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Project New Hope helps Leicester students head back to school

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Project New Hope, Inc. recently assisted several local families as they prepared students to head back to school.

A nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting veterans, service members, and their families, Project New Hope, Inc., donated backpacks and school supplies to Leicester Middle School.

“This donation is part of Project New Hope’s ongoing mission to strengthen local communities while ensuring that veterans and their families have access to vital resources,” read a statement released by the organization. “By repurposing extra backpacks, notebooks, and supplies from our programs, we are able to extend our reach to children in local schools—helping to equip students with the tools they need to succeed.”

The donations mark the latest efforts by the Project New Hope team to assist the community. Recognizing the many challenges facing families in a punishing post-pandemic economy, team members are committed to stepping up in support of area residents.

“Project New Hope, Inc., was founded on the belief that no veteran or family should stand alone,” said Bill Moore, CEO/President and Founder of Project New Hope. “By sharing these supplies with Leicester Middle School, we’re not only assisting local students but also building stronger connections between our veterans, their families, and the communities they

Turn To **NEW HOPE** page **A9**

Save the date for Leicester’s 25th Anniversary Harvest Fair

LEICESTER — The Leicester Harvest Fair returns for its 25th Anniversary on Saturday, Sept. 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – rain or shine. Mark your calendar and plan to join the festivities on the Leicester Common, in the Town Hall and adjacent buildings! Admission and parking are Free!

Saturday activities on and around the Town Common will entertain Fair goers of all ages. Skilled artisans will demonstrate historic crafts, and local crafters will sell their wares. Food booths will offer a tasty selection of lunch choices, beverages and sweets. The Leicester Tri-M school band will perform, and there will be games and activities for children. Traditional folk music performances at the band stand will feature Yankee Notions, The Doolin Lads, and Slo-Grass. There will be a tour of historic buildings and the Swan Tavern will be open to visitors.

The Massachusetts Master Gardeners will offer garden advice and free soil tests. Instructions for collecting a soil sample can be found on the Harvest Fair Facebook page, or by clicking “gather your soil sample” at <https://massmastergardeners.org/educationalresources/soil-testing>.

Special this year will be a Pie Eating Contest sponsored by the Leicester Fire Fighter’s Association! Sign up on the morning of the Fair to enter the Contest at 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Garden and Craft Exhibit entries welcome
The Harvest Fair committee welcomes exhibit entries from adults and youth of Leicester and the surrounding towns to enrich the Fair and display local handiwork. You can enter your garden vegetables and flowers, and eggs laid by your backyard hens. Food artisans can bring canned and baked goods. Artists and craftspeople can display photography and fiber arts including quilting, sewing, knitting and crocheting, spinning and weaving, rug hooking, embroidery and tatting works. Adults 21 and older can enter home-brewed beer, wine, cider/perry or mead. More information with class lists, exhibit entry rules and helpful hints for a skilled display can be found in Premium Book brochures available at the Leicester Town Hall, Senior Center, Public Library and at local businesses, and on the Leicester Harvest Fair Facebook page.

Exhibitors should bring their garden and craft entries to the Town Hall on Friday, Sept. 19, from 4 to 7 p.m. for registration and judging. Ribbons will be awarded to the best three entries in each class. The exhibit display will be open to the public on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Don’t miss this annual community gathering!

Spencer Fair delivers festive finale to summer



Courtesy

The David Prouty High School Music Boosters Dunk Tank is a Spencer Fair tradition.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — Organizers couldn’t have asked for better weather at the annual Spencer Fair, which drew thousands of guests from throughout the area.

Held from Aug. 29 through Sept. 1, the Labor Day weekend fair once again delivered a fes-

tive summertime finale. The program included several musical performers, tractor pulls and other competitions, a demolition derby, agricultural exhibits, and Midway rides for the whole family.

The fair was so busy over the weekend that it reached maximum capacity on one night, with

every parking lot full. Officials thank the Spencer Police Department for its efforts in handling traffic control around the fairgrounds, all while maintaining normal operational coverage across town.

“The Spencer Fair brings tens

Turn To **FAIR** page **A9**

New Principal brings three decades of education experience to WBES

Turn To **LILLEY** page **A9**



Courtesy

Jennifer Lilley is the new Principal of West Brookfield Elementary School.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

WEST BROOKFIELD — Having spent nearly three decades in education, Jennifer Lilley is thrilled to begin her next chapter as Principal of West Brookfield Elementary School.

Lilley previously spent 16 years as a music teacher, including

experience as a department and team leader. She then became an elementary school assistant principal in the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District, spending seven years in the position.

Most recently, she was a primary school principal in the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District for two years.

“I really love smaller, community-based schools,” Lilley said. “They allow you to build strong relationships with everyone: students, families, staff, and community members. I like how people in smaller towns know and care about each other, and help each other out when challenges arise.”

Lilley has enjoyed her first few months on the job. One of her favorite experiences was welcoming students to class for the start of school.

“I’ve had some jobs I really loved and places I felt like I was a part of the team, but I have never felt so welcomed by a community right from the start,” Lilley told the New Leader. “The district-level administration are very hands on, helping out the



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Healey works to ensure vaccine access

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — Amid heightening confusion over vaccine availability across the country, Gov. Maura Healey recently announced a series of measures to ensure that vaccines remain accessible to Massachusetts residents.

National vaccine access took center stage last week, when Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., was grilled by members of the Senate Finance Committee over policymaking and recent actions taken at the federal level.

In Massachusetts, leaders are hopeful that the Governor's recently announced actions will alleviate fears. With flu season fast approaching, residents statewide have

flooded their elected leaders with questions over COVID vaccine access.

“Massachusetts has the best healthcare in the world,” said Healey. “We won’t let Donald Trump and Robert Kennedy get between patients and their doctors. When the federal government fails to protect public health, Massachusetts will step up. The actions we are announcing today will make sure people can continue to get the vaccines they need and want in Massachusetts.”

At Healey’s direction, the Division of Insurance (DOI) and Department of Public Health (DPH) issued a bulletin that requires insurance carriers in Massachusetts to continue covering vaccines recommended by DPH, and not rely solely on CDC recommen-

dations. Massachusetts is the first state in the nation to guarantee insurance coverage of vaccines recommended by the state.

These include respiratory virus vaccines, like COVID, flu and RSV, as well as routine vaccines for children, like measles, chickenpox, and Hepatitis B.

This action follows legislation filed by Governor Healey last month that would give DPH authority to set independent standards for vaccine purchasing and recommendations.

“We are so fortunate to live in Massachusetts, where we prioritize science and support patients,” said State Secretary of Health and Human Services Kiame Mahaniah. “With Gov. Healey’s leadership and

collaboration between DPH and DOI, those who want to get vaccinated will be able to without added cost or confusion because of decisions made at the federal level.”

CVS is now administering COVID vaccinations in the Bay State. This followed a period of uncertainty during which Massachusetts pharmacies were unable to offer the vaccine due to a lack of required federal guidance.

After the Governor’s new order opened up availability, residents secured COVID vaccine appointments at pharmacies, as of last Friday.

“As an infectious disease physician, I have seen the extraordinary impact vaccines have had in saving lives and preventing serious illness. Limiting access

to vaccines is not just shortsighted – it is reckless,” said Public Health Commissioner Robbie Goldstein. “Massachusetts will not allow ideology to override evidence. We must continue to be guided by science and data. And we must do what is right, even when it is hard, because protecting public health is not optional – it is a responsibility.”

Children under the age of five can receive the vaccine through their pediatrician.

Additionally, Massachusetts officials are leading efforts to create a public health collaboration with states in New England and across the northeast.

The multi-state collaborative, if launched, would focus on developing evidence-based recommen-

dations on vaccinations, disease surveillance, and emergency preparedness, among others.

“The Commonwealth has a long history of serving as a national leader in healthcare, especially during moments of federal mismanagement, and this action from Gov. Healey is the latest example of that leadership,” said House Speaker Ronald Mariano.

Added Senate President Karen Spilka, “Vaccines save lives and protect families. Period. The Healey Administration’s actions will help ensure federal drama does not affect our access to vaccines that are essential to public health.”

To learn more about the Governor’s order, visit www.mass.gov.

Paxton-area Seniors announces trip to see tribute to musical legends

PAXTON — On Tuesday, Oct. 14 at 8:30 a.m., Paxton-area Seniors head south to Plantsville, Conn., to see and hear A Tribute to The Legends of Old Vegas at Aqua Turf, one of Connecticut’s largest and nicest entertain-

ment venues.

This trip is our next-to-last bus trip of the 2025 season. Wilson Motor Coach leaves Paxton Council on Aging (Senior Center at 17 West St., Paxton, which is also Route 31) at 8:30 a.m.

Enjoy Aqua Turf’s lovely grounds during our few hours there.

Enjoy a luncheon consisting of Lemon Chicken and Pork Schnitzel, served family style. There likely will be an appetizer, salad, vegetable, etc. Dessert is apt to be something special. We have been to two or three events there in recent years, mostly including music and sometimes dancing, and we have always found it to be a special day. They take good care of us and give us our money’s worth.

Aqua Turf is located in a country setting in Plantsville, Conn., with lovely grounds to walk, if and as desired, with fountains and lovely gardens, trees, cobblestone pathways, gazebos, and flower

beds. Say nothing about a stunning, large water feature visible from the main dining room! While there, you could fit in a ten-minute walk which would be very refreshing. Otherwise, walking on this trip is extremely light since we will not be visiting other venues.

Dave Colucci and Lisa Carter are the featured entertainers who will bring us our favorite entertainers from the past including Frank Sinatra, Dino (Dean Martin), Wayne Newton, Bobby Darin, Marilyn Monroe, Peggy Lee, Nancy Sinatra, Lynn Anderson and Rosemary Clooney.

Today’s trip cost is only \$129. This does not include the driver’s gratuity, but it does include the delicious family-style luncheon, the spectacular show and travel via Wilson Bus Motor Coach. Payments are non-refundable unless ticket(s)

can be re-sold. Our tour date again is Tuesday, Oct. 14.

For reservations or information, please call Deb Grensavitch at 508.754.6366 or email Deb at grensavitch@aol.com. Please make payments, at \$129 per person, to Paxton FOCOA (Friends of Paxton Council on Aging) and mail to Deb Grensavitch, 88 Laurel St., Paxton, MA 01612-1234. Passenger count and payment are due three weeks prior to the trip which is Sept. 23 for the Oct. 14 trip.

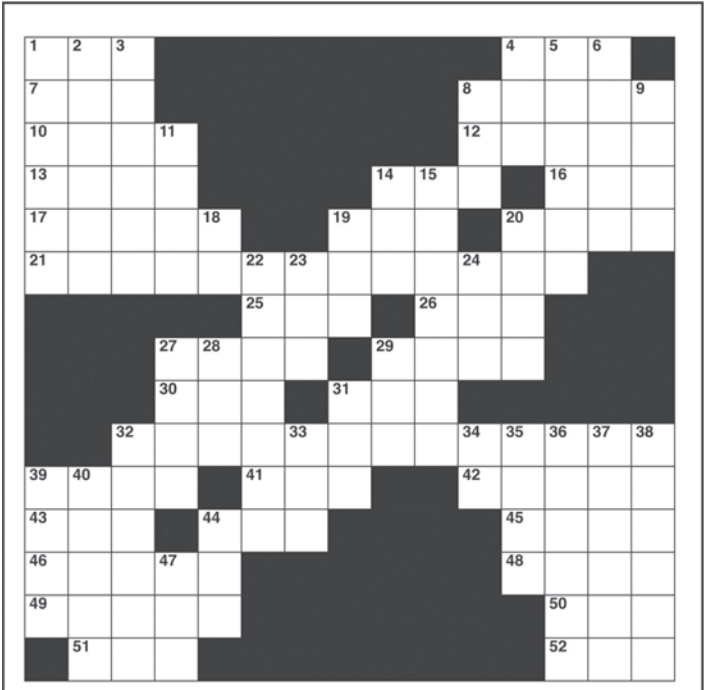
The Paxton Senior Center at 17 West St. is on Route 31 heading south toward Spencer, but is just south of Paxton Common and the only traffic light in town. We will make one brief stop in the morning at the TA Travel Center in Willington, Conn., where people can use

the facilities and buy a coffee or snack if they are so inclined. We will probably do the same on the return trip. We expect to arrive back at Paxton Senior Center at 6 p.m. Please join us for this enjoyable, restful day with good food and great entertainment.

Menu for Oct. 14 at Aqua Turf, Plantsville, Conn.

Coffee and Donuts stations on arrival
Free glass of beer, wine or soda from the bar
Family-style Dinner
Salad
Penne Bolognese
Boneless Chicken Thighs
Pork Schnitzel
Sauerkraut
Potato
Dessert Cookies and Brownies

Plus a spectacular show after dinner



CLUES ACROSS

1. Utilitarian fashion accessory

4. Engine additive

7. Macaws

8. Listens to

10. Self-righteously moralistic person

12. Made of wood

13. Chinese lute

14. Beginning military rank

16. Indicates near

17. Ties the score

19. Chum

20. Long ago

21. Localities

25. Midway between northeast and east

26. Make fun of

27. Tennis great Arthur
29. Construction location

30. Cow's noise

31. Blue

32. One of the Fab Four

39. Formula 1 team

41. Dash

42. Lifting device

43. Basics

44. Keyboard key

45. Old Irish alphabet

46. Shaking of the Earth's surface

48. Covered stadium

49. Sword handles

50. Longing or yearning

51. Creators' social network

52. Boxing's GOAT

CLUES DOWN

1. Occur

2. Show up

3. Capital of Taiwan

4. Ocean

5. Givers and ____

6. Gets ready

8. Ad ____

9. Fit of irritation

11. Criminal organization

14. Exclamation that denotes disgust

15. American state

18. Sensor hub

19. Before
20. The boundary of a surface

22. Witnesses

23. Singular

24. Type of meal

27. Music awards show

28. Former French coin of low value

29. A bag-like structure in an animal

31. Schenectady County Airport

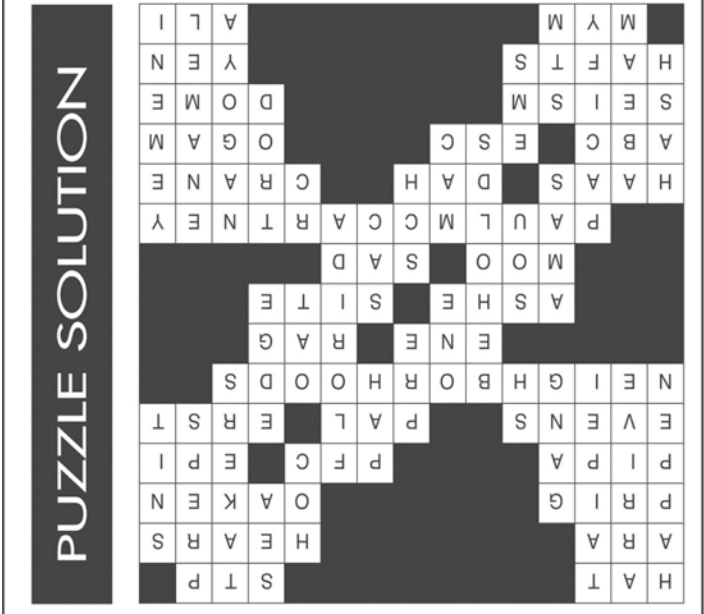
32. Calm down

33. Partner to cheese

34. Cola brand

35. Stepped on

36. Japanese city



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SPENCER ALMANAC

REAL ESTATE

BROOKFIELD

\$370,000, 26 Rice Corner Rd, Locke, Perry A, and Locke, Kathleen, to Mcleish, Vicky M.

\$55,000, 75 Town Farm Rd, Rkj Builders LLC, to Gustafson, Gary S.

EAST BROOKFIELD

None

LEICESTER

\$625,000, 33 Whittemore St, Hyland Jr, Rockwood L, and Hyland, Ann H, to Lemerise, Jamie, and Lemerise, Rebecca.

\$450,000, 300 Henshaw St, Lemerise, Jamie A, and Lemerise, Rebecca, to Favorito, Vinicius, and Souza, Bianca D.

\$255,000, 31 Siani Rd, Schneider, Paul, to Schneider, Philip.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

\$465,000, 26 Evergreen St, Mannor, James, and Mannor, Joyce, to Holmes-Cunningham, S J, and Osborne, Chelsea.

\$86,000, 41 Fullam Hill Rd, Anderson, John M, to Burns, Aaron.

SPENCER

\$623,000, 139 Ash St, Grenier, William D, and Grenier, Lisa E, to Hinchey, Lauren, and Alfiero, Nicholas.

\$499,900, 209 Paxton Rd, Partain, Keith, to Mccullough, Richard, and Mccullough, Sharon.

\$360,000, 10 Briarcliff Ln, Eckler, David W, and Eckler, Kelli A, to Browne, Chelsea, and Trotter, Joshua.

WARREN

\$460,000, 105 Forest Ave, B & B Realty Partners LLC, to Israelian, Anna J, and Boudreau, David D.

\$252,150, 124 Southbridge Rd, Cole, Keith, and Pennymac Loan Svcs LLC, to Pennymac Loan Svcs LLC.

\$250,000, 83 Mechanic St, North Brkfield Svgs Bank, to Sizedog Enterprises LLC.

\$146,000, 140 Pulaski St, Auclair, Russell G, and Rocket Mortgage LLC, to Sweeney, John.

WEST BROOKFIELD

\$445,000, 95 Foster Hill Rd, Marshall, Torrey, and Epstein, Brooke A, to Iwanicki, James, and Laasko, Skylar H.

Betty Gundersen Studio of Dance welcomes Cathy Taylor to faculty



Cathy Taylor

WEST BROOKFIELD — Betty Gundersen, director of the Betty Gundersen Studio of Dance, is pleased to announce that longtime central Massachusetts

dance educator Cathy Taylor has joined the studio's faculty.

Taylor holds a degree in Dance from the Boston Conservatory of Music and a graduate degree in Education from Boston University. She will be teaching ballet at the Betty Gundersen Studio of Dance.

"We are honored to welcome Cathy Taylor to our faculty," said Gundersen. "Her experience and reputation are unmatched, and she brings with her not only a wealth of knowledge but also a genuine love for inspiring young dancers."

Taylor is well known in the region for owning and operating the popular Cathy Taylor School

of Dance in Auburn. Alongside an accomplished faculty of teachers and choreographers, she taught all genres of dance to boys and girls from ages two through 18. Her students thrived both on stage and off, performing in recitals and competitions where they gained confidence, built lifelong friendships, and made connections across the country and around the world. In 2023, she closed her studio with the plan to continue sharing her love of dance at quality studios in the area.

Like Gundersen Studio alumni, students of Taylor's former studio now enjoy successful careers throughout the industry, teaching, per-

forming, and choreographing. Some have gone on to perform on Broadway, at Radio City Music Hall, Disney World, theme parks, and cruise ships. Others have earned a place as professional cheerleaders for the New England Patriots and Boston Celtics. Her students were also invited to showcase their talents internationally at the Shanghai International Dance Festival in China, the World Dance Championships in Reisa, Germany, and here at home in the iconic Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

The Betty Gundersen Studio of Dance offers a full range of classical ballet, pointe (by

local students at every age and stage. Preschool programs Terrific 3s and Fantastic 4s introduce children ages two and a half to four to the joy of movement while developing coordination, rhythm, and self-expression. For ages five and six, Fabulous 5s and Super 6s add more structure through beginning ballet and tap. As dancers progress, Primary Ballet for ages seven and eight builds on those foundations with a focus on posture, alignment, and classical technique.

Older students and advanced dancers have opportunities to study a wide variety of disciplines, including classical ballet, pointe (by

faculty approval), jazz, contemporary/modern, hip hop, tap, musical theater, and acrobatics. Each class emphasizes both technique and artistry, helping students grow in strength, flexibility, creativity, and confidence while preparing them for future performance opportunities.

The Betty Gundersen Studio of Dance is located at 79 Wickaboag Valley Rd., West Brookfield. Registration is now open for fall classes by calling the studio at (508) 867-8925. Additional information about the fall class offerings, schedule, and faculty may be found at bettygundersendance.com.

State officials confirm second case of West Nile Virus

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — Area residents are asked to take precautions after the Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced the state's second human case of West Nile virus (WNV).

Officials confirmed that a woman in her 60s contracted the virus in Essex County.

As a result of ongoing evidence of WNV in mosquitoes, risk levels have been elevated to high in several eastern Massachusetts communities. Meanwhile, Worcester County resi-

dents are asked to remain vigilant and take steps to avoid mosquitoes.

"Massachusetts is in peak season for the spread of West Nile virus," said Public Health Commissioner Robbie Goldstein. "While the temperatures have dropped slightly, this is the time of year when most people get exposed to the virus."

The first WNV-positive mosquitoes in the state this year were announced on June 17. Since then, 364 mosquito samples have tested positive for WNV, including samples taken in Worcester and Hampden Counties.

There has also been one animal case of WNV reported this year.

Currently, the risk for WNV is moderate in 183 cities and towns across Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Essex, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, and Worcester Counties.

In addition to WNV, eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) has also been detected in mosquitoes in Massachusetts this year. There have been 21 EEE-positive mosquito samples, with no human or animal cases reported.

WNV and EEE are generally transmitted to

humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. There were 19 human cases of WNV reported in Massachusetts last year, plus four human cases of EEE, leading to one death.

One of the best ways to protect your family against mosquitoes is to avoid outdoor activities during peak mosquito hours from dusk to dawn. If you must be outside during these hours, be sure to apply insect repellent and maximize clothing coverage of exposed skin.

Residents can also reduce the number of mosquitoes around their homes by draining sources of standing water. Mosquitoes often lay their eggs in small pools, wheel-

barrows, rain gutters, and drains. Residents are advised to frequently empty flowerpots and wading pools, in addition to changing the water in birdbaths daily.

It is also important to make sure that window and door screens fit tightly. Screens with holes or openings should be replaced, officials said.

Looking ahead, local leaders will post additional resources and updates

on conditions within specific communities throughout the month.

Residents are also urged to take steps to protect their pets from mosquitoes.

Additional information about EEE and WNV, as well as reports of current and historical virus activity in Massachusetts, can be found by visiting: www.mass.gov.

Leicester school leaders donate supplies to Central MA Housing Authority



Courtesy

Leicester school leaders recently donated several back-to-school items supporting area children.

LEICESTER — The Leicester Public Schools administrative team recently celebrated back-to-school season with a supply donation benefiting local youngsters.

School leaders donated more than 50 backpacks, coats, books, and games to the Central Massachusetts Housing Authority. The items will support families staying in the temporary homeless shelter.

"Some of the families that reside in the shelter have school-age students, and the Leicester Public Schools administrative team has benefited from the strong community support we have received over time. We wanted to give back to the families that are a part of our community as a whole," read a statement released by school leaders.

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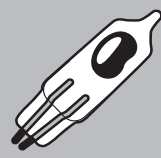
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Cornucopia: A Nostalgic Nod to Bountiful Harvest

Nothing quite captures autumn’s bounty as a classic cornucopia. For generations, a symbol of harvest has been the cornucopia basket overflowing with the fruit (and vegetables) of the season. Once a common centerpiece of the autumn table, it appears the nostalgic



TAKE
THE
HINT
KAREN
TRAINOR

“horn of plenty” may be making a comeback as backyard farming celebrates a return to simple abundance. Read on for some history, facts, and ideas about cornucopias!

History: The cornucopia, a.k.a. Horn O Plenty, has a history dating back to ancient Greece. According to legend, when the young Zeus was playing with Amalthea, the goat who had suckled him in a cave on the island of Crete, he accidentally broke off one of her horns. To make amends, Zeus promised that from that day forward, the horn would always be filled with whatever fruit she desired.

In another Greek legend, Heracles broke the horn off of an advisory during a fight over a beautiful maiden. The Naiads treated the horn as a sacred object, filling it with fragrant flowers.

Copia, the goddess of Plenty later adopted the horn, thus named the Horn of Plenty, or Cornucopia.

The Cornucopia came to symbolize a plentiful bounty, a tradition that has carried over to the harvest season and onto the Thanksgiving table.

Today, a growing number of people choose to keep the tradition alive by displaying a cornucopia on a mantle or dinner table. The colorful leaves, acorns and pinecones of New England provide the perfect backdrop for a Horn O Plenty overfilled with garden delights. Here are some suggestions to assemble a traditional cornucopia centerpiece:

Cornucopia baskets are easy enough to find at a craft or department store during the harvest season, but if you can’t locate one, a cone shaped basket will do. If you steam the cone end, it can usually be shaped into a curved horn shape.

Fill the inside of the basket with freshly fallen fall foliage, choose the brightest yellow and orange leaves. Sprigs of hay and grape vine also add texture to a display. Place the largest vegetables, such as squash, Indian corn, and sugar pumpkin in the widest part of the basket. Add some interesting gourds.

Next, choose fruits served the first Thanksgiving feast, such as plums and grapes, allowing the display to overflow onto the table.

Add a few bright red apples, and sprinkle chestnuts, pinecones and cranberries to finish it off. Use your imagination to create a creative cornucopia that offers interesting eye appeal. For example, artichokes, oranges, and pomegranates all add color and interest. Best of all, your family can enjoy the “fruits” of your labor, as most of it is edible.

A faux cornucopia can easily be created by laying a deep basket or large, shallow door basket on its back. Fill with squash, gourds, miniature pumpkins, Indian corn, apples and other fruits and vegetables of the season, allowing them to spillover onto the table. Provide coordinating light to the centerpiece by boring a hole in a couple of miniature pumpkins to form natural candleholders for tapers in assorted heights.

Did you know?

For centuries, the cornucopia has symbolized gratitude for the many blessings of life.

The term ‘cornucopia’ actually dates back to the 5th century BC in the form of two words “cornu Copiae”, which means horn of plenty. The first known English use of the word “cornucopia” was in 1508.

The horn shape represents the spirit of endless supply of giving and sharing.

The Horn of Plenty is sometimes used as part of a Fall Equinox ritual, as it is filled with assorted garden vegetables, fruits, nuts, herbs, etc. to represent thanks for the garden harvest,

The cornucopia was prominently featured in ancient Greek and Roman cultures, symbolizing wealth and nourishment, and was used in various art forms and coinage.

The cornucopia is sometimes depicted in body art as it is a symbol of fertility, fortune and abundance.

Win a Three Course Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

POLICE REPORTS

Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28
12:21 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), citation issued; 12:31 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 5:08 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 7:06 a.m.: accident (Stafford Street), report taken; 7:46 a.m.: welfare check (Main Street), transported to hospital; 8:13 a.m.: ambulance (Watch Street), transported; 12:08 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), Alisha D. Kiriungi, 37, 8 Keep Street, Paxton, shoplifting by asportation/2nd offense; resisting arrest; disorderly conduct, assault/battery on police officer, arrest; 1:24 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), spoken to; 5:18 p.m.: mv stop (Winslow Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, unregistered mv, no inspection sticker, criminal citation issued; 5:34 p.m.: assist citizen (Rawson Street); 6:45 p.m.: assist other PD (Craig Street), services rendered; 7:30 p.m.: disabled mv (South Main Street), resolved; 9:57 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), resolved.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29
1:41 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 4:04 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:15 a.m.: ambulance (Water Street), transported; 7:25 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Lake Avenue), Jeremy Tyler Smith, 47, 9 Lehigh Road, Leicester, assault/battery on family/household member; assault w/dangerous weapon, arrest; 1:44 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), gone on arrival; 2:58 p.m.: accident (Dale Street), report taken; 3:31 p.m.: assault/battery (Elmwood Avenue), report taken; 5:22 p.m.: suspicious person (Pine Street), resolved; 5:58 p.m.: debris in road (Main Street), referred; 5:59 p.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), report taken; 6:35 p.m.: accident (Stafford Street), report taken; 7:56 p.m.: assist other PFD (Smithville Road, Spencer), report taken.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30
2:58 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 5:27 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), citation issued; 7:52 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), spoken to; 9:38 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 10:11 a.m.: accident (Brook Street), report taken; 10:45 a.m.: ambulance (Ingram Road), transported; 3:09 p.m.: ambulance (Mayflower Circle), transported; 6:17 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 7:50 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Redfield Road), services rendered; 8:32 p.m.: assist other PD (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 8:59 p.m.: welfare check (Lake Sargent Drive), report taken; 11:53 p.m.: missing person (Pleasant Street), spoken to.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31
12:14 a.m.: suspicious mv (Wesley Drive), spoken to; 12:14 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 2:31 a.m.: ambulance (Victoria Drive), services rendered; 7:20 a.m.: ambulance (Hammond Hill Road, Charlton), transported; 8:47 a.m.: welfare check (Main Street), assisted; 11:56 a.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 4:00 p.m.: threats (Stafford Street), gone on arrival; 5:22 p.m.: ambulance (Ash Street, Spencer), transported; 5:25 p.m.: suspicious mv (Huntoon Memorial Highway), services rendered; 5:33 p.m.: family problem (Main Street), services rendered; 5:48 p.m.: assist other PD (Stafford Street), service rendered; 6:20 p.m.: ambulance (Towtaid Street), transported; 7:00 p.m. ambulance (Shady Brook Lane, Worcester), transported; 7:05 p.m.: family problem (Lexington Avenue), report taken; 11:52 p.m.: family problem (Main Street), peace restored.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1
2:10 a.m.: family problem (Main Street), peace restored; 8:01 a.m.: animal complaint (Henshaw Street), referred; 8:23 a.m.: ambulance (Lams Grove, Spencer), transported; 12:52 p.m.: residential alarm (Mulberry Street), unable to locate; 3:53 p.m.: malicious mischief (Stafford Street), report taken; 4:50 p.m.: disturbance (Logan Street), spoken to; 4:56 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 6:32 p.m.: accident (Paxton Street), report taken; 7:59 p.m.: assist citizen (Willow Hill Road); 10:40 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
12:21 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 7:20 a.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 10:12 a.m.: illegal dumping (Olney Street), report taken; 10:30 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 11:14 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 3:25 p.m.: ambulance (Hemlock Street), transported; 3:53 p.m.: restraining order service (Willow Hill Road), served; 4:31 p.m.: ambulance (Bunker Hill

Road), transported; 5:43 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 6:06 p.m.: harassment (Pleasant Street), report taken; 6:18 p.m.: restraining order service (South Main Street), served; 6:27 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:56 p.m.: ambulance (Queen Street, Worcester), transported; 7:06 p.m.: disturbance (Logan Street), spoken to; 7:23 trespassing Paxton Street), spoken to; 9:08 p.m.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), gone on arrival.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3
5:02 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 7:01 a.m.: accident (Stafford Street), report taken; 7:59 a.m.: investigation (Olney Street), report taken; 8:25 a.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 9:38 a.m.: ambulance (Howe Village, Spencer), transported; 9:57 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), assisted; 10:51 a.m.: lobby service (South Main Street), report taken; 12:54 p.m.: attempted breaking/entering (River Street), report taken; 2:34 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), mv towed; 3:31 p.m.: stolen mv (Huntoon Memorial Highway), report taken; 3:56 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 4:52 p.m.: ambulance (Siani Road), transported; 5:16 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 6:09 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 6:40 p.m.: summons service (South Main Street), served.

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Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29
12:28-3:31 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:46 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:08 a.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 9:11 a.m.: DPW call (Main Street), rep. traffic light out; 10:07 a.m.: fire alarm (Ash Street), drill; 10:44 a.m.: 911 call (Howe Village), misdial; 10:44 a.m.: officer wanted (Ash Street), re: email scam; 11:44 a.m.: DPW call (Olde Main Street), cable wire down; 12:38 p.m.: animal complaint (Paxton Road), squirrel in house; 12:58 p.m.: fire alarm (Paxton Road), drill; 2:19 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 3:14 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), re: erratic operator; 4:13 p.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), lost phone; 4:23 p.m.: disabled mv (Greenville Street), assisted; 4:33 p.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), found debit card; 4:40 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 5:14 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Old Farm Road), trash burn; 7:15 p.m.: lost/found (Main Street), rep. stolen wallet; 7:25 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo; 8:23 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 8:27 p.m.: disabled mv (Route 49), services rendered; 9:41 p.m.: mutual aid (Main Street), Leicester PD bolo; 10:24 p.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; (total daily mv stops – 4).

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28
12:15 a.m.: mv repossessed (Pleasant Street), info rec'd; 12:17-2:59 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:20 a.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), welfare check; 2:29 a.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; 4:13 a.m.: disturbance (Church Street), Katelynn Jeanne Beer, 32, 330 Sunderland Road, Worcester, warrant, arrest; 7:28 a.m.: FID card issued (West Main Street), assisted; 7:30 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 7:37 a.m.: parking violation (Temple Street), tickets issued; 8:09 a.m.: mutual aid (Main Street), Leicester PD req. residence check; 9:22 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 10:10 a.m.: animal complaint (Ash Street), rep. missing cat; 10:26 a.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 11:30 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Maple Street), resolved; 12:36 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 12:51 p.m.: assault (Ash Street), report taken; 3:12 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 3:38 p.m.: animal complaint (Lake Whittemore Drive), c/o continuous barking; 4:52 p.m.: mv complaint (South Spencer Road), TT stuck at bridge; 4:59 p.m.: fraud (Cranberry Meadow Road), report taken; 5:49 p.m.: animal complaint (Hastings Road), loose dog; 6:25 p.m.: 911 call (Pleasant Street), medical/unk. emergency; 6:57 p.m.: hit/run accident (West Main Street), report taken; 8:24 p.m.: medical/general (Smithville Road); 9:09 p.m.: 911 call (North Spencer Road), no emergency; 9:20 p.m.: 911 call (Brown Street), accidental; 10:35 p.m.: animal complaint (Chestnut Street), dog in mv barking; 11:08 p.m.: 911 call (Wall Street), response not noted on police log; 11:14 p.m.: 911 call (Pleasant Street), response not

noted on police log; (total daily mv stops – 2).

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29
1:21 a.m.: medical/general (Westland Drive); 7:43 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:38 a.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), found debit card; 9:25 a.m.: medical/general (Smithville Road); 10:32 a.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), change of address; 10:56 a.m.: trespassing (Mechanic Street), services rendered; 11:15 a.m.: restraining order service (Borkum Road); 11:25 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 11:50 a.m.: medical/general (Smithville Road); 1:36 p.m.: 911 call (Whittemore Court), accidental; 5:55 p.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), rep. lg. pot hole; 6:24 p.m.: 911 call (Main Street), child w/phone; 7:16 p.m.: disturbance (Smithville Road), fight/services rendered; 8:13 p.m.: disturbance (Smithville Road), poss. firearm at fair; 9:02 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); (total daily mv stops – 0).

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30
7:29 a.m.: officer wanted (Bell Street), tenant/tenant issue; 8:43 a.m.: medical/general (Smithville Road); 8:47 a.m.: elderly matter (Howe Village), req. welfare check; 9:03 a.m.: odor of gas (Main Street), referred; 1:24 p.m.: medical/general (Adams Street); 2:27 p.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 3:17 p.m.: medical/general (Smithville Road); 3:32 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 3:43 p.m.: mv lockout (Charlton Road), assisted; 3:59 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 6:31 p.m.: 911 call (Smithville Road), open line; 6:53 p.m.: 911 call (Smithville Road), open line; 7:01 p.m.: 911 call (Smithville Road), open line; 7:08 p.m.: 911 call (Wire Village Road), services rendered; 7:53 p.m.: medical/general (Meadow Road); 8:11 p.m.: officer wanted (Valley Street), tenant/landlord issue; 8:38 p.m.: suspicious persons (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 8:57 p.m.: officer wanted (Salem Street), noise complaint; 9:57 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), req. escort/retrieve belongings; 10:01 p.m.: protective custody (West Main Street), Nia H. Pitre, 37, 4 Nelson Road, Charlton, disorderly conduct, disturbing the peace, assault/battery on police officer, arrest; 10:36 p.m.: accident (Olde Main Street), report taken; (total daily mv stops – 0).

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31
1:31 a.m.: medical/general (Condon Drive); 1:42 a.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 5:15 a.m.: animal complaint (Mechanic Street), dog barking; 5:29 a.m.: building checked, secure; 8:52 a.m.: lost/found (Smithville Road), wallet found; 12:30 p.m.: fraud (Main Street), report taken; 1:02 p.m.: medical/general (Smithville Road); 1:26 p.m.: mv complaint (Oakland Drive), mvs blocking boat ramp; 2:03 p.m.: DPW call (Ash Street), poss. water main break; 2:32 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), domestic dispute; 2:54 p.m.: suspicious persons (Lake Street), kids behind school; 3:14 p.m.: mutual aid (Cherry Street), assist North Brookfield PD; 4:52 p.m.: 911 call (North Spencer Road), no emergency; 5:08 p.m.: medical/general (Ash Street); 5:12 p.m.: medical/general (Irving Street); 5:42 p.m.: officer wanted (Smithville Road), re: incident at fair; 6:08 p.m.: mv complaint (Smithville Road), c/o mvs speeding; 6:35 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 7:02 p.m.: residential fire (North Spencer Road), referred; 7:54 p.m.: mv lockout (Smithville Road), assisted; 8:43 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Streer), Leicester PD bolo/restraining order violation; 9:26 p.m.: medical/general (Powers Street); 9:49 p.m.: parking complaint (Old Meadow Road), mv on lawn; 10:00 p.m.: disturbance (Smithville Road), services rendered; 10:36 p.m.: officer wanted (Lincoln Street), rep. yells for help; 11:04 p.m.: fire alarm (High Street), referred; (total daily mv stops – 0).

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1
12:16 a.m.: juvenile matter (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 1:32-3:33 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:54 a.m.: commercial alarm (Mechanic Street), service rendered; 6:07 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 7:18 a.m.: medical/general (Donnelly Cross Road); 8:19 a.m.: medical/general (Lams Grove); 10:50 a.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), re: dead cat; sometime between 11:00 a.m.-1:25 p.m.: entire incident, including address, redacted from police log; 1:25 p.m.: fraud (Smithville Road), report taken; 2:13 p.m.: fraud (Main Street), report taken; 3:28 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 3:40 p.m.: residential alarm (Hastings Road), services

HASTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNOUNCES FALL PROGRAMS

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD — Guests of all ages are invited to welcome autumn with a busy schedule of programs at Haston Free Public Library.

Celebrate National Indoor Plant Week with a special program on Monday, Sept. 15. Set for 6 p.m., the event will feature an evening of greenery and community. Guests will be able to swap cuttings, share tips, and discover new leafy friends.

The library's Book Discussion Group will next meet on Sept. 23 at 7 p.m. Members will read and discuss "The Woman Behind The New Deal," written by Kirstin Downey.

Library officials also invite guests to check out a new program called Cook the Book Club.

"Select a recipe from this month's featured cookbook (available at the circulation desk), cook it up, and bring it to our potluck and discussion," a library-issued statement read. "Let's share great food and conversation."

The group will next meet on Thursday, Sept. 25, at 5 p.m. Registration is required.

Meanwhile, the library team invites guests to take part in a local writers' roundtable discussion. Set for Sept. 29 at 6 p.m., the program will bring together local authors and aspiring writers for an informal discussion. Guests will share their experiences in the areas of publishing, editing, and promoting their works.

If you are interested in this program, sign up at the library.

Meanwhile, teens and adults are invited to check out an exciting new program.

"Ready to embark on an epic adventure? Join us every Thursday from 5:30-7 p.m. at the library for Tabletop Game Night," the library-issued statement read. "We're playing Dungeon World, a fun, beginner-friendly roleplaying game with a simple ruleset and big imagination."

No experience is required to take part in this program. Simply bring your creativity.

If you have questions about this program, send a text to: 774-200-9025. You may also stop by during Thursday sessions to learn more. All are welcome.

Local teenagers have the opportunity to join a special Teen Advisory Committee. If you would like to help shape programs, recommend books, and augment library experiences, officials are seeking Teen Advisory Committee members.

"This is a great way to earn volunteer hours, build leadership skills, and make your voice heard," the statement read.

If you're interested in taking part, stop by the front desk or email nbdirector@cwmar.org to sign up.

The committee will meet on Sept. 25 at 3:30 p.m.

Several September story-time programs will be offered to youngsters on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. Books will be paired with craft activities covering such topics as back-to-school season; apples and other fall fruits; and local animals.

The library continues to host the

Children's Art Club on the first and third Monday of each month. All sessions last from 4-5 p.m.

The library's youth Lego Club meets every Thursday at 4 p.m.

Finally, the library has been awarded \$5,000 in grant funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Funds will help launch a new Teen Design Den, a dedicated makerspace allowing teenagers to creatively explore technology and hands-on learning.

"The goal is to give local teens a free, welcoming space to build confidence,

learn new skills, and bring their ideas to life," the statement read. "We are grateful to the Mass Cultural Council for supporting this exciting new chapter at the library. We can't wait to see what our teens will create."

For more information about upcoming library events, or to register for an activity, call 508-867-0208. You may also send an email to: hastonfreepubliclibrary@gmail.com.

The library is located at 161 North Main St.

OBITUARIES

James E. Talbot, 93



Spencer — James E. Talbot, 93, of Spencer, died early Friday morning, August 29, 2025, while a resident in the Odd Fellows Home in Worcester.

He leaves four sons, James E. Talbot, Jr. and his wife Karen of Spencer; Daniel, Robert, and David Talbot and their families. He was predeceased by his wife of 57 years, Velma L. (McNeaney) Talbot in 2009 and his brother Richard J. Talbot in 2015. He was born in Worcester, son of the late Richard T. and Rosana (Pelletier) Talbot and was a long-time resident of Spencer.

Mr. Talbot is a United States Navy Veteran, serving from 1950 to 1953 on

the USS Lamoille River support ship.

Jim worked as a steam boiler operator at the former Johnson Steel & Wire Co. in Worcester for several years. He later worked as an operator at the former Cranston Print Works in Webster. Jim enjoyed hunting and fishing — and had better luck with fishing than ever getting a deer.

At his request, services for Jim will be held privately with burial in Worcester County Memorial Park. Varnum Funeral Home is assisting his family with his final care. An online tribute page is available at varnumfuneralhome.com



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Strength in community action

It is often said that small towns are at their strongest when neighbors step forward together, and in our corner of Worcester County, the past week has offered proof. From classrooms to running tracks, from church halls to community centers, residents are showing how much can be accomplished when people take ownership of the issues that matter most.

At Shepherd Hill, students are preparing for the first “Tackle the Stigma” 5K, a new fundraiser that does more than raise money. It is a student-led declaration that mental health deserves open discussion and practical support. Cheerleaders, parents, teachers, and local advocates are working side by side, reminding us that the health of a community is measured not only in test scores and athletic wins, but also in how we tend to one another’s well-being.

Meanwhile, Tri-Valley Inc. is partnering with SilverShield to pilot a scam-detection tool for older adults and caregivers. In an age when fraud preys on the vulnerable, this local effort—complete with focus groups in Dudley later this month—proves that our region does not need to sit back and hope for solutions from far away. We can test tools, share our experiences, and equip neighbors with the resources to stay safe.

These efforts join countless others, from the Dudley Woman’s Club directing its voluntary giving toward the Boys and Girls Club of Webster, to businesses like Long Subaru stepping up with direct support for local teachers. Each example points toward the same conclusion: community action is not theoretical. It is lived daily, in small choices to show up, contribute, and lift others.

There will always be challenges ahead—questions of budgets, development, and growth—but we should not overlook the power already in our hands. When students take the lead, when seniors are heard and protected, when volunteers keep their doors open, and when businesses remember their civic role, the fabric of Webster, Dudley, Oxford, and Auburn is strengthened.

It does not take a headline-making event to remind us who we are. It takes the steady, humble work of neighbors working side by side. That is where our resilience lies.

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

Eyes are the window of the soul

To the Editor:

There is a saying that I have found to be true over the years — “Eyes are the window of the soul.” If your eyes are kind, your body will be full of light. If your eyes are unkind, your body will be full of darkness.

Look into Trump’s eyes and all you will see is darkness, hate and anger. His soul can’t be seen because he doesn’t have a heart or a soul. He is a selfish, cold, callous shell of a man who only cares about himself.

While our country is in crisis and he should be dealing with that, Trump decides to have a \$200 million state ballroom added to the White House. A ballroom only he wants, at the expense of the taxpayers. Do you really believe

it is being funded by Trump and his minions? Really? Let’s not forget his 747-8 luxury jet liner given to him as a “gift” from Qatar, amounting to \$1 billion to convert to Air Force One for his (only his) pleasure.

All the while, people are homeless, starving, and suffering from health issues, and funding has been cut off to healthcare, veterans, schools, and so much more.

He is heartless, and doesn’t care about any of this as long as Donald gets whatever Donald wants, no matter what the cost.

Selfish, self centered and mean spirited!

NOREEN FERNANDES
WEST BROOKFIELD

Spencer homeowners, you should call your insurance agent

To the Editor:

During the override discussions, Chief Parsons mentioned the ISO ratings, and that our homeowner’s insurance would go up. I will admit, I did not give it much thought until the other day; I called to find out what it would mean for us.

Prior to having two firefighters on duty 24/7, the ISO rating was 5 (hydrant district) -9 (outside the hydrant district). The current ISO rating is 4 – 4. My agent said he could not change the ISO in the computer to get an exact number, but thought the change from 4 to 5 would be about \$100 more.

The override for the firefighters will

add 21 cents per thousand to the taxes. For us, that will be \$65.10. The override for Spencer Rescue will add eight cents per thousand, which for us will be \$24.48. For us, it will be cheaper to keep the services that we have and want. Please don’t take my word for it; call your insurance agent. Two of the variables are the replacement value of your house and where you live.

If you would like the opportunity to vote on this, please sign the two petitions. We have the petitions out front every day from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. at 125 Pleasant St. until Sept. 20.

Thank you,

ELIZABETH MCPHERSON
SPENCER

Sunday in America

To the Editor:

I woke up Sunday morning to read that our “United States” President, Donald Trump, had, on his social media site, declared “War” on our American city of Chicago. In the posting he showed the city under attack and boasted that the leaders, citizens and others in Chicago would soon know what the US government’s Department of War could do to them.

Every indication, including the examples in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., indicates that if Trump and followers can, they will

try to make “war” on Chicago.

Think about this. In our 250 years of American history and brilliant and brave Founding Fathers’ created and treasured constitutional democracy, no president, from Washington to Biden, has ever declared “war” on an American city.

Only Trump.

And unless we prevent it, he will not stop.

KEVIN KANE
SPENCER

Cornucopia: A Nostalgic Nod to Bountiful Harvest

Nothing quite captures autumn’s bounty as a classic cornucopia. For generations, a symbol of harvest has been the cornucopia basket overflowing with the fruit (and vegetables) of the season. Once a common centerpiece of the autumn table, it appears the nostalgic “horn of plenty” may be making a comeback as backyard farming celebrates a return to simple abundance.

Read on for some history, facts, and ideas about cornucopias!

History: The cornucopia, a.k.a. Horn O Plenty, has a history dating back to ancient Greece. According to legend, when the young Zeus was playing with Amalthea, the goat who had suckled him in a cave on the island of Crete, he accidentally broke off one of her horns. To make amends, Zeus promised that from that day forward, the horn would always be filled with whatever fruit she desired.

In another Greek legend, Heracles broke the horn off of an advisory during a fight over a beautiful maiden. The Naiads treated the horn as a sacred object, filling it with fragrant flowers.

Copia, the goddess of Plenty later adopted the horn, thus named the Horn of Plenty, or Cornucopia.



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

The Cornucopia came to symbolize a plentiful bounty, a tradition that has carried over to the harvest season and onto the Thanksgiving table.

Today, a growing number of people choose to keep the tradition alive by displaying a cornucopia on a mantle or dinner table. The colorful leaves, acorns and pinecones of New England provide the perfect backdrop for a Horn O Plenty overflowed with garden delights. Here are some suggestions to assemble a traditional cornucopia centerpiece:

Cornucopia baskets are easy enough to find at a craft or department store during the harvest season, but if you can’t locate one, a cone shaped basket will do. If you steam the cone end, it can usually be shaped into a curved horn shape.

Fill the inside of the basket with freshly fallen fall foliage, choose the brightest yellow and orange leaves. Sprigs of hay and grape vine also add texture to a display. Place the largest vegetables, such as squash, Indian corn, and sugar

pumpkin in the widest part of the basket. Add some interesting gourds.

Next, choose fruits served the first Thanksgiving feast, such as plums and grapes, allowing the display to overflow onto the table.

Add a few bright red apples, and sprinkle chestnuts, pinecones and cranberries to finish it off. Use your imagination to create a creative cornucopia that offers interesting eye appeal. For example, artichokes, oranges, and pomegranates all add color and interest. Best of all, your family can enjoy the “fruits” of your labor, as most of it is edible.

A faux cornucopia can easily be created by laying a deep basket or large, shallow door basket on its back. Fill with squash, gourds, miniature pumpkins, Indian corn, apples and other fruits and vegetables of the season, allowing them to spillover onto the table. Provide coordinating light to the centerpiece by boring a hole in a couple of miniature pumpkins to form natural candleholders for tapers in assorted heights.

Did you know?

For centuries, the cornucopia has symbolized gratitude for the many blessings of life.

Turn To **HINT** page **A7**

Does the 4 percent rule still make sense for your retirement?



FINANCIAL
FOCUS

TREVOR
NIELSEN

You may have heard of the “4 percent rule” when it comes to retirement. The idea is simple: After you retire, you withdraw 4 percent of your investment portfolio each year. In theory, this helps ensure your savings last for your lifetime. While this rule can be a helpful starting point, it’s not a one-size-fits-all — and it’s definitely not a substitute for a plan tailored to your specific needs, wants and wishes.

The truth is, how much to withdraw in retirement depends on factors like when you retire, if you’ll work part time, how long you expect retirement to last, your lifestyle goals, inflation and whether you want to leave a financial legacy to heirs. So, the 4 percent rule should be viewed as more of a guide than a strict rule.

Let’s start with age. The 4 percent rule is often based on someone retiring at 65 and expecting to live until about 92. But if you retire earlier, you may want your portfolio to stretch further. In that case, you might need to start with a lower withdrawal rate, maybe closer to 3 percent. And if you retire later, you might safely withdraw a little more — perhaps 4.5 to 5 percent — depending on your financial situation.

Your retirement lifestyle also plays a big role. Are you planning to travel the world or spend more time at home? If you expect higher spending in the early years of retirement, you may need to adjust your withdrawal rate or plan to reduce spending later to balance things out.

Your financial flexibility matters too. If you have less wiggle room with your expenses, rely heavily on your portfolio for income or want to preserve wealth for your heirs, a more conservative approach might be wise. In this conservative scenario, your portfolio withdrawals may be met from interest and dividends. Think of your withdrawal rate as existing on a spectrum from more conservative to less conservative, with your personal situation determining where you land.

Then there’s inflation. A well-built strategy usually includes small annual increases in withdrawals to keep up with rising costs — about 2.75 percent per year. But you don’t need to take a raise just because the calendar says so. If the markets have had a tough year or you don’t need the extra income, it might be smart to skip an increase. Being flexible can improve the chances your money will last.

It’s also important to understand what’s known as your “portfolio reliance rate” — how much of your retirement income comes from your investments versus other sources like Social Security or pensions. The higher this percentage, the more conservative you may want to be with withdrawals.

And don’t forget the IRS. If you’re drawing from a traditional IRA or 401(k), you’ll need to take required minimum distributions (RMDs) once you reach age 73. Your RMD for any year is the account balance as of the end of the prior calendar year divided by a life expectancy factor according to the IRS. These RMDs need to be accounted for in your strategy.

The bottom line? The 4 percent rule is a useful starting point, but it’s just that — a starting point. A good financial advisor can help you build a strategy that reflects your age, your goals and your full financial picture. By revisiting your plan regularly and staying flexible, you’ll give yourself the best shot at turning your savings into a secure, fulfilling retirement.

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.

Plan B!

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

Remember that time you were about to jump into something big—a new business, a major life change, a dream you finally decided to chase? At first, your mind lights up with excitement. You see the vision, you make the plans, you picture the success. But then, almost like clockwork, the thought creeps in: “So, what’s your Plan B?”

Of course, having a backup plan makes sense. If Plan A falls apart, you’ve got to have a Plan B, right?

It almost feels a bit controversial writing about not having a Plan B. I think that’s because the idea is often misunderstood.

When I say “Plan A,” I’m not talking about a single project or a business idea—I mean your overarching mission. The bigger picture. The thing that gives your life direction and meaning. It’s the north star you measure everything else against. That’s what I’m getting at when I speak about Plan A—

not the small detours or adjustments, but the core mission that defines where you’re going.

When I talk about Plan B, I don’t mean little adjustments—like taking the side streets when the freeway’s jammed. That’s just flexibility.

What I mean is the bigger Plan B: the alternative to your overarching mission, the backup life you keep in your back pocket “just in case.” That kind of Plan B, as neuroscience shows, doesn’t just sit quietly in the background—it actively drains energy from Plan A, it slowly eats away at Plan A until it’s gone!

The prefrontal cortex, responsible for planning and decision-making, works best when the outcome really matters. Think of an athlete in a championship game—they find a level of focus and creativity they never had in practice, because, in this scenario, Plan A equals winning and Plan B

equals losing.

Think of a life-or-death scenario. If you’re facing a grizzly bear in the forest, Plan A is to survive. Plan B is...not. And while Plan A can fail, having no Plan B forces every ounce of focus and energy into survival—dramatically increasing your chances of success.

When there’s only one shot—no backup—the brain ramps up dopamine, sharpening focus and creativity. But when you create a Plan B, dopamine drops—and so does motivation. In other words, the moment you create a Plan B, you’re signaling to your brain, “Relax, no need to give it everything,” and your effort slips.

Studies from the University of Pennsylvania, Zurich, and Wisconsin all point to the same conclusion: people with backup plans perform worse on their main goals. Even thinking about a Plan B reduces persistence and creativity.

Why? Because the brain is built to save energy. The moment it realizes it can relax, it will relax.

Take Howard Schultz, the man behind Starbucks. When he first tried to raise money to expand the company, investors laughed him out of the room. Banks turned him down more than 200 times. He could have walked away, gone back to a “safe” job in corporate America, taken a Plan B. But he refused. Starbucks was Plan A. Period. He doubled down, kept pitching, and eventually found a handful of believers. Today, Starbucks is a household name around the world.

The science explains the story: when your brain knows there’s no escape hatch, it goes all in. Dopamine spikes, focus sharpens, and creativity ignites. You start to see options you’d never notice otherwise. Pressure forces breakthroughs. That’s the hidden gift of burn-

ing the boats.

That’s the real danger of Plan B. Most of the time, it isn’t strategy—it’s fear in disguise. It feels responsible, but really, it’s a quiet permission slip to play smaller, to quit when things get uncomfortable.

The science is clear, and the stories back it up: extraordinary results only come when you stop keeping one foot out the door. So burn the boats, shut the exits, and commit like there’s no other option.

Because that’s the moment your full potential wakes up. Don’t plan for escape—plan for victory. That’s how you find out what you’re really capable of.

Toby Moore is a columnist, the star of *Emmy-Nominated A Separate Peace*, and the CEO of *Cubestream Inc.*

Wolperdinger: A fantasy-horror haven



Gus Steeves

Katie Billington with just a few of the things available at Wolperdinger Bookstop.

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

Ever heard of a wolperdinger?

I hadn’t until I walked into Wolperdinger Bookstop in Putnam, where a cuddly rabbit with horns and wings named Wolpy is the mascot and hero of owner Kathy Newman’s children’s book series.

“We’re trying to promote him,” said assistant manager Katie Billington, noting the store is “kind of like the face of” Newman’s 58 Publishing House. Beyond that, they aim to be “a safe place for people to be creative and express yourself.”

One aspect of that is the upstairs “journaling section,” where visitors are encouraged to jot down thoughts. Some of them have ended up on the wall leading up those stairs.

For the most part, Wolperdinger is a store that focuses on science fiction, fantasy, horror and Wolpy-related mer-



The store’s mascot Wolpy is a much cuddlier version of the Germanic wolperdinger than myths would suggest.

chandise. (The first book of the series should be out later this year.) When it comes to selecting titles, Billington said she likes “to follow book bloggers and book talkers [online], and see what a lot of people are talking about” to get ideas. Sometimes, she added, they simply scroll through recent releases and see what strikes their fancy.

Last month, the store celebrated its one-year anniversary with a week of events. One involved Scholastic, the large kids-book publisher, who promoted “Wings of Fire” in which several young people showed up in costume. Billington said they also host “tot spot” bookreadings, a few author events for older audiences, do book events at Rectory School, and are reaching out to other schools, among other things. Their front door posts flyers for various events they host, including the monthly “Horror Seeker” writers’ group, which is not just for horror, but for “all walks” of novels, stories, poetry and scriptwriting.



The store from outside, on Main Street in Putnam.

Although Wolperdinger has a Main Street storefront in the Montgomery Ward building that’s been beneficial during public events, Billington noted the building is full of services (a yoga studio and real estate firm among them) that don’t create a lot of daily foot traffic. Originally, they wanted “that big space upstairs” to host events, and “we have a fantasy of expanding into some of the stores behind us” over the next few years, to include a cafe and more books, she said.

“We’ve had a lot of people come in and say they don’t want to support Amazon and want to do local first, which we really appreciate, obviously,” she noted.

The theme came from Newman’s German husband, as did the fact there’s a shelf of German-language books upstairs. But the original wolperdinger

was not a cuddly creature; Billington described it as “a scary being in the Bavarian forest.”

According to Wikipedia, the first references date to the 17th century and “No two Wolpertinger [sic] look alike because they are supposed [to be] the result of crossbreeding between animals in the area such as foxes, roebucks, hares, ducks, and pheasants.” The concept can be found in various forms around the world, identified as jackalopes in the US southwest, al-miraj in Arabia, and by other names. All of them “might be images of rabbits infected by the Shope papilloma virus, which causes tumors that can resemble horns or antlers,” the webpage states.

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

HINT

continued from page A6

The term ‘cornucopia’ actually dates back to the 5th century BC in the form of two words “cornu Copiae”, which means horn of plenty. The first known English use of the word “cornucopia” was in 1508.

The horn shape represents the spirit of endless supply of giving and sharing.

The Horn of Plenty is sometimes used as part of a Fall Equinox ritual, as it is filled with assorted garden vegetables, fruits, nuts, herbs, etc. to represent thanks for the garden harvest,

The cornucopia was prominently featured in ancient Greek and Roman cultures, symbolizing wealth and nourishment, and was used in various art forms and coinage.

The cornucopia is sometimes depicted in body art as it is a symbol of fertility, fortune and abundance.

Win a Three Course Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

POLICE

continued from page A4

rendered; 4:28 p.m.: residential alarm (Howe Village), service rendered; 5:25 p.m.: animal complaint (Northwest Road), injured horse; 6:05 p.m.: disabled mv (Elm Street), no action required; 9:40 p.m.: suspicious persons (North Street), investigated; 11:52 p.m.: commercial alarm (Mechanic Street), services rendered; (total daily mv stops – 0).

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
12:14-1:41 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:46 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 8:04 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:17 a.m.: suspicious persons (Wall Street), investigated; 9:30 a.m.: animal complaint (Lake Street), c/o zap collar on dog; 9:52 a.m.: mv complaint (Wall Street), c/o red pickup speeding daily; 11:09 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 11:52 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Howe Village), hang-up; 12:05 p.m.: officer wanted (South Street), req. welfare check; 12:31 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 12:35 p.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), assisted; 12:51 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 2:17 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 2:59 p.m.: medical/general (Deer Run Road); 3:03 p.m.: 911 call (Old Meadow Road), accidental; 4:01 p.m.: fire alarm (Howe Village), referred; 4:08 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 4:35 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 5:25 p.m.: fraud (Smithville Road), report taken; 5:44 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), assist East

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THE SMITHS' JOURNEY FROM BAY PATH TO NURSING EXCELLENCE



CHARLTON — When Bobbiejo and Katelyn enrolled at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, both were seeking a new path. What they found, in addition to rigorous training and a shared passion for healing, was a deeper connection to each other and a profound understanding of what it truly means to care. Although both share the last name Smith, they are not related by blood. Today, both are proudly Licensed

Practical Nurses (LPNs), having passed their NCLEX-PN on the very first attempt – a testament to their dedication and Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy's comprehensive program.

Their story is a powerful reminder that while the science and skill of nursing are vital, it's the human element, the quiet strength of kindness, that leaves the most indelible mark.

“What makes nursing so powerful isn't always the science or the skill,” stated Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director. “It's the way kindness leaves a mark long after the moment has passed. The patients may not always remember every word you said, but they'll remember how you made them feel when they were at their most vulnerable. That quiet comfort, that steady calmness. Kindness doesn't fade; it settles quietly in the lives touched, in the moments you've shown up when no one else did.”

Indeed, “showing up when no one else could” seems to be a motto for the Smiths. Katelyn, an alumna of Path Regional Vocational Technical High School's Class of 2018 Cosmetology shop, brings a remarkable background of com-

passion and community involvement to her nursing studies. She holds certifications in Dementia Care, Mental Health First Aid, and Stop The Bleed, and has received training in Domestic Violence awareness. Her dedication to service is demonstrated through her volunteer work at the Charlton Senior Center Blood Pressure Clinic and her receipt of a Random Act of Kindness Award (RAK Foundation). She is an active member of the UNICEF Club and participated in the JAK-L Foundation's Strides for Mental Health event. Katelyn has also been honored with prestigious scholarships, including the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, Inc., and the Greater Worcester Community Foundation's Cynthia & Harrison Taylor Scholarship.

Bobbiejo has pursued a similarly broad range of certifications and volunteer experiences, embodying the same spirit of compassionate care. She is certified in Dementia Care, Mental Health First Aid, and Stop The Bleed, and has completed training in Domestic Violence awareness and Narcan administration. Bobbiejo's academic excellence is highlighted by her induction

into the National Technical Honor Society and her perfect score of 100% on the Medication Calculation Test. She actively participated in numerous Bay Path workshops and events, including Summer Workshops I & II and Accepted Students Night Art Therapy.

Additionally, Bobbiejo advanced her career through the DSW to LPN Certificate Program. Her commitment to community service is reflected in her volunteer work at the Charlton Senior Center Blood Pressure Screenings. Like Katelyn, she was honored with a Random Act of Kindness Award.

The Smiths' shared journey through Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy not only equipped them with the clinical expertise to save lives but also reinforced their belief in the transformative power of human connection. As they embark on their careers as LPNs, they carry with them not just their certifications, but the profound understanding that in nursing, compassion is truly the most powerful medicine. Their success is a shining example to the Bay Path community, illustrating that dedication, kindness, and a commitment to showing up can lead to extraordinary achievements.

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FAIR
continued from page A1

of thousands of visitors through our town each year; and with that growth comes new challenges for safety and traffic flow,” read a statement released by the SPD.

To help keep traffic moving smoothly, police closed Meadow Road westbound from North Spencer Road to Smithville Road during times of peak traffic congestion.

“This traffic and safety plan was reviewed and approved by the Town of Spencer Select Board, the Spencer Fair Association, and the Spencer Police Department,” the statement read. “While our department has a small staffing level, we are proud to continue providing the highest level of safety and service to our community and visitors.”

In addition to local food vendors, crafters, performers, and agricultural exhibitors, the fair also provides a great showcase for students. The David Prouty High School Music Boosters Dunk Tank is a Spencer Fair tradition that guests enjoy each year.

Additionally, the DPHS Senior Booth is another annual highlight that allows guests to support local students.

“The Prouty Senior Booth and the Music Booster Dunk Tank are

two of our bigger fundraisers for our students,” said Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District Superintendent Paul Haughey. “The Senior Booth has provided good food for many years at the Spencer Fair, acting as a fundraiser and source of revenue for the class to cover the costs of the activities they participate in. The same holds true for the Music Booster Dunk Tank. It is a fundraiser that allows our student musicians to cover the costs of activities throughout the year that they might not normally have the opportunity to participate in, and provides them with the essentials they need along the way.”

School officials thank fair organizers and guests for their support each year.

“We value the partnership and support of the Spencer Agricultural Association and the fairgrounds. Moreover, we appreciate the fairgoers who come out and spend time with our students during the holiday weekend with their patronage each Labor Day weekend,” Haughey added.

Students enjoyed having some special guests take part in their activities this year.

“We dunked some National Guard soldiers and Pirate Dan. It was a great addition to the fair and really brought energy around us. We

LILLEY
continued from page A1

school administration whenever they can. You don’t see that everywhere.”

Lilley took full advantage of opportunities to meet students, staff members, and families over the summer. She is looking forward to meeting even more community members as the school year progresses.

“I got to meet some of the kids at our summer programs, and now we have started school, so everyone is back and jumping in with two feet,” Lilley said. “The kids have been just as welcoming as the adults I met over the summer. I even got a, ‘Hi, Ms. Lilley,’ shouted to me when I was pumping gas after just the first day of school. I love it.”

Looking ahead, Lilley is eager to learn more about the school community and work with her team to augment programs.

“This school district has spent the last five or so years implementing a new Reading/ELA curriculum, Wonders, that is consistent between both elementary schools,” Lilley explained. “They’ve already made some great strides in that area, and have a literacy plan in place for this year already.”

Additionally, the district is adopting a new math curriculum, Envisions, across both WBES and its sister school in Warren. School leaders are focused on launching the program and building on its success.

Activity-wise, school leaders are finishing up the fundraising process for the installation of an inclusive early child-

hood playground. “The old early childhood playground was no longer safe and was removed,” Lilley said. “All of the equipment has already been purchased, and we are just working on funding the cost of a poured rubber underlayment, some

gravel, and concrete for installation.”

The poured rubber underlayment (as opposed to mulch) is the part of the playground that allows easier access for students with mobility issues. Officials have approximately \$48,000 to raise for the project, and

community donations are welcome.

Away from work, Lilley enjoys spending time with her husband, son, stepson, and stepdaughter, as well as two cats and a five-month-old puppy. She also loves reading mysteries and gardening.

Friday's Child



Jaiden
Age 11
Registration #9212

Jaiden is a sweet, loving, and happy young person whose smile can light up any room! He’s a big fan of Disney adventures—whether he’s singing along to Moana or cheering on Tarzan’s jungle swings, he’s completely in his element. Jaiden has a bold side when it comes to food, happily diving into spicy flavors and never missing a Taco Tuesday. Social and friendly, he loves spending time with friends and family, but he also enjoys having quiet moments to relax and recharge. With his caring heart, fun-loving spirit, and zest for life, Jaiden is a joy to be around.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/25964365697>

Can I Adopt?

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

The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with. To learn more about adoption from foster care visit www.mareinc.org. Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster care.



NEW HOPE
continued from page A1

live in.”

School officials thank the Project New Hope team for their support of local students and their families.

“Once again, our community steps up to support our students and our schools,” said Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Brett Kustigian. “I am incredibly grateful to Bill Moore and Project New Hope for helping our students get school supplies. Their generosity is deeply appreciated.”

Founded in 2010, Project New Hope, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Worcester and Westfield. The organization provides free services to veterans, active service members, and their families.

Services offered by the organization include wellness and healing retreats; access to Sully’s Veterans Food and Baby Pantry; farmers’ markets; emergency assistance; and peer support programs.

“With 93 percent of every dollar going directly into programs, Project New Hope ensures that support reaches those who need it most,” read the statement released by the organization.

To learn more about Project New Hope, Inc., or to make a donation to support programs across the community, please visit: www.projectnewhopema.org.

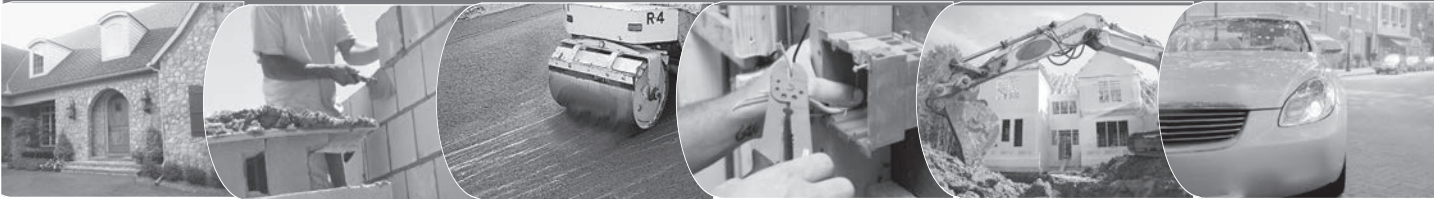
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BOY SCOUT TROOP 273 FALL YARD SALE
Saturday, September 20th

Universal Tag Parking Lot, 36 Hall Road, Dudley
Early Birds (8am to 9am) \$10.00 per person fee
9am until 3pm FREE We accept CREDIT CARDS!
24,000 sq.ft. of yard sale items ONE DAY ONLY
Pick your items and Make an offer!

Grouped Items: Electronics - stereos, speakers, etc. (no TV's) Tools - hand tools, lights, flooring etc.. Furniture - Tables, chairs, bed frames, cabinets, hutches, etc.. Housewares - glassware, dishes, pictures, mirrors, bowls, cups, small appliances **Sporting goods** - Bikes, skis, baseball equipment, golf, exercise equipment **Clothes** - shirts, pants, jackets, shoes, bags **Kids toys** and baby items - high chairs, bouncy, games, Antiques

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LEGALS

Notice of Special Public Hearing East Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals

This Zoning Board hearing will take place at the East Brookfield Memorial Town Complex, 122 Connie Mack Drive, East Brookfield, MA on Wednesday, September 17th, 2025. Hearing will commence at 6:00PM or soon thereafter as can be heard. Interested parties can attend in person.
Applicant: Robin M. Gagne., owner of the property at 204 Stone Road, East Brookfield, MA.
The applicant is requesting a “Special Permit” and
“Finding” for the removal of an existing structure and construction of a new structure on a non-conforming lot as outlined in the East Brookfield Zoning Bylaws. This hearing will determine if the proposed new structure is not more detrimental to the neighborhood in which it will be located. Additionally, this hearing will determine if this structure does not endanger the health and safety of the occupants in a designated floor plain.
September 5, 2025
September 12, 2025

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 40 School Street, Spencer, MA 01562
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Ralph Kirouac and Amy Kirouac to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, and now held by **Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC**, said mortgage dated September 11, 2019 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 61031, Page 66, as affected by a Loan Modification dated September 28, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 66545, Page 176; as affected by a Loan Modification dated June 28, 2023 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69482, Page 364; as affected by a Loan Modification dated May 16, 2024 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 70649, Page 3; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC by assignment dated February 18, 2020 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 61991, Page 369; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on October 9, 2025 at 12:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:
Certain tracts or parcels of land with the buildings thereon, situated in Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts, and with exception hereinafter mentioned, bounded and described as follows: The land in said Spencer, with the buildings thereon, situated on the east side of School Street, being a lot about one hundred and ten (110) feet wide on said street and one hundred and fifty-six and two-thirds (156 & 2/3) feet deep, and is the same premises that were conveyed to Treffle Lareau, Jr., by Clovis Duverger by Deed dated March 30, 1909, and recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 1903, Page 157. Also another tract of land, situated on the east side of said School Street, northerly of and adjoining the first described tract, being a lot about one hundred and sixty-five (165) feet wide on said street and one hundred and fifty-six and two-thirds (156 & 2/3) feet deep and is the same tract that was conveyed to Treffle Lareau, Jr. by Deed from Moses Nolan, dated August 18, 1910, and recorded with said Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 3074, Page 135, with conditions to maintain fences as therein mentioned. Excepting and reserving, however, from said above descriptions a part of said described lands heretofore sold and conveyed by Grantors to Francis John Madelle, sometimes called Francis J. Madelle, Jr. and Irene B. Madelle by Deed dated February 17, 1951, recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 3319, Page 163 and described as follows, to wit: The land in said Spencer on the easterly side of School Street and further described as follows: BEGINNING at the northwest corner of land now or formerly of Grantors at said School Street; THENCE Southeasterly one hundred and fifty-six and six tenths (156.6) feet by land of other owners to a point; THENCE Southerly, parallel or about parallel to said School Street, one hundred and nineteen and seven-tenths

(119.7) feet by land of other owners to land now or formerly of Grantors; THENCE Westerly one hundred and forty-eight and five tenths (148.5) feet by a line at right angles to said School Street and by other land now or formerly of Grantors to said School Street; THENCE Northerly one hundred and sixty-nine and eight -tenths (169.8) feet by said School Street to the point of beginning.
The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.
For Mortgagor’s Title see deed dated September 11, 2019 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 61031, Page 63.
TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.
FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00)
Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.
Other terms to be announced at the sale.
Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701
September 5, 2025
September 12, 2025
September 19, 2025

The North Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing meeting on Monday Oct 6, 2025, at 6:00pm at the Senior Center, 29 Forest St., North Brookfield, MA. Kenneth Hodge 49 Shore Road is requesting a Special permit as prescribed in section VI B 4 of the Zoning Bylaws for replacement of a garage. The proposed garage replacement will not meet the front and side setbacks in the R30 zone. The Special Permit is for expansion of a nonconforming structure. A copy of the application is available at the Town Clerk’s Office at 215 North Main St, North Brookfield, MA.
September 5, 2025
September 12, 2025

**Town of Spencer
Conservation Commission
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**
In accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, MGL c. 131, s. 40 and the Spencer Wetlands By-Law:
Laura Ernst of New England Power Company has filed an Amended Order of Conditions with the Spencer Conservation Commission for soil borings located at **T20 Transmission Line (ROW) between Meadow Road and William Casey Road**, Spencer, MA.
J Hoff Properties LLC has filed an **NOI** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to remove dead trees & reconstruct a collapsed swale located at **57 Jolicoeur Avenue**, Spencer, MA. Applications can be reviewed at the Office of Development and Inspectional Services, Town Hall. A public hearing regarding these filings will be held by the Spencer Conservation Commission in McCourt Social Hall at Town Hall, 157 Main Street, on Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at which time all persons having an interest may be present or call in remotely to participate. Conservation Commission meetings open at 6:15 p.m.
Mary McLaughlin
Mary McLaughlin, Chairwoman
September 12, 2025

**Docket No. WO25E0040PP
Petition to Partition Citation (A.C.92A)**
**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Worcester Probate & Family Court**
To April Carlson and to all other interested persons.
A petition has been presented to said Court by Andrew Edmund Wall of Spencer in the County of Worcester representing that he hold as tenant in common undivided part or share of certain land lying in Spencer in said County Worcester and briefly described as follows:
See Attached setting forth that he/she desire that all the aforesaid described part of said land may be sold at private sale for not less than seven hundred and fifty thousand (750,000) dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be ap-

pointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof.
If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Worcester before ten o’clock in the forenoon on the twenty-first day of October the return date of this citation.
Witness, LEILAH A. KEAMY, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this fourth day of September 2025.
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
September 12, 2025
September 19, 2025
September 26,2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508)831-2200
Docket No. WO25C0454CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME**
In the matter of:
**Kane Vladmir Gaetjena Jeanty
A Petition to Change Name of Adult**
has been filed by
Kane Vladmir Gaetjena Jeanty of Spencer MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: **Eevee Lynn Stars**
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10 a.m. on the return day of 09/23/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Lellah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 20, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
September 12, 2025

**Town of Brookfield
Board of Health
Public Hearing**
In accordance with provisions of G.L. c.111, §31, the Board of Health will hold a Public Hearing at the Brookfield Town Hall, Banquet Room, at 6 Central Street in Brookfield on September 24th at 6:45p.m. to review and hear comments relative to a proposed local regulation entitled “Regulations for Private Wells”. This regulation is intended to protect public health and the environment by, among other things, requiring the proper siting, constructing and testing of private wells. The proposed regulation can be reviewed by contacting the Brookfield Board of Health at (508) 867-2930 extension 22 and may be found at www.mytowngovernment.org/01506 under Board of Health. Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this proposed regulation should appear at the time and place designated.
September 12, 2025

**Town of Brookfield
Board of Health
Public Hearing**
In accordance with provisions of G.L. c.111, §31, the Board of Health will hold a Public Hearing at the Brookfield Town Hall, Banquet Room, at 6 Central Street in Brookfield on September 24th at 6:30p.m. to review and hear comments relative to a proposed local regulation entitled “Rules and Regulations for Removal, Transport, and Disposal of Solid Waste or Recyclables in the Town of Brookfield”. This regulation is intended to protect public health and the environment and ensure that all private haulers collecting solid waste and recyclables are in compliance with Massachusetts waste ban regulations under 310 CMR 19.017, including mandatory separation of recyclables from the solid waste stream, and to ensure that all private haulers uniformly comply with permit requirements established by the town. The proposed regulation can be reviewed by contacting the Brookfield Board of Health at (508) 867-2930 extension 22 and may be found at www.mytowngovernment.org/01506 under the Board of Health. Any person interested or wishing to be heard on this proposed regulation should appear at the time and place designated.
September 12, 2025

**Town of Spencer
Conservation Commission
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**
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Mary McLaughlin
Mary McLaughlin, Chairwoman
September 12, 2025

To the owners of the hereinafter described parcels of LAND situated in the Town of Leicester in the County of Worcester and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to all concerned: You are hereby notified that on Monday, September 29, 2025 at 10:00 AM local time in Leicester Town Hall, 3 Washburn Square, Leicester, MA 01524 in the gymnasium, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 60, Sec 52 and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Treasurer, it is my intention to assign and transfer the Tax Title held by the Town of Leicester covering the following described parcel to the highest bidder at public auction, for all taxes thereon with interest and all necessary and intervening charges of any balance of said taxes, unless the same has been paid in full before that date. The minimum bid for the unit will be the aggregate amount of taxes, interest and fees due on the account for the property that remains on the list below on the day of the Auction. In the event there are multiple parties bidding the same price, the bidding will go up in increments of \$1,000.00. All Bidders must pre-register by Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at 2:00 PM. To pre-register, please call the Treasurer’s Office at 508-892-7004. Rules of sale will be available at the Office of the Treasurer.
Honeyman Alexander T. located at 57 BURNCOAT LN in Leicester, MA, containing 0.093 Acres of Land and recorded at the Worcester Registry of Deeds- Book/Page 66497/19.
Minimum Bid: \$12,145.54
Honeyman Alexander T. located at BURNCOAT LN in Leicester, MA, containing 0.107 Acres of Land and recorded at the Worcester Registry of Deeds- Book/Page 66497/19.
Minimum Bid: \$1,120.39
September 12, 2025

{SEAL}
**COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL
COURT
Docket No. 25 SM 002577
ORDER OF NOTICE**
TO:
Scott A. Davis
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (*et seq*):
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in **Spencer, numbered 80 Clark Road**, given by **Scott A. Davis to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Gateway Funding Diversified Mortgage Services L.P., its successors and assigns, dated February 26, 2010, and recorded in Worcester County {Worcester District} Registry of Deeds in Book 45508, Page 227, as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated January 27, 2016, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 55073, Page 362, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant’s/ Defendants’ Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before 10/20/2025 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.
Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 08/27/2025
Attest:
A TRUE COPY ATTEST:
Deborah J. Patterson Recorder
September 12, 2025**

Rachel Myers named to BJU Concert Choir

GREENVILLE, S.C. — Rachel Myers, a resident of East Brookfield, was named to Bob Jones University's Concert Choir. Myers is a Sophomore majoring in Music. The Concert Choir is one of BJU's upper-level choirs comprised primarily of juniors and seniors. Auditions are held for new members every August and January before the start of each semester.

The choral artistry of the BJU Concert Choir is intended to nurture spiritual reflection in the hearts and minds of both the performers and the audience.

The Concert Choir will be performing Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. in War Memorial Chapel on BJU campus.

Located in Greenville, S.C., Bob Jones University provides an outstanding regionally accredited Christian liberal arts education purposely designed to inspire a lifelong pursuit of learning, loving and leading.

BJU offers more than 100 undergraduate and graduate programs in religion, education, fine arts and communication, arts and science, health professions, and business.

BJU has more than 2,700 students from nearly every state and 36 countries. We are committed to the truth of Scripture and to pursuing excellence in all we do.

Open House planned at Pine Grove Cemetery

SPENCER — The Spencer Pine Grove Cemetery's board, staff and volunteers hope you will join us for our Open House on Saturday, Sept. 27 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Learn about the cemetery's history through a Nature Walk, enjoy a demonstration about cleaning our oldest stones and witness how to repair fallen headstones. Most of all enjoy the beauty and peace of this lovely resting place for those we honor.

Refreshments will be provided and there will be a Question and Answer period at the end of the formal program.

Questions about the event? Please call 508-635-7733.

We are now on Facebook. Rain date, if needed, will be posted there as well as at the cemetery.



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2-FAMILY offers 2,354 SF of living area! 2 Large Apartments, 5 Spacious Rms, 2 BRs, 1 Bath each. Beautiful grand front entry foyer with the charm of yesteryear! double French doors & other unique features. Plenty of Natural light that flows into these apartments! 2nd flr apt has a private enclosed rear entry with it's own outside covered porch. Updates were done to electric & roof to accommodate Solar Panels. Property was family occupied **\$415,000.**

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

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634 OXFORD ST S
OPEN HOUSE! SAT. 11-1 / SUN. 11-1



CHARMING 1930s Era Farm House w/Farmer's Porch, Offering all the Upgrades & Amenities of a Newer Home! Features: 1573 SF+-, 8 Rooms, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, a Main BR Suite w/Private Bath & walk-in closet, Updated Harvey Replacement Windows, Roof, Vinyl Siding, Plumbing, Electric, FHA Furnace by Propane Heating, Central AC, Well & More! 11'x12' Rear Deck & 12'x50' Paver Block Patio. 1 car garage under. All on an Acre of Land with 158' Frontage **\$499,000**

Snug Harbor Villa!
WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT
SUNDAY OPEN HOUSE 11-2



WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT LIVING AT IT'S FINEST! ** THE VILLA'S at SNUG HARBOR! ** END UNIT IS TRULY A RARE FIND! ONE OF ONLY 6 UNITS > Custom Built THIS 4000+- SF w/Special Features & Upgrades. Offers 4 BRs - 3 are Primary BR Suites w/private baths, 4-1/2 Baths Total!! The Outstanding direct lakefront location provides exceptional Southern panoramic views across Middle Pond, a boat dock, & full recreation activities like swimming, fishing, kayaking, paddle boarding - - whatever Floats Your Boat :-) ! Perfect setup for entertaining family, friends & guests! Enjoy All 4 Spectacular Seasons! It's more than a home - it's a Life Style! **NEW PRICE \$1,050,000****



WEBSTER - 24 COOPER RD

NEW CONSTRUCTION Craftsman Style Home! Tucked away on Cooper Rd. Webster Lake w/Access at Lakeside Beach/ Boat Ramp. 3rd of 4 Homes being built at this Site. Offers 2,155 SF+- of Living Area, 7 Rms, 4 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 9' Ceilings. Wood Flooring Throughout w/Ceramic Tile Floors in the Baths. Spacious Main BR Suite w/Walk-in Closet & Private Full Bath, Double-Sink Vanity! Lower level walkout w/Slider. Basement-rough plumbed Central AC! Garage. **\$649,900.**

WEBSTER- 4 PERRYVILLE RD

Hip Roof ranch! Move In Ready. Updated Kitchen. Formal Dining Rm, Living Rm.(18x13) Great Rm. 3+ BRs & full updated Bath w/Tub. Hardwood floors. Fireplace. Quality Owens-Corning finished basement system. 3 large LL rooms & 2nd Full Bath, kitchen area w/cabinets & refrigerator. Morton Barn Style Garage .39 acre **\$435,000**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagamaugg

Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!



Panoramic View, from this absolutely lovely home. 2600 +/- SF, 3+ Beds, 2 full baths, 2 car detached garage! 63' +/- waterfront.. .37 Acres! Sandy Waterfront! **\$1,100,000**

Webster Lake - 53 Colonial Rd



WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT! JUST SIMPLY AN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY! OVER 31,000 SQ FT OF LAND! Summer Cottage on 9482 SF of land.. assisted sale **\$1,199,900**

Webster Lake Waterfront 8 Long Island

Beautifully Updated Circa 1890s Classic Antique Island Cottage, with Rare Boat House Included! Extremely Unique, Clean & Well Maintained, Modern Conveniences w/the Charm of Yesteryear! 1,240 SF, 6 Rms, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, Hardwood Floors! Fireplace w/Wood Pellet Stove, Wrap-Around Screened Porch, Lg Outbuilding w/Full Bath/Shower/Laundry & Workshop, Petrol Town Wtr/Swr + Private Well for Outdoor &/or Off-Season Water Use! 14,300 SF+- Level Lot w/105+ of Shoreline. **\$995,000**

SORRY, SOLD!
WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT!
15 CEDAR POINT RD

100+/- feet of Pristine, Sandy Shoreline! Boasting 6 Large rooms, 2 Baths, 3 Bedrooms, Garage. All on a Private road **\$1,000,000**

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DA's Outreach Team holds event in Leicester



Members of the Worcester County District Attorney's Office greet guests at an event in Leicester.

LEICESTER — Members of the Worcester County District Attorney's Office recently attended an event in town to raise awareness and offer resources. The DA's Outreach Team ran a resource table at the Leicester Regional Public Health Coalition's annual Health Fair. "This event provided screenings, and vendors focused on fitness and healthiness," read a statement released by the DA's Office. "Thank you to all the vendors that made this a great event."

Fulfilling a father's promise



Over the next seven years, Miriam gained invaluable hands-on experience in healthcare. She worked as a CNA at facilities such as CareOne at Millbury and St. Mary's Healthcare, and as a PCA II in the oncology unit at UMass Memorial Hospital. She further developed her skills as a Mobile Phlebotomist for Quest Diagnostics.

In August 2024, determined to honor her father's dream, Miriam enrolled in the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. Her clinical rotations took her to Quaboag Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center and Life Care Centers of America in Auburn. There, she sharpened her skills in patient assessment, medication administration, and complex nursing procedures.

Miriam's time at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy was marked by an extraordinary level of dedication. She received her certifications in Dementia Care, Mental Health First Aid, and Stop the Bleed, while also receiving training in domestic violence awareness. Her leadership was equally notable—she organized a Sleep Awareness Night, volunteered on the Graduation Committee, and was elected and served as the Lead Reader for the Practical Nursing Pledge at the Class of 2025 Graduation and Pinning Ceremony. She also gave back to her community by volunteering at the Charlton Senior Center's Blood Pressure Clinic.

Her efforts were widely recognized. Miriam was awarded a MassHire Grant to support her studies and received the Random Act of Kindness Award. She was also nominated for the prestigious Dr. Adelina Healy Clinical Excellence Award—a reflection of her compassion, professionalism, and academic performance.

BAY PATH ALUM JOURNEYS FROM GHANA TO LPN

CHARLTON — For Miriam Botuo, becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) at The Meadows is more than a professional milestone—it is the fulfillment of a promise and the continuation of a legacy rooted in love, perseverance, and the unwavering faith of her late father.

Botuo began her new role as an LPN on September 4, 2025. She dedicates this achievement to her father, Mr. Gabriel Botuo, who passed away in March 2024. His belief in her potential served as a guiding light throughout her journey.

"My dad always told me, 'You will be a nurse,'" Buoto recalls. "Even on his sickbed, he told the hospital staff, 'My daughter will soon be a nurse.'"

From Ghana to the United States
Miriam's path to nursing began on Sept. 7, 2017, when she arrived in the United States from Osino, a town in Ghana's Eastern Region. The second of three children of Mr. Gabriel Botuo and Madam Stella Oppong Afrakomah—a retired Headmistress—Miriam was placed on a trajectory toward success from the very beginning. Her father enrolled her at The Fieldstone School, where she became a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). With the support of a scholarship from Workforce Central, she also earned certifications as an EKG Technician and a Phlebotomy Technician.

A journey of dedication and growth

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