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SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO News@StonebridgePress.news Friday, August 25, 2023

Wild Bill Swim fundraiser makes a splash

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

BROOKFIELD — Local water enthusiasts made a major fundraising splash this past weekend at the second annual Wild Bill Swim event.

Held on Aug. 20 at Lake Quacumquasit (South Pond), Wild Bill Swim offered activities for every age and ability level. These included a challenging three-mile open-water swim, as well as a leisurely one-mile activity.

Proceeds from the event will support a mission of teaching 200 local third-graders about swimming and water safety. The donated monies will fund swimsuits, goggles, and transportation to four weekly lessons at the Southbridge YMCA.

Established by Jennifer Yorzyk-Triger in honor of her late father, Olympic gold-medalist Dr. William “Bill” Yorzyk, the event continues to expand in popularity. This year’s event was made even



Guests of all ages enjoyed the second annual Wild Bill Swim fundraiser.

Courtesy

more special by warm, sunny weather.

“It was amazing,” said Yorzyk-Triger. “We had so many swimmers (125), as well as spectators, volunteers, and friends.”

The program also featured a “floatilla” option, enabling guests to travel on a variety of fun, colorful floaties.

For Yorzyk-Triger, who enjoyed the event with three generations of family members, the program is meaningful to her on many levels.

“I created this event to challenge and empower people to work for, and attain, a goal—starting with the [fundraising] mission,” Yorzyk-Triger added.

In addition to the swims and other activities, the event featured \$4,000 worth of raffle prizes. A post-swim celebration was held at nearby Oakholm Brewery, which has donated a portion of its “Wild Bill” menu to the cause throughout the summer.

“Wild Bill” Yorzyk earned the gold medal at the 200-meter butterfly during the 1956 summer Olympics in Melbourne, Australia, just seven years after he learned to swim as a freshman at Springfield College.

Yorzyk passed away three years ago.

Turn To **WILD BILL** page **A11**

LMS teacher visits Germany with Transatlantic Outreach Program

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Local students weren’t the only ones traveling abroad this summer, as Leicester Middle School teacher Norm Everett visited Germany on a fully-funded tour.

Everett was one of 38 teachers from across the U.S. and Canada to travel to Germany as part of the professional development study tour organized by the Transatlantic Outreach Program (TOP).

low visitors to spend two weeks learning about Germany’s government, education system, economy, society, history, and culture.

“While I have read a lot about Germany during my career, seeing Germany in person provided me with details and perspectives that I could not gain through academic study alone,” said Everett, who stayed in three cities during his tour and visited two others.

and historical sites, among others. He will use many of his experiences to augment his lessons back home at LMS.

“Dedicated educators like Norm Everett use these months not only to rest and recharge, but also to gain new knowledge and experiences that they can bring into their classrooms during the new school year,” read a statement released by Jenny Windell, the Managing Director for the Transatlantic Outreach Program.

A top highlight of Everett’s trip was a visit to the Berlin Wall, where

Turn To **EVERETT** page **A10**

Selected from a pool of more than 200 applicants for the prestigious international fellowship, Everett traveled as a guest of Germany’s Federal Foreign Office. The TOP tour was specifically geared to social studies teachers, allowing Everett and his fel-

Over the course of his journey, Everett visited German schools, businesses, government offices, nonprofit organizations, community groups,

During his recent trip to Germany, Leicester Middle School teacher Norm Everett viewed a section of the former Berlin Wall.

Courtesy



McGovern tours Becker campus projects

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Officials welcomed Congressman Jim

McGovern to town this month for a showcase of several recent projects on the former Becker College campus.

Congressman McGovern began his Aug. 10 tour by visiting three former college dormitories that have been

converted into shelters for Massachusetts families experiencing housing instability. Barrett Hall, Berkshire Hall, and Hampshire Hall are now managed by the Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance.

Later in the tour, McGovern joined the Leicester Public Schools leadership team for a tour of the new Leicester High School on the former college campus. Following last year’s successful transition of upper-classmen to the Fuller Campus Center, school officials are currently planning for the opening of the Borger Academic Building. The facility is projected to welcome students by late fall, pending a final inspection from the Building Inspector.

During McGovern’s tour through LHS, the Congressman was also able to learn about the five new academic programs that are starting on Aug. 30, the first day of

school for students.

New programs include an Innovation Pathway in Advanced Manufacturing; an Early Education and Care program; a Building Property and Maintenance program; a Certified Nursing Assistant program; and a Fire Science program.

Impressed by the new offerings, McGovern lauded the programs during his tour with LPS Superintendent Brett Kustigian and LHS Principal Ted Zawada. School officials are eager to see the programs help prepare the next wave of young people joining the workforce.

“The U.S. is projected to experience a shortage of registered nurses as Baby Boomers age and the need for healthcare grows. LHS is on the right track,” McGovern said. “We need plumbers, electricians, and the trades like never before. A

Turn To **PROJECTS** page **A10**

CARE group working toward a more dynamic Leicester

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — In just over a year since its establishment, a local group of volunteers has taken significant strides toward augmenting the community.

The Community Advocates for Resource Engagement (CARE) was founded in June 2022 by a group of Leicester residents looking to promote equitable access to financial resources across town entities. The group’s first project was to propose a Community Grant Program funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), a federal law passed in 2021 to help offset the negative economic impacts of the pandemic.

In January 2023, an ARPA Committee was formed in town, and the grant program is currently in progress. In total, 66 businesses, nonprofits, organizations, and town committees have submitted grant applications.

“With the ARPA grant program in place, CARE is taking a broader approach to the work they would like to accomplish in Leicester,” read a statement issued by the group.

Turn To **CARE** page **A10**



Congressman Jim McGovern (fourth from left) recently visited Leicester for a showcase of the former Becker College campus.

Courtesy



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Cornerstone Bank promotes Christopher Mallon to senior vice president



Christopher Mallon

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 10 locations throughout Central Massachusetts, is pleased to announce the promotion of Christopher Mallon to senior vice president and program manager for the Capstone Planning Group. In this role, he helps oversee a variety of functions including business development, trading, compliance and strategic initiatives. The Sturbridge resident previously served as vice

president and program manager.

"Chris came to us in 2019 with more than a decade of experience working at some of the industry's largest asset management companies," said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. "Since then, he has continued to take on increased responsibilities and become a key member of our leadership team. His promotion is well deserved."

Mallon has extensive experience positioning mutual funds, ETFs, managed accounts, stocks and bonds within client portfolios. He holds various licenses including his Series 7 Securities Brokers License, Series 65 Investment Advisor License, and Series 24 General Principles License.

A graduate of Providence College, Mallon is an active member of his community serving as a board member for United Way and coach for Sturbridge Youth Soccer.

The Capstone Planning Group is a wealth management team conveniently located at Cornerstone Bank that provides objective recommendations based on each client's specific needs. Services include comprehensive financial planning, investment advice, retirement income planning, legacy and estate planning, insurance and more.

May House Committee accepting yard sale donations

LEICESTER — The May House Committee is currently accepting donations of items for its yard sale to raise funds for renovations.

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Sheriff's office shares the flavors of summer with Leicester seniors



Worcester County Sheriff Low Evangelidis, second right, joins local officials at the Leicester Senior Center.

Kevin Flanders

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER**

LEICESTER — During their visit to the Senior Center last week, Worcester County Sheriff Low Evangelidis and his team celebrated the flavors of summer with local seniors.

The Council on Aging, Senior Citizens Club of Leicester, and Senior Center staff welcomed Evangelidis and several other special guests for the Aug. 15 event.

Not only did members of the Worcester County Sheriff's Office offer a hot dog lunch to seniors, but they also brought complimentary bags filled with fresh vegetables that were prepared at an inmate-run organic farm.

"Despite the rain, it was a wonderful, delightful day. Kudos to [Sheriff's Office community outreach coordinator] Donna Ostiguy and her crew from the Sheriff's Office, as well as

the Sheriff himself who makes these events possible and successful," said Senior Center Director Rachelle Cloutier.

Also in attendance at the program was Adam Frank, of the State Office of Elder Affairs. Frank spoke with several guests about what it means to have an active senior center and how much they enjoy attending programs at the center. Frank also learned that many Leicester Senior Center attendees trav-

el from surrounding communities due to the high-quality services and programs they receive in town.

"He was awed at the fact that they come from such distances to take advantage of what we have to offer," Cloutier said.

For officials and guests alike, the event was a fun way to connect with several leaders throughout

the community.

"The Hot Dog Fest was such a fun time for our senior community to socialize and enjoy a delicious meal," said Council on Aging Vice Chair Donna McCance. "The gift of the freshly grown vegetables from the Worcester County Jail and House of Corrections farming program was a special treat, too. This event was very well attended and an enjoyable way to end the summer months, as we head toward our fall celebrations."

For more than a decade, inmates have been growing fresh produce at the Worcester County Jail's organic farm. Harvests have benefited dozens of Worcester County food banks, senior centers, soup kitchens, veterans' groups, and charitable organizations.

Each day, the 14-acre farm operation produces roughly 500 pounds of fresh produce. By the end of a typical growing season,

harvests total approximately 40,000 pounds. Crops grown at the West Boylston facility include zucchinis, apples, eggplants, corn, tomatoes, and several others.

For Evangelidis and his team, it's always rewarding to share their programs and outreach efforts with the community.

"It's a joy to be out here and see you all. We love to get into the community and meet people from all of our towns," Evangelidis told guests.

To learn more about the Worcester County Sheriff's Office and its numerous community outreach programs, visit www.WorcesterCountySheriff.com.

Sept. 2 last day to register for special election in Spencer

SPENCER — The last day to register to vote in the Special Town Election will be Saturday, Sept. 2 at 5 p.m.

You may Register to Vote that day by:
online at www.mass.gov/elections
Spencer Police Department 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; see the Dispatcher.

The Special Town Election will be on Tuesday, Sept. 12 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. This Special Town Election is to decide whether to help fund the Pine Grove Cemetery.

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Alia is a very happy and bubbly young girl. She is sweet, kind, cooperative and helpful. Alia enjoys arts & crafts and dancing. She recently expressed an interest in joining a drama or theatrical production. Those who know Alia best describe her as being creative and one who is eager to learn.

Alia is enrolled in school. She is invested in her school work and actively participates in school. Alia has built positive relationships with her classmates as well as her teachers.

A two-parent family is preferred for Alia yet she has voiced being comfortable in a single parent home. Hispanic ethnicity is also preferred. Alia can be placed in a home with or without older children in the home. The ideal family for Alia would be energetic, patient and nurturing. Alia would like to find a family with someone who is able to manage her hair, or is willing to learn! Alia would like to be placed together with her brother Raul but understands that this may not be possible. If not, Alia would like a family that is able to support her close relationship with Raul and also her relationship with another brother. Alia also has visits with her birth parents 4 times a year.


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

To learn more about adoption from foster care visit www.mareinc.org. Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster care.



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Deja New Rides program takes off

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER
LEICESTER — With increasing regularity, local residents are taking advantage of the convenient Deja New Rides program.

Launched in October 2022, the program provides Leicester residents with free rides to non-emergency medical appointments. The program was established after the Deja New Board of Directors conducted a needs assessment with town officials. A lack of public transportation was identified as a major issue, especially for residents without reliable transportation to medical appointments.

“Deja New partnered with the Bethel Group, LLC—a Worcester-based medical transportation company—to provide dispatch services and rides,” read a statement released by Deja New. “Bethel is a fully insured company with professional drivers and well-kept vehicles. All Leicester residents are eligible to sign up for the program.”

To date, more than 200 individuals have registered for the program. On average, the service provides 27 rides per month. To fund the program, Deja New Board members regularly search for grant opportunities. Additionally, through

the efforts of State Representative David LeBoeuf, Deja New received a \$25,000 start-up grant from the state's Executive Office of Elder Affairs.

Recently, Deja New received a \$5,000 grant from the Greater Worcester Community Foundation to support the program.

The combination of grants, donations, and other funding sources ensure that residents don't have to pay for their transportation to medical appointments.

“People who are dealing with medical issues have enough to worry about without adding the stress of having to find a ride to an appointment. We believe that it is imperative for them to have safe, reliable transportation without incurring expenses,” said Deja New President Cheryl Cooney. “With Deja New Rides, transportation is no longer a barrier to accessing healthcare, which hopefully will have a positive impact on health outcomes for the residents of Leicester and cut down on the misuse of emergency services.”

Each month, Deja New sets aside a tranche of revenue from store sales to support the program. Moreover, the organization often receives con-

tributions from generous local donors.

Rides are available Monday through Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., as well as Saturdays and Sundays from 5:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. At least 48 hours' notice is required to secure a ride; 24 hours' notice is needed for cancellations.

To ensure the highest quality of service, Deja New calls riders on a monthly basis to request feedback on their level of satisfaction.

“Deja New encourages residents to sign up for the program even if they do not need it in the foreseeable future,” the organization's statement read.

To register for the service, residents can

complete an online form at Deja New's website: <https://www.dejanew-leicester.com>. Residents can also stop by Deja New, the Senior Center, Town Hall, or the library to get a registration form.

The ride service is not available on federal holidays.

To book a ride after registering for the program, residents should call 774-559-7177 between 5 a.m. and 5 p.m. daily.

In addition to the Deja New Rides program, the organization also supports several other projects, initiatives, and donations benefiting the community. All of these efforts are made possible by the generosity of community members and organizations.

“Deja New believes in the saying that it takes a village. Thanks to some very generous local donors, Deja New has been able to give away many new items,” the organization's statement read.

In January, two local artisans donated a variety of hand-knitted winter hats to Deja New, which were donated to the UMass Memorial NICU.

In the spring, Deja New contributed 15 boxes of women's clothing and personal hygiene products to Abby's House, a nonprofit organization that provides shelter and support services to homeless, battered, and low-income women.

Throughout the month of June, Deja New gave away a total of 756 new pieces of clothing, valued at about \$6,000.

Additionally, Deja New continues to loan medical devices such as wheelchairs, walkers, canes, commodes, and shower seats to people in need. The organization also arranges to loan scooters and hospital beds when possible.

Looking ahead, the Deja New team is eager to continue supporting Leicester students through various efforts.

“Leicester High School is adding some exciting new vocational programs to the curricula, including a course to become a certified nursing assistant. Deja New recently provided the school nurse with six cases of medical supplies valued at \$2,100,” the organization's statement read.

If you are in need of assistance, or if you would like to volunteer or donate, please visit Deja New's Web site: <https://www.dejanewleicester.com>.

For further information, contact the organization by email at shop@dejanewleicester.com.

Summer Concert Series continues with Elvis Presley tribute

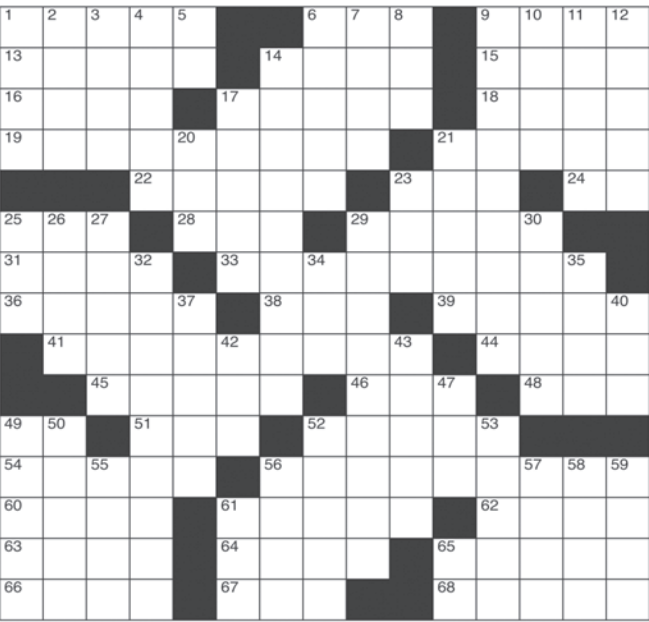


Dan Fontaine

SPENCER — The Spencer Parks & Recreation Commission's 2023 Summer Concert Series continues from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 27 at Powder Mill Park, corner Smithville and Meadow Roads, Spencer, with New England's premier Elvis Presley tribute, Dan Fontaine & Memphis Sun Mafia.

Dan Fontaine & Memphis Sun Mafia: Elvis Presley Tribute is debuting a new sound and new songs that take you on a journey through the best and most recognizable highlights from Elvis' concert years. The songs are delivered “with skill, respect, passion, love and above all, authenticity -- and, as always, non-parody and no-nonsense!”

The concert series is proudly sponsored by Cornerstone Bank. Cornerstone Bank is an independent, mutual savings bank serving the residents, businesses, and communities throughout Central Massachusetts from offices in Charlton, Holden, Leicester, Rutland, Southbridge, Spencer, Sturbridge, Warren, Webster and Worcester.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Russian painter
- 6. Very fast jet
- 9. Phillipine municipality
- 13. Intestinal
- 14. Small freshwater fish
- 15. Algerian coastal city
- 16. Vomit
- 17. Famed astronomer
- 18. Ghanaian currency
- 19. Improved the condition of
- 21. Int'l association of interpreters
- 22. Infections
- 23. Dish made with lentils
- 24. Thou
- 25. Former CIA
- 28. Unit used to compare power levels
- 29. Members of Pueblo people
- 31. Myanmar monetary units
- 33. Polished
- 36. Signed a contract
- 38. Nothing
- 39. Once-ubiquitous department store
- 41. Neural structures
- 44. Thick piece of something
- 45. Slang for trucks with trailers
- 46. Longing
- 48. Senior officer
- 49. Levels of frequency
- 51. Bird's beak
- 52. Move rapidly downwards
- 54. Koran chapters
- 56. Stretches out
- 60. Top of the human body
- 61. A Chinese temple and Indian town are two
- 62. Fertility god
- 63. Sea eagle
- 64. Dry
- 65. Zodiac sign
- 66. “Horizon Call of the Mountain” character
- 67. Have the ability to
- 68. Take somewhere

CLUES DOWN

- 1. “Iron Man” actress Leslie
- 2. Wings
- 3. Adjust the spacing
- 4. They're usually locked
- 5. Atomic #43
- 6. Wise individuals
- 7. Horse mackerel
- 8. Pearl Jam's debut album
- 9. Confinement
- 10. Colorless crystalline compound
- 11. Unsatisfactorily
- 12. Plant of the parsley family
- 14. Determines time
- 17. Causes the birth of
- 20. Small ornament on a watch chain
- 21. Richly decorated cloth tapestry
- 23. Vito Corleone was one
- 25. Igbo musical instrument
- 26. Put in harmony
- 27. Japanese alcoholic drinks
- 29. Tinseltown
- 30. Closes tightly
- 32. Songs sung to one's lover
- 34. One thousandth of an inch
- 35. Small drink of whiskey
- 37. Political divisions in ancient Greece
- 40. Helps little firms
- 42. Baby's eating accessory
- 43. Very long periods of time
- 47. Small block of wood
- 49. Town in Surrey, England
- 50. Enquiry
- 52. Murdered
- 53. Bura- : Chadic language
- 55. Crater on Mars
- 56. Mammal genus
- 57. Sock
- 58. Make
- 59. Stony waste matter
- 61. Partner to cheese
- 65. Pound

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PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
FRANK G. CHILINSKI
860-928-1818 EXT. 103
frank@stonebridgepress.news

BUSINESS MANAGER
RYAN CORNEAU
860-928-1818 EXT. 102
ryan@salmonpress.news

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
JIM DI NICOLA
508-764-6102
jim@stonebridgepress.news

EDITOR
BRENDAN BERUBE
508-909-4106
news@stonebridgepress.news

PRODUCTION MANAGER
JULIE CLARKE
860-928-1818, EXT. 305
julie@villagernewspapers.com

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\$410,000, 63 Molasses Hill Rd, Lafleur, Jennifer, to Douty, Eric.
\$383,000, 73 Allen Rd, Christianson, Linda L, to Gallant, Jonathan P.
\$70,000, 2 Rice Corner Rd, Ramsland, Erik, and Ramsland, Erika, to Cep Real Estate LLC.

EAST BROOKFIELD
None

LEICESTER
\$510,000, 1 Chris Cir, Crowley Lt, and Crowley, Karri A, to Guzman, Luis A.
\$187,150, 307 River St, Merhib Lt, and Warren, Kathleen A, to Mejia, Evelyn.

NORTH BROOKFIELD
\$410,000, 77 Old East Brookfield Rd, Cyr, Robert J, to Turner, David.
\$14,000, Hines Bridge Rd (off), Gaucher, Carol A, to Bercume, Evan.

SPENCER
\$420,000, 104 Wilson St, Seymour 3rd, Herbert F, to Descoteaux, Celina, and Descoteaux, Barbara.
\$400,000, 10 Water St, Edward J Bousquet RET, and Bousquet, Edward J, to Carroll, Jordan M, and Kroese, Cassandra.
\$365,000, 16 4th Ave, Mccrillis, Michelle L, to Chhem, Rin, and Kim, Keasha H.
\$360,000, 425 Main St, Bishop, Kristopher, to Florian, Jackson E, and Avila, Alisson T.
\$200,000, 9 Washburn Ter, Richard, Betty A, and Richard, Scott D, to Gregoire Jr, Robert E, and Gregoire, Kathy J.
\$145,000, 71 Main St, Mosher Lt, and Mosher, Frank N, to Rodriguez, Carlos A.

WARREN
\$350,000, 14 Pleasant St, Dennehy, Cornelia M, to Demansi Jr, Joseph C.
\$280,000, 107 High St, Fischer, Ryan L, and Fischer, Andrea R, to Kokosa, Kelsey, and Nano, Jacob.

WEST BROOKFIELD
\$202,000, 23 Central St, Lakeview Loan Servicing L, to Lapierre Jr, Richard A.
\$65,000, 46 Ragged Hill Rd, Root, Donald R, and Kiraly, Thomas C, to Hibbard, Daniel G, and Hibbard, Kelly T.

Grant program connects local families with learning and developmental opportunities

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — A local program is helping to connect families with opportunities to improve children's learning and social development.

Serving residents in multiple area towns, Community Connections is a family and community engagement grant program funded by the Department of Early Education.

Among other services, the program helps connect families with free parent-child playgroups.

"We can connect you with childcare providers, preschools, early intervention, head start, and so much more," read a statement released by the organization. "Everything is confidential. We are here to support you."

To help parents chart their children's growth and development, the organization offers easy access to a specialized "Ages and Stages Questionnaire" (ASQ).

"Parents and caregivers all wonder how our children are growing and developing. The questionnaire

includes questions in areas such as speech and language; physical ability; performance of daily activities; independence; expressing feelings; and how they interact with others," read the statement released by the organization.

The ASQ can be completed from your phone in minutes. After you finish the questionnaire, the results will be emailed to you.

To learn more about the process, visit www.wachusettcfce.com.

Meanwhile, parents are reminded of several programs and resources accessible through Community Connections. These include scavenger hunts; a language development program geared toward infants and toddlers; a technology and arts program; yoga; music; and a program specializing in gross motor activities.

"Children's early experiences shape how their brain is developed. A strong foundation in the early years increases the probability of positive outcomes for their futures," the promotional statement read. "When parents and families have the supports and

resources they need to facilitate children's healthy development, they are building a strong foundation for future growth."

Community Connections serves the towns of Spencer, Leicester, North Brookfield, and East Brookfield, among others.

"Many families do not attend preschool, so having free programming is a great way to get to know these families and support them in any way we can. The grant also serves as a resource and referral agency," read a statement posted to the program's website.

Officials with the program have also helped families with such areas as childcare vouchers; recommendations for local pediatricians, dentists, and eye doctors; supplying tips for potty training; and developing early literacy skills needed before entering kindergarten.

To learn more about how the program can assist your family, call 508-713-3581. You can also send an email to CommunityConnections@wachusettcfce.com.



Courtesy

Leicester Public Library staff members Charissa Berube, left, and Kaeleigh Hart celebrate Dinosaur Day at the library.

Leicester Public Library closes out summer with Dinosaur Day

LEICESTER — As summer draws to an end, local children and families recently celebrated the culmination of the season with a special program at Leicester Public Library.

Held on Aug. 16, Dinosaur Day brought about 90 children to the library to partake in several festivities.

The event was made possible by the generosity of Leicester residents Charles and Roxanna Wisniewski, who previously donated funds to the library for the purchase of three new dinosaur skeleton models for the Children's Room.

Dinosaur models provided by the Friendly Fossil company include the velociraptor, triceratops, and pterodactyl.

"They were painted by volunteer Teena Cherry, and assembled by Teena and volunteer Adam Hall. They are permanently on display in the Children's Room," read a statement released by the library.

To celebrate the new acquisitions, the library hosted Dinosaur Day for kids of all ages. The event was a sweeping success, officials said, with youngsters and their families from throughout the community getting involved.

"The 3D dinosaur donations have quickly become a staple here in the library, with children bringing in grandparents and other family members just to show them off. We're very thankful to the Wisniewski family for continuing to support the library and the children who love coming," said Assistant Library Director Kaeleigh Hart.

The all-day event featured a scavenger hunt; a dino excavation station; a dinosaur photo booth; and dinosaur-themed crafts, games, and snacks.

To learn more about upcoming programs at the library, or to sign up for programs, call 508-892-7020.

Friends of the North Brookfield Town House celebrate Oktoberfest



NORTH BROOKFIELD — Instead of a traditional multiday event extending from September into October, the Friends of the North Brookfield Town House have distilled all the music and fun of an Oktoberfest into a single day, Saturday, Sept. 30. Their take on this popular celebration will feature authentic

German music, food, and liquid refreshment, plus sing-alongs, dancing, raffles, games for all ages, and arts and crafts vendors, all in an attempt to reproduce the Bavarian sense of *gemütlichkeit*—cordiality.

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Deutsche Band, will be joining the fun with their light-hearted banter and toe tapping music guaranteed to bring you to your feet clapping and singing along.

Do not miss a minute of the fun. Come to Common Ground Ciderworks, 31 East

Brookfield Rd., North Brookfield, on Sept. 30 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and

bring the whole family for a day of enjoyment for everyone.

All the proceeds from this community event will fund the Friends' efforts to restore the North Brookfield Town House as the focal point of a revitalized downtown North Brookfield — once again bringing people together in common purpose from our town and surrounding communities.

The event is free with a suggested donation of \$5 that will enter you in a drawing for a cash prize.

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Leicester Public Schools offers another year of meals at no cost for students

LEICESTER — Leicester Public Schools will be participating in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. As part of this program, Leicester Public Schools will offer healthy meals every school day. The Massachusetts legislature has provided funding to make meals available at no cost to all students during school year 2023-2024, regardless of household income. However, families should still complete a Meal Benefit Application as this provides data for key funding for academic resources and may also connect families to additional benefits. This data will also support the additional funds provided by the Commonwealth for this pilot.

Household size and income criteria are used to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits if the household does not receive assistance or the children are not in the other categories mentioned above. Children can get free or reduced-price meals if the household's gross income falls at or below the limits on the

To apply for free or reduced-price meals, households can fill out the application

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART For School Year 2023-2024						
	Maximum Household Income Eligible for Free Meals			Maximum Household Income Eligible for Reduced Price Meals		
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$18,954	\$1,580	\$365	\$26,973	\$2,248	\$519
2	25,636	2,137	493	36,482	3,041	702
3	32,318	2,694	622	45,991	3,833	885
4	39,000	3,250	750	55,500	4,625	1,068
5	45,682	3,807	879	65,009	5,418	1,251
6	52,364	4,364	1,007	74,518	6,210	1,434
7	59,046	4,921	1,136	84,027	7,003	1,616
8	65,728	5,478	1,264	93,536	7,795	1,799
Each additional person:	+6,682	+557	+129	+9,509	+793	+183

and return it to the school unless the household has already received notification that their children are approved for free meals this year. Application forms are being distributed to all households with a letter informing households of the availability of free and reduced-price meals for their children and what is required to complete on the application. Applications also are available at the principal's office and the Food service director's office at the High school as well as on the school's website. Only one application is required for all children in the household and the information provided on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and verification of data. Applications may be verified at any time during the school year by the school or other program officials. An application for free or reduced-price benefits cannot be approved unless it contains complete eligibility information as indicated on the application and instructions. In the operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age, or disability.

Families can apply for benefits at any time. If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the Federal Guidelines. Contact Barry Sbordy at any time to request an application.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price policy, the Food service director will review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the official may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. Parents wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to Ms. Beth Auger at 3 Washburn Square Leicester, MA 01524 or call 508-892-7040 X 9009

When known to Leicester Public Schools, households will be notified of their children's eligibility for free meals if they are members of households receiving assistance from the:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP);
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR); or
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), if the State program meets Federal standards.

An application is not required for free meal benefits for Assistance Program participants and all the children in the household are eligible for free meal benefits. If any children were not listed on the notice of eligibility, or if a household does not

receive a notice of eligibility, the household should contact the school to have free meal benefits extended to them. Participants in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals, but they will need to turn in an application including household size and total income.

When known to Leicester Public Schools, households will also be notified of any child's eligibility for free meals if the individual child is considered "Other Source Categorically Eligible", because the child is categorized, as defined by law as:

- Foster
- Homeless,
- Migrant,
- Runaway,
- Enrolled in an eligible Head Start, or
- Enrolled in an eligible pre-kindergarten class.

If any children were not listed on the notice of eligibility, the household should contact the school about their eligibility through the list above, or should submit an income application.

Households notified of their children's eligibility must contact the school if the household chooses to decline the benefits.

For more information, you may call Barry Sbordy at 508-892-7036 X 5224 or e-mail at sbordyb@lpsma.net.

Community Eligibility Provision

Leicester Public Schools will be participating in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. As part of this program, Leicester Elementary School & Leicester Middle School will offer healthy meals every school day at NO COST to the students due to the implementation of the Community Eligibility Provision for school year 2023-2024. Students will be able to participate in these meal programs without having to pay a fee or submit a household application. Qualifications for children to receive free or reduced price meals include: belonging to a household whose income is at or below the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines, belonging to a household that receives public assistance, or if the child is homeless, migrant, runaway, foster, or participates in a Head Start or Even Start pre-K program.

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To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

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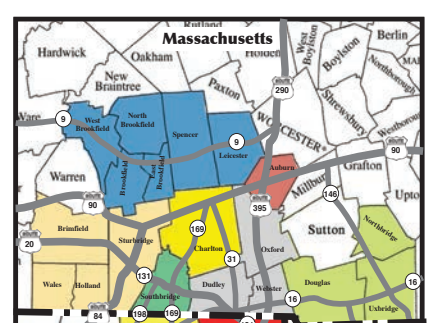
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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Back to school

As the warm days of summer slowly fade away, a familiar sense of excitement and anticipation fills the air. It's that time of the year again — back to school season. Whether you're a student, a teacher, a parent, or simply a passerby, this annual transition marks a pivotal moment in our lives, offering us the chance to grow, learn, and forge new connections.

The start of a new school year is like turning the page of a book. It's an opportunity to set new goals, create new habits, and leave behind the past challenges and triumphs. Embracing change doesn't mean forgetting who we are, but rather recognizing that each year brings a chance to refine our identity and explore new possibilities.

Education is not confined to the four walls of a classroom. While textbooks and lectures provide a foundation, true learning takes place when we venture beyond those boundaries. Engaging with extracurricular activities, pursuing personal interests, and seeking out diverse perspectives all contribute to a well-rounded education. So, let this school year be a quest for knowledge that extends far beyond traditional academics even if you're not actually attending school.

Challenges are inevitable, but they are also invaluable teachers. The pandemic has shown us the power of resilience and adaptability. As we step into the new school year, let's carry forward the lessons we've learned. When faced with difficult situations, remember that each obstacle is an opportunity to learn, to grow stronger, and to develop problem-solving skills that will serve us well in the future.

School is not just a place of learning; it's a community. The relationships we form with our peers and teachers can shape our educational experience in profound ways. Extend a helping hand to those who might be struggling and reach out to new faces with kindness. Remember, a supportive community enhances our growth and makes the journey more enjoyable.

As we make our way back to school, let's think beyond resolutions and focus on setting meaningful intentions. Instead of setting rigid goals, think about what you want to experience and achieve during this academic year. Whether it's improving your study habits, deepening your understanding of a subject, or simply finding joy in the learning process, intentions can guide your journey in a more holistic and fulfilling manner.

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Follow the money

To the Editor:

Once upon a time, in America, in the days following our independence, only the wealthy actually paid taxes, and only because it benefitted their interests. Originally, as documented in the Federalist Papers, there were only four reasons to even have a federal government: 1) a standing national military for our defense; 2) a national bank and universal currency; 3) to set and act on treaties, tariffs and trade; 4) to regulate interstate commerce. With few exceptions, office holding at all levels was considered a part time job. In spite of what the Constitution says, who might hold jobs that impacted the purse, were carefully controlled by the self same people who actually paid the bills.

Remember, we went over a hundred years before the IRS and income taxes were invented. This event created OPM (other people's money), unlike when the more local the controls, the more righteous the scrutiny of what we paid for police and fire protection, DPW and schooling. Graft and grifting came into being almost as soon as federal government spending.

The original objection to straight democracy as opposed to a republic, which offered buffers over people voting to being paid instead of being taxed., has now evolved into a divided and divisive government, where common sense has not only become uncommon, but actually rare. To take an Obama observation, that governing is not like a PT boat, which turns on a dime, but more an aircraft carrier where course corrections take time, we have now steered that carrier into a river.

Former five star general and president Dwight Eisenhower famously said "the military industrial complex will take your last dollar and let you starve in the streets," which has assuredly come to pass. While I do agree that Ukraine fighting Russians is way better than Americans fighting them, the fact that sending them artillery shells that cost us \$1 million apiece, is an abomination. When Nikita Krushhev threatened that Communism will bury capitalism, he saw that the grifters would take over the military industrial complex, wreck us with their no competition products, until defending the democracy in which they thrive will collapse under its own weight. No more Rosie the Riveter; it is simple blackmail.

As a former town meeting member, our rules required a balanced budget, with a rob Peter to pay Paul rule. If you propose spending, where the money will come from must be included. I have long advocated paying our national elected officials a million dollars a year instead of \$200,000, and getting better help. With the GOP in charge of the house, we will effectively spend \$200 million plus the staff costs, investigating Hunter Biden and trying to impeach his father, for a net value of zero. We like to pretend there was something noble in Trump donating his \$2 million in salary while wasting over \$300 million on golfing trips to his resorts. I will address him and his family grifting at a future time.

Brother Robillard makes many valid points that also focus on OPM. My next younger brother still lives near the town where we grew up, and still write and asks valid questions like-How much sense does it make to build housing for homeless people, at \$500,000 per unit? or to read a post WWII housing complex for low income at the same cost. He suggests buying them each a \$300,000 house. Boston is about to embark on another of these built for grift projects, by converting former commercial offices into low income housing. While I am already living on Social Security, I am curious about the economics of reducing the tax base while increasing

school and social service costs?

I think we have already done too little too late for the environment. California is expecting its first hurricane, and eight inches of rain in death valley this weekend (two years worth of rain). Even if we are too stupid to stop driving low MPG pickups or adding A/C and other power consumption options, eventually we will pay for the frequent emergency responses we cause. Europe has been experiencing the same sweltering temps of our southwest but has only 5 percent air conditioned homes. Take a guess what they are doing now.

It is sad to watch people suffer and you try to do your Christian duty to alleviate suffering, but when those actions actually serve to increase the problems, and you are helping people who will now live better than those with three jobs struggling to survive, you invite failure. At some point, we must say enough. Go home and fix your own country. The attraction and the freebies are out of control. Sadly, we treat refugees better than our citizens, and homeless, better than those working multiple jobs to pay their rent/mortgage/utility bills.

The time is coming, and God knows how soon, when those financing our follies, will foreclose. In spite of the theatrics, it is not a political issue. The feigned indignancy of the foolish concept of a debt limit (I know of no scenario where paying and spending are separate issues), the fact is that servicing the debt can easily come to exceed spending. I am unaware of any candidate touting a balanced budget amendment. They can't even address a foolish electoral college system designed for 13 states 244 years ago.

Madison, Jefferson and Hamilton argued for a republic and against direct democracy, fearing voters would handle spending irresponsibly. We are paying people (\$35 of them) \$200,000 a year to overspend in trillions. So, who is acting irresponsibly? We have created a self perpetuating boondoggle. Even setting aside the no competition rape we endure from the military industrial complex, we are not the sharpest pencils in the box. I have heard stories of buying cardboard tubes, that would be a third of the price if wrapped in toilet paper. NASA ordering windshield gasket material, long since improved and accepted by the USAF, that has to be made in labs because no longer produced. While I would have agreed that naming military bases after people who tried to overturn our government, was ridiculous, the airborne who deployed with distinction since WWII out of Ft. Bragg, think spending millions on name changes now, could be better spent. Even my grandson, who lived there when his dad went to Iraq and who is stationed there now, will likely always call it Ft. Bragg, because his association has nothing to do with a Confederate general.

It is a long standing truth that there is no less efficient, more costly way to accomplish anything, than letting government do it. When I visited Turkey, years ago. I ordered a sandwich. When I asked what I owed the local, who had not adjusted to the devaluation requested 1 million Lire. The actual price was one Lira. What we are calling inflation is actually deflation of the US dollar. When I made 85 cents an hour gas was a quarter a gallon. How long must you work for what you can get?

My wife said it best, whatever you earn, spend less. That is the key to success and well being. If we followed that rule, we would all be better off. Instead, we get smoke and mirrors and spending defying all logic.

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Should you invest ... or speculate?



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You'll find some big differences between traditional and speculative investments — and knowing these differences can matter a great deal when you're trying to reach your financial goals.

To begin with, let's look at the basic types of traditional and speculative investments. Traditional investments are those with which you're probably already familiar: stocks, bonds, mutual funds, government securities, certificates of deposit (CDs) and so on. Speculative investments include cryptocurrencies, foreign currencies and precious metals such as gold, silver and copper.

Now, consider these three components of investing and how they differ between traditional and speculative investments:

The first issue to consider is risk. When you own stocks or stock-based mutual funds, the value of your investments will fluctuate. And bond prices will also move up and down, largely in response to changing interest rates. However, owning an array of stocks — small-company, large-company, international, etc. — can help reduce the impact of volatility on your stock portfolio. And owning a mix of short- and long-term bonds can help you defend yourself somewhat against interest-rate movements. When interest rates fall, you'll still have your longer-term bonds, which generally — but not always — pay higher rates than short-term ones. And when interest rates rise, you can redeem your maturing short-term bonds at potentially higher rates.

With speculative investments, though, price movements can be extreme as well as rapid. During their short history, cryptocurrencies in particular have shown astonishingly fast moves up and down, resulting in huge gains followed by equally huge, or bigger, losses. The risk factor for crypto is exacerbated by its being largely unregulated, unlike with stocks and bonds, whose transactions are overseen by well-established regulatory agencies. There just isn't much that investors can do to modulate the risk presented by crypto and some other speculative investments.

A second key difference between traditional and speculative investments is the time horizon involved. When you invest in stocks and other traditional investments, you ideally should be in it for the long term — it's not a "get rich quick" strategy. But those who purchase speculative investments want, and expect, quick and sizable returns, despite the considerable risk involved.

A third difference between the two types of investments is the activity required by investors. When you're a long-term investor in traditional investments, you may not have to do all that much, once you've built a portfolio that's appropriate for your risk tolerance, goals and time horizon. After that point, it's mostly just a matter of monitoring your portfolio and making occasional moves — you're not constantly buying and selling, or at least you shouldn't be. But when you speculate in crypto or other instruments, you are constantly watching prices move — and then making your own moves in response. It's an activity that requires considerable attention and effort.

One final thought: Not all speculative instruments are necessarily bad investments. Precious metals, for instance, are found in some traditional mutual funds, sometimes in the form of shares of mining companies. And even crypto may become more of a stable vehicle once additional regulation comes into play. But if you're investing for long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement — rather than speculating for thrills and quick gains, which may disappear just as quickly — you may want to give careful thought to the types of investments you pursue.

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

Fishing for sharks in the dark

The wind and rain of this past week kept many charter boats and private boats off of the water, but hopefully, things have changed by now, and fishing on the salt-water will be somewhat back to normal. There are a lot of weather changes building in the tropics, and could impact our fishing activities in the coming days, as heavy seas and wind can keep most fishing boats at the dock.

Forest fires in Canada keep burning and causing millions of dollars in damage, and the loss of wildlife is going to be huge, not to mention the loss of domestic animals. The fire in Hawaii has had a huge impact on residents in the area, with more than 1,000 residents still missing. Our



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hearts & prayers go out to all affected by these tragic events! Hundreds of domestic dogs are roaming the streets in search of food, and it will be a huge effort to round them up and find them new homes. Overall, the devastation to both humans and wildlife is overwhelming to listen to on the news every day. When will it stop?

This past weekend, I was listening to a local angler at a Bait & Tackle shop that is shark fishing at night tell of some of the fishing experiences on some of the Cape beaches. He and his buddies are fishing the beaches at night, catching Brown sharks that



Andrew Bolduc recently caught this impressive largemouth bass in a local pond. Fresh water bass fishing remains strong in the valley area.

can weigh over 200 pounds. They have a special spot to do the fishing at night, and have their special gear that is quite

unique. They take along two surf rods each with sand spikes to hold the rods after they are baited and set up. Many anglers that fish with surf rods often bait the hooks and then cast the bait as far as they can, often resulting in losing the bait. They figured out a better way to get the bait out to where the fish are by using a drone. They simply hook the bait to the drone and fly the bait to where they want to fish. When the drone is over there fishing spot, they simply press a button and the bait is released on their target.



This week's Second picture shows Nate True Son of Captain Mel True, Jr. of "Fish Net Charters" with an impressive tuna he caught recently. Nice fish!

The pair has caught numerous Brown sharks so far this year. They also set up the rods with a glow stick on the end of the rod, as they like to set their rods away apart from the others. They can spot the rod tip shaking in the darkness as a fish bites the bait, and they make a mad scramble to the rod to set the hook, and the battle is on. This type of fishing is not for the elderly, but it is impressive. The sharks are released after a photo op. I wish I was a lot

younger. A lot younger! The youth waterfowl hunt is scheduled for Sept. 23 & Oct. 7 this year! The surplus antlerless deer permits are scheduled to go on sale Sept. 27 for Zones 3-7-9-12. Do not forget to check your application for the antlerless deer permit you applied for when you bought your license. Go online at any time! Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Salvation is our, your choice, responsibility, Part 1

To the Editor:
Let me start with accountability! Do not be deceived! Many "do not go to heaven when they die, we go to heaven when we confess, repent and receive Jesus Christ in our hearts, and don't be deceived believing you can deceive God, God knows our heart. [Galatians 6: 7]

It is our responsibility as Christians and/or Godly individuals to be a good neighbor regardless of your neighbor's belief or disbelief. [Mathew 19: 19 & Matthew 22: 37] A good neighbor starts with a pleasant attitude, with good conversation offers, help, encouragement, searching, questioning their moral belief, guiding them to read the Bible, God's Word, that will give them direction, wisdom, convictions how to live their lives that will help and lead them to inherited heaven, eternal life when they confess and repent Jesus who is the second person of the Holy Triune God. The following scriptures will inform you, us, what is necessary and responsible for us to do to inherit eternal life, Heaven.

Before we get into those scriptures, I want to warn you that Satan will do whatever he can to lead you away, astray. Now! Satan was originally created Lucifer, meaning Morning Star. Lucifer thought he was more beautiful and smarter than God; God rebuked Lucifer and cast him out of heaven. All angels are created eternal beings and the only place Lucifer could go after being cast from heaven was earth where he will spend his life tormenting, tempting and deceiving us to follow him instead of God. Lucifer was given the name Satan meaning deceiver, liar adversary and Satan will make every effort to obstruct, oppose God and make every effort to prevent us from going to heaven.

Now! How many of you know what the Sabbath is, represents? The Sabbath is the fourth Commandment. It is a day God commands us to stop work and rest with Him and our families and friends, a time to meditate and realize how important God is to us, and we need to realize it is a command, not just a suggestion. It is important to realize how important God is to us, and it is so easy in our daily work, hectic life to lose the balance, the importance of our families and that God is crucial in our daily lives helping us provide and function. This is not a law we need to consider, this is a command. Amen! [Exodus 16: 23 & 20: 8-11 & 31: 12-17] [Leviticus 23: 3] Also a Commandment, the ninth, thou shall not bear false witness [lies, deceit] lies, deceit; two different words, same results. Do you take God's Word seriously? Do you seriously honor the seventh day, the Sabbath? Be careful with your answer; God hates liars [Proverb 6: 16-19]

Psalm 32: 1-2: We are being encouraged to do some serious soul searching, it is our responsibility to seek God's forgiveness for our sins of disobedience. Forgiveness is necessary for joy in this life and to enter eternal life. Do not hesitate; your, our, life depends on it, and God has made it possible through Jesus, and we are being encouraged. It is our choice, responsibility, and we need to be sincere. God will not be deceived; forgiveness comes through Jesus [Galatians 6: 7]

Psalm 46: 10 is a good reminder that we need to take the time daily, weekly, to be still before God, taking the time to become acquainted to know God our creator and heavenly provider. I am encouraging you now, today, to have a special relationship with God, Jesus. Why? you may ask.

Because God is our heavenly provider and the day and time is coming when all Nations will be accountable to God who is our fortress, our earthly and eternal provider if you let Him, and those who do not will be experiencing a rude awakening.

Psalm 55: 23, God wants for us to cast our cares on Him. Too often, many of us continue to focus on our self even when we say we are trusting Jesus. We are also reminded in Peter 5: 7 to cast all of our anxieties on Him, Jesus. Why? Because God cares, loves us.

Psalm 109:5 wants us not to be discouraged; we will have rejections, abuse, and discouragements for trying to do good as Christians.

Proverb 17:13 the author Solomon through the inspiration of God's Holy Spirit is warning us there will be times, days our wanting to be a good neighbor may be refused, scorned, and we are being encouraged that those persons attitudes could very well come back to bite them, him or her because the Holy Spirit may represent and defend you.

If you are living in this world apart from God, you are a captive of Satan [devil]. Everywhere we look, we are experiencing temptation, Satan trying to get our attention with a variety of immoral attractions. Even some of our local churches are considering supporting the immoral actions of a variety of homosexual activity. We who profess to be Christians, God fearing people, need to stand firm in your faith and supportive of God's values, standards and principles, God's Word, Jesus. [Psalm 119: 9]

Do not be wise in your own eyes, fear; respect the Lord God and humble yourself and seek God's righteousness and avoid legalism and immorality. Do not die before your time. [Ecclesiastes 7:17]

Isaiah 4:31: if you have made a confession of faith and accepted Jesus in your heart, you need to daily remind yourself, ourself, that we must not take Jesus for granted. We need to daily live our life with fear and trembling [Philippians 2: 12] Jesus is our salvation, however we need to live holy as God is holy depending on Jesus who is our stronghold against Satan, apart from Jesus we have no defense against evil, Satan.

Some of us can talk a good talk. They honor God with their mouth, lips, but their hearts are far from Jesus. Some of us sound religious, but have no personal relationship with Jesus. Many of us believe in God; however, have no relationship with Jesus. No Jesus, no God, Heaven. [Matthew 7:21-23]

The Holy Spirit is our living water who comes to live in us when we accept Jesus in our heart. Jesus is the only way to the Father, God, and the Holy Spirit teaches and inspires us to live in and for Jesus [John 7:3].

I am assuming in John 19: 26-27, John is addressing Mary as Jesus' mother out of respect, courtesy for Mary. The fact is, Mary was a virgin and gave birth to Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit. In John 19: 26-27, Jesus calls Mary woman, not mother. The fact is, God was never born; God was always and in order for God to come into this world as a human man, Jesus, the second person of the Triune God. Jesus had to be conceived by the Holy Spirit [Matthew 1:18-25 & Luke 1:26-38]. Dwell in peace! Keep me in prayer! Thank you! To be continued!

ROLAND BLAIS
BROOKFIELD

When an ally turns against you

Life has a way of testing us, throwing curveballs when we least expect them. You may find yourself doing everything right, working diligently toward a shared goal with someone you trust, only to discover that your paths suddenly diverge.

Sadly, friends can become foes, partners become adversaries, and the existing harmony shatters into discord.

The emotional toll of a close friendship descending into animosity can be profound, mainly if you've depended on this person. The anxiety triggered by such a rift can be overwhelming, leading to sleepless nights and constant worry.

I've seen this unfold in my life. I once teamed up with an old friend to launch a new venture. We were inseparable initially, sharing dreams and building something from scratch. But as the years rolled on, our visions diverged. He had a very different idea of what the business should be. He wanted to keep it small, and I wanted to grow the company because the money wasn't there yet. I thought expansion was the only way forward, but he felt by keeping it small and exclusive; eventually, we'd have success.

Our once-healthy debates turned into bitter arguments, and eventually, the friendship that had flourished for so long soured.

These situations are complex and emotionally charged. It's not just about clashing business strategies or differing views on a project; it can also be about trust, loyalty, and the ero-

sion of once-strong bonds.

It's excruciating to watch someone you considered an ally turn against you, to feel their words and actions chipping away at your sense of self-worth and inner peace.

We tried talking it out, but with neither of us able to budge from our position, we were at a stalemate and had to go our separate ways.

If you find yourself in this situation, resist engaging in petty verbal warfare; instead, focus on maintaining dignity and ignoring provocations.

When we went our separate ways, it was like a divorce. Many things needed to be untangled. Such a deep fear and emptiness accompanied me during those days.

They say you need to give yourself time to grieve. I didn't do that, but I wish I had; all I was doing was spinning my wheels and going nowhere in those final moments. I would have had greater clarity had I allowed myself to grieve.

Sometimes, despite your best efforts, a family member can become antagonistic. Encounters with them might be marked by snapping, sarcastic responses to your sincerity, deliberate actions meant to hurt you, and an aftermath that leaves you distressed.

Reflection and understanding of what went wrong are essential. Did you cause the problem? Are you enabling them?

Sometimes separation is the only way. Recognize when it's time to move on.

You only know what you have once it's gone, and a slight separation can often work wonders.

Often, that's all that's needed to bring reconciliation.

It doesn't feel like it, but even in our darkest moments, there's always a lesson, a silver lining; you won't know what it is until you're in that situation, but it's there if you look for it.

Amid these trials, I've also learned the importance of surrounding yourself with true friends and supporters. The ones who stood by me, who listened without judgment, and who encouraged me even when the future seemed uncertain are the ones who helped me navigate those stormy waters.

Hopefully, you can find forgiveness. I know it's hard, and it could take years to forgive and let go, but forgiving doesn't mean you have to agree with them or even reconcile. Forgiveness helps you find peace with the situation so you can move forward.

So, as painful as these experiences can be, they can also be transformative. They force us to confront our deepest fears and to grow in ways we never imagined.

Remember, a single conflict doesn't define you. Your reaction to it, your ability to learn, adapt, and move forward, is what truly shapes your character.

In confronting the pain and confusion of being turned against, finding hidden strengths and a deeper understanding of oneself is possible. The path may be arduous, but it often leads to unexpected growth.

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Old Fashioned Drying Tips to Preserve Garden’s Bounty

The pleasures of the New England harvest season are truly bountiful. Ripe, red tomatoes, tall rows of corn stalks, and pots of leafy herbs promise home grown goodness for the family table. Whether grown from your own backyard or purchased fresh from local gardens or farmers markets, preserving the “just picked” flavor of the New England harvest is a seasonal challenge.

While freezing has long been a favorite form of “keeping” crops and traditional canning has enjoyed a decades long comeback, the old fashioned method of drying garden vegetables often gets overlooked by home gardeners. No dehydrator? No problem! All it takes is an oven, some trays and a bit of time to maintain all the flavor, integrity and wholesomeness of the season’s harvest.

Dry to Preserve

Drying is one of the oldest forms of food preservation, and a reliable technique that can be easily employed to stretch the goodness of home grown vegetables. Dehydrating removes moisture and therefore halts the growth of bacteria and molds, extending the life of precious garden crops.

Proper preparation of vegetables to dry is very important. Pick produce at peak of ripeness and rinse in cool water to remove dirt and debris. Dry thoroughly and cut into uniform thicknesses to ensure even drying time. Some vegetables, such as tomatoes, corn, carrots and potatoes should be



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

blanched before drying to kill potential bacteria and enzymes that can decrease flavor and color during storage. Common foods that do not require pre blanching include mushrooms, peppers, onions, garlic and herbs. Blanch vegetables by boiling or steaming. Immediately drop into cold water briefly to stop cooking and drain and dry vegetables while still warm. (The warmth will aid the drying process.)

Place vegetables in a food dehydrator, or if drying in oven, arrange in a single layer on a wire cake cooling rack set on top of a sheet tray to allow air circulation. The optimum temperature for successful drying is 140 degrees. This low temperature ensures moisture has completely evaporated, therefore lowering the risk of mold from any trapped moisture. If your oven doesn’t have as low a setting, try the “warm” setting checking the temperature with a thermometer to avoid cooking the vegetables. Check temperature periodically to ensure oven maintains an even 140 degrees.

It can take several hours for garden produce to be properly dried. Sufficiently dehydrated vegetables and herbs will be crisp and brittle. Vegetables cut

in thicker slices such as tomatoes should be dry but not hard (a bit pliable). Dried goods must be cooled completely before storing. Air tight containers such as zipper lock bags, glass mason jars and plastic freezer tubs are all good candidates for storage of dehydrated vegetables.

Dried produce should be stored in a cool, dark place and can last from a few months up to a year, depending upon the vegetable. Refrigeration can extend the life of some dried vegetables, just be sure they are stored in an air tight container and always use within one year of packing. To ensure the product remains dehydrated, it is very important to check the contents periodically and discard any food that has become rehydrated, smells “off”, or is moldy or tainted in any way.

Read on for some expert tips on dehydrating foods from dryingallfoods.com:

The most important factor to consider when preparing your food for drying is even thickness. When your slices are evenly thick, they will dry at a uniform rate. As a result, you get equally dried foods after the dehydration process. Uneven thickness, on the other hand, may lead to spoiling during storage.

To help you achieve even thickness, it’s important to use appropriate tools. For instance, you can use a slicing device to make sure your cuts are equal in inches. Cast iron

slicing device is one of the most common tools in the kitchen that has been used for two decades already and is still essential in households.

Depending on the product, peeling is sometimes unnecessary when dehydrating food. The only reason for this is that removing the skin from your fruit helps avoid imperfections that may cause uneven cooking and poor taste. Also, if you think there are pesticides used, peeling can help eliminate the toxins.

An oven may take at least 2 times longer than an electric dehydrator. So if you don’t mind drying in a slower method, then this is a good option for you to dehydrate your foods.

If using an oven, make sure the dial shows 140 degrees Fahrenheit or lower. You can also set the oven to “Keep Warm” to dry your food instead of cooking it. Check the thermostat before putting your fruits or vegetables inside the oven.

Oven thermometers that are located beside the food often provide a more accurate reading.

To help improve air circulation, you can leave the door open for at least 2 inches and place an electric fan near the oven to direct the heat outside.

Ovens without adequate ventilation may need you to crack the door open a bit to avoid moisture buildup. Adjust or turn the pans after a few hours if there are hot spots in

your oven to make sure the drying rate is the same. If you notice your food has shrunk and is completely dry, it’s all good for cooling.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great three course dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I’m in the business of dis-

pensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I’m counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

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

CARE

continued from page A1

“The original CARE team has reached out to other like-minded citizens and met with several groups in town who are interested in advocating for changes having long-term impacts. Together, they developed a mission ‘to support and build a more dynamic Leicester—a place where people want to live, work, play, and educate their children in a safe and thriving environment.’”

CARE’s strategic goals are to raise awareness of the group’s mission; increase community engagement and involvement; lobby for policy and procedural changes when needed; and help generate revenue.

Looking ahead, CARE will focus on identifying specific needs within Leicester, while crafting creative and measurable solutions.

“Through its carefully chosen projects, the group will support and advocate for comprehensive current and future educational programs; a robust and growing economy; safe and dependable infrastructure; and extensive and accessible recreational opportunities,” the group’s informational statement read.

CARE is currently working to identify specific projects that will have a lasting impact in each of these focus areas.

“For example, two ninth grade students are working to reopen Burncoat Park. They have already discussed their plans with the Burncoat Park Committee, town officials, and State Representative David LeBoeuf. CARE is hoping to assist them with fundraising and volunteers,” the statement read.

CARE is also partnering with Leicester High School, which will offer an array of vocational programs beginning in the fall. One such program, Building and Property Maintenance, will need a variety of tools used in the electrical, carpentry, plumbing, landscaping, and HVAC trades. To assist the program, CARE is launching a Tools for Schools project to help procure the items necessary for students to succeed in these courses.

Meanwhile, a Certified Nursing Assistant program will also be offered this fall at LHS. A health clinic will be established at the school, enabling students to access the healthcare equipment required when working with patients. For now, the rooms need to be cleaned and painted, and various items must be installed, including hospital beds. CARE will organize a group of volunteers to help with this project.

“The new Leicester High School campus is a diamond in the rough. The sky is the limit with what can be accomplished in these facilities,” said Paul Fontaine, who serves as the Chairperson of the CARE group.

Added Co-Chair Cheryl Cooney, “Leicester is full of people who are generous with their time and money, both valuable resources. As projects are identified, we hope to increase community engagement and involvement so that we can accomplish our mission of working toward building a more dynamic Leicester.”

To find out more about CARE, visit the group’s Web site at www.careleicester.org.

If you would like to volunteer, contact CARE at team@care-leicester.com.

PROJECTS

continued from page A1

Building Property and Maintenance program is a catch-all and a great way to bring the trades to LHS.”

Added McGovern, “Education is at the heart of our great nation. Early intervention is key and LHS is preparing the next generation of teachers through the EEC program.”

The Congressman also praised the LHS manufacturing and fire science programs.

“Wildfires are plaguing the world right now. There could not be a better time to start a fire science program,” McGovern said. “Local departments and emergency services need young people to go into this field.”

Following another summer of strong momentum for the school district, Kustigian is looking forward to welcoming students back to class for innovative programming.

“It’s amazing to hear that Leicester’s goals are aligned with local, state, and national priorities,” Kustigian said.

Added Zawada, “This will be the best year ever.”

into the classroom during the 2023-24 school year.”

Four days into the trip, Everett and his groupmates traveled to Geisa and stayed in a small village in the German countryside. While in Geisa, they met with the mayor and visited a school. German students provided their guests with a tour of the city, where they explored a former guard tower and saw architecture dating back to the 1400s.

TOP is a public-private partnership of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, the Goethe-Institut, Deutsche Bank AG, and Siemens AG.

Educators who are interested in applying for a Transatlantic Outreach Program fellowship can learn more at www.goethe.de/topstudytours.

Applications for TOP’s 2024 study tours will be released in the fall.

Another trip brought Everett to Sachsenhausen, a former concentration camp located outside of Berlin. He also visited Brandenburg Gate; Holocaust remembrance memorials; Cold War sites such as Checkpoint Charlie; and the Reichstag Building that houses the German legislative branch.

“Seeing German sites in person also exposed me to German history that I would not have thought to research,” Everett told the New Leader. “I look forward to integrating my experiences



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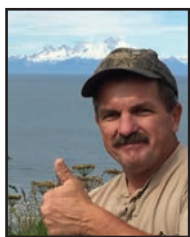
OBITUARIES

Michael F. Carty, 67



BROOKFIELD- Michael F. Carty, 67, of Brookfield, devoted husband of 37 years to Cheri (Pierce) Carty passed away on August 10, 2023 surrounded by his loving family. Michael "Mike", the son of the late Francis X and Ann C. (Kempskie) Carty was born in Worcester, MA but called Brookfield home. In addition to his wife, Mike leaves his son and daughter-in-law Matthew and Monica Carty and their children Lucas and Raelynn; four brothers (and their wives), Tim Carty (Suzanne), Andrew Carty (Karen), John Carty (Kathy) and Chris Carty; two sisters (and their husbands), Maureen Goding (Dave) and Kym Paronto; his mother-in-law Maureen Snow; nieces, nephews and extended family. Mike served his country in the United States Navy where he was stationed in Scotland and later worked 16 years at the US Post Office until he retired. Throughout his life, Mike was a member of several bands, and wrote and performed in his own music videos. Mike also spent many years working with his mother Ann at Flea Market

selling antiques and oddities; including the Brookfield Flea Market where he met his wife. His favorite past time was digging around the Brookfield Take-it, Leave-it shops to find that diamond in the rough. In recent years, Mike loved to explore the world with his wife, spending summers at the Cape, traveling to Italy and cruising to Alaska, around the Caribbean, Bermuda and Mexico; snorkeling and tasting the native cuisine. At home, Mike enjoyed experimenting in the kitchen and playing with his grandchildren. A celebration of life service will be held at 11:00 am on September 9, 2023 in the Brookfield Congregational Church, 8 Common Street, Brookfield. A private burial will take place at a later date. With Mike's love of cooking in mind, in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the kitchen renovation fund at the Brookfield Congregational Church. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 3 Old West Brookfield Rd. Brookfield. Pillsburyfuneralhome.com



BARRE - Ronald Edward Krause Jr. 63, devoted husband of 40 years to his wife and love of his life Robin (Lindsey) Krause, passed away on August 18, 2023 surrounded by his loving family and friends after a long and hard fight with cancer. Ronald was born in Worcester, the son of the late Ronald E. Krause Sr. and Janet (Williams) Krause. He had been a resident of Barre for the last 35 years, having previously lived in Spencer. In addition to his wife, Ronald is survived by his daughter Rebecca and her husband Jeremy Smith; three grandchildren, Stephanie, Calista, and Sawyer; his sister Brenda "Skippy" and her husband Garrett Baker; along with extended family members and countless friends. Ronald was a graduate of David Prouty High School where he played on the baseball team and was captain of the football team. He proudly served in the United States Army where he realized his love for Alaska.

He worked at the Spencer Highway Department, as well as for the Department of Corrections NCCI in Gardner where he retired as a Sergeant after 20 years of service. He was a member of the Spencer Fish & Game, Plainsfield Beagle Club, and an NRA Life Member. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, the outdoors, family time, and countless trips to Alaska. Calling hours will be held on Sunday, August 27, 2023 from 2:00PM - 6:00PM in Pillsbury Funeral Home 96 S. Barre Rd, Barre. Burial services including military honors will take place on Monday August 28th at 10:00am at the Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemetery, 11 Glenallen St., Winchendon. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: St. Jude's at <https://www.stjude.org/> or Hunt of a Lifetime at <https://huntofalifetime.org/front>. Pillsburyfuneralhome.com



WILD BILL

continued from page A1

This year, guests were thrilled to honor Yorzyk's memory by ensuring his legacy continues to benefit young swimmers. Proceeds from the second annual swim will enable youngsters to attend a series of "Just Get in the Water" swim and safety lessons held at the Southbridge YMCA. Among the students set to participate in the program are third-graders from Spencer and East Brookfield, with no cost to parents or the school district.

Event leaders also thank the dedicated team of volunteers who made the program possible. Among them was South Pond neighbor Bill Seabourne, who monitored the waters to ensure safe conditions for swimmers.

Seabourne, who has contributed to the Wild Bill Swim in many ways since its inception, was excited to help support this year's mission.

"I think it's a wonderful idea, providing swim lessons to third-graders,"

Seabourne said. "I wish I had learned how to swim as a kid."

Seabourne expects more local school districts to seek the "Just Get in the Water" lessons, which the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District has incorporated into its physical education curriculum.

Meanwhile, event participants and their friends are already looking forward to next year's Wild Bill Swim.

"This was a fantastic swim challenge," said swimmer Jenny Crellin. "One of my friends that does a lot of open water swims said it was one of the better organized races she's ever been to."

If you would like to continue supporting the cause, donations are still being accepted. To learn more, send an email to Yorzyk-Triger at jenn@wildbillswim.org.

Donations can also be made by visiting: gofundme.com/the-wild-bill-swim-and-paddle-challenge.

For more information about the event, visit www.wildbillswim.org.

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LEGALS

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL
COURT

Docket 23 SM 001543

ORDER OF NOTICE

To:

Heirs, Devisees and Legal Representatives of the Estate of Shirley Stearns, a/k/a Shirley M. Stearns; Heirs, Devisees and Legal Representatives of the Estate of John B. Stearns Jr.; Theodore Roy Individually and as Personal Representative of the Estate of Mary E. Roy, a/k/a Mary Elizabeth Roy; Kerry Stearns

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):

M & T Bank, claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Spencer, numbered 5 Candlewood Drive, Unit 7L, Candlewood Condominium VII, given by John Stearns and Shirley Stearns and John B. Stearns Jr. to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Prospect Mortgage, LLC and successors and/or assigns, dated October 14, 2009, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 44969, Page 1, as affected by a Loan Modification dated September 21, 2017, and recorded in Said Registry of Deeds in Book 57896, Page 291, and now held by plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before September 25, 2023, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of this Court on August 10, 2023.

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
21-006348

August 25, 2023

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. WO23P2792EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:

Evangeline H. Nicas

Also known as: Evangeline Nicas
Date of Death: 07/12/2023

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **James Nicas of Falmouth MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:

James Nicas of Falmouth MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised** administration

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before:

10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/19/2023.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: August 16, 2023

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate

August 25, 2023

At the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 12th, 2023, in the McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, a public hearing will be held on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:

Notice of Public Hearing – Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals

Special Permit– Applicant: Francisco Turcios, Owner: Santos & Idelisa Turcios; Location: 87 Hastings Road, Spencer Assessor's Map R48-17-4. The applicant is seeking a Special Permit under Sections 4.8.1 (accessory apartment), of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to build a new single-family home with an accessory apartment. The property is in the Rural Residential (RR) zoning district.

August 25, 2023

September 1, 2023

LEICESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS STUDENT RECORDS REGULATION PUBLIC NOTICE

Massachusetts Student Record Regulation 603 CMR 23.06(3) states:

"The temporary record of any student enrolled on or after the effective date of 603 CMR 23.00 shall be destroyed no later than seven years after the student transfers, graduates, or withdraws from the school system. Written notice to the eligible student and his/her parent of the appropriate date of the destruction of the record and their right to receive the information in whole or part shall be made at the time of such transfer, graduation, or withdrawal. Such notice shall be in addition to the routine information letter required by 603 CMR 23.10."

The Leicester Public Schools Student Services Office has reviewed records of students with an IEP who have left the district prior to June 2016 and will initiate the destruction of those records after August 31, 2023. No other copies will exist as of that date. Please notify the Office if you wish to review and/or receive these records prior to their destruction by calling 508-892-7040 X9002

August 25, 2023

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. WO23P2351EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Elizabeth V. McDowell
Date of Death: 05/31/2023

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **William N. McDowell of North Brookfield MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **William N. McDowell of North Brookfield MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised** administration

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before:

10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/12/2023.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: August 14, 2023

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate

August 25, 2023

POLICE REPORTS

Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10
12:57 a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), spoken to; 1:37 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:43 a.m.: animal complaint (River Street), referred to ACO; 5:59 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 6:08 a.m.: commercial alarm (Huntoon Memorial Highway), no action required; 7:29 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), verbal warning; 7:54 a.m.: mv stop (Auburn Street), spoken to; 8:21 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, unregistered mv, uninsured mv, criminal application issued; 10:46 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 11:14 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), spoken to; 11:42 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 12:24 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 1:07 p.m.: restraining order service (Main Street), unable to serve; 1:29 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), Isaque de Oliveira Fonseca, 25, 46 Cochituate Street, #4, Framingham, unlicensed operation, mv not meeting safety standards, arrest; 1:38 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 1:43 p.m.: accident (Stafford Street), report taken; 3:15 p.m.: suspicious person (Charles Street), unable to locate; 3:40 p.m.: larceny (Huntoon

Memorial Highway), report taken; 4:01 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 5:14 p.m.: suspicious activity (Soojians Drive), resolved; 6:24 p.m.: restraining order service (Main Street), unable to serve; 6:54 p.m.: restraining order service (Moose Hill Road), served; 11:36 p.m.: assist citizen (Salminen Drive).
FRIDAY, AUGUST 11
12:16 a.m.: suspicious person (Main Street), resolved; 4:36 a.m.: welfare check (King Court), resolved; 7:52 a.m.: ambulance (Siani Road), no action required; 8:28 a.m.: larceny (Main Street), report taken; 8:51 a.m.: ambulance (Bond Street), transported; 1:10 p.m.: welfare check (Henshaw Street), services rendered; 1:35 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 3:33 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 3:40 p.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), services rendered; 4:23 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:35 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:54 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), Robson B. Dossantos, 38, 5 Hackman Street, Worcester, shoplifting by asportation, arrest; 5:59 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), assisted; 6:32 p.m.: ambulance (Paxton Street), transported; 7:06 p.m.: animal complaint (Charlton Street), referred to ACO; 7:26 p.m.: commercial alarm (Parker Street), false alarm; 8:47 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), name

and address redacted from police log, shoplifting by asportation, criminal application issued; 9:37 p.m.: ambulance (Botany Bay Road, Worcester), transported; 11:14 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:42 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning.
SATURDAY, AUGUST 12
12:40 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 2:27 a.m.: suspicious mv (Paxton Street), resolved; 2:32 a.m.: suspicious mv (Paxton Street), resolved; 10:45 a.m.: animal complaint (South Main Street), referred to ACO; 11:01 a.m.: ambulance (Townsend Street, Worcester), transported; 1:33 p.m.: disabled mv (Henshaw Street), service rendered; 1:47 p.m.: suspicious mv (Huntoon Memorial Highway), services rendered; 4:19 p.m.: ambulance (Soojians Drive), transported; 4:38 p.m.: restraining order service (Main Street), unable to serve; 5:29 p.m.: accident (Henshaw Street), report taken; 6:00 p.m.: parking complaint (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 7:51 p.m.: assist citizen (Hemlock Street); 7:58 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 8:27 p.m.: assist citizen (Soojians Drive); 8:36 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), resolved; 9:02 p.m.: disturbance (River Street), unfound; 9:37 p.m.: disturbance (Charlton Street), resolved; 10:12 p.m.: assist other agency (Clark Street), unfound.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13
12:10 a.m.: noise complaint (Stafford Street), resolved; 12:45 a.m.: open door/window (Huntoon Memorial Highway), resolved; 1:29 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, criminal application issued; 1:55 a.m.: abandoned 911 (Carleton Road), report taken; 3:14 a.m.: abandoned 911 (Carleton Road), resolved; 7:36 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 8:25 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 11:59 a.m.: restraining order service (Main Street), served; 12:05 p.m.: parking complaint (Huntoon Memorial Highway), mv towed; 1:23 p.m.: larceny (Marlboro Drive), report taken; 2:28 p.m.: residential alarm (Pleasant Street), false alarm; 2:39 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), mv towed; 3:31 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 4:15 p.m.: animal complaint (Pine Avenue), referred to ACO; 4:22 p.m.: disturbance (Verona Street), services rendered; 5:01 p.m.: larceny (Lakeview Drive), report taken; 5:39 p.m.: ambulance (White Birch Street), transported; 7:33 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 7:38 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 7:45 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, unregistered mv, criminal application issued; 8:01 p.m.: noise complaint (Cemetery Road), unfounded; 8:24 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 8:28 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 8:33 p.m.: investigation (Marlboro Drive), report taken; 8:35 p.m.: property found (South Main Street), resolved; 8:40 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 8:43 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), resolved; 8:48 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:55 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 9:17 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, lights violation; name and address redacted from police log, op w/unlicensed/suspended permit, criminal applications issued/2; 9:50 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning.

MONDAY, AUGUST 14
12:59 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:47 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:01 a.m.: restraining order service (South Main Street), unable to serve; 8:34 a.m.: debris in road (Huntoon Memorial Highway), referred; 8:46 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 12:15 p.m.: ambulance (Soojians Drive), transported; 2:27 p.m.: erratic operator (Pleasant Street), gone on arrival; 2:38 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 3:27 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 3:47 p.m.: summons service (Stafford Street, Oxford), served; 8:07 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning.
TUESDAY, AUGUST 15
1:25 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:47 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:39 a.m.: escort (South Main Street), transported; 8:58 a.m.: restraining order service (Main Street), unable to serve; 9:40 a.m.: suspicious activity (Michael Avenue), assisted; 9:44 a.m.: ambulance (Warren Avenue), transported; 10:26 a.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), report taken; 10:56 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:28 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:04 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 1:55 p.m.: suspicious activity (Pine Street), spoken to; 2:19 p.m.: disabled mv (Stafford Street), mv towed; 3:16 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 4:36 p.m.: trespassing (Soojians Drive), resolved; 7:56 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:59 p.m.: restraining order service (Paxton Street), unable to serve; 8:36 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:43 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:58 p.m.: restraining order

service (Paxton Street), served; 9:57 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, criminal application issued.
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16
12:09 a.m.: suspicious mv (Chapel Street), spoken to; 8:05 a.m.: restraining order service (Main Street), unable to serve; 11:46 a.m.: assist citizen (Stafford Street); 2:47 p.m.: accident (Soojians Drive), report taken; 4:13 p.m.: restraining order service (Main Street), unable to serve; 4:23 p.m.: vandalism (Stafford Street), report taken; 5:05 p.m.: investigation (Foster Court), report taken; 5:18 p.m.: stop (River Street), citation issued; 5:43 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), verbal warning; 5:57 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 6:32 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:36 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:43 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 6:52 p.m.: accident (Hemlock Street), name and address redacted from police log, OUI drugs, negligent operation, refusal to provide DNA database sample, criminal application issued; 9:18 p.m.: welfare check (Monterey Drive), assisted; 11:33 p.m.: suspicious person (Forest Street), services rendered.

###

Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9
12:06-5:30 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:26 a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), services rendered; 3:14 a.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 5:12 a.m.: medical/general (Elm Street); 7:57 a.m.: multiple LTC issued/3 (West Main Street), assisted; 8:56 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), lockout; 9:36 a.m.: threats (Marble Road), rec'd threat via mail; 10:41 a.m.: officer wanted (Temple Street), unwanted party; 11:05 a.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 11:14 a.m.: accident (Church Street), report taken; 12:16 p.m.: 911 call (Donnelly Cross Road), response not recorded; 1:01 p.m.: medical/general (Collier Circle); 1:41 p.m.: medical/general (School Street); 2:08 p.m.: medical/general (School Street); 2:08 p.m.: disabled mv (North Spencer Road), services rendered; 2:48 p.m.: officer wanted (Jolicoeur Avenue), re: mv retrieval; 3:13 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. officer/speak to class; 3:18 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), poss. road rage incident; 3:43 p.m.: restraining order service (Temple Street); 3:59 p.m.: fire (Mechanic Street), referred; 4:24 p.m.: accident (Maple Street), report taken; 5:09 p.m.: 911 call (Main Street), open line; 5:38 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. assistance w/bike ride; 6:17 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 6:52 p.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 7:06 p.m.: commercial fire (Ash Street), referred; 9:59 p.m.: medical/general (May Street); 11:53 p.m.: building checked, secure; (total daily mv stops – 1).
THURSDAY, AUGUST 10
12:06-2:13 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:53 a.m.: parking violation (Church Street), ticket issued; 2:50 a.m.: fire alarm (Cherry Street), referred; 9:01 a.m.: mv complaint (Norcross Road), p/u speeding; 9:14 a.m.: commercial fire (Main Street), referred; 10:08 a.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 11:35 a.m.: mv lockout (Collier Circle), assisted; 11:49 a.m.: suspicious mv (Northwest Road), info taken; 12:19 p.m.: mv complaint (Smithville Road), mv speeding; 12:47 p.m.: restraining order service (Pioneer Valley Drive); 12:51 p.m.: restraining order service (Cranberry Lane); 1:49 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. fingerprints; 3:22 p.m.: disturbance (Norcross Road), poss. domestic dispute; 7:42 p.m.: 911 call (Pleasant Street), hang-up; 7:59 p.m.: disabled mv (Maple Street), services rendered; 11:20 p.m.: animal complaint (Lake Street), re: poss. rabies exposure; (total daily mv stops – 2).
FRIDAY, AUGUST 11
12:19-2:40 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:27 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), bolo/PD requesting not recorded; 2:06 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info taken; 2:33 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info taken; 2:43 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info taken; 7:10 a.m.: LTC issued/2 (West Main Street), assisted; 9:19 a.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), apt. lockout; 9:26 a.m.: medical/general (Marble Road); 9:34 a.m.: fire alarm (Grove Street), referred; 9:39 a.m.: fire alarm (West Main Street), referred; 10:16 a.m.: fraud (Greenville Street), report taken; 10:25 a.m.: suspicious persons (Paxton Drive), poss. unwanted party; 11:41 a.m.: disturbance (Pioneer Valley Drive), verbal domestic dispute; 11:54 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 12:03 p.m.: animal complaint (Linden Street), dog bit dog; 1:55 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 2:13 p.m.: accident (North Brookfield Road), report taken; 2:23 p.m.: illegal dumping (West Main Street), info taken; 2:58 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street),

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POLICE REPORTS

LTC change of address; 3:16 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 5:42 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 9:59 p.m.: drug/narcotic offenses (West Main Street), mfr/cultivation of cannabis; 10:15 p.m.: medical/general (Meadow Road); 10:54 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 11:33-11:44 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (total daily mv stops - 5)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12

12:09:3:07 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:18 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), Sarah Lynn Whitten, 25, address not recorded on police log, OUI liquor, marked lanes violation, arrest; 2:12 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info taken; 7:1 a.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), male in vacant house/investigated; 8:23 a.m.: officer wanted (Monticello Drive), req. officer/re: brother; 10:02 a.m.: fraud (Borkum Road), unemployment scam; 12:02 p.m.: animal complaint (Cranberry Meadow Road), hit/run involving dog; 12:32 p.m.: DPW call (Highland Street), c/o brown/sudsy water; 2:50 p.m.: fraud (West Main Street), report taken; 2:55 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 3:24 p.m.: suspicious persons (Dustin Street), unwanted parties; 3:58 p.m.: burglary (East Charlton Road), dirt bikes taken; 5:03 p.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), services rendered; 6:03 p.m.: building checked, secure; 6:54 p.m.: 911 call (Howe Road), misdial; 6:59 p.m.: officer wanted (Temple Street), mv window smashed by landscaper; 9:52-9:59 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:12 p.m.: RV complaint (Greenville Street), dirt bikes speeding/no lights; 10:23 p.m.: suspicious mv (Cranberry Meadow Road), investigated; 10:34 p.m.: disturbance (Valley Street), unwanted party; (total daily mv stops - 1)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

12:19-1:27 a.m.: buildings checked.

secure; 12:49 a.m.: disturbance (Church Street), unwanted party; 4:18 a.m.: medical/general (Ash Street); 4:46 a.m.: building checked, secure; 5:03 a.m.: parking violation (High Street), ticket issued; 6:54 a.m.: fire alarm (Lake Street), referred; 7:56 a.m.: 911 call (Church Street), accidental/elevator; 10:41 a.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 11:26 a.m.: animal complaint (Lake Street), rabid skunk; 12:01 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 12:20 p.m.: animal complaint (Pope Street), loose dog; 12:36 p.m.: mutual aid (North Spencer Road), Sturbridge PD bolo; 1:00 p.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), wallet found; 2:48 p.m.: medical/general (Pauls Drive); 3:02 p.m.: officer wanted (Cranberry Meadow Road), ongoing gunshots; 3:10 p.m.: lost/found (Main Street), key found; 3:32 p.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), services rendered; 4:04 p.m.: officer wanted (Smithville Road), branch in road/traffic blocked; 4:08 p.m.: restraining order violation (West Main Street), rep. domestic abuse; 6:04 p.m.: fire alarm (Hastings Road), referred; 6:14 p.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), services rendered; 6:36 p.m.: debris in road (North Spencer Road), removed; 7:57 p.m.: disturbance (High Street), fight; 9:26 p.m.: medical/general (Grove Street); 10:01 p.m.: building checked, secure; 11:38 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), info taken; 11:59 p.m.: building checked, secure; (total daily mv stops – 1).

MONDAY, AUGUST 14

12:03-2:18 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:09 a.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; 2:26-6:03 a.m.: parking violations/4 (Dale, Pearl, Church streets, Meadow Road), tickets issued; 9:06 a.m.: DPW call (Greenville Street), tree resting on power lines; 9:23 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), aggressive dog; 9:25 a.m.: lost/found (Browning Pond Road), wallet found; 11:01 a.m.: DPW call (South Spencer

Road), tree down on wires; 12:15 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 1:25 p.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 2:14 p.m.: suspicious persons (Ash Street), info taken; 3:44 p.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), screen torn/ apt. entered; 4:02 p.m.: animal complaint (Donnelly Road), m/c speeding; 4:18 p.m.: animal complaint (Hastings Road), chicken left in yard; 4:36 p.m.: disturbance (Sullivan Street), domestic threats; 4:37 p.m.: 911 call (Ash Street), accidental; 5:11 p.m.: officer wanted (Smithville Road), re: white substance in baggie; 5:13 p.m.: suspicious mv (Kingsbury Road), investigated; 5:43 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), re: fracas in neighboring apt.; 7:07 p.m.: medical/general (Crestview Drive); 10:29 p.m.: mv repossessed (Northwest Road), info taken; 11:13 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), services rendered; (total daily mv stops - 3).

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15

12:03 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 12:22-2:09 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:30 a.m.: suspicious mv (Howe Road), investigated; 1:43 a.m.: parking violation (Chestnut Street), ticket issued:

5:27 a.m.: animal complaint (North Spencer Road), no details given; 7:19 a.m.: multiple LTC issued/3 (West Main Street), assisted; 10:04 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 11:47 a.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), assisted; 12:08 p.m.: animal complaint (Bay Path Road), barking dog; 12:16 p.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), erratic operator; 1:14 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 4:52 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), tenant/landlord dispute; 5:15 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), squatters in house; 5:47 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 6:47 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 7:00 p.m.: medical/general (Pleasant Street); 7:17 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), hang-up; 7:34 p.m.: 911 call (Mechanic Street), accidental; 7:46 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), questions re: court order; 8:08 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), mv/no headlights; 9:21 p.m.: school alarm (Ash Street), services rendered; 11:57-11:58 p.m.: buildings checked, secure: (total daily mv stops - 1).

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Michael Chausse joins EXIT Realty in Brookfield

BROOKFIELD — EXIT Real Estate Executives in Brookfield have announced the addition of Michael Chausse to the firm's team of real estate professionals.

"We're excited to welcome Michael to EXIT Realty," says Michelle Terry, Broker & Owner of EXIT Real Estate Executives. "EXIT is growing and attracting quality business people like Michael each and every day."

Michael Chausse has been an active member of his community for more than 15 years. He is excited to be turning that local focus toward real estate! With passion for serving the Spencer/East Brookfield area, he is ready to help with your home buying and selling needs as a member of the EXIT family. Chausse is a member of the Massachusetts Multiple Listing Service, as well as a member of the National Association of Realtors. When Chausse isn't making homeownership dreams come true for his clients, he enjoys spending time glassblowing and connecting with others at local fairs and events.

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Cara Brindisi returns to
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LEICESTER — Cara Brindisi is returning to the Leicester Senior Center on Tuesday, Sept. 5 for another fabulous performance. All are welcome, and this program is free to anyone who wishes to come and enjoy this special talent. It will begin at 10:30 a.m.

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Cara Brindisi returns to Leicester Senior Center

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Greendale Men's League
First place (-4): Rick Wheeler, Glen
Wuerthele, Roger Godbout
Second place (-3): Gary Ward, Bill
Parsons, Bill Gaudette
Third place (even): Lou Gouin, Ken
Miller, Ken Frost, Bob Gonyea
Fourth place (+1): Steve Dame, Lou
Lebel, Bernie McMenemy
Fifth place (+4): Ken Carlson, Randy
Ellis, Mike Ross, Steve Russo

Tour of Brookfields Hardwick
Crossing Open
Nicklaus Division
First place tie (61): Jim Kularski,
Jim Gregoire, Jason McCarthy, Bernie
LaPierre Sr.; Cory Heyes, Amanda
Pierce, Jake Malin, Bob Weighill
Player Division
First place (61): Tom Orszulak, Stan
Nolan, Dave Fiske, Mark Bruso
Palmer Division
First place tie (66): Phil Woods, Tom
Savage, Ray Rawlston, Chris Thibaud;
Steve Whitman, Doug Judd, Jim
Mckeon, Keith Tytula

Leicester Country Club

Wednesday A.M. Golf League
Red Division
Top Five Low Gross
1. Jim McPartland, 86
2. Rich Rollins, 92
3. Tom Clark, 94
T4. Tony Maio, 95
T4. Mike Clark, 95
Top Five Low Net
1. Andy Gaudet, 72
2. Ken Paradis, 74
3. Bob Wall, 75
4. Al Cooper, 78
5. John Curtis, 79
Blue Division
Top Five Low Gross
1. Bob Baker, 91
2. Bill Coffey, 92
T3. Dave Burbine, 93
T3. Tom DeFeudis, 93
5. Harry Kustigian, 94
Top Five Low Net
1. Paul Graham, 67
2. Myron Imbody, 70
T3. Paul Landine, 76
T3. Al Ferriera, 76
T3. Tom Wall, 76
T3. Chip Freeman, 76

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Grant program connects local families with learning and developmental opportunities

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — A local program is helping to connect families with opportunities to improve children’s learning and social development.

Serving residents in multiple area towns, Community Connections is a family and community engagement grant program funded by the Department of Early Education.

Among other services, the program helps connect families with free parent-child playgroups.

“We can connect you with childcare providers, preschools, early intervention, head start, and so much more,” read a statement released by the organization. “Everything is confidential. We are here to support you.”

To help parents chart their children’s growth and development, the organization offers easy access to a specialized “Ages and Stages Questionnaire” (ASQ).

“Parents and caregivers all wonder how our children are growing and developing. The questionnaire includes questions in areas such as speech and language; physical ability; performance of daily activities; independence; expressing feelings; and how they interact with others,” read the statement released by the organization.

nization.

The ASQ can be completed from your phone in minutes. After you finish the questionnaire, the results will be emailed to you.

To learn more about the process, visit www.wachusettcfce.com.

Meanwhile, parents are reminded of several programs and resources accessible through Community Connections. These include scavenger hunts; a language development program geared toward infants and toddlers; a technology and arts program; yoga; music; and a program specializing in gross motor activities.

“Children’s early experiences shape how their brain is developed. A strong foundation in the early years increases the probability of positive outcomes for their futures,” the promotional statement read. “When parents and families have the supports and resources they need to facilitate children’s healthy development, they are building a strong

foundation for future growth.”

Community Connections serves the towns of Spencer, Leicester, North Brookfield, and East Brookfield, among others.

“Many families do not attend preschool, so having free programming is a great way to get to know these families and support them in any way we can. The grant also serves as a resource and referral agency,” read a statement posted to the program’s website.

Officials with the program have also helped families with such areas as childcare vouchers; recommendations for local pediatricians, dentists, and eye doctors; supplying tips for potty training; and developing early literacy skills needed before entering kindergarten.

To learn more about how the program can assist your family, call 508-713-3581. You can also send an email to CommunityConnections@wachusettcfce.com.

Resignation leaves Leicester Select Board short a member

LEICESTER — The Select Board is short a member following the resignation of Allen Phillips earlier this month.

The resignation took effect on Aug. 7. The board is currently operating with four members.

“It was great working with my fellow Board members, town departments, and the people of Leicester. However, in planning for the future, I sold my house and the only suitable housing I could find was out of town. Therefore, I resigned from the Board,” Phillips said. “Leicester is a wonderful town, and we have met many good people that we will remain friends with.”

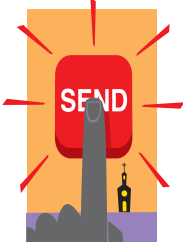
Phillips’s term had been scheduled to run through June 2024.

The board was slated to discuss the opening at its meeting this week. Members can choose to leave the seat vacant until the Annual Town Election in June, or fill the position with an interim member through a special election.

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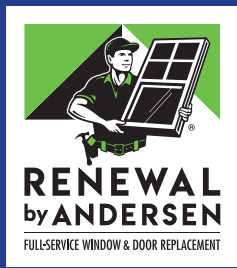
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