paul N and Brooks Mary A located at 20 BROAD ST in Leicester, MA containing 0.172 Acres of Land and recorded at the Worcester Registry of Deeds- Book/Page 3728/345 Minimum Bid: \$28,741.87
February 21, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
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(508) 831-2200**

**Docket No. WO25P0197EA
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

Estate Of:
**Noelle Lee Bushe
Also Known As:
Noelle L Bushe**

Date of Death: January 15, 2024

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of :
Petitioner

Benjamin V. Bushe of Jefferson MA Benjamin V. Bushe of Jefferson MA has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve **without** Surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
February 21, 2025

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Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

12:23 a.m.: suspicious activity (Washburn Street), resolved; 12:52 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 12:57 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 1:12 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 1:28 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 1:44 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 1:50 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 2:04 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 2:39 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 3:48 a.m.: ambulance (Henshaw Street), transported; 4:27 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 4:50 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:57 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:06 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:08 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 5:28 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), citation issued; 6:51 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 6:57 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:00 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 7:15 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:26 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 7:33 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 7:37 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:40 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:43 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 7:48 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:53 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:55 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:00 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:03 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:16 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 8:40 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 10:10 a.m.: welfare check (Breezy Green Road), assisted; 11:25 a.m.: ambulance (Sunderland Road), transported; 12:12 p.m.: ambulance (Paxton Street), transported; 12:14 p.m.: accident (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued; 1:07 p.m.: ambulance (Gates Road, Worcester), transported; 2:01 p.m.: accident (Huntoon Memorial Highway), report taken; 2:04 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 2:54 p.m.: disabled mv (Bond Street), services rendered; 3:23 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 3:53 p.m.: attempted b&e (Main Street), report taken; 5:01 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 5:35 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), report taken; 5:55 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 7:10 p.m.: disabled mv (Baldwin Street), call canceled.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

1:08 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:39 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:51 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 6:23 a.m.: family problem (Willow Hill Road), services rendered; 8:44 a.m.: mv stop (Washburn Square), spoken to; 9:49 a.m.: accident (Main Street), Tasha Lynn diGeronimo, 43, 540 Main Street, #102, OUI drugs/2nd offense, negligent operation, marked lanes violation, possession Class A drug/2 counts, possession of counterfeit note, arrest; 12:52 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 2:37 p.m.: keep the peace (Washburn Square), resolved; 3:11 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), transported; 3:17 p.m.: assist citizen (Huntoon Memorial Highway); 3:56 p.m.: welfare check (Paxton Street), assisted; 4:15 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:42 p.m.: ambulance (Baldwin Street), transported; 5:33 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), written warning; 5:49 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 5:51 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), report taken; 9:05 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 9:31 p.m.: ambulance (Elmwood Avenue), assisted; 9:47 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:21 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 11:55 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

12:16 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 2:07 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 2:09 a.m.: assist citizen (Stafford Street), transported; 2:24 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:36 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning;

9:02 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 11:43 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:16 p.m.: ambulance (Tobin Road), transported; 6:34 p.m.: ambulance (Queen Street, Worcester), transported; 8:20 p.m.: welfare check (Mannville Street), assisted; 8:55 p.m.: residential alarm (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 11:22 p.m.: ambulance (Deer Pond Road), transported.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

7:49 a.m.: ambulance (Charlton Street), transported; 9:31 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), citation issued; 11:15 a.m.: mv stop (Soojians Drive), verbal warning; 11:27 a.m.: trespassing (Chapel Street), resolved; 11:37 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:48 p.m.: ambulance (McCarthy Avenue), transported; 2:28 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 3:46 p.m.: ambulance (Austin Street, Worcester), transported; 4:39 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 6:05 p.m.: hit/run accident (Stafford Street), report taken; 6:41 p.m.: ambulance (Paxton Street), transported; 7:52 p.m.: ambulance (Rawson Street), transported; 10:24 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 11:13 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

12:30 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), report taken; 7:36 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 8:37 a.m.: disabled mv (Towtaid Street), assisted; 8:38 a.m.: ambulance (Paxton Drive, Spencer), transported; 9:09 a.m.: ambulance (Ingram Road), transported; 10:06 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 11:26 a.m.: suspicious mv (Mulberry Street), resolved; 11:36 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 12:40 p.m.: lobby service (South Main Street), report taken; 1:18 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:27 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:35 p.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), report taken; 1:42 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:00 p.m.: mv stop (Locust Street), verbal warning; 2:09 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 2:10 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:14 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 3:50 p.m.: accident (Stafford Street), report taken; 4:13 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), spoken to; 6:23 p.m.: ambulance (Perry Avenue, Worcester), transported.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

12:04 a.m.: welfare check (Keefe Court), assisted; 8:36 a.m.: mv stop (Soojians Drive), verbal warning; 8:49 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 9:01 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Drive), spoken to; 9:10 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 9:35 a.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), no service; 9:37 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:43 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 9:49 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 9:55 a.m.: mv stop (Birchwood Drive), written warning; 10:04 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:15 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:21 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 10:24 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:09 p.m.: ambulance (Hacker Street, Worcester), transported; 12:22 p.m.: investigation (Lillian Avenue), report taken; 1:29 p.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), report taken; 2:04 p.m.: ambulance (Mayflower Road), transported; 2:44 p.m.: hit/run accident (Soojians Drive), assisted; 5:08 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 5:33 p.m.: investigation (Keefe Court), report taken; 6:47 p.m.: ambulance (Flint Way), transported; 7:05 p.m.: ambulance (Hyland Avenue), transported; 7:46 p.m.: suspicious person (Main Street), spoken to.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

12:38 a.m.: disabled mv (Huntoon Memorial Highway), services rendered; 3:33 a.m.: disabled mv (Huntoon Memorial Highway), mv towed; 5:03 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), citation issued; 9:11 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:22 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:28 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 9:41 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:48 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 10:07 a.m.: mv stop (Esmil Rodriguez, 29, 21 Langlois Avenue, #1, Southbridge, op w/suspended license, no inspection sticker, arrest; 10:26 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warn-

ing; 11:24 a.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), services rendered; 11:26 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 11:37 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:49 a.m.: ambulance (Second Street, Worcester), transported; 11:50 a.m.: vandalism (Winslow Avenue), report taken; 1:10 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), report taken; 1:53 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:54 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm.

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Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

1:51-3:45 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:05 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 10:12 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), re: Penske truck; 12:41 p.m.: disabled mv (Paxton Road), assisted; 12:52 p.m.: fraud (Main Street), report taken; 1:11 p.m.: disturbance (Mechanic Street), unwanted party; 1:36 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village), lift assist; 3:07 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 3:12 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 3:18 p.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 4:04 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 4:07 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), req. police assistance; 6:33 p.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), c/o kids harassing customers; 8:29 p.m.: 911 call (Richland Avenue), accidental; 11:58 p.m.: suspicious persons (West Main Street), investigated; (total daily mv stops - 5).

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

12:17-2:25 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:20 a.m.: parking violation (Main Street), ticket issued; 4:10 a.m.: disturbance (Howe Village), noise complaint; 7:23 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:48 a.m.: mutual aid (Main Street), mv stop assist; 9:17 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 10:13 a.m.: mutual aid (Bixby Road), assist Franklin PD; 10:51 a.m.: fraud (West Main Street), report taken; 11:35 a.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), truck off road; 11:58 a.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 12:13 p.m.: accident (Northwest Road), report taken; 1:20 p.m.: officer wanted (North Spencer Road), req. mv check; 1:56 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 2:55 p.m.: disturbance (Mechanic Street), noise complaint; 2:55 p.m.: parking complaint (Church Street), mv under no parking sign; 4:11 p.m.: accident (Charlton Road), report taken; 5:29 p.m.: medical/general (Sherwood Road); 9:57 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

12:31-2:00 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:25 a.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; 1:32 a.m.: animal complaint (Meadow Road), loose dog; 3:50 a.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 7:34 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:08 a.m.: medical/general (Northwest Road); 8:42 a.m.: hit/run accident (West Main Street), report taken; 9:00 a.m.: fraud (Smithville Road), report taken; 9:39 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 10:07 a.m.: fraud (Old East Charlton Road), report taken; 10:11 a.m.: medical/general (Thompson Pond Road); 10:44 a.m.: DPW call (Woodside Road), branches on wires; 11:25 a.m.: officer wanted (Barclay Road), utility wire hit windshield; 12:20 p.m.: mv lock-out (Howe Village), assisted; 1:01 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 1:37 p.m.: medical/general (Wire Village Road); 1:37 p.m.: hit/run accident (Main Street); 3:40 p.m.: animal complaint (Woodside Road), loose dog; 5:57 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 8:19 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Howe Village), no status listed on police log; (total daily mv stops - 5).

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

12:54 a.m.: officer wanted (Water Street), requests assistance/locate son; 1:05 a.m.: medical/general (Hastings Road); 1:29-1:32 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:05 a.m.: medical/general (Main Avenue); 7:26 a.m.: officer wanted (North Spencer Road), lg. logs/plow hazard?; 8:56 a.m.: odor of

gas (Main Street), referred; 11:44 a.m.: fraud (Irving Street), report taken; 1:50 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 2:35 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), unwanted party; 7:15 p.m.: 911 call (Richland Avenue), open line; 9:55 p.m.: disturbance (Brown Street), m/f arguing; 11:30 p.m.: mv fire (Browning Pond Road), referred; (total daily mv stops - 4).

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

1:31 a.m.: building checked, secure; 2:44 a.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 8:00 a.m.: medical/general (Main Avenue); 8:02 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village), lift assist; 10:36 a.m.: 911 call (Vista Lane), accidental; 11:01 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), req. welfare check; 12:49 p.m.: parking complaint (Maple Street), mvs blocking right-of-way; 2:07 a.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 4:15 p.m.: suspicious persons (Ash Street), investigated; 5:12 p.m.: medical/general (Clark Road); 6:06 p.m.: medical/general (Ash Street); 7:46 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 7:57 p.m.: 911 call (Holmes Street), open line; 9:56 p.m.: medical/general (Point Eastalee Drive); 11:40 p.m.: building checked, secure; (total daily mv stops - 0).

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

12:02 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 12:25-1:45 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:28 a.m.: medical/general (Brooks Pond Cross Road); 6:42 a.m.: odor of gas (Northwest Road), referred; 7:31 a.m.: accident (Maple Street), report taken; 7:48 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), mv blocking other mv; 8:03 a.m.: medical/general (Hastings Road); 8:33 a.m.: medical/general (Paxton Drive); 8:39 a.m.: 911 call (Bixby Road), resolved; 9:19 a.m.: medical/general (Town House Court); 9:40 a.m.: 911 call (Borkum Road), hang-up; 9:59 a.m.: animal complaint (Charlton Road), cat found; 11:06 a.m.: animal complaint (High Street), strange cat in basement; 11:18 a.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), questions for ACO; 12:15 p.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 1:04 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 1:18 p.m.: parking complaint (Maple Street), mvs blocking d/way; 1:28 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 2:05 p.m.: parking complaint (Maple Street), van blocking d/way; 3:10 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), wants to file report; 3:42 p.m.: accident (Chestnut Street), report taken; 4:27 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), RMV immediate threat; 4:33 p.m.: restraining order service (Main Street); 7:11 p.m.: officer wanted (Lincoln Street), req. welfare check; 11:45 p.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; (total daily mv stops - 1).

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

12:43-2:54 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:57 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 6:32 a.m.: residential alarm (Hastings Road), services rendered; 6:48 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 8:46 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village), lift assist; 9:59 a.m.: animal complaint (Northwest Road), req. ACO; 10:14 a.m.: parking complaint (Brown Street), re: cars parked on roadway; 11:15 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 11:53 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 12:00 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 12:14 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), East Brookfield PD bolo; 1:25 p.m.: vandalism (Lake Street), report taken; 1:36 p.m.: officer wanted (Meadow Road), req. welfare check; 1:49 p.m.: mv repossessed (Deer Run Road), info rec'd; 2:26 p.m.: medical/general (Linden Street); 4:27 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 4:50 p.m.: mutual aid (Thompson Pond Road), assist State Police; 6:03 p.m.: officer wanted (Marble Road), req. welfare check; 6:08 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 6:54 p.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 9:05 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); (total daily mv stops - 1).

###

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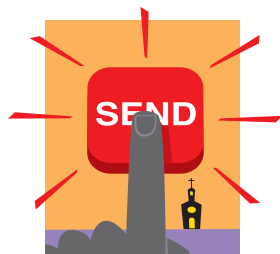
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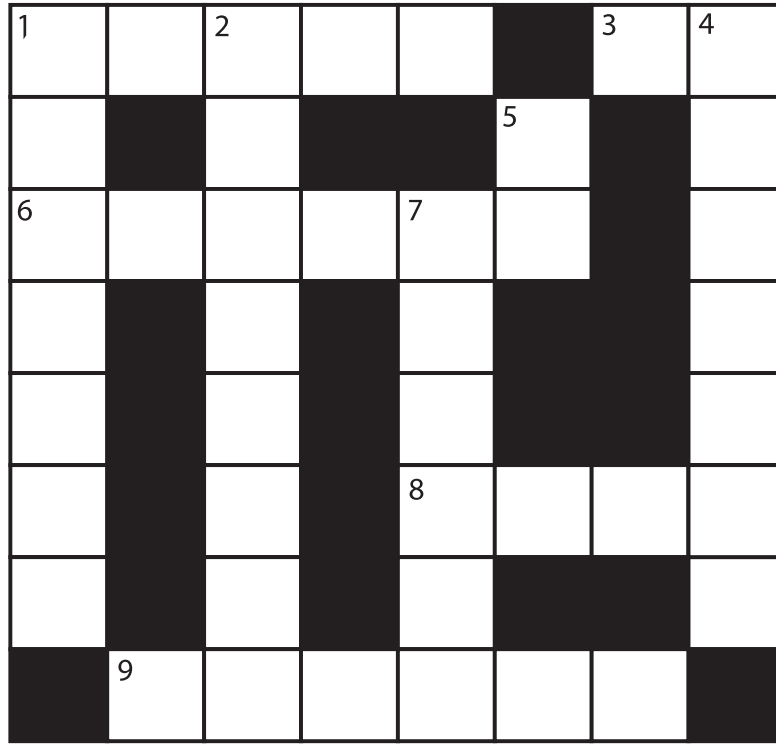
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Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1. Chest organ
- 3. Blood pressure (abbr.)
- 6. Dramatic start of an illness
- 8. Discomfort
- 9. Tube blood moves through

DOWN

- 1. Free from illness
- 2. Counteracts poison
- 4. Forcing to move through
- 5. Adequate or alright
- 7. College property

Answers:
 Across
 1. Heart 3. BP 6. Attack 8. Pain 9. Vessel
 Down
 1. Healthy 2. Antidote 4. Pumping 5. OK
 7. Campus

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1521: Juan Ponce de León sets out from Spain for Florida.

1792: George Washington signs the Postal Service Act.

1872: The Metropolitan Museum of Art opens in New York City.

Health FACT:

There are 60,000 miles of these in the average human body.

Answer: Blood vessels

NEW WORD

PULSE

a rhythmic throbbing of the arteries as blood is pumped

How they say that in...

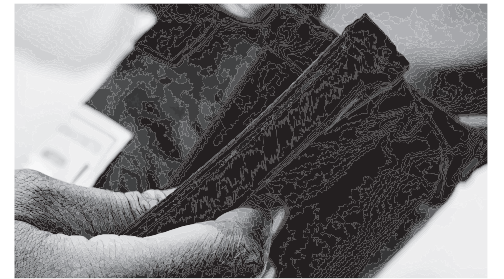
- English:** Heart
- Spanish:** Corazón
- Italian:** Cuore
- French:** Coeur
- German:** Herz

Did You Know?

The average resting heart rate for an adult is between 60 and 100 beats per minute.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Blood pressure cuff



CRYPTO FUN



Solve the code to discover words related to heart health. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 11 = R)

- A. 15 6 5 11 10**
Clue: Pumps in chest
- B. 13 5 11 14 3 4 23 5 12 13 20 1 5 11**
Clue: Having to do with the heart
- C. 2 11 6 12 12 20 11 6**
Clue: Force of blood moving through body
- D. 23 6 12 12 6 1**
Clue: Vein or artery

Answers: A. heart B. cardiovascular C. pressure D. vessel

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

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

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

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

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WEBSTER - 25 SLATER ST



Location! Location! This Oversized & Well Maintained 2 Family offers 2,472 sf Total! Apt 1 >1st Floor Unit >has 1,052 sf, 3 BRs & 1 Bath! Apt 2 >2nd & 3rd Floor Unit has 2 levels >1,420 sf, 5 BRs, 2 Baths. Corner lot w/ .30 acre, 22'x22' Two Car Garage! 12'x16' Concrete Patio. Apartments fully occupied. PLEASE DO NOT TRESPASS onto the Property. **\$559,900**



DUDLEY 3 PRINCE CIRCLE

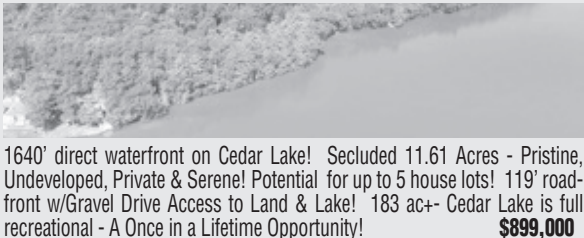
Come to Pierpont Estates! Young 2100 Sq Ft +/- Colonial on 1+ acre! Featuring 8 rooms, 4 Bedrooms! Master Bed w/Master Bath & Walk-in Closet! 2 Baths and 1/2 Bath! Cozy propane gas fireplace. Hardwood flooring & carpeting. Central air. 2 Car Garage. Yr. 2024 Taxes \$5448 . **assisted sale. \$620,000**

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Featured New Listing!!

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Excellent opportunity! Un altered Natural Western Facing Shoreline- Beautiful Sunsets - Panoramic Views of Middle to North Pond! 7,000 +/- Sq. Ft. Waterfront Lot! Utilize this one Bedroom Winterized cottage while making plans to construct your dream home! Or just live in, as is! Fireplaced living room! 12 X 30 one car garage. Beautiful Pine trees at the water's edge! Do not trespass. Here is your chance!! Showings by Appointment, don't walk on property without Listing Agent **\$660,000**



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Webster Lake - 237 Thompson Rd.
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*Gourmet Kitchen w/ Breakfast Bar and Center Island
*Hardwood Floors • 3.5 Baths
12 Elliot Drive \$675,000



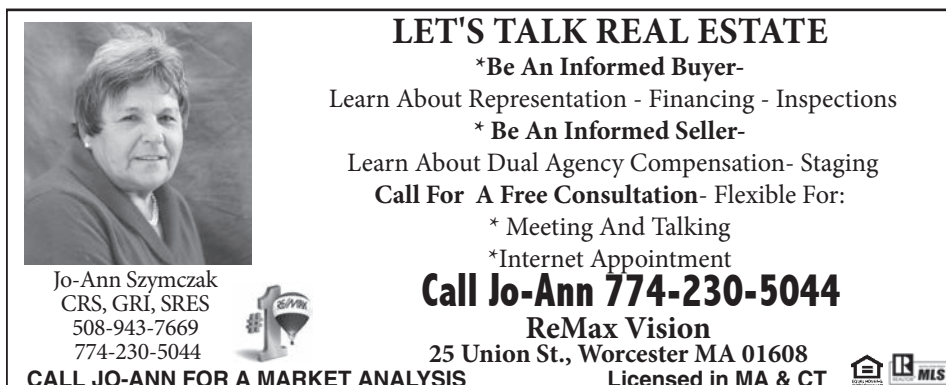
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9,536-SF HISTORIC OFFICE BUILDING FOR SALE

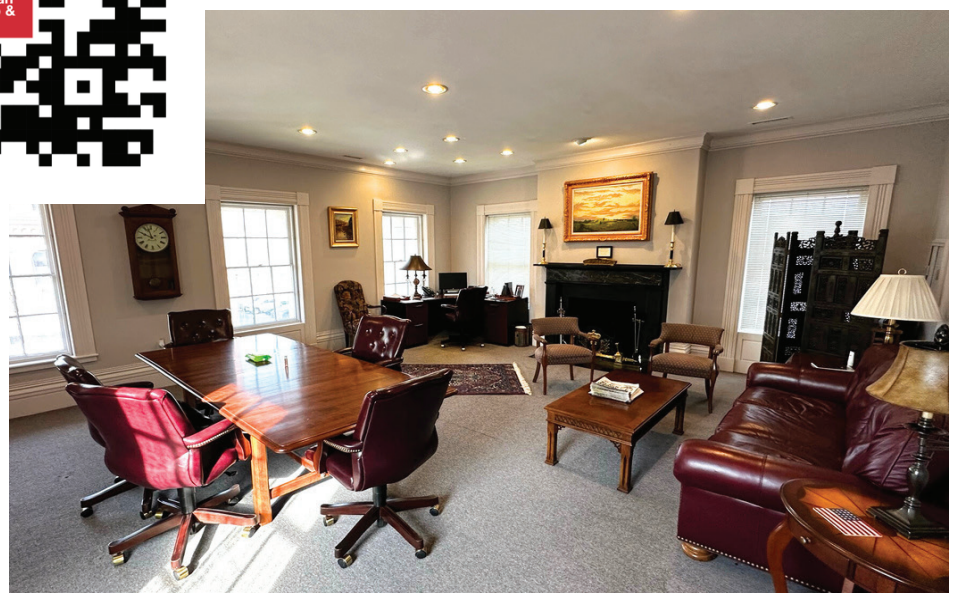


- Historical building, also known as Tiffany-Leonard House, built in 1832
- Large Executive Offices with Elegant Finishes and High Ceilings
- Large Open Concept Cubicle Areas

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



MORE INFO:



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