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Friday, October 21, 2022

## Leicester's Butler a true leader, excelling in school, sports and community service



Courtesy photo

Leicester's Alexa Butler has excelled in school, sports, and community service.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
 NEWS STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — A Leicester Middle School eighth grader is serving as a leader in the classroom, on the playing field, and in her community.

Alexa Butler, who plays soccer for the 2027 Leicester Middle School Wolverines girls' team and the MA Young Lady Gunners, was voted to serve as captain for both teams. She is one of two captains for the LMS Wolverines.

"I was voted captain for two of my soccer

teams after having come back from a broken arm last year. I am proud of seeing my improvement in confidence over the past few years as well," Butler said.

In addition to becoming one of the leading scorers on both of her teams, Butler also plays on the U14 Spencer boys' team, which is currently undefeated.

Butler also competes in track and field for the LHS team. Last year, as a seventh grader,

Turn To **BUTLER**, page **A15**

## Worcester County DA Early donates to Prouty Music Association

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
 NEWS STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr., recently visited David Prouty High School to show his support for the music program.

On Oct. 4, surrounded by appreciative DPHS students and staff, DA Early presented a \$2,500 donation to the Prouty Music Association.

School officials thank Early for his support of student-musicians as they look forward to a promising year.

"We could not be more excited to use this money to better the education of many students, not only now but in the future," said DPHS Principal Nathaniel Malone. "The Prouty Music Association met and discussed what an amazing opportunity this would be for David Prouty High School's thriving music program."

The DA and his team are always thrilled to support local schools and their programming. With districts fac-

ing tight budgets each year, community donations go a long way toward bolstering extracurricular programs.

"We are excited to support the Prouty Music Association. They are diligently working to build a team of talented students, and we hope our funds help them purchase the new instruments they need to have a great season," read a statement released by DA Early's office.

DPHS leaders, including band director Kelsey Grey, decided that the best use for the funds was a new instrument. And since Prouty's baritone saxophone is over 25 years old — worn down from frequent use by the school's Concert Band, Jazz Band, and Marching Band — the DA's grant funding provided the perfect opportunity for a replacement.

Currently, the baritone saxophone is used by three students and often needs repairs, school officials said.

Turn To **MUSIC**, page **A3**

## Giguere, Discovery School House team up with Leicester Fire for fun safety event

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
 NEWS STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Giguere Gymnastics and Discovery School House recently teamed up with the fire department to provide a fun, educational fire safety event for kids.

On Oct. 7, the local business leaders and the fire department led a program in Cherry Valley for preschool students. A series of hands-on activities and demonstrations intro-

duced youngsters to fire vehicles and firefighting equipment.

Event organizers said the program also served as a great way to help kids feel more comfortable around first responders.

"Leicester firefighters always love coming out to schools, daycares, and public outings to spread the word about fire safety," said Leicester Fire Captain Ryan

Plante. "It's so important that our kids realize that emergency providers aren't big scary figures. Many are moms, dads, and grandparents — and they have made it their job to help people in need."

Bella Connery, who serves as the preschool gymnastics director at Giguere Gymnastics, was thrilled to organize an event that combined education, fun, and family activities.

"The smiles across the kids' faces as the fire truck arrived were so contagious. The energy that Firefighter Ryan Plante brought was very engaging and educational," Connery said. "The kids were so excited to learn all about his tools and see all the ins and outs of Fire Engine 2."

Local first responders and community business leaders have enjoyed opportunities this year to reconnect with families and seniors. Over the past two years, pandemic restrictions have made it difficult to host in-person educational and safety events.

During the Oct. 7 program, local kids were even able to put on some of the firefighting

Turn To **FIRE SAFETY**, page **A6**



Courtesy photos

Local kids recently enjoyed a fire safety event in Leicester.



Courtesy photo

Guests discuss housing options and opportunities during a recent public forum in Spencer.

## Spencer continues steps toward housing production plan

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
 NEWS STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — Following a recent community forum, officials continue to take steps toward crafting a housing production plan.

Town officials are working with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) to put together the housing production plan. The latest major step in the multifaceted process involved gathering community input during a Sept. 21 public forum.

"The Commonwealth has a requirement that all communities have at least 10% of their housing stock be considered affordable. This housing production plan will provide the town a roadmap for achieving that goal in a planned and community-driven way," said Town Administrator Jeffrey Bridges.

Several residents and town staff members attended the public forum to offer their suggestions. Throughout the process of creating the plan, officials have placed an emphasis

on including as many community stakeholders as possible.

"Input from the forum helps inform the town's housing production plan, which is now being developed by CMRPC and the Spencer Housing Production Plan Committee," said Emily Glaubtitz, a principal planner with the CMRPC.

During the public forum, Glaubtitz delivered a presentation on Chapter 40B of Massachusetts General Laws, which contains the state mandates pertaining to affordable housing.

"Spencer has not met the 10% affordable housing threshold mandated by Chapter 40B," Glaubtitz told the New Leader. "Currently, 6.1% of the town's housing stock is deed-restricted as affordable to households earning 80% or less of the Area Median Income. Therefore, the town needs to take steps to gradually create more affordable housing."

At the public forum, Glaubtitz also discussed qualification

Turn To **HOUSING**, page **A2**

## Safety taught at Spencer Fire Department's open house

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
 NEWS STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — Local kids and their families learned all about fire safety last weekend during the fire department's annual open house.

The Oct. 16 program included a pancake breakfast, a bake sale, and a tour of the fire station and its equipment. Guests learned about the importance

of making fire safety a priority at home and work.

Additionally, guests were able to see the Life Flight helicopter in action. Meanwhile, Remy, a

Turn To **OPEN HOUSE**, page **A10**

Kevin Flanders photos

Amora Medina, right, and Nevaeh Balsemer enjoy their day at the fire department's open house.



# Educating nurse educators at Fall conference

WORCESTER — Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy faculty Virginia Dockstader, BSN, RN, Sarah Watson, MSN Ed, RN, Sarah Grant, MBA, MSN, RN, Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, and Cheryl Cahill, MSN Ed, RN, completed the MARILN (Massachusetts Rhode Island League for Nursing) Fall conference at the College of the Holy Cross. The conference, "Finding Our Joy in Teaching" focused on the value of being explicit about our values, working with multigenerational teams, and implementing fair and just culture in nursing education with speaker Gerry Altmiller, EdD, APRN, ACNS-BC, ANEF, FAAN, Professor of Nursing, Director Quality and Safety Innovation Center at the College of New Jersey.

The purpose of the program was to assist participants to reconnect their values to purpose in their work. Emphasis was focused on strategies to 1) engage people in the work of health-care professions and education, 2) create stronger work connections in multigenerational work teams, and 3) build a fair and just culture in the academic environments to ensure fair and just culture in the practice settings.

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy runs a 40-week, (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. The Bay Path Practical



Courtesy photo

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy faculty, seated from left, Virginia Dockstader, BSN, RN, Sarah Watson, MSN Ed, RN, Sarah Grant, MBA, MSN, RN, standing Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, and Cheryl Cahill, MSN Ed, RN, completed the MARILN (Massachusetts Rhode Island League for Nursing) Fall conference at the College of the Holy Cross.

## HOUSING

continued from page A1

requirements for affordable housing, as well as data on Spencer's population demographics and housing characteristics. The results of the recently issued community survey were also made available for discussion, and residents learned more about various options for fulfilling the town's housing needs.

Following the presentation, forum participants assembled small groups for

additional discussion activities. Each group was provided a map of the town and then discussed which types of housing would be most suitable in certain areas.

"Participants discussed the benefits and drawbacks of housing, such as cottage housing communities, mixed use residential/commercial, small-scale apartments, accessory dwelling units, and more," Glaubitz said.

For those who were unable to attend the public forum, there is still an opportunity to have your voice heard. A survey

Nursing Academy is fully approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Health and Human Services Department of Public Health, Board of Registration in Nursing

(www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn). The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is accredited by the Commission on Occupational Education (www.council.org).

on the types of housing you would like to see in Spencer in the future is available online. For more information on how to access the survey, send an email to eglaubitz@cmrpc.org.

Looking ahead, input received from the community will assist Spencer's Housing Production Plan Committee as it develops recommendations to be included in the final plan.

"Once this housing production plan is complete, the town will move forward on an overall update to the town's Master Plan, which will include the product of

the housing planning process, as well as the new Open Space and Recreation Plan approved in 2021," Bridges said.

A housing production plan is a tool that helps municipal leaders to better understand local housing needs and demands, in addition to development constraints and opportunities. It creates a vision for future affordable housing, officials said.

To learn more about Spencer's process of creating the plan, contact Glaubitz via email.

OCTOBER

# NATIONAL PHYSICAL THERAPY MONTH

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## Reap the benefits of physical therapy

Injuries have the potential to sideline people for weeks, months or permanently. Injury to the body can occur when participating in organized sports, fitness regimens or even after being in an accident.

Recovering from incidents that can impact mobility and range of motion takes time, but physical therapy can help the body acclimate to regular activity once more. Physical therapy also can help healthy people as well.

Those who have suffered a sprain or a broken bone or even spent a duration of time immobile in the hospital due to an illness are often prescribed physical therapy as part of their follow-up treatment. Physical therapy programs

try to progressively increase strength, improve mobility and help the body return to a state where it can function as best as possible. In many cases, a person can regain his or her original capabilities.

According to the American Physical Therapy Association, a physical therapist is a trained and licensed medical professional who has the experience to diagnose physical abnormalities, restore physical function and mobility, maintain that function, and promote proper form for future activity. Physical therapy sessions can take place in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, fitness settings, private practices, and much more. Not only can physical therapists

react to and treat an injury, but they can also teach exercises, stretches and techniques to help prevent problems in the first place. Experts at Bay State Physical Therapy indicate that physical therapy extends beyond disabled or injured people. Physical therapists can educate a person on weaknesses in the body and can guide correction on poor body mechanics that cause pain. This way a person can make changes to prevent future pain and injury. Rather than being reactionary, healthy individuals can take a proactive approach to avoiding pain and injury.

When one opts for physical therapy, he or she may:

- undergo a physical exam and evaluation of pain, movement, flexibility, and performance
- receive a clinical diagnosis and plan of care
- establish long-term goals

• participate in physical therapy treatment, which may include stretching, movement and weight-bearing activities based on the therapist's guidance

• be given at-home work to further progress in between sessions.

While physical therapy can be used for recovery from strokes or paralysis, injuries, trauma, and musculoskeletal conditions, it also benefits healthy people. For example, women can use physical therapy to learn exercises that may prevent pelvic floor dysfunction. In addition, physical therapy can teach people how to improve their balance and prevent falls.

When people hear about physical therapy, they tend to think it is for people with injuries. While physical therapists can help heal injured parts of the body, physical therapy continues to evolve to assist with overall wellness.

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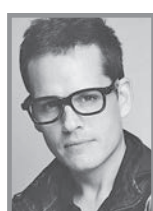
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# The Hidden Messages in Water

Japanese Dr. Masaru Emoto, who passed away in 2014, wrote a book that became a New York Times best-seller, 'The Hidden Messages in Water.'



POSITIVELY SPEAKING  
**TOBY MOORE**

Dr. Emoto spent many years researching water, and in his book, he shares his findings on studying frozen water.

Dr. Emoto wanted to study water crystals. Water crystal formations occur during the process of water turning into ice. The water crystals appear just like a snowflake when examined under a microscope.

His fascination with water crystals caused him to develop a series of experiments to determine whether humans can influence water crystal development.

Critics of Dr. Emoto say he is a pseudoscientist and uses a poor methodology. While that could be true, his book is a New York Times best-seller, the pictures of the water crystals in the book are somewhat famous, and the topic itself is worthy of exploration in a column such as this.

Dr. Emoto, and his team, first collected water samples from many different sources to use in their study.

When it came time to study a new sample, the researchers placed several drops of water on dozens of Petri dishes and then put them in the freezer for about three hours.

Once the water was frozen, they examined the samples under a microscope. A small percentage of the samples studied had observable water crystals.

What he discovered was very interesting. Some of the frozen water sam-

ples contained beautiful hexagonal crystal structures; other water samples had no crystals at all, or the crystals appeared to be malformed.

After documenting different types of water crystals formed in frozen samples, Dr. Emoto set out to study the possible effect humans may have on water crystal development.

First, he wanted to see what would happen to the crystal development when he exposed the water to music. To understand if music affected water crystals, Dr. Emoto tested the water before and after exposing water to music.

The study not only showed the crystal structures changed when Dr. Emoto exposed the water to music but that the type of music mattered. Water crystals exposed to Mozart were much more beautiful and geometrically complex than crystals exposed to heavy metal music, which seemed to be distorted or nonexistent.

Inspired by the results of the studies, Dr. Emoto began another experiment to discover how the water crystals changed when people spoke to the water.

The first water samples were exposed to a person gratefully telling the water, "Thank You." The results were beautiful crystals.

Other samples were exposed to somebody angrily telling the water, "You Fool!" or, "You make me sick!"

The results were distorted crystal formations that participants described as ugly and unhealthy. The experiment concluded that words have power over

how water crystals form.

Dr. Emoto theorizes that music, sound, and our words have a vibrational frequency that can subtly influence the formation of water crystals.

The documentary states, "Beautiful words manifest as beautiful crystals; gentle words cause the formation of gentle crystals. Water is letting us know the power of our words."

In Dr. Emoto's water studies, Tokyo's public water had never produced any observable crystals.

In his final study, Dr. Emoto wanted to understand what would happen if they exposed Tokyo public water, which had never produced crystals, to the positive thoughts of a group of children and adults.

The study participants arrived, were instructed to hold hands, and collectively directed positive thoughts to the water. Once finished, they transferred the water to Petri dishes, froze the samples, and put them under a microscope to see if they could find crystals.

Astonishingly the water from Tokyo displayed beautiful crystals inside most of the samples. If the study is correct, it would appear that even our thoughts can affect water crystal formation.

You'll have to read the book or watch the documentary 'The Hidden Messages in Water' to decide whether you think the study has validity or is just pseudoscience.

Considering that our bodies are composed of about 60% water, it may be worth a look.

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

## ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

If you find a mistake, call (508) 909-4140 during normal business hours. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor's voice mailbox. The editor will return your phone call.



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## MUSIC

continued from page A1

Several Prouty students met the DA on Oct. 4 during the check presentation. The Prouty community looks forward to seeing the funds used to augment the school's lineup of musical equipment.

"Our music department strives to bet-

ter the community and bring the love of music beyond the building," Principal Malone added.

Prouty's music students can often be seen at community performances throughout town each year, including parades and other functions.

To learn more about the DA's efforts to support schools throughout the county, visit [www.WorcesterDA.com](http://www.WorcesterDA.com).



Courtesy photo

Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr., makes a donation in support of the David Prouty High School music program.

**THE NEWS**

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Buster came to the shelter as a stray from a local town. He has never shown any aggression, but he was very shy initially. Buster is still shy, but the shelter staff can pet him now (which we think he actually likes). His favorite time of the day is canned food time and that is when we try to interact with him to earn his trust. He is a very handsome tuxedo young male. He is great with the other cats so he would make a wonderful companion for another cat. We are hoping someone will give this shy boy a home.

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**PERSON of the WEEK**

ALEXA BUTLER, Leicester, MA  
Leicester Middle School

Alexa is being recognized for all that she is accomplishing as an 8th grader at Leicester Middle School. She is a NHS member in the 8th grade and plays for the Spencer Boys U14 Town Recreation Soccer Team. She is also Captain of her other two teams: the LMS Wolverines 7-2 record as of 10/12, with a season total to date of 17 assists and 17 goals, and the MA Young Lady Gunners '09 team which is currently undefeated at 4-0 with 5 assists and 4 goals against other foot club teams. Recently at the 9th annual Josh Thibodeau Soccer Classic at Wachusett Regional HS, her team of 5 girls went 4-0 and won their age group MYLG - Majors. Alexa scored 12 goals out of 26 in the four games.

She also helps with charity drives and volunteers, mentors the younger girls on the LMS team during practices and is all around very sweet person, with really good grades. She has been the DJ for the last two years (7th and 8th Grade) school's dances and more.

Thank you, Alexa, for being a truly remarkable student, athlete, and a great role model. Good luck in all future endeavors.

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**Friday's Child**

**Laren Age 7**

Hi! My name is Laren and I love jewelry!

Laren is a friendly, fun-loving, and energetic girl of African American descent. Laren enjoys drawing, playing outside, and dancing. Laren also enjoys being involved in active adventures.

Laren is in a small first-grade classroom setting in a public school, where she receives the supports she needs to succeed. Laren does well with positive interactions with staff at her program.

Legally freed for adoption, Laren will do well in a family of any constellation. It will be best if Laren is the youngest child in the home. A family for Laren will need to be able to support her relationship with her grandmother and sisters.

<https://www.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/8313>

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

To learn more about adoption from foster care, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at (617) 964-6273 or visit [www.mareinc.org](http://www.mareinc.org). Start the process today and give a waiting child a permanent place to call home.

# Right to birth records secured, Gobi's efforts a victory for those left behind

BOSTON — Adoptees across Massachusetts are celebrating the passage of legislation granting them access to their birth records. The effort, spearheaded by State Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer), rights a wrong that has put many generations at a disadvantage. Until legislation passed, adoptees were not able to access their birth records.

Following a ceremonial bill signing by Governor Charlie Baker, Senator Gobi offered the following remarks, "I have waited six years to see this legislation come to fruition. With advocacy from Senate President Spilka, Senator Lovely, and Jean Strauss (East Brookfield), our Commonwealth is righting a wrong, and telling our adoptees that they have not been forgotten. I thank Governor Baker for signing this legislation."

"At this point in time, we should not deny people access to their medical information and life history simply because of when they were born, or subject them to a cumbersome process," said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "I want to thank Senators Gobi, Comerford, and Lovely for their work on this legislation."

"Many adoptees have been waiting their whole lives to learn their history, and I am honored to have played a part in helping them access their original birth certificates," said Senator Joan B. Lovely (D-Salem), Chair of the Senate Committee on Rules. "For the sake of preserving our health and well-being, it is crucial to know what physical or mental health conditions to which we may be predisposed. By giving all adoptees born in Massachusetts access to their original birth certificates, this legislation closes a 34 year gap granting generations of individuals medical knowledge they have otherwise been denied. Thank you, Senate President Spilka, Senator Gobi, Representative Garballey, and all my Senate colleagues for affirming that everyone deserves to know where and from whom they came so they can make the most informed decisions possible for themselves."

Central Massachusetts advocate, Jean Strauss, has worked tirelessly alongside Gobi to see this bill passed. Reflecting on the bill Strauss said, "Senator Gobi



Courtesy photo

Behind a spearheaded effort by State Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer), adoptees across Massachusetts will now have access to their birth records.

has been a champion of this issue for years, and it's been amazing to watch it finally pass. Many citizens have worked to see this happen for over a decade, and this is a day of joy and celebration."

Gobi's legislative victory ensures that barriers that once impeded and excluded adoptees from their birth records are no longer in the way.

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## First Congregational Church of West Brookfield to host service honoring veterans

WEST BROOKFIELD — The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, United Church of Christ, will host a service honoring veterans next month.

The service will take place on Friday, Nov. 11, at 7 p.m.

"We welcome all people to our service for an opportunity to honor military veterans of the United States Armed Forces," read a statement released by the church.

Jennie Simmons will serve as the organist for the evening, playing patriotic hymns. Additionally, guest speakers from each branch of the military will explain what Veterans Day means to them.

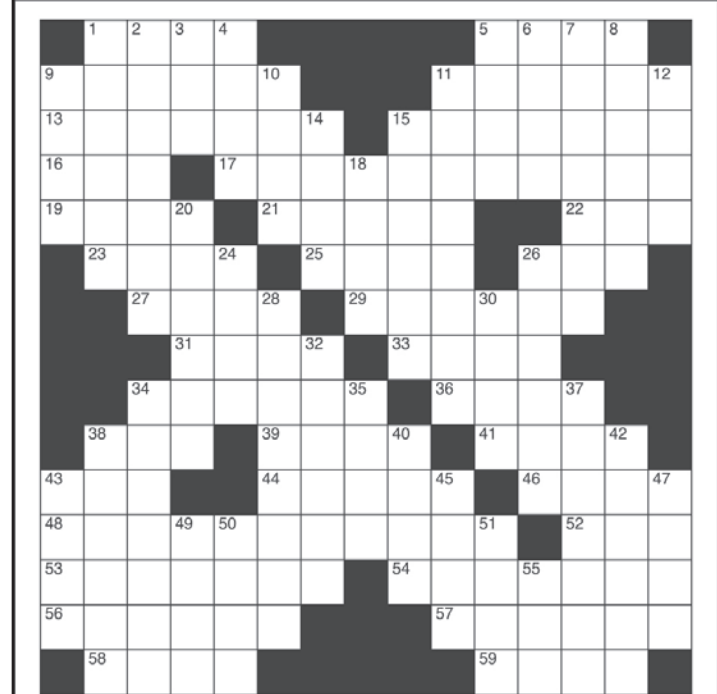
The church's offering for this service will be given in support of local veterans.

No reservations are necessary for this free service.

"People from all faiths are

encouraged to come together to show appreciation for veterans and to honor them. Rev. Dr. Ann Rogers Brigham and congregation extend a warm welcome to each of you," the church-issued statement read.

To learn more about the program, call the church at 508-867-7078. You may also send an email to FCCWBWorship@gmail.com.



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. A way to communicate
- 5. Historic city
- 9. Not the same
- 11. Hitting a horse to clear a jump
- 13. One hurt the Titanic
- 15. Fine dense cloth
- 16. Architectural structure
- 17. Where Serena works
- 19. Stringed instrument
- 21. Estimate
- 22. Where sailors work
- 23. Popular Terry Pratchett novel
- 25. Popular slow cooked dish
- 26. Twisted Sister's Snider
- 27. "Office Space" actor Stephen
- 29. Put the ball in the net
- 31. Ancient Greek city in Thrace
- 33. High school math subject
- 34. Looked into
- 36. Rhode Island rebellion
- 38. A pea is one type
- 39. You can put it on something
- 41. Where golfers begin
- 43. Make a mistake
- 44. Semitic Sun god
- 46. Ancient Greek City
- 48. Beheaded
- 52. A place to stay
- 53. Inanely foolish
- 54. Most unnatural
- 56. "Dennis" is one
- 57. Soothers
- 58. Exam
- 59. Leaked blood

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Triangular bone in lower back
- 2. Building toy
- 3. Pointed end of a pen
- 4. Insect repellent
- 5. College army
- 6. Highly spiced stew
- 7. Exploited
- 8. Main course
- 9. A bottle that contains a drug
- 10. The most worthless part
- 11. Everyone needs one nowadays
- 12. Japanese wooden shoe
- 14. Antelopes
- 15. A way to cut
- 18. Brooklyn hoopsters
- 20. Gradually receded
- 24. Ripped open
- 26. College grads get one
- 28. Amino acid
- 30. Unruly gathering
- 32. Legislative body
- 34. Resembling pigs
- 35. Russian assembly
- 37. Take over for
- 38. Put in advance
- 40. Satisfy
- 42. Felt
- 43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
- 45. Witnesses
- 47. Some build hills
- 49. de Armas and Gasteyer are two
- 50. Ancient people of Scotland
- 51. Cheerless
- 55. Unwell

**ATTENTION WEST BROOKFIELD RESIDENTS**

### Hydrant Flushing

The West Brookfield Water Department will be flushing hydrants Oct. 24, 2022 thru Nov. 4, 2022 during the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Flushing will cause some disturbance in the water mains. The water may appear cloudy but will eventually dissipate.

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**SPENCER ALMANAC**  
**REAL ESTATE**

**BROOKFIELD**  
\$395,000, 78 Molasses Hill Rd, Gemboski, Steven B, and Gemboski, Karen A, to Kramer, Owen N, and Murphy, Emma J.  
\$15,000, 101 Webber Rd, Moosehill RT, and Curtis, Marc D, to Curtis Jr, Marc D, and Syriac, Lauren.

**LEICESTER**  
\$440,000, 10 Birchwood Dr, Levitan, Dian S, and Levitan, Jay E, to Parks, Devin.  
\$370,000, 7 Michael Ave, Casassa, Paul, and Casassa, Maureen, to Gratton-Guimaraes, J E, and Witkowski, Corey E.  
\$345,000, 279 Henshaw St, Summerson, Paul R, and Summerson, Rita M, to Cronin, Eileen M.  
\$310,000, 38 Parker St, Ryan, Eric M, and Ryan, Corinne A, to Cedar Hills Realty LLC.  
\$201,000, 131 Mccarthy Ave, Okerberg, Janet J, and Bank New York Mellon Tr, to Dougwill LLC.

**NORTH BROOKFIELD**  
\$680,000, 302 Roosevelt Dr, Clare, Richard, and Clare, Jana L, to Mckernan, Patrick, and Mckernan, Kimberly.  
\$545,915, 186 Stone Hill Dr #18, Stone Hill Partners LLC, to Riker LT, and Riker Jr, Stanley E.  
\$520,000, 38 Conservation Dr, Gumkowski, Simon, and Gumkowski, Angelica, to Crean, Michelle, and Drinkwater, William.

**SPENCER**  
\$470,000, 85 E Charlton Rd, Fazio, Michael J, and Fazio, Hillary R, to Goparian, Joseph.  
\$465,000, 144 Charlton Rd, LMH RT, and Hart, Linda M, to Silverberg, Robert, and Silverberg, Sandra.  
\$440,000, 92 Pleasant St, Cleary, Robert F, and Cleary, Nancy J, to Debardeleben, Henry M, and Debardeleben, Colleen T.  
\$439,900, 3 Howe Rd, Paquette, Melanie, and Paquette, Nicholas J, to Marsden, Gregory, and Marsden, Nichole.  
\$350,000, 63 Wilson St, Marsden, Gregory, and Marsden, Nichole, to Flannery, Tara, and Flannery, Brittany L.

**WARREN**  
\$125,000, 100 Maple St, Parker, Robert A, to LP Properties LLC.

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H	H	O	D	D	E	H	E	E	D				
G	I	H	L	S	A	H	D						
D	E	H	O	C	S	L	O	O	H				
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E	M	O	R	D	N	E	S						

# GWCF grants aim to increase capacity of food security organizations

WORCESTER — Greater Worcester Community Foundation announced the first round of grant awardees for GWCF-sponsored Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for Food Security funding. To date, the Foundation has distributed over \$1.6 million Federal Grant Dollars, which are administered in the State by the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Last year, the Foundation was asked by the Commonwealth to disperse federal grant dollars — a new partnership for the Foundation. Over the last two years, the Foundation has dispersed State of Massachusetts funds to support undocumented immigrants; that program's success became the catalyst for the Foundation's CDBG partnership.

To date, \$1.6 has been awarded to 17 grantees serving Worcester County. Grant money was exclusively awarded for supplies and equipment to build up the capacity of food security organizations to respond to increased demand as a result of the pandemic, population growth, and the recession. With the first grantees, that translates into 14 vehicles, 2 forklifts, and a remarkable amount of food storage and food distribution supplies and equipment. The Foundation has an additional \$600,000

available to disperse in the coming months.

"Food pantries and distribution programs are essential to addressing food insecurity in Worcester County. We are pleased to be able to strengthen the capacity of those organizations to do their work," said Tim Johnstone GWCF Interim President and Chief Executive Officer. "Importantly, the Foundation also works with these and other partners to address the root causes of food insecurity. Far too many people in our community experience hunger every day — children, seniors, and working families among them — and that is unacceptable, particularly in a community as vibrant as this one."

Those organizations receiving funds are: (See Chart)

About the Greater Worcester Community Foundation

Greater Worcester Community Foundation is a philanthropic organization that enables local citizens to create positive change within our region. Established in 1975, this permanent endowment is used to create personal and lasting legacies that improve lives and conditions within the community. The Foundation has awarded more than \$123 million to cultural educational,

2Gether We Eat	Worcester	\$275,000.00
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Worcester	Worcester	\$101,500.00
Community Harvest Project	North Grafton	\$75,000.00
Dismas House of Massachusetts	Worcester	\$106,000.00
El Buen Samaritano Food Program	Worcester	\$ 84,500.00
Friendly House	Worcester	\$73,500.00
Living in Freedom Together	Worcester	\$ 112,500.00
Net of Compassion	Worcester	\$75,500.00
Pernet Family Health Services	Worcester	\$95,000.00
Provision Ministry	Westborough	\$5,000.00
Quinsigamond Community College Foundation	Worcester	\$ 160,000.00
Regional Environmental Council	Worcester	\$106,500.00
Rock of Salvation	Worcester	\$14,500.00
Southeast Asian Coalition of Central MA	Worcester	\$ 101,000.00
The Wellstorm	Southbridge	\$23,250.00
Tri-Valley Inc.	Dudley	\$145,000.00
Yes We Care	Worcester	\$91,000.00

human service and civic organizations. Today, the Foundation stewards a charitable endowment exceeding \$153 mil-

lion in over 600 named funds. For more information, visit [www.greaterworcester.org](http://www.greaterworcester.org).



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# OBITUARIES

## Sarah E. Smith, 79

SPENCER- There is always another Spring” Sarah E. (Brennan) Smith, 79, of Spencer, passed away October 3, 2022 at home surrounded by her loving family.



She was the daughter of William F. and Sarah E. (Adams) Brennan. She leaves her devoted husband of 54 years, Cameron, with whom she enjoyed many adventures; 2 daughters Tracey A. and her

husband Jeffrey Giacomelli and Tara C. Smith.

Sarah was a graduate of North Brookfield High School, going on to college at Stockbridge, where she earned her degree in Animal Science. She worked for several years as a histologist at Mason Research Institute in Worcester, then became General Manager of Spencer Decorating Company and also managed rental properties, all while raising her daugh-

ters on a small farm with a great variety of animals.

She was a loving and gentle person, who grew up on dairy farm in Oakham and loved music and all things in nature, especially horses, gardening, bird watching and her beloved dogs. Though she greatly enjoyed traveling to new places with her husband, family, and friends, she was always happiest at home.

Services will be held privately by the family at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial donations be made to Spencer EMS or the Second Chance Animal Shelter. The family gratefully acknowledges all the help and support from the staff at both Enhabit Home Care and Overlook Hospice. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 163 Main St. Spencer.



## Robert R. Baronoski, 78

EAST BROOKFIELD- Robert R. Baronoski, 78, died Thursday, October 13 peacefully at his home after a brief illness.



He leaves his two daughters, Beth E. Kichula and her husband Peter of Prosper, TX., Rebecca E. Baronoski of Worcester, a brother, Richard E. Baronoski and his wife Mary of

North Brookfield, two grandsons, Owen and Samuel Kichula, two nieces, Jenna Baronoski and Julie Nelson, a nephew Matthew Baronoski, a step-daughter, Kristin Fergues, his longtime companion Louise Brown, and his best friend Troy Brown.

He was predeceased by a brother, Ronald Baronoski in 2005 and a sister, Linda Langella in 2016.

Born in Worcester, he was the son of Edward V. & Loretta S. (Czyzewski) Baronoski.

Mr. Baronoski worked as a pharmacist for most of his life. He was

employed at Vernon Drug in Worcester and Spencer for over 20 years before going on to retire from UMass Lake Ave. in Worcester. He attended St. Mary's High School in Worcester and the University of Connecticut.

Robert was a past chairman of the East Brookfield Conservation Commission and past president and longstanding member of the Lake Lashaway Community Association. He truly loved all aspects of lake life. He enjoyed having friends and family over his house and being out on the boat in the summer, and snowmobiling on the lake in the winter. His favorite pastimes were trips to the beach, listening to polka music, playing his accordion, and going for rides in his classic Corvette.

A Memorial Mass for Robert will be held Saturday, October 22nd at 1PM in St. Joseph Church, 296 No. Main St., North Brookfield.

The J. HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer is assisting the family with arrangements.  
www.morinfuneralhomes.com

## Staci A. Geren-Tallman, 57

SPENCER: Staci A. Geren-Tallman, 57, of Spencer, died Thursday, Oct. 13 in UMASS Memorial-Lake Ave. after a long illness. Loving mother, grandmother, wife, sister and daughter, she enjoyed drawing, arts and crafts, going to the beach, camping, fishing and spending time with her grandchildren.



She leaves her husband of 21 years, Michael M. Tallman, her son; Noah Geren of Spencer, her daughters; Hannah Geren of No. Brookfield and Madison Tallman of Spencer, her mother; Patricia Wootton and her husband

Robert of Evansville, Ind., a sister Amy Hall of Evansville, Ind., brothers; Bruce Lothamer of Jackson, MS and Chris Lothamer of Evansville, Ind., four grandchildren; Kayli & Eian Geren, Willow & Levi White all of No. Brookfield, nieces, nephews and cousins. She is predeceased by her daughter; Rachael Geren, and her father Robert Lothamer.

Calling hours for Staci were held on Thursday, Oct. 20 from 4 to 6 p.m. with a service at 6 p.m. in the J. HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Second Chance Animal Services, P.O. Box 136, E. Brookfield, MA 01515.

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### FIRE SAFETY

continued from page A1

gear and discover what first responders wear during emergency situations.

“Getting geared up from boots to helmet was an exciting experience the students and I will never forget. This was our favorite firefighter visit yet,” said Discovery School House teacher Andrea LaPrade. Added Discovery School

House Director Michelle McKeen, “Discovery students had a great time meeting Firefighter Ryan. He showed us all of the amazing tools. We got to see a familiar face dressed up in protective gear, and that person was there to help if there is an emergency.”

With pandemic restrictions hopefully behind us for good, community leaders and business owners are eager to bring back several annual tra-

ditions, including visits from first responders. “We are so appreciative to restart the relationship with the Leicester Fire Department to help educate our students during our Fire Safety Week lesson plans,” said Paul McCarthy, the co-owner of Giguere Gymnastics. “Firefighter Ryan Plante did a great job connecting with all the kids — very effective at making them both more aware and comfortable.”

# Forcing spring flowering bulbs into bloom

Brighten your indoor décor, patio, deck, or balcony by forcing a few spring flowering bulbs into bloom. Just plant, give them a chill and enjoy a few extra daffodils, hyacinths, tulips, crocus and grape hyacinths this winter and spring.



GARDEN MOMENTS  
.....  
MELINDA MYERS

bottom of the container. Cover these bulbs with soil and add the smaller bulbs like grape hyacinths and crocus on the next level. Plant these bulbs close to each other, covering the surface, for greater impact. Cover this layer with at least an inch of soil. Water

thoroughly so the excess water drains out the bottom of the pot.

Move the bulb-filled container to a cool location where temperatures remain above freezing and between 35 to 45 degrees Fahrenheit for 12 to 15 weeks. A spare refrigerator works well for this. Just avoid storing the bulbs in a refrigerator with fruit like apples and pears that emit ethylene gas that can negatively impact flowering. If refrigerator space is limited, you can store the unplanted bulbs in a paper bag, so they take up less space in the fridge for the needed chill before planting.

Those gardening in colder climates can also store the pots in an unheated garage. Just water the containers whenever the soil is thawed and dry. Or sink the container into a vacant garden space in your landscape. Mulch the soil

once the ground starts to freeze with evergreen boughs. The winter mulch makes retrieving the container easier in winter or spring.

Once the 12- to 15-week cold period is complete, you can begin moving the pots indoors. Remove a few pots every week to extend the bloom time and your enjoyment. Place the pot in a cool bright location to encourage more compact growth. Water thoroughly when the top few inches of soil begin to dry. Soon the leaves will begin to sprout and flowers will appear in about four weeks.

Provide ongoing care if you plan on moving the bulbs into the garden. Remove the faded flowers and place the leafy plants in a sunny window and water thoroughly whenever the top inch of soil is dry. Fertilize with a dilute solution of any flowering houseplant fertilizer.

When the danger of frost has passed, you can move these plants into the garden if they are suited to your growing conditions. These plants may not bloom the following spring but usually do the next year and for several beyond.

Or you can toss the forced bulbs into the compost pile so they can return to your garden as wonderful compost.

Investing time forcing a few spring flowering bulbs into bloom is sure to



Photo courtesy MelindaMyers.com

A pot of tulips that were forced into bloom.

boost your spirits this winter. Consider planting a few extra pots of bulbs to do the same for friends and family.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program*. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and her website is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com)



# Community Connection

Your area guide to local businesses! To advertise on this page please contact June at 508-909-4062 or [jsima@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:jsima@stonebridgepress.news)



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PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

**BRENDAN BERUBE**  
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

# Freddy vs. Jason

With Halloween taking place next week, we figured we'd have a bit of fun and posed the question, who's scarier, Freddy or Jason? For those not in the know, Freddy Krueger is the lead character from the 1980's movie series, 'A Nightmare on Elm Street', created by Wes Craven. Donning a black hat and a red and grey sweater, Krueger played by Robert Englund, literally gave all of us 80's kids nightmares for months. With his face shredded and his claw hand, we all slept with the light on for a while.

Enter Jason Voorhees from the famous Friday the 13th movies. Voorhees was the young son of a camp cook turned killer, Mrs. Voorhees. This film was created by Victor Miller, Ron Kurz, Sean Cunningham and Tom Savini. The plot begins with a group of teenagers on vacation at a lakeside camp. One by one they start to disappear. What could be scarier than a hockey mask, machete wielding ghost?

A poll we conducted revealed that Freddy is the scarier of the two leading men. This revelation may not offer us anything of real value, but it does give us some insight on what the majority considers 'scary'. We remember watching the Nightmare on Elm Street series as adults and laughing during parts we thought were scary as youths.

One reader replied, "Freddy, because he's in your dreams." Another brought up a good point, "You can run away from Jason, but not Freddy."

Another reader took the question quite seriously and gave us a great answer, "I'd argue that Jason was more the product of childhood trauma. A missing father, mentally ill mother who goes on a killing spree after she thinks he's drowned. Freddy's supernatural capabilities far surpass Jason. So I'd say Freddy."

"Freddy is the scarier of the two, but Michael Meyers is a true problem" remarked one person. Another said, "Freddy, because you can't resist falling asleep, and with Jason there are no facial expressions."

One person called it a draw, "Can't do it, it's like the chicken and the egg question. Props to Freddy for the nightmares but props to Jason for the daymares." We got a chuckle out of 'daymares'.

Of course, our Editor in Chief and movie buff gave his take, "Freddy, but I'm going to qualify my answer by saying Freddy from the first two Nightmare movies, before they turned him into Don Rickles in a striped sweater."

We can't write an editorial regarding scary characters without mentioning Gollum from the Hobbit. No one is scarier than Gollum, and he did it without even trying.

With that, we hope you enjoy Halloween, half off candy sales, a scary movie or two and enjoy the beautiful fall weather before the snow flies.



## 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

### Spencer Veterans Day Parade upcoming

To the Editor:  
The Spencer Veterans Day Parade will take place on Friday, November 11, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. The parade route will start at the American Legion and proceed down Main Street, a left onto Elm Street, a left on to Chestnut, left on to Maple Street back to Main Street and end [at] the American Legion. We

welcome all groups and organizations attend this year's services. For more information please contact:

DAVID CAPUTO  
SENIOR VICE COMMANDER  
GAUDETTE-KIRK POST #138  
SPENCER  
(508) 615-3338

### West Brookfield residents demand official response to rodent problems

To the Editor:  
This is a follow up from the Spencer New Leader staff writer. I am appealing to the town officials and the board of health dept. to make an honest effort and show your town's rodent infested residents the common courtesy for the health of those who have been and are presently infested and exposed to those rodents.

I am encouraging the town officials and the board of health to show, express your concern and common courtesy to those neighbors who are citizens and tax payers and deserve

your help by issuing a warrant to investigate "and" exterminate those rodents from those residential neighbors homes "until" those rodents have all been exterminated.

I am thanking you the Town Officials and the Board of Health in advance for your concern, help, and support exterminating those rodents. Thank you and God bless you for your humanitarian help, support.  
Dwell in peace!

ROLAND BLAIS  
BROOKFIELD

### Spencer Summer Concert Series thanks Cornerstone Bank for sponsorship

To the Editor:  
The Spencer Parks & Recreation Commission would like to extend its sincere thanks to Cornerstone Bank for again sponsoring the Spencer Summer Concert Series at Powder Mill Park. The series was a huge success, with nearly two thousand in attendance throughout the summer. Cornerstone Bank's commitment to supporting initiatives like the Spencer Summer Concert Series not only provides them with an opportunity to give back but also enhance

es the fabric of our community, for which we should all be grateful. The efforts of the Victor family and Spencer Parks & Recreation Commission's Lynne Porretti should also be recognized for making the series happen, along with that of Jim Perry who organized the stellar entertainment line up.

PAT GEORGE  
SPENCER SUMMER CONCERT SERIES  
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

### Houghton: Please reach out if victim of drug, alcohol abuse

To the Editor:  
In recent articles I mentioned that I was recently released from prison after serving more than 45 years, exonerated through DNA test results and sworn recantations.

In those articles I mentioned that I was one of the founders of American Veterans in Prison, holding the Presidents position for over 40 years, and becoming a Chartered member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapters 314 in Norfolk, and 294 in Gardner.

I was also the Chairman of Project Youth for 12 years.

In those articles I mentioned the hardship/heartaches of prison life due to drug and alcohol abuse.

You are not the only "Victim" of drug and alcohol abuse, or the person you may have directly harmed, your

family, friends and loved ones are also "Victims" of your drug and alcohol abuse, and are in prison with you.

Look them in the face and ask yourself, "Do I Want To Make Them a Victim Too?"

If you have these problems and heading in the wrong directions and need/want to talk, or the loved ones of someone headed in the wrong directions, please do not hesitate to call me, my number is as follows: 508-340-3135. I'm Hank.

Let's "Recover Together" and keep from being a victim, or victimizer. Call me, don't let Foolish Pride be your Destroyer.

Have Hope-Not Dope!  
All The Way!

HANK HOUGHTON  
WEST BROOKFIELD

### Spencer Toys for Kids ready to accept Christmas gifts

To the Editor:  
We are getting ready to kick off the 2022 Christmas season and it is our hope to help make a Spencer child's Christmas a happy one. Last year more than 200 Spencer children received gifts for Christmas through the efforts of this generous community. We cannot do it without your help. Monetary donations, new toys and family/child sponsors who "adopt" them are what makes our world go around.

We are under the Spencer Exchange Clubs Charitable Trust Foundation. Spencer Toys for Kids is now called Spencer Toys for Kids. With this merge we are able to use their 501(c)(3) status so we will not have to pay tax on the toys we purchase. This helps us a lot! I've been a proud member of Spencer Exchange Club for more than 25 years and the generosity of its members are second to none!

Spencer Toys for Kids has been helping Spencer families for more than 50 years. We have a main distribution the 3rd week of December but we will fill all needs right up to Christmas. Children 14 years old and younger receive gifts & stocking stuffers. Applications will be available starting the 1st week of November at Spencer Post Office & ERA Key Realty (415B) Main St. We have also downloaded them to our Facebook page. Monetary donations can be sent to: Spencer Toys for Kids, P.O. Box 186, Spencer, MA 01562. 100% of these donations go right to the kids. We have no administrative fees! New, unwrapped toys can be dropped off at

Spencer Fire Dept, Cornerstone Bank (Spencer office) & ERA Key Realty. If you would like to "adopt" a family let us know! We will supply you with a child/family "wish list". This part of our program is amazing! It enables us to do a little bit better for the kids that are not sponsored. I wish you could see the wonderful gifts that come in.

My office at ERA Key Realty Services becomes Santa's workshop in November and December where we collect, sort & distribute to the families. We are grateful to the owners for allowing us to take over the building and sometimes the staff to get this done.

We have a handful of dedicated shoppers who run with the rest of the lists and purchase items with such great care with your monetary donations. They shop the sales, multiple stores and even venture out on Black Friday to get the most bang for your buck. They do this year after year and we are lucky to have them.

Items like mittens and hats are always great to have also! Follow and like us on Facebook Spencer Toys for Kids. We will keep you updated on our page as to what is going on during the Christmas season with our program. This program runs as well as it does because we are blessed with people who care in this community. Let's work together to help make a Spencer child's Christmas a happy one. Thank you!

DONNA MORIN-FLANNERY  
SPENCER TOYS FOR KIDS, DIRECTOR

## Should you consolidate retirement accounts?

One of the rewards for working over several decades is the ability to contribute to tax-advantaged retirement accounts, which can help provide needed income for you when you do retire. As the years went by, you may well have accumulated several retirement accounts, such as IRAs and 401(k)s or similar employer-sponsored plans. But you might find it advantageous to consolidate these accounts with a single provider.

Consolidating them can provide you with several potential benefits, including these:

Less confusion and clutter – If you have multiple accounts in different locations, it may be difficult to keep track of tax documents, statements, fees, disclosures and other important information. Consolidating accounts could help provide clear, simplified account maintenance.

Less likelihood of "lost accounts" – It may be hard to believe, but many people abandon their retirement accounts, leaving thousands of dollars behind and unclaimed. In fact,

at the end of 2021, there were nearly 25 million forgotten 401(k) accounts, worth about 20% of all 401(k) assets, according to an estimate by Capitalize, a financial services company that helps individuals roll over retirement plan assets into new accounts. It's possible that employers can even move small, old accounts out of their 401(k) plans and into an IRA on behalf of their former employees, thus increasing the chances that savers will lose track of their money. By consolidating your retirement plans with one provider, you can ensure you don't lose track of your hard-earned money.

Ability to follow a unified strategy – With multiple retirement accounts, and different investment portfolios, you might find it difficult to maintain a unified financial strategy that's appropriate for your goals and risk tolerance. But once you've consolidated accounts with a single provider, you'll find it easier to manage your investment mix and to rebalance your portfolio as needed. The need to rebalance may become more important as you near retirement because you may want to shift some of your assets into investments that aren't as susceptible to swings in the financial markets.

Possible improvement in investment options – Often, 401(k)s may have limited investment selection, so consolidating accounts with a full-service firm may allow for a wider array of products and strategies. This broader exposure can potentially help you improve your overall retirement income strategies.

Greater ease in calculating RMDs – Once you turn 72, you will need to start taking withdrawals — called required minimum distributions, or RMDs — from your traditional IRA and your 401(k) or similar plan. If you don't take out at least the minimal amount, which is based on your age and account balance, you could face a penalty. If you have several accounts, with different providers, it could be cumbersome and difficult to calculate your RMDs — it will be much easier with all accounts under one roof.

So, if you do have multiple retirement accounts, give some thought to consolidating them. The consolidation process is not difficult, and the end result may save you time and hassles, while also helping you manage your retirement income more effectively.

*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*  
Edward Jones, Member SIPC





# Great time of year for hunting, fishing

Hunting and fishing in the Valley is extremely enjoyable at this time of year, as the fall foliage is now showing its peak colors adding to the outdoor activities. Trout are providing some great fishing at some of the local ponds and lakes, but unfortunately Wallum Lake will not be stocked with trout by the state of Rhode Island this fall. I received a reply from Harty Finn, at the DEM after I contacted them asking for information on the status of their fall trout stocking at Wallum Lake. The state of Rhode Island will not be stocking Wallum this fall with trout, and they are discussing future stockings of trout this spring! No further information was available. It is unfortunate that no trout stockings will be made at this great body of water this fall, but Mass. did stock the lake last week with some rainbow trout.



THE GREAT OUTDOORS  
.....  
RALPH TRUE

Seabass and Tautog fishing remained excellent last week and should stay hot for the next two weeks. I went fish-

ing on the Capt. Morgan boat with Captain Mike last week, as my Buddy Matt made arrangements with his other fishing buddy Mark Petit to go tuna fishing. Capt. Mike set the anchor one time while we were fishing one mile out from the lighthouse in Point Judith, RI. The bite was steady as we lowered our crab bait to the bottom. Tautog fishing was hot. All in all it was a great day of fishing, except that Capt. Mike out fished this writer.

The seabass are moving into deeper water; but are still providing some great fishing in 50 to 60 feet of water. We caught our limit of large seabass drifting high low rigs, baited with half of a crab, using No 3. circle hooks. Adding a small plastic squid onto the hook added to the excitement of catching large seabass. After catching our limit of seabass we headed for home, and as we entered the waters inside of the breaker wall Capt. Mike raised his large antenna that carried skull and crossbones on a

flag, blowing his horn frequently as we entered the channel. It was just some type of ceremonial thing he does after a great day of fishing!

Pheasant hunting opened this past Saturday in Mass., and the stocking of birds in local covers by MFW will continue through Thanksgiving. Pheasant hunters are required to wear an orange hat when hunting birds. Goose and duck hunting started on Oct. 10. With some fast action on ducks in the opening minutes of the morning. A good number of wood ducks were harvested along with numerous mallards and black ducks.

Some impressive deer have already been harvested with bow and arrow in Mass. and by out of state hunters. There will be no shortage of deer meat this year. Hunters are reporting some great acorn crops in some areas of the state, while others area have very few or none. Finding areas of acorns will be the place to hunt this year.

This week's picture of a large tuna was caught while fishing with a live bluefish for bait. Nice fish!!

*Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!*



Courtesy photo

A large 800-pound tuna was recently caught in Massachusetts.

## October is National Popcorn Month



TAKE THE HINT  
.....  
KAREN TRAINOR

Corn is all around us this season! Speckled Indian corn cobs adorning front doors, homemade popcorn balls twisted tight with cellophane, and lofty corn stalks tied to porch posts, all celebrate the native grain. But did you know popcorn tops the list as the nation's favorite snack food?

Whether popped in a kettle on the stove, zapped in the microwave, or pre popped in bags, Americans each consume an average of 47 quarts of popcorn each year! And it's no wonder we have a love affair with the native treat - it's economical, easy to cook, nutritious and low calorie (sans the butter).

Read on for some popcorn trivia, popping tips and even a recipe spotlighting the wholesome, economical grain. After all, October has been deemed National Popcorn Month and what better way to celebrate than to settle down with a big bowl of the buttery treat?

**Perfect Popcorn:** Popping up a fluffy batch of tender popcorn is a culinary skill that's easily mastered once you know a few tricks of the trade. Here's how make positively perfect popcorn:

Heat a heavy pot on the stove, and then add oil to cover the bottom of the pan. The best temperature for popping is between 400 and 460 degrees, but oil burns at 500 degrees so be careful! Test the oil by dropping in a couple of kernels, if they pop, the temperature is right. Pour in just enough kernels to cover the bottom of the pan. Cover the pan loosely to allow a bit of steam to escape during popping. Shake the pan well and remove pan when pan fills up and popping slows considerably. Enjoy!

**Troubleshooting Guide:** OK, even the most veteran corn poppers sometimes get it wrong. Here are some ways to get it right!

**Problem: Too Many "Old Maids"**  
Solution: It's important to store popcorn correctly. Kernels left uncovered on a hot day can zap the moisture and render them unpopable. Even a one percent drop in moisture will affect the quality of the kernels. For best quality, store kernels in a cool place. While some advocate storing kernels in the refrigerator, the fridge contains little moisture and can actually dry out the kernels. For best results, use kernels within 18 months of purchase.

**Problem: Small or Hully Corn**

**Solution:** If your popped corn is small or hully, it may be low on moisture. Sometimes you can rehydrate the kernels by pouring them into a sealed jar with a tablespoon of water. Shake the jar a few times and in a day or so, the kernels should be up to par for popping.

**Problem: Tough Kernels**  
Solution: Did you know salting kernels toughens popcorn? Never add salt to the pan before corn has popped. Always add it to the popped corn.

**Problem: Salt Won't Stick**  
Solution: Finely ground salt sticks to the popcorn better than table salt. For a terrific taste, grind kosher salt to a fine consistency. Or pound kosher salt in a ziplock bag with a rolling pin.

**Problem: Chewy Kernels**  
Solution: Did you know chewy popcorn is often caused by leaving the lid on tight while cooking? For tender corn, make sure the lid is slightly ajar.

**Problem: Corn Burns in Pan**  
Solution: Be sure to add enough oil to cover bottom of pan. Also, popcorn in a pan with a clear lid so you can watch the action. It also helps you to gauge when the popcorn is done.

**Popcorn Trivia**  
**Indian Folklore:** Native American legend has it that spirits lived inside each kernel of popcorn. Some tribes believed when the corn was heated, the disturbed spirits burst out of the kernel in a fit of anger. In fact, it is said Native Americans brought popped corn to the first Thanksgiving. Back then, popcorn, which was cooked over the fire, was commonly eaten right of the cob. Natives throughout the Americas were creative in their popcorn use, preparing such treats as popcorn beer and popcorn soup. Once the colonists were introduced to the mysterious, fluffy food, they included it in their daily diet, even enjoying it in a bowl with cream for breakfast!

**Science of Popcorn:** Do you ever wonder exactly what causes the corn kernels to burst? Each kernel contains a small drop of water stored inside a circle of soft starch. The starch is surrounded by the hard outer surface of the kernel. As each kernel heats up, the water expands and pressure builds against the hard starch. Eventually it gives way, causing the popcorn to explode. In order for popcorn to erupt soft and fluffy, it should have a moisture content of about 14 percent. Any less and you will end up with half popped kernels and a pan full of "old maids."

**Old Maids:** Did you ever wonder

why unpopped kernels are called "old maids?" According to Reference.com the origin of the practice of calling dud kernels "old maids" is unknown, although it has been around for over a century. According to The Chicago Journal, the first known reference of the term appeared in an April 27,1886, San Francisco (CA) Bulletin newspaper, which wrote: "A popcorn man in town calls those kernels that do not pop and that cannot be popped, "old maids."

Unpopped kernels have also been called "widows", "spinsters" and "old bachelors."

**Harvest Corn Balls**  
Here is an easy "no fail" recipe for Caramel Popcorn Balls from the folks at Jolly Time Popcorn. This sweet treat is a classic snack at harvest and Halloween celebrations.

**Ingredients:** Two and a half quarts popped corn; one 14 oz. package of caramels (about 48); one quarter cup of light corn syrup; two tablespoons of water;  
**Directions:** Keep popped popcorn warm in deep roasting pan in oven at about 200 degrees. Melt caramels in heavy saucepan over low heat, stirring occasionally, about 15 minutes. Add corn syrup and water and mix until smooth. Slowly pour over popcorn in large bowl or pan, mixing well. Shape into balls, using buttered hands. Let set until firm on foil or buttered wax paper. Wrap in plastic wrap; tie with a ribbon. Recipe makes ten medium popcorn balls.

**Popcorn Fun Facts**  
\*When explorer Felix de Azara visited Paraguay in the 18th century, he noted that the people would place kernels on a tassel and then when it was boiled in fat or oil, the grains would burst.

\*Popcorn kernels can pop up to 3 feet in the air.

\*There are about 1,600 popcorn kernels in 1 cup.

\*Orville Redenbacher is the #1 best-selling popcorn in the world. Its inventor, Orville, began to grow popping corn in 1919, when he was just 12 years old.

\*In ancient times, people would make popcorn by heating sand in a fire and then stirring kernels of popcorn in the hot sand.

\*Autumn is the peak time for popcorn consumption, followed by the winter months. Popcorn sales taper off during the spring and summer. Americans eat more popcorn than any other country.

\*Most of the popcorn eaten around the world is grown in the United States.

\*The world's oldest known popper, a shallow vessel with a handle and hole on top was designed around A.D. 300. The first popcorn machine made its debut 1,500 years later at the 1893 World's Fair (Columbian Exposition) in

Chicago.

\*While other businesses failed during the Great Depression, the popcorn business thrived.

\*Native Americans not only ate popcorn, but they made beer and soup out of it too.

\*Native Americans would use dried herbs and spices and even chili as popcorn flavorings.

\*Popcorn has been sold in theaters since 1912. It has been a big money maker not only because popcorn is overpriced, but also because people usually get thirsty and, consequently, buy sodas or water as well.

**\*\* Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House**

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

### Seven Hills Barbershop Quartet to perform at Senior Living at Prouty

The "Seven Hill" Barbershop Quartet is set to perform at Senior Living at Prouty (195 Main Street in Spencer) on Wednesday, Oct. 26 at 1:15 p.m. This show is provided by a Town of Spencer Local Cultural Grant. Enjoy celebrating memories of soda fountains, sockhops and first loves. If planning to attend, you must leave a message at (617) 431-4937 and your call will be returned with parking and other details.

### DDS Central Mass. hiring event for direct care workers and LPNs

The Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is seeking dedicated and passionate individuals for Direct Care and LPN positions in Central Massachusetts locations, including Southbridge, Spencer, Webster and surrounding communities. Become part of a compassionate team committed to providing outstanding care & service to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. To register for the Oct. 26 in-person hiring event, please email [maher.senatus2@mass.gov](mailto:maher.senatus2@mass.gov) OR Text/SMS to 857-246-9897. The event runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 324 Clark Street in Worcester. In addition to registering for this hiring event please be sure you apply to positions in advance on MassCareers. Applying to the appropriate position on MassCareers will ensure your interview at the hiring event.

# Professional Directory

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# Negotiation is the only way to a good future



**EARTH BORN**  
**GUS STEEVES**

The Sword of Damocles dangles on a dangerously thin thread over our heads.

Back in 1962, our Ancestors (many still alive) were going through the Cuban Missile Crisis this week. Then, we missed having a nuclear war by the vote of just one Soviet sub officer who refused to use nuclear torpedoes against US ships that were depth-charging them.

That ended with negotiations that pulled Soviet missiles from Cuba and US missiles from Turkey.

Today's Ukraine crisis has to end the same way if we want to live. Yet our government is arrogantly and stupidly refusing to sit down with Moscow. It is not our place to decide who governs Russia; only the Russian people can do that. Our responsibility is to demand our government act like responsible adults and negotiate with whomever they chose to lead them (meaning Putin and Lavrov), and that must happen NOW.

While the Russians formally began the war by invading Ukraine in February, our government has been provoking it for years; funding it to the tune of billions of dollars; supplying the Ukrainians with training, weapons, intelligence and prob-

ably special ops forces on the ground; and propagandizing the hell out of everybody in its favor.

Every few days, it seems, something happens to ratchet up the tension. Last week, that was Ukraine's bombing of the Kerch bridge sparking Russia's retaliatory missile strikes on various power plants and other targets. Now, NATO insists on running its annual Steadfast Noon exercise – specifically aimed at practicing nuclear weapons use, this year over the North Sea – despite the fact that will definitely hike Russia's nuclear wariness. Our leaders clearly do not remember the Able Archer 1983 exercise, a similar situation the Soviets saw as pretext for attack and nearly provoked them into launching a first strike.

To quote Larry Johnson, "The smart move by the West, in light of the heightened tensions with Moscow, would have been cancelling the exercise. The West is not smart."

If this stupidity continues, it could easily become nuclear war, by accident or design. For a couple years now, the Doomsday Clock has been officially at 100 seconds to midnight. By now, it's probably closer to 20 or so in reality, and every move pushes it up a second or two.

There's more nuke rhetoric flying around now than at any time in my life. A tremendous amount is sheer propaganda, mostly taking Putin's statements out of context when he warns NATO that Russia will likely use nukes if they feel the Russian state faces destruction. But others, on both sides,

have directly advocated for first strikes of various severities, with ridiculous claims that "limited" nuclear wars can be won.

That's insane. At Responsible Statecraft, writer Harry Kazianis recently noted he's run 30 wargame scenarios all based on the current Ukraine War. In 28 of them, US/NATO provision of weapons led to a nuclear exchange of some kind with Russia. He doesn't indicate how severe, but I'd imagine it varies from localized to global. The only two that avoided such a fate did so because negotiations led to a ceasefire.

His results reflect countless wargames and broader studies over decades. Almost all of them show use of "tactical" or "battlefield" nukes escalates into World War III. In theory, "tactical" use might stop the killing if it sparks global horror ... but it tends to spark nationalistic outrage that spirals into mutual suicide.

Even if only one side fires its missiles, the climate catastrophe sparked by hundreds of cities burning in nuclear fires will reach around the world, likely destroying global agriculture for years and starving billions. If both sides fire, human extinction is possible, and ecological devastation assured. Even if there are long-term survivors that manage to make it through to something resembling stability years afterward, they'll be trapped in a toxic, severely-injured, species-poor and dangerous world FOREVER.

Guaranteed, their view of



Gus Steeves photo

Some area peace activists protest the nuclear danger at US Rep. Jim McGovern's Worcester office last week.

our behavior will not be positive. I doubt they'll care at all who launched first, whether it was intentional or accidental, what the various leaders' claims were, or whether someone's stock portfolio was doing well. They won't care whether the war was triggered by corporations, peak oil, Putin, Biden, the "trans-agenda," Neo-Nazis, "lizard people," Democrats, Republicans, or anything else. They will care that we, as their Ancestors, betrayed them and caused (or at least failed to prevent) something so crassly stupid and omnicidal. They will care that we left them struggling in the ruins when we had so much we could have given them. Most likely, they'll see us as crazy along the lines of the Native American wetiko concept, consumed by canni-

bal spirits or demons. At worst, they'll see us as demons incarnate.

Do we want to leave our descendants such a legacy?

The obvious answer is no, and we cannot rely on our leaders to do this. They're clearly insane.

We, the people of the world, MUST come together to stop this war immediately, stop the idiotic blame games, propaganda, posturing and profiteering that drive it, and act as if the future really does matter. We must force our leaders to really talk to each other: When that's done, we must take the next step and force the nuclear weapons states to disarm, force the giant corporations that rule us to break up, and declare our loyalty to the one source of life we all share – Mother Earth – over any nation, party or leader.

## OPEN HOUSE

continued from page A1

canine specializing in ignitable liquid detection for the State Police and ATF, was also on hand. Moreover, Sparky the Fire Dog and Smokey the Bear greeted guests.

Finally, guests enjoyed an educational demonstration of the tools first responders use to cut apart vehicles and extricate passengers during rescue operations.

"This year's event was really well-attended, and it was great to see everyone," said Spencer Fire Chief Robert Parsons.

For fire officials, it meant a lot to see a strongly attended program after two years of dealing with pandemic impacts. The fire department has also visited local schools recently to help promote Fire Safety Week. Officials across the state have seen a sharp decline in fire-related fatalities since additional community safety events were added over the last decade-plus.

These include fire safety programs for students and seniors.

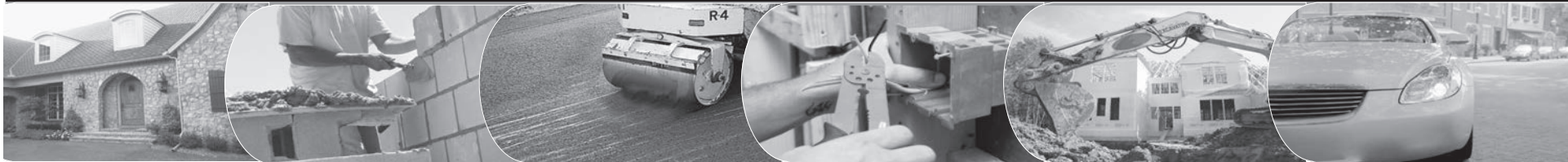
Statewide, fire incidents overall have declined by more than 19% over the past 10 years, according to the Massachusetts Division of Fire Safety. Additionally, 2021 saw the third-lowest number of fire incidents in Massachusetts since 1986. There were no child fire deaths in either 2020 or 2021.

"Student awareness of fire safety is critical, and we also apply for a grant every year so we can run a program for seniors as well," Chief Parsons added.

Fire officials thank everyone who came together to make the open house a memorable community event. Several fire department members and their families volunteered their time to make the event a success.

"We at Spencer Fire would like to thank all who came out to our open house. We hope you enjoyed our pancake breakfast and learned a lot about what we do," read a statement released by the fire department.

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# POLICE REPORTS

## Spencer Police

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5

1:18-3:02 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:14 a.m.: suspicious mv (Bixby Road), investigated; 7:52 a.m.: officer wanted (Paxton Road), poss. paving co. scam; 8:19 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 8:30 a.m.: medical/general (Mercury Drive); 8:59 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 9:30 a.m.: medical/general (Fourth Avenue); 9:49 a.m.: medical/general (Jones Street); 9:53 a.m.: fraud (Lake Whittemore Drive), unauth. use of chkg. acct.; 10:20 a.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 10:39 a.m.: animal complaint (Ash Street), rep. domestic animal bite; 11:15 a.m.: counterfeiting (Main Street), counterfeit bill rec'd; 11:34 a.m.: mv lockout (Lincoln Street), services rendered; 12:00 p.m.: harassment prevention order service (Smithville Road); 12:05 p.m.: larceny (Pleasant Street), stolen rx; 12:55 p.m.: elderly matter (Wall Street), req. escort to taxi; 1:48 p.m.: mv complaint (Martin Road), SUV in middle of road; 2:24 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 3:05 p.m.: juvenile matter (Whittemore Court), grandson not home yet; 4:04 p.m.: animal complaint (Cranberry Lane), dog in distress; 4:18 p.m.: mutual aid (Chestnut Street), RMV/immediate threat; 5:25 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 5:57 p.m.: fraud (Old Farm Road), re: phone call rec'd; 6:20 p.m.: residential alarm (Lincoln Street), services rendered; 6:44 p.m.: animal complaint (Bixby Road), bear/cubs in area; 6:46 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Pope Street), referred; 8:09 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 10:08 p.m.: suspicious mv (Howe Road), investigated; (total daily mv stops - 1).

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6

12:25 a.m.: mv repossessed (Grove Street), info taken; 2:15 a.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 2:17 a.m.: building checked, secure; 2:28 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 2:39 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 3:06 a.m.: suspicious mv (Lincoln Street), investigated; 3:19 a.m.: building checked, secure; 4:11 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 5:14 a.m.: medical/general (Lake Avenue); 6:18 a.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), raccoon struck by mv; 6:33 a.m.: 911 call (Main Street), resolved; 7:08 a.m.: animal complaint (Smithville Road), bear/cubs in area; 7:55 a.m.: parking violation (Grant Street), ticket issued; 8:29 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 9:11 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 10:46 a.m.: residential alarm (Howe Village), referred; 1:53 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 2:24 p.m.: fire alarm (Howe Village), referred; 2:46 p.m.: LTC issued/2 (West Main Street), assisted; 3:14 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 5:17 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 6:12 p.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 6:36 p.m.: juvenile matter (Ash Street), re: incident at school; 8:49 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 10:07 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (South Spencer Road), misdial; 10:43 p.m.: fire alarm (Duggan Street), referred; 11:12 p.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info taken; 11:40 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; (total daily mv stops - 3).

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

1:03 a.m.: disturbance (Chestnut Street), issues w/neighbor; 7:55 a.m.: medical/general (School Street); 7:55 a.m.: mv complaint (Meadow Road), erratic operator; 9:41 a.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 10:10 a.m.: juvenile matter (Wilson Avenue), re: incident reported; 10:14 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 10:16 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 10:23 a.m.: elderly matter (Woodside Road), req. escort/speak to wife; 10:33 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 11:36 a.m.: officer wanted (Grove Street), almost struck

by mv; 12:39 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 1:26 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), info. request; 1:27 p.m.: fire alarm (Paxton Road), referred; 2:01 p.m.: mutual aid (South Spencer Road), req. welfare check; 4:08 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 4:25 p.m.: RV complaint (South Spencer Road), ATV speeding on trail; 4:33 p.m.: fire alarm (Mechanic Street), referred; 4:50 p.m.: animal complaint (South Spencer Road), dog complaint/unspecified on police log; 5:10 p.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), req. welfare check; 6:21 p.m.: fire alarm (Clark Terrace), referred; 6:45 p.m.: residential alarm (Lincoln Street), services rendered; 7:44 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 8:08 p.m.: officer wanted (High Street), info given/taken; 9:42 p.m.: disturbance (Adams Street), noise complaint; 9:46 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 9:49 p.m.: accident (North Spencer Road), mv vs deer; 11:22 p.m.: accident (R. Jones Road), report taken; 11:53 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); (total daily mv stops - 2).

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

12:55-2:32 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:08 a.m.: suspicious mv (Mechanic Street), investigated; 8:27 a.m.: suspicious mv (Howe Road), investigated; 8:41 a.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 8:50 a.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 9:46 a.m.: animal complaint (Collier Circle), loose dog; 10:11 a.m.: disabled mv (Hastings Road), services rendered; 11:10 a.m.: officer wanted (Clark Road), spoken to; 11:35 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Charlton PD bolo/hit & run; 12:19 p.m.: RV complaint (South Spencer Road); ATVs on rail trail; 3:37 p.m.: mv complaint (Smithville Cross Road), mcs racing; 3:43 p.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), wallet lost; 4:19 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), mv w/wrong plate; 5:16 p.m.: medical/general (Ash Street); 8:03 p.m.: animal complaint (Charlton Road), cat on roof; 8:25 p.m.: building checked, secure; 8:39 p.m.: parking violation (Chestnut Street), ticket issued; 9:34 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo; 10:28 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Chestnut Street), child w/phone; 11:47 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Maple Street), resolved; (total daily mv stops - 0).

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9

12:31 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 12:35-1:40 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:00 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Marlboro PD bolo; 3:22 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), req. for assistance; 3:40 a.m.: disturbance (Buteau Road), noise complaint; 8:24 a.m.: lost/found (North Spencer Road), boys bikes found; 10:34 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: note found on car; 10:41 a.m.: mutual aid (Chestnut Street), Marlboro PD req. restraining order service; 11:34 a.m.: animal complaint (Donnelly Cross Road), poss. dog abduction; 11:42 a.m.: vandalism (Main Street), c/o neighbors; 12:27 p.m.: animal complaint (Borkum Road), loose dog; 12:58 p.m.: commercial alarm (Lake Street), services rendered; 1:25 p.m.: officer wanted (Wall Street), req. welfare check; 1:41 p.m.: medical/general (Fourth Avenue); 2:11 p.m.: animal complaint (Paxton Road), barking dog; 3:20 p.m.: lost/found (Meadow Road), mv reg. found; 4:12 p.m.: lost/found (Main Street), found card in ATM; 5:46 p.m.: fire alarm (Howe Village), referred; 6:32 p.m.: building checked, secure; 6:33 p.m.: animal complaint (Valley Street), update of dog's condition; 8:14 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Charlton PD bolo; 9:20 p.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), driving wrong side of road; 9:22-9:25 p.m.: buildings checked, secure (total daily mv stop - 0).

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10

1:41-2:40 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:09 a.m.: school alarm (Lake Street), services rendered; 5:22 a.m.: fire alarm (Mechanic Street), referred; 7:42 a.m.: mv lockout (West Main

Street), services rendered; 10:00 a.m.: fraud (East Charlton Road), unemployment scam; 12:35 p.m.: animal complaint (Old East Charlton Road), goose in yard; 1:00 p.m.: suspicious person (Howe Road), Angela M. Zona, 38, 45 Church Street, Spencer; warrant, arrest; 1:06 p.m.: commercial alarm (McCormick Road), services rendered; 1:15 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 2:04 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 2:15 p.m.: suspicious persons (Thompson Pond Road), investigated; 2:16 p.m.: school alarm (Lake Street), services rendered; 3:31 p.m.: suspicious persons (Bacon Hill Road), parties offering paving services; 4:23 p.m.: mv complaint (Brooks Pond Road), mv doing "burn outs"; 6:30 p.m.: accident (Roys Drive), no action required; 7:01 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 7:59 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 9:26 p.m.: fire alarm (Greenville Street), referred; (total daily mv stops - 2).

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11

1:16-2:45 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:56 a.m.: mv complaint (Charlton Road), erratic operator; 8:18 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), loose dogs; 10:17 a.m.: mv theft (Maple Street), noticed mv plate missing yesterday; 11:49 a.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), services rendered; 12:30 p.m.: suspicious persons (Hastings Road), investigated; 12:49 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 1:27 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 3:04 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 3:22 p.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), req. welfare check; 4:23 p.m.: medical/general (Irving Street); 4:40 p.m.: RV complaint (Paxton Road), RV tracks on property; 4:58 p.m.: suspicious mv (Lake Street), investigated; 5:06 p.m.: suspicious mv (Lake Street), investigated; 5:50 p.m.: lost/found (Wilson Street), bike found; 6:00 p.m.: suspicious mv (G.H. Wilson Road), investigated; 6:35 p.m.: medical/general (Linden Street); 6:58 p.m.: fire alarm (Sherry Lane), referred; 7:05 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 7:41 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), 18 yo son missing; 7:49 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 8:32 p.m.: suspicious mv (Smithville Road), investigated; 8:55 p.m.: building checked, secure; (total daily mv stops - 1).

###

## Leicester Police

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6

12:51 a.m.: debris in road (Main Street), resolved; 2:24 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 3:15 a.m.: ambulance (Cricklewood Drive), transported; 4:52 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 7:02 a.m.: debris in road (South Main Street), referred; 8:45 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:35 a.m.: ambulance (Arborvitae Street, Worcester), transported; 10:49 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 11:52 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 12:05 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 1:24 p.m.: ambulance (Paxton Street), transported; 2:50 p.m.: welfare check (Bond Street), investigated; 3:30 p.m.: disturbance (Soojians Drive), advised civil action; 3:55 p.m.: debris in road (Mulberry Street), resolved; 4:17 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), resolved; 4:27 p.m.: ambulance (Queen Street, Worcester), transported; 4:49 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 4:53 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:01 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:09 p.m.: investigation (Pleasant Street), report taken; 7:16 p.m.: investigation (Bond Street), resolved; 9:03 p.m.: mv stop (Henshaw Street), verbal warning; 10:20 p.m.: ambulance (Parker Street), transported; 10:27 p.m.: welfare check (Boyd Street), investigated; 11:10 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 11:46

p.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), services rendered.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

1:21 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 2:35 a.m.: suspicious mv (Paxton Street), no action required; 4:42 a.m.: attempted b&e (Charlton Street), report taken; 6:03 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 9:15 a.m.: vandalism (Chapel Street), report taken; 10:54 a.m.: welfare check (Soojians Drive), assisted; 11:00 a.m.: fraud (Auburn Street), assisted; 11:02 a.m.: welfare check (McCarthy Avenue), gone on arrival; 11:33 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 11:52 a.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), referred to ACO; 12:10 p.m.: ambulance (South Main Street), transported; 12:36 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 2:21 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street), gone on arrival; 2:56 p.m.: ambulance (Queen Street, Worcester), transported; 3:34 p.m.: ambulance (Clark Street), transported; 4:03 p.m.: disabled mv (Blueberry Lane), mv towed; 4:53 p.m.: assist citizen (Oak Bluff Lane), spoken to; 5:18 p.m.: welfare check (River Street), no action required; 6:08 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 6:38 p.m.: stolen mv (South Main Street), advised civil action; 7:07 p.m.: ambulance (Queen Street, Worcester), transported; 7:13 p.m.: suspicious person (Stafford Street), unable to locate; 7:53 p.m.: restraining order service (Cedar Lane), served; 8:21 p.m.: accident (McNeil Highway), report taken; 8:23 p.m.: suspicious activity (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 8:39 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), no action required; 9:27 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 11:15 p.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), services rendered; 11:41 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

12:19 a.m.: open door/window (Main Street), resolved; 12:52 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:16 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:21 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), spoken to; 6:10 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:31 a.m.: ambulance (Soojians Drive), transported; 10:50 a.m.: ambulance (Park Lane), transported; 11:04 a.m.: assist citizen (Auburn Street); 11:09 a.m.: ambulance (Mannville Street), transported; 11:13 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 11:47 a.m.: ambulance (Rawson Street), transported; 12:32 p.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), assisted; 12:52 p.m.: animal complaint (South Main Street), referred to ACO; 1:14 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), criminal application issued; 2:20 p.m.: vandalism (Chapel Street), call canceled; 4:57 p.m.: disturbance (Marshall Street), report taken; 5:21 p.m.: vandalism (Main Street), call canceled; 9:25 p.m.: hit/run accident (Main Street), report taken.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9

12:23 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 12:40 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), resolved; 1:03 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 1:18 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 1:58 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 1:59 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license/subsequent offense, citation issued; 2:29 a.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 9:19 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 9:50 a.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), report taken; 10:00 a.m.: family problem (Main Street), services rendered; 10:37 a.m.: investigation (Pleasant Street), report taken; 11:54 a.m.: animal complaint (South Main Street), referred to ACO; 12:10 p.m.: animal complaint (South Main Street), referred to ACO; 12:15 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 12:25 p.m.: harassment (Conway Drive), assisted; 12:44 p.m.: threats (Main Street), spoken to; 2:33 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 5:40 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued; 6:03 p.m.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), no action required.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10

10:05 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 11:57 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), no action required; 12:37 a.m.: transport prisoner (West Main Street, Worcester), transported; 12:44 p.m.: municipal security alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 4:28 p.m.: welfare check (Paxton Street), resolved; 9:13 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), spoken to.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11

1:13 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:42 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 9:48 a.m.: suspicious mv (Pine Street), no action required; 10:53 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 11:11 a.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street, Worcester), transported; 11:40 a.m.: ambulance (Watson Street), false alarm; 11:58 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 2:50 p.m.: ambulance (White Birch Street), transported; 3:42 p.m.: residential alarm (Baldwin Street), false alarm; 4:22 p.m.: welfare check (Soojians Drive), Michael James Roimstad, 38, 202 Bradford Street, Pittsfield, failure to appear upon recognition, arrest; 6:07 p.m.: property found (Stafford Street), report taken; 6:29 p.m.: dis-



# BULLETIN BOARD

**Have an upcoming event or Fall Festival? Post it here!**

**Call June at 508-909-4062 or email [jsima@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:jsima@stonebridgepress.news)**

"WE'VE GOT BEEF"

October 22nd  
5:30-7:00PM




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Tasty pot roast dinner with fixings and homemade gingerbread with whipped cream. \$15.00 for adults, \$8.00 for children 7-14, under 5 free. \$50.00 max per family. Get your reservations in early. Limited quantities. Phone for reservations or order take out. **508-248-7379**

Charlton City United Methodist Church  
74 Stafford St, Charlton City, MA.



# Announcement

## Fallen Leicester officer's family granted posthumous benefits

LEICESTER — Governor Baker signed a bill giving the town of Leicester the authority to grant full annual property tax exemptions to the surviving spouse of Rutland Police Detective and Leicester resident John D. Songy. Detective Songy, an 8-year employee of the RPD, passed away after a battle with COVID-19 on May 29, 2020 at the age of 48.

A United States Department of Justice investigation determined that Detective Songy perished in the line of duty after contracting COVID-19 at the workplace. Existing Massachusetts law provides that the surviving spouse of an officer killed in the line of duty is entitled to a local property tax exemption, however the statute defines a line of duty death as "a result of some violent act, or occurrence of violent external physical force to the body." The narrow definition does not encompass death due to COVID-19, even when contracted in the line of duty. As a result, the Massachusetts Division of Local Services has prohibited the town of Leicester from granting property tax exemption to Detective Songy's spouse. This legislation, spearheaded by Senators Michael Moore and Anne Gobi, and Representative David LeBoeuf, grants the posthumous benefits right-

ly owed to Joanne Songy.

"I was saddened to hear of the tragic passing of Detective John Songy during the early days of the pandemic. To later find out that Detective Songy's wife, Joanne, would not receive the state benefits rightfully owed to her due to a bureaucratic oversight made me heartsick," said Senator Michael Moore (D-Millbury). "With the passage of this legislation, we are righting this wrong and making sure the Commonwealth of Massachusetts grants Detective Songy's family the benefits they deserve. I am thankful to Senator Gobi and Representative LeBoeuf for collaborating on this legislation and making sure the Songy family is taken care of."

"I am grateful to my colleagues in the delegation and the legislature for pushing this bill forward, and to Governor Baker for signing it," said Senator Anne Gobi (D-Spencer). "Detective Songy's sacrifice for our community merits this action to protect his surviving family members."

With the passage of this legislation through the Massachusetts House and Senate, and having received the signature of Governor Baker, this bill is now law.

## Spencer Christmas Parade of Lights to be held Dec. 10

SPENCER — The Town of Spencer Celebrations Committee announced that the 2022 Christmas Parade of Lights will be held on Dec. 10.

In the event of rain or snow, the event will be moved to Dec. 11.

The entry categories this year will consist of floats, fire trucks, Jeeps, and ATVs. The parade will start at David Prouty High School and continue down Main Street before ending at the Spencer Highway Department on Meadow Road.

The Christmas Parade of Lights will begin promptly at 7 p.m. The line-up for

the parade will begin at 5 p.m. at David Prouty High School.

Judging will take place at 6:30 p.m., and each parade entry must be present and lighted in order to be considered for an award in their respective categories.

Entrants are asked to have the required entry form and liability forms fully completed, and to bring them to the line-up on the night of the parade.

Forms can be downloaded from the Spencer Celebrations Committee page on Spencer's website: [www.Spencerma.gov](http://www.Spencerma.gov).

Entrants may also email completed forms in advance of the parade to Donnie Berthiaume at [Donnie@Brennickdesign.com](mailto:Donnie@Brennickdesign.com).

## Driver charged after fleeing the scene in West Brookfield

WEST BROOKFIELD — A driver is facing charges after attempting to elude the police last week.

On Oct. 12 at approximately 12:40 a.m., the West Brookfield Police attempted to stop a vehicle on West Main Street. The vehicle failed to stop and subsequently crashed on North Main

Street, police said.

The driver fled the scene and was later located by a Massachusetts State Police K9 unit. Following the arrest, the driver was transported to the hospital with injuries sustained from the crash and a dog bite.

As of press time, the suspect's name had not been released by police.

"Thank you to the Massachusetts State Police, North Brookfield Police Department, Brookfield Police Department, Hardwick Police Department, and the Massachusetts State Police Dispatch Center," read a statement released by the West Brookfield Police Department.

## Investigation underway in heavy equipment related death

LEICESTER — Police continue to investigate the death of a man who was found trapped beneath a piece of heavy equipment last week.

On Friday, Oct. 14, at approximately 11:50 a.m., Leicester Police, Fire and EMS responded to 66 King Street for a report of a man trapped under a piece of equipment.

Arriving units located the victim trapped beneath a skid steer loader, police said. The equipment was stabilized before the victim was extricated. First responders on scene determined that he had succumbed to his injuries.

On Oct. 15, the Worcester County District Attorney's Office identified the

victim as 51-year-old Robert Stuart, Jr. Investigators said he was working on a piece of equipment in his garage that houses Evergreen Lawn Maintenance & Landscape.

The garage is located on a commercial section of the property, investigators said. OSHA was also called to the scene.

The incident is under investigation by the Leicester Police Department, as well as Massachusetts State Police detectives assigned to the Worcester County District Attorney's Office.

Leicester Police Chief Kenneth Antanavica said the death appears to be a tragic accident.

## Fierce Self-Compassion Book Group registration ongoing

Book Group: Fierce Self-Compassion will be held at the Richard Sugden Library in Spencer. This workshop series will be led by Wendy O'Leary (Certified Mindfulness Meditation Teacher). Discuss and practice using

the concepts and the activities in the book. Participants will read assigned chapters prior to each month's discussion. Please plan to attend all eight sessions (one a month). To be held the following Wednesdays from 2:30-4 p.m. Nov. 2, Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 8, April 12, May 10 and June 14. Sign up required. To register, contact Wendy O'Leary: [woleary25@gmail.com](mailto:woleary25@gmail.com).

# LEGALS

### MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Gloria A. Latino to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for NewRez LLC, dated March 10, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 64729, Page 309, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for NewRez LLC, its successors and assigns to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, recorded on February 16, 2022, in Book No. 67129, at Page 34

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 AM on October 28, 2022, on the mortgaged premises located at 13 Temple Street, Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:

THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF WORCESTER, STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS, AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER THEREOF AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE EAST LINE OF TEMPLE STREET WITH THE NORTH LINE OF CHURCH STREET; THENCE NORTHERLY BY THE EAST LINE OF SAID TEMPLE STREET ABOUT 49 1/2 FEET; THENCE EASTERLY BY A LINE PASSING MIDWAY BETWEEN THE MAIN PART OF THE DWELLING OF THE GRANTOR AND THE DWELLING ON THE NORTH OWNED BY GEORGE LAMOUREUX 45 1/2 FEET; THENCE NORTHERLY ABOUT 13 FEET TO LAND OF SAID LAMOUREUX AT A POINT 6 FEET EASTERLY OF THE EAST FACE OF HIS DWELLING, THE FOREGOING COURSES BEING BY LAND RECENTLY CONVEYED BY CANTARA TO SAID LAMOUREUX; THENCE EASTERLY ABOUT 18 6/10 FEET BY LAND OF LAMOUREUX; THENCE SOUTHERLY 62 FEET BY LAND FORMERLY OF EDWARD DUPLIN, OTHERWISE CALLED EDWARD DESPLAINES TO SAID CHURCH STREET; THENCE WESTERLY BY THE NORTH LINE OF SAID CHURCH STREET ABOUT 65 2/12 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING.

For mortgagor's(s)' title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 59553, Page 73.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all un-

paid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING

Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,

HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.

150 California St.

Newton, MA 02458

(617)558-0500

21459

October 7, 2022

October 14, 2022

October 21, 2022

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### East Brookfield Board of Health

The East Brookfield Board of Health will hold a public hearing on November 14, 2022 at 6:00 PM at the Board of Health office in the Town Hall, 122 Connie Mack Drive, East Brookfield, MA 01515. This hearing will concern the adoption of proposed regulations to permit, inspect, and regulate Body Art Establishments in the Town of East Brookfield. This hearing on the proposed regulations will be held in accordance with the provisions of Section 2 of Chapter 30A of the General Laws of the Commonwealth and the Bylaws of the Town of East Brookfield. A copy of the regulations is available for public view at the office of the Town Clerk of the Town of East Brookfield at the Town Hall and on the EBBOH page on the Town of East Brookfield website. Per Section 2 of Chapter 30A, a small business impact statement is required with this notice. That small business follows:

(1) an estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the proposed regulation; at present there is one applicant for a Body Art Establishment considering opening in the Town of East Brookfield. Others may follow.

(2) projected reporting, recordkeeping

and other administrative costs required for compliance with the proposed regulation; These are minimal, include reasonable permitting fees for both Body Art Establishment and Body Art Practitioners and are standard for any Body Art Establishment in Massachusetts. (3) the appropriateness of performance standards versus design standards; the proposed regulations are similar to other previously-approved Body Art Establishment Regulations in Massachusetts. (4) an identification of regulations of the promulgating agency, or of another agency or department of the commonwealth, which may duplicate or conflict with the proposed regulation; These proposed regulations do not duplicate or conflict with any other known regulations. (5) an analysis of whether the proposed regulation is likely to deter or encourage the formation of new businesses in the commonwealth; As these proposed regulations enable the establishment of Body Art Establishments in the Town of East Brookfield, this is likely to make it more likely for Body Art Establishments to be able to open in the Town of East Brookfield.

October 14, 2022

October 21, 2022

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. WO22P3391EA

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate of:

Julia Dorval

Date of Death: 11/11/2021

To all interested persons:

A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by

Joshua Cone of Brookfield MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that

Joshua Cone of Brookfield MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/01/2022.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection

followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS

INVENTORY AND ACCOUNTS (MUPC)

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

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

Date: October 03, 2022

Stephanie K. Fattman,

Register of Probate

October 21, 2022

(SEAL)

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

LAND COURT

DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT

Docket Number: 22 SM 002961

ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: Dylan Hammond

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

Movement Mortgage, LLC

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Spencer, numbered 58 Thompson Pond Road, given by Dylan Hammond to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Movement Mortgage, LLC, dated September 18, 2020, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 63300, Page 33, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 11/28/2022 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 10/11/2022.

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson

Recorder

October 22, 2022

# SPORTS

## Panthers turn second half goals into victory over Oxford



Nick Ethier photos

With time to spare, David Prouty's Olivia Pepin settles the ball in the open field.



Eva LaPorte of David Prouty follows through on her attempted shot on goal.

BY NICK ETHIER  
SPORTS EDITOR

SPENCER — Although both teams came in under .500 in the win/loss column, a great soccer match ensued when the David Prouty Regional girls' varsity soccer squad hosted Oxford High on Friday, Oct. 14. And both teams could still potentially have a lot to play for come postseason time.

The first half featured back-and-forth play, with both defenses rising to the occasion. The Panthers were then able to pot two second half goals to win a 2-0 decision over the Pirates.

"We've played very well as of late," said David Prouty head coach Derek Blodgett. "We struggled earlier in the season, but we've managed to adjust in all aspects of the game."

Oxford head coach Colby Harvey was pleased with his team's defensive play and the work of keeper Jenna Katsoulis.

"We had a great first half, although we didn't have many opportunities offensively, we still dictated play defensively," said Harvey. "Jenna has been amazing this year. A goalie like Jenna doesn't come around very often."

The reason behind the game remaining scoreless at halftime was because of Katsoulis' nine-save effort (she finished the game with 21 stops), many including her patented ability to run up to a loose ball with an opponent also charging hard at it, sliding in to catch the ball without a moment to spare.

But Prouty's Aubrey Messier solved the Pirates' defense for a pair of goals in the second half. At the 13:54 mark,

Messier received a pass from Olivia Pepin and she beat Katsoulis with her shot. Then, at 19:55 of the half, Messier touched the ball following Eliana Barnett's corner kick for another goal.

"David Prouty was able to maximize on two defensive breakdowns," explained Harvey. "The first goal, Jenna made the initial save and the Panthers were able to finish the rebound. The second goal was an own goal that was the result of a bad clear by one of my defenders. But give Prouty credit, they dominated the second half of that game resulting in a 2-0 victory."

Jocelyn LaMonda made two saves in net for the Panthers for the shutout, as the team improved to 7-8.

"We needed to find our team identity, which can be difficult year-to-year with a small program of only one team," said Blodgett. "I give full credit to our Lady Panthers for persevering through this season. Their team commitment and focus has allowed us to battle back toward a playoff run as the regular season closes out."

The following day Prouty evened its record to 8-8 by defeating host Leicester High, 2-0. Emilee Larson (Barnett assist) and Barnett (Pepin assist) provided the second half goals, with keeper Madison Ethier stepping in for LaMonda and making 12 saves.

The Panthers are now Central Mass. Tournament bound. And regardless of how they do in that tournament, they will reach the Division 5 State Tournament because their current Power Ranking is No. 15, and the top 32 automatically earn berths no matter



David Prouty's Emilee Larson heads toward a loose ball versus Oxford.

the record.

Oxford, now 2-11, is in a similar situation. The Pirates were ranked 26th in the same D5 Power Rankings.

"It's been a challenging year for us, although our record doesn't tell the full story. We play an incredibly tough schedule and this year we have five athletes who have never played soccer before. Our girls fight hard every game and never quit," said Harvey. "The good news is, with our strength of sched-

ule, we are still in the race for the D5 Statewide Tournament. Last year we proved that the tournament seeding works. We won four games last year, qualified for the tournament and won in dominating fashion in the first game of the tournament. We then lost 4-0 to the eventual D5 State Championship team, Sutton. Our girls are looking forward to tournament time and I expect we will show our true talent when that time comes."

### QUAIL HOLLOW GOLF CLUB RESULTS

Pit's Crew

First place (-8): Brian Shorten, Jim LaMonda, John Dubsy, Ron Thompson

Second place (-7): Bill Babineau, Rusty Snow, Tom Emery, Rick Lavergne

Third place (-7): Steve Varnum, Ron Fontaine, Bill Gaudette, Ken McLean

## Worcester Red Sox continue mission of community support at SEBRSD

SPENCER — Continuing their mission of community support, members of the Worcester Red Sox recently visited the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District.

The Oct. 1 WooSox visit to David Prouty High School included special guest appearances from players and mascots. Prizes and activities were available throughout the day, and youngsters were able to meet Worcester Red Sox infielder Ryan Fitzgerald and pitcher Durbin Feltman.

WooSox mascots Smiley Ball, Woolster the Wonder Dog, and Roberto the Rocket also provided plenty of entertainment.

"This event is an opportunity for us to continue the good work we do together with our community partner, the Worcester Red Sox," said SEBRSD Superintendent Paul Haughey. "Having the WooSox come to SEBRSD speaks to how important education is for not only Spencer and East Brookfield, but also southern Worcester County."

Worcester Red Sox President Charles Steinberg was also on hand, offering guests a chance to check out World Series rings from the four most recent Boston Red Sox championship teams (2004, 2007, 2013, and 2018).

"The WooSox look forward to visiting the beautiful town of Spencer to promote education, bring people together, and further immerse in this wonderful community," Steinberg said ahead of the event. "We congratulate Ryan Fitzgerald and Durbin Feltman for their heart and spirit, and we hope that they, along with our popular mascots and four Boston Red Sox World Series rings, will provide some added joyful moments and memories."

Added Haughey, "I would like to thank the Worcester Red Sox organization for their support and partnership to make this day happen."



Courtesy photos

Members of the Worcester Red Sox recently visited David Prouty High School.



### Softball Pitching Clinic coming to Southbridge Rec Center

For a span of 18 weeks (from Oct. 23 through March 19, 2023), the Southbridge Rec Center, located at 152 Chestnut Street, will host a Softball Pitching Clinic presented by Bill Rahall.

The Sunday morning sessions last for 50 minutes with available times including 8:30, 9:20 and 10:10 a.m. Leagues, high schools, individuals aged 7 and older are all encouraged to sign up. All players must bring their own catcher, and catchers are free. Full teams earn discounted prices as well. For more information on the cost, please call or text Coach Rahall at (860) 576-3440.



## SPORTS

# Hard working Wolverines get by Northbridge in close contest

BY NICK ETHIER  
SPORTS EDITOR

NORTHBRIDGE — With the rain pouring down on Lasell Field, the Leicester High and Northbridge High varsity field hockey teams were engaged in a spirited contest on Thursday, Oct. 13. And the Wolverines cherished the moment and opportunity.

"The rain just makes us work a little harder, and I think the girls just have to deal with the adversity. And the adversity builds character," said Leicester head coach Thomas Bowes.

The Wolverines broke a 1-1 tie, a tie that lasted for about 41 of the game's 60 minutes, with 12:52 to play in the final quarter. The ball was serviced into the Rams' circle and upon inadvertently hitting Northbridge's Kayla Hubbard in the shoulder, many of the players paused assuming the whistle would be blown. But a heady Sedona Richard of Leicester pursued the ball and fired a shot into the back of the cage.

"She gets in the right place at the right time," Bowes said of Richard, who also scored the game's first goal about three minutes in, with Tiffany White assisting. "We seize our opportunities."

The Wolverines' defense, led by Emila Casello, Nina Dykas and Allie Blair, then held off Northbridge's attack to preserve the win.

"They're stoppers," Bowes said of the defensive trio. "They just don't let anything back there."

Leicester is now 8-4 following the win, with five of those victories coming by two goals or less.

"We're a team that grinds it out," said Bowes. "We've got kids that are just committed to working hard. We're a good, solid team. We don't blow teams out — we work hard and we take advantage of our opportunities. We have six seniors, good senior leadership, and some younger kids that are stepping up."

One of the Wolverines' victories, though, was a 4-0 decision



From left, Northbridge's Sophia Boisseau and Leicester's Leda MacChesney battle for possession of the ball.



Tiffany White of Leicester maneuvers the ball down the field as a Northbridge player gives chase.

over the Rams back on Sept. 20.

"We played them at the beginning of the season with a terrible result, and I think we just had something to prove that we were a different team than what they saw," explained Northbridge head coach Kerin Buma of the difference between the two games.

This particular loss, though, was a tough one for the Rams to take.

"It always stings when you go out and play hard from the first whistle until the final whistle and you don't get the result you want," said Buma. "We kept taking the shots and they just weren't bouncing our way."

Northbridge earned 12 penalty corner opportunities throughout the game but couldn't capitalize on those prime scoring chances.

"One tip one way, or just a faster rotation on the ball we could have had it," said Buma.

Katherine Kibbe scored the Rams' goal less than three minutes after Leicester took a 1-0 lead, her wrist shot finding the left-side of the cage near the post.



Leicester's Nina Dykas gets low for a swooping hit.

Northbridge is now 4-8-1, but Buma appreciated her team's effort and believes the Rams can still qualify for the Division 4 State Tournament.

"Giving a full 60-minute effort, as much as it stings, it

shows that we're working hard until the final whistle," she said. "[Reaching the playoffs is] going to be a fight, but I'm confident that we can get there. We still have a lot of field hockey left to play."

The top 32 teams in the Power Rankings at regular season's end automatically qualify for States, regardless of record, and the Rams had a ranking of 32 following the game. Leicester was ranked 24th.

## Spencer locals to be featured in 'The Nutcracker' at Hanover Theatre



Courtesy photo

Olivia Merrick of Spencer will be performing in 'The Nutcracker' at Worcester's Hanover Theatre next month.

WORCESTER — Tchaikovsky's 'The Nutcracker,' sponsored by Berkshire Bank, will return to The Hanover Theatre on November 25-26 at 2 PM and 7 PM, and November 27 at 1 PM. And local students Olivia Merrick and Andy Lane of Spencer will be featured in the production.

The story revolves around Clara, a young girl who receives a nutcracker doll as a Christmas gift, and enters a magical world where the Nutcracker and other characters come to life. Merrick and Lane will be playing the roles of Big Party Girl/Arabian Attendant and Fritz, respectively.

"This magical production always satisfies," director of dance Jennifer Agbay said. "It prides itself on tradition, classical dance, beautiful scenery, live orchestral music and the belief that dreams really do come true!"

Tickets are on sale now! Prices begin at \$39, \$45 and \$52 depending on seat location. Please contact the box office at 877.571.SHOW (7469) or visit TheHanoverTheatre.org for more information. Book a group of 10 and save!

is also involved in chorus at LMS.

"My favorite part about school, community service, and sports teams are the bonds I make with everyone, from my friends at school to the people I meet volunteering with NJHS," Butler told the New Leader. "The strongest bonds I make are with my coaches and teammates. I am always working with them, so it is ideal to have that good communication and trust with them all. Without all of them, I wouldn't be where I am today."

Outside of school and her primary sports, some of Butler's favorite hobbies are tennis, boxing, and surfing, among several others.

"I enjoy fishing and ice fishing. I also like archery, target practice, snowboarding, snowmobiling, playing chess, and football. My favorite hobby is being with my family, friends, and especially my dog, Trooper," Butler said.

## Christmas Decor urges electrical safety guidelines for holiday outdoor lighting

SPENCER — As the holiday season approaches, outdoor holiday lighting expert Arnold Arsenault of Christmas Decor by A Arsenault & Sons, Inc. in Spencer offers do-it-yourself decor warriors some basic safety guidelines from the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI):

Use extension cords and electrical decorations that are designed for outdoor use and confirm that they have been approved by a recognized testing lab.

Inspect lights, decor, and extension cords for damage before using them and plug them into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Don't overload a single electrical outlet with too many devices.

Keep yourself, your decor, and your equipment at least ten feet away from power lines during and after installation and removal.

Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations before you leave home or go to bed for the night.

"It's important on so many levels that property owners who want to manage their own holiday lighting installations follow guidelines like these," said Arsenault. "Putting up, maintaining, and taking down outdoor holiday electrical decor requires a variety of skill sets ranging from design expertise and electrical knowledge to ladder safety and safe storage planning. To prevent personal injury and property damage, it's important to do your research, plan ahead, and then proceed with care." Arsenault reminds property owners that there is another, safer way to approach outdoor holiday decorating chores: turn them over to a professional outdoor holiday lighting expert like Christmas Decor.

"Our end-to-end solution, for example, includes design, installation, mainte-

nance, take down, and storage," says Arsenault. "Our decorators are trained to execute professional-grade lighting displays on high roofs, ladders and in tricky situations. The results we deliver far exceed what the average homeowner is able to achieve with consumer-grade decor, and without damage to moldings, roofing, architectural elements, or — most importantly — the property owner." For more information on having Christmas Decor decorate your home or business, or to schedule an appointment for a consultation or installation, please contact Arnold Arsenault of Christmas Decor by A Arsenault & Sons, Inc. in Spencer at (508) 885-5589 or arnie@arsenaultandsons.com. You can also learn more at [www.christmasdecor.net](http://www.christmasdecor.net).

About Christmas Décor  
Since its inception in 1986, Christmas Decor has risen to become the premier holiday lighting and decorating company in North America. The Texas-based company was founded by Blake Smith as an off-season supplement to his landscape business and as a method to provide year-round work for employees. Christmas Decor quickly emerged as a viable business opportunity and today, operates in more than 350 markets in 49 states and Canada. Plans are underway to open locations in more than 40 new markets through franchise expansion in select communities around the country. Christmas Decor is highly revered in its field and has received consistent recognition for its efforts. The company was included in the 2021 Franchise Times Top 400 franchise list and the 2022 Entrepreneur Top 500 franchise list in both the overall category and the Top 25 Best Franchises You Can Buy for \$25,000 or Less category. For more information, visit [www.christmasdecor.net](http://www.christmasdecor.net).

### BUTLER

continued from page

A1 she took part in the 100-meter, 200-meter, and the 4x100-meter relay, depending on the team's needs.

In track, she competed at both Districts and the Southern Worcester County League tournament for LHS. She also participated in javelin and discus competitions for the field element.

In the classroom and her community, Butler has enjoyed similar leadership and success.

"Every year, I work at the Leicester Food Pantry at St. Pius X Church, helping make meal packages during Christmas and Thanksgiving," Butler said. "I help package, move, and deliver the food."

At school, Butler was nominated and inducted into the National Junior Honor Society as a seventh grader. She

# SPORTS

## HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

**Tuesday, Oct. 11**  
**Warriors' golf wins SWCL Championship** — Thanks to Sam Pieczynski's 74 (2nd place), Auburn Phillips' 78 (tied 4th place), Patrick Dunn's 78 (tied 4th place) and Colm McGrath's 80 (10th place), the Warriors' golf team captured the Southern Worcester County League championship at Leicester Country Club.

"Colm, Patrick, and Aubyn all played better than they have been in recent matches, which is a good sign leading into Districts," said Tantasqua head coach Aaron Berthiaume. "Sam Pieczynski, our stellar freshman, was 2-under par going into the 13th hole, and then hit a rough patch, going double bogey, bogey, double bogey, but finished strong to finish sole 2nd. Sam has been our No. 1 player the entire season and has consistently hovered around par since our first match of the season."

Berthiaume gave his squad a number to shoot for at Leicester CC, and the Warriors

responded.

"Before the round, I told the team that they needed to shoot 315 or below as a total to contend, and they shot 310, which showed they are capable of better play later in the season," the coach said. "Winning the SWCL league tournament and finishing tied for SWCL league honors with Auburn leaves D2 Districts as the next step toward a very successful season."

Districts is slated for Oct. 18, which comes after the press deadline.

**Bay Path 2, Oxford 1** — The Minutemen edged the Pirates in a boys' soccer matchup in Charlton. Bryce Hutchinson scored in the 16th minute to get Bay Path on the board, and following the equalizer by Oxford's Kofi Owusu in the 54th minute, the Minutemen won the game thanks to a Brady Suprenant strike in the 64th minute, with Jack Young assisting. Keeper Dominic Moniz made six saves for Bay Path, which improved to 6-5 and has now increased its

winning streak to five games. Oxford is now 6-3-2.

**Wednesday, Oct. 12**  
**Tantasqua 168, Nipmuc 185** — One day after securing the Southern Worcester County League team championship, the Warriors closed out the regular season in style. Tantasqua's Sam Pieczynski shot a 2-over par 38 at Hemlock Ridge to claim medalist honors against Nipmuc. Seniors Gabe Laprade and Halen Barry also counted for the Warriors. Tantasqua also matched cards with league rival Grafton at the SWCL league tournament, the Warriors edging the Gators 148 strokes to 151. Tantasqua finished the regular season with a record of 15-3.

**Friday, Oct. 14**  
**Hudson 42, Tantasqua 28** — A high-flying shootout didn't go the Warriors' way in varsity football. But Tantasqua (2-4) quarterback Adam Howe had himself a game, completing 23 of 37 passes for 310 yards and 4



Courtesy photo

The Tantasqua Warriors are the Southern Worcester County League golf champions after shooting a four-person combined score of 310 at Leicester Country Club on Tuesday, Oct. 11.

touchdowns. Liam Hubacz was the recipient of a pair of TD passes, while Issac Colon and

Brendan Denham caught the other scores.

## Beavers continue winning ways as Bay Path hangs tough



Nick Ethier photos

Bay Path goalie Natalie Walker runs up to kick aside a Blackstone Valley Tech scoring chance.

BY NICK ETHIER  
 SPORTS EDITOR

CHARLTON — The Blackstone Valley Tech varsity field hockey team is racking up the victories this season, and that continued on Wednesday, Oct. 12 when the Beavers defeated Bay Path Regional, 3-1. Conversely, the Minutemen haven't been on the winning side of many decisions, but the young squad is improving each game. For that reason, both sides were pleased following the conclusion of the contest.

"I think that our season is going really well," said first-year Valley Tech head coach Sarah Coley, whose team improved to 9-2-1. "They are very determined girls. They want the best for everyone. We have our team values, which are attitude, respect, effort and support, so we really put each other first before anything."

Bay Path head coach Joanna Gogan has seen plenty of progression from her team since the beginning of the year.

"From where we started against Monty Tech our first game of the season where we were explaining what a position was, we were explaining where to dribble a ball to today, I can only be proud of what we just saw," she said. "Our record is a little rough this year [1-8-1], but we [only] have two seniors and three sophomores, six juniors and the rest [12] is freshmen."

Gogan had to ask fellow student-athletes not already committed to playing, in her words, "the upside-down candy cane sport" to consider joining.

"Almost 50 percent of our team never touched a stick before Aug. 23 this season," she noted.

And the Minutemen — who are hosting games for the first time in 40 years — scored first versus BVT, striking just after the five-minute mark. There, Bay Path made the most of its first penalty corner opportunity. Grace Jones, one of the two seniors, received the inserted pass and — after multiple shots getting blocked — she stuck with it, eventually scoring into the back of the cage.

"We scored first, I am so proud," said Gogan. "We went into this game with two rules: We never quit and never give up, and to have fun. Those are what we did. Today was fun."

But Bay Path, which is a co-op program with David Prouty (three players reside from the Spencer school, including the other senior in Amberlynn Humphrees), saw BVT respond with the tying goal about three minutes later.

The Beavers' Savannah Brodeur sent a right-to-left crossing pass over to Katie Hearn, who one-timed a shot past Minutemen goalie Natalie Walker (10 saves).

The game remained deadlocked at 1-1 until the third quarter, when Valley



Bay Path defender Miranda Linde approaches the ball to block a Blackstone Valley Tech player's shot.



Bay Path defender Miranda Linde approaches the ball to block a Blackstone Valley Tech player's shot.

Tech scored the eventual game-winner early in the period. A penalty stroke was called when Walker made a save but completely covered the ball, allowing Ava Lozeau to score on the free opportunity, her shot to the left side of the cage getting past a diving Walker.

The Beavers padded the lead to 3-1 with 9:55 remaining in the fourth quarter; Lynsey Kay tipping in Lozeau's shot following a corner.

Valley Tech won the corner total, 13-2, and produced 13 shots on goal.

"They're a good program. You've got

to pump yourself up when you play those solid programs," Gogan said of going against a strong BVT team. "We came in knowing we needed to play our 'A' game to hang in there."

Coley also heaped praise on the Minutemen.

"They've been building for a couple years and they've come a long way," she said. "In the next four years they're going to be a really good competitor. They have a lot of freshmen and by the time they're seniors it's going to be a totally different program."

## Webster's Ritacco to run in 2023 Boston Marathon

On April 17, 2023, Webster resident Hilary Ritacco will be running the Boston Marathon for the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge (DFMC). She has found two reasons for the inspiration behind running the marathon.

The first reason is in honor of a dear friend who was recently diagnosed with

Metastatic Melanoma cancer and is currently receiving treatment at Dana-Farber. The second reason is to show her two children that anything is possible and if you have a goal no matter how long it takes, you can always work hard to achieve it.

All funds, a full 100 percent raised by DFMC benefit the Claudia Adams Barr

Program in Innovative Basic Cancer Research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, which is widely recognized as one of the largest and most successful programs of its kind.

Running 26.2 miles is nothing compared to what Ritacco's friend is going through, and her personal goal is to raise \$8,000. Any

Webster's Hilary Ritacco will be running the 2023 Boston Marathon.

donation/sponsorship is greatly appreciated.

Do donate to Ritacco's cause, please visit [https://danafarber.jimmyfund.org/site/TR?fr\\_id=1930&pg=personal&px=1413694&\\_hasSecureSession=true](https://danafarber.jimmyfund.org/site/TR?fr_id=1930&pg=personal&px=1413694&_hasSecureSession=true)





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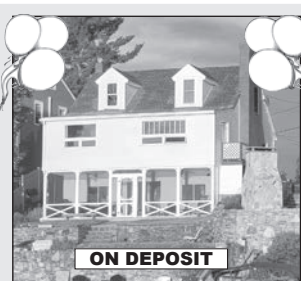
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# Massachusetts Legislators urge DPU action on winter energy rate increases

BOSTON — Last Tuesday, a bipartisan group of 31 Massachusetts State Senators and 76 State Representatives sent a letter to the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) expressing concern about the energy rate increases slated to impact residents this winter. The letter to DPU Chair Matthew Nelson, written by Senator Michael Moore and Representative Orlando Ramos, urges DPU to protect residents of the Commonwealth from these rate increases.

“Between the increased costs of groceries, housing, gas, and other everyday expenses, the last thing Massachusetts residents need is a massive energy rate hike. The expected rate increases from National Grid, Eversource, and other investor-owned utilities are simply unacceptable,” said Senator Michael Moore (D-Millbury) following the release of the letter. “No family should have to make the impossible choice between staying warm this winter and buying groceries or school supplies. Let me be clear: the Department of Public Utilities must act.”

“The people of the Commonwealth have yet to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Representative Orlando Ramos (D-Springfield). “Eversource’s proposed rate increase would disproportionately impact the most vulnerable.

Meanwhile Eversource reported profits of more than \$1.2 billion for 2021. That is an increase of about \$15.3 million (1.3%) from the record profits the company reported in 2020, and an increase of \$311.4 million (34.3%) from the profits it reported in 2019.”

The House Minority Whip, Representative Paul K. Frost (R-Auburn), commented, “These electric prices are far too exorbitant and will crush household budgets across Central Mass and beyond. With groceries, home heating oil, natural gas, gasoline and the average cost of goods and services all rising with no end in sight, these new electric rates for this coming winter will just add further insult to injury to the cost of living here. I stand with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in addressing these unacceptable electric rates with the DPU.”

The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources predicts that the coming winter will be colder than last year’s, while the cost of heating may increase by up to 54.6% for electric customers and 28.6% for natural gas. Utility providers largely blame global factors such as the Russian invasion of Ukraine, supply chain disruptions, and inflation. Legislators believe the DPU can do more to tamp down these rate increases and their effects on consumers.

In their letter to the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, signatories state, “...proposed rate increases of this magnitude – during the winter season – would disproportionately impact the Commonwealth’s most vulnerable. Moreover, protecting our residents from the cold is not just an affordability and equity concern – it is also a public safety issue. As the oversight agency tasked with prioritizing safety, affordability, and equity with regard to energy rates, we ask that DPU do just that and protect Massachusetts residents from these drastic rate increases this winter season.”

The letter was signed by Senators Michael O. Moore, John C. Velis, Diana DiZoglio, Joanne M. Comerford, Ryan Fattman, Patrick O’Connor, Jason M. Lewis, Adam Gomez, Anne M. Gobi, Edward J. Kennedy, Barry R. Finegold, Susan L. Moran, Walter F. Timilty, Sonia Chang-Diaz, James B. Eldridge, Eric P. Lesser, John F. Keenan, Lydia Edwards, Michael D. Brady, John J. Cronin, Patricia D. Jehlen, Marc R. Pacheco, Joan B. Lovely, Becca Rausch, Julian Cyr, Mark C. Montigny, Paul R. Feeney, Bruce E. Tarr, Harriette L. Chandler, Sal N. DiDomenico, and Brendan P. Crighton. It was also signed by Representatives Orlando Ramos, Andy X. Vargas, Michael J. Soter, John Barrett, Timothy R. Whelan, Brian

W. Murray, Paul J. Donato, William M. Straus, Steven Ultrino, Susannah Whipps, Jamie Zahlaway Belsito, Christine P. Barber, Michelle Ciccolo, Todd M. Smola, Natalie M. Blais, Michael P. Kushmerek, Danilo A. Sena, Patrick Kearney, Paul Mark, David Allen Robertson, Mindy Domb, Carole Fiola, Josh S. Cutler, Smitty Pignatelli, Peter Capano, Hannah Kane, Carol A. Doherty, Patricia A. Haddad, Joseph McGonagle, Steven G. Xiarhos, Mathew Muratore, Carlos González, Shawn Dooley, Mike Connolly, Kimberly N. Ferguson, Lindsay N. Sabadosa, Tram T. Nguyen, Jacob R. Oliveira, Kay Khan, Brandy Fluker Oakley, Jonathan Zlotnik, James J. O’Day, Gerard J. Cassidy, Steven C. Owens, David K. Muradian, Jr., Natalie Higgins, Bradley H. Jones, Jr., Susan Williams Gifford, Jay D. Livingstone, Thomas M. Stanley, Paul K. Frost, Frank A. Moran, Meghan K. Kilcoyne, Mary S. Keefe, Jay Barrows, David LeBoeuf, Alan Silvia, Joseph McKenna, Ken Gordon, Christopher M. Markey, Linda Dean Campbell, Liz Miranda, Kevin G. Honan, Danielle W. Gregoire, Marc Lombardo, Ruth B. Balser, Kip A. Diggs, Jeffrey R. Turco, Carmine L. Gentile, Elizabeth A. Malia, Steven S. Howitt, John J. Mahoney, Tami L. Gouveia, Daniel M. Donahue, Colleen M. Garry, and Joseph F. Wagner.

## Annual Holiday Craft Fair at Leicester High slated for Dec. 3

LEICESTER — With the holiday season quickly approach-

ing, shoppers have plenty of options for locally crafted gifts, including the 18th annual Holiday Craft Fair at Leicester High School.

Hosted by the Leicester High School Wolverine Pep Band, this year’s event is slated for Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at LHS. In the event of snow, the craft fair will be moved to Sunday, Dec. 4.

The fair coordinator is

Alexis Phillips, an LHS music teacher who is looking forward to another fun community event to support the school. LHS music students and staff members always appreciate the strong support of their community each year.

“We are excited to bring this fair back this year and add more fun to the mix. We will be including performances by the students who run the

entire event,” read a statement released by the coordinator. “This fundraiser helps our students get to compete against other high schools in the area. Last year, we won first place in our competition, and we hope that this year will be no different.”

The fair is also a great opportunity for shoppers to support local crafters as they continue to rebound from two years of

pandemic cancellations and limited attendances at area events.

A range of hand-crafted items will be available at the fair, perfect for your holiday shopping needs. Crafters represent towns throughout the area, and the event will even draw a few surprise guests.

To learn more about the event, send an email to [lhsmusic@lpsma.net](mailto:lhsmusic@lpsma.net).

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# Old Levi's from mineshaft sold at auction

In my last antique news column, I noted that the art collection of Paul Allen (who founded Microsoft with Bill Gates in 1975) was expected to bring \$1 billion at auction. A photograph of Allen's estate now has the potential to break an auction record.



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES  
WAYNE TUISKULA

The photograph is called "the Flatiron" and was taken by Edward Steichen in 1904 and printed in 1905. According to the History Channel, the Flatiron Building was "designed by Chicago architect Daniel Burnham and built in 1902." The building's unique design "allowed it to fill the wedge-shaped property located at the intersection of Fifth Avenue and Broadway." The photograph depicts men on carriages during a foggy night in Manhattan with the Flatiron building partially obscured by the fog. Man Ray's 1924 photo

"Le Violon d'Ingres" sold for \$12.4 million in May and some art experts are predicting "the Flatiron" will surpass that figure.

Meanwhile across the pond, some 2019 home renovations literally paid off for an English couple. The couple from Ellerby, East Yorkshire found a pot the size of a soda can under concrete 18th century floorboards while they were renovating their kitchen. The pot contained more than 260 gold coins. The BBC reported that "the coins, dating from 1610-1727, belonged to the Fernley-Maisters, a Hull family involved in Baltic trading." They brought £754,000 (over \$842,000 USD) with the most valuable one selling for £62,400 (nearly \$70,000 USD). An auction house spokesperson described it as "one of the largest hoards of 18th Century English gold coins ever found



Photo courtesy @denimdoctors/@zipht

in Britain." If you're doing a closet cleanout this fall, the sale of a pair of old Levi's might have you reconsidering donating your old jeans. UPI reports that a pair of 1880s jeans were found in an abandoned mineshaft in the Western United States. They were found by self-described "denim archeologist" Michael Harris. The jeans were sold at auction last week and purchased by Kyle Hautner and

Zip Stevenson. Stevenson owns "Denim Doctors" repair shop in Los Angeles. Stevenson said Harris "has looked in at least 50 abandoned mines for five years and has not found a pair of equal quality." Stevenson added that there are only two other pairs that are the same age as the recently discovered Levis, and that those are both in museums. Stevenson also said that the pairs in museums are unwearable, but the pair he bought could be worn with minor repairs. They sold for \$87,400. Stevenson and Hautner hope to sell the jeans to a museum and put some extra cash in their pants pockets.

Our online jewelry, coins and sterling auction opens for bidding this week along with our baseball cards and sports memorabilia auction. The next session with art, historical memorabilia, antiques and collectibles will begin in a couple of weeks. We have started cataloging a large collection of local memorabilia and will have a big announcement regarding that in my next column in two weeks. I'll be appraising items for the public at the Leicester Senior Center on November 5th to benefit the Leicester Historical Society. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

Please contact us at [www.centralmassauctions.com](http://www.centralmassauctions.com) (508-612-6111) [info@centralmassauctions.com](mailto:info@centralmassauctions.com) for antiques and collectibles auction services.

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## POLICE

continued from page A12

abled mv (Main Street), services rendered; 6:42 p.m.: restraining order service (Burncoat Lane), served; 7:09 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 7:15 p.m.: assist citizen (Soojians Drive); 7:59 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 8:09 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 8:59 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), spoken to; 10:54 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), peace restored; 11:04 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), peace restored; 11:30 p.m.: mv stop (McNeil Highway), spoken to; 11:36 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to.

W E D N E S D A Y,

OCTOBER 12

12:14 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:26 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:38 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 3:22 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:27 a.m.: suspicious mv (Cricklewood Drive), spoken to; 5:12 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:29 a.m.: transport prisoner (Main Street, Worcester), transported; 8:31 a.m.: animal complaint (Redfield Road), referred to ACO; 9:37 a.m.: ambulance (South Main Street), call canceled; 9:39 a.m.: ambulance (South Main Street), call canceled; 10:50 a.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 4:08 p.m.: accident (Pine Street), name and address

redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, mv towed; 4:24 p.m.: assist other PD (Tobin Road), services rendered; 4:48 p.m.: threats (Main Street), report taken; 4:50 p.m.: residential alarm (Pine Street), false alarm; 5:18 p.m.: assist other PD (Tobin Road), services rendered; 5:26 p.m.: ambulance (Salminen Drive), transported; 7:39 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), call canceled; 8:15 p.m.: ambulance (Lakeside Avenue, Worcester), transported; 11:09 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), spoken to; 11:17 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), no service; 11:27 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 11:50 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning.

# # #

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## News

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