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Friday, June 12, 2020

Two compete for selectman's seat in Spencer

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
 STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – Selectman Ralph Hicks is asking for residents' support in his bid for re-election this month.

Hicks is proud of the town's accomplishments and momentum over the last three years. He supported and facilitated several actions during the last term, including the reopening of Town Hall on Thursday mornings; the reopening of Luther Hill Park with swimming lessons; the return of the outreach worker position at the Senior Center; and the return of a part-time library clerk.

Selectman Hicks was also a member of the town's Solar By-law Committee, whose members worked hard to propose comprehensive amendments.

"He feels the proposed changes to the by-law will help protect citizens' property values and ensure that expensive decommissioning of the solar arrays will not fall on the taxpayer," read a statement released by Hicks.

Additionally, Hicks

supported having a full-time police officer work in Spencer's schools as a resource officer. The selectman has also been a strong proponent of the Senior Center pushing for additional hours for its two employees, as well as the installation of a fire suppression system and new fire alarm in the building.

"Hicks feels that Spencer is heading in a positive direction, and he wishes to continue on the Board to keep it headed that way," the statement read.

A graduate of David Prouty High School, Hicks received a B.A. from North Adams State College, now known as the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. He then attained an M.Ed. from Worcester State University and a doctorate in education from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Now retired, Hicks dedicated his career to serving in several educational roles. These include elementary school teacher, school psychologist, special education director, and superintendent

of schools. Most recently, he worked part-time as an adjunct graduate professor at Worcester State University.

Moreover, Hicks served 15 years on the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School Committee in the 1970s and 1980s. He was a member of the school building committees that built Knox Trail Middle School and Wire Village School.

Hicks also served on the Spencer Board of Selectmen from 1997-2002. It means a lot to him to serve his community in multiple capacities.

"He feels his life and work experience give him an excellent background for being a selectman," the statement read.

John Howard Having dedicated nearly five decades to multiple organizations and committees, Select Board challenger John Howard brings an abundance of experience to the race.

After growing up in Spencer, Howard's first municipal role was in the

Turn To **ELECTION**, page **A13**



Photo Courtesy

Protesters in North Brookfield demanded change last week.

North Brookfield residents take to streets for Floyd rally

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
 STAFF WRITER

N O R T H B R O O K F I E L D – Residents marched last week in solidarity with nationwide protests against racism and police brutality.

Hundreds of protesters attended a June 3 rally that began at the elementary school and proceeded down Main Street. The death of George Floyd last month in Minneapolis continues to fuel international outrage,

and local residents were determined to show their support in demanding change.

Despite receiving insults and even threats from some community members, organizers and participants of the North Brookfield rally stood united against hate. For Julia Burkhardt, whose mother helped lead the organizing process, it was a proud moment to take a stand and not back down.

"We are a notoriously conservative communi-

ty, so standing up and showing that we do care and are willing to stand up to the bullies was important," Burkhardt said. "My mom took over the planning after the original organizers received so much hate and threats that they stepped back. Seeing the messages my mom was getting and continues to get, including direct threats, is quite horrifying but also exemplifies why we did this."

Turn To **PROTEST**, page **A4**



Photo Courtesy

Knox Trail Middle School students recently reviewed a pair of paintings from American artist Edward Hopper.

Knox Trail students explore works of Edward Hopper

SPENCER – Knox Trail Middle School art students recently embraced a new opportunity to review and appreciate art.

In their latest virtual project, students examined several paintings from American artist Edward Hopper. Each student chose one painting to write about using art vocabulary and analysis techniques. They then created PowerPoint slides outlining their work.

KTMS art teacher Caroline Dacey will combine all of the slides into a video and post it on YouTube for families to view. Meanwhile, three students' art reviews were chosen to be featured in the New Leader.

The first two students chose the same painting, "Morning Sun," from Edward Hopper. Their reviews appear below:

Jaydon McCormack (grade 8): "I like how Hopper used the shadow of the window to show the shape of the window. I also like the color of the building; it really contrasts with the color yellow. I also like how many different colors there are in the room. For example, cyan, blue, pink, white, light blue, yellow, and orangey red. I found this painting by Edward Hopper, and I chose it because it reminded me of my vacation house and how it looks so simple and peaceful."

Gracie Gende (grade 7): "I like this painting because I liked the way he used color and texture. The wall looks like an actual smooth, painted wall in real life. I also like the mood; it sets a lonely but somehow relaxing vibe. I chose this painting because I sometimes like to look outside my window and notice all the colors and little things I didn't pay attention to."

The next KTMS student reviewed Hopper's "Rooms by the Sea." The student's review appears below: Julianna Rondeau (grade 8): "I chose this painting because it reminded me of my vacation house and how it looks so simple and peaceful."

Turn To **HOPPER**, page **A13**

Leicester voters approve most warrant articles

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
 STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – In the first ever socially distanced Annual Town Meeting, voters passed all but two articles.

Approximately 135 residents attended the June 2 meeting held in the high school gymnasium. Town Clerk Deborah Davis was pleased with how well officials and residents collaborated to make the unprecedented event a success.

"All departments worked together to help set up the hall, following the guidelines for social distancing issued by the Governor," Davis told the New Leader. "We had the necessary sanitizing materials with help from

the police, highway, fire, and school departments. I could not have been more pleased."

Extra masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, and wipes helped keep guests safe throughout the night. Officials focused heavily on ensuring proper spacing and promoting the use of sanitizing materials.

"The spacing worked very well for the amount of people who attended," Davis added. "Everyone wore masks willingly, and were supportive of our requests."

Once the business of Town Meeting was underway, proceedings moved as smoothly as any past meeting. Only

Articles 26 and 27 failed, with all other warrant articles passing. Article 26 involved the disposition of a Memorial Drive parcel adjacent to the schoolgrounds, while Article 27 involved the disposition of property from Hillcrest Water District on Lehigh Road. The Town Meeting warrant included 33 articles. The fiscal year 2021 operating budget was covered in Article 13, with voters approving \$29,997,505 for the new fiscal year, which begins in July.

In Article 21, voters approved \$132,459 in capital improvement expenses for the fire department.

Article 7 featured several main-
 Turn To **ARTICLES**, page **A5**

Congratulations, QVCC Class of 2020

DANIELSON, Conn. — Nearly 150 Quinebaug Valley Community College students will receive degrees and certificates in QVCC's 48th commencement, which will be virtually celebrated on QVCC's Facebook and Instagram pages. Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

Auburn: Kelsey L. Gallo
 Dudley: Kerrissa Danielle Cobb
 Oxford: Rosanne Marie Wheeler-Flint
 Southbridge: Brent Andrew Bohm,
 Kathryn Elizabeth Bohm, Kristen Anne LaFleche
 Webster: Jennifer L. McKinstry

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library website click the link to fill out a request form, or email: rslibraryma@gmail.com, or call the library at (508) 885-7513 (ext. 1 Adults/Teens and ext. 2 Children's).

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PICK UP TIMES:
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Monday requests prior to 12 pm may be picked up Tuesday 1 pm to 3 pm. Tuesday requests prior to 12 pm may be picked up Wednesday 1 pm to 3 pm. Wednesday requests prior to 12 pm may be picked up Thursday 4 pm to 6 pm. We will hold materials for 1 week.

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When you arrive at the library to pick up your items, pull up or park behind the library. Upon arrival, call the library at 508-885-7513 ext. 1, tell us the color of your car and pop your trunk. Please remain in your vehicle. A staff member will place bagged items into your trunk and return to the building.

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RETURNS:
 All books and other library materials in the book drop box only. Items from other libraries may also be returned in the library book drop box. Please NO donations of books or other materials at this time. Note: items will not be checked-in until after a 1 week quarantine.

YOUR TEETH MATTER

JUNE IS ORAL HEALTH MONTH

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Good dental hygiene is very important to overall good health.



Why dental hygiene is essential for overall health



The importance of maintaining clean teeth and healthy gums goes beyond

having fresh breath and a white smile. Many people are surprised to discover that oral hygiene plays an integral role in overall health.

Research indicates that oral health mirrors the condition of the body as a whole. Also, regular dental visits can alert dentists about overall health and pinpoint if a person is at a risk for chronic disease. An oral health check-up also may be the first indication of a potential health issue not yet evident to a general medical doctor.

HEART DISEASE

According to the Academy of General Dentistry, there is a distinct relationship between periodontal disease and conditions such as heart disease and stroke. Joint teams at the University of

Bristol in the United Kingdom and the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin, Ireland, found that people with bleeding gums from poor dental hygiene could have an increased risk of heart disease. Bacteria from the mouth is able to enter the bloodstream when bleeding gums are present. That bacteria can stick to platelets and subsequently form blood clots. This interrupts the flow of blood to the heart and may trigger a heart attack. Brushing and flossing twice daily and rinsing with mouthwash can remove bacteria and keep gums healthy.

FACIAL PAIN

The Office of the Surgeon General says infections of the gums that support the teeth can lead to facial and oral pain. Gingivitis, which is an early stage of gum disease, as well as advanced gum disease, affects more than 75 percent of the American population.

Dental decay can lead to its own share of pain. Maintaining a healthy mouth can fend off decay and infections, thereby preventing pain.

PANCREATIC CANCER

In 2007, the Harvard School of Public Health reported a link between gum disease and pancreatic cancer. In the ongoing study, 51,000 men were followed and data was collected beginning in 1986. The Harvard researchers found that men with a history of gum disease had a 64 percent increased risk of pancreatic cancer compared with men who had never had gum disease. The greatest risk for pancreatic cancer among this group was in men with recent tooth loss. However, the study was unable to find links between other types of oral health problems, such as tooth decay, and pancreatic cancer.

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Various health ailments, including poor oral health, have been linked to a greater risk of developing Alzheimer's disease. In 2010, after reviewing 20 years' worth of data, researchers from New York University concluded that there is a link between gum inflammation and Alzheimer's disease. Follow-up studies from researchers at the University of Central Lancashire in the United Kingdom compared brain samples from 10 living patients with Alzheimer's to samples from 10 people who did not have the disease. Data indicated that a bacterium — Porphyromonas gingivalis — was present in the Alzheimer's brain samples but not in the samples from the brains of people who did not have Alzheimer's. P. gingivalis is usually associated with chronic gum disease. As a result of the study, experts think that the bacteria can move via nerves in the roots of teeth that connect directly with the brain or through bleeding gums.

These health conditions are just a sampling of the relationship between oral health and overall health. Additional connections also have been made and continue to be studied.

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New book chronicles lives of local seniors

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

WEBSTER – In her recently published book, author Kristine Fontaine examines the joys, triumphs, and challenges of aging through the lens of several local seniors.

Titled “Only the Lucky Grow Old,” Fontaine’s book features interviews from 22 seniors over the age of 90. In her occupation as a physical therapist in town, Fontaine has long been inspired by seniors and their fascinating lifestories. She wanted to find a way to convey those stories and show residents what life was like when seniors were young. The book also explores how seniors have adapted to the many changes and challenges they’ve faced over the years.

“I have always enjoyed working with older adults when they come into the clinic,” said Fontaine, a lifelong Webster resident. “I have long admired that generation, as I find they are very strong willed and resilient, having had to endure and adjust to countless changes throughout the course of their lives over the decades.”

Listening back to the recordings of her interviews before writing the book, Fontaine enjoyed the process of imagining the seniors at different stages of their lives. The process was both educational and inspirational, and

Fontaine hopes readers will be similarly captivated.

“My favorite part was listening back to the recordings,” Fontaine added. “When I listened back, it was done in a quiet, relaxed atmosphere, and I could really hear and appreciate the inflections in their voices and how much they giggled and laughed. I found myself laughing out loud several times.”

The book also discusses what Fontaine’s physical therapy position has taught her about the challenges of aging, including arthritis. Moreover, the book explains what seniors and their families can do to make the transition into the golden years a smooth one.

“I also talk a bit about how we can help our aging parents or family members. I incorporate views on faith and spirituality, and hope to make you think of and look at things perhaps a bit differently,” Fontaine said. “It is my hope that as the stories of the individuals are read, the reader comes to have an appreciation for their own lives, but more importantly, more of an appreciation for our senior citizens.”

They all have stories to tell, and some of their stories are just remarkable.”

The book also helps combat some of the stereotypes associated with aging. Fontaine has seen many older seniors



Photo Courtesy

Author Kristine Fontaine, of Webster, recently published a book chronicling the lives of local seniors.

enjoying active lifestyles and pursuing their passions.

“Aging does not mean we have to slow down if we don’t want to, but exercise and activity are crucial to being able to maintain one’s independence,” Fontaine said.

To help promote her book launch, Fontaine is planning to visit Booklovers’ Gourmet in Webster this summer. She looks forward to connecting

with fellow writers and readers.

To learn more about the author and upcoming promotional events, check out her Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Kristine-Fontaine-Author.

Fontaine’s book is also available to readers on Amazon.

Local residents graduate from Saint Anselm College

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — On May 16, what would have been the class of 2020’s commencement day, Saint Anselm College celebrated its graduating seniors with a Celebration in Honor of the Completion of Graduation Requirements. The event streamed live from the Abbey Church where College President Joseph A. Favazza, Ph.D., addressed the class and then certified that they had completed their graduation requirements. Dean of the College Mark Cronin, Ph.D., then read each of the 483 graduates’ names. Those from the area include Jeremy Gaudet of Leicester, who received a Bachelor of Arts in Politics, and Nicholas St. Germain of Spencer, who received a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice

and Psychology, Summa Cum Laude.

At the lectern in the Abbey Church, Dr. Favazza reminded the graduates of five things he hoped they would recall as alumni of Saint Anselm College. He told them to be thankful; remember they aren’t the center of the universe; being smart is less important than being kind; great lives include failure; and, finally, there are three things that last: faith, hope, and love. In addition he stated, “Remember, your Saint A’s experience has taught you to figure what is worth believing in, hoping for, and loving, and what is not.” “You have made us proud as students; you will make us proud as alums.”

The college community worked diligently to provide the class of 2020 with

an experience that would not replace their commencement but would celebrate their accomplishments until their in-person graduation exercises occur at a later date when the coronavirus has subsided to the point where a large gathering would be possible.

About Saint Anselm College Founded in 1889, Saint Anselm College is a four-year liberal arts college providing a 21st century education in the Catholic, Benedictine tradition. Located in southern New Hampshire near Boston and the seacoast, Saint Anselm is well known for its strong liberal arts and nursing programs, the New Hampshire Institute of Politics and a vibrant culture of community service.

SPENCER NEW LEADER

ACCURACY WATCH

The Spencer New Leader is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur.

Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page 3 in a timely manner.

If you find a mistake, call (508) 909-4106 or email news@stonebridgepress.com, news during normal business hours. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor’s voice mailbox. The editor will return your phone call or email.

Gobi offers remote availability

BOSTON — While the Massachusetts State House remains closed to the public amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, Sen. Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) and her staff remain available and ready to help. Though quarantine has kept us physically distant, this crisis has only served to strengthen our sense of community. To better serve you during these times, we have put together a COVID-19 resource list, which may be found at SenatorAnneGobi.com/COVID-19.html.

My team is available by phone or email, and the State House does not define our dedication to you and this district. If you’d like to leave a message by phone, please call (617) 722-1540 and the appropriate staff member will be in touch. My email address is Anne.Gobi@MASenate.gov, and my Chief of Staff can be reached at William.Loosemore@MASenate.gov.



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Local students earn placement on Assumption College's Dean's List

WORCESTER — Assumption has announced those students who have been named to the College's Dean's List for the spring 2020 semester. Students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on the prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters. Local students include:

- Alexander Arsenault of Spencer, Class of 2020
- Rachel Berthiaume of Leicester, Class of 2020
- Rebecca Carr of West Brookfield, Class of 2020
- Emily Fontaine of Leicester, Class of 2023
- Jordan Gablaski of East Brookfield, Class of 2020

- Erin Hazelhurst of Rochdale, Class of 2023
- Connor McCaffrey of Spencer, Class of 2021
- Zachary Merow of Brookfield, Class of 2023
- Sean O'Rourke of Spencer, Class of 2020
- Kyle Padeni of Leicester, Class of 2022
- Lydia Petit of Rochdale, Class of 2023
- Braedon Wood of Spencer, Class of 2023

"This semester, our students faced unprecedented challenges due to the global pandemic," said Francesco C. Cesareo, Ph.D., president of Assumption College. "Following a rapid transition to remote learning, students adapted to the new form of education delivery amid difficult circumstances. The

Assumption community is proud of these students who, despite the distractions of the COVID-19 situation, were able to remain focused and maintain a commitment to their academic programs."

Founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption in Worcester, Mass., Assumption College is a Catholic liberal arts institution that offers undergraduate students 33 majors and 49 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, and professional studies; as well as master's and continuing education degrees and professional certificate programs—each through an educational experience that is grounded in the rich Catholic intellectual tradition. The curriculum enables students to gain a depth and breadth of knowledge that leads to profession-

al success and personal fulfillment. Students—whether on the Worcester campus or at the College's Rome, Italy, campus—become engaged participants in Assumption's classic liberal arts education, exploring new ideas and making connections across disciplines. To prepare for the workforce, students learn cutting-edge theory and best practices, conduct innovative research, and develop excellent communication and critical-analysis skills. Assumption graduates are also known for their thoughtful citizenship and compassionate service to their community. For more information about Assumption College, please visit www.assumption.edu.

Leicester resident completes training as correctional officer

WEST BOYLSTON — With his newest class of eleven recruits ready to graduate after completing numerous interviews, mental health screenings, physical fitness metrics and a rigorous twelve-week academy at the Worcester County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Lew Evangelidis and his department were ready for their latest recruits to take their official oath and begin active duty on the line at their correctional facility. A nor-

mal rite of passage for the fifty-two previous Basic Recruit Training Academies has been a large graduation ceremony full of Sheriff's Department traditions with friends and family. Many of the ceremonies are held at Anna Maria College in Paxton. This year's WCSO Basic Recruit Training Academy #53, like graduation ceremonies around the country in the era of Coronavirus, was very different.

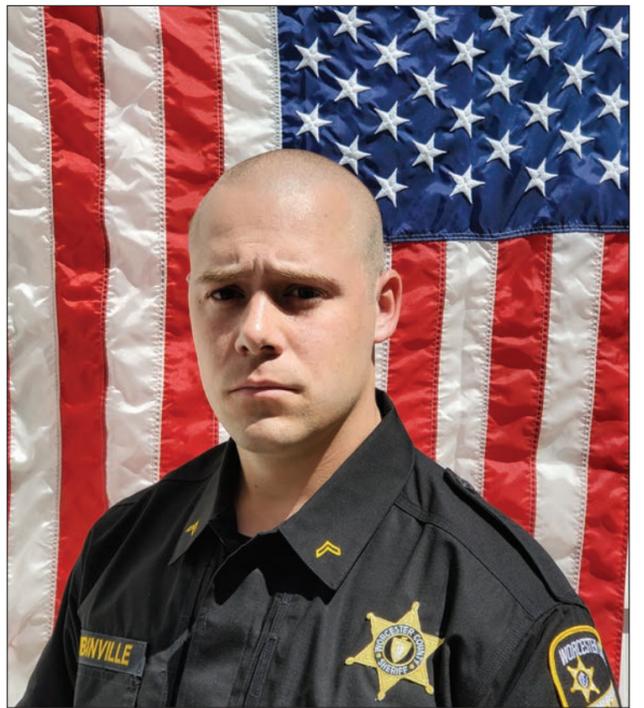
A private, socially distanced

and masked ceremony provided by Sheriff Evangelidis was held on the grounds of the Sheriff's Department. In all, eleven recruits and a small group of the Training Staff were in attendance. During the very brief ceremony, a masked Sheriff Evangelidis thanked the recruits for "stepping up to assist the Department in our critical mission of public safety, especially during this challenging time that we all find ourselves in," while sharing he "could not be more proud of this class."

Officer Scott Jubinville of Leicester was one of the graduating recruits. As a member of the United States Army, Officer Jubinville was one of four graduates with prior military service.

During the ceremony, the recruits avoided the traditional cadence style entrance, presenting of the colors and customary pinning. Instead, eleven recruits remained stoic, masked and socially distanced in their seats until it was time to stand to take their official oath as Correctional Officers. All were grateful to have a ceremony, which was streamed on Facebook Live for their families to see.

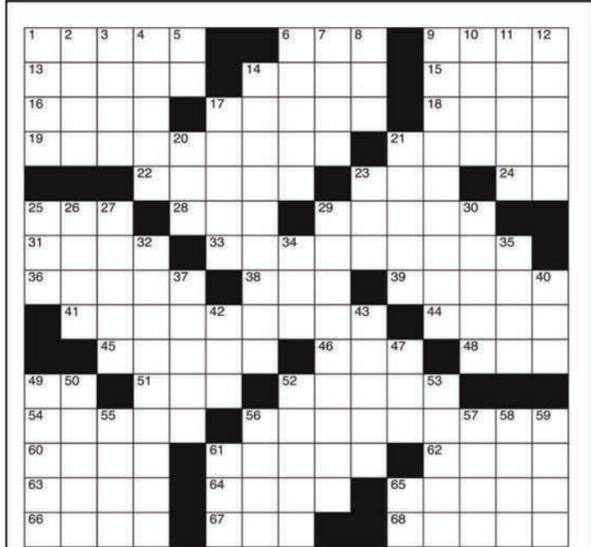
"In this uncertain time, we felt it was important to rec-



Scott Jubinville

ognize the hard work and accomplishments of our newest correctional officers. I know the recruits and their families appreciated the small, safe and private ceremony we provided," Evangelidis con-

tinued. "Now, they will begin the important work done every day at the Sheriff's Department to help protect public safety and make Worcester County a safer place."

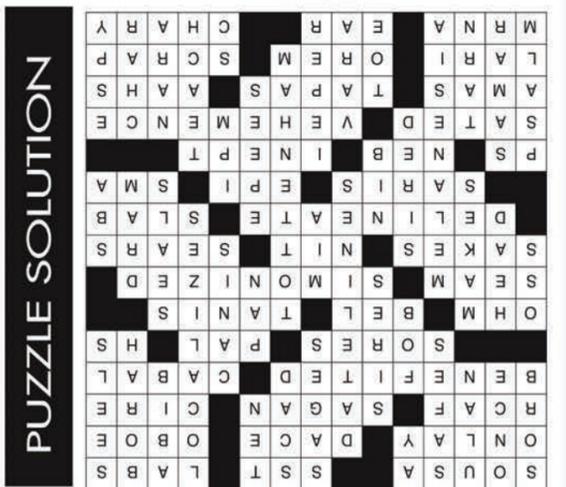


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. American composer
- 6. Very fast aircraft
- 9. Workplaces
- 13. A mount on a surface
- 14. Small freshwater fish
- 15. Double-reed instrument
- 16. Canadian flyers
- 17. Famed astronomer
- 18. Smooth, shiny fabric
- 19. Profited
- 21. Conspiracy
- 22. Infections
- 23. Chum
- 24. Secondary school (abbr.)
- 25. Resistance unit
- 28. Sound unit
- 29. Ancient city of Egypt
- 31. Crease
- 33. Polished
- 36. For goodness _!
- 38. College basketball tournament
- 39. Scorches
- 41. Describe precisely
- 44. Thick piece of something
- 45. Frocks
- 46. Indicates near
- 48. Senior enlisted US Army member
- 49. A note added to a letter
- 51. A nose or snout
- 52. Clumsy
- 54. Satisfied to the fullest
- 56. Display of strong feeling
- 60. Popular awards show
- 61. Cuisine style
- 62. Expresses pleasure
- 63. Monetary unit of the Maldives
- 64. Utah city
- 65. Fight
- 66. Messenger ribonucleic acid
- 67. Body part
- 68. Suspiciously reluctant

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Fruit of the service tree
- 2. At some prior time
- 3. Mongolian city _ Bator
- 4. Strongboxes
- 5. Russian river
- 6. Gurus
- 7. Horse mackerel
- 8. Pearl Jam's debut album
- 9. Confines
- 10. First month of Jewish ecclesiastical year
- 11. Famed Idaho politician
- 12. Prevents from seeing
- 14. Indicate time
- 17. Male parents
- 20. Tab on a key ring
- 21. The Great Dog constellation: _ Major
- 23. Frying necessity
- 25. Former CIA
- 26. The leader
- 27. Produces
- 29. London soccer club
- 30. Closes
- 32. Region in the western Pacific Ocean
- 34. Not present
- 35. Small drink of whiskey
- 37. Begat
- 40. Helps little firms
- 42. Pointed end of a pen
- 43. Fencing swords
- 47. Inches per minute (abbr.)
- 49. Hymn
- 50. Philippine island
- 52. Flemish names of Ypres
- 53. A way to inform
- 55. Small lake
- 56. Linear unit
- 57. Central Japanese city
- 58. Partially burn
- 59. Sports award
- 61. Part of your foot
- 65. Atomic #21



PROTESTS

continued from page A1

Community members who attended the rally were committed to demonstrating peacefully and passionately. In a fast-paced society where tragedies often seem to blend together and become forgotten, protesters nationwide are determined to continue confronting racism through events in big cities and small towns alike.

"We won't be silenced, and society can no longer cave to those that bully and say what we're doing doesn't matter," Burkhardt told the New Leader. "It does matter. Systematic racism most likely will not change

in our lifetime. We need to raise our children to not view skin color as different or less than. We were raised into a society where racism exists, but we are in charge of raising our children to see everyone as equal and educating our children on the inequalities of the past to ensure it does not happen again."

Although many peaceful protests nationwide have been overshadowed by looters and individuals seeking to drown the message, central Massachusetts protests have remained largely peaceful. A similar event was held in Sturbridge last week, and protesters plan to continue the war against racism and police brutality through multi-events this summer.

In North Brookfield, selectmen were pleased by the peaceful manner of protest.

"The Board supports the people's first amendment right to protest. They did it peacefully, stayed on the sidewalks, and didn't cause any problems," said North Brookfield Select Board Chairman Dale Kiley.

The police department also released a statement on the day of the rally.

"With regard to this afternoon's peaceful march in town, we have been working with the event's organizers to ensure that this event stays peaceful while ensuring that their voices are heard," read the North Brookfield Police Department statement. "We are most definitely on the same



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in the June 19 issue of all of our papers
 DEADLINE FRIDAY JUNE 12 NOON (space) • Copy by Monday Noon
 Run in one (your choice of 1 publication), five (Spencer New Leader, Charlton Villager, Sturbridge Villager, Southbridge News Webster Times) or all seven publications.

Publications to choose from: Spencer New Leader, Auburn News, Charlton Villager, Sturbridge Villager, Webster Times, Blackstone Valley Tribune, Southbridge News

We will post the page on our website and on our FB Page too!

- 1. 2.4" X 2.5" block (dble blocks available at \$60/\$120/\$170)
 - a. 1 pub = \$30
 - b. Five pubs = \$60
 - c. Seven pubs = \$85
- 2. Full Banner (10" X 2)
 - a. one pub = \$96
 - b. 5 pubs = \$192
 - c. 7 pubs = \$272
- 3. 1/8th page (5" X 5")
 - a. one pub = \$120
 - b. 5 pubs = \$240
 - c. 7 pubs = \$340
- 4. 1/4 page (5" X 10 or 10" X 5")
 - a. one pub = \$240
 - b. 5 pubs = \$480
 - c. 7 pubs = \$680

Feel free to mention certain grads that may be working for you!

For more information or to reserve space, please contact June Simakauskas, 508-909-4062, or email jsima@stonebridgepress.news

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page, as we all want this to be a peaceful event while the message is relayed in a meaningful and effective way."

Not everyone in attendance at the rally shared the protesters' vision for change. Some guests insulted and threatened protesters, and organizers commend the police department for its professionalism and responsiveness in keeping everyone safe and protecting the right to protest.

Looking ahead, local protesters want to remain active and keep advancing the call for change. They might only be a small group in a small town, but they embrace the role of serving as a microcosm for a national demand.

"We can no longer cave. We have to stand up and weather the storm," Burkhardt said.

Second Chance counting on golf tournament to help pets in need Spring 2020 graduates announced at UA

EAST BROOKFIELD — Second Chance Animal Services has announced plans to host the Eighth Annual Golf Tournament with a new venue and date to accommodate COVID-19 restrictions. The tournament will now be held July 25 at Heritage Country Club in Charlton and golfers are currently limited to 76 carts in accordance with state guidance. People living in the same household will be able to ride together. "With our major fundraiser postponed to the fall, Second Chance is counting on the annual golf tournament to provide much needed funding for pets in need," says Development Director Lindsay Doray. "We moved the fundraiser because Heritage Country Club offers more options to ensure we can safely host the event including the ability to offer outdoor dining or take-away meals for the traditional post-golf luncheon." Doray and the venue are closely mon-

itoring the evolving situation and have several contingency plans in place. Several foursomes have already signed up, but Second Chance recognizes there will be some who are not able to attend the fundraiser this year. The nonprofit is adding an online silent auction where everyone can bid on items in advance, including a pair of Adirondack chairs handmade and donated by the Hampden County Sheriff's Office. The online auction link will be available on the website in July. Interested golfers can purchase tickets online at secondchanceanimals.org/events/golf/. Single golfers and foursomes are welcome. Second Chance encourages golfers to purchase tickets early due to limited ticket availability. Mulligans are also available online or during check-in the morning of the tournament. Check in will be 7 am and the tournament will commence at 7:30 a.m.

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — The University of Alabama awarded some 6,326 degrees this spring. Among the graduates was Aimee Travis of Spencer, who received a Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training. The recent change to remote learning during this unprecedented time affected the University's plans for traditional commencement activities. However, commencement is a milestone, and the University wants graduates to have the opportunity to walk across the stage in celebration of their success. Although any plans are contingent on how the summer outlook progresses, all spring graduates are invited to participate in the summer commencement events scheduled for Friday, July 31, and Saturday, Aug. 1. "We will also be recognizing the achievements of our spring 2020 graduating class through online and social media outlets to highlight our shared pride in them," said UA President Stuart Bell. "I look forward to congratulating each student on stage very soon." With dozens of challenging academic programs, expert and world-renowned faculty and numerous opportunities for

service and growth, The University of Alabama is the place where legends are made. UA offers its students a premier educational, cultural and social experience with more than 200 undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and gives students the opportunity to partner with faculty performing cutting-edge research. The University of Alabama, the state's oldest and largest public institution of higher education, is a student-centered research university that draws the best and brightest to an academic community committed to providing a premier undergraduate and graduate education. UA is dedicated to achieving excellence in scholarship, collaboration and intellectual engagement; providing public outreach and service to the state of Alabama and the nation; and nurturing a campus environment that fosters collegiality, respect and inclusivity.

Emily Caplette of East Brookfield earns President's List honors at SUNY Canton

CANTON, N.Y. — SUNY Canton President Zvi Szafran congratulates Emily L. Caplette of East Brookfield for earning President's List Honors during the spring 2020 semester. Caplette majors in the Graphic and Multimedia Design program. "The spring semester created a truly unique set of challenges," said SUNY Canton President Zvi Szafran. "Honor students have risen to that challenge and demonstrated true excellence in the new academic landscape. The entire college applauds your success." President's List recognizes students

who achieve a 3.75 or greater GPA. A complete list of all honor students also runs on www.canton.edu. About SUNY Canton As Northern New York's premier college for career-driven bachelor's degrees, associate degrees and professional certificate programs, SUNY Canton delivers quality hands-on programs in digital design, engineering technology, health, management and public service. Faculty members are noted for their professional real-world experience in addition to outstanding academic credentials. As SUNY's lead-

er in online education, SUNY Canton OnLine offers hundreds of flexible and convenient courses as well as 21 online degree programs. The college placed first in 14 categories in a SUNY-Wide Student Opinion Survey, most notably in career services, tutoring, library resources, and classroom facilities. The SUNY Canton Kangaroos 15 traditional athletic teams compete at the NCAA Division III level as part of the North Atlantic Conference. SUNY Canton also features varsity eSports and cheerleading.

FRIENDLY FACE



Photo Courtesy

This garden doll made from clay pots was made by Patti Coltey of Howe Village in Spencer. Little Anna-Belle sits on her wooden soapbox greeting all who pass by buildings 2 and 3, bringing joy to all who see her.

Knox Trail salutes top performers

SPENCER — The Knox Trail Middle School staff has released its latest edition of top weekly performers. The following list of students includes write-ups provided by the KTMS staff: Fifth Grade: "This week's top performer for grade five is Anastasia Nieuwenhoff. Ana excels academically throughout her remote learning assignments in all classes. She also has a positive attitude, participating and smiling through each Zoom meeting. Ana continues to shine with her dedication to academics and her drive to learn." Sixth Grade: "This week's top performer for sixth grade is Ava Wall. Ava has been navigating remote learning

with style and grace. Ms. Noble also reports that she has been crushing her online trumpet lessons. Ava is smart, kind, and helpful. She is a delight in Zoom meetings; we can't say enough good things about her. Keep up the great work." Seventh Grade: "Allison DeCelle is a dedicated student with a lead-by-example persona. She is a self-sufficient student that applies lessons learned to unfamiliar situations. Allison has an excellent attitude toward learning and is a true leader. Congratulations, Allison. Well deserved!" Eighth Grade: "Ryan Lopez has adapted really well to the current situ-

ation. He has been a consistent participant in every class. Without the distractions of classroom antics around him, he has flourished and done a great job."

ARTICLES

continued from page A1

tenance and repair costs needed for the school department. The high school requires roof and boiler repairs, while the middle school needs furnace, boiler, and compressor improvements. Additionally, roughly \$50,000 was approved for upgrades and repairs to the district's athletic fields.

Article 6 sought funds for repairs at the police station. A total of \$24,914 was secured for unanticipated repairs, including upgrades to the duct furnace, cooling system, thermostat, and sally port garage door, among others. An additional \$9,990 was approved for upgrades to the LPD training room and community room. Voters overwhelmingly supported this article, with 81 percent approval.

Fire department repair costs were covered in Article 5. Approximately \$20,910 was secured for repairs to the facility; the article was passed with 78 percent approval.

Article 28 sought an authorization of \$388,000 for engineering, site work, and other costs related to the Waite Pond dam. The town has received a \$1 million grant from the State Dam and Seawall Program to replace the dam. A review from state officials designated the dam as being in poor condition. The grant requires 25 percent matching funds from the town.

Additional Town Meeting articles

covered such items as storm water management, groundwater studies, elected officials' salaries, a CMRPC annual assessment, transfers of town-owned properties, and mosquito control, among several other items.

Town leaders thank all officials and departments that came together to make the event a success. They also thank residents for their patience and cooperation.

"I would like to personally thank all the departments for their support and willingness to pitch in and help," Davis said. "Leicester is lucky to have wonderful people working for the town."



PERSON of the WEEK

SEAN O'ROURKE OF SPENCER

Sean has been named Salutatorian for the Class of 2020 at Assumption College. A Spencer native, Sean was a double accounting and economics major with a minor in finance and fraud examination and forensic accounting. He is a member of the International Economics Honor Society, Omicron Delta Epsilon, as well as the National Philosophy Honor Society, Phi Sigma Tau. He is a Francis Ouimet scholar as well as a Greater Worcester Community Foundation Dec. 3rd scholar, and has earned many accolades during his time at Assumption College. We wish him only the best in all future endeavors.

If you would like to nominate an upcoming Person of the Week, please email your suggestion and the reason you're nominating him or her, or a group of people to June at jsima@stonebridgepress.news. Thank you.

Person of the Week is sponsored by:



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Is your town holding a local election?

Do you want to avoid going to the polls in person? Vote Early by MAIL! Complete this application and send it to your local Town Clerk, who will then send you an Early/Absentee Ballot. Addresses are below. All ballots for local elections must be returned by the close of polls on election day. For more information, call your local town clerk's office.

- LEICESTER:**
3 Washburn Square
Leicester, MA 01524
508-892-7011
- SPENCER:**
157 Main Street
Spencer, MA 01562
508-885-7500 x150
- BROOKFIELD:**
6 Central Street
Brookfield, MA 01506
508-867-2930 x12
- EAST BROOKFIELD:**
122 Connie Mack Drive
East Brookfield, MA 01515
508-867-6769 x301
- NORTH BROOKFIELD:**
215 North Main Street
North Brookfield, MA 01535
508-867-0200
- WEST BROOKFIELD:**
2 East Main Street
West Brookfield, MA 01585
508-867-1421 x302

2020 Municipal Election
Early Ballot Application



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

Voter Information

Name: _____
Legal Voting Residence: _____
1 _____
Date of Birth: _____ Telephone Number: _____
E-mail Address: _____

Ballot Information

2 Mail Ballot to: _____

Special Circumstances (If applicable)

3 Voter required assistance in completing application due to physical disability.
Assisting person's name: _____
Assisting person's address: _____

Signed (under penalty of perjury): _____ Date: _____

Eligibility

Any registered voter may use this application to request an absentee ballot for a local election being held on or before June 30, 2020.

Completing the Application

- Voter Information – Provide your name, legal voting address, and date of birth. Telephone number and e-mail address are optional fields.
- Ballot Information – Provide the address where you want the ballot mailed.
- Special Circumstances – If you are assisting a voter in completing this application, complete this section.
- Sign your name. If you require assistance in signing the application, you may authorize someone to sign your name in your presence. That person must complete the assisting person's information in Section 3.

Submitting the Application

Send the completed application to the local election official at your city or town hall. Applications can be mailed or hand-delivered. Applications may also be submitted electronically by fax or e-mail, as long as your signature is visible. Please allow ample mailing time for this application and for the ballot. Ballots must be returned to your local election official by Election Day. Find contact information for local election officials at www.sec.state.ma.us/ele or by calling 1-800-462-VOTE (8683).

THIS DOCUMENT CAN BE REPRODUCED.

QCC releases Spring 2020 semester Dean and Merit Lists

QCC releases Spring 2020 semester Dean and Merit Lists
W O R C E S T E R
 — Quinsigamond Community College has released its Spring 2020 semester Dean and Merit Lists. A total of 578 students were named to the College's Dean's List and 1035 students were named to the Merit List.

Students named to the Dean's List must have a Quality Point Average (QPA) of 3.5 or higher and have earned 12 or more credits in a given semester. Students named to the Merit List must have a QPA of 3.5 or higher and have earned 6 or more credits in a given semester, but fewer than 12 credits.

For more information, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.

Dean's List

Auburn: Brigid Campbell, Gracie Curtis, Corey Duff, Catherine Forde, Dawson Gemme, Jason Henry, Nicholas John, Quinne Masiello, Benjamin Rackett, Haley Rivers, Rheina Viruet

Brimfield: Allyson Chase, Kenneth Farrell, Alexis Flugel, Madison Miller, Jennifer Polesnak-Custance, Jonathan Rubio

Brookfield: Quintin Aubin, Justin Zielinski

Charlton: Matthew Beals, Elaine Bond, Rebekah Diaz, Lucas Lanier, Paige Leite, Robert Orazs, Jeffrey Pearlstein, Christopher Rapoza, Shannon Ross, Rebekah Ukpong

Cherry Valley: Hunter Guinto, Robert Howard, Alec Iott, Sarah Kacevich, Krissy Lindner

Douglas: Kristina Chacon, Daphne Sevilla

Dudley: Erin Bernard, Gabrielle Boivin, Jessica Clark, Jacqueline Coggans, Joy Goguen, Veronica Helock, Francesca Johnson, Montana Josey, Meaghan Krajcik, Conner Meece, Aidan Murray, Mick Sullivan, Meroon Zahrah

East Brookfield: Allison Hingston

East Douglas: Amy Ackerman, Bethany Buller, Dominic Corso, Adam Gaulin, Jenna Glode, Sarah Happy,

Jacob Masi
Fiskdale: Carina Holt, Tristan Shaw

Leicester: Grace Ankrach, Tiffany Beer, Sajed Chreim, Anastasia Cichowski, Jillian Dube, Dylan Havey, Kristina Jarobski, Austin Le, Ayla Martinez, Meaghan St. George, Lindsay Tucker

North Brookfield: Skye Guertin, Jay Mason, Michelle Nguyen, David Vincent

North Uxbridge: Sarena Gervais

Northbridge: Joshua Desjardins, Tyler Hewitt, Brian Iarussi, Tyler Novitch, Lauren Springer, Donovan Tames

Oxford: Gabriella Blackwell, Kayla Brodeur, Nathan Hagopian, Luke Knowles, Samantha Lemay, Trenton Lovejoy, Paul Maynard, Abigail Rice, Madeline Tomlin, Felicia Violette

Southbridge: Kevin Brady, Edgardo Camacho, Caiden Ellis, Breanna Filion, Jaime Fuentes, Jessica Harvey, Megan Hufault, Dalizbeth Rivera-Szczyppien, Dianis Sanchez, Justin Santiago

Spencer: Chantel Croteau, Joseph Hamel, Nelmarie Irizarry, William Marrier, Morgan Mercadante, Johnny Nguyen, Dustin VanDyke, Savannah Vangel

Uxbridge: Anthony Abate, Gabrielle Casey, Marcus Cruz, Jenna Dagle, Erika Ethier, Mark Jordan, Michaela Randall, Christopher Videto

Wales: Lilyth Bourque

Webster: Carolyn Almanzar Gutierrez, Destiny Baldwin, Anthony Barnardo, Tom Bednarz, Audrey Ducharme, Maikael Gwargious, Timothy Hansen, Sokkhang Khem, Joshua Kichar, Eric Lefebvre, Antonia Lopez, Orion Walker

West Boylston: Kingsley Duodu, Matthew George, Dylan Hemenway, Sarah Maino, Sophie Mulhearn, Jaycie Oputa, Zackery Vanvleck, Brady Weldon

West Brookfield: Robert O'Shea, Marissa Parker, Leah Robillard, William Walker

Whitinsville: Alexandra Clauss, Rachel Fremeau, Jameson Murray, Sharon Ridley, Anastasia Robinson, John Roche, Allison Salamack,

Braelyn Sessa, Bishoy Soliman Hanna, Marie Soliman, Cody Spencer

Merit List

Auburn: Michelina Balsavich, Faith Barbieri, Bright Bremang, Caleb Buckley, Elizabeth Burch-Elder, Chantal Champagne, Hannah Chapdelaine, Lyndsey Delorto, Adam Eastty, Rebecca Forrett, Danielle Hastings, Desiray Hayes, Thi Thanh Huynh, Anelia Hyland, Tia Leo, Abigail Lloyd, Indra Nagassar, Lolitha Ntonmeu Messa Tiako, Joseph Paine, Abigail Randall, James Robertson, Laura Ruzzoli, Brian Smith, Dylan Tang, Dien Truong, Jonathon Wambach

Blackstone: Christina Boyan, Alexa Boyt, Eric Lawler, Thomas Saladin, Cassidy Tellstone, Justyne Tellstone, Patricia Wozniak

Brimfield: Amber Beaulieu, Amanda Childs, Steven LaRocco, Noah Pestaina

Brookfield: Shawna O'Day Kida, Angela Palmere
Charlton: Rasa Auskalnyte, Danielle Cadarette, Byron Dean, Gwen Earnest, Chelsie Elliott, April Foskett, Riley French, Victoria Gaspar, Alexander Hayward, Chase Mannila, Amanda McDermott, Ashley Steelman, Jennifer Vezina

Cherry Valley: Tiara Bates, Sarah Gaffney, Alferid Hussin Shifa, Inutu Mwinga, Esther Njeri, Brandi Sagendorph, Nehemiah Wanjiku

Douglas: Kattie Turgeon
Dudley: Celia Bohaboy, Shawn Coltran, Alexandra Cowher, Amanda Cronauer, Michael Cyrek, Gregory Gunsalus, Cassidy Hamilton, Stedroy Hortance, Hannah Lawson, Travis McDonald, Danielle Moore, Elizabeth Naumann, David Njoroge, Abigail Northrop, Jacinda Peters, Tiffany Sousa, Melesia Swanson-Alonzo, Owen West, Ashley Westgate, Eridania Zapata

East Brookfield: Madison Hatt, McKenna Lamothe, Amber Wadden

East Douglas: Amanda Alexion, Carol Benson, Holly Callahan, Samantha Drew, Brendan L'Italien, Nathan

Milliken, Emily Muscatell, Earl Parfitt, Michael Purvis

Fiskdale: Brianna Lawrence, Victoria Masse, Jaime Pingree, Phillip Sipe, Rosalyn Sosik, Ryan Zahr, Warren Zelenak

Holland: Edward Fisher, Sean Higgins

Leicester: Colleen Beaudreau, Owen Boisvert, Erica Campbell, Taylor Chouinard, Sherri Frotten, Kristen Johnson, Lilly Kinney, Jamie Pasternack, Christina Penney, Maria Rosado, Miosotis Rosado, Jonah Wicklund

North Brookfield: Meghan Brill, Harold Burroughs, Cassandra Chouinard, Kelsie Fantasia, Melissa Fontaine, Leo Gauthier, Jessica Jesky, Jordan Olson, Stephanie Ranellone

North Oxford: Salvatore DeMalia, Alyssa Durham, Alexzandra Hays, Shannen Hennessy, Stefanie Weaver

Northbridge: Juliana Asante, Kyrin Bishop, Emily Massoni, Giovan Panzanella, Crystal Tardie, Anthony Zanca

Oxford: Regan Arraje, Richard Audette, Amber Comptois, Nicole Cosway, Nichole Donahue, Lindsey Donnelly, Tommy Estevez, Aliya Guillotte, Jennifer Gum, Carolyn Hodge, Audrey Hopkins, Jacob Laplante, Justin Mosher, Denise Otano, Nicholas Rawson, Ethan Smith, Olivia Spring, Kathryn Tagg, Heather Wilcox

Southbridge: Andre Beaudet, Karl Benkert, Felicia Boucher, Melissa Boudreau, Jessica Brunell, Audrey Clark, Jacquelinet Conde Arias, Awtumn Courville, Melinda Cruz-Rios, Ashley Deorsey-McNeaney, Tanishia Espino, Kirstianna Ferschke, Kiley Gouin, Maria Hernandez-Santos, Melynda Marcano, Luz Marquez, Javier Melendez, Kyle Morrill, Sean Moynagh, Amy Nadeau, Erik Newton, Krystal Pagan, Brady Parent, Matthew Porra, Mariana Powell, Tanner Renaud, Stephanie Rivera, Christina Ruberti, Sujeidy Sagastibelza, Austin Skarnes, Cassandra Smeltzer, Gabriel Varner, Natyarie Villanueva, Tyler Webster

Spencer: Mikayla Battaglia, Michelle Beauchemin, Rebecca Beers, Carley Burns, Tyler Carter, Draven Casey, Jacob Cormier, Andrew De Klerk, Grace Diaz, Elizabeth Garber, Melissa Groccia, Jennifer Jarmulowicz, Victoria Kouyoumjian, Melissa Luukko, Meghan McCaffrey, Rhiannon McIntyre, Erin McTiernan, Rose Ngigi, Peninah Okuku, Amanda Pedjoe, Tania Rivera, Mark Robillard, Whitney Simonovitch, Kristi Tharp, Leif Torres, Yujia Wei

Sturbridge: Brian Cardrant, Tiondra DeBoise, Kristen Gaudet, Ethan Hunter-Mason, Agnieszka Orłowska, Jeannine Szumski

Uxbridge: Joseph Cafarella, Jason Dullaghan, Michael Dumican, Caitlyn Ellis, Shannon Gilmore, Stephanie Gosselin, Mycala Labbe, Taylor Lee, Gabrielle Morrow, Jocelyn Murzycki, Mariangela Pereira, Matthew Stark, Katie Vautrain

Wales: Stephen Hughes, Janelle VanHook

Webster: Krystle Bedrick, Ashley Belanger, Natalya Cazarreal, Tirso Cristian, Emily Cutler, Katelyn DiTullio, Tyler Ellis, Edna Makepeace, Jamie Marshall, Alexis Mazza, Eunice Osei, Sabina Potem, Heather Quinn, Joe Ramos, Ivette Rivera Toribio, Michael Russo, Sarah Mae San Agustin, Sara Soule, Apryl Vancellette, Gage Velez, Andrea Woodford

West Brookfield: Jenna Chisholm, Savannah Finney, Karen Laprise, Alexandra Mendenhall, Jasper Roche, Payton Woolldridge

Westborough: Audrey Buck, Franklin Burkey, Kevin D'Alto, Sowmya Gontla, Daniel Leinweber, Tania Montanez, Jennifer Morrissey, Caroline Nakabiili, Christopher Xu

Whitinsville: Forrest Amtmann, Jocelyn Arriaga, Jill Beschi, Kelly Buurma, Adam Dullea, Casey Hibbard, Nikole Kamishlian, Ian Kelly, Kimberly Lloyd, Melissa Lozeau, Rebecca Malo, Emily Miller, Charlotte Murphy, Juli Nasralla, Alexander Romero, Raquel Sabatino, Katie Sansoucy, Ian Schopf, Christina Woods

Quinsigamond Community College to continue remote instruction this fall

W O R C E S T E R
 — Quinsigamond Community College will continue remote instruction for the Fall 2020 semester. According to QCC President Dr. Luis G. Pedraja, the decision was made to ensure the safety of the College's students, faculty and staff.

"We did not make this decision lightly. The administration felt this was in the best interest of the QCC community with the continued uncertainty of COVID-19," President Pedraja said. "Due to the pandemic, we feel it's

most prudent to leverage our experience and expertise with online and remote instruction and unprecedented support. This will allow for little to no disruption of services in the Fall, should the virus spike as predicted later this year. We will continue to monitor the situation, and follow the medical advice of local, state, and national organizations. A limited number of courses, such as labs or clinical experiences that require direct hands-on participation and cannot be delivered remotely, will be

offered on campus, as long as we can do so safely."

QCC has a long history of online education and has offered hundreds of courses remotely prior to the pandemic. In early March, the College adapted quickly to the changing landscape and transitioned its in-person spring semester courses to remote instruction, in addition to delivering its full array of support services remotely.

Today, college students are facing an uphill battle as many are rethinking their fall college

plans and looking for impossible guarantees from four-year schools that dorms will remain open for the academic year. Students looking for the "on campus" experience could find themselves back home and out thousands of dollars in a few short weeks or months, should residential schools find they must move to a remote form of education delivery as they did this Spring.

"This pandemic is one that is transforming how we look at higher education," President Pedraja continued. "Right now,

no one knows what the future holds and while we all want to be optimistic, we must be cognizant that our world may be forever changed. Making smart higher education decisions now, will pay off substantially in the future."

For more information on QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.



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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

United we stand, divided we fall

In the 6th century B.C., Aesop shared a fable about the Lion and The Four Oxen. The story, if you have not heard it, goes like this...

A lion used to prowl around a field where four oxen dwelled. Several times, he would try to eat them but whenever he approached the four oxen would back their tales up to each other with their bodies pointed outward in different directions. No matter what direction the lion approached, he was met by the horns of one of them and could do nothing. Finally, the oxen began quarreling amongst themselves, and so each went off to a pasture of their own in a separate corner of the field. Then the lion attacked them one by one and soon made an end to all four.

Aesop's moral to this tale has become one of the most well known sayings of our time, "United we stand, divided we fall." President Abraham Lincoln parroted the sentiment in his acceptance speech, made in the year 1858: "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

As of late, it seems the division throughout the country and even in our small communities has grown deeper. What we noticed, however, is that most well minded, kind, compassionate, intelligent people all want the same things. To be happy and successful. The arguments ensue, when people have different ideas on how to reach such a state of success in our government, and even in our own lives. When one person thinks we should reach A by doing X and Y, and another thinks we should reach A by doing Z, tempers flare. We want to remind you, that there is no reason to get heated when talking to a friend or colleague. Getting heated at a stranger is even more inappropriate. It's ok if someone disagrees with you. Remain calm.

What needs to unfold is the ability to hear each other out with a listening ear. Where one person's experience ends, another's begins. Solutions always appear in that middle area, where compromises are made.

To be steadfast in your beliefs is important, but it's even more important to exercise some flexibility, that is where growth takes place. This is where we can learn from someone who doesn't think the same way we do. It does not make a person weak, when there is a mind shift. It makes them smart.

We're seeing a lot of arguing on social media, people publicly going back and forth and the thread never ends with any real change being made. If you want to have a meaningful, productive conversation with someone online, take it to a private message, where the world isn't watching. In the public eye, we all can be defensive.

Now, there are extremists on both sides of any argument, in those cases, there's not much you can do. There are people who want to see things through one lens and one lens only. Fine, let them. You will also see ignorance and evil come flying out of the mouths of those you never thought capable, fine let them. Remember that the majority of the people in this country want to unify. It comes down to common sense. United we stand, divided we fall. That statement couldn't ring truer.

Be strong enough in character, where you are a leader, whether in your own community, at work or in your own family. Unity should always be the end goal. Therefore, if you see someone that disagrees with you, and you want to unify, have a conversation that will do just that.

Sometimes simply saying, "Hey the country is really divided right now, how can we start to unify on a small scale?" That question puts both people in a position to come up with a solution that works for everyone. Then the domino effect takes hold. Then unity happens, then change, then success.

In the words of author Ken Blanchard, "None of us is as smart, as all of us."



VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let me be part of the solution

To the Editor:
Until I stop blaming the victims of police street executions on the victims themselves; until I truly learn that it's possible to love America while at the same time acknowledging that our national legacy includes the ugly facts of genocide of the human beings who were already here, and two and half centuries of enslavement and brutalization of human beings kidnapped and brought here in chains from another continent; until I tire of and am sickened by my own unwillingness to understand that the deep and deeply-rooted racist ideology that was created to support, justify and rationalize that brutalization still persists today to an unspeakable extent, and that it didn't simply vanish with the passage of the 13th and 14th Amendments; until my privileged self can try to understand what it is like to live with the fear that the child I raised to be respectful and polite can nonetheless be pulled from a car by the police, or worse, just because of his color; until I take the time to realize that a person who has

seen yet another videotaped police execution of someone who could easily be his or her son, brother, sister, friend, father, mother, self, and whose voice is never heard, has a damn good reason for taking to the streets in protest; unless I never again utter words like "Oh, I'm not a racist," which roughly translated means "I have a closed mind and nothing else to learn"; until I stop being silent about elected leaders who profess religion but whose words and actions seek to turn us against ourselves and stoke the flames of hatred; until I open my ears, eyes and heart towards an understanding of the suffering that comes from the racial injustice that keeps our noble national ideals unrealized, I will be a part of the problem. Lord, I don't want to be.

Let me always remember that George Floyd's life mattered. Let me add my voice to those who are crying out for justice and the fulfillment at last of the American promise of equality for all.

ROGER BANKS
SPENCER

A warning to return to God

To the Editor:
This Corona [crown] virus is a warning; it is declaring that we need to return to God, and when we do God will remove the pestilent [virus] from our lives.

God told the people yesteryear [Joel 2: 12-13] and God is warning, telling us today to turn away from our immoral life style and turn to Him [God] while there is still time, life in our bodies. Each day is another day closer to death, each day time is running out for us, God, Jesus has been more than patient, merciful and we need to make that choice, life or death, and when it ends it is to late to repent, change our life style. We need to trust and obey God, Jesus now while we can, still have breath. Don't be foolish, prideful or anything hold you from turning to God, Jesus. You are responsible for your life, the choices you make. This is the day the Lord has made today is the precious present. [Psalm 118: 24]

God is a loving God! God sacrificed His Son so that we could have eter-

nal life, heaven. God does not delight in allowing us to witness plagues and death to get our attention. God did not want an outward display of pestilence, penitent yesteryear and God does not delight allowing it today, however, unless there is a true outward display of penitence, inward repentance [1 Samuel 16: 7] [Matthew 23: 1-36] we will not be free of this pestilence [corona virus] we need to change our attitudes and life style and return to God, Jesus, confess our outward defiant immoral life style.

We are all going to physically die; it cannot be avoided. What can be avoided is dying eternally, and, only you can change that by choosing Jesus, Jesus has the authority to save us from eternal death.

The choice is yours. Do you want to be blessed in this world and saved in the next world [heaven]? You need to live by God's moral and dietary law. Amen!

ROLAND BLAIS
BROOKFIELD

Sensitivity in universal wording

To the Editor:
Sadly, these times are displaying a sorrowful presence of disturbing violence towards people of color. The situations in the nation's streets, Urban and Suburbia landscapes have given away to a combination of peaceful and violent protests with People angry and experiencing a feeling of powerlessness.

One item of concern is the general impression that businesses which have been burned to the ground or show as an emptied shell of their former self can rebuild, however without an owners' focused resolve and a tireless effort of sweat and sacrifice to rebound, that business could be shuttered forever.

Anguish and frustration abound to witness Mom and Pop proprietors who have lost their life dreams. Small Business owners contribute to a productive society by providing for their own families, but it goes further than this goal. Small businesses support numerous workers that count a on a paycheck to support partially or fully their families. They expand the vast spectrum of innovative minds leading others in adding additional workers supporting that business by supplying the necessary goods, technology, manufacturing components or equipment to operate.

Many in the small business world take out loans and draw from personal savings or from family financial gifts to be paid back. Attaining that cherish level of independence in risking all to accomplish a lifelong dream is an individual right. Many neighborhood businesses are a welcome factor to assist local non-profit programs, also a neighborly podium to their customers daily lives of troubles and happy times.

Small businesses are a crucial part of America's economy. They "account for 44 percent of all US activity, employ 55 percent of the US workforce, and represent nearly 90 percent of US companies claimed from an Educational Economic Magazine report

Media sources published lately a couple of incidents:

The San Diego Tribune newspaper injects frustrations from a business

owner.
"I'm a person. I have a family," he said. "I just want everyone to stop thinking of people as groups: police, businesses, protesters. Each one of them is an individual."

USA Today mentions an African-American Woman from Minneapolis discussing her agony being a Black female in America plus dealing with the ruin of her own small business.

The "Independent Review" publication written by Jonathan J. Bean PhD. "Burn, Baby, Burn: Small Business and the Urban Riots of the 1960's." Dr. Bean is a History Professor at Southern Illinois, some noted credits, serving as a member of the State of Illinois Advisory panel for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, he also has written scholarly articles on Diverse Issues in Higher Education.

"Burn, Baby, burn" is a critical dialogue in controversial arguments specifically, the Watts Riots in Los Angeles, discussing what occurred during that time of revolt towards inequality to African-Americans.

A few of the quotes are listed:
1." Conservatives blamed the unrest on a weak police deterrent, media coverage, and a general breakdown of law and order."

2." liberal policymakers spawned a self-fulfilling prophecy that encouraged further self-destructive behavior."

3."too often the White House would issue a strong statement against rioters and then follow it with an apologetic 'Of course, we understand why you rioted.'"

4. "The arsonists and rioters did not take the pulse of their local communities before setting fire to stores."

Does this partial list sound familiar in today's Civil unrest criticisms?

In the future we should carefully choose our words "Property damage can be repaired" for sensitivity. Our home-grown neighborhood businesses are not only Brick and Mortar structures but bring together an essential nurturing need, contributing to an Americans' daily existence.

ROBERT LUCIER
SPENCER

Nearing retirement? What questions should you ask?



FINANCIAL FOCUS
JEFF BURDICK

The recent market volatility has affected just about everybody's financial and investment situations – so, if you were planning to retire soon, will it still be possible?

Of course, the answer depends somewhat on your employment situation. With so many people's jobs being affected by the coronavirus pandemic, your retirement plans may also have been thrown into confusion. But assuming your employment is still stable, what adjustments in your financial and investment strategies might you need to make for your retirement?

Here are a few areas to consider, and some questions to ask yourself:

- Retirement goals – Now is a good time to review your retirement goals and assess your progress toward achieving them. You may want to work with a financial professional to determine if the current environment has materially affected your goals or if you need to make modest adjustments to stay on track.

- Retirement lifestyle – You probably created your investment strategy with a particular type of retirement lifestyle in mind. Perhaps you had planned to become a world traveler when your working days were over. Of course, in the near term, extensive travel may not be possible, anyway, but once we move past the pandemic, your freedom to roam will likely return. But if your investment portfolio is not where you thought it might be, can you (or do you want to) adapt your lifestyle plans? And can you accept the same flexibility with your other lifestyle goals, such as purchasing a vacation home, pursuing hobbies, and so on?

- Tradeoffs – Based on your retirement goals and your willingness to adjust your retirement lifestyle, you'll want to consider your options and tradeoffs. For example, would you be willing to work more years than you had originally planned in exchange for greater confidence in your ability to enjoy a comfortable retirement lifestyle? By working longer, you can continue adding to your IRA and 401(k) or similar retirement plan, and you may be able to push back the date you start receiving Social Security to receive bigger monthly benefits. You might also review your budget for opportunities to reduce spending today and potentially save more toward your retirement goals.

- Social Security – You can file for Social Security benefits as early as 62, but you can get 25 to 30 percent more each year if you wait until your full retirement age, which is likely between 66 and 67. As you created your retirement plans, you likely also calculated when you would take Social Security, but you may need to review that choice. If you postpone retirement a few years, what effect will that have on when you choose to take Social Security and, consequently, the size of your benefits? You won't want to make a hasty decision, because once you start taking Social Security, you can't undo your choice.

This is certainly a challenging time to be entering retirement, and you'll have some questions to answer. But even in the midst of uncertainty, you still have many choices. Consider them carefully and make the decisions that work for you.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Jeff Burdick, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or jeff.burdick@edwardjones.com.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More Letters on page 10

Enough is enough

To the Editor:
The protests around the killing of George Floyd have continued, and have grown. They started about George Floyd, but at this point have grown to become something much bigger.
The protests are quite unlike anything I've ever seen. Most protests involve the usual suspects – partisans and zealots who show up regularly. The protests of the recent weeks have been remarkable in their composition – it is people who are not protestors and who are not political activists. While these protests were spawned and inspired by the tragic death of George Floyd, they are not specifically racial. There is a very large white composition to these protests.
The scope of this is simply incredible. It is not just the major cities, but also minor cities like Worcester saw thousands come out and small towns like North Brookfield saw hundreds. This is of enormous significance – Americans of all races in every corner, nook, and cranny have come out and said “enough is enough.” I hope it is some consolation to George Floyd's family that his murder is having an enormous impact on the country and it will not be transitory.
This anger in America towards to unjust treatment of black people and the general way police approach the citizens they are hired and paid to serve has been building for a long time. This started with Ferguson in 2014, then a number of police killings of unarmed black men, then Donald Trump's election. We saw ravines open up in society under Trump. We saw deep divides that previous presidents tried to smooth over but Donald Trump inserted dynamite for his political goals. We have seen racial and economic divides for decades and centuries. The pandemic hit and it exposed all of our existing divides, killed minorities at much higher rates and showed the white power structure not caring once they figured

out who it was killing.
George Floyd's murder was not terribly different than all the other unarmed black men murdered by police in the recent past. This, however, seems to be the one that broke the camel's back. The community is fed up. We are seeing the baby boomers fade out of the prime seat of power while millennials who have a very different world view pick up the reigns. We are seeing a generational change with a sense that Americans, whatever they look like, are saying “no more.”
Some protestors are calling for something distinctly different than what we have today. They are demanding police departments defunded, budgets cut, and they want real change. They want more opportunities for better housing and better education. Defunding, disbanding, and abolishing police departments is a very blunt instrument, but if the police unions continue to value their bad officers over the needs of the community, that is where this will lead. The people will not be abused by their own employees, either the employees will get in line or they will be eliminated from the payroll.
In a stunning strongman move, Donald Trump (via AG Barr) ordered federal agents, National Guard, and mounted police to clear Lafayette Square and the road to St. John's Episcopal Church using tear gas and rubber bullets before Washington's curfew so he could get a photo op in daylight in front of a church holding a Bible. Trump's Christian and Evangelical base should be insulted that such an incarnation of the devil thought that holding a bible in front of a church he doesn't attend would sway them and they wouldn't notice him using federal troops to incite violence with peaceful protestors wouldn't be noticed.
DAVID ROSENBERG
SPENCER

Rebecca Forand for Treasurer

To the Editor:
Please vote for Rebecca Forand for the position of Treasurer/Collector.
Rebecca was appointed to this position Feb. 1, 2019, and then elected to a one-year term in May 2019. During this time, Rebecca has worked tirelessly for the Town of Spencer. Her average work week is 40 plus hours. During the time of the Pandemic, Rebecca not only works daily at the Town Hall, but also takes work home. Before being appointed to the Treasurer/Collector position, Rebecca served as Assistant Treasure/Collector for five years.
Rebecca is responsible for the tasks (which are many) of the Treasurer/Collector. She must also be able to supervise, teach and do (when called upon) the tasks of her staff. Rebecca's experience enables her to do this.
The Treasurer/Collectors office works very closely with the Water/Sewer Department as their bills are collected in the Collector's office. Rebecca's experience as clerk for Utilities and Facilities enables her to explain Water/Sewer bills and be very helpful in answering questions.
Munis is the operating system for the Town of Spencer. Rebecca has 8

years of experience in Munis and is the Administrator for the system. If any employee needs help with Munis they go to Rebecca first. She trouble shoots and is the Munis contact. Experience in Munis is very important.
Rebecca has attended the Treasurer/Collector' school since 2014. She learns and then takes these practices back to Spencer and applies them. Each year these practices save time and help to improve the performance of the office.
The Treasurer/Collector is governed by the Massachusetts General Laws. Following all of these laws, Rebecca has been able to continue to have a 98% plus collection rate. All residents are treated the same in accordance with these laws. Experience enables Rebecca to keep the collection rate high.
Please vote to re-elect Rebecca Forand to the position of Treasurer/Collector. She is qualified and experience counts.
Vote by mail by Early Ballot or in person June 23.
SUSAN LACAIRE
SPENCER

What we don't know

To the Editor:
We are living in an age where the importance of real information could not be more important. Despite rumors to the contrary, there really is no such thing as alternate truth. Beyond even that reality, there is a backstop where-by even factual information can be distorted to support almost any point of view. I get especially incensed when people use Bible passages to that purpose.
It brings to mind something I read in Readers Digest in their Life in Uniform section, several year ago.
“There was an annual softball game between the officers and the enlisted soldiers. The officers were given first ups, and were summarily retired in order. The game was called at dusk with one out in the bottom of the first inning, with the score nearly triple digits for the enlistees. The notice posted on the company bulletin board read- the officers took second place this year, losing only one game, while the enlisted came in next to last, having won only one game.”
It never ceases to amaze me how readily we accept things at face value, without an actual comprehension of all or enough information, to actually make informed judgement. I will elaborate.
President Trump has said that President Obama left him a bad test protocol and empty shelves. Both are true. Among the health issues his administration dealt with (Swine flu, HIV-aids) and the H1N1 virus, during which we had two million cases and 12,000 deaths, while never closing anything, we did, however, severely deplete emergency supplies, create a pandemic team and write a playbook for dealing with future such instances.
That pandemic team negotiated pric-

ing and wrote orders to replenish emergency supplies, which went to Paul Ryan's Republican controlled House. Those purchase orders were never funded for the balance of Obama's term. When Trump was elected and found himself in full control of both House and Senate, the orders were still never funded, but in 2018, John Bolton fired the pandemic team as redundant.
I could easily jump between claims and consequences, and thank God that Gov. Baker has not felt the need to abandon logic, common sense and science to join the throng of Trump loyalists, who think that we have expended enough energy of the pandemic (that he denied or ignored for so long) and that our best interests will be trying to restore the economy enough to use as a campaign tool.
Although I will be continuing to social distance and use my own research and best judgement to address this health issue, I am only moderately disappointed that I cannot be out there with the throngs who are appalled at the video evidence that we have virtually all now witnessed. Although I would not describe myself as decrepit, I think that the things I post here or on social media, might better serve to enlighten or motivate others.
I note that one of the female conservative black pundits has informed us all that George Floyd, the gentle giant, may not have been gentle, did have a criminal record and did time before. Among the things that I don't know is whether any of that was, or should be, taken into consideration, on suspicion of passing a counterfeit \$20. There is some suspicion that the lead officer knew or knew of George, as they were both bouncers at the same bar.
Turn To KIMBALL page A10

Covid 19: scourge or miracle?

To the Editor:
If anyone has a loved one with Alzheimer's, you know how insidious the disease is. It slowly destroys your memory and the body. You slowly waste away in confused mental state. Eventually, you forget how to eat and swallow and starve to death. We warehouse these loved ones in nursing homes so they can get the care they need. Eventually, no one visits them anymore. This is due to the fact that they no longer recognize you and the site of their deterioration breaks your heart. I know this firsthand, as I went thru this with my wife of 20 years. I saw a life loving vivacious woman reduced to a zombie. She passed away Feb. 14 in the nursing home. I was there as she gasped here last breaths. I rubbed her forehead and whispered to her its ok to go, I will take care of the kids. I am not sure if it was Covid-19 that hastened her death, but I was relieved when her suffering was over.
I think back to my weekly trips to the Alzheimer's ward at the nursing home. For two years, I saw these poor souls suffering so much. I wondered how God could let this happen? I am now convinced that the Lord in his infinite mercy has sent the Covid-19 as a miracle. It is his Angel of Mercy. Why else would a disease pass over the healthy and young and only relieve those who are suffering. Would you rather suffer a

disease which is going to slowly destroy you or would rather go quick? I would rather go quick. Look at the obituaries in the papers. The ages are all over 60 and the majority in nursing homes.
I write this as an answer to the fear mongering propagated by so called news such as CNN. They herald 100,000 deaths as a senseless tragedy. What they don't mention was that a large percent of these would die of the reasons above. They twist the facts to push fear into you. Some politicians are using the disease as a means to exert control over everyone. They use it destroy the lives of those who used their blood and energy to build their businesses. They then out of their generosity give back a pittance of our own money. How nice of them. The truth is that without the shutdown the results would be the same. If anything, I have learned from visiting the nursing home is live life to the fullest while you are young and healthy. Make those great memories by going on vacations or meeting new people. Life is beautiful and should be enjoyed. Don't live a life of fear and forcing your beliefs on others. Eat right, work out, and stay healthy. By doing so the disease will not affect you. Make those memories and have them to cherish as you grow older.
MARK ROBILLARD
SPENCER

Local solar development is a Trojan horse

To the Editor:
As a concerned Spencer citizen, I want to make as many of the town's residents aware of what is going on in regard to solar development projects and the effects and issues I believe should concern every resident of our town for a number of reasons.
Currently, Spencer has 17 solar development projects in some form, approved & constructed, approved under old bylaw, not yet built, approved under new bylaw, not yet built, in process (under new bylaw) or in the pipeline. Currently, Spencer's population is approximately 11,913, with approximately 5,700 households on 21,592 acres of land. I am confident most residents are not aware of the number of solar project developments within our town boundaries. To update my neighbors

the following is a current list of solar project locations distributed throughout our small town in no particular order, with no end in sight thanks to having no solar plan what so ever from the administration.
115 Wilson Street
22 Treadwell Drive
Saint Josephs Abby
367 East Main Street
363 East Main Street
28&30 Holmes Street
144 Mechanic Street
North Brookfield Road (R39-14)
103 North Spencer road
36 Cranberry Meadow Road
17 South Spencer Road
20 McCormick Road
32 McCormick Road
17 GH Wilson Road
Turn To DEFOSSE page A15

PLACE MOTORS IS PROUD TO SPONSOR

Friday's Child

Hi! My name is David and I love board games!

David is a very polite boy of Caucasian descent. He has a great sense of humor and loves to be silly with others. David loves to take on new challenges. He enjoys swimming and has been considering playing sports as well. David loves to play outside and shows his inventive and imaginative skills when doing so. A big interest of David's is playing board games, especially Monopoly, which he explains is his greatest talent. David has expressed his many goals and aspirations, including his interest in being a police officer when he is older.

Legally freed for adoption, David does well with structure, routine and clear and concise expectations. He also would do well with having his own bedroom. He has no preference for family constellation but would like at least one other child in his new home. He currently has contact with his siblings, and it is very important that this is maintained after adoption as well. David would do very well in a family that could supply clear rules, structure, and expectations for him. Ultimately David expresses his wish to be safe and secure in a home and have the ability to still have a relationship with his siblings.

Who Can Adopt?
Can you provide the guidance, love and stability that a child needs? 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.
The process to adopt a child from foster care requires training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you, and if so, to help connect you with a child or sibling group that your family will be a good match for.
To learn more about adoption from foster care, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at 617-6273 or visit www.mareinc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More Letters on page 15

Why Mattis matters

To the Editor:
Reason One: His Character and Integrity

Mattis is seen as a non-partisan, highly intelligent, person of outstanding honesty, integrity, and loyalty. Many consider him a "Marine's Marine."

After a near unanimous Democrat and Republican confirmation, he served for two years as Secretary of Defense. He resigned because he disagreed with President Trump's decision to remove all troops from Syria. It left our long-time and anti-Isis allies, the Kurds, exposed.

(President Trump claimed he fired General Mattis, but this is just another of his fully documented 19,000 plus lies. For some reason, even when falsely attacked, ex-Marine who have in past written many, many New Leader letters, have not responded.)

Mattis, as head of Central Command, also served President Obama. They sometimes found themselves at odds, but he neither felt the need to resign or was he fired.

Overall, General Mattis served 44 years in the Marines. This includes:

-Commanding forces in the Persian gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq wars,

-Supreme Allied Commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and

-Receiving too many to mention military and civilian awards

Reason Two: What Mattis Says

"My model...is George Washington. Washington's idea of leadership was that first you listen, then you help, and only then do you lead....What you try to do in that learning phase is to find common ground."

(Mattis, like almost all honest historians, ranks Washington as our best president. What he says makes it obvious that he ranks Trump among our very worst.)

"I have watched this week's... events, angry and appalled. The words 'Equal Justice Under Law are carved in the United States Supreme Court. This is precisely what protesters are rightly

demanding...The protests are defined by tens of thousands (now many, many more) of people of conscience who are insisting that we live up to our values...as people and...as a nation."

"...50 years ago, I swore an oath to support and defend the Constitution. Never did I dream that troops taking the same oath would be ordered... to violate the Constitutional rights of their fellow citizens (to demonstrate)-much less provide a bizarre photo-op for their elected commander-in-chief with military leadership standing alongside..."

"Militarizing our response, as we witnessed in Washington, D.C., sets up a conflict- a false conflict- between the military and civilian society. It erodes the moral ground that ensures a trust bond."

"(President) ...Madison wrote... 'America united with a handful of troops or without a single soldier, exhibits a more foreboding posture to foreign ambition than America dis-united, with a hundred thousand veterans ready for combat.' ...And it starts by guaranteeing that all of us are equal before the law..."

"The Nazi slogan for destroying us (and now the Russian and Chinese governments) was 'divide and Conquer'. Our American answer is 'In Union there is strength.' We must summon that unity to surmount this crisis..."

"Donald Trump is the first President in my lifetime who does not try to unite the American people-does not need even pretend to try. Instead he tries to divide us.

"We are witnessing the consequences of three years without mature leadership. We can unite without him, drawing on...the strengths...in our civil society. This will not be easy..., but we owe it to our fellow citizens that bled to defend our promise, and to our children (especially our children)."

"We must reject those in office and hold accountable those in office (elected and appointed) who would make a mockery of our Constitution....and

remember Lincoln's "better angels...as we work to unite."

"Only by adopting a new path-which means, in truth, returning to the original path of our founding ideas-will we be again a country admired and respected at home and abroad."

Reason 3: Other former military leaders who agree with Matti's view of Trump

Marine Corps General John Kelly
Marine Corps General John Allan
Navy Admiral Mike Mullen
Air Force General Richard Myers
Army General Martin Dempsey
Former Defense Secretary William Perry

Navy Admiral William McRaven
Army General "Tony" Thomas
Air Force General Mike Hayden

KIMBALL

continued from page A9

Regardless, would any of that have changed appropriate response on this call? I did not know George or much about him, so my inclination would have been that he should have received the respect and rights of any other citizen.

It is my understanding that the officer whose knee was on Mr. Lloyd's neck was a veteran officer whose many complaints filed against him had not been sufficient to disqualify his being a training officer. Hence, at least two of these four officers were rookies being trained in proper apprehension procedures. I am fairly sure that having someone narrate their own death is very wrong. If this does not sufficiently highlight the systemic abuse for you, or not make you irate when the rookies are not convicted as they were being trained to leave their humanity at the door, then maybe the actual numbers and frequency of this abuse might.

I have friends and family who put on their blue uniforms and go to work.

Former Defense Secretary Ash Carter

Former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and

Former Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel.

Now we should add to the list Former General Colin Powell who recently said;

"Trump has drifted away from the Constitution". (Powell also criticized Republican lawmakers for staying silent on Trump's response to last week's national unrest).

Thank you, General Mattis - especially for all our children.

KEVIN KANE
SPENCER

Like the everyday heroes in healthcare and whose jobs are vital to our continued daily existence. These are caring people, who would never abdicate their humanity, and live to help and serve their community and humanity in general. There are some 70,000 such people out there now, interacting with what may be millions of citizens, in a wide variety of mindsets, and who act in a wide variety of ways. Some of each have died.

It has come to my notice, that of late, Congress has felt the need to pass legislation that re-iterates things that I had always thought that our laws had already covered, like telling the President he is not the person who declares war. It may be that some of our laws do need tweaking, and I may well address that in a future letter, but equal justice under the law, as it is written, so should it be. It took us a hundred and thirty odd years, to give women the right to vote. How long will liberty and justice for all take?

KEN KIMBALL
BROOKFIELD



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OBITUARIES

Claire J. Cavanaugh, 95

CHARLTON- Claire J. (Brown) Cavanaugh, 95, passed away on May 26, 2020 surrounded by her loving and devoted children and grandchildren at her home in Charlton, MA.



She was the wife of the late, Michael P. Cavanaugh, Sr. who predeceased her in 2007. She was born in November 22, 1924 to the late, Alfred and Yvonne (Perron) Brown in Spencer, MA. She

leaves behind her children, Catherine Cavanaugh, Mary Messier, Bernice Ferguson, Karen Gemboski, Richard Cavanaugh and Eve DiPietro and 45 grandchildren and great grandchildren. Besides her husband and parents she was predeceased by her children, Joseph Cavanaugh (infant), Claire V. Cavanaugh, Gloria L. Ells and Michael P. Cavanaugh, Jr. She is survived by her siblings, Donald Brown, Ronald Brown and Gloria McKissick. Predeceasing her were her brothers Clifford, Richard, and Nelson Brown and sisters, Shirley Birchard and Bernice Hurley.

Throughout her life Claire was advocated for those in need, she was one of the founders of the food pantry and Senior Center in Charlton. She was Charlton's Citizen of the Year, and was recognized by both the local and state Democratic Party receiving life time member certificates. Claire was a religious teacher for children at St. Joseph Church in Charlton for many years. She was a past president of the St. Joseph's Women's Club on several occasions. But she was proudest of the time she spent with her grandchildren

and great-grandchildren, watching their successes and being there when they needed her for anything. She was particularly fond of holding babies. Her biggest reason for getting up in the morning were the children's visits. This is what she wants to be remembered for being a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend. She generously gave her love and support to her niece, nephews, all her surrogate children and many friends. She often said, there was not a child she didn't think was beautiful and didn't love.

The family wants to thank the wonderful and caring people at the Summit Elder Care in Webster in particular her Elder Service caregivers, Tina, Sandy, Patty. Special thanks to Claire's daughter, Cathy who lived with Claire and was her primary caregiver for the last several years, without her it would have been very difficult to let Claire pass to her afterlife at home.

Finally the family wishes to thank Michael Pillsbury for arranging the private viewing and Mass for Claire, his consideration and patience were greatly appreciated. Finally we want to thank Father Bob Pastor at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Charlton for coordinating the arrangements for the beautiful Memorial Mass the Church provided and his visits to Claire.

Anyone wishes to make a donation in Claire's memory can send to ALSAC/St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 and Boy's Town USA, 200 Flanagan Blvd., Boystown, Nebraska 68010-9988. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 163 Main St. Spencer.

Bernadette L. Pervier, 85

SPENCER- Bernadette L.(Perron) Pervier,85, of Adams St., died peacefully, Sunday, June 7 in Life Care Center of Auburn.



She leaves her sons James A. Pervier and his wife Suzanne of Spencer and Michael C. Pervier and his wife Linda of Worcester, 5 grandchildren; Christopher, Aaron and Mark Pervier, Nicole Seymour and

Alisha Kaiser, 8 great grandchildren; Trinity, Anthony, Paige, Anna, Landon, Ayla, Fallyn and Jason many nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her brothers; Robert, Alfred, Henry, Paul, and Norman Perron and a sister Therese Johnson. Born in Spencer, she was the daughter of Henry J. and Loretta E. (Gaudette) Perron, attended St. Mary's grammar school and graduated from David Prouty High School in Spencer in 1953. She was a member of the former St. Mary's Church and Mary, Queen of the Rosary Parish. Bernadette was a loving, caring and gentle soul, who never asked much for herself but who devoted her life

to her two sons, her parents, siblings, grandchildren, great grandchildren, her extended family and to helping others. Bernadette was the youngest of seven children and she was a devout Catholic. She lived her faith everyday and worshiped in the two Catholic Churches that were just around the corner from her home. Bernadette was a dietary aide at the former Clark Manor in Worcester before retirement and previously a long time teacher's aide in the Spencer School System, where she truly enjoyed working with young children.

Her funeral was held on Wednesday, June 10 from the J.HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer with a funeral Mass at 11 A.M. in Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 7 Church St., Spencer. Burial will follow in Mary, Queen of the Rosary Cemetery, Spencer. Following social distancing guidelines and wearing of face masks, calling hours were held on Tuesday, June 9 from 5 to 7 P.M. in the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Mary, Queen of the Rosary Parish, 46 Maple St., Spencer, MA 01562.

Shirley Harper, 92

SPENCER/ SOUTHBRIDGE- Shirley Harper, 92, of Spencer MA. passed away peacefully on May 23rd at Southbridge



Rehab and Health Center. She lived with her niece, Brenda Dupsha Belinda Booth and her great nephew Christopher Dupsha and his wife Susan Dupsha

She enjoyed her pets and spending time with her family. She was born to Aldis and Elmira (Gonyea) Harper and was a long-time resident of East

Brookfield. She was predeceased by Ed Harper, Muriel Wilson, Marjorie Holmgren, May Gagne, Helen Roy and Kathleen Whitcomb.

She played a mean harmonica and loved her coffee and conversation in the morning.

Special thanks to all the workers that helped care for her. They kept her safe and happy, also her wonderful roommate she enjoyed so much, thank you Phyllis.

She will be deeply missed. A graveside service will be held in East Brookfield Cemetery

Matthew E. Smith

Matthew E. Smith, patriarch of a large and loving family, died at home Friday, May 29th of natural causes. Born in



Grafton, Massachusetts, in 1923, he was the son of Albert and Bessie Smith. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Harvard University and Master's Degree from Boston College.



Matt married the love of his life, Adele Guinee, in 1945 and settled to Auburn in 1955 where they raised their family. They moved to Charlton in 2008. Matt was an actuary at John Hancock for several years before following his life's passion of teaching. His teaching

career began in Warren, MA and was followed by 35 years of teaching mathematics at Auburn High School.

After growing up in Grafton during the depression, he left for Harvard University. His years in college were interrupted when he entered the Army Air Corp, serving as a lead navigator and radar bombardier in the South Pacific Theater.

Matt was predeceased by his wife, Adele, in 2016. They were married for 71 years and raised seven children together. He is survived by his sons Daniel and his wife Nancy of Auburn, Stephen and his wife Joan of Milton, FL, and daughters Carolyn Smith of Little Hocking, OH, Melinda Hannan and her husband Kenneth of Charlton, MA, Susan Smith-Scott and her husband Gene Scott of Charlton, Judith Maruca and her husband Francis of Charlton, MA and

daughter-in-law Wanda Whitted-Smith of Philadelphia, PA. He is predeceased by his son David Smith, and his brothers Jeremy, Stephen and Christopher. He was adored by his grandchildren, Courtney, Sage, Luke, Chloe, Timothy, Allison, Christopher, Michael, Jacob, Lindsey and Tyler and great grandchildren Jesse, Joseph, Declan, Adele, Dalila, Connor, Camille, Joni and Esme. Matt was a great lover of people and treasured his relationships with his running community, his former students, his Marco Island friends, his many friends in the Auburn and Charlton communities and especially the Wednesday morning breakfast club. He also served his Auburn community as a member of the Conservation Committee and town member representative.

Matt began running after he turned 40, and ran over 60 marathons, two dozen when he was between the ages of 60 and 80. When his running career ended, he took up long distance cycling, covering miles of terrain between Auburn and northern Connecticut. Adele was secretly relieved when his bicycle disappeared from the garage in 2010.

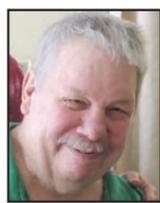
In his own words, "I shall depart this earth envying no one in this world."

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Matt's memory to Pernet Family Health Services Inc. at 237 Millbury Street, Worcester, MA 01610.

In alignment with current guidelines, there was a graveside service with social distancing at Hillside Cemetery in Auburn, MA on Wednesday June 3, 2020 at 11:00 AM, where military honors will be rendered. Funeral arrangements are being made by Britton Funeral Homes, Auburn, MA.

David R. Terry, 75

WESTBOROUGH: David R. Terry, 75, of 8 Colonial Drive, formerly of North Brookfield and East



Brookfield, died Sunday, May 31. He leaves his brothers Joel R. Terry and his wife Darlene of Marietta, GA and Roy A. Terry of Shrewsbury; his sisters Jean G. McWatters of

Newark, DE; Robin Dennehy and her husband Wayne of Wilbraham; Christine Terry and her husband Robert Hancock of Anchorage, AK; Cynthia A. Mainville and her husband Richard of Upton; Karen S. Lonardo and her husband Guido of Westborough; Grace Reppucci of Sturbridge; sister-in-law Michelle Terry of North Andover, and many cousins, nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by

brothers James P. Terry and Thomas N. Terry. Born in Worcester, he was the son of Philip E. and Mildred I. (Meador) Terry and graduated from David Prouty High School and Gordon College. Dave enjoyed playing cards and fishing. He was full of irreverent humor, eccentric mentorship, and unstinted generosity. He was always ready and willing to help anyone out. A memorial

service will be held at a future time. Burial will be in the Podunk Cemetery in East Brookfield. In

lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the East Brookfield Baptist Church, 262 Main St., East Brookfield, 01515 or the next needy person you meet. J.HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer is directing arrangements for the family.

www.morinfuneralhomes.com

Joel D. Sulminski, 38

OXFORD - Joel D. Sulminski, 38, died suddenly on Sunday, May 31, 2020, after a long battle with addiction. He is survived by his parents, Paul J. and Susan R. (Anderson)



Sulminski of Oxford; his brother, Erik P. Sulminski of Worcester; many aunts and uncles, including James Sulminski of North Oxford with whom he lived for a period of

time; many cousins; and his family at GAAMHA. He was born in Worcester and lived most of his life in Leicester and Oxford before recently moving to Gardner. He graduated from Leicester High School in 2000.

Joel was currently working as Community Based Support at GAAMHA Day Services-STREAM in

Gardner. He also had worked for several transportation companies as a driver. Previously, he worked at Morgan Construction (currently Siemen's Corporation) and Metso Automation. He loved playing baseball when he was young, and enjoyed working out at the gym, fishing, skiing, and going to the beach, even with his parents.

Memorial calling hours are Friday, June 12, 2020, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main St., Oxford. Gathering restrictions require social distancing, mask wearing, and limited capacity in the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to GAAHMA, 208 Coleman St. Ext., Gardner, MA 01440, or to a local food bank of your choice.

Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangement. paradisfuneralhome.com

Jacquelyn "Jacquie" Signore, 84

CHARLTON - Jacquelyn "Jacquie" (Beckwith) Signore, 84, passed away peacefully, May 28, 2020 at The



Overlook Post Acute Unit, Charlton, MA where she received wonderful loving care from the staff and hospice.

She was predeceased by her high school sweetheart and husband of 54 years, Joseph A. Signore (2008); and her significant other of 5 years, Bill Goss (2018). She is survived by her 3 daughters and their husbands, Beth and Guy Allard of Wallingford, CT, Kim and Rafe Torres of North Brookfield, MA, and Sue and Bill Hilliard of Jacksonville, FL. She also leaves 7 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

Jacquie grew up in West Haven, CT. Upon graduating from high school she enrolled in Hartford Hospital School of Nursing. She married Joe soon after. As his career took off, they found themselves moving quite often. She became an expert in dealing with new schools, doctors, and moving companies all while raising three daughters.

Eventually they retired to Chatham, MA where they enjoyed many happy years. Even after moving to The Overlook in 2014, she still carried a piece of the Cape in her heart.

She had many friends at The Overlook. Her sense of humor and quick wit made her a pleasure to be around. She was very independent and enjoyed helping others when she could. She was an avid reader, liked jigsaw and crossword puzzles, knitting, needlepoint, drawing, genealogy, and her nightly wine. Besides being a DAR member, a PEO member, and treasurer of The Brew Crew at The Overlook, she was involved in many clubs and committees during her years there.

She leaves behind her loving family and many good friends who will miss her very much. Please raise a glass of fine wine in her honor.

As per her wishes, there will be no memorial services. If anyone would like to do something in her memory, please donate to The Overlook's Employee Appreciation Fund. Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements.

paradisfuneralhome.com



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OBITUARIES

Randall D. Buzzell, 71

ATHIOL - Randall D. Buzzell, 71, of Athol died on Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at home with his family at his side.



He leaves his wife, Susan Weber; his son, Mark Buzzell and his wife Jonila of Massachusetts; his daughter, Nicole Kelly and her husband Ryan of Maryland; his stepson, Andrew Weber of Massachusetts; his step-daughters, Erica Brod and her husband Scott of New Jersey and Jennifer Davis and her husband Gerald of Florida; six grandchildren, Gwenyth and Owen Kelly, Aria and Jason Buzzell, Skye Brod, and Aja Davis; his brother, Danny Buzzell and his life partner Gayle Roach of Massachusetts; his two sisters, Jill L. Tirrell of Massachusetts, and Jayne DeLuca and her husband Leslie of Massachusetts; two nephews, Aaron Lariviere and Timothy Buzzell; his uncle, Richard Buzzell and his wife, Catherine; his aunt, Doris Labossiere.

Randall (Randy) was born in Ware, son of the late Roger H. and Estalene R. (Martin) Buzzell and was raised in West Brookfield, Massachusetts.

Randy attended Worcester State College and graduated in 1973 with a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics.

Randall was a Software and Web Developer at Metso Flow Control, Inc (formerly Jamesbury) where he worked for 38 years, before retiring on March 1, 2012.

Randy loved spending time with his children and grandchildren whenever possible. When he was not able to see them in person, he enjoyed video calling. He was especially fond of playing "Peek-a-Boo" with the little ones over video chatting.

Randy enjoyed outdoor activities, and he especially enjoyed downhill skiing at Mount Wachusett. He

participated and enjoyed NASTAR (National Standards Race) ski racing at the mountain for many years. Randy also enjoyed kayaking, hiking, bicycling, swimming, and occasionally cross-country skiing when his wife nudged him a little. Randy was known to lead the way down a river through rapids with friends and family members following behind; thus, he was given the family nickname of "Pappa Duck." Randy always had a sense of adventure and was known to spontaneously turn into an unexplored dirt road just for the fun of it, and this led to lots of adventures in the forests of New England. Randy also enjoyed traveling and sometimes his travels turned into adventures unexpectedly. Randy enjoyed off-road motorcycle riding with his childhood friends, and that also led to wild and crazy fun.

Randy was a loving, caring husband, dad, grandpa, and brother. He had a kind, intelligent, good natured spirit that was always ready to help a friend or family member who was in need. He was a good listener, using his kind heart to hear and process. His glass was always half-full, even when Parkinson's Disease tried draining his glass, he found ways to keep his glass full.

Services for Randall will be held privately. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Parkinson's Disease Association Massachusetts Chapter, 72 East Concord Street, Room C3, Boston, MA 02118, or by visiting <https://www.apdaparkinson.org/community/massachusetts/ways-to-give-ma/donate/> Varnum Funeral Home, Inc., 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield is assisting his family with arrangements.

An online guest book is available at varnumfuneralhome.com.

Joseph Daniel Bourgoyne, born on March 30, 1935 in Bangor, Maine, passed away suddenly on May 24th, 2020 in his home in Warren, Mass.



He was a hard-working man his whole life, becoming a long-time employee of Hardwick Knitted Fabrics until his retirement in 2007. Joe was a man of small stature but a huge presence in the lives of all that knew him. He was a dedicated father to his five children, and he especially enjoyed spending time with his family and holiday gatherings. His love for his family was unconditional, always present and always giving. He taught his children the value of hard work, what it means to be family, and to live life to the fullest and on your own terms. His favorite past time was coffee hour with his best friends, Tom and Gerry Ventura and Bob Gagnon. He also enjoyed fishing, puttering around in the yard on his John Deere, and attending and watching WWE/WWF events with his

grandson Dereck. Joe was preceded in death by his mother, Hazel (Inman) Carr; his father, Percy Bourgoyne; his brother and partner in crime, James E. Bourgoyne, Sr.; and his granddaughter, Chelsea Perreault. He leaves to cherish his memory his ex-wife and long-time friend, Beverly Allard; his sister-in-law, Regina Bourgoyne; his daughter, Bonnie (Donny) Perron; his son, Timmy (Katharine) Perreault; his daughter, Joyce (Dave) Pollack; his daughter, Jody (Paul) Parker-Matt; and his daughter, Tammy (Bill) Bourgoyne-Cieslak. He is also survived by his grandchildren: Melannie, Lezette, Crystal, Shane, Dereck, Timmy, Andrew, Sean, Steve, Connor, Devin, Jacek and Keenan; 13 great grandchildren, several cousins, nieces and nephews; his brother, Percy (Les) Bourgoyne and his sister, Bobbie Mae Sullivan, both of whom he recently connected with.

If you were lucky...you knew him. If you knew him...you loved him. And in loving him, you will forever miss him.

Pepe...the man, the myth, the legend.

Dad/Daddy, as you have always been, you will forever be, with us. We love you always and forever.

A private celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Mark F. Connolly, 73

SPENCER: Mark F. Connolly, 73, of May Street died Saturday, May 30 in St. Vincent Hospital after an illness.



He leaves his wife of 42 years Maureen F. (Spillane) Connolly, two sons; Mark W. Langevin of Shrewsbury and John R. Langevin of CT, a daughter Lori A Yard of Naples, FL, a brother Steven Connolly and his wife Linda of Leicester, 10 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. He was predeceased by a daughter Lisa M. Paulhus.

Mark was born in Worcester, son of Frederick J. and Marjorie C.

(Hendrickson) Connolly. He was a manager at Worcester Tool & Stamping in Rochdale for many years before retiring. He served his country in the United States Air Force. He loved the beach and spending time at Cape Cod.

Funeral services and burial will be private. J. HENRI MORIN & SON

FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr. Spencer is directing arrangements. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Veteran's Inc., 69 Grove Street, Worcester, MA 01605. www.morinfuneralhomes.com

Send all obituary notices to Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail to Obits@stonebridgepress.news



ELECTION

continued from page A1

early 1970s as a member of the O'Gara Park Field Commission. During that time, he also served as the Spencer Senior League president and the manager of the Spencer Merchants softball team.

In 1979, Howard and his wife moved from Spencer to East Brookfield, where they lived for 34 years. He became heavily involved in local government, serving on the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School Committee for several years. He also served on the East Brookfield Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, Recreation Committee, and Cable Committee.

In 2013, Howard moved back to his childhood home in Spencer. He was appointed to the Council on Aging last year, and he was selected to serve as co-chair.

Recent events in town inspired Howard to run for the Select Board. He was particularly disappointed by the town's handling of the Senior Center sprinkler controversy this past winter. Many seniors were upset by the months of uncertainty surrounding their build-

ing and the needed fire suppression system upgrades.

"Immediate action should have been taken by the Town Administrator to put the safety of our seniors at the top of his list," Howard said.

In 2017, Howard retired from his position with Reliant Medical Group as a practice manager. He was responsible for pediatrics, internal medicine in Spencer, and internal medicine at St. Vincent's Hospital in Worcester.

Looking ahead, Howard hopes to be part of the team that solves several challenges and helps move the town forward.

"The Sewer Department is looking at an expensive update to their plant," said Howard, who also emphasized reviewing the town's buildings and assessing other needed repairs.

Like all area towns, Spencer's emergence from the COVID-19 crisis will be long and challenging. Howard understands that the Select Board and other leadership committees in town will play a pivotal role in guiding residents and businesses through each challenge.

"Working with the other members of the Board and the Town Administrator on topics that have recently been discussed to make Spencer a better place

to live for everyone," Howard said when asked about how he would help improve Spencer.

Having first arrived in Spencer with his family when he was seven years old, Howard knows the intricate workings of the town and the challenges residents face. He attended West Main Street School, Lake Street School, and David Prouty High School.

He later became a dispensing optician, a certified contact lens technician, and a certified advanced refractometrist. Additionally, he took a business administration class at Nichols College and eventually worked for American Optical, Gentex, and Reliant Medical Group. Moreover, he served on the board of directors for the Massachusetts Opticians Association and the New England Contact Lens Society.

The election will be held on June 23. Hicks reminds residents that they can also vote by mail by filling out the absentee ballot request form that can be found in the New Leader. Please return the form to the Town Clerk's office by either mailing it or dropping it into the black payment box on the east side of Town Hall.

Please visit www.spencerma.gov for more information on the election.

HOPPER

continued from page A1

painting because it was so simple but beautiful, and simple things are always the best. I love how realistic the painting is and how on point the shadows and sunlight are. The waves also show a lot of texture. The waves and floor contrast because of the warm and cool colors."

KTMS officials thank students for their hard work and continued commitment to remote learning. The school has seen strong online participation from students since classes were called off in March.

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POLICE LOGS

Spencer Police Logs

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

12:02 a.m.: mv stop (West Main Street); 2:26 a.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 7:40 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 7:57 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 8:44 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 9:43 a.m.: mv stop (North Spencer Road); 9:55 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Pleasant Street), accidental; 10:13 a.m.: animal complaint (Jolicoeur Avenue), dead goose; 11:29 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 12:51 p.m.: threats (Salem Street), threat via mail; 1:31 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 2:02 p.m.: mv stop (Bell Street); 2:46 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 3:49 p.m.: elderly matter (Lincoln Street), spoken to; 5:19 p.m.: mv stop (North Brookfield Road); 5:48 p.m.: accident (Meadow Road), mv vs bicycle; 7:15 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Thompson Pond Road), no contact; 7:45 p.m.: juvenile matter (Lincoln Street), gathering in woods; 8:20-8:21 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:29 p.m.: suspicious mv (Howe Road), investigated; 8:45 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 9:03 p.m.: building checked, secure; 9:25 p.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 9:32 p.m.: suspicious persons (Northwest Road), info taken; 9:59 p.m.: building checked, secure; 10:32 p.m.: medical/general (Westland Drive); 10:35 p.m.: building checked, secure; 11:01 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), fight threatened.

THURSDAY, MAY 21

12:11 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 12:13 a.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), Stephen M. Smola, 26, 95 Parker Street, Springfield, op w/suspended license, possession Class A drug, arrest; Brenda M. Sweet, 24, 3 Pleasant Street, Spencer, possession Class A drug, arrest; 1:54 a.m.: commercial alarm (West Main Street), services rendered; 2:36 a.m.: medical/overdose (Sunset Lane); 6:29 a.m.: disabled mv (Route 49), assisted; 7:59 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 8:37 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 8:53 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 10:22 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 10:57 a.m.: 911 call (Hastings Road), misdial; 10:58 a.m.: parking complaint (Wm. Casey Road), d/way blocked; 11:12 a.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 12:20 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), report of vandalism; 12:49 p.m.: residential alarm (Valley Street), services rendered; 12:54 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:56 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 1:05 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 1:19 p.m.: juvenile matter (Clark Road), spoken to; 1:21 p.m.: medical/general (Clark Road); 2:53 p.m.: officer wanted (Meadow Road), incorrect mail delivery; 3:28 p.m.: officer wanted (North Spencer Road), info given; 4:41 p.m.: elderly matter (Lincoln Street), tenant issue; 5:03 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 5:21 p.m.: parking complaint (Mechanic Street), assisted; 5:22 p.m.: building checked, secure; 5:23 p.m.: officer wanted (Church Street), spoken to; 5:56 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Chickering Road), open line; 6:03 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Browning Pond Road), accidental; 7:25 p.m.: DPW call (Paxton Road), water issue; 8:26 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 8:35 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:35 p.m.: animal complaint (Condon

Road), re: pot bellied pigs; 8:36-9:12 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:13 p.m.: medical/overdose (Condon Drive); 9:15 p.m.: building checked, secure; 10:09 p.m.: disturbance (Summer Street), noise complaint; 10:47 p.m.: suspicious persons (West Main Street), info taken.

FRIDAY, MAY 22

12:20-12:26 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:30 p.m.: disturbance (Mechanic Street), rep. of altercation; 1:04-3:00 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:33 a.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), info taken; 5:55 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 6:13 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 6:16 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 6:24 a.m.: DPW call (Pleasant Street), loose manhole cover; 6:59 a.m.: animal complaint (Hastings Road), loose horse; 7:22 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 8:47 a.m.: lost/found (Greenville Street), keys lost; 9:21 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 9:56 a.m.: elderly mater (Lincoln Street), spoken to; 11:34 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 12:26 p.m.: 911 all (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 12:31 p.m.: larceny (Northwest Road), rake stolen; 12:49 p.m.: building checked, secure; 2:52 p.m.: mv complaint (Browning Pond Road), erratic operation; 3:28 p.m.: fire alarm (G.H. Wilson Road), services rendered; 3:40 p.m.: fraud (West Main Street), scam texts; 4:29 p.m.: disturbance (Wilson Avenue), rowdy juveniles; 4:48 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Donnelly Cross Road), accidental; 4:59 p.m.: medical/overdose (Bixby Road), David A. Lowell, 37, 17 Bixby Road, Spencer, warrant, arrest; 5:43 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Ash Street), misdial; 5:49 p.m.: disturbance (Maple Street), fight; 7:06 p.m.: accident (Main Street), Eric J. Stenman, Junior, 1 Forsberg Street, Worcester, warrant, arrest; 8:19 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operation; 9:06 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:20 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Wilson Avenue), no contact; 9:24 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 9:47 p.m.: building checked, secure; 11:00 p.m.: fireworks complaint (Hasting Road), neighbor w/fireworks; 11:24 p.m.: mv stop (West Main Street), 11:31-11:55 p.m.: buildings checked, secure.

SATURDAY, MAY 23

12:02-12:32 a.m.: buildings checked secure; 12:33 a.m.: disturbance (Mechanic Street), brothers fighting; 12:52-1:04 a.m.: buidings checked, secure; 1:16 a.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), branch blocking road; 1:35 a.m.: building checked, secure; 7:16 a.m.: DPW call (Main Street), power outage; 7:39 a.m.: officer wanted (Smithville Road), tree limb down; 8:30 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 8:35 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), info taken; 8:55 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo; 10:22 a.m.: building checked, secure; 10:23 a.m.: 911 call (North Spencer Road), accidental; 10:32 a.m.; officer wanted (Lakeshore Drive), neighbor issue; 10:56 a.m.: officer wanted (Woodside Road), yard sale info; 10:59 a.m.: officer wanted (North Spencer Road), debris in road; 10:59 a.m.; 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 11:55 a.m.: medical/sudden death (Northwest Road); 1:29 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), info taken; 3:41 p.m.: officer wanted (Ash Street), inquiry re: wearing mask; 3:56 p.m.:

lost/found (Wall Street), wallet found; 4:21 p.m.: mv stop (Greenville Street); 4:36 p.m.: mv stop (Prospect Street); 4:39 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 5:01 p.m.: lost/found (North Spencer Road), misc. cards found; 5:08 p.m.: parking complaint (Mechanic Street), services rendered; 5:32 p.m.: disturbance (Church Street), unwanted party; 7:40 p.m.: mv stop (Charlton Road); 7:41 p.m.: elderly matter (Lincoln Street), info taken; 7:46 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 8:54 p.m.: building checked, secure; 8:55 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), info taken; 9:08 p.m.: mv stop (West Main Street); 9:31 p.m.: building checked, secure; 9:39 p.m. mv stop (Charlton Road); 10:32 p.m.; officer wanted (Temple Street), noise complaint; 10:40 p.m.: medical/general (Langevin Street); 11:29 p.m.: medical/general (Sherwood Drive); 11:32 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), services rendered.

SUNDAY, MAY 24

12:00-12:21 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:23 a.m.: suspicious mv (Gauthier Road), investigated; 12:29 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 12:39-1:52 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:45 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), son late arrivaing; 7:46 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), hang-up; 10:35 a.m.: officer wanted (Meadow Road), family issue; 10:37 a.m.: officer wanted (Im Street), poss. restraining order violation; 10:44 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), verbal altercation; 10:58 a.m.: parking complaint (Roys Drive), services rendered; 11:15 a.m.: mv complaint (Lincoln Street), poss. road rage; 11:23 a.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), landlord/tenant dispute; 11:35 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), no action required; 11:38 a.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 12:12 p.m.: htcp parking complaint (Main Street), ticket issued; 12:14 p.m.: animal complaint (Maple Street), loose dog; 12:55 p.m.: animal complaint (Browning Pond Road), re: barking bylaw; 1:09 p.m.: disturbance (Pleasant Street), noise complaint; 1:56 p.m.: fire alarm (North Spencer Road), services rendered; 1:57 p.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), mvs in fire lane; 2:12 p.m.: medical/general (Prospect Street); 2:23 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), poss. drunk driving; 4:08 p.m.: officer wanted (High Street), water in street; 4:31 p.m.: building checked, secure; between 5:00-5:35 p.m.: entire incident, including time, redacted from police log; 5:35 p.m.: officer wanted (Langevin Street), unwanted party; 6:06 p.m.: officer wanted (Holmes Street), noise complaint; 6:49 p.m.: disturbance Main Street), family issues; 7:42 p.m.: mv complaint (Route 49), erratic operation; 8:30 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), welfare check; 8:35 p.m.: vandalism (Bixby Road), Janiyah M. Johnson, 18, 16 King Phillip Road, Worcester, malicious damage to a mv, disturbing the peace, carrying a dangerous weapon, arrest; 9:27 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), stray cat; 10:00 p.m.: fireworks complaint (Linden Street), neighbor complaint; 10:40 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Southbridge PD bolo; 10:44 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), state police bolo; 11:53-11:58 p.m.: buildings cheke, secure.

MONDAY, MAY 25

12:04 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:07 a.m.: mv stop (West Main Street); 12:29-12:54 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:10 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 1:15 a.m.: animal complaint (Donnelly Road), bear in area; 1:18-2:01 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:22 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Douglas W. Swartz, 24, 22 Rollinson Road, Worcester, OUI liquor, negligent operation, possession open container/alcohol in mv, speeding, failure to stop/yield, open container/marijuana, arrest; 5:00 a.m.: mv stop (West Main Street); 7:38 a.m.: vandalism (Adams Street), smashed windshield; 9:21 a.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), assisted; 9:55 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 10:03 a.m.: mv theft (Norcross Road), go-cart stolen; 11:35 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 12:12 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), verbal altercation; 12:27 p.m.: citizen complaint (West Main Street), no masks copmplaint; 12:48 p.m.: animal complaint (R. Jones Road), bears in yard; 12:50 p.m.: lost/found (Greenville Street), wallet lost; 12:56 p.m.: disturbance (Shore Drive), verbal altercation; 1:17 p.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), welfare check; 1:18 p.m.: 911 call (Pleasant Street), open line; 1:40 p.m.: suspicious persons (West Main Street), investigated; 2:18 p.m.: fraud (Howe Village), report taken; 2:35 p.m.: residential fire (Church Street), services rendered; 3:00 p.m.: citizen complaint (Main Street), info taken; 3:33 p.m.: medical/general (Cooney Road); 4:25 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), info taken; 5:30 p.m.: mv stop (North Brookfield Road); 5:38 p.m.: animal complaint (Vine Street), aggressive dogs; 5:53 p.m.: 911 call (Main Street), open line/threats heard; 6:52 p.m.: 911 call (Bixby Road), hang-up; 7:06 p.m.: suspicious persons (Northwest Road), info taken; 7:08 p.m.: animal complaint (Donnelly Road), bear in yard; 7:15 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), restraining order inquiry; 7:20 p.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 7:58 p.m.: suspicious mv (Man Street), info taken; 8:02 p.m.: citizen complaint (Bond Street); 8:36 p.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), injured animal; 8:44 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), welfare check; 9:52 p.m.: officer wanted (Paxton Road), welfare check; 11:29 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 11:31 p.m.: disturbance (South Street), noise complaint; 11:41 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 11:48 p.m.: building checked, secure; 11:56 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street); 11:57 p.m.: disturbance (Powers Street), noise complaint.

TUESDAY, MAY 26

2:30-2:37 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:41 a.m.: open door/business (Clark Road), investigated; 10:18 a.m.: fraud (South Spencer Road), SS scam call; 10:19 a.m.: fraud (Kingsbury Road), SS scam call; 11:30 a.m.: illegal dumping (East Charlton Road), TVs dumped; 11:51 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 12:33 p.m.: harassment prevention order service (Pleasant Street); 12:36 p.m.: harassment prevention order service (Pleasant Street); 1:36 p.m.: animal complaint (Chestnut Street), caught stray cat; 1:46 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 2:41 p.m.: animal complaint (Paxton

Turn To **LOGS** page **A17**

LEGALS

**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. WO20P1182EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Dorothy Claire Poulin
Also known as:
Dorothy C Poulin
Date of Death: 02/29/2020**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Ann Marie Shea of Spencer MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner Requests that:
Ann Marie Shea of Spencer MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/23/2020.** 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: June 2, 2020

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
June 12, 2020

**Town of Spencer
Office of the Board of Selectmen
&
Town Administrator
FY2021 BUDGET
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Spencer Finance Committee will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. to review the Proposed FY2021 Municipal Budget. The hearing will be conducted remotely to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 and will be broadcast live on Spencer Cable Access channels and at SCATV.org. The FY2021 Municipal Budget is available for review on the Town Website at www.spencerma.gov, or by contacting the Town Administrator's Office. Interested persons may present their views in writing to the Office of the Town Administrator, or verbally by dialing into the remote meeting. Instructions for participation will be on the agenda which will be posted at <https://www.spencerma.gov/home/events/14643> at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.
Mary E. Braney, Chair
Spencer Finance Committee
June 12, 2020

**Town of Spencer
Conservation Commission
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

In accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, MGL c. 131, s. 40 and the Spencer Wetlands By-Law:

Robert & Catherine McDonald have filed a request to Amend the Order of Conditions with the Spencer Conservation Commission and propose a stone paver patio, rip rap on the bank, a block wall to replace wooden wall and crushed stone along the side of the house at 51 Lambs Grove, Spencer, MA.

William & Donna McElroy have filed an RDA with the Spencer Conservation Commission to remove debris from the riverfront at 20 Wilson Street, Spencer, MA.

CSX Transportation, Inc has filed an RDA with the Spencer Conservation Commission to confirm wetland boundaries at CSX Right-of-Way, Spencer, MA.

Merrilee Sprague-Allen has filed an NOI with the Spencer Conservation Commission to install a retaining wall along Sugden Reservoir at 41 Oakland Drive, Spencer, MA.

Kenneth & Heidi Laliberte have filed an RDA with the Spencer Conservation Commission to add a detach garage at 14 Washburn Terrace, Spencer, MA. Barry Arsenault has filed an RDA with the Spencer Conservation Commission for Wetlands Delineation at 11 Point Eastalee Drive, Spencer, MA.

Brian Buenacosa has filed an RDA with the Spencer Conservation Commission to clear small trees, brush and grow grass at 4 Kingsbury Road, Spencer, MA.

Audrey Martinez has filed an NOI with the Spencer Conservation Commission to construct a single-family home at Lot 1 Marble Road, Spencer, MA
**TOWN OF SPENCER
Office of Development & Inspectional**

Services
Applications can be reviewed at the Office of Development and Inspectional Services, Town Hall. A public hearing regarding these filings will be held by the Spencer Conservation Commission in McCourt Social Hall at Town Hall, 157 Main Street, on Wednesday, June 24, 2020, at which time all persons having an interest may be present and participate. Conservation Commission meetings open at 7:00 p.m., public hearings begin at 7:15 p.m.
Disclaimer: Should the meeting not be able to be held, all items will be moved to July 8, 2020.
Mary McLaughlin
Mary McLaughlin, Chairwoman
June 12, 2020

**Town of West Brookfield
Zoning Board of Appeals**

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the West Brookfield Town Hall, to act on an application for a Special Permit for Eric and Kathy Scheriff, for the property located at 223 Shoreline Drive, West Brookfield. The applicant wishes to build a 24'x24' garage, in Rural Residential District. This requires a special permit as per section, -1.5 Nonconformity, §1.52 Nonconforming Structures (a) (et al).
The public is invited to attend. In the event that we will not to meet at the Town Hall because of the Covid 19 virus, and have to conduct a meeting remotely. Please email radamswhite@wbrookfield.com with your email address.

Renee Adams White
Clerk

June 5, 2020
June 12, 2020

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What are they marching for?

To the Editor:

Fifty years ago, when the Vietnam War was in its full fury, anti-war folk-song singers were in their full flower. Any clown who could stick some daisies in his or her hair, pluck a "gith" and cobble together a few lines of hatred for one's own country while idealizing the enemy and cheering him on, could make a buck. Quite a few, mostly over-privileged white boys and girls, became filthy rich from the very same system they all pretended to hate. In time, many of them destroyed their lives with drugs and booze, but of those who survived to an old age, not one of them--like the gazillionaires phony Joanie Baez, Pete Seeger, Peter, Paul, and Mary, and the rest of them-- ever refused the royalties that came their way. Their credo: "Socialism for thee, capitalism for me!"

One of the songs I--grudgingly--liked--but whose premise I entirely rejected--was "And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda" by the Australian flower-child, Eric Fogle. The song recounts the horrors suffered by ANZAC troops at Gallipoli in WWI, and the final line has a young man watching a group of old veterans marching down the street to honor the dead and the maimed from that battle, and he asks--essentially--"... what are they marching for?"

I found myself asking the same question last week when I heard of the Black Lives Matter protest marches in neighboring towns like North Brookfield and Sturbridge. What, indeed, are these liberals, living as they do in towns which are virtually 100 percent lily-white, in homes which are safe and comfortable thanks in no small part to the police who patrol the streets, and who enjoy every conceivable "privilege" (like the best of food and drink, cheap fuel, clean water and air, peace and quiet after sundown, nice houses, gardens, easy mobility, access to good medical services, etc.)... what, I ask again, are they marching for? Got guilt, libs? Does walking a few blocks down a country lane on a lovely June day with some virtue-signaling, self-congratulatory sign (which might as well say: "Look at me, don't you wish you were as GOOD as me? As superior? As compassionate? As Caring?") help assuage your ridiculous sense of guilt in being able to live out your lives in a congenial and secure environment?

Maybe, for a few fleeting moments, you justice jaunters felt a kinship with those braver spirits who, in 1965, marched over the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma to be met with fire hoses and police dogs on the other side. Some day, you can tell your grandkids what you did in the great war on police brutality back when Trump the Terrible was president. And, as was said about the Leathernecks on Iwo Jima in 1945, "Where uncommon valor was a common virtue," you did show great fortitude, I think, as at any moment while on your intrepid march a rabid raccoon could've darted out from the roadside underbrush and sunk his teeth into your ankle slathered, as I'm sure it was, in sunblock and mosquito repellent. I do hope, though, that you stretched well before your trek; one can never be too sure about pulls and strains.

If you think I'm seeing your demonstration(s) as displays of abject pusillanimity before the strident demands of the BLM hucksters, you'd be right. But at least you're not as overwhelmingly shameless as the now totally-disgraced Chief of Police for Webster, one Michael Straw, who, not content to take a knee in obeisance to his BLM masters, prostrated his entire body on the beach at Webster Lake in a demonstration of humiliation and capitulation to his "moral" superiors. In a town with one percent of its 16,000 residents being black, was this something this foolish man thought was helpful? Wouldn't you just love to work for such a social justice warrior? Daniel Webster, old "Black Dan," rolls.

But, who were you marching for is another question. Black Lives Matter. As Eric Hoffer, the so-called Longshoreman Philosopher wrote in his "The True Believer," "Every great movement starts out as a cause, becomes a business, and finally degenerates into a racket." You march for a gang of racketeers who have co-opted today's Civil Rights Movement, and whose hands are dipped in the blood of murdered policemen (of several races) in Dallas and Baton Rouge as well as other places, and whose cynical instigation of criminal rioting, arson, and looting have led to the deaths of many more in this latest round of civil disorder. BLM is now well-established as part of the radical, global, socialist, America-hating left, right alongside

the Black Shirts of Antifa, and a host of other gangs determined to bring down the American middle class no matter what it takes.

I wonder if the allegedly evangelical congregation in North Brookfield which, I'm told, hosted the event in that town, ever bothered to look into the history and intentions of the group which received the blessings of the church. If the pastor had naively remarked that "All lives matter", that we're all children of the same God, etc. he would have quickly been called out by the BLM foot soldiers for his faux pas, his insensitivity. In truth, what they really mean to say--but can't quite yet--is that only Black Lives Matter.

As far as the disaster in Minneapolis (and why is it that these police/race causes celebre seem to always occur in Democrat-run cities or states with solidly race-obsessed, socialist/communist mayors, police chiefs, prosecutors, judges, school chiefs, etc.), I'm reminded of Lewis Carroll's Queen of Hearts decree in "Alice in Wonderland": "Sentence first--verdict afterward." I'm as disgusted as anyone with what the media has presented as its prima facie case against the police officer(s) in this matter, but I was also shocked and repulsed by the initial reports regarding the cases of Trayvon Martin, Freddy Gray, Michael Brown, and Eric Garner; however, when the riots ceased and the hysteria finally died down, the cases reached trial with witnesses cross examined under oath, and the narrative often turned out to be entirely false; the truth of the lamentable incidents was determined to be much different than what we had been told. So, before these four cops (two of whom are minorities) in Minneapolis are dragged out to be strung up by the howling mob, maybe thinking people better hold their fire and their tongues. The "wheels of justice grind exceeding fine," but, for now, let them grind before you stamp your imprimatur on the brick-throwers, the arsonists, the smash-and-grab looters, and the rest of them.

But, here's an idea: if you really care, if you feel the need to get involved and work for "justice", why don't you get out of your small town comfort zone and do something that actually shows how much you love the oppressed, how ashamed you are of your "privilege." Now that the fools--black and

idiot white Antifa millennials--have burned down their grocery stores, their pharmacies and other places they need for their survival, you and the rest of the "better" people can load up your Priuses and Subarus with arugula, soy milk, fresh avocados, veggie burgers, salt and sugar-free snacks--- you know, all the stuff that's good for them. Then, drive right on into the center of the "hood" past the smoking ruins of what used to be someone's dream of running a nice little business, past all the racist, hate-the-cops graffiti, and distribute your bounty. I'm sure you'll be well-received. Just be out of there before sundown.

Or, I suppose you could volunteer to ride along with some of these "racist" thug cops as they patrol desolate streets at night in neighborhoods that clearly are as deadly dangerous as many of the areas of Fallujah and Baghdad were in Iraq for American combat troops. Let's see how well you react to the constant stress of having to try to do an almost impossible job without once-in-a-while losing your focus and reacting as any other normal person would do in a similar situation. You might just conclude--if you're honest--the police have been placed in an impossible situation in these inner city neighborhoods; it's a lose-lose predicament in which they find themselves, one disastrously created by the failed policies of the Democrat/socialists who run these places and have for the past hundred years, in many cases.

On second thought, though, maybe you'd better just continue to do nothing but walk down the road of your peaceful little town chanting some idiotic slogan, and feeling good about yourself...because you care. Don't bother to question the assumptions you've been nurturing since your days at good old State U. Don't look into what black conservatives like Candace Owens, Horace Cooper, Tommy Sotomayor, and a host of others have to say about the plight of Black America today. Exposing yourself to contrary views could make you feel uncomfortable, and you might end up asking yourself, "What am I marching for?!"

JOHN McRAE
EAST BROOKFIELD

DeFOSSE

continued from page A9

Behind 369 Main Street
22 Norcross RoadA
Ash Street(R27-1)

I want to be perfectly clear; I am not against solar power. I feel the Abby project and the Transfer Station projects are appropriate examples of responsible development and siting. What concerns me, and I believe should concern all residents, is the way in which the development is moving forward and why.

The majority of Spencer's land area is classified as Rural Residential. Picture the solar development at the Transfer Station with the chain link fence, racking, thousands of panels, large humming electrical service boxes and possibly in the future, trailer truck size conex boxes, inside full of hundreds of batteries with heating, cooling and ventilation controls outside, cycling on and off 24/7. Think it can't happen to you, at your house, in your neighborhood, think again, most of Spencer is classified rural residential and currently solar development is not considered commercial in Spencer? I bet you'll pay attention when you see the 103 North Spencer Road project completed, or when they clear 25/30 acres on North Brookfield Road, or even worse when they clear-cut across from Sibley Farm on Main Street (which the land trust worked so hard to preserve). Unfortunately, it will be too late. Look around the area, not just Spencer all the small towns are wrestling with the same issues. I am very familiar with the issues as I served on the Spencer Solar Bylaw Committee for approximately one year (now disbanded) with six others, residents and town representatives in an attempt to improve the deficient current bylaws. Please view the results/ recommendations of the committees hard work at the town web site Spencer ma.gov. look at News and scroll down to (view all) and look at Report of the Solar Bylaw Advisory Committee for plenty of information on the subject.

Many factors and variables come into

play with the solar development process. Right now, I'll bet most residents are not aware of the large scale solar saturation in our town; refer to the list above. Most of you would not know because the notification process to residents is seriously lacking. A small ad in the back of the newspaper that most folks do not pay attention to. The current requirement to notify abutters is only 300 feet. So most residents are not even aware of the projects until they are well under way.

Currently, the town has absolutely no plan! Don't believe me; just ask at the town hall. The response from the Town Administrator to my inquiries about the current influx and effects on our town is, it's allowed; it's legal; what do you want me to do? How about formulate a plan, control the development, put the town's best interest's first, protect our residents, follow the vision for the future of our town. Read the first few pages of the Master plan and the Open Space Plan; it spells it out quite clearly; it describes all the issues and wants for the town (long term) currently being ignored by many in the administration who make the decisions on solar development projects that supposedly last 20-30 years. I'll predict right now that solar will go the way of pet rocks and beanie babies. Money from developers in the form of a pilot program (payment in lieu of taxes) sounds nice. Ask about the huge depreciation figures on these projects. It's easy to put your hand out and accept money with little effort on the town's behalf hoping to remedy our monetary shortfalls. The reality is these projects would not even be considered if they were not subsidized by the state and federal government. Read the planning board minutes from page 2 of May 16, 2017 right from the mouth of an engineer (solar). "Solar may peter out unless more incentives come out"! Why are we currently seeing the rush to approve and install these projects? The developers know the subsidies are going to be reduced going forward. Ask yourself why multi-million dollar companies mostly LLCs (Limited Liability Company) (ensures that owners of the company are not personally liable for their company's debts or liabilities)

mostly from out of town need to be subsidized. What are we giving up, sacrificing long term, risking, for a few dollars today.

Spencer's character, pollution risks from storm water runoff on an already overtaxed sewer/ drainage system. The possible contamination of the town's only two wells, the Meadow Road Well and the Cranberry Brook well both located in close proximity to solar projects, the aquafier protection zone, erosion, noise, large tracts of forested land clear cut, animal habitat removed, breeding habitat removed and fenced off, animal travel corridors interrupted, hiking/ snowmobile trails disrupted, loss of open space, risk of invasive species due to clear cutting, loss of oxygen producing trees and vegetation, hot spots created by deforesting, hotter spots produced due to the introduction of thousands of solar panels, less water absorption due to tree loss, loss of use of prime agricultural soils, wind damages, loss of shade caused from tree removal. This is only a partial list of possible effects/ risks associated with this kind of development. It's a lot to consider, not even taking into account there is no long term history showing what outcomes and impacts result over the course of time. In our case, unfortunately, I believe Spencer will suffer and may never recover from the effects not only environmentally, but also monetarily. How much money from the Pilots is enough, how is it determined if Spencer is getting a fair amount, considering the difficulty in determining how much developers profit, at our expense, while we give up our town and face all the risks, known, and unknown, involved. How much knowledge, experience and expertise, do the towns representatives/ decision makers have in the many overwhelming aspects involved, while making decisions that have the potential although doubtful, to last 20 or 30 years. Solar subsidies, solar credits, and how they work, bonds, panel efficiency, recycling costs at end of life, hazardous waste, resale of projects, bankruptcy of developers, project abandonment, etc.

As you can see many issues come to light, and what I have brought to your attention is only a small portion

of subjects that come into play and the many facets that need to be considered and examined. In my opinion for the town's administration to continue to allow solar development, with no comprehensive plan, or path to follow is negligent, and with so many knowns and unknowns and potential risks, it is a disservice to all residents. I am very well aware it is allowed and legal. What I and every town resident expects and deserves from the town's representatives, is to protect us all and control what is allowed, looking out for all of our best interests and to stop putting developers concerns above the residents best interests.

I encourage everyone, please read the Solar Bylaw Advisory Committees Report mentioned above and evaluate for yourself the recommendations put forth by the members. Question town officials and hold them responsible for their decision making. I promise, the decisions being made downtown will affect your future as residents of this community. Unfortunately, the people (some) who make these long lasting decisions will most likely have moved on while you and I are stuck with the results of the poor choices currently being made. The following will provide information and concerns that hopefully will shine more light on the solar subject from myself in the 2018 meeting, and more importantly the good citizens of Spencer in the 2019 meetings.

View these two meetings at scavt.org: April 18, 2018 (board of Selectmen) and Feb. 21, 2019 (Solar Bylaw Hearing) to view meetings click on the On-Demand tab, View Now, Show All, and scroll to meeting date. Pay attention to the dates years 2018/ 2019.

Finally, please make the time to get informed about what is happening in your town by going to the town Web site, Google spencerma.gov and read the meeting minutes and view the agendas of the planning board, and the select board. See what the concerns and subjects the citizens bring to the table and how you are represented by your elected officials.

MATTHEW DeFOSSE
SPENCER



News,

really close to home StonebridgePress.com



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SHREWSBURY – Waterfront – Flint Pond w/Direct Boating Access to Lake Quinsigamond! The Quiet of Flint, All the Action of Quinsig! Privacy Galore on Sargents Island – 4.27 Acres – 2,000' Waterfront! Beautiful Sunrises & Sunsets! Looking for a Getaway, Principal Residence or Second Home, Winters in Florida, Summers on the Island! Tons of Potential, Do a Little or Do a Lot! 4+ Rm, 1 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath "A" Frame with the Ability to Finish the Walk-out Lower Level, add a Family Rm, Bdrm, Bathrm! Nature Abounds, Visited by Deer, Fox, Eagles & More! In Time for Summer! \$579,900.00	OXFORD – 377 Main St! 9 Rm Center Hall Colonial! .59 Acre Corner Lot! Charm of Yesteryear! Eat-In Frplcd Granite Kit w/Updated Cabinets, Frplcd Din Rm w/Built-in China Cabinet & Butler Closet! Gracious Foyer! Spacious Frplcd Liv Rm! Breezeway to a Home Office or an Unfinished Cathedral Ceiling Fam Rm or Craft Rm! Sit on the Front Porch and Enjoy Morning Coffee or Evening Tea! Huge 2-Car Garage w/Loft-Storage Area! Mature Tree Studded Yard! \$349,000.00	DUDLEY – 8 Tanyard Rd! 5 Rm 3 Bdrm Ranch! Some Sweat Equity Needed! 13,000' Lot! Eat-in Kit! Liv Rm w/Hrdwd Flrs & Picture Window! Mudroom/Sunroom! Bdrms w/Hrdwds & Ample Closet Space! Full Tile Bath w/Linen Closet! Unfinished Lower Level! Gas Heat! C/Air! Garage! \$249,000.00	DUDLEY – TOBIN FARM ESTATES! 9 Tobin Rd! 7 Rm, 3 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath Federal Front Colonial! Move Right In! 2 Story Grand Entry w/Gleaming Hrdwds in the Din Rm, Liv Rm & Kit! Frplc Fam Rm w/Cathedrals & New Wall to Wall! Granite Kit w/Center Isl, SS Appliances & Din Area! Tiled Mudrm! 2nd Flr w/Open Balcony! Master w/Full Bath & Walk-in Closet! Comfortable Bedrooms! Full Hall Bath w/Laundry! New Wall to Wall in Bdrms! Private Backyard w/Deck & Hot Tub! 2 Car Garage! Shed! Fire Pit! \$449,900.00	WEBSTER LAKE – 112 Gore Rd! NORTH POND! Sucker Brook Cove! 8 Rm, 3 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath Ranch is Ready for You! Southwestern Exposure! Gorgeous Sunsets! Unique Waterfront! An Open Floor Plan! Lake Views from Nearly All Rooms! 2x6 Construction! Energy Efficient Blinds in Every Room! 4 Oil Tanks - Fill Up Once a Year! C/Air! Gas Fireplace! Whole House Fan! Meticulously Cared For! Large workshop! 3 Car Garage! Carport! 2 Sheds w/Electric! Back Yard is Perfect for Family Gatherings! Plenty of Off Street Parking! Summer is Here! \$539,900.00	WEBSTER – 110 S. Shore Rd! Across the Street from Webster Lake! Killdeer Island! Access to Swimming & Boating w/Killdeer Island Club Assoc. Membership! Perfect 1st Home or Summer Retreat! 7 Rms! 2 Bdrms! Full Bath! 12x25' Deck w/Water Views! Garage! Don't Delay! \$249,000.00	WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT - 3 Lakeside Rd! Middle Pond – Reid Smith Cove! Ideal Summer or Yr Round 6 Rm Ranch! Western Expo – Beautiful Sunsets! Near All the Excitement that "Indian Ranch" provides, Dining, Concerts & the Indian Princess! An Arched Bridge to Your Own Private Island, a Great Place to Enjoy the Lake from! Open Flr Plan! Being Sold Fully Furnished! Recent Kit w/Quartz Counters, Breakfast Bar, SS Appliances, Tile Flr & Recessed Lighting! Liv Rm w/Hrdwd Flr, 6x14 Lake Facing Picture Window & Stone Frplc! 3 Remodeled Bdrms w/Ceiling Fans & Hrdwd Flrs! Master w/Bath & Laundry Closet! Screen Porch w/Lake Views! Dock! Carport! Shed! Still Time for this Summer! \$598,900.00	WEBSTER LAKE – 23 Beacon Rd! Killdeer Island – Middle Pond – Southern Exposure – Full Day Sun! Level 90' Waterfront Lot w/11,011 Square Feet! Meticulously Maintained 5+ Rm, 2 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath Home w/Room to Expand! Soaring Cathedral Ceiling Family Rm w/Stone Fireplace Opening to the Maple Cabinet Kit & 4 Season Sunroom w/Anderson Slider to the Expansive Deck! 2nd floor Lake Facing Master w/Master Bath, Huge Closets & Slider to It's Lake Facing Deck! C/Air! 2 Car Garage! Lake Living at its Best! Listed by Another – "SOLD" by Century21 Lake Realty! \$645,000.00

 NEW LISTING	 NEW LISTING	 NEW LISTING	 NEW LISTING	 NEW LISTING	 NEW LISTING	 SOLD	 SOLD
WEBSTER LAKE – 62 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Absolute Prime 51' Level Waterfront Lot w/Western Expo! Beautiful Sunsets! Fantastic Panoramic Lake Views! 11 Rms, 6 Bdrms, 4 Bathrooms, 3,269' A/C'd Colonial! Custom SS Appliance Granite Kit! Formal Din Rm w/Cherry Hrdwds! Lake Facing Liv Rm w/Cathedrals, Cherry Hrdwds! Slider to Waterfront Deck! Spacious 1st Flr Master Bdrm w/Full Bath, Cherry Hrdwds & Walk-in Closet! Frplcd Lower Level Fam Rm! 1st & 2nd Flr Laundries! 2 Car Garage! \$999,900.00	WEBSTER LAKE – 11 Bay View Rd! One of the Lake's Premier Properties! 9,822' of Nice! .68 Acres of Park Like Grounds! 297' Waterfront! \$4 Million Spent, Nothing Spared! 17 Rms! 5 Water View Bdrms, 5.5 Bathrooms! Brazilian Cherry Hrdwd Flrs, Grand & Spiral Stairways! Elevator, Ground Flr to Master Suite! In-door Resistance Swimming Pool, Hot Tub & Bthrm w/Steam Shower off Exercise Rm! Billiard Rm! Media Rm! Center Isl Granite Kit w/Viking Gas Range, Sub-Zero Frig, Pantry & Breakfast Bar! Open Flr Plan! Din Area, Fam Rm w/Entertainment Center w/Wet Bar! Formal Din Rm, Frplc Liv Rm & Atrium! Library w/Deck! Waterfront Master Suite w/Office, Bdrm w/Triple Glass Dr to Private Deck w/Lake Views, 3 Walk-in Closets, Bathrm w/Multi-Head Shower, Whirlpool, Dble Vanity, Separate Commode/Bidet/Sink Area! 16 Z's of Updated Geothermal Heat/A/C! Recessed Lights & Fire Sprinklers Through Out! 3 Car Garage! Generator! Slate Roof! Reward Yourself! \$2,499,900.00						



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WEBSTER - 36 PARK AVENUE



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\$264,900.

<p>WEBSTER - 195-199 THOMPSON RD</p>  <p>3 ACRE COMMERCIAL SITE – APPROX. 550 FT ROAD FRONTAGE ON STATE HIGHWAY RTE 193 A/K/A THOMPSON ROAD. STRATEGICALLY NESTLED BETWEEN TWO (2) I-395 (NORTH & SOUTH) ON-RAMPS & TWO (2) I-395 (NORTH & SOUTH) OFF-RAMPS. PROPERTY DIRECTLY ADJUTS I-395! 48'X80' CONCRETE BLOCK BUILDING, 7,680 SF TOTAL (3,840 SF MAIN / 3,840 SF LOWER LEVEL) FULL LOWER LEVEL USE AND ACCESS THRU DRIVE IN GARAGE DOOR! BUSINESS ZONED (GB-5) MUNICIPAL WATER, SEWER AND NATURAL GAS! HIGH TRAFFIC – HIGH EXPOSURE – LOCATED RIGHT AT THE TRAFFIC LIGHT INTERSECTION OF RT 193 AND I-395 OFF RAMP! TWO (2) FINISHED OFFICES & LAV – MANY POSSIBLE USES – WHAT DO YOU HAVE PLANNED??! \$600,000.</p>	<p>LAND WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS</p> <p>Dudley - Marshall Terrace 12,000 +/- Sq. Ft. Potential for a 2 family to be built! Town Water, Sewer. SOLD \$70,000</p> <p>Douglas-Mount Daniels Lot #2-2.5 Acres of flat land that abuts Douglas State Forest \$132,900</p> <p>Webster - Potential 6 Buildable Lots! Water/Sewer Access, Zoned Lake Residential \$129,400.</p> <p>Webster - 85 Upper Gore! View of the Lake. 1+ acre, artesian well, Septic Design, Etc. \$130,000</p> <p>Oxford - 4 Leicester St. approx. 8.47 acres! River frontage! Highly possible to be subdivided. \$99,900</p>	<p>DUDLEY - 25 MARSHALL TER.</p>  <p>ON DEPOSIT</p> <p>Custom Hip Roof Ranch! 1,480+- Sqft. One Level Living, Spacious Open Floor Plan. Combination Kitchen/Dining w/Breakfast Bar, Cooktop Range & Built-in Oven, 3 Large Bedrooms w/Large Closets, Linen Closet, 1st Floor Laundry Room, Hardwood Floors, Separate Bath Tub & Shower. Forced Hot Water Heat by Oil w/High End Cast Iron Baseboard, Recently Shingled Roof, Overlooks Attractive, Level Landscaping! \$274,900.</p>
<p>WEBSTER LAND - COOPER RD</p>  <p>LAND FOR SALE</p> <p>2 BUILDABLE LOTS</p> <p>Potential from 10,000+ sq. ft. Lot. Need to be divided. Town Water/Sewer. Zoned Lake Res. \$24,500. Each =Total \$49,000</p>		

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Featured New Lake Listing!



WEBSTER LAKE - 100 LAKESIDE AVENUE

WEBSTER LAKE! PANORAMIC VIEWS! BEAUTIFUL SUNSETS! Extraordinary Waterfront Contemporary! Architect designed with Lake Living in mind, Custom Built with Attention to High Quality & Detail. Outstanding open concept, water view from almost every room, upscale features & amenities! Nicely situated on a 25 acre level peninsula, 180 +/- prime lake frontage! Enhanced by a all natural shoreline, exceptional views, professional landscaping & privacy. All you need to live is located on the 1st floor... including a grand 2 story foyer, cozy fireplace living room, gourmet kitchen, lake facing dining, half bath & laundry, formal dining room, media room & spacious 1st floor guest BR Suite w/private bath. Incredible 2nd floor fireplace lake-facing corner master suite w/luxurious private bath, 3 more 2nd floor BRs & full bath! It Truly is a Great Opportunity to Own Something Special! Remember, Timing Is Everything!
\$1,075,000.

WEBSTER LAKE – 32 JACKSON RD



DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL! EXTREMELY UNIQUE 3.32 ACRE WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT PROPERTY! Charming, year-round, 2 BR, 2 bath Ranch, located at the Southern most end of Webster Lake's South Pond beyond Cedar Island! Extremely private w/direct Lake access. The home offers a full finished LL w/walkout access, a screened-in 18x20 patio, 18x26 det'd garage & 8x8 storage shed. Park like grounds!
\$375,000



REAL ESTATE

LOGS

continued from page A14

Road), loose dog; 2:42 p.m.: animal complaint (Wilson Street), barking dog; 2:47 p.m.: fraud (Ash Street), SS scam call; 3:54 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 4:02 p.m.: accident (Meadow Road), report taken; 4:15 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), loose dog; 4:25 p.m.: officer wanted (McCormick Road), horses released; 4:37 p.m.: animal complaint (Paton Road), bears in yard; 5:25 p.m.: elderly matr (Valley Street), welfare check; 5:51 p.m.: mv fire (Thompson Pond Road), service rendered; 6:03 p.m.: elderly matter (Lincoln Street), spoken to; 6:51 p.m.: animal complaint (Mechanic Street), barking dogs; 8:11 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 9:07-10:00 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:43 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), info taken; 10:45 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), info given.

Leicester Police Logs

THURSDAY, MAY 21

9:44 a.m.: fraud (South Main Street), report taken; 12:06 p.m.: restraining order service (Chapel Street), served; 1:31 p.m.: investigation (Main Street),

services rendered; 2:21 p.m.: investigation (Orland Street), services rendered; 4:41 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), spoken to; 5:27 p.m.: drug violation (South Main Street), investigated; 5:51 p.m.: suspicious mv (Collier Avenue), spoken to; 6:31 p.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), services rendered; 6:39 p.m.: neighbor dispute (Pine Street), peace restored; 8:36 p.m.: erratic operation (Huntoon Memorial Highway), unable to locate; 8:50 p.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), no action required.

FRIDAY, MAY 22

5:26 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Auburn Street), transported; 8:59 a.m.: disturbance (Soojians Drive), report taken; 10:04 a.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), services rendered; 10:45 a.m.: suspicious mv (Collier Avenue), gone on arrival; 1:55 p.m.: investigation (Winslow Avenue), services rendered; 3:38 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), spoken to; 5:47 p.m.: family problem (Washburn Street), spoken to; 5:57 p.m.: parking complaint (King Street Extension), spoken to; 8:24 p.m.: summons service (Pleasant Street), served; 8:53 p.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), unable to locate; 10:12 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), transported to hospital; 10:36 p.m.: suspicious activity (Waite Street), services rendered; 10:38 p.m.: welfare check (Marshall Street),

services rendered.

SATURDAY, MAY 23

2:37 a.m.: disturbance (LaFlash Lane), peace restored; 8:00 a.m.: assist other PD (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 10:20 a.m.: welfare check (South Main Street), assisted; 12:06 p.m.: suspicious activity (South Main Street), spoken to; 1:13 p.m.: suspicious person (Water Street), spoken to; 3:56 p.m.: fraud (Lake Drive), spoken to; 11:51 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), spoken to.

SUNDAY, MAY 24

12:17 a.m.: ambulance (Soojians Drive), transported; 4:38 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 6:58 p.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), assisted; 8:29 p.m.: debris in road (Bond Street), spoken to; 10:10 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Hyland Avenue), spoken to.

MONDAY, MAY 25

7:56 a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 10:12 a.m.: disturbance (King Street), Jennifer Alicia Boring, 34, 59 King Street, #2F, Leicester, failure to appear upon recognizance, arrest; 11:47 a.m.: erratic operation (Main Street), investigated; 3:28 p.m.: animal complaint (Parker Street), report taken; 9:08 p.m.: disturbance (Pine Street), unable to locate.

TUESDAY, MAY 26

12:17 a.m.: disturbance (Winslow Avenue), spoken to; 12:52 a.m.: mv stop

(Main Street), spoken to; 1:15 a.m.: investigation (no destination listed in police log), services rendered; 1:59 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), removed hazard; 12:03 p.m.: keep the peace (Henshaw Street), services rendered; 2:06 p.m.: assist citizen (Autumn Lane), no service; 2:42 p.m.: welfare check (Bottomly Avenue), gone on arrival; 4:54 p.m.: assault & battery (Oakwood Lane), investigated; 4:59 p.m.: suspicious activity (Howard Terrace), investigated; 5:15 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), referred; 5:32 p.m.: assist citizen (Autumn Lane); 7:22 p.m.: investigation (Bond Street), services rendered; 7:39 p.m.: larceny (Main Street), report taken; 9:49 p.m.: investigation (Redfield Road), services rendered.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

12:13 a.m.: threats (Winslow Avenue), spoken to; 9:22 a.m.: animal complaint (South Main Street), services rendered; 11:12 a.m.: animal complaint (Lexington Avenue), services rendered; 1:27 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:50 p.m.: fraud (Parker Street), report taken; 8:23 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), no action required; 8:25 p.m.: vandalism (Stafford Street), report taken; 8:56 p.m.: malicious mischief (Main Street), spoken to.

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I'm optimistic that common sense will prevail

What a mess ...

The tragic and unjustified death of George Floyd has shaken the soul of our nation and broken our collective hearts. It is compounded by the realization that he was murdered by someone we should have been able to trust. It wasn't just murder but preceded by eight agonizing minutes of torture. There is no excuse for what happened. There is no justification possible. I grieve for the Floyd family. I believe we all do.

As usual, a tragedy, that should spur positive change, has been hijacked, not for George Floyd or his family, but for a political ideology. The conversations are now all being directed by the extremists and it's turned into violence and more death.

What about the "Common-Sense Majority?" I'll coin the phrase here. I think it's a great descriptive label for most Americans.

What does the "common-sense majority" want? They want to be safe. They want to be left alone to raise their families, build their careers, and start small businesses. They want the opportunity to own their home and pursue the American Dream.

There is no color attached to the common-sense majority. I believe most black, brown, and white parents want the same. They want to build a happy and successful family and safe life. Above all, they want to know when their kids leave home, they'll safely return.

Yes, black lives matter. I have no problem saying it. I believe it. It doesn't mean that all lives don't matter, it just means that the average black person in America is at greater risk. Unfortunately, the idea that black lives matter has been hijacked to become a political hashtag and the common-sense majority see it. Most are just afraid to say it because if you disagree with any part of the narrative, you risk being verbally assaulted.

Looting, burning, and destroying property is not a form of legitimate protest. Those politicians and political leaders defending these actions are only perpetuating the problem to gain favor with those committing violence.

We all know the name George Floyd and should ... but does the name Miosotis Familia ring a bell? Probably not. She's not given much attention at all and there is a reason.

ABC reported, "An on-duty New York City police officer was killed early Wednesday after a gunman walked up to a police vehicle and fired one round through a window, authorities said. Officer Miosotis Familia, a 12-year veteran assigned to the New York City Police Department's 46th Precinct's anti-crime unit, was taken to St. Barnabas Hospital in the Bronx, where she was pronounced dead at 3:37 a.m. ET. She was 48 years old, according to police sources."

What the above statement didn't say, is she was black. Much was made of George Floyd's color but not Miosotis Familia. Did her black life not matter? The truth is that her story didn't fit the narrative, so her life didn't matter to this movement. Her death didn't advance their agenda, so there will be no protests on her behalf. Do you see the disconnect? Don't all black lives matter?

So, this column is entitled "Positively Speaking!" What's positive about any of this?

I believe cooler heads will prevail.

I believe in the American spirit. While many of our political leaders are bowing down to the political agenda and threatening the defunding of police departments, or disbanding them completely, I don't believe the majority of common-sense Americans, left or right, of any color, race or religion will allow that to happen. To believe if we didn't have police, anyone's life would be safer is nonsensical to the common-sense majority.

Members of the common-sense majority are often silent but consistently vote. They direct their dollars into causes they believe in. I know most protestors are peaceful and well-meaning, law-abiding citizens who are saddened and hurt. Unfortunately, the criminal ele-



POSITIVELY SPEAKING

GARY W. MOORE

ment arrives, and the legitimate protestors go home as their protest is hijacked by an angry mob with a violent and destructive purpose.

The common-sense majority will not violently protest, loot, or burn buildings. They deeply care but will not hurt others or destroy property to make their point. They support common sense politicians and vote out, for example, those who believe a nation without police would not devolve into chaos and mob rule.

The common-sense majority of all race, religion or political leanings must stand up and be counted. I believe they will. We cannot let our nation devolve into a lawless society run by those manipulating emotion and causing harm for their political gain. Yes, I said we. I am a member of the common-sense majority.

We as a nation are better than this.

I continue to grieve and pray for the family of George Floyd. We must demand justice, but I also grieve for the family of Officer Miosotis Familia. Does her family not deserve justice also?

I'm optimistic. Common sense will prevail.

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @GaryW Moore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

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