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Friday, May 10, 2024

Choral performance showcases Leicester girl's original song

Spencer voters approve all warrant articles



Courtesy

Leicester's Emmaline Milgate is inspiring her community with her creativity.

Elementary School. Last year, as a third-grader, she presented the song to her music teacher, Alyssa Hiltz, who immediately recognized the depth of talent and creativity powering the piece.

"I was shocked that a third-grader could come up with such a well put-together piece of music. Not only were the lyrics and melody beautiful and meaningful, but the song had a well thought-out verse and refrain form, and I could immediately picture my chorus singing it," Hiltz told the New Leader. "This was a much more advanced song than any of my students have ever shared with me before."

It took Milgate only a few months to finish her song. She enjoyed the process of infusing her creativity into a piece of music.

"My favorite part of writing songs is making the tune, because I get to choose what it sounds like. I love when I'm finished and can show people my hard work," Milgate said.

Songwriting and musical expression have helped Milgate overcome challenges while inspiring other young musicians to do the same. And when her song was performed at last month's Evening with the Arts program, the entire community took inspiration from her song.

"I was inspired to write this song because I was having a rough time with some of my friends and wished I had a friend that could be there for me," Milgate said. "After writing most of the song, I found some true friends and that made it easier to finish the rest of the song."

Added Milgate, "When I found out we were going to sing my song in chorus, I was really excited but also nervous to teach it. Once I started singing, I wasn't scared anymore. The night we

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BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — All articles passed at last week's Annual Town Meeting, including three items involving solar activities and energy storage systems.

Following a public hearing process, the Planning Board recommended that the articles appear on the warrant for the May 2 Annual Town Meeting.

Article 27 involved proposed bylaw amendments pertaining to battery energy storage systems. It also included language on zoning districts and agricultural impacts.

Article 28 focused heavily on maintenance of solar facilities, as well as land and property requirements. These include the proposed mandate that developers submit a plan for minimizing soil disturbance during construction.

Article 29 covered additional proposed amendments to requirements for developers of solar installations.

The proposed bylaw amendments advanced to Town Meeting amid mounting frustration over a wave of recent solar development in town. Spencer now has 23 approved large-scale, ground-mounted solar projects, with 21 projects having already been developed.

"There is a disproportionate impact on Spencer and other towns in this area. Some communities across the state aren't doing any solar development," said Selectman Ralph Hicks in an interview ahead of Town Meeting. "The state is very focused on solar development, but they're not thinking about the impacts on these communities."

Of the 23 solar arrays either already constructed in Spencer or planned for installation, 20 of them are located in the town's rural residential zoning district. One array lies in the industrial zoning district, and two others are in the suburban residential district.

For years, residents have expressed concerns over several items involving solar development. These include hazardous materials inside panels; clear-cutting and deforestation; flooding and runoff; destruction of wildlife habitats; and potential issues that could arise during the decommissioning process.

Most recently, tree clearing off North Brookfield Road set the stage for Spencer's next large-scale solar installation. Construction of a 1.98-megawatt solar array is expected to begin this spring.

Meanwhile, another solar project slated for Hillside Baptist Church was approved but has not yet begun.

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Leicester Parks and Rec Committee works to close CORI check loopholes

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — The Parks and Recreation Committee continues to take steps toward closing loopholes that have allowed coaches to work with kids in town without receiving state-mandated CORI checks.

At the committee's April 24 meeting, members voted to require all Parks employees and volunteers to get CORI-checked.

Additional actions may soon be taken by the committee to ensure that personnel with outside organi-

zations have CORI checks on file before working with kids.

"They are working on a requirement for outside organizations to furnish affidavits regarding their employees and volunteers," said Town Administrator David Genereux.

Since March, residents have demanded answers over CORI noncompliance in town.

During the Parks and Recreation Committee's March 20 meeting, members deliberated over which authority has the ultimate

responsibility of ensuring state-mandated CORI compliance for all coaches and volunteers working with kids under 18.

Despite the Parks and Recreation Committee serving as the town's booking entity for youth sports activities, handling the scheduling of gym and field usage, members on March 20 insisted that their board is not responsible for enforcing CORI compliance. They argued that individual sporting organizations are instead responsible for verifying CORI checks among

their coaching and volunteer rosters, with no confirmations necessary from the committee.

Specifically, committee members heaped blame on the Leicester Hoops youth basketball organization, which until recently hadn't required its coaches to have CORI checks completed.

"We are paying for the sloppiness of Leicester Hoops," said longtime Parks and Recreation Committee member Bob Pingeton during the March 20 meet-

Turn To **LOOPHOLES** page **A13**

Knox Trail inducts largest class to 2024 National Junior Honor Society!



BY SADIE ANFANTIS
KNOX TRAIL NJHS

SPENCER — Knox Trail Middle School, nestled in the heart of Spencer, MA, recently hosted its annual National Junior Honor Society induction ceremony, marking a

significant milestone in the school's academic and community-oriented endeavors. On Wednesday, April 24, the school welcomed its largest class of 28 student inductees since the NJHS's inception in 2012, solidifying its commitment to fostering scholarship, service, leadership,

character, and citizenship among its students.

Each new inductee was adorned with a certificate, a pin, and a white carnation, symbolizing their dedication to the core values of the NJHS. Under the guidance of advisors Mrs. Gunsalus and Mrs. Cusson,

the ceremony was led by a team of dedicated officers: President Tucker Wolanski, Vice President Alexia Rondeau, Secretary Cassidy Chickering, Treasurer Tristyn Masterson, and Historian Sadie Anfantis.

The list of new inductees reads like a testament to the school's commitment to excellence, with names such as Zoë Barnett, Elizabeth Bennington, Jayden Giwa-Bello, Connor Cormier, Sophia Delvalle, Elyse DaSilva, Marco Estrella-Morales, Gabriel Flannery, Violet Hanlan, Riley Herrie, Teagan Humphrey, Evan LaFountain, Sophia Lambert, Cody Landry, Madelyn MacDonald, Lucas Mateucci, Anna Messier, Mikayla Moorcraft, Kylie Nelson, Alyssa Olsen, Jackson Rode, Ava Rondeau,

Turn To **NJHS** page **A13**

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TOWN OF SPENCER**

The Town of Spencer Water Department will be flushing fire hydrants throughout the western part of the distribution system starting April 29th thru May 17th, 2024. Flushing removes sediment from the water mains to help maintain water quality. When the Water Department staff is in the immediate area, residents could experience loss of pressure and short periods of rusty water. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. A daily list of the flushing locations will be posted on the Spencer town website www.spencerma.gov each day by 8:00AM (click on Departments, then click Water Department, then click Hydrant Flushing 2024). If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact the Spencer Water Department office at 508-885-7525. Thank you.

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Beginning at 7 AM



Courtesy

Christ Episcopal Church in Rochdale will celebrate a major anniversary later this month.

Christ Episcopal Church celebrates 200th anniversary

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Later this month, Christ Episcopal Church will celebrate the 200th anniversary of its consecration. The celebration is set for May 26 at 11 a.m. Christ Church, located in Rochdale, is the oldest Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, with a rich history of service that extends around the world.

“On July 6, 1823, in what was then South Leicester and is now Rochdale, Divine Service according to the Book of Common Prayer was held for the first time in Worcester County,” read a church-issued statement promoting the upcoming celebration. “On Aug. 16, 1823, land on which to build a church was deeded by Hezekiah Stone, the tavern keeper, and Charlotte, his wife. The corner stone was laid on top of the hill on Oct. 2, 1823.”

The building was erected in record time, and on Easter Day, April 18, 1824, the new church building was occupied. Because the first service was held on Easter Sunday, the congregation chose to be known as Christ Church.

On May 26, 1824, the Bishop of Western Massachusetts, The Right Reverend Alexander Griswold, consecrated the church in a service of prayers, scripture lessons, and Holy Communion.

Now, two centuries later, members of the church community are eager for the upcoming celebration.

“For 200 years, the people of Christ Church have been serving the people of

Leicester, as well as the broader national and international community,” read the church-issued statement.

A rector of Christ Church served as a chaplain in the Civil War. Members of the church have since served in—or helped the community deal with—every ensuing war and conflict.

The church has also hosted hundreds of weddings, baptisms, and funerals over the years, serving as a pillar of unforgettable memories and major community events.

“Christ Church has been a beacon of hope, providing a variety of community services,” the statement read. Service contributions made by Christ Church members include raising money for international hunger relief through CROP walks with Church World Service; supporting the local food bank; sending aid to the victims of Hurricane Sandy; helping to feed veterans in need; running Hope in Hands community gardens; supporting diaper drives for needy mothers; helping to build a well for a village in Liberia; sponsoring refugee families; and making duffel bags for foster children.

Countless addi-

tional services have assisted people in the U.S. and abroad over the years.

“This small, country church has for two centuries made an impact around the globe and continues its tradition of service today. Everyone is invited to join us on May 26 to celebrate this vibrant community,” the church statement read.

The church is located at 1089 Stafford St. in Rochdale.

Curry College welcomes Lily Smith of North Brookfield into Sigma Theta Tau

MILTON — Curry’s School of Nursing welcomes Lily Smith of North Brookfield into Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing’s Theta-at-Large Chapter. Members must be in the upper 35 percent of their class and have completed at least half of the nursing curriculum.

Sigma Theta Tau’s mission is to advance world health and to celebrate nursing excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service. The Theta-at-Large Chapter, which includes Curry College, Boston University, and Simmons College, has more than 900 active members and supports local nursing scholars through its ongoing research and academic awards program.

About Curry College
Curry College, founded in Boston in 1879, is a private, co-educational, liberal arts-based institution located on 131 acres in Milton, Massachusetts. The College extends its educational programs to a continuing education branch campus in Plymouth. The College offers 24 undergraduate majors in specialized and liberal arts programs, as well as graduate degrees in accounting, business, education, criminal justice, and nursing to a combined enrollment of nearly 2,500 students. The student body consists of 1,700 traditional students and nearly 800 continuing education and graduate students. The College offers a wide array of co-curricular activities ranging from 16 NCAA Division III athletic teams to an outstanding theatre and fine arts program. Visit us on the Web at www.curry.edu.

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DPHS grad receives major grant

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — David Prouty High School graduate Dr. Andrew Bellemer recently received a major grant award to help bring pioneering technologies and research into undergraduate classrooms.

Bellemer, who serves as an associate professor of molecular neuroscience and also as the assistant chair of faculty administration in Appalachian State University's Department of Biology, is the co-recipient of a collaborative center grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The grant award enables Bellemer to serve as a principal investigator in the High-throughput Integrative Electron Microscopy (HIVE) Center. HIVE is a national collaborative center led by the Allen Institute, a nonprofit research center located in Seattle, Washington, with partners based at Appalachian State University and several other institutions nationwide.

"The overall goal of the project is to develop technology to map connections within the brain and then use that technology to make a fine scale map of all of the cells in the basal ganglia of a mouse," Bellemer said. "The basal ganglia is a part of the brain that controls voluntary movement and that is often affected in Parkinson's disease."

For Bellemer, who grew up in Spencer and graduated from DPHS in 2000, the grant award provides exciting opportunities to advance research and open doors for students to discover innovative technologies.

"My part of the grant is to bring the technology and data produced into undergraduate classrooms where students can get hands-on experience working with cutting-edge scientific data and contributing to the research community," Bellemer told the New Leader. "I'm excited, because it provides a very important and unique training opportunity for the next generation of brain scientists in my classrooms."

In just over two decades since graduating from Prouty, Bellemer has seen tremendous advances in research and technologies in his field. With support from the grant award, he is eager to continue taking major strides.

"The research that is being done is something that was unthinkable 20 years ago, when I was an undergraduate," Bellemer said. "It almost feels like science fiction sometimes, being about to call up a three-dimensional model on the computer screen."

Added Bellemer, "We understand that students really benefit from getting hands-on research



Courtesy

Dr. Andrew Bellemer, a DPHS graduate, continues to inspire his community with pioneering work.

experience, but there is always a barrier of cost. Experiments are expensive. In this project, all of the data can be called up through a web browser—so the cost of running a lab course is very affordable. I think that this has the potential to have a real democratizing effect on scientific training, which I think is very important."

Upon graduating from DPHS, Bellemer didn't know which direction his career would take him. But he knew concretely that his high school teachers and courses had set a solid foundation for future success. Years later, he now serves as an inspiration to Prouty's current students seeking careers in STEAM fields or education.

"Some of my favorite courses were Art (with Jane Higgins), Latin (with Theresa Hickey),

and English (with Zilicia Howard). I think that these courses really made me think about creativity and the things that make us human, which ultimately led to me pursuing a psychology degree at the University of Massachusetts and then a neuroscience PhD at Yale. I've always been fascinated by the brain and how it makes us who we are."

Following the completion of his doctorate, Bellemer conducted post-doctoral research at Duke University.

For the past ten years, Bellemer has taught and led research efforts at Appalachian State University. He enjoys preparing the next wave of educators, innovators, and researchers for transformative careers.

"It has been incredibly rewarding to work with students, both in the classroom and in the research lab. I think that the best way I can spend my time is passing on the knowledge and skills I've been fortunate and privileged enough to acquire through my training," Bellemer said.

Additionally, Bellemer leads a project called Connectomes for Undergraduate Neuroscience Education and Learning (CUNEL), a five-year effort designed to enhance the accessibility of neuroscience education while incorporating new research tools into undergraduate courses.

The project began in 2022 and will conclude in 2027.

Katheryn Stapel recognized at Student Life Awards

EASTON — Katheryn Stapel, a member of Stonehill College's Class of 2024 from Leicester, MA, was recently honored at the institution's Student Life Awards, held Sunday, April 28. Each year, this program celebrates campus community members for their outstanding contributions to the betterment of Stonehill.

For more information on the 2024 Student Life Awards, visit Stonehill College's Web site.

About Stonehill College
Stonehill College, a Catholic institution of higher learning, was founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1948. Located on the beautiful 384-acre campus and former estate of Frederick Lothrop Ames in North Easton, Massachusetts, it is a community of scholarship and faith, anchored by a belief in the inherent dignity of each person.

Through more than 100 academic programs in the liberal arts, sciences, business and pre-professional field, Stonehill College provides an education of the highest caliber that fosters critical thinking, free inquiry and the interchange of ideas for over 2,500 students.

Stonehill College educates the whole person so that each Stonehill graduate thinks, acts and leads with courage toward the creation of a more just and compassionate world.

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This is a full-time position with competitive benefits. Applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to Michelle Jervis, Assistant Town Administrator/HR Director at townadmin2@dudleyma.gov. A complete job description can be found on www.dudleyma.gov under Employment Opportunities.

Nick Gardner joins EXIT Real Estate executives in Spencer

SPENCER — EXIT Real Estate Executives is pleased to announce that Nick Gardner has joined its growing team of dedicated real estate sales professionals.

EXIT Real Estate Executives, located at 130 W. Main St., Spencer, is a proud member of EXIT Realty New England's rapidly expanding network of independently owned and operated brokerages across the region.

About EXIT Realty

EXIT Realty is a company founded and built on human potential. A full service, forward-thinking, real estate franchisor with offices across North America, EXIT has to-date paid out more than a half a billion dollars in single-level residual income to its associates. A portion of every transaction fee received by EXIT Realty Corp. International is applied to its charitable fund, and to-date, \$7 million has been allocated to charity. For more information, please visit www.exitrealty.com and www.joinexitrealty.com.

Leicester Senior Citizens Club announces first trip of the season

LEICESTER — The Leicester Senior Citizens Club will sponsor its first trip of the travel season next month.

Set for Friday, June 28, the group will travel to Wright's Farm for lunch, then proceed to Bally's Twin River Casino.

The trip includes a family style chicken meal, followed by the casino trip.

Transportation will be on the Wilson Bus Line Luxury Coaches.

For more information about the trip, or to reserve your seat, please contact David Wood at 508-330-1118.

St. John's Parish chicken BBQ awaits you!

EAST BROOKFIELD — St. John's invites the community to a chicken barbecue Saturday, June 15 at 5:15 p.m. Eat at the church hall, 131 Blaine Ave., or take home a meal. Tickets, priced at \$15 for adults, \$8 for children under 12, are available at the Parish office by calling (508) 867-6469, and may also be purchased after masses.

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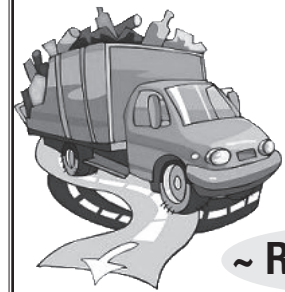
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\$230,000, 11 Union St, Holmes, Tashena M, and Boucher, Mathew R, to Fairchild, Ryan, and Savoie, Renee.

\$192,000, 7 Chestnut St, Lindsey, Amber L, and Carter, Trevy, to Jbg Investments LLC.

SPENCER

\$690,000, 63 Paxton Rd, Mercier, Joseph R, and Mercier, Kate F, to Peirce, Ernest A, and Peirce, Kathryn A.

\$322,164, 5 Candlewood Dr #5, Stearns, John, and M&t Bank, to Usa Veterans Affairs.

\$275,000, 2 Crestview Dr #49, Downing Beverly A Est, and Melanson, Steven C, to Daley, Valerie.

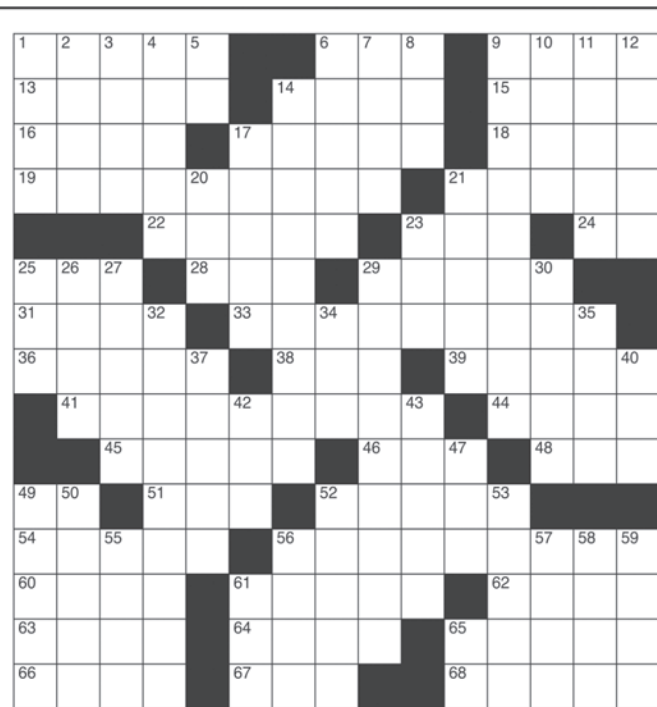
WARREN

\$367,500, 34 Nelson St, Cooper, Shawn, and Freedom Mortgage Corp, to Freedom Mortgage Corp.

\$35,000, Town Farm Rd #18, A C Memoli T Indenture, and Memoli, John P, to Fountain & Sons Const Co.

WEST BROOKFIELD

None



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. It wakes you up
- 6. A place to sleep
- 9. Czech village
- 13. Appetizer
- 14. African country
- 15. Dark brown or black
- 16. Parent-teacher groups
- 17. Saturates
- 18. ESPN personality Kimes
- 19. Songs to a lover
- 21. Cavalry-sword
- 22. Begat
- 23. Patriotic women
- 24. Famed Princess
- 25. One who does not conform
- 28. Neither
- 29. Nigerian monetary unit
- 31. Body parts
- 33. Hit Dave Matthews Band song
- 36. Depicts with pencil
- 38. Make into leather without tannin
- 39. Plants grow from them
- 41. Alias
- 44. Fingers do it
- 45. More dried-up
- 46. Clod
- 48. Senior officer
- 49. A way to listen to music
- 51. The bill in a restaurant
- 52. Historic center of Artois region
- 54. Cyprinid fishes
- 56. Poisonous perennial plant
- 60. Scottish Loch
- 61. Heads
- 62. Extra seed-covering
- 63. Wings
- 64. Britpop band
- 65. Forearm bones
- 66. Small immature herring
- 67. Female sibling
- 68. Hymn

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Vipers
- 2. Not on time
- 3. Resembling a wing or wings
- 4. Tears down
- 5. Professional designation
- 6. Noise a sheep made
- 7. Type of lodge
- 8. Speak poorly of
- 9. Ties the knot again
- 10. Apron
- 11. Studied intensively
- 12. City in Finland
- 14. One who monitors
- 17. 18-year astronomical period
- 20. Trent Reznor's band
- 21. Takes to the sea
- 23. Split pulses
- 25. Valentine's Day color
- 26. Wyatt
- 27. Type of rail
- 29. One from the Big Apple
- 30. Asteroids
- 32. Made more sugary
- 34. Change in skin pigment
- 35. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
- 37. Koran chapters
- 40. A place to relax
- 42. Young woman ready for society life
- 43. Female horses
- 47. Half of Milli Vanilli
- 49. Icelandic poems
- 52. Golden peas
- 53. Closes tightly
- 55. It's mined in mountains
- 56. Cliff (Hawaii)
- 57. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
- 58. Monetary unit
- 59. Primordial matter
- 61. TV station
- 65. Rise



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Courtesy

The David Prouty High School Panthers Band performed their hearts out on stage and earned a gold medal at the Great East Music Festival earlier last week. All the students worked hard for this moment and it showed through the judges' comments and scores. They perfected two pieces that will be featured at the upcoming 2024 Spring Concert later this month on Tuesday, May 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the David Prouty High School Auditorium.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Fashion flashbacks — The timeless appeal of retro trends

In the ever-evolving world of fashion, one thing remains constant: the cyclical nature of trends. From bell-bottoms to neon windbreakers, retro styles from past decades have made a triumphant return to the forefront of fashion, appealing to a new generation of style enthusiasts.

What is it about retro fashion that continues to captivate our imagination? Perhaps it's the allure of bygone eras, where style was synonymous with individuality and self-expression. From the glamorous silhouettes of the 1950s to the rebellious spirit of the 1990s, each decade offers its own unique aesthetic, ripe for reinterpretation in the modern age.

Social media has played a significant role in the resurgence of retro trends, providing a platform for fashion enthusiasts to share their love of vintage-inspired looks and connect with like-minded individuals around the globe.

Beyond the allure of aesthetics lies a deeper appreciation for the sustainability aspect of embracing retro fashion. As the fashion industry grapples with issues of environmental impact and overconsumption, repurposing and reimagining clothing from past decades offers a more eco-conscious alternative to fast fashion. By breathing new life into vintage pieces through upcycling and thrifting, we not only reduce waste but also celebrate the craftsmanship and history of fashion.

The resurgence of retro trends has sparked a renewed sense of creativity and individuality in the way we approach style. From mixing and matching vintage finds with contemporary pieces to putting a modern twist on classic looks, the possibilities are endless. Retro fashion allows us to express our personalities and tell our own unique stories through the clothes we wear, bridging the gap between past and present with each outfit choice.

Whether you're channeling the glamour of Old Hollywood or the laid-back vibes of the '90s grunge scene, remember that style knows no bounds and creativity knows no limits. So, dig into your grandmother's closet, scour thrift stores for hidden gems, and embark on your own fashion flashback journey. The past is calling, and it's time to make it your own.

Letter submission policy

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

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

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Parks and Recreation board must be disbanded

To the Editor:
While I can't say that I'm shocked at the lack of responsibility from the Parks and Recreation board over their own lack of CORI checks, given that they do run programs of their own, in seeing that problem more issues came to light. Since then, I've been doing diligent research to try and understand the myriad of issues involved in the disaster that is our parks and rec board. In this case today? A lack of meeting minutes going back over two years, and board reorganizations to replace the chair that there is no record of.

What's more disturbing is that there were good, honest people on the parks and recreation board that tried to address many of the problems I've since learned of, ranging from concerns of conflicts of interest to this very open meeting law issue that I highlight today. The lack of fortitude

from the town administrator and select board to deal with the myriad of problems, given that some of these same issues I've since learned about were brought to their attention in written form as well over the last few years, is unacceptable.

I've previously stated that there needs to be a reckoning over the behavior of the Parks and Recreation board. It is clear now that I was only scratching the surface. The issues of proper conduct and adherence to legal and ethical requirements go far beyond not doing CORI checks at this point. And given the refusal to address these problems, I am forced to conclude that there is only one remaining solution. The disaster that is the parks and recreation board must be dissolved.

DYLAN LAMBERT
LEICESTER

Thank you, CPA voters

To the Editor:
At the annual town meeting on May 2, Spencer voters adopted the Community Preservation Act. The vote was 71 in favor and 47 against. Thank you to all those who voted for the CPA.

A special thanks goes to Town Planner / Conservation Agent Lauren Vivier for her concise Power-Point presentation and 2022's Meritorious Service Award Recipient Mary Baker-Wood for her impassioned speech in favor of the CPA.

Additionally, I appreciate the par-

ticipation of all who attended the meeting regardless of their position. Without your attendance local government would cease to function.

The question of CPA adoption will appear again on this Fall's general election ballot. Please consider voting for its passage.

To misquote Bill Belichick, "On to November."

ROGER FOSS
SPENCER

Vote for freedom!

To the Editor:
It's amazing how our news organizations that we all grew up watching have been taken over by the Democratic machine and become the propaganda wing of their party. ABC, NBC, and CBS are all controlled by Democrats. Look what happened when one tried to bring Ronna McDaniel on board as a conservative view. She was quickly attacked by the Democratic staff and fired. It's been revealed that NPR now stands for "National Propaganda Radio." The whistleblower editor who was a moderate Democrat revealed that all its editors are progressive Democrats. Their mission on day 1 of Trump's presidency in 2016 was to take him down. These aren't your agenda free news sources anymore. Fair and balanced news reporting has been killed by the Democratic Progressive machine.

Take the reporting on Trump's hush money trial. They claim that by paying blackmail money to kill alleged stories about his infidelity, that it was election interference. By blocking the stories, they say it influenced the election. Notice that these news stations don't do any reporting on the verified Hunter Biden Laptop and all its incriminating evidence on Biden. The biggest election interference in our country was the Fake Letter Biden had Anthony Blinken created and had signed by 50 former CIA and FBI swamper. They knowingly lied to the voters by falsely claiming the laptop was Russian disinformation. A letter distributed right before the election in 2020. The letter leaked to the public through the news propaganda machine. Is any one of them being charged with Election Interference? Of course not, their Democrats. Are any news organizations putting this on their front pages? Of course not, or Biden would have the FCC shut them down ASAP for disseminating disinformation. Imagine if one of Trump's sons had a laptop like that. It would be on the news 24 hours a day. Under dictator Biden any company that releases information that goes against him is deemed "disinformation" and the

DOJ will start looking at their financials. Any lawyers that try to work for them get disbarred and put out of work.

Take the reporting of Trump's trial on classified documents. The special counsel appointed by Bidens lap dog Garland is trying feverishly to take him down before the election. A former president who had rights to classified documents, just like Obama did. Meanwhile Biden had classified documents retained illegally for 20 years. Documents he had absolutely no right to and is guilty of the Espionage Act. The same law used to try a 20-year-old Airman called Texeria. What happens to Biden? Nothing, of course; he's a Democrat. The DOJ found he willfully retained documents but declined to charge as he is too old and feeble. Surprise, surprise. You can't charge the dictator when you work for him.

Unfortunately, with Biden and the Dems, we are in a dictatorship where the leader has his government people attacking his opponent. No different than Russia or China. Our mainstream news station has been threatened and coerced to report only what the Biden Whitehouse allows. Publish anything against them and they will start to investigate your finances and licensing. That's how a dictator quells dissent. It's time to throw off the yoke of dictator Biden and become a free nation again. A notion where fair and balanced news organizations can give you the true take instead of the one allowed by Biden's "Disinformation Department." Vote for the guy being attacked by Biden's police state. Vote Trump 2024! Once he's in office, he will restore our individual freedoms as ordained by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Channel your forefathers who shouted "Sic Semper Tyrannus!" and "Don't Tread on Us." Be a patriot and revolt against the corruption by Voting for Trump! Then we all can shout "Free, Free, Free at Last, Hallelujah."

Mark Robillard
Spencer

Happy Mother's Day

To the Editor:
You have given to each of us unconditional love from day one, and I'm so very proud to have you as a Mom.

Your smile is soft, sincere, and bright; seeing it shine each day is such a delight.

You gave us sound, sage advice, and to be fair, honest and truthful with others throughout our life.

You are the epitome of goodness, kindness to everyone you meet. You perform good deeds daily; what a special treat.

You taught us the importance of practicing our faith each and every day, giving thanks to Him as we pray.

You have shown us the importance of assisting those in need by giving

your time, energy and financial support and performing good deeds.

You taught us the importance of practicing good health habits with gusto and passion. This activity will remain with us forever and never go out of fashion.

You always gave us special hugs and soft kisses on our cheeks before we left home. This loving act had a wonderful effect on us for weeks.

You are our Mom. We are so very proud to say your gentle touch, your perfect smile, your sage advice, especially your unconditional love. Thank you, Mom. Happy Mother's Day

DONALD L. GAUDETTE, SR.
SOUTH HADLEY
FORMERLY OF BROOKFIELD

Term vs. perm: Which is right for you?



FINANCIAL
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If you've been thinking about life insurance, especially if you have family, loved ones, or anyone who depends on you financially, you might be curious about the different kinds of policies available. Which type is right for you?

Essentially, you can look at two main categories of life insurance: term and permanent. Term insurance is a pay-as-you-go option that covers a specific amount of time, usually 20 years or fewer. Term insurance benefits are paid to your beneficiaries free of federal income taxes if you pass away during the coverage period, but there's no opportunity to build cash value.

Permanent insurance, such as whole life or universal life, offers coverage for as long as you pay the premiums, and in addition to providing a tax-free death benefit, also offers a chance to build equity, or cash value, on a tax-deferred basis.

When determining which type of insurance is appropriate for your needs, you'll want to consider these factors:

Cost – Term insurance is generally affordable for most people, which is why it may be particularly suitable for parents and young adults who may be at the beginning of their careers. Permanent insurance is typically more expensive, largely because it is meant to last for one's lifetime and some of the premiums go toward building cash value in the policy and paying for other features. Generally, the younger and healthier you are when you purchase permanent insurance, the lower your rates will be.

Length of time insurance is needed – If you think you will only need life insurance for a certain period — perhaps until your children are grown — you might lean toward term insurance. If you feel the need for life insurance for other goals throughout your lifetime, for whatever reason — you might have a special needs child, or perhaps you want to use your policy to help pay for retirement, or you wish to include the policy as part of your legacy and estate plans — you may want to consider some type of permanent insurance.

Investment preferences – You may have heard the phrase "buy term and invest the difference." Essentially, this just means that an investor could purchase low-cost term insurance, and then invest the money that was saved by not getting permanent insurance. This can be a valuable strategy in some situations, but people often don't actually invest the difference. A permanent insurance policy, through the payment of premiums, may result in a steady buildup of cash value or continued contributions to the policy's investment components. For many people, this discipline is helpful.

Future insurability – If you have health issues, it could become difficult to get permanent insurance after you've reached the end of a term insurance policy. (Some term insurance policies do offer the opportunity to convert to permanent coverage, usually without the need for a medical exam.) You could avoid this potential problem by purchasing permanent insurance when you are still young and healthy.

Ultimately, you will need to weigh the various factors involved in the permanent-versus-term decision. You also might benefit from consulting a financial professional, who can evaluate which type of insurance is most appropriate for your situation. But whether it's term or permanent, make sure you have the coverage you need to protect yourself and your loved ones.

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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.



Courtesy

This week's photo shows Duston Tourville with a nice striper he caught in the Providence River this past Sunday while fishing with his fishing buddy, John Gareri.

From tautog to turkeys

Stripers are biting very well up and down the coast, but you need to use the correct bait. The Providence River remained absent from Menhaden last weekend, at least for a couple of local anglers. When they tried trolling umbrella rigs, action picked up, with a pair of anglers landing seven stripers last Saturday. They returned the following day and did even better retaining their two fish in a matter of a couple of hours. If you want to catch stripers, the Providence River is

the place to go now!



THE GREAT OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH TRUE

Wild Turkey hunters are limiting out with their season limit of two birds early this year. There is very little competition by other hunters, making the hunts productive.

Tautog fishing remained very good this past week, with reports

of some larger fish. Crabs seem to be the top bait again this year, but the trick of cutting crabs in half revealing the inners of the crab is working well. Haddock fishing on the North Shore remains strong!

The Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club will hold their annual Kids trout fishing derby this Saturday May 11, starting at 8 a.m. Breakfast will be served at 7 a.m.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Planting Pointers

After a long season of browsing through seed catalogs and plot planners, outside planting time is almost here! (I can still hear Dick Lamoreaux's mantra of "no planting until after Memorial Day!" ringing in my ears.) It's no wonder the backyard gardener is dreaming of lush gardens and neatly planted garden rows. While we are still a few weeks away from safely sowing seeds or transplanting seedlings, now is the perfect time to ponder planting strategies for the prospect of sunny days digging in the soil.

The following tips are geared toward helping you get the most out of your early gardening chores. ***

If you start your seeds indoors in flats, here's an easy way to gauge spacing seeds in large flats:

Cut a piece of one-inch chicken mesh wire the size of the flat. Simply lay it on the soil and plant a seed inside each hole for instant one-inch spacing. For two or three inch spacing, simply skip the correct number of holes. ***

If you have leftover seeds, you can quickly and easily test their viability by dropping them in a container of water. The good seeds will sink to the bottom, while the bad ones will float. ***

To up the odds this year's leftover seeds will sprout again next year, store them in the refrigerator in a tightly closed jar with a packet of silica gel. The gel packets can be recycled from vitamin bottles, electronic and shoe boxes, etc. ***



TAKE THE HINT
.....
KAREN TRAINOR

If you're germinating seeds, don't spend your hard earned money on a plant heat mat. A heating pad can do the job at a fraction of the cost. Just be sure to cover it in plastic to prevent any water spills. ***

Here's a helpful tip for storing, and sowing, seeds. Simply put seeds in a clean, empty spice, seasoning or Parmesan cheese shaker. If you have tiny seeds, add little cornstarch to keep them from clumping together. When it's time to plant, just shake them

evenly over the soil. ***

Believe it or not, you might want to consider planting a chrysanthemum plant in the vegetable garden this year. The beautiful chrysanthemum is a garden helper as it acts as a handy water gauge. Because the flower wilts before other plants during a dry spell, it's a red flag to tell you to irrigate. ***

Want more visual impact for cash output in the garden? If you're planting Azaleas, consider the fact that white azaleas bloom longer than any other color of the plant. ***

Here's an old farmers tip: If you plant your lettuce near tall growing vegetables, the big plants will give off shade, allowing the lettuce to keep its cool

and prevent bitter leaves. ***

Did you know planting pennyroyal in the garden naturally deters mosquitoes? When evening falls, simply break off some leaves and scatter them on the porch or ground where people sit. ***

If you have backyard pets and flies are a problem, try planting yarrow to deter the collection of flies. Tansy also works to discourage mosquitoes. ***

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month (or whenever enough entries are received) 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 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.

Should life be all work and no play?

Life seems busier than ever, and it's not slowing down. Despite technological advances, our workload doesn't seem to lighten. Business owners might find AI tools helpful, yet often, they handle these tasks themselves instead of hiring additional help. With rising inflation and economic pressures, what

was a full-time job for one person has now become just an hour's task a day for many CEOs. As technology simplifies processes, the burden of multiple tasks increasingly falls on just a few shoulders.

While staying busy can be rewarding, the over-

POSITIVELY SPEAKING

TOBY MOORE

whelming pile of tasks can make you feel perpetually behind. Catching up seems possible only with extra help, maybe even an assistant. The expectations placed on many of us often surpass what one person can manage. I might even need a Teslabot to

handle my household chores—come on, Elon, I'm drowning in responsibilities here!

What happens when a loved one falls ill? Suddenly, you're forced to reprioritize to take care of them. If it's a severe illness, the time it demands can feel overwhelming. In such situations, lowering your expectations about what you can accomplish becomes necessary.

But should life be all work and no play? The concept of work-life balance is frequently discussed, and for many years, for me it was nonexistent. My life was like a seesaw stuck to the ground, burdened by an overload of work without any relief. Is this truly fulfilling? I guess it depends on what you find fulfilling.

A friend of mine used to watch me exhaust myself and would eventually ask, "Why? What's

the point?" To me, the sense of accomplishment was all the fulfillment I needed.

There was a time after my acting career when I didn't need to work and wasn't worried about finances, but I found that period somewhat empty.

But I digress. Let's ask the question again. Should life be all work and no play?

This reminds me of an old U2 T-shirt. It read, "Smell the flowers while you can." Once, as I was walking by, an older gentleman shouted, "Ain't that the truth!" while pointing at my shirt.

"While you can..." The implications of that phrase are vast. What does it mean? Will the flowers vanish one day? Will we no longer be around to enjoy their scent? At this point, nothing would surprise me.

The weight of "while you can" hit home a cou-

ple days ago when a dear friend of mine passed away unexpectedly. It's a stark reminder. We never truly know the future.

Finding balance is essential. It doesn't have to be just vegging out on the couch watching reality TV although occasionally that's what is needed. Ultimately, it's going to look different for each of us. It's a personal journey to discover what that balance means.

Reflecting on a quote by Jim Rohn, whom I often cite and had the fortune to meet as a boy, might offer some guidance.

He said, "Something my parents taught me, that they practiced all their life, and now I practice. Don't miss anything. Don't miss the game, don't miss the concert, don't miss the performance, don't miss the show. Don't miss the

Turn To **POSITIVELY** page **A13**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Grigg has earned my endorsement

To the Editor:

It has been a great honor of mine to have gotten to know Jared Grigg over the past few years. In his time as a selectman in town, I see someone who is dedicated to our town and who genuinely cares about the welfare of those residents and businesses that call Spencer home. Recently, as your newly elected Senator, I needed a District Director for the Worcester and Hampshire District. Without hesitation, Jared was the clear choice, and he has not disappointed.

Jared's work ethic and dedication to excellence are remarkable. He tackles every challenge with a practical, problem-solving mindset and has proven to be a valuable ally and partner for the Town of Spencer. I wholeheartedly endorse Jared Grigg for Selectman, and ask you to join me in supporting him in the upcoming town election.

Best Regards,

SEN. PETER DURANT
SPENCER

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Residents join forces with local officials to clean up Spencer



Kevin Flanders

Local residents register with Spencer officials for last weekend's cleanup day.

SPENCER — Residents and officials took spring cleaning to every corner of the community last weekend, helping to get Spencer ready for outdoor recreation and summer activities.

The Spencer Conservation Commission and the David Prouty High School community partnered to lead a town-wide cleanup project on April 27. The turnout of residents, families, seniors, and students eager to help was impressive, officials said.

"I would like to say thanks to the 70-plus people that turned out for the event. It was a tremendous display of community spirit and pride," said Town Administrator Jeffrey Bridges.

Volunteers met at Town Hall for registration before branching out to various destinations across town for their projects, including DPHS, roadside trash pickups, local parks, and municipal sites, among others.

Prouty students are thanked for their support of the project during every phase of planning and execution.

"The students helped put posters around town to promote the event," said James Barnett, who teaches vocational environmental science at DPHS. "This is a great event that gives people an easy, accessible way to get involved."

After participants filled bags with trash, litter, and roadside debris, the bags were picked up and transported away by members of the Highway Department.

All volunteers, students, and officials who made the project a success are thanked for their efforts.

Lunch and refreshments were provided to volunteers after the cleanup projects.

Leicester Historical Society celebrates 35 years of preserving the past

LEICESTER — The Leicester Historical Society is celebrating a special anniversary this month.

Celebrating 35 years of "Preserving the past for the future," the society will recognize its anniversary during an annual meeting on May 18. The event will take place at 1 p.m. in the Swan Tavern Leicester Historical Museum.

Future plans for the society, as well as treasured reflections of past accomplishments, will be shared during the event.

"Please join us for sandwiches, desserts, and beverages as we walk down memory lane," read a statement released by the society.

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Boost the beauty and comfort of your outdoor spaces

Add some comfort and beauty to your outdoor spaces this year. Look for options that fit your lifestyle, budget, and schedule. Even simple changes can make a positive impact on the time you spend relaxing and entertaining on your patio, deck, or other outdoor spaces.



GARDEN MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA MYERS

and vine-covered trellises can help block unwanted views while creating a private space outdoors. Consider the views you want to keep and those you want to block. Screen unsightly views and areas where neighbors can see into your space. You may only need a vine-covered trellis, several hanging baskets, a couple of pots, or a section of fencing rather than a long hedge or length of fencing.

Freshen up the look and comfort of these areas with some new furniture. Look for comfortable pieces made of durable materials guaranteed to provide years of enjoyment. If this is not within your budget, consider refurbishing something you already have, are gifted from a friend, or find in a thrift shop. Adding a bit of paint, new cushions, or even colorful pillows can transform older pieces into something special.

Soften the look of fencing with some wall-mounted planters, a few potted plants or shrubs, and in-ground plantings if space allows. Use a diverse selection of plants when creating a living screen. This provides more seasonal interest and makes it easier to replace that one failed plant in a mature hedge of evergreens like arborvitae.

Add some shade. A strategically placed umbrella can provide needed relief from the sun. Make sure it is stable and secure, especially in windy locations. Consider shade sails not only for the shade they provide but also for their aesthetic appeal. Make sure it is securely anchored and supported, properly managed during harsh weather, and made of fire-retardant fabric if this is a concern in your location. Pergolas are more permanent structures. Train deciduous vines up and over this structure for added shade in the summer. Then enjoy the warming sunlight when the vines drop their leaves during the cooler months of the year.

Water is another way to add a bit of serenity to your space. A wall-mounted fountain, small container of water plants, or container fountain will add noise-blocking sound and a sense of serenity to any space.

To control pesky mosquitoes in water features (or in any standing water), add a mosquito control like Mosquito Dunks and Bits (SummitResponsibleSolutions.com) that contains a naturally occurring bacterium called *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* to the water. This active ingredient kills mosquito larvae, preventing them from transforming into biting adults. Mosquito Bits quickly knock down the mosquito larval population, while the Mosquito Dunks provide 30 days of control. They both are safe for pets, fish, wildlife, and

Create some privacy with strategically placed plantings and containers. Tall grasses, narrow upright shrubs,



Melinda Myers

Fountains add serenity and noise-blocking sound to gardens and outdoor entertainment spaces.

children.

Extend the time you can spend outdoors by adding a heat source for those chilly days and nights and a fan to keep air moving and the space cooler on hot days. Adding a fan also provides some relief from mosquitoes. These weak fliers can't fight the breeze which will keep you out of their reach and much more comfortable.

Include lighting so you can enjoy your outdoor space in the evening. Consider a string of lights overhead, rail lights around the deck, or strategically placed illuminated plant containers. Create a more intimate experience with a few votive candles displayed in unique holders like old punch cups.

Light a few citronella candles for a bit of ambiance and mosquito control when enjoying your outdoor space in the evening. Citronella oil and the scented candles have some mosquito-repelling properties. Scatter lots of candles throughout the space when enter-

taining. Position the candles within a few feet of yourself and your guests for some short-term relief from these pests.

Start with a list of improvements you want to make. Then get busy researching the various options so you will be ready to boost the comfort and enjoyment of your patio, deck and other outdoor spaces this year.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the *Midwest Gardener's Handbook*, 2nd Edition and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses* "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Summit for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

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LEGALS

Town of West Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals
 A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the West Brookfield Town Hall, to act on an application for a Special Permit, for John Vasil. The applicant wishes to build a new garage with an in-law apartment on his property located at 19 Milk Street.
 May 10, 2024
 May 17, 2024

Notification of Aquatic Treatment – Lake Lashaway
 Lake Lashaway in East Brookfield and North Brookfield will be treated with herbicides to control nuisance aquatic vegetation on the following dates:
May 21, 2023 (potamogetan treatment)
June 18, 2024 (invasives treatment #1),
August 20, 2024 (invasives treatment #2, if required)
Signage will be posted around lake access sites for each treatment.
 The use of the lake will be restricted as follows for each of the dates above:
Swimming, boating and fishing (1 day)
Livestock watering (Agricultural) (1 day)
Direct drinking (2 days)
Irrigation (5 days)
 The work is being funded by lake resident donation and the Lake Lashaway Community Association, Inc., pursuant to permits/licenses issued by Mass Dept. of Environmental Protection (License No. WM04-0001135) with approval from the East Brookfield & North Brookfield Conservation Commissions. Work is being performed

under contract with The Pond and Lake Connection Lake Management, 1112 Federal Rd., Brookfield, CT 06804.
 May 10, 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. W024P1417EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate of: Ann M. Constantineau Date of Death: 03/02/2024
 To all interested persons:
 A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Daniel W. Shannon of East Brookfield MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: **Daniel W. Shannon of East Brookfield MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
 You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00. a.m. on the return day of 05/28/2024.** 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: April 29, 2024
 Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate
 May 10, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE
 In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 131, Section 40 of the Wetlands Protection Act, the North Brookfield Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on May 14, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Offices, 215 No. Main St., No. Brookfield for Request for Determination and Notice of Intent filings and associated activities at Lots 1 & 2, 45 Brookfield Road, North Brookfield.
 Any person interested in this matter is invited to attend the hearing.
 May 10, 2024

The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Docket No. W024P1347EA Worcester Devison Estate of: Elizabeth Anne Gonzalez Also Known As: Elizabeth A. Gonzalez, Elizabeth Gonzalez Date Of Death: March 19, 2024 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
 To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner **Lisa M Checkoway (Foley) of North Andover MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Lisa M Checkoway (Foley) of North Andover 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.
 May 10, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Help Wanted

MILGATE

continued from page A1

performed it, I couldn't stop smiling. I felt very proud."

The process of introducing the song to chorus members brought its own set of challenges, but students worked hard in advance of their Evening with the Arts performance.

"I was ready to do some work to transcribe and arrange it, but luckily Emmaline's father, Brooks Milgate, is a pianist, and he arranged a beautiful accompaniment track for us to use," Hiltz said. "When it came time to teach the song to my chorus, the students immediately loved it. I started teaching it myself, but eventually Emmaline gained the confidence to teach

the verses to the students. I was so proud of her for stepping into that leadership role, even though it was out of her comfort zone."

Added Hiltz, "With a chorus of 85 students, she really had to put herself out there to teach such a large group and make corrections when necessary. We talked a lot about how, as the composer, she got the final say on how

the chorus was going to sing her song, even if that meant correcting me."

Milgate's song has impressed her family, friends, teachers, and now the entire community. Guests were thrilled to see the hard work of a student with a bright future in music ahead.

Milgate's family thanks teachers and the school community for their sup-

port. The annual Evening with the Arts program serves as a showcase for student creativity across all grade levels.

"Mrs. Hiltz has been such an encouragement for Emmaline to perform for her friends and continue her writing. Emmaline has written eight more songs since, and they just get better and better every time," said Rebekah Milgate,

Emmaline's mom.

The opportunity to perform Emmaline's song has also helped her schoolmates build confidence in exploring their own creativity.

"Emmaline has inspired many of the students in chorus to start writing their own songs. I can't wait to see how far she comes as a composer and a singer," Hiltz said.

ARTICLES

continued from page A1

Following the Annual Town Meeting, officials and residents expressed optimism that the articles will receive the needed approval at the state level.

The bylaw amendments must be authorized by the Attorney General before going into effect.

"This has been vetted through our attorney, and there is a high likelihood that the Attorney General will approve it," Hicks added.

In other Town Meeting news, with the approvals of Articles 12-14, voters authorized the use of funds for various school and transportation purposes.

With the passage of Article 20, voters appropriated \$165,000 for repairs to the Sewer

Department's collection system.

Voters also passed Article 21, which demonstrated acceptance of the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act. This includes a surcharge on real property for several purposes, including the acquisition, creation, and preservation of open space; the rehabilitation and

restoration of historic resources; the acquisition of land for recreational use; and the acquisition and support of community housing, among others.

The act stipulates that the first \$100,000 of value is exempt from the surcharge (residential property, class three commercial property, and class four industrial property).

Voters at the fall election must deliver final approval of the act for it to move forward. A committee would be formed to determine how the funds would be expended, officials said.

To view the complete Town Meeting warrant, visit www.spencerma.gov.

NJHS

continued from page A1

Ava Rossik, Mason Russo, Ava Sandberg, Kinley Sauvageau, Samuel Schold and Raegan Tatro among those honored. Each student embodies the qualities of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship that form the foundation of the NJHS.

The ceremony was attended by esteemed guests including Heather Messier, School Committee Chairman; Superintendent of Schools Dr. Paul Haughey; Senator Peter

Durant; KTMS Principal Mr. Ron Tomlin; KTMS Assistant Principal Ms. Melinda Dennis; and Dean of Students Dr. Tim Smolen. Their presence underscored the significance of the occasion and the school's dedication to academic and personal growth.

Notably, Knox Trail Middle School's NJHS members have been actively involved in a range of impactful service activities throughout the academic year. From participating in school yard cleanups to supporting local animal shelters and fundraising for cancer research, these students have demon-

strated their unwavering commitment to making a positive difference in their community.

As Knox Trail Middle School celebrates this momentous occasion, it looks forward to the continued contributions of its NJHS members in fostering a culture of excellence, service, and leadership within the school and the broader community. With the induction of its largest class yet, the future shines bright for Knox Trail Middle School and its commitment to nurturing the next generation of leaders and change-makers.

LOOPHOLES

continued from page A1

they had an incident with a coach, they did them."

Committee members have not disclosed the details of the incident in question.

Per state law, entities are required to obtain all available criminal offender record information (CORI) for any adult working or volunteering with kids under 18.

Officials confirmed during the March 20 meeting that the Parks and Recreation Committee facilitated CORI compliance in the past, although it remains unclear whether these actions were specifically for volunteers with committee-run programs or for independent organizations offering sports in town as well.

Genereux addressed committee members at the March 20 meeting, offering to provide assistance in crafting policy improvements.

At the state level, the processing and administration of all CORI reports is governed by the Massachusetts Department of Criminal Justice Information Services (DCJIS).

"A CORI report is a name and date of birth-based record of your Massachusetts criminal court appearances," read a statement released by the DCJIS. "The information includes your criminal court appearances, beginning at the age of eighteen."

To date, Parks and Recreation Committee members have not responded to the New Leader's questions over CORI issues.

Leicester Hoops director Jason

ing. "They didn't do CORI checks. The minute

LoVerme has not responded to requests for comment on the alleged incident involving a coach with his organization.

To learn more about state CORI regulations and training resources, visit www.mass.gov/CJIS. The site also includes information about the state's iCORI system.

"The iCORI system is operated by the DCJIS. It is a web-based application which is used by individuals and organizations to request and receive CORI. Users must first register with the system to establish an account," the DCJIS statement read.

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LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES

BROOKFIELD
Brookfield Ecumenical Food Pantry
St. Mary's Church
4 Howard Street, Brookfield, MA 01506
Distribution: Wednesday 9 AM-11 AM;
Saturday 9AM-11AM

CHARLTON
Chip - In Food Pantry
McKinstry Building
37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507
Distribution: 3rd Saturday 9 AM-12 Noon

LEICESTER
Leicester Food Pantry
St. Joseph-St. Pius X Parish
759 Main Street, Leicester, MA 01524
Distribution: Tuesday 5 PM-7 PM

NORTH BROOKFIELD
St. Joseph's Food Pantry
Located in the church hall at 296 North Main St. North Brookfield
Distribution is the 1st Thursday of the month from 5:00-6:30PM
the 3rd Thursday of the month from 12 Noon-1:15PM
Any questions should be directed to the Rectory office 508 867-6469.
St. Joseph's Food Pantry is a community partner affiliated with the Worcester County Food Bank.

ROCHDALE
The Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry
Greenville Baptist Church
674 Pleasant St.
Rochdale, MA

SOUTHBRIDGE
Saint John Paul II Food Pantry
Saint Vincent de Paul
279 Hamilton St, Southbridge, MA 01550
Distribution: Tuesday 3 PM-5 PM, Wednesday 9 AM -11 AM

Southbridge Food Share Pantry
79 Elm St., Southridge, Ma. 01550.
Distribution: MWF from 10:00AM - 11:15AM

SPENCER- EAST BROOKFIELD - RESIDENTS ONLY
Mary Queen of the Rosary Food Pantry
60 Maple St, Spencer, MA 01562
Distribution: Thursday 10 AM-12 Noon

WEST BROOKFIELD
Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry
First Congregational Church
36 North Main Street,
W.Bookfield, MA 01585
Distribution: Wednesday 10 AM-11:30 AM - Thursday 7 PM- 8 PM



POSITIVELY

continued from page A7

conversation, don't miss the sermon, don't miss the class...don't miss anything. Go look, see, learn, try, taste. Let that flavor of life be part of your lifestyle."

Why pursue balance? It's about personal enrichment and development, about becoming a person of value. True, thriving in our workplace demands education, hard work, determination, and dedication. But what about beyond the office?

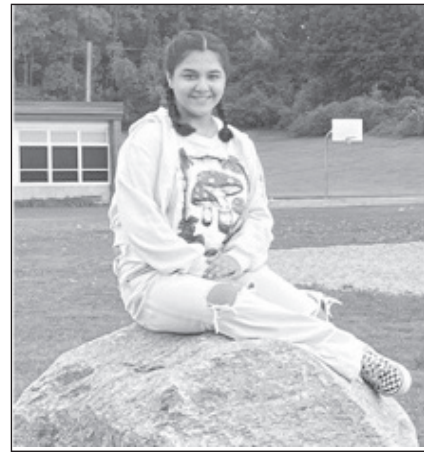
Consider the value added to your life when you're not only accomplished at work but also knowledgeable in the arts, skilled in playing chess, experienced in gardening, or have read the greatest book upon that which western civilization was founded upon. You've set down the path of enriching your whole self, making you a more rounded and insightful individual, and what is that truly worth?

Can we quantify it? No, but consider this: being a cultured individual stimulates fresh thoughts, inspires new actions, and fosters new ways of being and can help you get out of a rut. This not only adds layers of value to your personality, but also introduces a much-needed balance. What's it worth? I'd say it's priceless.

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Friday's Child



Lexus Age 12

Hi! My name is Lexus and I want a home where I can raise pet ducks and chickens.

Lexus is beautiful, kind, loving, and sweet. She thrives on receiving one-on-one attention from loving adults. Lexus is energetic, eager to please and does best with positive reinforcement. She enjoys coloring, arts & crafts, playing outside, listening to music and playing games. She loves animals, trying new things and

visiting with her brother. She is very outgoing, creative, and loves projects. Lexus would like her new family to help her with raising pet ducks and chickens. She also would like to take horse back riding lessons.

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/7511>

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

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

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



POLICE REPORTS

Leicester Police Log

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

2:00 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:52 a.m.: ambulance (Charlton Road, Spencer), transported; 9:25 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 11:10 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 11:26 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, number plate violation to conceal ID, unregistered mv, criminal application issued; 11:43 a.m.: harassment (South Main Street), spoken to; 11:45 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 11:54 a.m.: animal complaint (Pine Street), referred; 12:06 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 12:24 p.m.: suspicious mv (Soojians Drive), spoken to; 12:36 p.m.: fraud (Pine Ridge Drive), report taken; 1:39 p.m.: mv stop (Warren Avenue), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued; 2:31 p.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), referred; 3:11 p.m.: fraud (Pitcairne Avenue), report taken; 6:27 p.m.: malicious mischief (Fairview Drive), report taken; 7:39 p.m.: disturbance (Olney Street), spoken to; 11:56 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

12:38 a.m.: ambulance (Chestnut Street), services rendered; 3:09 a.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), investigated; 3:42 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:24 a.m.: investigation (Huntoon Memorial Highway), report taken; 9:59 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, unregistered mv, failure to wear seat belt, criminal application issued; 11:51 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, number plate violation, marked lanes violation, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued; 12:46 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 2:11 p.m.: accident (Stafford Street), report taken; 4:24 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 5:23 p.m.: RV complaint (Rawson Street), advised civil action; 5:39 p.m.: investigation (Fairview Drive), report taken; 7:42 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 7:45 p.m.: disturbance (Redfield Road), peace restored; 9:47 p.m.: suspicious person (Main Street), unreported; 10:16 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:11 p.m.: ambulance (Utica Street), transported; 11:41 p.m.: residential alarm (Chesnar Drive), no action required.

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

1:11 a.m.: erratic operator (Pine Street), gone on arrival; 1:42 a.m.: disturbance (Collier Avenue), spoken to; 11:24 a.m.: investigation (Winslow Avenue), report taken; 11:32 a.m.: assist citizen (Pitcairne Avenue); 12:00 p.m.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), referred; 2:00 p.m.: larceny (Main Street), report taken; 2:46 p.m.: animal complaint (Soojians Drive), referred; 4:14 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:58 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), gone on arrival; 5:02 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 5:17 p.m.: disabled mv (Auburn Street), assisted; 5:25 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 6:21 p.m.: illegal dumping (Craig Street), resolved; 6:28 p.m.: summons service (Tobin Road), unable to serve; 6:40 p.m.: summons service (Auburn Street), served; 9:02 p.m.: suspicious activity (Main Street), no action required; 9:04 p.m.: mv stop (Mannville Street), spoken to; 9:25 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 11:32 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

9:53 a.m.: larceny (Winslow Avenue), report taken; 11:50 a.m.: parking complaint (South Main Street), resolved; 12:02 p.m.: ambulance (Mulberry Street), unfounded; 1:14 p.m.: assist citizen (Towtaid Street); 1:16 p.m.: disturbance (Watch Street), services rendered; 2:02 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 2:28 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), spoken to; 3:47 p.m.: disabled mv (White Birch Street), services rendered; 3:57 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 3:57 p.m.: fraud (Main Street), report taken; 4:19 p.m.: ambulance (Bottomly Avenue), transported; 4:36 p.m.: trespassing (Craig Street), spoken to; 5:06 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), call canceled; 5:17 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), Kalem Ryan Severance, 41, 28 Davis Road, Millbury, negligent operation, marked lanes violation/2 counts, speeding, arrest; 7:12 p.m.: ambulance (King Street Extension), transported; 7:34 p.m.: suspicious person (Victor Avenue), no action required; 8:21 p.m.: runaway (Brickyard Road), resolved; 11:16 p.m.: residential alarm (Laurelwood Avenue), false alarm; 11:37 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, op w/suspended registration, criminal application issued; 11:56 p.m.: assist citizen

(Brickyard Road).

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

1:17 a.m.: assault (South Main Street), report taken; 2:18 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 3:27 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:17 a.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), assisted; 9:07 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 9:29 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:34 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 10:52 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 11:19 a.m.: mv stop (Soojians Drive), verbal warning; 11:43 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued; 12:28 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued; 12:42 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 1:21 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:34 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 1:42 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 1:45 p.m.: mv stop (Cemetery Road), Christopher George Watson, 39, 7825 NE 306th Terrace, Salt Springs, FL, fugitive from justice/court warrant, speeding, unlicensed operation, arrest; 3:44 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), assisted; 4:06 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 5:57 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 6:47 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, window obstructed/nontransparent, unregistered mv, uninsured mv, criminal application issued; 8:58 p.m.: neighbor dispute (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, violation of harassment prevention order, criminal application issued; 10:05 p.m.: ambulance (Collier Avenue), transported.

MONDAY, APRIL 29

12:31 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:27 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 2:05 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license/subsequent offense, registration not in possession, marked lanes violation, criminal application issued; 2:45 a.m.: ambulance (School Street, Spencer), transported; 7:31 a.m.: commercial alarm (Huntoon Memorial Highway), call canceled; 8:02 a.m.: ambulance (Towtaid Street), transported; 11:09 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, unregistered mv, criminal application issued; name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued; 11:40 a.m.: arrest warrant service (Stafford Street), Gregorio Antonio Estupinian, 38, 86 Lafayette Street, #3, Worcester, failure to appear upon recognition, arrest; 12:37 p.m.: gunshots heard (Marshall Street), no action required; 1:55 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 3:22 p.m.: lobby service (Brookside Drive), report taken; 3:27 p.m.: ambulance (Soojians Drive), transported; 4:25 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), report taken; 5:26 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), name and address redacted from police log, shoplifting by asportation, criminal application issued; 7:14 p.m.: ambulance (Birchwood Drive), transported; 7:26 p.m.: disturbance (Burncoat Lane), peace restored; 7:37 p.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), report taken; 11:03 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported.

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

12:19 a.m.: ambulance (Collier Avenue), transported; 12:58 a.m.: assist citizen (Soojians Drive); 1:06 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:24 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:59 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:52 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 7:00 a.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 8:01 a.m.: arrest warrant service (Main Street), unable to serve; 9:19 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 9:40 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:04 a.m.: assist other agency (Ennis Road, Oxford), report taken; 10:39 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 10:40 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 11:05 a.m.: threats (Paxton Street), report taken; 11:10 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 11:19 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 12:06 p.m.: family problem (McCarthy Avenue), transported to hospital; 1:14 p.m.: ambulance (Veterans Avenue, Worcester), transported; 1:39 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:47 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:48 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), juvenile arrest, 17, number plate violation to conceal ID, uninsured mv, unregistered mv, carrying loaded firearm w/out a license, possession of ammunition w/no FID, arrest; 3:06 p.m.: ambulance (Winslow Avenue), transported; 3:56 p.m.: trespassing (Chapel Street), gone on arrival; 5:16 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 11:47 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford

Street), verbal warning.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

12:06 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:27 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:21 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 1:53 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), no action required; 2:05 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:15 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:35 a.m.: welfare check (Brickyard Road), report taken; 11:32 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), resolved; 11:41 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 1:25 p.m.: summons service (Warren Avenue), served; 1:37 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 1:43 p.m.: assist citizen (Brickyard Road); 2:27 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 2:33 p.m.: illegal dumping (Rawson Street), resolved; 3:13 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 4:14 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 5:30 p.m.: ambulance (Virginia Drive), transported; 6:09 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 9:54 p.m.: assist other PD (Black Hill Road, Paxton), services rendered; 10:03 p.m.: assist other PD (Salminen Drive), call canceled; 11:00 p.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), transported to hospital.

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Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

12:14-2:21 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:42 a.m.: parking violation (Municipal Drive), ticket issued; 12:49 a.m.: parking violation (Chestnut Street), ticket issued; 8:32 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 8:45 a.m.: medical/general (North Brookfield Road); 8:46 a.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 9:04 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 9:32 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 10:04 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 1:21 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 2:26 p.m.: mv lockout (Main Street), assisted; 4:11 p.m.: medical/general (Pleasant Street); 4:22 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. for contact; 5:47 p.m.: parking complaint (Pleasant Street), construction eqpt. blocking d/way; 9:54 p.m.: suspicious mv (Valley Street), investigated; (total daily mv stops - 2).

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

2:16-2:41 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:45 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 6:49 a.m.: medical/sudden death (West Main Street); 8:26 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), rep. earlier incident; 9:57 a.m.: medical/general (Smithville Road); 10:46 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 10:56 a.m.: mv lockout (Main Street), assisted; 12:03 p.m.: mutual aid (R. Jones Road), assist Sturbridge PD; 1:10 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 1:54 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 2:31 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 2:45 p.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), rep. theft from apt.; 4:13 p.m.: medical/general (Summer Street); 4:35 p.m.: suspicious persons (Clark Road), hears yells for help; 5:12 p.m.: hit/run accident (Wall Street), report taken; 5:45 p.m.: officer wanted (Kingsbury Road), re: earlier incident; 5:54 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), speak w/concerned citizen; 5:55 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Brookfield PD bolo; 9:09 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. welfare check; 10:19 p.m.: search warrant (Temple Street) Diane Margit Snow, 47, 15 School Street, Spencer, possession Class B drug, arrest; John Paul Vincent, 49, 33 Temple Street, Spencer, possession Class A drug, possession Class A drug w/intent to distribute, assault/battery on a police officer, arrest; 10:34 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); (total daily mv stops - 0).

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

1:05 a.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 1:33-2:37 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:14 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo; 2:42 a.m.: domestic/no abuse (Cranberry Lane), ex drunk/broke window; 7:35 a.m.: hit/run accident (West Main Street), report taken; 7:46 a.m.: animal complaint (North Brookfield Road), rep. aggressive dog; 8:55 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 10:16 a.m.: mv repossessed (Main Street), info rec'd; 11:25 a.m.: suspicious persons (West Main Street), investigated; 12:11 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), services rendered; 12:22 p.m.: citizen complaint (Hastings Road), wood chipper in travel lane; 12:39 p.m.: officer wanted (Bacon Hill Road), re: pkg. rec'd; 12:44 p.m.: disturbance (Buteau Road), rep. harassment; 12:54 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 2:38 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator/dump truck; 3:03 p.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), services rendered;

3:24 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), missing dog located; 3:49 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), worried about mother; 6:23 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Brookfield PD bolo/red sports bike; 7:01 p.m.: animal complaint (Wire Village Road), detained loose dog; 7:35 p.m.: fire alarm (Mechanic Street), referred; 8:16 p.m.: suspicious persons (West Main Street), info taken; 9:57 p.m.: building checked, secure; 10:28 p.m.: missing person/juvenile (Kittredge Road), investigated; (total daily mv stops - 2).

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

12:20-2:28 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:16 a.m.: 911 call (Paxton Road), open line; 9:28 a.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 12:08 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Browning Pond Road), poss. brush fire; 12:33 p.m.: 911 call (School Street), hang-up; 1:29 p.m.: intelligence/drugs (Main Street), info rec'd; 1:58 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 2:21 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), construction gate open; 6:32 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), spoken to; 6:55 p.m.: officer wanted (Valley Street), dugout apparently vandalized; (total daily mv stops - 2).

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

12:24-2:55 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:33 a.m.: medical/general (Water Street); 6:28 a.m.: medical/general (Pine Avenue); 7:36 a.m.: 911 call (Chestnut Street), open line; 9:33 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), mvs doing burnouts; 10:18 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 4:00 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 4:40 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (East Charlton Road), no contact; 5:18 p.m.: medical/general (Elm Street); 5:45 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Howe Road), Sasha Lynn Perry, 34, 45 Rona Street, Indian Orchard, warrant, arrest; 7:31 p.m.: RV complaint (Pleasant Street), 4-wheeler on street/no helmet; 11:15 p.m.: disturbance (Chestnut Street), unruly patron; 11:34 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), UMass/Harrington CT down; (total daily mv stops - 0).

MONDAY, APRIL 29

12:44 a.m.: medical/general (High Street); 1:10 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:20 a.m.: officer assaulted (Lake Street), Arthur Charles Theurer III, 6 North Street, Spencer, disorderly conduct, disturbing the peace, assault/battery on police officer, arrest; 2:33 a.m.: medical/general (School Street); 7:52 a.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), cell phone found; 7:56 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street); 7:57 a.m.: FID issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:14 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 8:49 a.m.: fire alarm (Ash Street), drill; 10:58 a.m.: officer wanted (Greenville Street), spoken to; 11:44 a.m.: medical/general (Lakeview Drive); 1:20 p.m.: lost/found (Main Street); 1:44 p.m.: suspicious persons (Sunset Lane), info taken; 3:23 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), noise complaint; 3:24 p.m.: accident (Thompson Pond Road), report taken; 3:50 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), re: missing dog; 4:08 p.m.: officer wanted (Church Street), rep. drug dealing; 5:22 p.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; 6:45 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Street); 8:29 p.m.: harassing calls (Kittredge Road), re: threatening texts; 10:40 p.m.: officer wanted (Kittredge Road), spoken to; (total daily mv stops - 0).

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

12:14 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: road rage incident; 12:20 a.m.: commercial alarm (Meadow Road), services rendered; 12:45-3:05 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:57 a.m.: parking violation (Church Street), ticket issued; 7:02 a.m.: disabled mv (South Spencer Road), investigated; 7:35 a.m.: disabled mv (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 8:03 a.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 9:03 a.m.: DPW call (G.H. Wilson Road), tree encroaching on roadway; 9:24 a.m.: medical/general (High Street); 9:37 a.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 9:56 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. assistance retrieving keys; 10:44 a.m.: suspicious mv (Holmes Street), investigated; 11:51 a.m.: animal complaint (Wilson Avenue), raccoon in yard; 11:57 a.m.: suspicious persons (South Spencer Road), rep. tents on rail trail; 1:52 p.m.: suspicious persons (Cherry Street), rep. theft of hubcaps; 2:02 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Ash Street), resolved; 3:21 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Monson PD bolo; 3:52 p.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), trash truck losing trash; 4:16 p.m.: medical/sudden death (North Spencer Road), req. welfare check; 4:19 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), heard gunshots; 4:40 p.m.: fire (Browning Pond Road), cat in tree; 6:14 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), re: videos rec'd; 7:46 p.m.: officer wanted (High Street), req. escort to residence; 7:56 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 10:22 p.m.: medical/general (Spinnaker Drive); (total daily mv stops - 2).

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WEBSTER
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1/2 acre Lot! OPEN FLOOR PLAN. Living room, dining room, upscaled kitchen with 7' island, 3 bedroom, 2 baths, Beautiful Hardwood Floors! central air. 2 car garage
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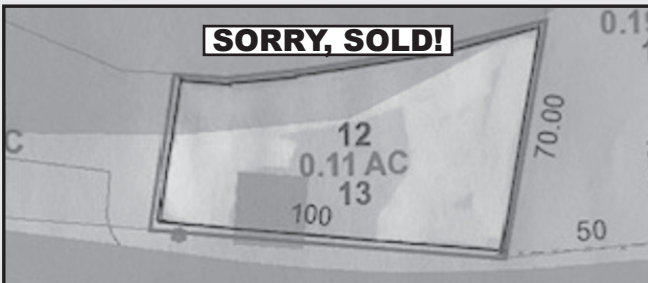
WEBSTER
96 CHASE AVE

New to the Market - Owner Occupied 2 Family Extremely Well Cared For - Many Important Updates. Don't Miss This One!
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On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake
13 South Point Rd.

100' of frontage on the water & road. An old cement block garage is located on the property.. Land area surveyed, DEP approval to build. Property suitable for small craft dockage/off season storage. Town Water & Sewer available
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TOP TEN THINGS TO DO WHEN SELLING A HOME

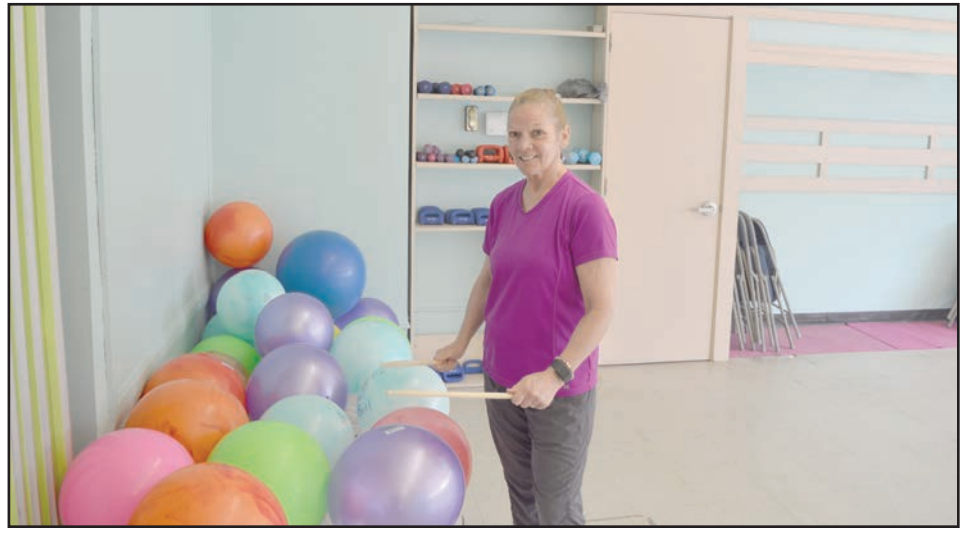
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 REAL ESTATE



Kevin Flanders

Senior Center hosts third annual open house

SPENCER — Local guests enjoyed several programs at the Senior Center's third annual open house. Held on April 27, the event featured Senior Center program instructors delivering half-hour classes to showcase their offerings. These included demonstrations in yoga; low impact aerobics; Tai-Chi; cardio aerobic drumming; aerobics; and line dancing.

"We have a lot of fun. It's always a great time, and I enjoy seeing people improve, laugh, and create friendships," said Jennifer Tetreault, an instructor who leads programs at the Senior Center.

Meanwhile, local entertainer Ed the Wizard performed several magic acts for guests. The Friends group provided a free breakfast of pastries and coffee, as well as a free lunch. Options included pulled pork sliders; coleslaw; barbecue hotdogs, chips, and beverages. Additionally, members of the Spencer Fire Department attended the event to promote an array of fire safety items for seniors. These include cooking safety, general home safety, and measures that can be taken to reduce the chances of a fire starting.

The event also offered tours of the building and raffles. The Senior Center is located at 68 Maple St. Local seniors are invited to contact the center to learn more about upcoming programs.



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