



Wild Bill Swim and Paddle Challenge returns Aug. 10



Event participants take part in past swims and support a local program.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER
BROOKFIELD — With the Summer Olympic Games underway, it's the perfect time for area guests to celebrate the late gold medalist and local swimming legend Bill Yorzyk by taking part in the Wild Bill Swim and Paddle Challenge.
Set for Saturday, Aug. 10, the event will feature long-distance swims starting at 8:45 a.m. This will be followed by a short-distance swim and paddle board challenge at 11 a.m.
Flotilla participants may start any time after 9:30 a.m.

Regardless of whether you've attended the annual event in the past, or this will be your first time in the water, the program's many options appeal to families and guests of all ages.
"At the heart of the Wild Bill Swim and Paddle Challenge is an open-water swim with distance options of one, two, and three miles, with separate starting flights for competitive and recreational swimmers," read a statement released by Yorzyk's daughter and event organizer Jennifer Yorzyk Triger.
Additional choices include a short-distance swim, a one-mile stand-up paddleboard challenge, and a family fun flotilla.

Turn To **WILD BILL** page **A14**

East Brookfield awarded grant funding for technology upgrades

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER
EAST BROOKFIELD — State Sen. Peter Durant recently helped several local communities, including East Brookfield, secure grant funding to assist with technology upgrades.
East Brookfield, along with Worcester, Hardwick, New Braintree, and Ware, was awarded funds from the FY24 Municipal Local Cybersecurity Grant Program. The towns also received funds from the FY24 State Share Cybersecurity Grant Program.
The grants were part of a \$6.8 million pool of federal funding awarded to support cybersecurity and technology improvement initiatives across Massachusetts.
"I am happy to say that these grants are targeted for rural communities where it is likely that there are fewer local dollars available for cybersecurity," said Durant (R—Spencer). "Smaller communities inevitably feel safer, but cyberattacks can hit communities of any size. Rural areas are no exception."
Grants were awarded in the following amounts to local communities: East Brookfield (\$100,000); Worcester (\$100,000); Hardwick (\$17,000); New Braintree (\$10,592); and Ware (\$6,545).
Among several other purposes, the grant funds will be used to augment firewalls used by town entities. Additionally, funds will support the upgrade of technologies used by the East Brookfield Police Department. These projects include an integration of fingerprinting and information systems; upgrades to the department's computer tower; the purchase of a new printer; and training exercises.
Currently, the EBPd uses two standalone devices during the fingerprinting process. By merging the department's IMC records management system with its fingerprinting device, the new upgrade will significantly cut down on the amount of time required by the process, police leaders said.
"We are very fortunate to receive this funding to be able to upgrade our systems and devices," said EBPd Chief Joseph Lazarick.

Turn To **GRANT** page **A14**

Residents of the Brookfields to 'take over' Polar Park

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER
REGION — The Town Takeover series being held throughout the summer at Polar Park will need to be pluralized, at least for a night.
On Tuesday, Aug. 27, the Worcester Red Sox (WooSox) will host members of the Brookfields communities at Polar Park. Residents, employees, families, and friends from the four towns are invited to attend an evening of fun and festivities, as the WooSox take on the Toledo Mud Hens at 6:45 p.m.
Pregame festivities will include the National Anthem being sung by North Brookfield's Richard "Tabby" Leblanc. Several other exciting surprises and promotions await fans as they enjoy a night at the ballgame.
For local residents and officials, the program is a great way to showcase the Brookfields at the regional level. The Town Takeover game is expected to draw a large number of residents from throughout the Brookfields, all while supporting causes within the communities.
"The Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator are excited to be showcased at Polar Park," said West Brookfield Town Administrator Ron San Angelo. "The Brookfields are all wonderful small towns with great histories. We welcome all visitors to come and enjoy our wonderful small-town atmosphere."
Tickets to the game are available by visiting www.northbrookfield.net. Please follow the appropriate link on the homepage ("Brookfields Town Takeover at Polar Park").
For every ticket sold using the special online link, \$5 will be donated to benefit the North Brookfield Town House and the East Brookfield fireworks display.
To learn more about the Town Takeover series and local nonprofit organizations benefiting from the program, visit www.woosox.com.
At the end of the WooSox regular season, the local community with the largest turnout on its specified Town Takeover night will receive a trophy and special recognition.
Additional upcoming Town Takeover nights will feature Charlton (Aug. 2) and Southbridge (Aug. 16).
Local officials thank members of the WooSox staff for their continued support of central Massachusetts communities and causes.
"The town of North Brookfield is thrilled to have their turn to be featured for this event. A lot of folks from around the county attend WooSox games,"

Turn To **TAKE OVER** page **A14**

AA Transportation to host bus safety event

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER
EAST BROOKFIELD — Although it seems like summer only just began, students in many local districts are preparing to return to class in less than a month, and AA Transportation is once again stepping up to ensure a safe year on the school bus.
On Wednesday, Aug. 21, AA Transportation Co., Inc., will host its annual First Ride for Safety program.
Set for 10 a.m. to noon at the AA Transportation yard on Route 9 (174 West Main St., East Brookfield), the event will provide incoming Kindergartners with a fun, informative introduction to bus safety.
"This award-winning program received a certificate from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles for outstanding efforts in school

bus safety," read a statement released by the company.
Conducted in an open house format, the program enables families to stop by at their convenience and receive a full safety introduction. Groups of guests will rotate through a number of stations dedicated to different aspects of bus safety.
The event will also include school bus rides every 15 minutes, as well as lessons from AA Transportation staff members on bus equipment; lights and signals; daily procedures and expectations; and safe behaviors when boarding and exiting the bus.
Several other rules and regulations will be shared with youngsters to ensure they're ready for the first day of school.
For many kids, the event provides their

Turn To **SAFETY** page **A14**



SPENCER SUMMER CONCERT SERIES CONTINUES WITH NEW ENGLAND YACHT CLUB

The Spencer Parks & Recreation Commission 2024 Summer Concert Series continues from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 4 at Powder Mill Park, corner Smithville and Meadow Roads, Spencer with the New England Yacht Club band. New England Yacht Club is making their debut appearance in the annual Spencer Summer Concert Series schedule. A seasoned group of talented musicians play some of the best songs from the yacht rock genre, including hits of the Doobie Brothers, Hall and Oats, Christopher Cross and more. Next up in this series that runs through August 18 will be the Blind Tiger Swing Posse on Aug. 11. The concert series is proudly sponsored by Cornerstone Bank. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts.

North Brookfield officials commit to invasive aquatic plant study

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The Select Board has expressed its commitment to participating in the first phase of a regional study into invasive aquatic species.

In a recent letter sent to the state's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), the Select Board outlined the town's planned participation in the Quaboag River Valley Aquatic Invasives Study.

The study is being organized by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC). Pending a grant award from state officials, the first phase of the study will be launched.

"The town of North Brookfield has worked with CMRPC on several projects in recent years, including projects that

assess the climate vulnerabilities that lead to—and the natural hazards that result from—the proliferation of invasive species," the board's letter read. "Such projects include the Open Space and Recreation Plan and the EEA Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program."

The latest study will investigate invasive species that impair water quality along the Quaboag River Valley. Among other goals, the study will assess the area's vulnerability to further aquatic habitat degradation.

Looking long-term, officials hope to use the study to develop a roadmap for implementing mitigation strategies. Town leaders also plan to eventually team up with local, regional, and non-governmental entities to help launch various strategies.

"As part of this study,

CMRPC will evaluate potential partnership opportunities for a future invasives mitigation collaborative that will serve to alleviate local burden and promote the exchange of local knowledge and resources," the board's letter read. "Overall, EEA planning assistance would allow CMRPC to establish a regional approach for addressing priorities established in previous municipal planning processes."

If approved, North Brookfield's participation in the first phase of the study would involve several projected tasks. These include appointing a municipal employee or volunteer to serve on a quarterly steering committee; providing the CMRPC with available data or resources related to town water bodies; and collaborating with neighboring communities within the Quaboag

River Valley on matters related to aquatic invasives management and watershed health.

Jamie Flamand, Superintendent of the North Brookfield Water Department, has worked closely with officials to prepare for participation in the study.

CMRPC officials are equally excited about the proposed partnership in the study, which is also expected to include the communities of Spencer, East Brookfield, and West Brookfield.

"CMRPC is focusing on communities within the Quaboag River Valley due to the large presence of aquatic invasives in the area and the need for improved regional capacity building," read a statement released by CMRPC officials.

If the study moves forward as planned, the quarterly steering com-

mittee would collaborate with neighboring communities on matters related to the study and aquatic invasive species.

"We are excited to potentially partner with several member communities to develop a proposed multi-faceted and multi-disciplinary aquat-

ic invasive species study in the Quaboag River Valley," said Janet Pierce, the CMRPC's Executive Director. "If CMRPC receives the grant award by the Commonwealth, this study will serve as a tool for leveraging a regional approach to aquatic invasive species management."

Leicester police seek dirt bike operator for fleeing traffic stop

LEICESTER — Police are seeking public assistance in identifying a teenage dirt bike operator who fled a traffic stop.

"The individual sought is a white male, approximately 15-17 years old, with a black full-face helmet," read a statement released by the Leicester Police Department.

The suspect was operating a red and black dirt bike with no plates, police said.

The suspect was last observed on July 19, illegally operating the vehicle on Route 9. The suspect fled from an officer who attempted to conduct a traffic stop.

"Based on where the vehicle came from and fled back toward, it is believed that the operator lives on the north side of town," the LPD statement read.

Police said the suspect could potentially live in the area of Whittemore Street, Hemlock Street, or Laflash Lane. Residents in those locations are asked to look out for a vehicle matching the above description.

Anyone who may know the identity or residence of the suspect is asked to contact the Leicester Police Department at 508-892-7010 (Option #7).

Tips can be made anonymously.

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Local residents named to Clark University Dean's List

WORCESTER — The following local residents were named to Clark University's Spring 2024 Dean's List:

Abigail E. Gahagan, of Leicester was named to first honors.

Ashley D. Leighton, of Spencer was named to second honors.

Ana G. Ruggieri, of Leicester was named to first honors.

Founded in 1887, Clark University is a liberal arts-based research university that prepares its students to meet tomorrow's most daunting challenges and embrace its greatest opportunities. Through 33 undergraduate majors, more than 30 advanced degree programs, and nationally recognized community partnerships, Clark fuses rigorous scholarship with authentic world and workplace experiences that empower our students to pursue lives and careers of meaning and consequence.

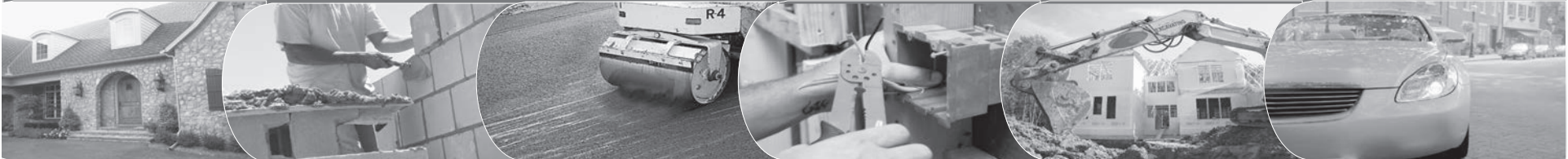


Peter Mellekas — Courtesy

LOCAL TEEN TRIUMPHS AT MODELING AND TALENT COMPETITION

Cooper Mann, who is a 16 year old from North Brookfield, attended the International Modeling and Talent Association (IMTA) Convention in New York City. IMTA is a week-long convention consisting of modeling, acting, singing, song-writing and dance competitions with contestants from all over the world. Hundreds of fashion and talent agents along with personal managers, casting directors, network representatives and music producers judge the competitions while searching for new models, actors, singers and dancers to work in the industry. During his time at IMTA, Cooper was chosen as a lead dancer for the Nicole Miller, Aaron Potts and Scarlett Maria Fashion Show and ended the week with a solo dance performance at the Awards Gala. Cooper competed in both divisions of modeling and talent where he was awarded multiple excellence medals, an Honorable Mention for Actor of the Year, 2nd Runner Up for Fashion Print along with Dancer of the Year.

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Golden Bear Pride shines as Western New England University honors Class of 2024

SPRINGFIELD — Western New England University held its undergraduate commencement ceremony on May 19 at the MassMutual Center, celebrating the Class of 2024. The keynote speaker, esteemed journalist Latoyia Edwards, talked about the importance of bringing passion and intensity to one’s work without overshadowing what’s most important: family. “If you don’t remember any piece of advice that I give you this morning, remember to never take anyone who loves and supports you for granted.”

Congratulations and best wishes to the newest Golden Bear Alumni. WNE is proud of you!

Kiarra Rose Dorman of West Brookfield graduated with a BSBA in Business Analytics & Information Management. Kiarra also graduated with a minor in Enterprise Research Planning with SAP.

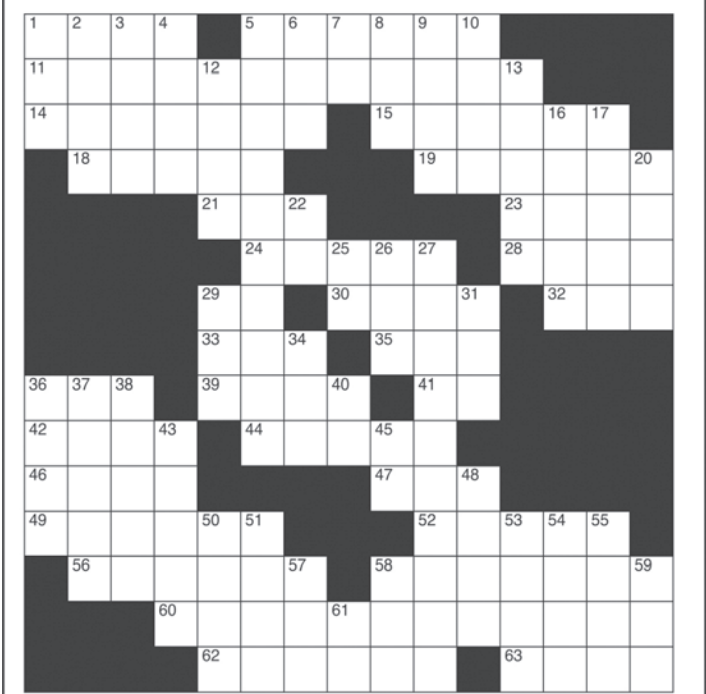
Adeline M. Ford of West Brookfield graduated Summa Cum Laude with a BS in Health Sciences. Adeline also graduated with a minor in Psychology and Chemistry.

Western New England University (WNE) is a private, nationally ranked, comprehensive institution with a focus on preparing work-ready and world-ready graduates. Founded in 1919 in Springfield as a division of Northeastern College, WNE’s 215-acre suburban campus serves more than 3,700 students, including over 2,500 full-time undergraduates. More than 47,000 alumni have earned degrees through its more than 90 undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs at Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and School of Law. Students come from 39 U.S. states and territories and 23 countries. Of 45,104 living alumni, 30 percent remain within the region, residing in the four Western Massachusetts counties and northern Connecticut.

West Brookfield

Zoning Enforcement Officer

Position is responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Town of West Brookfield Zoning Bylaw and enforces the requirements of special permits issued by the Zoning Board of Appeals. This position is part time and is compensated with a stipend.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Nasal mucus

5. Hairs on the back of a dog

11. Ones who build anew

14. Consume too much food

15. Praised

18. Provides weapons

19. Become less lively

21. Engine additive

23. Thought or suggestion

24. South Korean city

28. Middyay rests

29. Expression of acidity or alkalinity

30. Group of rockers

32. Very fast airplane

33. One who is paid to do something
35. Buzzing insect

36. Monotheistic religion founder

39. Strong dark beer

41. Blood type

42. Square measures

44. Honorific titles in NW Semitic languages

46. Present

47. Afflict in mind or body

49. Duty

52. Municipality in Stockholm

56. In a normal way

58. Rode a bicycle

60. Charitable

62. Verandas

63. Uncredited

CLUES DOWN

1. No seats available

2. Russian river

3. A European river

4. Phrase

5. Idol

6. Keyboard key

7. Prefix indicating mutual

8. Kilometers per hour

9. Set an example

10. It’s among the “Great” ones

12. VVV

13. Murdered

16. Icelandic poems

17. Seas

20. Famed cartoonist

22. Partner to “Ma”

25. Equal to one quintillion bytes

26. Speak incessantly

27. Disquiet

29. Parts per billion (abbr.)
31. Upper-class young woman (abbr.)

34. S. American plant

36. Monetary unit of Thailand

37. Regions

38. Baseball legend Yogi

40. Ancient Egyptian notion of spiritual part of humans

43. Fishing net

45. Tinseltown

48. MacBeth’s wife was one

50. Took a spill

51. Adversary to pets

53. Town in Galilee

54. Secret racist society (slang)

55. About aviation

57. Longing or yearning

58. Hawaiian dish

59. Field force unit

61. Partner to “Pa”

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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					I	S	S	D	N	V
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					D	E	T	I	V	H
					S	H	E	D	O	T
					E	T	K	C	V	H

Western New England University celebrates Dean’s List students

SPRINGFIELD — Western New England University (WNE) takes immense pride in recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of over 670 students who have been named to the Dean’s List for the Spring 2024 semester.

A WNE education provides career-span agility through a curriculum grounded in professional/experiential studies, enhanced by the liberal arts, and enriched by mentored research that equips graduates to adapt and succeed in the workplace of the future.

Sydney Corfey of West Brookfield is working toward a BA in Psychology. Ryan Seeton of West Brookfield is working toward a BSBA in Business Analytics & Information Management.

Western New England University (WNE) is a private, nationally ranked, comprehensive institution with a focus on preparing work-ready and world-ready graduates. Founded in 1919 in Springfield as a division of Northeastern College, WNE’s 215-acre suburban campus serves more than 3,700 students, including more than 2,500 full-time undergraduates. More than 47,000 alumni have earned degrees through its more than 90 undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs at Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and School of Law. Students come from 39 U.S. states and territories and 23 countries. Of 45,104 living alumni, 30 percent remain within the region, residing in the four Western Massachusetts counties and northern Connecticut.

WNE is classified among nationally ranked universities in US News and World Report, and among the Top 100 Undergraduate Engineering programs, and in the Doctoral/Professional Universities category in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

Isaiah Saint-Vil of Spencer graduates from Roger Williams University

BRISTOL, R.I. — Roger Williams University is proud to announce that Isaiah Saint-Vil of Spencer graduated with a B.S. in Finance in May as part of the Class of 2024.

About RWU
At Roger Williams University, students are prepared to be thinkers and doers ready to solve challenging problems with innovative solutions. RWU offers 50 majors and robust offerings of graduate and professional programs across eight schools of study including Rhode Island’s only law school, with campuses on the coast of Bristol and in the heart of Providence, R.I. With small classrooms and a focus on undergraduate and graduate research and community engagement, a Roger Williams education blends the strength of liberal arts and professional studies, providing all students with the depth and breadth of interdisciplinary thinking and well-rounded knowledge necessary to succeed in our interconnected, global world. RWU is committed to strengthening society through engaged scholarship so that students graduate with the ability to think critically and apply the practical skills that today’s employers demand.

100 Years Ago This Month: Historical events from August 1924

The month of August has been home to many historical events over the years. Here's a look at some that helped to shape the world in August 1924.

- Three people are killed and 10 others are injured when a boiler fire erupts on the French battleship Courbet on August 1. The Courbet survives the fire and is eventually utilized during World War II.
- Boca Raton, Florida, is incorporated as “Bocaratone” on August 2. The name is changed to “Boca Raton” less than a year later.
- John Carroll O’Connor is born on August 2 in Manhattan. O’Connor would become one of the most memorable television actors of all time, notably portraying “Archie Bunker” in the sitcoms “All in the Family” and “Archie Bunker’s Place” in the 1970s and early 1980s.
- Berlin Jews hold a memorial service for Jewish soldiers who died during World War I on August 3. The Jewish service takes place after a Jewish preacher was forbidden from delivering a prayer during a similar service held outside the Reichstag commemorating German soldiers who died during the war.
- Women from six European nations compete in the first Women’s International and British Games in London on August 4. The competition is held because track and field events at the Summer Olympics were limited to men only.
- Confidence man Charles Ponzi is released from prison in Plymouth, Massachusetts on August 6. Ponzi served less than four years of a five-year sentence for financial crimes.

- Grand Duke Kirill Vladimirovich of Russia, a first cousin of the late Tsar Nicholas II, declares himself “Guardian of the Throne” for the Russian Empire on August 8. Two years later, the Grand Duke would declare himself the emperor-in-exile.
- On August 10, Austrian police claim they discovered a Soviet slush fund for stirring up unrest and revolt in the Balkans.
- The earliest sound film footage of an American president is recorded on August 11 when Lee de Forest films U.S. President Calvin Coolidge on the White House lawn. De Forest uses his experimental Phonofilm process to make the recording.
- Andrew S. Anderson, the Democratic Party nominee for South Dakota Governor, is gored by a bull on his property on August 11. Anderson does not survive the attack.
- Former world middleweight title holder Kid McCoy shoots his lover, Teresa Mors, on August 12 in Los Angeles. McCoy, retired from boxing at the time of the shooting, shot Mors in a drunken rage after she told him what her friends thought of him.
- Anthropologist Margaret Mead arrives in Samoa on August 17. Mead proceeds to begin working on her book, Coming of Age in Samoa: A Psychological Study of Primitive Youth for Western Civilisation, which became a landmark text and sparked years of ongoing, intense debate upon its publication in 1928.
- Canadian mountaineers complete the first ascent of the 2,603-meters-tall Mount Fitzsimmons in British Columbia on August 19.
- United States Senator Nathaniel B. Dial and John J. McMahan, his challenger for the Democratic Party nomination in an upcoming election, are each arrested for disorderly conduct in South Carolina on August 20. Dial approached McMahan brandishing a chair during a campaign meeting that became contentious.
- On August 23, the planets Mars and Earth are the closest they had been since August 18, 1945. The two planets, which were the equivalent of around 34.6 million miles from one another, would not be as close again until August 2003.
- On August 26, The Montreal Star publishes an interview with American automotive executive Henry Ford in which the industrialist claims the Ku Klux Klan was a patriotic organization and “a victim of lying propaganda.”
- Director John Ford’s first major film, “The Iron Horse,” premieres in New York City on August 28.

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Poor flowering and fruiting in the vegetable garden

Another summer of above-normal summer temperatures in much of the country may be taking its toll on your vegetable gardens. Temperature extremes can interfere with flowering and fruit set, resulting in poor flowering, blossom drop, and a lack of or misshapen fruit on tomatoes, peppers, squash, and more.

The impact of temperature on plants depends on the stage of the plant's development. Plants ready to flower or developing fruit during times of optimum temperatures will be fine but plants that are ready to flower or develop fruit during more extreme temperatures experience problems.

Tomatoes thrive in warm, sunny conditions but when daytime temperatures rise above 90 degrees Fahrenheit and night temperatures remain above 70 degrees Fahrenheit blossom drop and poor fruit development may occur. This combined with low humidity and the pollen is not viable. In hot and humid conditions, the

pollen is too sticky and doesn't move from the male to the female part of the flower. Without pollination, the flowers won't be fertilized, and fruit will not develop.

On the other hand, when night temperatures are below the optimum of 59 to 68 degrees Fahrenheit, less viable pollen is produced so fewer fruit will form. Cooler temperatures below 55 degrees Fahrenheit can result in misshapen fruit and cat-facing. Fortunately, this malformed fruit is still tasty and safe to eat.

Temperature extremes also impact pepper productivity. When temperatures climb to 95 degrees or higher, the pollen is sterile and flowers may drop. Small fruit may also fall from the plant during such hot spells. Pepper plants also experience poor fruit set when night temperatures drop below 60 degrees or rise above 75 degrees.

Flowering in squash and cucumber plants is also influenced by temperature and other envi-



GARDEN MOMENTS
MELINDA MYERS

ronmental factors. These plants typically produce separate male and female flowers. The male flowers usually appear first, and it is not until both the male and female flowers are present that pollination, fertilization, and fruit production can occur.

The research found cool temperatures, bright sunlight, and shorter days encourage female flower production while male flowers are more prolific during warmer temperatures, less sunlight, and close spacing. Flowering on squash and cucumbers is also impacted by nitrogen fertilization. Too much can prevent female flower formation while insufficient amounts can reduce the number of male flowers.

In addition, rainy

weather or improperly applied pesticides that prevent bee activity and pollination can also result in malformed cucumbers.

These aren't the only vegetables impacted by temperature extremes. Eggplants, a close relative of tomatoes and peppers, do not set fruit until night temperatures are above 55 degrees. Beans stop flowering or the flowers die when temperatures rise above 85 degrees.

The simplest solution is to wait for optimum temperatures and proper humidity levels to return. Once this happens, the plants will begin producing fruit. Be sure to harvest regularly to keep the plants producing.

If poor productivity caused by weather is a yearly problem, consider planting varieties better suited to these extremes, adjust the planting times, and if needed, find a more suitable growing location.

When the harvest is delayed, extend the sea-

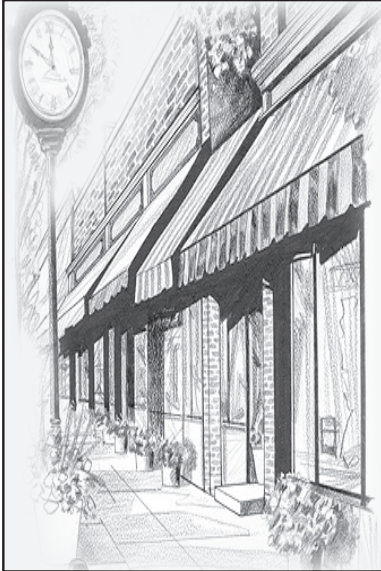


Melinda Myers
Cooler temperatures below 55 degrees Fahrenheit can result in misshapen fruit and cat-facing as seen in this photo.

son with the help of row covers. These fabrics allow sunlight, air, and water through while trapping heat around the plants. Loosely cover the plants and anchor the edges with stones, boards, or landscape staples when frost is forecasted. You can leave the fabric in place for the remainder of the year. Just lift it to harvest and secure the fabric when done.

If this summer's weather leaves you disappointed with the harvest, remember there is always next year.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including 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 radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

*Beyond memes
and headlines
— the imperative
of informed voting*

In an age where social media dominates the landscape of information dissemination, it's too easy to fall into the trap of making decisions based on quick headlines and catchy memes. However, the upcoming election is of such paramount importance that it demands a deeper level of engagement from every voter. The stakes have never been higher, with one candidate making unprecedented claims that, if elected, no one will ever have to vote again because they'll have it "fixed real good." On the other side, a candidate is fiercely advocating for the preservation of American freedoms. This is a critical moment in our history, and we must take it seriously.

The rhetoric of patriotism and freedom has been used by both sides, often skewed and manipulated to serve political agendas. However, we must look beyond these slogans and closely examine what the candidates are truly saying. The promise of never having to vote again is a direct threat to the core of our democracy. Imagine if the Democratic nominee made such a statement—there would be widespread outrage. Yet, when the Republican candidate makes this claim, it is somehow normalized. This normalization is dangerous and undermines the very foundation of our democratic process.

Democracy is built on the right to vote. It is the cornerstone of our political system and the means through which we, the people, hold our leaders accountable. Any suggestion that this right could be taken away should be met with fierce resistance. It is not just a political issue; it is an existential threat to the values upon which our nation was founded. When a candidate threatens to erode this right, it is a call to action for all citizens to rise above party lines and defend the principles of democracy.

In this election, more than ever, we must be vigilant and well-informed. It is not enough to rely on snippets of information from social media. We must delve into the policies and promises of each candidate, understanding their implications for our future. We must listen to what they say and, more importantly, believe them. Their words and actions are a reflection of their intentions, and we must take them at face value.

The narrative that one side is the sole defender of patriotism and freedom is a distortion. In reality, the fight to maintain government out of our personal decisions and to preserve our freedoms is being waged by those who are committed to upholding democratic values. The threat to our democracy is real and immediate. If we are to preserve the freedoms we hold dear, we must act now.

For those who are still uncertain about the gravity of the situation, I urge you to do your research. Look beyond the memes and headlines. Seek out reliable sources of information and educate yourself on the stakes of this election. Understand that democracy is a fragile system that requires our active participation and protection.

This election is a defining moment in our history. The choice we make will determine the future of our democracy. We cannot afford to be complacent or misinformed. We must take the candidates at their word, understand the implications of their promises, and vote to protect our democratic rights. This is not just another election. Do not be fooled by party lines or catchy slogans. Believe in the power of your vote and use it to safeguard the principles of freedom and democracy.

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I still say Democrats unite

To the Editor:
It is with a heavy heart that I ponder the withdrawal of President Biden from the 2024 election. My letter last week was given the title "Democrats must unite around Biden." I truly believed that. But President Biden revealed on Sunday that he would not seek reelection. With that decision, he personified something that Donald Trump could never do because he is a narcissist in the extreme. President Biden was the best example of altruism. He had the best interests of the country and the Democrat Party that influenced that decision. Let me remind the readers of the definition of altruism. It is the quality of being unselfish and concerned for the welfare of others. Being narcissist in the extreme, Trump who thinks only of himself, never others, could never make such a decision.

Mr. Buckley of Leicester started his letter addressing Patricia, and I guess he means me. He said that I, like all "never Trumpers," claimed that Trump lied dozens of times during the presidential debate. I did, and I do own that claim. Did Mr. Buckley and I watch different debates? Every word uttered by DJT was a lie. He deflected from the questions asked by the moderators and spewed his lies instead. And the moderators let him get away with it. Shame on them!

I watched with horror the attempt on Trump's life on July 13. He is definitely not my candidate of choice, but I am glad the assassin was not successful. That would have been a tragedy.

Mr. Buckley went on to suggest books Biden might write – "The Art of the Lie" and "The Art of the Steal." Let's remember that during the 2016 campaign, the tally of lies on the part of Trump numbered in the thousands. Trump apparently believes his lies are the truth and Mr. Buckley and

others hear them so often that they have come to believe them as well. And Trump very clearly wanted Pence to overthrow the results of the 2020 election. The tactic of Projection is used by Trump to accuse his opponents of doing the very thing he is doing, and his supporters are too quick to believe him.

Trump has made it clear that he admires dictators around the world. He praised Putin for being a smart man to invade Ukraine (Putin would likely invade further into Europe if he is successful there. WWII?) And who can forget the love letters exchanged between Trump and Kim Jung Un? When Khashoggi was killed in Saudi Arabia Trump didn't even ask for an investigation. When President Biden was making addresses at the remembrance of D Day in Europe, Trump was welcoming Viktor Orban, Prime Minister, of Hungary who is reported to be an ally of Putin to his Mar a Lago home. These are men who Trump would aspire to be like.

Trump not only would likely align himself with dictators — he has pledged revenge and retribution for any who oppose him. He seems to have no regard for the rule of law and that he is above it. Not! He wants to disregard the balance of powers (executive, judicial, and legislative) set by our founding forefathers and put it in the executive branch to give him all the power if elected president.

I am ready to support Kamela Harris as the nominee for president. Before I knew who she was, I was impressed with her questions when she was on committees. She was so smart. Trump should be shaking in his boots.

And I still say Democrats unite!

PATRICIA JACKMAN
NORTH BROOKFIELD

Come join us!

The church is located at the American Legion #138, 175 Main St., Spencer, at the corner of Grove Street.

All are welcome Sunday at 9 a.m. The Pastor, congregation and I are looking forward to meeting you!

Dwell in peace!

ROLAND BLAIS
BROOKFIELD

Morning has broken

To the Editor:
I have woken refreshed every morning since Sunday, humming this old hymn.

My fears that my fellow citizens will not do the right thing and reject the draft dodging lying insurrectionist pervert, have been laid to rest.

In making the case that the most productive president, in delivering legislation, since at least LBJ if not FDR, despite never having the majorities that they had, but was likely to old to continue another 4 years, and citing polls that the electorate did not want a rematch of the old guys, the GOP was steadfast in their cult like support and added the author of the forward and much of the content of Project 2025, as their VP backup for him.

Biden, being the great American patriot and 54 year servant he is, made the sacrifice and masterful chess move, to withdraw one old guy, and insert someone who won all her elections in California and the national one with Joe, by getting the most votes. Guess who is now the feeble minded old guy?, against the guy who has never gotten the most votes. Guess who is now the feeble minded old guy?

As I write this Kamala has already secured the votes to get the nomina-

tion. I can hardly wait to see who they pair her with, because a hologram would be more help than the fake hillbilly who thinks wife beating is not diverse grounds and contraception and abortion should be outlawed nationally.

If he is dumb enough to debate her (which he never did for GOP nod) I expect she will list his resumé — rape, insurrection, tax fraud, election fraud, banned from running charity, casino, business, university, or getting a liquor license in his name (like all convicted felons)

So what else is new — her support pledges, money raising , volunteers has exceeded anyone, ever.

Compared to the yoyo's she is running against, she is overqualified.

I hope the Cheeto does not jump ship because, if the extreme narcissist did not believe Sleepy Joe could beat him, wait 'til a second generation black woman does it.

I just read Beyonce and Taylor just signed on to fundraise. We have only just begun.

Praise for the morning, I will sleep well.

KEN KIMBALL
BROOKFIELD

Marxism

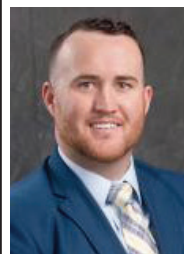
To the Editor:

Mr. Blaise, I've read your July 19 letter, and I am confused. Its subject is "Is America a democracy or a republic," but I see no argument in the letter for one or the other. You say we started as a democracy, but then say we are a Constitutional republic. Are we both? Did we change? You say they make decisions without the people's approval, but the Constitution's design is that we elect people at various levels and they get together and make decisions. We do not vote on each bill or decision. You say you don't want Marxism, but you say "Once elected they will begin to" take away rights. Therefore, this is a future issue. So there is no problem now? With no description of any problem, I'm left thinking that you believe that anything a Democrat does is socialist/Marxist /Communist, with-

out specifying what that "thing" is. You stress the importance of the Constitution, so you may not be aware that Donald Trump has said he will suspend the Constitution. He has said he will be a dictator: That makes Donald unacceptable to citizens, like you and me, who revere the Constitution. Donald has argued that a president is above the law and the Supreme Court has agreed with him. Their ruling said that the president can't be "bold" if he (obviously "he") has to worry about following the law. That is not in the Constitution. They have active imaginations. Perhaps you could describe what Marxist things have hurt you or will hurt you, whether you're happy with Donald discarding the Constitution, being a dictator, and why his Project 2025 is a good thing.

ALLAN JOHANNESSEN
LEICESTER

How strong is your emergency fund?



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You can't predict financial emergencies — but you can prepare for them.

To do that, you can build an emergency fund to pay for unexpected expenses, some of which may be sizable. Without one, you might be forced to dip into your investments, possibly including your retirement accounts, such as your IRA or 401(k). If this happens, you might have to pay taxes and penalties, and you'd be withdrawing dollars that could otherwise be growing over time to help pay for your retirement.

In thinking about such a fund, consider these questions:

How much should I save? The size of your emergency fund should be based on several factors, including your income, your spouse's income, and your cost of living. However, for most people in their working years, three to six months of total expenses is adequate. Once you're retired, though, you may want to keep up to a year's worth of expenses in your emergency fund — because you don't want to be forced to cash out investments when their price may be down, and you may not be replenishing these accounts any longer.

How can I build an emergency fund? Given all your normal expenses — mortgage, utilities, food, transportation, and others — you might find it challenging to set aside some extra money in an emergency fund. But you do have opportunities. If you're working, you could set up a direct deposit so that part of your paycheck goes directly into your emergency fund. You could also save a portion of any extra income you receive, such as bonuses and tax refunds.

Where should I keep the money? An emergency fund has two key requirements: You need to be able to access the money immediately and you need to count on a certain amount being available. So, it's a good idea to keep your emergency fund in a liquid, low-risk account that offers protection of principal. For this fund, you're less interested in growth than you are in stability. But because interest rates have recently changed, you may be able to get a reasonable return without sacrificing liquidity or safety.

What types of emergencies should I prepare for? Your emergency fund could be needed for any number of events: a job loss or early retirement, housing or auto repairs, unreimbursed medical bills, unexpected travel, and so on. But this fund may also be needed to help you cope with other threats. Consider this: In 2023, the U.S. saw a record 28 weather and climate disasters, each of which resulted in at least \$1 billion in damages — and often many times this amount — according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Depending on where you live, your home or business may be susceptible to tornadoes, floods, wildfires, hurricanes and extreme heat and cold waves. These events can, and do, result in property repair and relocation costs, higher insurance premiums and even price increases for basic goods, such as groceries and prescription medications.

One final word about an emergency fund: It takes discipline to maintain it and to avoid tapping into it for everyday expenses or impulse purchases. The name says it all — this is a fund that should only be used for emergencies. By keeping it intact until it's truly needed, you can help yourself weather many of the storms that may come your way.

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.

The Peach Harvest is In!

Nothing says mid-summer like a sweet, juicy peach, and here in New England, the long awaited peach crop is in! In celebration of the sweet harvest, this week's column offers the following "peach primer."



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

Perfect Peaches: Using three of your senses will confirm when a peach is perfect to eat:

See: Ripe peaches should have reddish and yellow hues. Peaches that show any tinge of green are not yet ripe. Also, a fully developed peach at its peak of ripeness should be round; typically, oblong peaches aren't yet ripe.

Smell: Take a sniff. You should be able to smell a sweet, familiar scent when a peach is fully ripe.

Touch: Peaches should be slightly soft to the touch, with a little give. Hard peaches are not ripe.

Rev up Ripening: If the peach is hard, you can accelerate ripening by placing it in a brown paper bag for a day or two. If you have multiple peaches, do not pile peaches in the bag, rather spread them out so they

do not touch.

Or, perch peaches on a kitchen windowsill to speed up ripening.

Ripened peaches will keep their flavor for up to five days in the vegetable crisper drawer of the refrigerator.

Have too many ripe peaches? Try freezing them. Cut unbruised fruit up and freeze on a cookie sheet. Once frozen, place the chunks into a plastic freezer bag. These sweet morsels can be used for smoothies, fruit salad, cobblers, and more as they should stay fresh up to six weeks when properly frozen. Try this quick and easy Peach Yogurt recipe using peach chunks straight from the freezer (from JustATaste.com):

Ingredients: Four cups frozen peach chunks; 3 tablespoons honey; ½ cup plain yogurt; one tablespoon fresh lemon juice.

Directions: Place the frozen peaches, honey,

yogurt and lemon juice into the bowl of a food processor. Process until creamy, about 5 minutes.

Serve the frozen yogurt immediately or transfer it to an airtight container and store it in the freezer for up to 1 month.

Want frozen peaches to keep their flavor longer? Peaches can last up to one year in the freezer, according to the National Center of Home Preservation if you follow this process:

1. Wash, peel, and remove pits from peaches.

Place peaches into a freezer-safe container, leaving at least 1/2 inch of headspace.

Pour water or syrup over the peaches to cover. To make a syrup, dissolve sugar in lukewarm water and mix until clear. You can use anywhere from 10% to 50% sugar in your syrup.

Place the peach-filled container labeled with the date into the freezer.

Nutrition: A medium peach has 0.5 grams of fat, 0 grams of cholesterol and sodium, 15 grams of carbohydrate, 13 grams of sugar, 2 grams of fiber and 1 gram of protein.

Peaches are also an antioxidant, diuretic, expectorant, and a laxative. Studies show the potassium in peaches, coupled with the fiber of the fruit, can help lower blood pressure.

Peaches are considered a super fruit. they contain anti-inflammatory antioxidants, therefore, peaches can be an effective treatment for skin inflammations, such as allergies.

Peaches' Past: As noted previously in this column, peaches were first grown in China, traced as far back as 551 BC.

Peaches are a member of the same family as the rose, which accounts for its sweet fragrance. But early peaches, which were tiny and tart with a larger pit and lots of fuzz, barely resembled today's plump, juicy fruits. Despite its shortcomings, the historic peach earned its place in early Chinese folklore, as it was considered to bring luck and immortality. In fact, today, the Chinese

still consider peaches are proper birthday gifts.

Strains of early peaches attracted favor and the tasty fruit traveled from China through Europe and finally to the "New World," gaining legions of fans along the way. The Romans fondly dubbed peaches "Persian Apples," for the country that first introduced the sweet fruit to the west. Louis XIV of France was so fond of peaches that he once awarded a pension to the man who provided him with peaches from Montreuil, a suburb of Paris.

While Spanish explorers brought the peach to America, Native Americans are credited with spreading their cultivation. Eventually, Georgia was named the Peach State, for its abundant peach crops, which flourished in the warm, southern climate.

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.

Consistency

Pursuing a dream can be very challenging. If you're like most people, unless you have financial backing, you're probably juggling a day job, a night job, taking care of a family, and then pursuing your dream.

Once you decide to pursue your dream, it's often easy to get started because, at this early stage, you have all the motivation. You're convinced of success and can see a future where your hard work pays off in a big way. You picture the people you'll help, the industry you'll revolutionize, and the competitors you'll surpass. This vision fuels your enthusiasm and propels you forward with energy and optimism.

But once you've laid the foundations, you may see flaws. Things may go differently than planned. You'll undoubtedly encounter many roadblocks. You might feel you've tried so hard for so long that you need a break.

Days turn to weeks and weeks into months, but suddenly, you remember your dream, get a burst of inspiration, and go at it again. You start getting some results, but there's still a long way to go. You work your socks off for a while, doing those 16-hour days and making sacrifices, but then life gets in the way. Family obligations may arise, your day job demands more time, and

you may put your dream on hold again, still unwilling to let it go.

Maybe you have a friend, acquaintance, or even family member who pursued their dream, and you're in awe of how far they have gotten.

Out of frustration, you pick up the phone and give them a call, all while wondering how on earth they've managed to make it all work.

Luckily, they answered your call and gave you 30 minutes of their time. They ask you a series of questions, and you give them all the answers, detailing the ups and downs and the starts and stops.

Suddenly, you hear their Aha moment. They have an answer, and as you eagerly await, they say, "My friend, it seems you've got a consistency problem," and it hits you like a bolt of lightning. Consistency!

The word reverberates as you think of all the times you started and stopped.

Your friend says that they, too, had the same problem, and one day decided to work on their dream every single day, even if it was just half an hour or one small task. They never took a break;

Turn To **POSITIVELY** page **A14**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEI disaster!

To the Editor:

We are seeing in real time what a danger the Democrats' policy of Diversion, Equity, and Inclusion (Called DEI for short) is to our country. The practice of hiring people based on their race and gender instead of ability. No longer are people expected to be the best academically and show a work history of accomplishment. In the radical Democrat run US it is more important that you be the correct color (nonwhite), be the correct gender (Women or man transitioning to a woman) and use the proper pronouns for what sex you identify as.

We are seeing this in the aircraft industry. The major manufacturers such as Boeing are beholden to the US government for contracts. They therefore are required to follow policies demanded by the Biden administration to diversify their work forces based on DEI. The result is poor workmanship and quality. Doors and wheels following off planes made by manufacturers such as Boeing. It's just a matter of time until there is a catastrophic crash. The FEA will just cover it up when Washington tells them too.

Then we have the attempt on Trump's life. The head of the Secret Service was an incompetent woman that used to guard Jill Biden. Being a woman and a friend of Jill was her qualification in the Biden administration. The three women surrounding Trump couldn't even shield him and have difficulty holstering their guns. The whole thing looked like the Keystone Cops. In a country that used to pride our Secret Service as an elite trained security force it has in three short years under Biden been reduced to a bumbling farce.

Our once vaulted armed forces getting destroyed by DEI. We have incompetent Lloyd Austin who didn't even report that he was out of action when he was sick. It puts the whole US at risk! Then they routinely fire generals and commanders for "Loss of Confidence." This is a key phrase they use to get rid of an officer who refuses to implement their woke policies.

Now they are running out their biggest DEI hire of them all. Kamala

Harris got zero votes in the primary. She was picked by Biden in 2020 only because she is a colored woman. They conveniently replace Alzheimer's Joe with her now because the voters get no say. They kept Robert Kennedy, Jr. off the primary ballot and changed the rules so no one could challenge Biden. How convenient that at the last-minute Obama, Pelosi, and Schumer anoint Kamala. It's all a game of deception on the Democrat side. Trump ran a primary against Haley and others. He won because he was the people's choice. This fall on Nov 7 vote a man that proved he has the skills. The man who ran the country better than any other president. Vote Trump 2024. By doing so, send the signal to the Democrat king makers that their Democrat DEI candidate Harris has been fired by you the voters!

MARK ROBILLARD
SPENCER

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.



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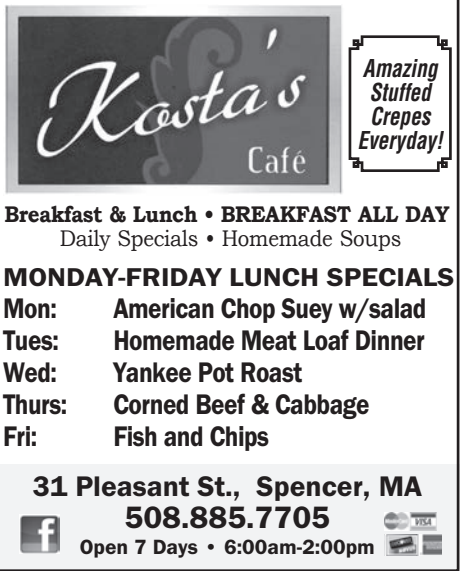
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¹DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 9/17/2024. You must set your appointment by 8/31/2024 and purchase by 9/17/2024. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Buy one (1) window or entry/patio door, get one (1) window or entry/patio door 40% off, and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 8/1/2024 and 9/17/2024. 40% off windows and entry/patio doors are less than or equal to lowest cost window or entry/patio door in the order. Additional \$150 off each window or entry/patio door, no minimum purchase required, taken after initial discount(s), when you set your appointment by 8/31/2024 and purchase by 9/17/2024. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License numbers available at renewalbyandersen.com/license. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. ²Values are based on comparison of Renewal by Andersen® double-hung window U-Factor to the U-Factor for clear dual pane glass non-metal frame default values from the 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015, and 2018 International Energy Conservation Code "Glazed Fenestration" Default Tables. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2024 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2024 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.

Local students gaining real-world experience with summer internships at Cornerstone Bank



Courtesy

Pictured left to right: Bella Smith, Reese Levansavich, Collin Heenan, Zach Hebert, Kevin Skagerlind, Will Pieczynski, Jack Seery, Sam Quink and Jack Gaudette.

WORCESTER — This summer, Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, is hosting nine college students in its internship program. The goal is to provide them with hands-on experience that complements their studies and allows them to explore career opportunities and begin to build a professional network.

"We are committed to providing these bright students with solid work experience that integrates what they learn in the classroom with real-life experiences in a professional setting," said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. "They gain valuable skills, work on meaningful projects and make professional connections. We also benefit from their enthusiasm and perspectives, so it's a win-win situation."

This year's group of interns includes: Investment Services Intern Jack Gaudette from Sturbridge attends Elon University in North Carolina.

Retail Intern Zach Hebert from Dudley attends Nichols College in Dudley.

Commercial Lending Intern Collin Heenan from Holden attends Worcester State University.

Community Relations Intern Reese Levansavich from Auburn attends Saint Anselm College in New Hampshire.

Investment Services Intern Will Pieczynski from Fiskdale attends Villanova University in Pennsylvania.

MIS (IT) Intern Sam Quink from Sturbridge attends the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York.

Facilities Intern Jack Seery from Brookfield attends the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Community Relations Intern Kevin Skagerlind from Holden attends the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Learning and Development Intern Bella Smith from Sutton attends Assumption University in Worcester.

The Cornerstone interns attend an orientation on their first day before joining their respective departments and have regular check-ins to ensure they are getting what they want out of their experiences. The students also have opportunities to engage in community support efforts, attend Cornerstone Bank events and network with each other.

"At the end of the summer, we ask them to reflect on their time with us and provide feedback," said Tallman. "This allows us to continue to refine the internship program to make sure we are providing truly valuable experiences."

Cornerstone's internship program started in 2021 and is open to both high school and college students. It offers both part-time and full-time internships, with most students choosing to intern for 38 hours per week. Each intern goes through an interview process so that they can be placed into the department that best aligns with their goals and interests. All interns are paid and are eligible to get school credit upon completion of the program.

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities, through a broad range of deposit and loan products, and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank's personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank.com or call 800-939-9103.



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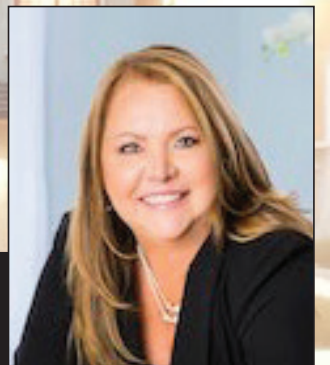
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POLICE REPORTS

Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, JULY 18
3:52 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 5:52 a.m.: debris in road (Salminen Drive), referred; 8:45 a.m.: ambulance (Mt. Pleasant Avenue), transported; 9:04 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), referred; 9:51 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:56 a.m.: suspicious person (Main Street), services rendered; 10:04 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), spoken to; 11:02 a.m.: hit/run accident (Main Street), report taken; 11:04 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 11:11 a.m.: animal complaint (Brook Street), referred; 11:21 a.m.: mutual aid (Main Street), assisted; 11:24 a.m.:

ambulance (Henshaw Street), transported; 1:41 p.m.: animal complaint (Rawson Street), report taken; 2:36 p.m.: assist citizen (Huntoon Memorial Highway); 3:47 p.m.: animal complaint (Siaini Road), referred; 4:43 p.m.: suspicious mv (Auburn Street), spoken to; 6:16 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 7:42 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Pleasant Street), unable to serve; 7:45 p.m.: suspicious mv (Huntoon Memorial Highway), services rendered.

FRIDAY, JULY 19
8:19 a.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), report taken; 8:41 a.m.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), referred; 10:42 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:58 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:12 a.m.: mv

stop (Main Street), citation issued; 11:14 a.m.: ambulance (Deer Pond Road), transported; 12:14 p.m.: suspicious activity (Burncoat Street), services rendered; 1:31 p.m.: mv stop (McNeil Highway), written warning; 1:50 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:24 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), resolved; 4:53 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Newfield Street), unable to serve; 5:27 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:29 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 5:41 p.m.: mv stop (Whittemore Street), written warning; 5:50 p.m.: suspicious mv (Paxton Street), gone on arrival; 6:27 p.m.: mv stop (Mill Street), verbal warning; 6:44 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 7:34 p.m.: disturbance (Soojians Drive), spoken to; 8:22 p.m.:

ambulance (Paxton Street), transported; 8:35 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), resolved; 9:17 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:35 p.m.: ambulance (Linden Street, Spencer), transported; 10:14 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), no action required; 10:33 p.m.: ambulance (Siaini Road), transported.

SATURDAY, JULY 20
12:37 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), resolved; 1:18 a.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), services rendered; 1:19 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:30 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:47 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), citation issued; 1:48 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:03 a.m.: mv

Turn To **LOGS** page **A13**

LEGALS

Town of Spencer

At the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to be held on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, in the McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, a public hearing will be held on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:

Notice of Public Hearing – Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals
Special Permit– Applicant: John Harrison, Owner: Kate Ismeurt; Location: 23 Thompson Pond Road, Spencer Assessor's Map R56-43. The applicant is seeking a Special Permit under Sections 4.8.1 (Accessory Dwelling) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to build a 20x20 accessory dwelling addition. The property is in the Rural Residential (RR) zoning district.
July 26, 2024
August 2, 2024

Notice of Public Hearing– Planning Board

The Spencer Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on Tuesday August 20, 2024 in McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, , 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, and the hearing will be conducted in person and remotely on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:
Special Permit– Applicant/Owner: Jose Cruz, Location: 41 Temple Street, Spencer Assessor's Map U02-85-3. The applicant is looking for a Special Permit under Section 6.2.5 (Common Driveways) to create a common driveway to serve the existing dwelling at 45 Temple Street and a new proposed dwelling. The property is located within the Village Residential (VR) zoning district.
August 2, 2024
August 9, 2024

ATTENTION SPENCER RESIDENTS A PUBLIC HEARING WITH THE WATER COMMISSIONERS

WILL BE HELD TO DISCUSS WATER RATE FEES WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2024 @ 5:00 P.M. SPENCER WATER DEPARTMENT
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July 25, 2024
August 2, 2024

Town of Spencer

At the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to be held on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, in McCourt Social Hall at the Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, a public hearing will be held on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:

Notice of Public Hearing – Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals
Variance– Applicant/Owner: Cody Berman; Location: 41 and 43 Point Eastalee Drive, Spencer Assessor's Map U34 21 & 22. The applicant is seeking a Variance under Sections 5.1 and 7.3 (Area requirements and Variance requirements) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to combine two lots. The property is in the Lake Residential (LR) district.
July 26, 2024
August 2, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
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Worcester, MA 01608
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Docket No. WO24P2383EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Jean M. Decoteau
Also known as:
Jean Marie Decoteau
Date of Death: 05/22/2023

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Randall E. Decoteau of Warren MA**

requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:
Randall E. Decoteau of Warren MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to 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 08/20/2024.**

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 23, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate
August 2, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Daniel F. Leahy, Sr. and Rhea Leahy to Fleet National Bank, dated April 4, 2003 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 30287, Page 212 (the "Mortgage"), as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated December 27, 2006, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 40664, Page 323, and further affected by Judgment dated February 29, 2020, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 63013, Page 308 of which mortgage U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee, for ABS Loan Trust V is the present holder by Assignment from Bank of America, N.A. successor by merger to Fleet National Bank to ABS Loan Trust V dated December 19, 2018 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 59859, Page 305, and Assignment from ABS Loan Trust V to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee, for ABS REO Trust V dated June 3, 2019 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 60594, Page 209, and Assignment from U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee, for ABS REO Trust V to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee, for ABS Loan Trust V dated July 18, 2022 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 67967, Page 129, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 11 Dale Street, Spencer, MA 01562 will be sold at a Public Auction at 1:00 PM on August 13, 2024, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit: THAT CERTAIN PIECE OF PARCEL OF LAND, AND THE BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, IN THE TOWN OF SPENCER COUNTY OF WORCESTER AND STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN A DEED RECORDED IN BOOK 4609, PAGE 531.

The parcel is more particularly described in said deed recorded in Book

4609 Page 531 as follows:
Beginning at the southwesterly corner thereof at a point on the easterly side of Dale Street, and by other land of DeLong, the said point being one hundred (100) feet northerly from Holmes Street measured along the easterly line of said Dale Street;
THENCE S. 84° 28' 37" E., by other land of DeLong, seventy six and seventy six one-hundredths (76.76) feet to a point by land now or formerly of one Moore;
Thence N. 11° 22' 26" E., by land now or formerly of Moore, eighty and forty two one-hundredths (80.42) feet to a point by the land of Grantor;
Thence N. 84° 28' 37" W., by other land of Grantor, eighty four and ninety six one-hundredths (84.96) feet to the easterly side of said Dale Street;
Thence S. 5° 31' 23" W., by the easterly side of said Dale Street, eighty (80) feet to the point of beginning.
For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 4609, Page 531.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication. Other terms to be announced at the sale.
U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee, for ABS Loan Trust V
Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street
Suite 3102
Lowell, MA 01851
(978) 256-1500
Leahy, Sr., Estate of Daniel F. and Estate of Rhea Leahy, 16-027833
July 19, 2024
July 26, 2024
August 2, 2024

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. WO24P2500EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
James V Cicero
Date of Death: 06/22/2024

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Wendy A Miner of Spencer, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that **Wendy A Miner of Spencer, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative 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 08/07/2024.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons Interested In the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court In any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 26, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate
August 2, 2024

Notice of Public Hearing– Planning Board

The Spencer Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on Tuesday August 20, 2024 in McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, , 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, and the hearing will be conducted in person and remotely on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:
Special Permit– Applicant/Owner: Jose Cruz, Location: 41 Temple Street, Spencer Assessor's Map U02-85-3. The applicant is looking for a Special Permit under Section 6.2.5 (Common Driveways) to create a common driveway to serve the existing dwelling at 45 Temple Street and a new proposed dwelling. The property is located within the Village Residential (VR) zoning district.
August 2, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Docket No. WO24P2250EA
Estate of:
Thaddeus A. Drazek
Date Of Death: August 15, 2023
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

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

Janet S. Drazek of North Brookfield MA

A Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Janet S. Drazek of North Brookfield MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
August 2, 2024

POLICE REPORTS

LOGS

continued from page A12

stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:46 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 4:19 a.m.: suspicious activity (Howard Terrace), resolved; 8:05 a.m.: ambulance (Waite Street), transported; 8:57 a.m.: animal complaint (Henshaw Street), resolved; 9:40 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), investigated; 9:57 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 10:11 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 10:19 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:35 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:46 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:28 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:47 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:31 p.m.: property found (Stafford Street), services rendered; 2:04 p.m.: larceny (Soojians Drive), report taken; 2:44 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 3:31 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), message delivered; 3:35 p.m.: mv stop (Mulberry Street), written warning; 4:02 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:07 p.m.: ambulance (Siani Road), transported; 4:36 p.m.: suspicious person (Howard Terrace), resolved; 8:13 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:15 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:42 p.m.: mv stop (Henshaw Street), verbal warning; 8:44 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 9:03 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), services rendered; 9:21 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 9:39 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:48 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 9:48 p.m.: RV complaint (White Birch Street), gone on arrival; 10:06 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 10:22 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 11:27 p.m.: disturbance (Stafford Street), spoken to.

SUNDAY, JULY 21

12:15 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:25 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:36 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:02 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:11 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:28 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, op w/suspended registration; 7:45 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 8:59 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 9:23 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 9:35 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:54 a.m.: commercial alarm (Chapel Street), resolved; 10:08 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), resolved; 10:16 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:20 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:22 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:33 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:39 a.m.: disabled mv (Stafford Street), resolved; 10:42 a.m.: residential b&e (Town Beach Road), report taken; 1:10 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), resolved; 1:11 p.m.: mv stop (Clark Street), verbal warning; 1:33 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:45 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:51 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 1:52 p.m.: mv stop (Burncoat Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, uninsured mv, unregistered mv, mv towed; 2:27 p.m.: ambulance (Market street), transported; 4:17 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 4:30 p.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), resolved; 5:44 p.m.: runaway (Mulberry Street), resolved; 5:46 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), number plate violation to conceal ID, unlicensed operation, uninsured mv, mv towed; 8:08 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, mv towed; 8:52 p.m.: threats (Winslow Avenue), report taken; 10:36 p.m.: assault/battery (South Main Street), report taken; 11:31 p.m.: mv stop (McNeil Highway), verbal warning; 11:39 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning.

MONDAY, JULY 22

12:09 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), Yovanny Padilla, 41, 26 Dale Street, #1, Worcester; op w/suspended license, no inspection sticker; mv towed; 1:19 a.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 3:50 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), no action required; 3:54 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 4:00 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:06 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 4:07 a.m.: ambulance (Burncoat Lane), transported; 4:23 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 4:41 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), Jonathan Pagan, 37, 124 High Street, #1L, Southbridge, warrant, arrest; 6:01 a.m.: ambulance (Winslow Avenue), transported; 8:11 a.m.: suspicious person (Maighan's Way), no action required; 8:15 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended registration, uninsured mv, unregistered mv, criminal application issued; 9:03 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), mv towed; 10:05 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:21 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 10:43 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:58 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written

warning; 11:13 a.m.: accident (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, marked lanes violation, no inspection sticker; transported to hospital; 11:40 a.m.: accident (Marshall Street), report taken; 12:37 p.m.: mv stop (Soojians Drive), written warning; 2:12 p.m.: keep the peace (McCarthy Avenue), services rendered; 3:07 p.m.: mv stop (Winslow Avenue), verbal warning; 3:13 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 3:29 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 3:36 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 4:00 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 4:10 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 4:16 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 4:47 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 5:06 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), written warning; 5:16 p.m.: ambulance (Winslow Avenue), transported; 5:29 p.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, unregistered mv/2 counts, criminal application issued; 6:03 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:09 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 6:13 p.m.: mv stop (Auburn Street), Jennifer Hannum, 29, 28 County Street, Springfield, OUI liquor, unregistered mv, uninsured mv, negligent operation, failure to stop for police, resisting arrest, assault/battery on a police officer; arrest; 6:17 p.m.: ambulance (Auburn Street), transported; 9:31 p.m.: family problem (Second Street), report taken; 10:14 p.m.: family problem (Second Street), peace restored.

TUESDAY, JULY 23

1:15 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:49 a.m.: attempted b&e (Town Beach Road), report taken; 3:42 a.m.: ambulance (Craig Street), transported; 8:03 a.m.: welfare check (Mulberry Street), services rendered; 8:37 a.m.: accident (Stafford Street), mv towed; 9:25 a.m.: investigation (Town Beach Road), report taken; 11:02 a.m.: investigation (Carleton Road), report taken; 11:04 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 11:27 a.m.: welfare check (Town Beach Road), services rendered; 11:53 a.m.: ambulance (Mt. Pleasant Avenue), transported; 12:21 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Crestwood Road), unable to serve; 12:47 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 1:09 p.m.: restraining order service (Bond Street), served; 1:10 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 1:35 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 1:45 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 2:03 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Audra Blais, 51, 21 Mendon Street, #1R, Worcester, unlicensed operation, number plate violation, possession Class A drug, possession Class B drug, arrest; Ava Mae Derepentigny, 22, 59 Shoreline Drive, West Brookfield, possession Class A drug, possession Class E drug, possession Class B drug, arrest; 2:43 p.m.: fraud (Marlboro Drive), report taken; 3:28 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:31 p.m.: disabled mv (Mill Street), advised civil action; 3:37 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:03 p.m.: mv stop (Tobin Road), verbal warning; 4:14 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:48 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 5:02 p.m.: suspicious person (Sargent Street), services rendered; 5:17 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 5:23 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), written warning; 5:33 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 5:40 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 5:56 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 6:14 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:16 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:37 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 9:30 p.m.: investigation (Carleton Road), unfounded; 10:19 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:27 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 11:17 p.m.: investigation (Mulberry Street), report taken.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24

7:42 a.m.: commercial alarm (Memorial School Drive), false alarm; 10:14 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unregistered mv, uninsured mv, number plate violation to conceal ID, mv towed; 11:02 a.m.: assault/battery (Utica Street), no other information recorded on police log, arrest made; 11:46 a.m.: ambulance (Virginia Drive), transported; 11:48 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 3:41 p.m.: ambulance (Cooney Road), transported; 4:32 p.m.: accident (Marshall Street), report taken; 6:59 p.m.: suspicious person (Main Street), unable to locate; 7:48 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 8:28 p.m.: ambulance (Ackley Drive), transported; 11:14 p.m.: ambulance (Gleason Way), transported.

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Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17

12:05-2:03 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:20 a.m.: medical/general

(Treadwell Drive); 4:33 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 5:42 a.m.: arrest warrant service (Park Street), Michael W. Lebeau, 36, 162 Chandler Street, Worcester; warrant/2, arrest; 5:49 a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 6:39 a.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 6:59 a.m.: accident (North Spencer Road), report taken; 8:17 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 9:03 a.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 9:06 a.m.: fire/woods/grass (G.H. Wilson Road), tree on power lines/smoking; 9:48 a.m.: medical/general (Parent Street); 11:11 a.m.: officer wanted (Valley View Drive), concerned about neighbor; 11:33 a.m.: restraining order service (Main Street); 11:46 a.m.: hit/run accident (Main Street), report taken; 12:27 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 12:27 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 12:56 p.m.: mv complaint (Pleasant Street), c/o speeders; 1:29 p.m.: juvenile matter (Bay Path Road), referral from DA's office; 2:37 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 2:52 p.m.: DPW call (G.H. Wilson Road), req. tree warden; 3:18 p.m.: mv lockout (Mechanic Street), assisted; 3:18 p.m.: restraining order service (McDonald Street); 3:39 p.m.: restraining order service (Main Street); 4:35 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), found shopping cart w/items in it; 6:16 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), req. escort/retrieve keys; 7:22 p.m.: officer wanted (Cherry Street), Kenneth J. Chiapulis, Jr., 53, 19 Cherry Street, Spencer, disturbing the peace/subsequent offense, disorderly conduct/subsequent offense, arrest; 9:13 p.m.: intelligence/drugs (West Main Street), investigated; 10:36 p.m.: mv complaint (Valley Street), c/o suspicious mv; 10:58 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 11:17 p.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; (total daily mv stops - 4).

THURSDAY, JULY 18

12:25 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 1:21 a.m.: medical/general (Spinnaker Drive); 1:48-2:14 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:45 a.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 5:30 a.m.: animal complaint (Mechanic Street), 911 call; 5:41 a.m.: mutual aid (Browning Pond Road), 3rd party call/tree down; 8:28 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), resolved; 9:44 a.m.: officer wanted (Browning Pond Road), re: issues w/husband; 10:36 a.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), mv in "no parking" space; 10:41 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 11:05 a.m.: commercial fire (Main Street), referred; 11:54 a.m.: restraining order service (Thompson Pond Road); 12:11 p.m.: medical/general (McCormick Road); 2:07 p.m.: fraud (West Main Street), report taken; 2:25 p.m.: medical/general (Old East Charlton Road); 2:56 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), questions re: restraining order; 3:10 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 3:24 p.m.: accident (Mechanic Street), report taken; 3:38 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Kingsbury Road), poss. illegal burn; 4:02 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), re: son seeking restraining order on mother; 4:02 p.m.: animal complaint (Grove Street), re: abandoned cat; 4:39 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), stray dog in business; 4:47 p.m.: suspicious mv (Park Street), investigated; 6:01 p.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), re: kids w/squirt guns; 6:52 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 7:27 p.m.: suspicious mv (Lincoln Street), poss. drunk driver; 7:55 p.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), kid harassing customers; 8:04 p.m.: medical/general (Ash Street); 8:52 p.m.: officer wanted (Deer Run Road), req. welfare check; 11:12 p.m.: medical/general (Lake Street); (total daily mv stops - 0).

FRIDAY, JULY 19

2:01-2:30 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:08 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), re: something smoking in street; 2:15 a.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 2:42 a.m.: medical/sudden death (Main Street); 7:31 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 9:05 a.m.: animal complaint (Maple Street), cat trapped on porch; 9:15 a.m.: medical/general (Cooney Road); 10:34 a.m.: medical/general (South Spencer Road); 12:14 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 12:27 p.m.: accident (Maple Street), report taken; 12:37 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), req. welfare check; 12:53 p.m.: animal complaint (Browning Pond Road), loose dog; 2:54 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 3:34 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Chestnut Street), transformer smoking; 4:08 p.m.: 911 call (Summit Street), open line; 4:48 p.m.: officer wanted (Brooks Pond Road), req. welfare check; 4:50 p.m.: fire alarm (Lake Street), referred; 5:19 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 9:25 p.m.: medical/general (Linden Street); 9:25 p.m.: citizen complaint (Maple Street), re: sidewalks; 10:13 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 11:19 p.m.: residential alarm (Clark Road), services rendered; 11:56 p.m.: building checked, secure; (total daily mv stops - 2).

SATURDAY, JULY 20

12:36-2:02 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:44 a.m.: officer wanted (High Street), welfare check; 1:39 a.m.: officer wanted (Crestview Drive), rep. poss. harassment/stalking; 2:03 a.m.: 911

call (Main Street), hang-up; 5:05 a.m.: residential alarm (Hastings Road), services rendered; 6:18 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), resolved; 10:40 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), dog found; 10:50 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), issue w/dog; 1:55 p.m.: officer wanted (Dustin Street), spoken to; 2:06 p.m.: officer wanted (Taylor Street), address confirmation; 2:15 p.m.: fraud (Smithville Road), report taken; 3:02 p.m.: restraining order service (Charron Road); 3:20 p.m.: accident (North Spencer Road), report taken; 3:55 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 4:45 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), dogs in mv/windows closed; 5:55 p.m.: 911 call (Main Street), child w/phone; 7:03 p.m.: officer wanted (Adams Street), noise complaint; 7:23 p.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), kids harassing customers; 8:04 p.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 9:42 p.m.: animal complaint (Laurel Lane), re: missing cat; (total daily mv stops - 2).

SUNDAY, JULY 21

12:06-2:28 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:00 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 2:10 a.m.: parking violation (Ash Street), ticket issued; 2:28 a.m.: parking violation (Municipal Drive), ticket issued; 6:24 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 9:16 a.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), re: cam pointed at house; 11:01 a.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 12:15 p.m.: animal complaint (Overlook Drive), re: sick goose; 2:22 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), locked out of bldg.; 3:20 p.m.: lost/found (Howe Road), keys found; 5:51 p.m.: disturbance (Pleasant Street), neighbor dispute; 6:56 p.m.: mv complaint (Smithville Road), mcs speeding; 7:02 p.m.: mv complaint (Meadow Road), mc speeding thru neighborhood; 8:09 p.m.: DPW call (Temple Street), re: mv/poss. male passed out inside; 8:36 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), hang-up; 8:42 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), re: item left outside store; 9:46 p.m.: parking complaint (Church Street), mv parked at stop sign; 9:57 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Douglas PD req. info; 10:11 p.m.: building checked, secure; (total daily mv stops - 4).

MONDAY, JULY 22

12:19-4:39 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:53 a.m.: transport (Main Street), party lost/transport to Howe Road; 6:39 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 7:59 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Road); 8:53 a.m.: mutual aid (North Spencer Road), Paxton PD bolo/truck; 9:16 a.m.: officer wanted (G.H. Wilson Road), req. VIN inspection for RMV; 9:25 a.m.: officer wanted (Linden Street), re: retrieving belongings; 12:51 p.m.: accident (Cherry Street), report taken; 2:44 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Paxton Road), no contact; 3:21 p.m.: juvenile matter (Condon Drive), services rendered; 3:27 p.m.: medical/general (Northwest Road); 3:29 p.m.: animal complaint (Adams Street), poss. rabid raccoon; 3:53 p.m.: lost/found (Main Street), wallet lost; 5:48 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Auburn PD bolo; 6:00 p.m.: animal complaint (Cooney Road), loose dog; 7:29 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), looking for mail; 7:34 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), wants phone back; 7:40 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), East Brookfield PD bolo/failure to stop; 7:55 p.m.: officer wanted (Brown Road), re: appt. to retrieve belongings; 11:29 p.m.: disturbance (Prospect Street), hears baby crying/concerned; (total daily mv stops - 3).

TUESDAY, JULY 23

3:37 a.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 4:23 a.m.: mv repossessed (Marble Road), info rec'd; 7:50 a.m.: officer wanted (Meadow Road), rep. sale of multiple pistols/revolvers; 8:09 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:50 a.m.: arrest warrant service (Hastings Road), Mitchell D. Gurk, 76, 16 Hastings Road, Spencer; warrant, arrest; 11:17 a.m.: residential alarm (Cooney Road), accidental; 1:11 p.m.: fire alarm (Pope Street), referred; 2:03 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 2:27 p.m.: animal complaint (Smithville Road), loose cows; 3:24 p.m.: school alarm (Ash Street), services rendered; 3:30 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), wants registration run; 3:31 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 4:07 p.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 5:32 p.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 6:48 p.m.: officer wanted (Dustin Street), spoken to; 6:50 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: Spectrum worker on Pine Street, Leicester; 7:09 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), system maintenance; 7:20 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), rep. male pushing fem. into mv; (total daily mv stops - 0).

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For Advertising
Information

Call 774-200-7308

email: mikaela@

stonebridgepress.news

WILD BILL
continued from page A1

The event is also a great way for guests to promote water safety while honoring the legacy of Bill Yorzyk (1933-2020), an 11-time world record breaking swimmer. Throughout his life, Yorzyk always supported opportunities to introduce youngsters to swimming and water safety. In his memory, the Wild Bill Swim raises funds that provide free swimming lessons during the school day for local third graders. “While the Wild

Bill Swim and Paddle Challenge is a high-spirited event, its purpose is quite literally deadly serious: preventing drowning, the number one cause of accidental death in children under the age of 14,” read a promotional statement. Event leaders look forward to another fun program that benefits the community. Last year’s event saw guests representing local towns and even a few other states. “We created this event to honor my father and his commitment to swimming by making sure everyone feels safe,”

Yorzyk Triger added. “Everything we raise in this annual event goes to teaching local kids water safety and to swim.” The Wild Bill Swim and Paddle Challenge will take place at Brookfield Beach on South Pond in Brookfield (141 Lake Rd., Brookfield). For safety and organizational reasons, pre-registration is required through a link on the event’s website: WildBillSwim.org. In the years since the Wild Bill Challenge was instituted, more than 120 children have taken part

in a month-long water safety and swim instruction program funded entirely by the challenge. From transporting kids to the local YMCA pool, to providing swimsuits and goggles for children, the program helps remove barriers to learning how to swim. Yorzyk himself didn’t learn to swim until he was 16 years old, but under the guidance of Coach Charles “Red” Silvia, Yorzyk quickly developed into one of the world’s top talents. After setting 11 world records and inventing the 2-beat butter-

fly, Yorzyk returned to Massachusetts and gave back to his sport by mentoring generations of college athletes. Now, his legacy lives on through teaching the next wave of youngsters to be safe in the water. “At around age eight to ten, kids become more likely to elude adult supervision in potentially dangerous situations. At the same time, they are very open to learning life skills, which is why third grade was identified as a good time for a school-based swim and water safety program,” the promotional state-

ment read. Registration for the Wild Bill Swim and Paddle Challenge is available online at: WildBillSwim.org. There are reduced entry fees for youth swimmers, teams, and entrants in the Para Swimmer Division. The Wild Bill Swim and Paddle Challenge website also includes detailed information on the event, as well as Bill Yorzyk’s personal history and links for water safety and swimming instruction.

GRANT
continued from page A1

Meanwhile, Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School in Fitchburg, which serves nine communities in Sen. Durant’s district (Barre, Gardner, Holden, Hubbardston, Phillipston, Princeton, Sterling, Templeton, and Westminster) was also awarded \$20,000 in grant funding. The latest round of grant funding focused predominantly on rural communities, which the Federal Emergency Management Agency defines as any community with a population of less than 50,000. At least 84 of the grants were awarded to municipalities meeting FEMA’s definition of rural, officials said. Additional technology projects allowed under the grant programs include implementing multifactor authentication, migration to a government domain, development of a written cybersecurity incident response plan, tabletop exercises, and cybersecurity awareness training. “All of these steps will help smaller communities to be more secure in the virtual world,” Durant said. Funding for both grant programs was secured through the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program. Funds were offered to states by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, as well as the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The Office of Grants and Research (OGR) is responsible for managing and administering the grant funds. Awards were approved by the Massachusetts Cybersecurity Planning Committee, which was formed as a condition of the federal program to guide allowable use of the funds.

SAFETY
continued from page A1

very first ride on a bus of any kind. Families from throughout the area always enjoy attending the safety program each year. “During previous programs, representatives from Vehicle Safety for the state came from their Boston offices with numerous staff members to see the program firsthand and were impressed,” the AA Transportation statement read. The event will feature bus drivers and school

pride in our town and collect donations for our Town House via ticket sales.” Added Schlegel, “The Friends of the Town House work very hard to find funding to maintain and restore our historical Town Hall building. I encourage anyone from not just North Brookfield but any of the surrounding towns

personnel from North Brookfield, Leicester, Spencer, and East Brookfield. Program leaders will help answer questions from students and their parents. AA Transportation runs school bus routes in multiple area communities. The event is also a great way for guests to meet other local officials who are often in attendance, including members of the police and school administrators. To learn more about the upcoming bus safety program, contact AA Transportation at 508-867-4500.

to please attend this outing, show your support for the Brookfields, and help fundraise for our Town House and for East Brookfield’s fireworks display.”

POSITIVELY
continued from page A7

they just kept churning. It’s not about large bursts of effort but small, persistent, daily efforts. You set tiny goals that you know are achievable, and you keep doing them daily. You realize that consistency is one of the most potent ingredients for turning your dreams into reality. As the days turn into weeks and the weeks into months, you start to see progress. Your business begins to grow steadily.

The challenges stay, but your consistent efforts help you navigate them better. You find that consistency builds momentum, and momentum keeps you moving forward. What are some things that will make you inconsistent? Drugs and alcohol are certainly significant factors. While some people claim substances like marijuana or alcohol make them more productive, over time, they often find the opposite to be true. When they quit, their productivity usually improves significantly.

Other things that can lead to inconsistency include procrastination, which creates a cycle of stress and rushed work, and lack of sleep, which severely impacts focus and energy levels. Poor time management without a clear plan or schedule can lead to distractions and overwhelm. A negative mindset, filled with self-doubt and pessimism, can sap motivation. Unhealthy relationships can drain your energy and focus, pulling you away from productive habits. Constant

distractions from social media, emails, or a noisy environment can also break your flow and hinder consistent progress. Ultimately, you learn that consistency is not just a habit; it’s a powerful force that transforms aspirations into achievements. It’s the difference between those who succeed and those who don’t. Dedicate yourself to your dream every single day. Let consistency be the engine that propels you toward your goals and turns your aspirations into reality.

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Library pollinator garden brings community together

NORTH BROOKFIELD — Community volunteers at the Haston Free Public Library planted vibrant native pollinator flowers on July 20 with the goal of creating a space in the front of the library that is both pollinator friendly – bringing beauty and wildlife to the space - and a place that library patrons can utilize and enjoy during the library’s open hours as well as when the building is closed. Shades of purple, pink, and yellow now decorate the front of the building, along with a brand-new wheelchair

accessible picnic table. “We wanted to create a space that was welcoming for everyone, as well as educational,” says Interim Director Brianna Lamb. “Pollinators like bees and butterflies are very important to our ecosystem, and planting a pollinator garden was a wonderful way of bringing them into the community space and teaching people about them. Not to mention the flowers are beautiful!”

Lamb researched all the plants that would be going into the garden and carefully planned where they would be planted in the beds.

Inishowen Farms of North Brookfield graciously donated many of the native flowering plants such as black eyed susans, blazing star, and butterfly weed. Native seedlings were also purchased from That’s a Plenty Farm, a native plant nursery in Hadley. Although many of these plants are past their flowering stage for this year, they will be well established and flourishing by this time next year. Native plants are specifically adapted to grow in our area and require less maintenance than other more exotic species.

Volunteers of all ages from the community



helped out at the library to clear the garden beds and plant the flowers. The children were especially excited to be involved in the project, helping to dig holes, weed, and water.

Going forward, the library will also be putting up educational signs about the pollinator garden, as well as individual plant labels, and a stepping stone pathway. If you would like to create your own pollinator garden, the library also has a Pollinator Garden Card Deck available to check out from their collection.

This deck goes in depth for each plant, giving specific requirements and statistics.

“My hope is that this garden brings a bit of color and warmth to the area, and is utilized both by our library patrons and community members, and our pollinator friends,” says Lamb.

The library would like to thank the Friends and Trustees of the library, Inishowen Farms, and the community members who offered their help.

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He spends his free time giving back to those who give their service to the country. He collected items for care packages that were sent to soldiers. He spoke in front of the Practical Nursing Class of 2024 about this initiative. Care bags were filled and donated to the <https://military-missions.org/> sent via USPS at 570 Delzan Place, Suite 10, Lexington, KY 40503. He felt encouraged and empowered to show appreciation to the veterans.

John Martin was a CNA at the River Terrace Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center since 2021. From 2019 to 2022, he was a direct support professional at Venture Community Services. Originally from Kenya, he obtained his certification at Kenyatta University (Nairobi, Kenya for CISCO Networking Academy, 2012). He completed his secondary education at Kiamuya Secondary School (Nyeri, Kenya 2009).

John Martin is certified in BLS/HCP CPR, mental health first aid, and dementia care. As a member of the PN Class of 2024 he was a member of the admissions panel interview and coordinated the Alzheimer’s Association memorial luminary during the longest night in December. Through <https://www.betherecertificate.org/> he received his Be There Certificate. The Be There Certificate is a self-paced learning experience designed to increase mental health literacy. The training provides knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to safely support anyone who may be struggling with their mental health. From “It provides a deep understanding of Be There’s 5 Golden Rules — a simple but actionable framework on how to recognize when someone might be struggling with their mental health, your role in supporting that person, and how to connect them to the help they deserve.”

CHARLTON - Massachusetts State Sen. Ryan Fattman, through Amanda Galonek Hellyar, MPA, Deputy District Director and Special Projects Coordinator from the Office of Sen. Ryan Fattman, Worcester & Hampden, presented a citation to John Martin Wanjiru.

State Rep. John J. Marsi, Jr. also presented a citation to John Martin Wanjiru as an acknowledgement for his accomplishments and award as the MassCTE.org Post-secondary student of the year, Central Chapter. Citations are awarded to constituents who have reached a significant personal or professional milestone.

Ryan C. Fattman currently serves in the Massachusetts State Senate. Previously, he represented the 18th Worcester district in the Massachusetts House of Representatives as a Republican.

John J. Marsi, Jr. is currently serving as a Republican member of the Massachusetts House

of Representatives from the 6th Worcester district.

Both Senator Fattman and Representative Marsi honored John Martin Wanjiru at his graduation and pinning ceremony June 21 at the Overlook Performance Arts Center.

John Martin Wanjiru of South Grafton graduated with the PN Class of 2024.

“What an honor to witness and celebrate this recognition for our nursing graduate,” said Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSNEd, RN, CRRN, Academy Director. “We are proud of John Martin for this achievement and grateful to both Senator Fattman and Rep. Marsi.”

John Martin pursued a career in nursing, having been motivated by his experience as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Certified Home Health Aid (CHHA), and a direct support professional.

“Giving the best version of a nurse whenever I will be working, to create a positive environment for the residents and colleagues,” John Martin noted.