

# SPENCER NEW LEADER

Free by request to residents of East Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield, Brookfield, Leicester and Spencer

SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO [NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS](mailto:NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS) Friday, May 13, 2022

## Selectmen's race deadlocked in North Brookfield

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS**  
**STAFF WRITER**

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** – When voters cast their ballots at last week's election, they never imagined they would also etch their names into town history. But after the votes were counted twice, the deadlock remained between incumbent Selectman Dale Kiley and challenger Elizabeth Brooke Canada.

A hand count confirmed the original vote tabulation, with both Kiley and Canada earning 351 votes. The result represented the first tie for a major race in the town's election history, leaving voters and officials alike to ponder the next steps in resolving the race.

"This is unprecedented for North Brookfield. I am working with Town Counsel and the State Elections Division under the Secretary of State [to determine the next steps]," Town Clerk Tara Hayes told the New Leader after the May 2 election.

Hayes also discussed the situation with the Select Board last week.

Looking ahead, the tie will be broken by a special runoff election specifically for the Select Board race. No details on the date or location of the tiebreaker election have been announced.

Meanwhile, in the wake of the tie, Selectman Kiley

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Courtesy

## DA'S OFFICE PAYS A VISIT TO WEST BROOKFIELD SENIOR CENTER

Members of Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early's office recently visited the West Brookfield Senior Center. On April 25, outreach team leaders from the DA's office presented a program called Creating a Caring Community. The event addressed such topics as adult bullying, prevention, and empathy.

## School officials mum on bus driver complaints

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS**  
**STAFF WRITER**

**LEICESTER** – Recent complaints from parents about a school bus driver have highlighted ongoing communication failures among school leaders.

The AA Transportation driver, whose name the New Leader decided to omit pending further investigation, has been the source of multiple grievances from parents this year. These include complaints about verbally abusive behavior, dangerous driving, and intimidation, among others.

"She yells at children, berates them to the point of tears," said Leicester parent Rochanna Buckley. "She made the kids sit statue still, backpacks on laps, and they were not to turn their

heads or speak or she would pull the bus over and yell at them. She terrifies the children, but never once relays information to parents."

Another parent who wished to remain anonymous said her child witnessed the driver angrily grab a student by the arm.

AA Transportation owner Ron Ernenwein said he cannot discuss personnel.

"We take any allegations of this nature very seriously," Ernenwein said. "All of our vehicles are equipped with telematics, which report location speed and driving behavior. They are also equipped with video cameras that record every run. Any time a specific complaint is logged against any of our

employees, the incident is researched and the data collected is shared with the school administrators and or the local authorities."

For Leicester parents, the process of attempting to communicate with school leaders about the issues has been even more frustrating than dealing with the driver. Some parents have reached out to town officials and the media for assistance.

The New Leader attempted to discuss the complaints with Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Marilyn Tencza and Leicester Elementary School Principal Tina Boss, but neither official responded to multiple requests for comment.

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## Leicester voters sign off on all but one warrant article

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS**  
**STAFF WRITER**

**LEICESTER** – All but one article passed at last week's Annual Town Meeting.

After much discussion this spring about the potential to cut significant funding from the school budget, the Select Board and Finance Advisory Committee jointly decided to support the budget as written. The agreement was reached the night before the May 3 Town Meeting, with selectmen voting 4-1 in favor of the resolution (John Shocik dissented).

"I did so in protest of the School Committee/Department using the public relations firm with town taxpayer funds," Selectman Shocik said of his vote. "In my opinion and that of many town

residents, if they have the funds—over \$25,000—to fund a public relations firm, then they're getting too much money. The only portion of the School Department budget the town can control is the amount the town gives them. With the recent acquisition of the former Becker College Leicester campus, the town is challenged to fund the maintenance the additional facilities require, and I believe every available resource should be closely examined to see where this funding can come from."

The Finance Advisory Committee vote was 3-1 to support the budget as written.

At Town Meeting, the operating budget was approved at \$31,372,910. The school portion of the

budget is \$17,839,070.

"The discussion centered around having the boards work together to come up with a consensus that addresses maintenance for school and town buildings at the Fall Town Meeting," said Town Administrator David Genereux.

Selectmen intend to meet throughout the summer with town finance and school officials to work out various details ahead of the Fall Town Meeting. Moreover, extensive work still needs to be done to determine which buildings on the former Becker College campus might be used by the schools next year, as well as associated finances.

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## State officials show appreciation for teachers

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS**  
**STAFF WRITER**

**SPENCER** – Recognizing the many challenges overcome by educators during the pandemic, state officials decided to thank

them in person during Teacher Appreciation Week. At Wire Village School, teachers received a surprise visit from Mass. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Commissioner Jeffrey Riley. The DESE Commissioner stopped by Wire Village on May 3, joining Senator Anne Gobi, Spencer-East Brookfield

Regional School District Superintendent Paul Haughey, and other officials in thanking teachers for their tireless work.

"It's always an honor when the Commissioner of Education visits a school, but to have him visit our small community to thank the teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week is an even bigger honor," said Wire Village School Principal Melanie Ethier. "Our teachers and staff work hard every day and deserve to be recognized for all they do for the students of Wire Village. I couldn't have been more proud to show off the talent of our staff and students."

Riley met several Wire Village teachers and students. He even visited a few classrooms with Senator Gobi and took part in lessons.

"I appreciate that Commissioner Riley has

visited so many schools in the district, and the visit at Wire Village showcased terrific students, faculty, and staff," Gobi said. "It was fantastic to participate in some learning activities and a reminder that learning never ends."

State and local officials thank educators for their selfless dedication throughout the pandemic. When schools were closed statewide and students were forced to learn remotely, local teachers contributed several extra hours each day to prepare virtual lesson plans and help kids adjust. Teachers also helped students deal with the emotional burdens of missing out on sports, clubs, and socializing with friends.

And once students returned to school full-time this year, teachers put in the work to help youngsters catch up.

"Each year, we have invited the Commissioner to visit

one of our schools. And Commissioner Riley has not only accepted but made a sincere effort to come out to our learning community during each of his four years as the leader of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education," Haughey said. "Over the past two years, he has made a point of visiting Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District during Teacher Appreciation Week as a means of stopping by classrooms to see them in action, talking to faculty, staff and students to express gratitude for their due diligence and dedication."

Added Haughey, "By inviting Commissioner Riley each year, we are able to take a moment to recognize and celebrate our teachers."

Teacher Appreciation Week ran from May 2-6.



Kevin Flanders

DESE Commissioner Jeffrey Riley and Senator Anne Gobi, right, discuss lessons with students and staff at Wire Village School.







# Community celebrates opening of Bark Park

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER  
LEICESTER – Local dog owners and

their four-legged friends officially have a new favorite spot in town, as the Bark Park was unveiled during a ceremony



Courtesy

Local officials celebrate the opening of Leicester's Bark Park.

last month.

The April 30 event was attended by Senators Michael Moore and Anne Gobi, town selectmen, and several other local officials. Guests were thrilled to see the eagerly anticipated park located at 955 North Main Street (the former Becker College campus).

The park is situated adjacent to the former college's veterinary clinic facility. Several projects were completed this spring to get the park ready for opening day, including the installation of double-fences to ensure pet safety.

"This is the first reimagined use for that piece of property. People are very excited about it," said Selectman Allen Phillips.

The Bark Park Committee worked in conjunction with the Girl Scouts and the Becker Veterinary Working Group to get everything in place for the grand opening. The DPW also played an instrumental role in preparations.

All aspects of the park will be run by the Bark Park Committee, and access to the park will be free for pet owners. Several guests attended the April 30 event to get their first look at the park.

"We were delighted with the turnout at the Bark Park grand opening. It was rewarding to be able to offer residents the first return on their investment in purchasing the Becker property," said Town Administrator David Genereux.

The Bark Park includes a fenced-in area for large dogs and a smaller fenced area—known fondly as Squeaker Park—meant for dogs under 25 pounds.

Additionally, the park features agility equipment that can be used for dogs to play and exercise on. All of the equipment is already owned by the town through the acquisition of the former

college.

"I congratulate the committee and town on creating this park," Gobi said. "People love their dogs, and it is great to see people of all ages coming together to talk and watch the dogs play—a true community builder."

The Bark Park Committee will manage all maintenance work, rules, complaints, fees, donations, and expenditures, among other items. Donations will be accepted throughout the year from individuals and businesses looking to support the park.

The committee will also work with local organizations and nonprofits to help raise funds for the park. Additionally, committee members will engage with various organizations to help maintain the park.

Guests are expected to clean up after their pets and maintain a safe environment for all. Pet waste containers are available at the park.

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## Get your 2022 vessel safety check

REGION — The United States Coast Guard urges area residents to obtain boat safety checks for the 2022 season at one of the following locations: Memorial Beach Boat Ramp, Saturday, June 11, Nipmuc Cove, Webster Lake; and Wallum Lake Boat Ramp, Saturday, June 18, Douglas State Forest.

Bring any type of watercraft from kayaks, canoes, PWCs, sailboats, cabin cruisers, to ski & pontoon boats for a stern to stern check of equipment for compliance to federal and state safety regulations. Vessels can be inspected on a trailer as well as afloat.

Trailered vessels, not having Webster access sticker and not launching, can be examined at the entrance gate to Memorial Ramp. Personal Watercraft, not allowed to launch at the Wallum Lake Ramp on weekends, can also be examined at the gate. Both locations can accommodate boats arriving by water. The stations will be active from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at both these locations.

Vessel Examiners are qualified and experienced to answer any boating related questions or concerns along with being trained to spot any potential problems. They will award your vessel with a 2022 VSC decal if it meets Auxiliary standards on items such as: registration & hull numbering, life jackets, fire extinguishers, expiration dates on flares (if required), working navigation lights, overall vessel condition, etc. A VSC is conducted only with your consent; no reports are filed with any law enforcement agency. There are no citations, legal obligations, or penalties on violations or potential problems found. A VSC decal might result in a boat insurance discount and will indicate to law enforcement on the water that your vessel complies with safety regulations. The Examiner will give the vessel owner options and information on correcting any issues. Often a quick trip to the nearest boating supply vendor is all that is necessary to obtain

missing safety items and easily pass a re-inspection, sometimes on the same day.

Coast Guard Auxiliary Vessel Examiners will be around the local lakes at various, un-scheduled times during the boating season; they are few in number and not readily available inland. Can't make it to the station... schedule a VSC online at the link below.

Best to take advantage of this scheduled opportunity and start your boating season with a visit to our station and a free 2022 VSC Decal on your craft.

<http://www.vesselsafetycheck.org/CGAux1002@aol.com>

## PERSON of the WEEK

NORMAN EVERETT  
Leicester Middle School

Norman Everett is being recognized for being the recipient of the Bryan McSheffrey Teacher of the Year Award. His exemplary work as a Social Studies teacher at the Leicester Middle School has earned him this honor. The award was presented to him at the National History Day State competition at Winchester High School on Saturday, April 9th. This award is given in memory of Bryan McSheffrey, a beloved teacher who taught National History Day and coordinated contests for many years.

Congratulations Mr. Everett on your prestigious award!

— submitted by a Leicester Middle School parent

Person of the Week is sponsored by:

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# North Brookfield resident donates defibrillator

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS**  
**STAFF WRITER**  
NORTH BROOKFIELD – After nearly losing her life to a heart attack, Susan Lyons recently donated a piece of equipment that will help first responders save lives.

At the April 26 Select Board meeting, Lyons donated a defibrillator to North Brookfield EMS. She presented the device to the town’s EMS Director Patrick Kiritsy, bringing to completion a lengthy series of challenges, triumphs, and plenty of surprises along

the way. On June 19, 2019, Lyons suffered a massive heart attack often referred to as a “widow-maker.” She was able to call 911 before losing consciousness, and rescuers from both North Brookfield and East Brookfield responded.

“I was pretty much dead when they arrived,” Lyons told the New Leader. “They had to use a defibrillator on me eight times that day, in addition to a device by the Stryker Corporation

called the LUCAS.” The lifesaving LUCAS device (Lund University Cardiac Assist System) performs automatic chest compressions, enabling EMTs to focus on other tasks. The device played a critical role in rescuing Lyons from the brink of death, but only the East Brookfield EMS department owned a LUCAS device at the time of her heart attack. Following her recovery, she made a recommendation to North Brookfield leaders that they acquire a LUCAS device, which has since been obtained by the town.



Kevin Flanders

Susan Lyons presents a lifesaving device to North Brookfield EMS Director Patrick Kiritsy.

Lyons then contacted the maker of the LUCAS device, Stryker Corporation, and thanked officials for their lifesaving equipment.

Not only did Lyons receive a reply from the Stryker Corporation, but officials invited her to present at the company’s headquarters in

Kalamazoo, Mich. Brad Saar, the president of the Stryker Medical Division, later provided Lyons with a defibrillator, asking her to pay it forward by donating the device to an organization in need.

After working with Senator Anne Gobi, Lyons discovered that her hometown EMS team would greatly benefit from the defibrillator, as they were nearing the replacement window

for their current device. EMS providers typically strive to replace these units after every two years, although budget constraints often make this goal a challenge.

“The key to CPR is rapid defibrillation,” Kiritsy said. “It’s great to know we will have this device when we need it.”

Gobi was thrilled to be involved in the process and attend the Select Board meeting during

which the device was presented.

“I thank Sue Lyons for turning a tragic situation into a positive and truly paying it forward,” Gobi said. “Her reaching out to the Stryker Company and their generosity in providing a defibrillator is now a benefit to the North Brookfield EMS and the community at large. A little kindness goes a long way.”

## Lakeside kids’ event planned at Memorial Beach

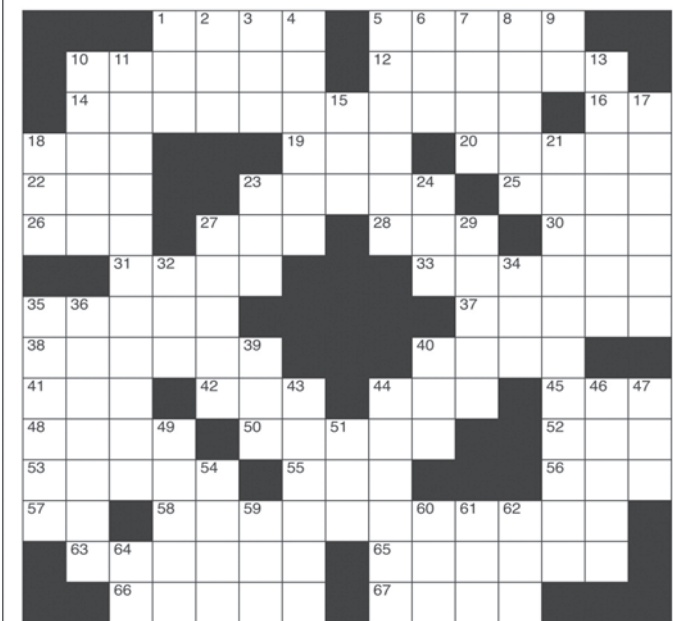
WEBSTER — The United States Coast Guard will take part in a lakeside event for kids at Memorial Beach on Webster Lake Thursday, June 9 from 4 – 7 p.m.

Sponsored by Lakeview Marine, this event has been planned to introduce the kids of our community to the fun that can be had on and around the water! Learn the many ways to enjoy our beautiful lakes - sign up for swim lessons, try out a kayak, learn fishing casting techniques, “Touch a Boat” get up close to recreational & public safety boats from the police and fire departments. The Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla will have a boating safety tent with information, handouts, and CG coloring books for kids. VSC examiners will also be available there for boat owners wanting a 2022 decal.

The posted activities are subject to change based on weather conditions and vendor availability.



IF YOU SEE  
THIS GUY  
WISH HIM  
A  
HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY!



### CLUES ACROSS


1. Amounts of time  
5. A ship’s place at a wharf  
10 Point a finger at  
12 Large, burrowing rodent  
14. Raises the stakes  
16. Measure of illumination  
18. Cast out  
19. One who is staid  
20. A word used for emphasis  
22. Military missions  
23. Wet with rain  
25. Selling at specially reduced prices  
26. Word element meaning car  
27. \_\_\_ student,  
28. Blood relation  
30. Make into leather  
31. One billionth of a second (abbr.)  
33. Containing salt  
35. A seat
37. A type of fine pottery  
38. You’re caught red- \_!  
40. “Heat” director Michael  
41. Expression of creative skill  
42. Title of respect  
44. Crony  
45. Payroll experts  
48. Actress Remini  
50. Famed consumer advocate  
52. Indigenous Thai person  
53. Fitzgerald and Baker are two  
55. Cooking tool  
56. Decorate a cake with frosting  
57. The seventh note of a major scale  
58. Transfer from private to state ownership  
63. A set of five  
65. Removes  
66. Foolish persons  
67. Lower parts of a wall

### CLUES DOWN

1. Old EU money  
2. Some put it on steak  
3. Sign language  
4. Sowed on the ground  
5. Tags  
6. Everyone has one  
7. Arguments  
8. N. African capital  
9. Midgame (abbr.)  
10. Change as needed  
11. Functioning as a consonant  
13. An island in the north Atlantic  
15. Carpenter’s tool  
17. Small football player  
18. Ghosts say it  
21. Explain through logic  
23. Having ten  
24. Criticize  
27. Arms of the sea
29. Belonging to a bottom layer  
32. \_\_\_ Caesar, comedian  
34. Licensed health care pro (abbr.)  
35. Swiss cottage  
36. Cleft lip  
39. Loud, unpleasant noise  
40. Disfigure  
43. Kayakers traverse them  
44. Authored  
46. Small freshwater fishes  
47. Macabre poet  
49. Carthaginian statesman  
51. Principle underlying the universe  
54. Common Japanese surname  
59. The bill in a restaurant  
60. Small constellation  
61. Chap  
62. Equal  
64. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)



ATTENTION  
WEST BROOKFIELD RESIDENTS  
Hydrant Flushing



The West Brookfield Water Department will be flushing hydrants May 9, 2022 thru May 20, 2022 during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Flushing will cause some disturbance in the water mains. The water may appear cloudy but will eventually dissipate. Please plan water use accordingly.

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860-928-1818 EXT. 103  
frank@stonebridgepress.news  
BUSINESS MANAGER  
RYAN CORNEAU  
860-928-1818 EXT. 102  
ryan@salmonpress.news  
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR  
JIM DINICOLA  
508-764-6102  
jim@stonebridgepress.news  
EDITOR  
BRENDAN BERUBE  
508-909-4106  
news@stonebridgepress.news  
PRODUCTION MANAGER  
JULIE CLARKE  
860-928-1818, EXT. 305  
julie@villagernewspapers.com

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## SPENCER ALMANAC

### REAL ESTATE

#### BROOKFIELD

\$80,282, 16 School House Cross Rd, Laporte, Thomas J, and MHFA, to MHFA.

#### EAST BROOKFIELD

None

#### LEICESTER

None

#### NORTH BROOKFIELD

\$150,000, 12 Warren St, Honthumb, Ruth S, to Grand Solutions LLC.  
\$130,000, 34 Oakham Rd, Ramsey, Anne, to Foyle, John.

#### SPENCER

\$505,000, 18 William Casey Rd, Skov, Richard T, and Skov, Diane L, to Carias-Campos, Franklin E.  
\$490,000, 6 Birch Dr, Ohara, Cynthia J, to Robidoux, Jennifer, and Robidoux, Brian D.  
\$426,200, 1 Kingsbury Rd, Travers IRT, and Kowal, Karen, to Nace, Sean, and Nace, Verona.  
\$400,000, 8 Cornfield Rd, Daniels, Darlene D, to Richer, Albert, and Richer, Donna M.  
\$355,000, 60 Cherry St, Olsen, Kerry, and Richer, Albert, to Morgan, Steven W, and Morgan, Patricia A.  
\$295,000, 125 Mechanic St, Simonovitch, Victoria L, and Simonovitch, Keith R, to Kokaz, Aseel, and Rihan, Rami.  
\$292,000, 8 South St, Zona, Tanner J, and Zona, Tanner, to Andrews, Damon, and Andrews, Rachael.  
\$104,558, 32 Woodside Rd, Falish, Michael H, and Gannon, Stefanie A, to Rocket Mortgage LLC.

#### WARREN

\$438,000, 143 Coy Hill Rd, Moore, Jesse L, and Moore, Alysha M, to Muheim, Karen.  
\$372,900, 34 Nelson St, Fountain& Sons Const Co, to Cooper, Shawn.  
\$78,900, Bemis Rd, Wilkins Jr, Edward E, and Wilkins, Victoria A, to Norton, Adam L, and Norton, Anne.  
\$65,000, Brimfield Rd, Fijol, John R, and Plante-Fijol, Carrie, to Samek Properties LLC.

#### WEST BROOKFIELD

\$449,900, 141 Wickaboag Valley Rd, David E Whittemore IRT, and Pichon, Rebecca W, to Demis, Arthur, and Demis, Susan J.



## COMMUNITY CELEBRATES RETURN OF HASTON LIBRARY'S MAY FESTIVAL

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The wind did its best to chill the festivities last weekend, but guests bundled up and enjoyed the return of a favorite tradition.

Presented by the Friends of Haston Free Public Library, the annual May Festival was held a day early this year, on April 30. Organizers teamed up with the Friends of the Town House, North Brookfield Cultural Council, and the Earth Day Committee to expand the festival.



Kevin Flanders

Joe Lazarick spends the day with Sparky the Dog.

The program featured more than 25 exhibitors and vendors, who set up their displays on the lawns of the library and the Congregational Church across North Main Street.

Meanwhile, the North Brookfield Cultural Council held its annual plant swap. Children's activities took place throughout the day, and guests even received door prizes donated by festival participants.



Spencer's Diane Johnson greets guests.



## Lisa Caron named Ruby Level Top Producer at RACM

BROOKFIELD — Lisa Caron, with Lisa Caron Real Estate in Brookfield was awarded the 2022 Ruby LEVEL Top Producer Award for Individual Production at the REALTOR® Association of Central Massachusetts Awards Ceremony on Thursday, April 28 at the DCU Center.

Top Producers of the Association were recognized for outstanding levels of production in real estate transactions based on dollar volume or units sold in the 2021 calendar year. Out of the 1,918 active REALTOR® members, only 9% of these members qualified for these prestigious awards.

The Top Producer Levels go as follows: Ruby Level, Emerald Level, and Diamond Level.

For Ruby:

Out of the members who qualified, the Ruby Level Top Producer is placed at the top 5% of production out of the entire REALTOR® Association.

For Emerald:

Out of the members who qualified, the Emerald Level Top (Producer/ Top Producing Team) is placed at the top 3% of production out of the entire REALTOR® Association.

For Diamond:

Out of the members who qualified, the Diamond Level Top (Producer/ Top Producing Team) is placed at the top 1% of production out of the entire REALTOR® Association.

Caron, who joined the REALTOR® Association of Central Massachusetts in 2006, resides in Brookfield and can be reached at her office at 508-341-8299.

About Us

The REALTOR® Association of Central Massachusetts has been proudly serving its members of the Greater Worcester and Central Massachusetts areas since 1923. The Association assists over 1,900 real estate professionals, providing the services and resources necessary for a successful career as a REALTOR®. Association members are involved in residential and commercial real estate as brokers, salespeople, property managers, appraisers, counselors, and others engaged in all aspects of the real estate industry.

The term "REALTOR®" is a registered, collective membership mark that identifies members as professionals who subscribe to a strict Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice set forth by the National Association of REALTORS®.

For more information, contact Colleen Pappas, CEO of the Association, at 508.832-6600, or via e-mail at cpappas@realtorscentralma.org. ###end###

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Your area guide to local businesses!

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- #103 Chicken ..... 10.25
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- #107 Sesame Beef ..... 11.95
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- #110 Sa-Cha Shrimp ..... 11.95
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- #112 Vegetarians Delight ..... 10.25
- #113 Chow Mein ..... 10.25
- With Chicken
- #114 Chop Suey ..... 10.25
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- #115 Sweet & Sour Chicken ..... 10.25
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- Roast Pork
- #117 Beef ..... 11.95
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- B 1 ..... 1.25
- Spring Roll (1), Beef Teriyaki (2), Boneless Spareribs
- C ..... 14.95
- Chicken Wings (3), Chicken Fingers (3) Crab Rangoon (3)
- D ..... 14.95
- Chicken Wings (2), Beef Teriyaki (2), Chicken Teriyaki (2)
- E ..... 14.95
- Fried Shrimp (2), Beef Teriyaki (2), Chicken Teriyaki (2)

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- 10 Cookies ..... 2.00

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## HONOR ROLL

LEICESTER — Leicester Middle School has released its most recent honor roll.

8th Grade High Honors  
Kate Barbato, Alana Beando, John Gahagan, Arianna Gonzalez, Brody Grant, Emily Hunt, Natalia Kallio, Casey Knott, Christopher Moffat, Rhaegan Perry, Grace Price, McKenzie Settle, Dakota Zinkevich

7th Grade High Honors  
Alexis Butler, Taylor Gallant, Jeremy Ledbetter, Luke Marjault, Kaydi Marttila, Rachel Nguyen, William Nguyen, Gianna Panepinto, Jillian Rodrigue, Hannah Spratt, Ava Wells, Sabrina Wright

6th Grade High Honors  
Kennedy Bates, Brady Bouchard, Jude

Campbell, Haylee Kularski, William Loosemore, Trinity Medeiros, Charlotte Mercer, Max Milionis, Paula Roberts, Desmond Strom, Ryan Sweeney

5th Grade High Honors  
Camden Beaudry, John Derrick, Javier Flores, Liam Gentile, Benjamin Hagglund, Braydon Herbert, Papayaw Larbi, Rocco Lauder, Tighe Laudor, Ryan Lynch, Lincoln Meloche, Nick Nguyen, Hunter Wright

8th Grade Honors  
Tomas Acero, Abigail Baker, Kyra Beando, Eryn Berkstresser, Landon Beveridge, Kaylee Buckley, Avery Bullock, Hunter Clark, Adam Corriveau, Jacob Cosper, Sarah Dee, Brandon Escobar, Owen Fadden, Jasmine Fuller, Shane Garrahe, Michael Hagglund, Rowen Hennessey, Isabella LePoer, Savannah Lumb, Ryan McCarthy, Carlee McShera, Zoe Morales, Ava Pelletier, Nola Perry, Kassidy Poce, Maxavier Rust, Lucas Sampaio, Jack Skoglund, Johanna Torres, Nicole Tuson, Nathan Wilder, Tyler Williams

7th Grade Honors  
Shanaylis Adorno, Brady Bates, Jacob Beaulac, Brian Bowler, Karsyn Bulak, Kelsey Cole, Margaret Dillon, Lena Dolen, Alexander Fournier, Sierra LaCroix, Arianna Lemerise, Nikolas Lison, Valerie Maynard, Joshua McCormick, Ami McGlynn, Ava Petruzzi, Matthew Robbins, Taylor Rodrique, Madalyn Rose, Harrison Thompson, Abigail Valinski, Mary Van Hazinga, Camron Wells,

6th Grade Honors  
Matthew Alves, Emma Bernabie, Kaylynn Bowen, Shayla Cooper, Isabella Cortes Florez, Stephen Giaquinto, Alena Martinkova, Julianna McCormick, Trevor Moorghen, Katherine Ozarowski, Alivia Perry, Maryangelie Rivas, Nicholas Stuart, Shane Stuart, Jayke Williams

5th Grade Honors  
Godfrey Angua-Mante, Elijah Belisle, Gabriela Carpenter, Alexis Dould, Brielle Dould, Elizabeth Dykas, Liana LaFlamme, Natalie LaPointe, Maci Lusignan, Bronson Lyons, Arilyn McNally, Kingston Nguyen, Jaedyn Perry, Thinh Pham, Gia Rigerio, Lily Schimke, Malin Stimson, Marielee Valentin, Robert Zinkevich

# Knights of Columbus

## hosting benefit spaghetti dinner

WEST BROOKFIELD — Knights of Columbus Council 11080 is having a Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, May 14 in Dugan Hall, Sacred Heart Church, 10 Milk St., West Brookfield. Proceeds from this event will benefit charities that the Council supports.

Dinner includes pasta fagioli, garden salad, meatballs & sausage, spaghetti & sauce, bread, dessert, water, soda, and coffee. Cost is only a \$10 donation and \$8 for children under 12 years old. Take-out is available at 5:30 p.m., and sit-down dinner is served at 6 p.m. Admission tickets are also good for entry for a special door prize! Raffle tickets for a 50/50 Raffle and more will be available! Advance ticket purchase is encouraged and appreciated! Tickets are available from any Knight or by calling 413-813-8100, or by emailing wallyconnor122@gmail.com. Tickets will only be available at the door while they last!

# Brookfield to hold informational budget meeting

BROOKFIELD – The town will hold its first informational FY23 budget review meeting on Friday, May 20, at 6 p.m.

The meeting will take place at Brookfield Elementary School. Residents will have the opportunity to ask questions regarding the budget.

# Christ Memorial Episcopal Church to hold tag sale

NORTH BROOKFIELD — Christ Memorial Episcopal Church, 133 North Main St., will host a tag sale Saturday, May 14, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Puzzles, books, clothes, kid’s stuff, kitchen items, treasures, and more. Name your own price.

# Yard sale spaces available at North Brookfield Senior Center

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The Friends of the North Brookfield Council on Aging are participating in the town-wide yard sale on Saturday, May 28 from 7 a.m. to noon.

Spaces in the Senior Center parking lot on Forest Street will be rented to anyone who may need a convenient place to sell their treasures. The cost is \$25 per space, and all proceeds will benefit the Friends of the NBCOA. Please call 508-867-0220 to reserve your space.

This is a rain or shine event.

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| 17. VESRAS AKBN .....Savers Bank                                    | 38. IHCEH-T BELIMO AHSW .....Hi-Tech Mobile Wash                     |
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# Friday's Child



Kealan - 05/08  
Age 8

Hi! My name is Kealan and I like bubbles!

Kealan is a curious boy of Caucasian descent who loves to babble and smile when he is happy. Kealan also loves music and lights up when he hears his favorite songs!

Kealan is on the Autism spectrum and is currently in preschool. Kealan can say a few words, but mainly uses noises and movement to make his needs known. Kealan has a g-tube for feeding and has made tremendous progress with gaining weight. Having decreased vision cases Kealan to only see about 3-4 feet away without his glasses.

Legally freed for adoption, Kealan's social worker is looking to place him with a family that is able to meet his needs and help him thrive. A family would need to be able to keep up with Kealan's many medical and developmental appointments and help advocate for him in school.

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

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







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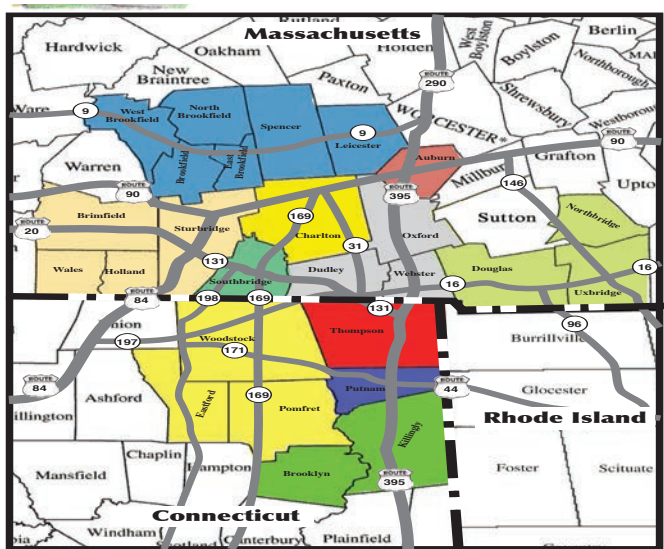
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EDITORIAL

Spring cleaning can improve your health

It's been a week mixed with sunshine and rain, which means that spending time inside organizing and cleaning (along with watching the Red Sox) has been top on our list. Spring cleaning, a chore that happens every year feels great when complete. Why is it that something so tedious and boring could be so good for us?

Did you know that cleaning actually supports your immune system? Cleaning is of huge benefit, especially to those with allergies. Getting rid of dust, pet dander, mildew and mold can trigger the immune system causing unnecessary illness. Those with cluttered homes tend to suffer the worst. To avoid indoor allergies, vacuum regularly, this to include your furniture.

Cleaning reduces stress. While cleaning, your brain is able to relax. This mindless activity can give you a chance to de-stress. Experts say that cleaning for as little as twenty minutes can reduce anxiety by up to 20 percent. It's a win/win. Sure, it's no day at the spa, but constructive relaxation is always good. Using products with scents said to induce relaxation such as lavender is also an expert tip.

Heart health can be improved by cleaning by way of exercise. Just a half an hour of vacuuming can burn up to 100 calories. It's a known fact that people who like to keep their homes clean tend to take more interest in their overall health and well being.

A tidy bedroom is said to help you sleep better. Individuals who make their beds are roughly 20 percent more likely to get a more restful night sleep. Seventy-five percent of people polled sleep better on clean sheets, in a room with less clutter.

When you are in a tidy area, your production increases. Less clutter, means less distraction which is said to clear up mental space. A study from 2011, from the Journal of Neuroscience, used MRI's to track the brain's response to cleanliness. More clutter, was found to significantly limit the brain's processing capability.

Checking off the cleaning to do list can make you feel more satisfied and can boost your mood. A clean, fresh house is said to naturally boost endorphins and boost energy levels which leads to a decrease in depression.

Cleaning and organization can have a domino effect in that it can lead to sprucing up other areas of your life. Interesting, was the one finding that stated when individuals were placed in a clean, well organized space they were more likely to choose healthier menu items.

In the wise words of William Morris, "Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful."

Growing tomatoes in pots

Keep garden-fresh tomatoes close at hand this season. Grow one or more in containers on your patio, balcony, or front steps.

Any tomato can be grown in a pot, but determinate varieties are smaller and more compact, so they are a bit easier to manage in a container. They produce fruit in a relatively short period of time, making them great choices for preserving as well as using fresh. Look for a D or determinate on the plant tag, seed packet or in the catalog description.

Indeterminate tomatoes, often identified with an I, are large, sprawling plants. These are usually staked or grown in wire cages to save space, reduce pest problems and make harvesting easier. They continue to grow, flower, and produce fruit until the frost kills



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

the plant. Indeterminate tomatoes usually produce more tomatoes, but the harvest is later in the season than determinate varieties. New containers with built-in trellises or creative gardeners crafting their own makes growing indeterminate tomatoes in pots an easier possibility.

Grow one tomato per container for maximum productivity. Use a 5-gallon or bigger container for large varieties and at least a two to three gallon or similar size pot for smaller varieties. Some research suggests growing tomatoes in a pot that is at least 14 inches but preferably 20 inches wide will yield greater results. Adding flowers and herbs to the container boosts the beauty and diversity of your container garden but will reduce the number of tomatoes

Turn To **GARDENING** page **A9**

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Woke, and hoping to wake up others

To the Editor:

I can only be amused when a cult that thrives on disinformation characterizes enlightenment, dedication to the golden rule, giving credence to facts, detecting injustice, and speaking against it, is defined as woke. I can only reason that the opposite is either snoozing or in a deep sleep. 'Let's go Brandon' is also perceived as an insult to Joe Biden, in spite of his effectively addressing Covid, all economic indicators are improved, but inflation is now rampant, and voters think presidents control that.

Trump actually called a press conference to take credit for the Dow average eclipsing 30,000. He did so on the day they announced he had lost. At this writing, the Dow is well above 32,700, but may well not be the best indicator, of the economy overall. The Fed has just raised interest rate. It remains to be seen what impact that may have on inflation, growth, investments, and economy overall.

I believe that the biggest issue of our time is that democracy is in dire jeopardy. We call our country a democratic republic (I believe it was Franklin who said "If we can keep it"). My definition of democracy, is majority rule, the most votes win, or even in consensus decisions, a clear majority prevails. My woke observation is that we are in what is clearly, the tail wagging the dog, and minority rule reality.

I offer the following examples. At some point, a coalition of racist senators, succeeded in implanting a filibuster rule into a body that was already antiquated in its composition, dating back to the founders retaining control by sending two senators appointed by state legislatures, from each of the 13 colonies, ostensibly to make sure the house was controlled and democracy would not run wild. We did finally alter that senators would be elected openly, which we got around to updating, long before we adjusted the slave proxy voting or the 140 year lag before women could vote. Maybe when we are all woke, we can get around to logical constitutional reforms.

Canada is well qualified to serve as our new selectman

To the Editor:

As the residents of North Brookfield look forward to a run-off election for Board of Selectmen, the date for which is still to be determined, I would like to call their attention to Elisabeth "Brooke" Canada, a well-qualified newcomer who is taking on the incumbent for a three-year seat.

Brooke's platform emphasizes the need for all town boards and committees to work together under the leadership of the BOS with a commitment to respect every voice.

Central to her plan is the hiring of a town manager, administrator, or planner, as suggested in both the 2007 and the eagerly awaited 2022 Town Master Plans. A Town Manager also was proposed by the State funded panels that assessed the strengths and needs of North Brookfield during the summer of 2021.

A Manager would provide consistent, professional leadership not tied

If you look at the candidates for reform that are clearly unjust, consider this- California, with a population of 40 million, and, if it were a nation, the fifth largest economy in the world, has two senators, while the two Dakota's collectively have under two million people and four senators. The electoral college, another provision to control the power of the great unwashed populace, has now twice in my lifetime, installed presidents who not only did not win the popular vote, but maneuvered to install lifetime judges on the supreme court, who now appear poised to overrule the will of the people, despite the statements they made in their confirmation hearings and precedent's, including by prior supreme courts. Eventually, the Jan. 6 panel will release its findings. I expect justice dept will pursue clear conspiracy and sedition charges. What happens when they get to this court? Do you suspect justice?

While I do not have a high opinion of Congress, I am glad they have united in support of Ukraine. I understand the early reluctance, after training and arming Iraqi and Afghan armies, but with two grandchildren in uniform, anything that keeps them safer works for me..

While I know many blame Manchin and Sinema for Biden failing to deliver BBB, bear in mind all 50 GOP senators also stone walled, child and elder care assistance, pharma and health-care assistance, climate issues being addressed., all of which was to be paid for, not borrowed the Trump tax cuts for millionaire, by getting our oligarchs paying their fair share finally. I assure, big money is being spent to avoid them paying. Only increasing the count of Dems this fall can make progress. Putting GOP in charge, assures no bill will be signed and democracy will be undermined to keep minority rule.. Vote blue for democracy, or find out just how fragile it is when it is gone.

KEN KIMBALL  
BROOKFIELD

to election cycles. Working closely with the Selectmen and the Planning Board, such a manager could align individual land use decisions with the Master Plan and thereby establish more control over new construction and preserve the town's character according to a downtown vision shared by the community at large. The Manager could work to assure that the town's considerable financial challenges are responsibly met. With professional grant writing skills, the Manager could increase the Town's capacity to raise enough money to cover the cost of the manager's salary.

Please consider Elisabeth "Brooke" Canada for the three-year seat on the Select Board and vote for her when the run-off election is scheduled in North Brookfield. Brooke's forward thinking, civic spirit, and current work as a communications director uniquely qualify her for this important job.

STEVE BORST  
NORTH BROOKFIELD

New opportunities for 529 plan owners



FINANCIAL FOCUS

TREVOR NIELSEN

If you want to provide educational opportunities for your children or grandchildren, you may want to consider investing in a 529 plan. In recent years, this plan has gotten more flexible, and potentially more powerful, than ever.

A key benefit of a 529 plan is that earnings are generally tax free, provided the money is used for qualified educational expenses. As the owner of the plan, you can essentially name any beneficiary you want, and you're free to change the beneficiary as needed. Contribution limits are quite high, so you can put away considerable sums in a 529 plan – and you may want to, because college costs have risen steadily over the years. In fact, for the 2021-22 academic year, the College Board reports that the average cost (tuition, fees, room and board) of a public, four-year college or university is more than \$27,000 for in-state students and nearly \$56,000 for students at private schools.

But 529 plans are no longer just for higher education. Over the past few years, the rules governing 529 plans have changed, so they can now be used for:

K-12 tuition expenses (up to \$10,000 per student, per year),  
Apprenticeship programs registered with the U.S. Department of Labor, and  
Student loans (\$10,000 lifetime limit for student loan repayments per each 529 plan beneficiary and another \$10,000 for each of the beneficiary's siblings.)

And soon, a major change will affect the relationship between grandparent-owned 529 plans and the financial aid packages awarded to their grandchildren. Families applying for aid have not been required to report grandparent-owned 529 account assets on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). However, under previous rules, you had to report withdrawals from the grandparent-owned plans as untaxed student income, which could reduce aid eligibility by up to 50 percent of the amount of cash received.

But that's changing for the 2024-25 FAFSA, which won't require students to report cash support, including money taken from a grandparent-owned 529 plan. Instead, a student's total income amount will be reported directly from federal income tax returns. This means that a grandparent-owned 529 plan won't have any effect on need-based financial aid eligibility. This benefit to families is already here, because 2022 will be used as the base year for the 2024-25 FAFSA, so any withdrawals taken in 2022, and also going forward, won't need to be reported as student income.

With this change, families will now have more options on using 529 plans without jeopardizing financial aid. You can generally withdraw any amount from the aggregate of all 529 plans for higher education costs, but only the qualified withdrawals – the ones used for typical education-related expenses – will be tax-free. The earnings portion of non-qualified withdrawals are taxable and could also incur a 10 percent penalty.

Given the new rules affecting a grandparent-owned 529 plan, you should consult with a financial professional to determine how this plan can work with other strategies to help meet educational expenses while, at the same time, not detracting from the progress you'd like to make on other important goals, such as a comfortable retirement.

In any case, consider looking into a 529 plan – it was already a great tool for education funding, and it can now offer your family even more options.

*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 — All-America Selections

Terenzo is a productive red cherry determinate tumbler tomato excellent for hanging baskets.



# From trout to turkey



THE GREAT  
OUTDOORS  
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TRUE

Hope all of the moms out there had a great day with family and friends last weekend. Many moms were having a great day fishing with their children and grandchildren this past Saturday. Fishing at a few of the fishing derby's last weekend was great, and were well attended. This week's two pictures show some of the attendees with their prize-winning fish. It did not matter if they were trout or not for some youngsters, as long as they were catching fish. I was impressed with the turnout of fishing men, women and children, and the cold wind did not deter them from enjoying the day.

Local lakes and ponds continue to be stocked with some impressive trout from Massachusetts hatcheries. The large brown trout that are being stocked weekly are extremely impressive this year, with numerous trout fishing anglers giving high marks for the state's efforts to raise the impressive trout. They have come a long way from the '50's and '60's, when fish were raised at the Sutton hatchery, which usually measured six to 10 inches. A 12-inch trout was considered a "Whopper" back in the day.



Courtesy  
**One of this week's pictures shows three-year-old Elise Bangma and her dad Mike with a trout she caught this past weekend at the Pout Pond fishing derby in Uxbridge.**

Striper fishing is heating up, with many slot limit size fish being caught and retained for the table fare. The Providence River is producing a lot of legal-size fish and it should be red hot



**This week's picture shows Eliana & Dexter Weed, along with their parents & dog fishing & relaxing at the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club kids' fishing derby last Saturday!**

by the time you read this column. The windy conditions should have also slowed making fishing for stripers a lot more enjoyable. Snagging a few menhaden before fishing should help in catching a few stripers. Remember that only

circle hooks are allowed when using bait for striper fishing.

Two major changes in the amount of summer flounder and seabass being caught by commercial fishermen for 2022 have been increased 35 percent for summer flounder and 28 percent for seabass, by Marine fisheries. No increases have been made for the recreational angler? We lose again!

Turkey hunting has been slow for some hunters, while others have already limited out. My brother Ken harvested two birds on the same day this past Thursday and was happy with his accomplishment. Although the birds were both jakes the meat on both birds was impressive, and will provide him with some great eating for the summer outings. Some people are trophy hunters, but he and I are happy to harvest a bird that provides some great eating. Like I always said, you cannot eat the beard.

Now that Covid is infecting less people, our lives are getting back to normal, whatever that is. It has motivated numerous Rod & Gun Clubs to start planning outdoor events like the annual clambake at the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club. The club has planned to hold their clambake on June 11 this year, with ticket prices to hold at \$55 each, which will be sold on a first come first serve basis. Do not miss this great event that has not been held for a few years. More meals are being planned in the coming months.

Take a Kid Fishing & Keep them Rods Bending!

## Quick Fixes for Less Than Perfect Flea Market Finds

It's Brimfield flea market week and if you're an avid "antiquer" you know from experience few vintage wares have survived the years unscathed. To usher in a new season of flea markets, tag sales and estate auctions, this week's column will review some of my favorite tricks to transform your tarnished treasures into fabulous finds!

**Foil Folly:** Was that antique mirror a deal because of its peeling silver? Before you dish out big bucks to resilver the glass, try "foiling" the eye by taping pieces of aluminum foil to the backs of the offending spots.

**Clearer Choice:** Or, if you can't live with a tinfoil patch, completely remove silver from the back of the old mirror with a razor blade. Have a new mirror cut to fit the size of your frame and attach it to the frame behind the old glass. Voila! You have the look of the old glass with a nice clear view!

**Perfect Polish:** To save serious cash on commercial wax wood restorers, check your shoe shine kit. Lackluster wood finishes on mahogany or cherry furniture or frames can



TAKE  
THE  
HINT  
KAREN  
TRAINOR

be instantly renewed with a coat of cordovan color wax shoe polish.

**Renew Wrought Iron:** Black and brown sponge-on shoe polish are also great touch up tools for old wrought iron pieces.

**Shine On:** If you are a fan of hammered aluminum, but hate the dull finish on the aged metal, try polishing the aluminum with silver polish to add a high gloss shine. This works especially well on large showy pieces such as canister sets.

**De-Warp DoWops:** Vinyl records can be a great retro find, but not if they're warped. Try this trick to put them on the straight and narrow: Put records on a flat surface under a heavy piece of flat glass (such as a cutting board). Put a weight on top if necessary. Then place in direct sunlight. The warmth from the sun will relax the vinyl and it should eventually lie flat. (Test this method

before you use it on a valuable record). type or any other you can find, and place it over the record in direct sunlight.

**Marble Fix:** Marble repairs can break the budget, but this do-it-yourself tip does the trick for a lot less! Small cracks in marble can be hidden with a mixture of wax and chalk dust. Melt a candle the color of the marble, blend in chalk dust to give it body and apply to the crack carefully with a paintbrush.

**Scratch Cover:** Retro plastic furniture and accessories are hot collectibles. But many of the vintage pieces on the market are well used - and scratched up! The good news is, you can sometimes hide surface scratches on plastic simply by applying a good coat of car wax.

**Repair Veneer:** If the veneer is bubbled up, place a piece of stiff cardboard on the wood and press with an iron set at medium heat. Press until you the heat softens the glue and you can feel the wood give a bit. Then press down and weight the area until the glue has redried.

**Got Milk?** If you have a decorative plate with

a crack - don't fret! If it's for display only, try this tried and true tip to disguise the imperfection: Gently boil the plate in skim milk. Believe it or not, the proteins in the milk oftentimes seals the crack invisibly!

**Trunk Trick:** Vintage trunks are affordable finds, but they often come with a musty odor from basement storage. Here's a quick fix: Simply sprinkle some powdered cat litter box deodorizer generously in the trunk. Close it up and let it sit for a week. Better yet, after you've mowed the lawn, toss some grass clippings inside and close the lid. Stir the grass each day for a week. The chlorophyll from the grass will absorb the smell!

**Weld Wicker:** Old wicker is gorgeous, but it isn't always without its splits and breaks. Here is the easiest way to repair old wicker: For breaks that require the two pieces to be fused: Coat each half of the break with Elmer's glue, applying glue to area around break points. Cover wicker on both sides with wax paper and clamp the broken piece between boards overnight. If the break requires further strength, it can be further rein-

forced by weaving wire through the surrounding wicker to secure. Wicker splits can be repaired in the same manner.

**No Ink Spots:** Old games and boxes sometimes still wear their original price tags written in permanent marker. Try wetting a Mr. Clean Eraser and carefully rubbing away the ink. This works well on glossy finishes. Be careful, if you start wearing away the paper, stop. Or try removing marker on washable surfaces with hair spray. Spray on and immediately wipe off. Repeat as necessary.

**Dolly Makeover:** Vinyl baby dolls and Barbie dolls are hot collectibles, but vinyl is prone to staining, so dark spots are a common dolly blemish. Doll restorers claim Clearasil or OXY-10 acne creams and sunlight can fade such stains. To try: apply the cream to the stain only and set it in direct sun for as long as it takes to fade. This could take several days or weeks depending upon how dark the stain is. According to experts "green ear syndrome," which can develop from the chemical reaction of earrings on early Barbie dolls can also be treated with the method above.

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Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House - Contest has resumed!

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

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

### GARDENING

continued from page A8

produced.

Growing tomatoes in containers also allows you to extend the season. Start earlier by moving the planter inside when the weather is harsh and back outside when the weather is warm and sunny. As the weather turns cold at the end of the growing season, cover the planter or move it into a frost-free location as needed. Some gardeners even move a pot or two inside to finish off the tomato season.

Grow tomatoes in a container with drainage holes or a self-watering pot that has a reservoir to hold water and extend the time between watering. Further reduce the need to water by adding an organic, sustainable soil amendment like Wild Valley Farms' wool pellets (wildvalleyfarms.com) to the potting mix. Made from wool waste, this product reduces watering by up to 25 percent. Adding a low nitrogen, slow-release fertilizer at planting will eliminate the need to fertilize weekly. Just make a second application, if needed, midseason.

Plant tall tomato transplants a few inches deeper than they were growing in their container. Remove the lowest leaves that would otherwise be buried in the soil. Cover with soil and water. This is also a good time to install any stakes, trellises, or cages to support taller varieties.

Initially, check tomatoes growing in containers every day and water often enough to keep the developing root system moist. Reduce watering frequency as plants become established. Feel the

top few inches of soil and water the established plants thoroughly whenever this is dry. Mulch the soil with evergreen needles, shredded leaves, or other organic mulch to keep the soil consistently moist and suppress weeds. Consistent soil moisture encourages more flowering and fruiting, while reducing the risk of blossom end rot, cracking, and misshapen fruit.

Harvest tomatoes when fully colored or leave them on the plant a few more days for an even sweeter flavor. You'll enjoy the convenience of harvesting fresh tomatoes right outside your door for use in salads, sauces, and other favorite recipes.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening* and *Midwest*

*Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" 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 Wild Valley Farms for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.*

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# POLICE REPORTS

## SPENCER POLICE LOGS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27  
1:33-2:32 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:41 a.m.: accident (Ash Street), report taken; 7:52 a.m.: suspicious persons (Donnelly Cross Road), investigated; 10:14 a.m.: officer wanted (Ash Street), ex won't return keys; 10:45 a.m.: elderly matter (West Main Street), trying to locate couple; 11:36 a.m.: animal complaint (North Street), loose dog; 11:47 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 12:02 p.m.: missing person (Main Street), can't locate husband; 12:20 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 12:40 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 1:49 p.m.: disturbance (Pleasant Street), domestic dispute; 2:23 p.m.: medical/general (R. Jones Road); 3:50 p.m.: larceny (West Main Street), lost c/c has been used; 4:32 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), West Brookfield PD bolo; 6:10 p.m.: animal complaint (Paxton Road), bear family in yard; 6:54 p.m.: disturbance (Valley Street), family dispute; 8:06 p.m.: medical/general (Hastings Road); 8:19 p.m.: officer wanted (High Street), question re: parking; 9:16-9:55 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops – 5).

THURSDAY, APRIL 28  
12:45 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), low-speed pursuit/West Brookfield; 2:41 a.m.: medical/general (South Street); 7:17 a.m.: medical/general (South Street); 8:27 a.m.: harassing calls (West Main Street), threats from former employer; 9:06 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), mvs not stopping a light; 9:12 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), req. escort/retrieve belongings; 9:17 a.m.: fire alarm (South Spencer Road), referred; 9:35 a.m.: mv complaint (Meadow Road), erratic operator; 10:33 a.m.: parking complaint (Paxton Road), testing elevator phone; 10:57 a.m.: accident (North Spencer Road), services rendered; 11:28 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 11:54 a.m.: residential alarm (Mechanic Street), services rendered; 12:28 p.m.: fraud (Chickering Road), checking acct. used; 12:32 p.m.: harassment prevention order service (West Main Street); 12:51 p.m.: burglary (Lake Street), services rendered; 2:33 p.m.: medical/general (Smithville Road); 3:21 p.m.: residential alarm (Maple Street), services rendered; 4:05 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), followed home by another motorist; 4:47 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Ash Street), no contact; 6:50 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 7:35 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), goats in parking lot; 9:33 p.m.: building checked, secure; 9:37 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 9:52 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), services rendered; 9:53 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Charlton PD needs fem. officer; 10:09 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Auburn PD req. K9; 10:36 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; (Total daily mv stops – 5).

FRIDAY, APRIL 29  
12:07 a.m.: disturbance (Mechanic Street), group of people yelling; 12:32 a.m.: parking violation (Maple Street), ticket issued; 12:32-2:04 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:32 a.m.: suspicious mv (North Spencer Road), investigated; 3:34 a.m.: building checked, secure; 6:01 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 6:34 a.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 6:53 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 7:16 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 8:29 a.m.: mv lockout (Woodside Road), services rendered; 8:56 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), m/f dispute; 9:58 a.m.: intelligence/drugs (West Main Street), info taken; 11:31 a.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), req. escort/no reason noted; 12:03 p.m.: restraining order service (Howe Village); 12:13 p.m.: officer wanted (Smithville Road), req. welfare check; 3:09 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 3:49 p.m.: erratic operator (Bixby Road), speeding/loud exhaust; 3:59 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: mv stop in parking lot; 4:10 p.m.: suspicious mv (Mechanic Street), investigated; 5:29 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 5:34 p.m.: animal complaint (Wilson Street), loose dog; 5:38 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), services rendered; 6:49 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 7:25 p.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 8:10 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 8:36-10:27 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops – 4).

SATURDAY, APRIL 30  
12:02-2:35 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:59 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 6:36 a.m.: animal complaint (South Spencer Road), loose ponies; 8:33 a.m.: animal complaint (Charlton Road), loose dog; 9:31 a.m.: medical/general (East Charlton Road); 9:56 a.m.: officer wanted (Lake Street), re: check rec'd; 12:07 p.m.: lost/found (Dale Street), wallet found; 12:52 p.m.:

threats (Elm Street), threats via FB, text; 12:56 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), tailgating; 1:07 p.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 1:42 p.m.: vandalism (Main Street), mv damaged; 3:10 p.m.: accident (Linden Street), report taken; 5:03 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Mechanic Street), resolved; 5:09 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), re: sick skunk; 5:36 p.m.: fire alarm (McDonald Street), referred; 6:01 p.m.: parking complaint (West Main Street), SUV in hdcp spots; 6:25 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 8:26 p.m.: suspicious mv (Wire Village Road), investigated; 8:46 p.m.: building checked, secure; 8:50 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Paxton Road), ooc bon fire; 8:55 p.m.: animal complaint (Paxton Road), bear in area; 9:37-10:02 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:10 p.m.: parking violation (Temple Street), ticket issued; 11:12 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 11:31-11:49 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 11:43 p.m.: suspicious mv (Greenville Street), investigated; (Total daily mv stops – 4).

SUNDAY, MAY 1  
12:03-1:20 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:05 a.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), dog picked up; 12:14 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 12:36 a.m.: disturbance (Valley Street), fight; 1:21 a.m.: officer wanted (Valley Street), spoken to; 3:56 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), West Brookfield PD bolo; 10:44 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to/re: mv; 11:20 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 11:49 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Warren PD bolo; 11:50 a.m.: animal complaint (Hebert Road), dog found/no tags; 12:01 p.m.: mv complaint (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 1:17 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), re: p/u food donation; 4:07 p.m.: animal complaint (G.H. Wilson Road), bear in area; 4:41 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), re: noise complaint; 5:17 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), speeding; 6:16 p.m.: medical/general (Adams Street); 6:32 p.m.: accident (Maple Street), report taken; 6:33 p.m.: suspicious persons (Cranberry Meadow Road), investigated; 6:58 p.m.: mv complaint (Lincoln Street), noise complaint; 7:34 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 8:38 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village), lift assist; 9:39 p.m.: 911 call (Bay Path Road), open line; 10:13 p.m.: officer wanted (Woodland Lane), residential lockout; (Total daily mv stops – 5).

MONDAY, MAY 2  
12:00-2:14 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:02 a.m.: mv repossessed (Church Street), info taken; 8:17 a.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 8:23 a.m.: animal complaint (Wall Street), re: spay/neuter voucher; 8:35 a.m.: disturbance (Charron Street), re: neighbor's camera; 8:46 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 9:23 a.m.: parking violation (Casey Street), ticket issued; 9:26 a.m.: medica/general (Main Street); 9:26 a.m.: parking violation (McDonald Street), ticket issued; 9:34 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 12:30 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), ooc roommate; 12:31 p.m.: medical/general (Gold Nugget Road); 12:35 p.m.: sex offender registration/annual (West Main Street), assisted; 1:43 p.m.: animal complaint (Bay Path Road), req. assist w/ cat; 2:28 p.m.: harassment prevention order service (West Main Street); 5:20 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), services rendered; 5:51 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 5:52 p.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), erratic operator; 9:16 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), refusing to pay bill; 10:39 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 11:18 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), St. V/ no in-house dialysis; 11:46 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); (Total daily mv stops – 6).

TUESDAY, MAY 3  
12:12-1:59 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:07 a.m.: suspicious mv (Howe Road), investigated; 3:06 a.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; 7:04 a.m.: medical/general (Ethier Drive); 8:34 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 8:50 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 9:13 a.m.: animal complaint (Donnelly Cross Road), bear in area; 9:22 a.m.: 911 call (Pleasant Street), accidental; 9:26 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), re: threats; 9:39 a.m.: elderly matter (West Main Street), info taken; 10:02 a.m.: assault (Ash Street), re: incident 03/21/22; 11:28 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 12:49 p.m.: identity theft (Lakeshore Drive), bills for services not rec'd; 1:17 p.m.: animal complaint (Hastings Road), dead animal in road; 2:28 p.m.: disabled mv (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 3:31 p.m.: FID card issued (West Main Street), assisted; 5:25 p.m.: 911 call (Vista Lane), resolved; 6:57 p.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info taken; 7:04 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: item found in trash; 7:50 p.m.: lost/found (South Spencer Road), lost cell phone; 7:51 p.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), re: whereabouts of wife; 9:20 p.m.: suspicious

persons (Mechanic Street), investigated; 9:35-10:10 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops – 9).

## LEICSTER POLICE LOGS

THURSDAY, APRIL 28  
12:47 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 1:23 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 2:40 a.m.: welfare check (Main Street), transported; 5:58 a.m.: debris in road (South Main Street), unfounded; 6:19 a.m.: debris in road (Pleasant Street), resolved; 9:55 a.m.: summons service (South Main Street), served; 10:02 a.m.: summons serviced (South Main Street), served; 10:48 a.m.: harassment (Winslow Avenue), spoken to; 10:56 a.m.: assist citizen (Rawson Street); 12:38 p.m.: disturbance (Pleasant Street), peace restored; 1:18 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), resolved; 1:37 p.m.: welfare check (Winslow Avenue), transported to hospital; 3:25 p.m.: investigation (Warren Avenue), services rendered; 3:32 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 3:47 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:01 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:09 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:18 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:22 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, report taken; 4:24 p.m.: animal complaint (Tobin Road), report taken; 4:26 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:31 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:58 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 5:06 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 5:31 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 5:38 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 5:59 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 7:56 p.m.: accident (Main Street), services rendered; 8:37 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 11:45 p.m.: mv off road (Paxton Street), Kyla R. Bernier-Olson, 27, 17 Green Street, Dudley, OUI liquor, negligent operation, marked lanes violation, reckless endangerment while OUI, arrest.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29  
3:50 a.m.: welfare check (Pine Avenue), transported to hospital; 6:13 a.m.: mv alarm (Folsom Street), no action required; 7:34 p.m.: ambulance (Marshall Street), transported; 8:10 a.m.: ambulance (Mayflower Road), transported; 8:37 a.m.: assist other agency (Main Street), services rendered; 11:00 a.m.: restraining order service (White Birch Street), served; 12:47 p.m.: animal complaint (Stafford Street), gone on arrival; 1:04 p.m.: ambulance (Howard Terrace), transported; 1:25 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 2:33 p.m.: assist citizen (Waite Street), resolved; 2:42 p.m.: investigation (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 2:42 p.m.: ambulance (Chandler Street, Worcester), transported; 2:58 p.m.: ambulance (South Street Extension), transported; 3:42 p.m.: animal complaint (Marlboro Drive), unable to locate; 3:56 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:05 p.m.: ambulance (Zenith Drive, Worcester), transported; 4:44 p.m.: suspicious person (Main Street), no action required; 5:28 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), no action required; 5:49 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 6:31 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 6:40 p.m.: mutual aid (South Main Street), services rendered; 6:47 p.m.: ambulance (Wachusett Street, Worcester), transported; 6:48 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 6:56 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), no action required; 7:28 p.m.: mv stop (Towtaid Street), spoken to; 7:50 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), no action required; 7:58 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), no action required; 8:12 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued; 9:20 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 9:26 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), no action required; 9:30 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 9:38 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 10:16 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, number plate violation to conceal ID, uninsured mv, unregistered mv, citation issued; 11:53 p.m.: assault (Main Street), gone on arrival.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30  
1:41 a.m.: residential alarm (Virginia Drive), call canceled; 3:24 a.m.: mv alarm (Atwood Terrace), no action required; 8:10 a.m.: ambulance (Queen Street, Worcester), no action required; 9:44 a.m.: harassment (Winslow Avenue), resolved; 10:40 a.m.: accident (Main Street), resolved; 11:06 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 11:26 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 11:47 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 11:56 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 12:11 p.m.: mv stop (main Street), written warning; 12:18 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:28 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 12:42 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), resolved; 1:02 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:10 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 1:28 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 1:42 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:52 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 2:26 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 2:49 p.m.: fraud (Locust Street), report

taken; 3:22 p.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), services rendered; 3:39 p.m.: investigation (Marlboro Drive), spoken to; 3:55 p.m.: summons service (Lakeview Drive), served; 4:29 p.m.: ambulance (King Court), transported; 4:47 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), no action required; 5:11 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), resolved; 6:20 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), spoken to; 6:49 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 7:13 p.m.: disturbance (Soojians Drive), spoken to.

SUNDAY, MAY 1  
1:43 a.m.: municipal security alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 4:14 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Chapel Street), resolved; 6:10 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Chapel Street), resolved; 10:46 a.m.: animal complaint (Mannville Street), referred to ACO; 10:52 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 11:11 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 12:10 p.m.: ambulance (Nugget Drive, Charlton), call canceled; 12:28 p.m.: assist citizen (Pleasant Street); 2:02 p.m.: assist citizen (Pleasant Street); 2:13 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 2:28 p.m.: suspicious person (Main Street), resolved; 4:30 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, unregistered mv, mv towed; 5:04 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:17 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), unfounded; 5:52 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), resolved; 7:21 p.m.: harassment (Tobin Road), report taken; 7:48 p.m.: mutual aid (Southbridge Street, Oxford), resolved; 7:52 p.m.: property found (Tanglewood Road), resolved; 8:20 p.m.: mutual aid (Stafford Street, Charlton), transported to hospital; 11:46 p.m.: disabled mv (South Main Street), resolved.

MONDAY, MAY 2  
12:17 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), resolved; 12:51 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:06 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 1:20 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 4:52 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), resolved; 5:44 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:31 a.m.: residential alarm (Willow Hill Road), false alarm; 10:29 a.m.: animal complaint (Chapel Street), referred to ACO; 10:33 a.m.: ambulance (Waite Street), transported; 12:33 p.m.: investigation (Winslow Avenue), services rendered; 2:09 p.m.: assist citizen (Mill Street); 4:24 p.m.: suspicious person (Bottomly Avenue), report taken; 4:50 p.m.: fraud (Breezy Green Road), report taken; 6:46 p.m.: investigation (Tobin Road), advised civil action; 9:02 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), call canceled; 11:24 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to.

TUESDAY, MAY 3  
12:38 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 3:01 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 3:14 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), resolved; 5:24 a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 6:39 a.m.: ambulance (Salminen Drive), transported; 7:04 a.m.: disturbance (Town Beach Road), call canceled; 10:07 a.m.: accident (Stafford Street), report taken; 10:12 a.m.: accident (First Street, Worcester), transported; 11:41 a.m.: ambulance (River Street), transported; 2:00 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 5:38 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:41 p.m.: municipal security alarm (Memorial School Drive), report taken; 5:54 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), resolved; 6:03 p.m.: assist other agency (Gold Court), services rendered; 7:50 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 8:19 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, criminal application issued; 8:35 p.m.: keep the peace (Stafford Street), peace restored; 11:21 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:46 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, lights violation, criminal application issued.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4  
12:24 a.m.: mv stop (Rawson Street), spoken to; 12:25 a.m.: keep the peace (Stafford Street), peace restored; 6:24 a.m.: ambulance (Rawson Street), transported; 6:46 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 9:36 a.m.: ambulance (Salminen Drive), transported; 11:19 a.m.: assist citizen (Conway Drive); 12:29 p.m.: accident (Stafford Street), services rendered; 12:44 p.m.: ambulance (Henshaw Street), transported; 2:48 p.m.: ambulance (Deer Pond Drive), transported; 3:09 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:19 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 3:40 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 3:48 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:55 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:19 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 4:27 p.m.: fraud (Peter Salem Road), report taken; 4:45 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Edwin Bonilla Acevedo, 31, 53 Upsala Street, #2, Worcester, unlicensed operation, arrest; 5:15 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:27 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 5:41 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:46 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 5:48 p.m.: suspicious mv (Marshall Street), resolved; 5:55 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 7:07 p.m.: welfare check (South Main Street), no action required; 11:54 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning.



# Yesterday's mistakes don't define you

POSITIVELY  
SPEAKING  
TOBY  
MOORE

The Irish dramatist George Bernard Shaw coined, "Youth is wasted on the young." He later went on to say, "they're brainless and don't know what they have; they squander every opportunity of being young, on being young."

I read that today, and immediately wondered why he said this. I interpreted that he was a little bitter about his own life, and possibly felt regretful that he had squandered the opportunities of his youth. I don't know if he did or did not; although I learned about him in school, I am certainly not a George Bernard Shaw historian.

We've all made mistakes; we've all done things we wish we wouldn't have. Some of us have failed to recognize an opportunity and squandered our resources, but life happens, and we aren't perfect.

I've indeed spent many an hour wishing I would have done things differently when I was younger. I know many people wish they could go back and do it over. We think that if we could go back and do it again, we'd be much further along in life. We believe if we could've had a second chance, the relationship wouldn't have ended; the business would've succeeded; we would've graduated from school, or we wouldn't have said that hateful comment.

We've heard it said that we should live a life without regret, that's a good maxim to live by, but I suspect every one of us has regrets. The problem with regret is that if we don't process it the right way, we can allow ourselves to become defined by our failures.

Regret can be helpful if it causes you to make a positive change so that it doesn't happen again, allowing you to become a better person in the process. It's good if the regret forces you to go back and make something right that went wrong.

Maybe it will cause you to go back and finish what you started.

It could cause you to apologize, ask forgiveness, or stop making unhealthy lifestyle choices that you became addicted to long ago.

If you can go back and finish what you started, that's a huge blessing. Get started, and don't waste time!

Sometimes it's been too long; it's too late, and the opportunity has passed. If positive change isn't going to come from your regret, you're just beating yourself up. Is that helping you or harming you? If you beat yourself up for too long, you're in danger of letting your mistakes define who you are.

"I messed up in my last relationship; I'm just bad at relationships," "I failed in business; I guess I'm a terrible businessperson," or "I've made such bad choices in life, and I guess that's how I'll always be."

There comes the point when living in regret becomes unhealthy, and can lead us down the road of bitterness and resentment. The guilt and the shame that comes with regret can morph into depression and anger. If you allow yourself to feel that way for too long, you'll start to believe that's who you are, and there is no hope for change.

Living in bitterness causes low

self-confidence, and leaves you unable to have a healthy relationship. You won't be able to see the good in others. You'll only see the bad, and you might blame everyone for genuine or imagined grievances.

Another option is acceptance. Maybe

it's time to apologize for beating yourself up for so long. Forgive yourself for making the wrong decisions; stop being so hard on yourself. Just 'cause you messed up in the past doesn't mean that's who you are. You're only human, and your decisions yesterday don't have to be

your decisions today. Let it go, think about the future life you'd like to have, and make decisions that will lead you to that life. When you live like that, the darkness of the past will begin to recede, and the future will shine brighter and brighter.

## Welcome to our ABC's of Spring Word Search!

We hope you will enjoy this challenging puzzle. To be included in a random drawing of correct answers, please mail your puzzle to ABC's of Spring Word Search, P. O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550, or take a picture and email it to [jsima@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:jsima@stonebridgepress.news) by WEDNESDAY, MAY 25th. The winner of a \$25 gift card to an ABC business will be announced in the June 3rd issue. Good luck!

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SELECTMEN

continued from page A1

is considered to be a holdover candidate. This means he can continue in his Select Board capacity through the special election, officials said.

“A tie race is defined as a failure to elect. Therefore, the incumbent is eligible to continue to serve until the issue is resolved. Mr. Kiley has decided not to continue to serve,” read a statement posted to the town Web site on May 5.

Selectman Kiley could not be reached for comment following the election.

Canada said she is thrilled to be part of this historic town event. It took a few hours on election night for the votes to be recounted by hand, and the tie was officially posted around eleven o’clock that night.

“It’s exciting, for sure, but also a little nerve-racking,” Canada told the New Leader. “The turnout was fantastic. More than anything, I was excited to see that many people show up to vote.”

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A total of 715 ballots were cast at the election. Officials said a handful of residents did not make a choice for the selectmen’s race, unaware that their votes would have decided the battle.

The tied candidates were eligible to ask for a recount until May 12. As of press time, the New Leader had not been informed of any recount requests filed with the Town Clerk’s office.

“After the recount deadline has passed, the Board of Selectmen will set a date for a Special Town Election,” the town-issued statement read. “This resets the election process for this one race. Anyone interested in running will need to pull nomination papers, get the required number of signatures, have the papers certified by the Board of Registrars, and they will be placed on the ballot.”

If you have questions about the process, contact the Town Clerk’s office for more information.

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If you have questions about the process, contact the Town Clerk’s office for more information.

number of signatures, have the papers certified by the Board of Registrars, and they will be placed on the ballot.”

If you have questions about the process, contact the Town Clerk’s office for more information.

COMPLAINTS

continued from page A1

AA Transportation officials could not confirm reports that the driver was reassigned to a different route this past winter due to multiple complaints.

“[She] was our bus driver from the beginning of this school year up until right after the holidays,” Buckley added. “They then moved her to a van bus. A bus driver retired, and they needed a driver so they put her on the Bus 4 route. Now, the parents on this route are complaining about the same things.”

After relying on public relations

services throughout the year, embattled school officials said they were committed to improving transparency and communications. But after some parents said they haven’t received responses from the Superintendent or the Elementary School Principal in weeks regarding their complaints, residents are doubtful that the situation will improve under the current leadership team.

“From poor maintenance of buildings to staff abusing children, parents are left out of any real conversations that directly affect their children,” Buckley added. “Things are hushed and swept under the rug in hopes no one will find out or call attention to these ongoing communal problems.”

LEICESTER

continued from page A1

“Hopefully the School Committee, Finance Advisory Committee, and the Select Board can find an amicable solution to this issue we face as a town,” Shocik said. “I believe this can be done without a Proposition 2 ½ override, which I’m firmly against.”

The only article on the Town Meeting war-

rant that failed was Article 16. Additional information about this article and others on the Town Meeting warrant can be found on the town website: [www.leicesterma.org](http://www.leicesterma.org).

The Annual Town Election will take place on Tuesday, June 14.

FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION  
CALL 508-764-4325

LEGALS

NOTICE OF  
MORTGAGEE’S SALE  
OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the POWER OF SALE contained in a certain Mortgage given by Harold Rondeau and Kristian Rondeau to Jeffrey S. Rodman, Trustee of Plan Investment Trust dated December 8, 2017 and recorded with the Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book 58162, Page 1 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 AM on the 31st day of May, 2022 upon the mortgage premises at 108 Paxton Road, Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit: The land in said Spencer, with buildings thereon, known as Dwelling No. 12, situated in the southerly part of Upper Wire Village, on the easterly side

of Upper Wire Village Road, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the southwest corner thereof, on the easterly side of said road at a point 546.3 feet northerly of land now or formerly of Ellen St. Germain; Thence S. 87 degrees 48’ E. by land now or formerly of Walter J. Kane, Tr., 193.3 feet, said line being parallel to and 19 feet distant from the south line of the dwelling on granted premises; Thence N. 4 degrees 29’ E. by land now or formerly of Walter J. Kane, Tr. 65 feet to a corner; Thence N. 87 degrees 36’ W. by land now or formerly of Walter J. Kane, Tr. 193.3 feet to the easterly line of the aforesaid road; Thence southerly by the easterly line of said road 65.6 feet to the place of beginning. Containing about 0.41 acre of land. For Mortgagor’s title, see Deed record-

ed in the Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book 58161, Page 399 and Book 58218, Page 260. These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed. TERMS OF SALE: The highest bidder shall be required to deposit Ten Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$10,000.00) in cash, certified check or bank check at the time and place of the sale. The balance of the purchase price shall be

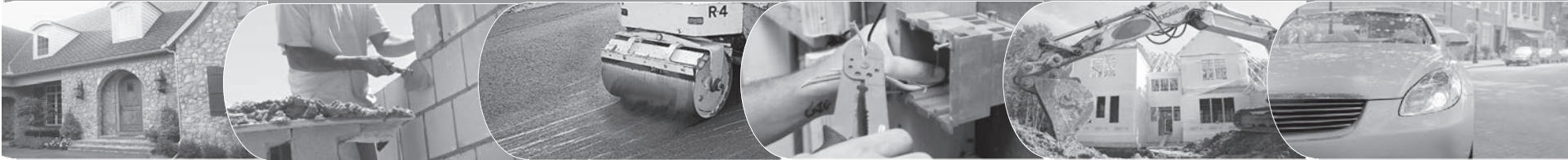
due within thirty (30) days, at the offices of Dunning, Kirrane, McNichols & Garner, L.L.P., 133 Route 28, Mashpee, MA 02649, Attorney for the Mortgagee

Others terms to be announced at the sale.

Jeffrey S. Rodman, Trustee of Plan Investment Trust,  
Present Holder of said Mortgage,  
By Its Attorney,  
Christopher J. Kirrane, Esq.  
Dunning, Kirrane, McNichols & Garner, L.L.P.  
P.O. Box 560  
Mashpee, MA 02649  
(508) 477-6500  
BBO# 660542  
[ckirrane@dunningkirrane.com](mailto:ckirrane@dunningkirrane.com)

May 6, 2022  
May 13, 2022  
May 12, 2022

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[jsima@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:jsima@stonebridgepress.news)

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# LEGALS

**Leicester Water Supply District  
124 Pine Street  
PO Box 86  
Leicester, MA 01524**

Sealed Bids for Rehabilitation of North Water Tank – Contract 2022-2 will be received by Leicester Water Supply District at the office of the Leicester Water Supply District, Leicester, MA 01524 until 11AM (Local Time) June 1, 2022 and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

Work to be preformed to include:  
Exterior Surfaces - Construct & maintain suitable containment system around tank exterior; high pressure water blast exterior tank surfaces w/5000 psi pressure washer w/“zero” oscillating tip, contain environmentally “green” cleaning agent & potable water to remove surface contamination; Remove loose and peeling coating materials; Dispose of materials removed; Lightly sand exterior to de-gloss existing finish; Paint tank exterior as specified; Rehabilitate finial vent; Rehabilitate tank ladder, fall prevention system and hand-rails to code. Repair roof hatch defects. Rehabilitate foundation grout & caulk; Extend overflow pipe & add 316 SS screen. Adder cost for 30” round man-way. Adder cost for new tank ladder, fall prevention system & railings; Perform VOC tests & thickness tests of painted surfaces.  
Interior Water Chamber Surfaces - Remove & dispose of remaining water & silt. Chemically clean tank interior w/ NSF approved cleaning agent; F&I hydrodynamic mixing system; Spot power tool clean walls & floor. Paint areas w/paint failures; Clean, spot abrasive blast & paint underside of roof, support structure, center column, tank walls where coatings have failed. Perform VOC tests, thickness tests, & disinfect interior surfaces.  
Electronic copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained from **Leicester Water Supply District, 124 Pine Street, Leicester, MA 01524 (508) 892-8484** upon request. Hard copies of Bid documents will not be provided.  
**Bid security is 5 percent** of the Bid in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders. There will be no pre-bid conference for this project. Questions relative to the Bid shall be directed to the Owner at 508-892-8484. Minimum wage rates apply to this project. Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, including without limitation, nonconforming, nonresponsive, unbalanced, or conditional Bids.  
Robert F. Wilson, - Chairman  
Leicester Water Supply District April 25, 2022  
May 6, 2022  
May 13, 2022

**NOTICE OF  
MORTGAGEE’S SALE  
OF REAL ESTATE**

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Alicia Benoit to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, dated February 28, 2013 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 50517, Page 55 of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, recorded on April 2, 2015, in Book No. 53546, at Page 62  
JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, recorded on June 9, 2017, in Book No. 57233, at Page 114  
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as trustee for the RMAC Trust, Series 2016-CTT, recorded on April 11, 2018, in Book No. 58650, at Page 173 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 AM on June 3, 2022, on the mortgaged premises located at 10 Lyford Road, Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,  
TO WIT:  
Land on the southerly side of Lyford Road in Spencer, Worcester County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts being shown as Lot 5 on a plan entitled “Plan of Land in Spencer, MA owned by the Estate of Esther Gale, Joy White, Executrix, April 12, 2006, Donald A. Para, Land Surveyor, Inc., New Braintree, MA” which plan is recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 844, Plan 25 and which lot is more particularly bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a solid rod set in the southerly line of Lyford Road at the northeast corner of the lot herein described and the northwest corner of Lot 4 as shown on

said plan; THENCE S. 30° 43’ 15” W., 282.67 feet along Lot 4 as shown in said plan to a solid rod set; THENCE S. 00° 16’ 08” W., 223.26 feet along said Lot 4 to a re-rod set in a pile of stones at land nor or formerly of Burdett; THENCE S. 1° 21’ 38” E., 58.37 feet along said Burdett land to an iron pin found at land now or formerly of Roy; THENCE N. 89° 02’ 19” W., 170.00 feet along a fence along said Roy land to a solid rod set; THENCE N. 2° 00’ 55” E., 389.94 feet along Lot 6 as shown on said plan to a solid rod set; THENCE N. 30° 54’ 47” E., 330.00 feet along said Lot 6 to a solid rod set in the southerly line of Lyford Road; THENCE S. 42° 56’ 00” E., feet along the southerly line of Lyford Road to a stone bound; THENCE S. 37° 57’ 12” E., 82.16 feet along the southerly line of Lyford Road to a solid rod set at the point of beginning. Containing 113,586 square feet (2.608 acres).  
For mortgagor’s(s’) title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 50517, Page 53.  
These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.  
TERMS OF SALE:  
A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.  
Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.  
U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE FOR THE RMAC TRUST, SERIES 2016-CTT  
Present holder of said mortgage  
By its Attorneys,  
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.  
150 California St.  
Newton, MA 02458  
(617)558-0500  
2016050518  
May 6, 2022  
May 13, 2022  
May 12, 2022

**Notice of Special Public Hearing  
East Brookfield  
Zoning Board of Appeals**

This Zoning Board hearing will take place at the East Brookfield Town Hall, 122 Connie Mack Drive, East Brookfield, MA on Thursday May 19, 2022. Hearing will commence at 7:00PM or soon thereafter as can be heard.  
Applicant: Ron Lacaire; owner. Property location: 136 North Brookfield Road, East Brookfield. The applicant seeks a front setback variance to expand a front porch as outlined in Section 5, lot regulations of the East Brookfield Zoning Bylaws. The property owner also seeks a finding to determine that such extension is not more detrimental to the neighborhood than the existing non-conforming use.  
May 6, 2022  
May 13, 2022

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Worcester Probate and Family Court  
225 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608  
(508) 831-2200  
Docket No. WO21P1224EA  
CITATION ON PETITION  
FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE  
BY A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE  
Estate of:  
Keith A Delman  
Date of Death: 02/01/2021**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Sale of Real Estate has been filed by:  
**Vincent Vilkas of Shrewsbury MA** requesting that court authorize the Personal Representative to sell the decedent’s real estate at a private sale.  
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 05/31/2022.**  
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.  
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: April 28, 2022  
Stephanie K. Fattman,  
Register of Probate

May 13, 2022

**Town of Spencer  
Conservation Commission  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

In accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, MGL c. 131, s. 40 and the Spencer Wetlands By-Law:  
**Seth Cook** has filed an **RDA** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to remove the existing driveway and install a new driveway located at **1 Clark Road**, Spencer, MA.  
Applications can be reviewed at the Office of Development and Inspectional Services, Town Hall. A public hearing regarding these filings will be held by the Spencer Conservation Commission in McCourt Social Hall at Town Hall, 157 Main Street, on Wednesday, May 25, 2022 at which time all persons having an interest may be present or call in remotely to participate. Conservation Commission meetings open at 6:15 p.m.  
Mary McLaughlin, Chairwoman  
May 13, 2022

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Worcester Probate and Family Court  
225 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608  
(508) 831-2200  
Docket No. WO22P1388EA  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR  
FORMAL ADJUDICATION  
Susan A Healy  
Date of Death: 12/17/2020**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **John J Healy, Jr. of North Brookfield MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that **John J Healy, Jr. of North Brookfield MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**  
IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/24/2022.**  
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.  
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS 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 21, 2022  
Stephanie K. Fattman,  
Register of Probate

May 13, 2022

**Public Notice  
Intent to File an Application  
with USDA Rural Development,  
Water Supply Interconnection**

The Leicester Water Supply District intends to file an application with the USDA Rural Development for financial assistance to construct a permanent water supply interconnection with the City of Worcester in order to comply with an Administrative Consent Order with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.  
A public meeting for comments will be held at 2 PM on Wednesday May

25, 2022 at the Leicester Water Supply District office at 124 Pine Street, Leicester, MA to discuss the proposed project and to provide the opportunity for public comment.  
May 13, 2022

**Public Notice**

Notice of owners of funds held by the Town of Leicester and deemed abandoned. Per MGL C200A S9A,; unclaimed property of \$100.00 or more will become the property of the town on May 15, 2023. To claim owned funds, go to [www.leicesterma.org](http://www.leicesterma.org) and visit the Treasurer Collector Department Page for a claim form under “Unclaimed Property”.  
117164 12/10/2020  
\$106.95 Amos Duane  
  
113043 3/19/2020  
\$108.00 Brunell John  
  
116712 11/12/2020  
\$125.00 Elshakhs Benen  
  
113179 4/2/2020  
\$130.00 Keddy Jennifer  
  
116876 11/25/2020  
\$132.00 Trainor Stephanie  
  
116003 9/17/2020  
\$133.65 Raymond Brunelle  
  
116994 11/25/2020  
\$170.13 Crochet Brandon  
  
114118 6/11/2020  
\$175.00 Blair Mary  
  
112563 2/20/2020  
\$200.00 Kelleher Thomas  
  
113487 4/20/2020  
\$205.00 Grant Kimberly  
  
113605 4/30/2020  
\$205.00 Keddy Jennifer  
  
113601 4/30/2020  
\$210.00 Green Mystina  
  
113341 4/16/2020  
\$224.25 146 Supply Center INC  
  
113373 4/16/2020  
\$552.31 Cotton INC. D.B.  
May 13, 2022

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Worcester Probate and Family Court  
225 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608  
(508) 831-2200  
Docket No. WO22P1481EA  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR  
FORMAL ADJUDICATION  
Rose Feigin  
Date of Death: 04/11/1988**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Fred S. Cotton of Stoughton MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that **Fred S. Cotton of Stoughton 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 05/31/2022.**  
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.  
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS 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: May 02, 2022  
Stephanie K. Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
May 12, 2022



# OBITUARIES

## Roy J. Couture, Jr., 85

Brookfield - Roy J. Couture, Jr., 85, of Brookfield, died on Friday, April 29, 2022, at Harrington Memorial Hospital in Southbridge.

He leaves his wife of 65 years, Ursula C. (MacCormack) Couture of Brookfield, two sons, Thomas R. Couture (wife Pam) of Osterville and John M. Couture (wife Donna) of East Brookfield; one daughter, Barbara Couture of Los Angeles, CA, a brother, Ronald Couture (wife Sandra) of Brookfield, a sister, Jean LeDoux of East Brookfield, three grandchildren, Michelle Hendrickx (husband Andrew), Daniel and James and two great-granddaughters, Olivia and Ryleigh. He was born in Orange, MA, son of the late Roy J. and Thelma (Ledger) Couture, and grew up in East Brookfield. He lived in West Brookfield for 55 years before moving to Brookfield.

Roy worked at the former Brookfield Machine in West Brookfield for 39 years, starting as a tool and die designer and climbing the ranks to Vice President. He led the team on many national and international projects for NASA, General Electric, and Bose Corporation and was a key contributor to the original Bose Wave Radio design. After leaving Brookfield Machine, he worked for Bose Corporation in Framingham, MA

as an engineer and designer for three years before retiring in 1998.

He was a member of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish in West Brookfield, founder and charter member of the Beagle Club in West Brookfield, past President, and 18-year member of the Brookfield Rotary Club of the Brookfields.

Roy served his country for eight years with the United States Army Reserve.

A Funeral Mass for Roy will be held on Monday, May 16, 2022 at 11:00AM in the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 22 W. Main St. in West Brookfield. A calling hour will be held prior to the Mass from 9:30 to 10:30 AM in the funeral home. Burial will follow the Funeral Mass at Pine Grove Cemetery in West Brookfield. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Brookfield Rescue Squad, Inc., 6 Central St., Brookfield, MA 01506.

The Varnum Funeral Home, Inc., 43 E. Main St., in West Brookfield is assisting the family with arrangements.

An online guest book is available at [varnumfuneralhome.com](http://varnumfuneralhome.com).



## Judith M. LaFlower, 83

EAST BROOKFIELD - Judith M. (Delisle) LaFlower, 83, of 251 E. Main St. died Sunday May 1, 2022 at The Meadows in Rochdale.

She was the wife of Robert H. LaFlower who died in 2011. She leaves her daughter Cheryl Johnson and her husband James of Auburn; 3 sons James of E. Brookfield, Michael and his wife Lori of Spencer and Paul and his wife Danelle of Wales, MA; a brother Raymond Delisle of Brookfield; a sister Sandra Delisle of Spencer; 5 grandchildren Joseph Wedge, Joshua, Marshall, Kourtney and Kody LaFlower; 2 great-grandchildren Valarie Wedge and Aria LaFlower; many nieces & nephews. She was predeceased by a son Gary; a grandson Robert Wedge; 3 brothers Robert, Donald and Norman Delisle

and 3 sisters Katherine Holmes, Carole Robertson & Yvonne Phoenix.

She was born in Spencer the daughter of Sylvio and Aile (Mackie) Delisle and lived many years in Spencer before moving to E. Brookfield. After retiring from David Clark Co. she worked part-time at Taggies. She enjoyed spending time with her family, crocheting, casino trips and solving crossword puzzles. She was also a caregiver to several loved ones.

The funeral was held on Wednesday, May 11, 2022 with a 11:00AM Mass in Our Lady of the Rosary Church 7 Church St. Spencer. Burial will follow in Mary, Queen of the Rosary Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the St. Jude's Childrens Research Hospital 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis TN 38105. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 163 Main St. Spencer. For an online tribute please visit: [WWW.Pillsburyfuneralhome.com](http://WWW.Pillsburyfuneralhome.com)

## Raymond D. Banville

West Brookfield – Raymond D. Banville (Moe) 90, of West Brookfield and formerly of Chicopee passed away unexpectedly into eternal life on May 4, 2022.

A Korean War veteran, he worked for Hamilton Standard after the war in the experimental department where he found his love for welding. Retired from Jahn Foundry Corp., Ray had many business ventures in Chicopee but his favorite was the love for his welding shop of over 20 years. In the early 80's, Ray and his wife Pat, moved to West Brookfield to relax and enjoy the woods and outdoors.

Ray could always be found tinkering with something. He was the original Uber, taking anyone for a ride for a couple dollars.

He is predeceased by his loving wife Pat; his brothers, Eugene and Richard Banville; his sister Esther Gorski; his son, John Wheeler; his sisters-in-law, Claire and Jeannine Banville and his nephew, Donald Banville.

He leaves to cherish his memory; his son, James Banville and his girlfriend Kathy Sullivan; his daughters, Donna

Patrick and Julie Black; his son Mark Wheeler and his wife Bonnie; his loving grandchildren, Ian and Allison Banville, Rachel and Courtney Patrick, Shein Wheeler, Shannon Canavan, Josh and Nathan Black, Mark, Emily and Adam Wheeler. His beloved great-grandchildren, Sarah, Cora, Ty, Serenity, Burgandy, Corie and Shane; his nephew, Dennis Banville and his family and niece, Debbie Slys and her family as well as many friends from all around.

The family would like to thank all his friends and neighbors in West Brookfield for looking out for him and being a part of the stories and memories. He will be missed by ALL.

Funeral Services for Raymond will be held privately.

Varnum Funeral Home, Inc., 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield is assisting his family with arrangements.

An online guest book is available at [varnumfuneralhome.com](http://varnumfuneralhome.com)



## Douglas L. McNeely, 81

BROOKFIELD- Douglas L. McNeely, 81, passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 1, 2022 at home. He leaves his wife Janet; 2 sons Craig & Mark; 3 daughters Nancy, Kirsten and Meagan; a sister Delphine; 7 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. Doug was born in Gross Pointe Farms, MI and served in the US Coast Guard from 1958-1964, and was honorably discharged. While on leave from the service, he came to home Spencer with a friend, and eventually settled in Brookfield, where he spent the rest of his life. As a child he spent many happy summers in Kentucky with his Aunt Lucille, and often reminisced fondly of his time there in later years. He was an avid sportsman in his young-

er years, and enjoyed hunting and fishing and being outdoors. He had a love for history, and was happy to discuss with anyone who would listen. A graveside service with full military honors was held privately on Thursday, May 5, 2022 in Brookfield Cemetery in Brookfield. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 3 West Brookfield Rd. Brookfield. For an online tribute please visit: [Pillsburyfuneralhome.com](http://Pillsburyfuneralhome.com)



## Maureen Patricia Nicolas, 56



Maureen Patricia Nicolas, 56 of Spencer, MA passed away Wed. May 4, 2022. Born in Framingham, she was the daughter of Austin and Maureen (McNamara) Maguire. She was the wife of Brian Nicolas

for over 31 years. Maureen worked as a manager for McDonalds in Spencer. She enjoyed all New England sports, especially the Red Sox and often traveled to spring training. She was known for her exceptional Toll House Cookies and would have to hide them on holidays so that they were not eaten before dessert – they were always found. She will be remembered as a loving mother and grandmother.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by two children, Troy and his fiancé Rosalyn Sosik of Fiskdale, MA, and Samantha and her partner Nicholas Fontaine of Medford, MA, brother, Michael Maguire and his wife Linda of Orange, MA, sister, Katy Bellemare and her husband Guy of Worcester, MA, and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be celebrated Friday May 13th at 11:00am in the Chapel of the Matarese Funeral Home, 325 Main St. Ashland, MA. One visiting hour will be held Friday from 10:00-11:00am prior to the service. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in her name to Dana Farber Jimmy Fund, P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284-9168 [www.mataresefuneral.com](http://www.mataresefuneral.com)

## Cougars impress at SWCL Tennis Tournament

UXBRIDGE — After a long, grueling day of tennis on Friday, April 29 — at a pair of locations in Bartlett High (girls) and Uxbridge High (boys) — all semifinalists reconvened to Uxbridge the following day for the annual Southern Worcester County League (SWCL) Tennis Tournament.

And four Quaboag Regional student-athletes from the girls' team did advance to the second day. They included singles players and sisters Emma Aberle and Isabelle Aberle, and the doubles team of Nora Pennington-Russell and Norah Schwenker.

Emma Aberle, the No. 1 seed in the tournament, defeated No. 4 Julie Compston of Uxbridge High in the semifinals (2-6, 6-3, 10-4), while her sister Isabelle, ranked sixth, fell to No. 2 Maya Purohit of Grafton



Isabelle Aberle of Quaboag reaches out to get her racket on the ball while competing in the Southern Worcester County League Tennis Tournament.

High in the other semi, (6-3, 7-5). Purohit then defeated Emma Aberle in the final for the crown, (6-3, 6-4).

In the doubles tournament, the pair of Pennington-Russell and Schwenker were the top seed. But they bowed out in the semifinals to No. 5 Veda Dave and Maya Dalan of Grafton High, (6-4, 6-4). Dave and Dalan then lost in the final to the Uxbridge High tandem of Avery Guillette and Bella Nolan, (7-6 (7-4), 6-3).



Nick Ethier photos

Quaboag's Emma Aberle returns a vicious backhanded shot over the net during Southern Worcester County League Tennis Tournament play.

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Quaboag's Emma Aberle returns a vicious backhanded shot over the net during Southern Worcester County League Tennis Tournament play.





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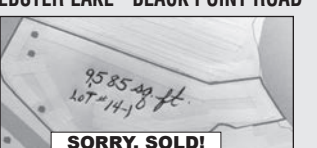
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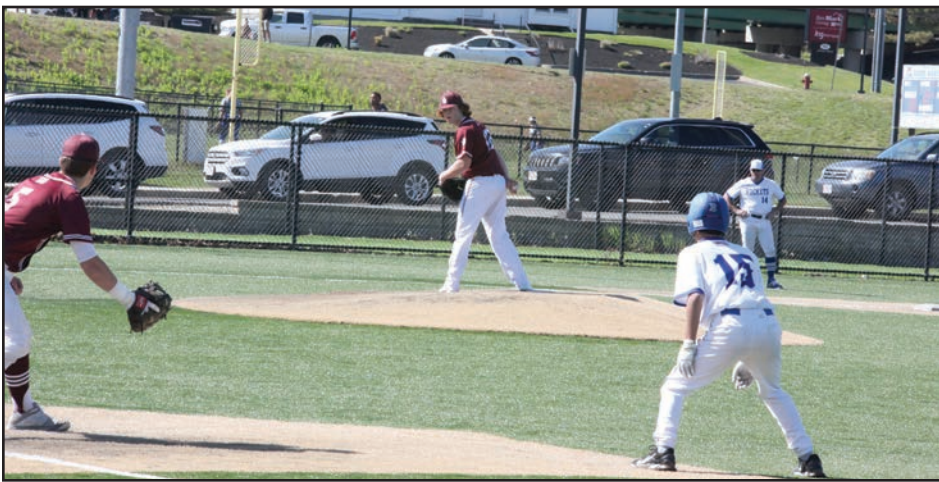


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# SPORTS

## Late-inning charge lifts Leicester past Rockets



Nick Ethier photos

Leicester starting pitcher Matt Drenzo peers at Auburn runner Ralph Capaldi, keeping him at bay.

BY NICK ETHIER  
SPORTS EDITOR

AUBURN—One inning at a time. That mindset paid dividends for Leicester High's varsity baseball team when taking on Auburn High on Monday, May 9. The Wolverines and Rockets were tied at 2-2 after the first, second and third innings before Auburn grabbed a 4-2 lead in the bottom of the fourth frame.

But Leicester scored once in the top

of the fifth to cut into the deficit, plated two more in the sixth to regain the lead and tacked on another two runs in the seventh for a cushion.

The end result was a 7-4 victory for the Wolverines.

"These kids play every inning and I tell them to win every inning. If you win most of the innings in a baseball game, you usually win the game. We take it one frame at a time and that's the mentality they take," explained

Leicester head coach Peter Fenuccio.

The first inning Wolverines' runs were by Caden Birtz and Mike Mero. Birtz, who originally walked, scored on Mero's grounder that turned into a fielding error. Mero later scored on a passed ball.

Auburn tied the game when Mike Nadeau scored on a passed ball and Nate Jette scored on a wild pitch.

The Rockets then took their 4-2 lead in the fourth on an RBI double by Nadeau and a Jette RBI groundout.

After that, though, they registered only one hit the rest of the way.

"No one really hit the ball. Wind was a factor, but we didn't hit the ball well enough to score seven runs. And the runs we scored were on misplayed balls," said Auburn head coach Eric Swedberg. "We've got to hit. Games we have won we've put the ball in play."

Leicester scored its third run on a Mero RBI groundout in the fifth inning. Then, in the sixth, Alex Russo hit a grounder deep into the hole at second base. An error resulted on the play, which allowed Eric Ortiz and AJ Drenzo to scamper home.

The Wolverines padded the lead to 7-4 in the seventh when Birtz tripled and scored on a wild pitch. Luke Byers then

hit an RBI single to score Seth Larson.

Leicester's Griff Metcalf earned the victory on the mound. Metcalf spelled starter Matt Drenzo before the bottom of the third inning.

"He's been consistent coming in relief. He throws strikes," Fenuccio said of Metcalf, who took over when Drenzo tweaked his back while batting in the top of the third.

Metcalf worked five innings and struck out five while allowing four hits.

"It's a pretty good win. It puts us on track for the last half of the season and hopefully some playoff games," Fenuccio said of his now 7-4 club.

Auburn, meanwhile, dropped to 6-8.

Starter Jeremiah Murphy worked the first five innings, allowing one hit and striking out five. He allowed four Wolverines to reach on either walks or being hit by a pitch.

"I would have liked to see him with a little more confidence with the off-speed stuff. He settled. In the first inning he looked a little off and then he settled in," said Swedberg, who turned to Anthony Govoni to pitch the final two frames.

Govoni allowed four runs, but only two were earned. He also surrendered two hits and struck out one.

## Amaru helps hit, pitch Warriors past Millbury to remain unbeaten

BY NICK ETHIER

Sports Editor

STURBRIDGE — When Tantasqua Regional southpaw Miles Blake threw the game's first pitch to Millbury High's Nick Kolifrath at precisely 4 p.m. on Thursday, May 5, the Warriors' Joe Amaru was an inconspicuous member of the starting nine. Amaru was stationed at his first base position and slated to bat ninth in Tantasqua's lineup.

But, when the game was decided, Amaru had much to do with the Warriors' 6-2 win over the Woolies, which kept Tantasqua undefeated at 10-0.

Amaru went 2-for-3 at the plate and had two RBI's, including the winning run in the bottom of the sixth inning, and also relieved Blake and pitched 1-2/3 innings of scoreless relief to pick up the victory.

"He was struggling a little bit earlier in the year and then we figured out his swing with his front leg kick," Tantasqua head coach Jon Leroux explained when speaking of Amaru's plate presence before turning his attention to the tall right-hander's pitching abilities. "He's been pounding the zone for us. This is his third win of the year, always coming in relief."

When asked which aspect of the game he'll think about most when heading home, Amaru said that it was his hitting.

"I'm mostly a pitcher for all my other

teams, so to be able to deliver the hit, I felt that more today," said Amaru.

Amaru's sixth inning winning base-knock came with Cole Nussey on third base, Jack Ricciuti on second and Lucas MacNevin on first. On a count where most hitters would take the pitch, Amaru sent Nathan Kozlowski's offering up the middle, which plated both Nussey and Ricciuti.

"I think I had a 3-0 count, so just seeing the pitch — perfect pitch, fastball down the middle — I had to drive that," explained Amaru.

Tantasqua added to its lead and made it 6-2 when Devin Krochmalnycky's hit resulted in an error, which scored MacNevin and Amaru.

Amaru, who pitched a 1-2-3 top of the sixth inning before his winning hit, walked the leadoff batter in the seventh before retiring the next two. Due to a pitch count that will allow him to pitch in the Warriors' next game, Amaru exited and Hunter Normandin took over. Normandin finished the job by striking out the Woolies' Blake Samuelson on five pitches.

"Our pitchers threw strikes and didn't give up too many free bases, which was great," said Leroux, as Blake, Amaru and Normandin combined on a five-hitter while walking four, hitting one and striking out eight.

Blake worked the first five innings, which impressed Leroux.

"He's banged up a little bit. His hip was bothering him, so we leaned on

his off-speed a little more than we normally do, and it worked well. He got us five innings, which we needed him to because we have a game tomorrow and a game Monday," Leroux said of Blake.

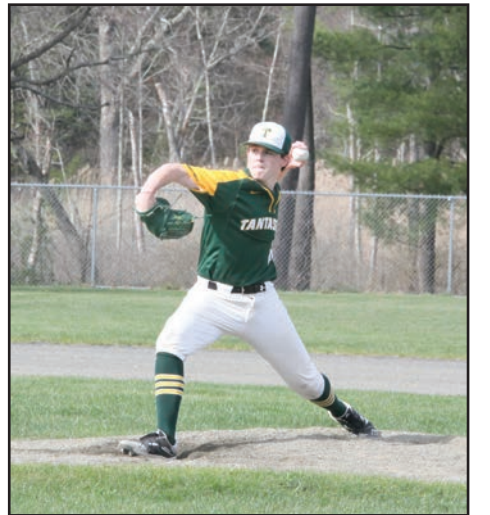
As far as Normandin goes, he played a superb second base before finishing the game on the hill. In the top of the second inning, he showed his range by running to his right, sliding to stop the ball, popping back up and firing over to first for the out. Then, in the fifth, he leapt sky-high and perfectly-timed a lined shot hit his way for an unbelievable catch.

"He's an excellent defender. Up the middle we have as good a crew as anyone in Central Mass. He and Devin [Krochmalnycky] turn a lot of double plays," Leroux said. "He saved us some runs today, he really did."

The Warriors took a 1-0 lead in the third when Normandin provided an RBI on a groundout and then tied the game at 2-2 in the fifth after Millbury grabbed a 2-1 lead in the top of the frame. There, Krochmalnycky plated Colm McGrath (3-for-4) with a sacrifice fly.

The win over the Woolies (7-4) improved Tantasqua's chances at capturing the Southern Worcester County League (SWCL) title.

"The last time we won the SWCL was 2015. It was a shortened year because there was a lot of snow in the beginning of the year. Our goal is to go win the league," Leroux said.



Nick Ethier photos

Tantasqua starting pitcher Miles Blake rears back before sending the ball to the plate.

The Warriors are in good shape to do so, having already beaten perennial powers Auburn, Northbridge, Oxford and now Millbury.

"To beat all of those teams, that's a good stepping stone for us going forward," said Leroux.

Amaru noted that the cohesiveness of the squad has led to the team's success.

"We help make each other better. We have relationships that are going to last longer than baseball. Being together like a family, it's easier to do well on the field," said Amaru.

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SPORTS

One-run game again goes Bay Path's way in win over Beavers, 6-5

BY NICK ETHIER  
SPORTS EDITOR

CHARLTON — When the Bay Path Regional and Blackstone Valley Tech varsity baseball teams are set to meet one another, Mark Sansoucy — head coach of the Minutemen — described just how big of a game it can be.

“Those are the games you circle at the beginning of the year...it’s always BVT, AMSA, Worcester [Tech],” Sansoucy said whenever Bay Path plays the Beavers, the Advanced Math and Science Academy or the Eagles, all important tilts in the Colonial Athletic League.

And the Minutemen and BVT certainly provided close contests during this 2022 season. Bay Path edged Valley Tech in the season opener, played on April 4, 10-9. And, in the most recent outing, the Minutemen again emerged victorious, also

by a single run, 6-5.

“That was a big one. They’re always tough, always a good team. They hit the ball hard and have good pitching, and they’re well-coached. To beat them twice in a season is big,” Sansoucy said of the Beavers.

“That’s the second one to them,” Valley Tech head coach John Burke said of losing to Bay Path, and the Beavers’ third one-run loss of the season. “It’s just executing a few of the small things along the way. It’s all very little stuff and it’s been biting us.”

The Minutemen improved to 9-1 and have automatically clinched a berth into the upcoming Division 4 State Tournament. Valley Tech, meanwhile, dropped to 4-6.

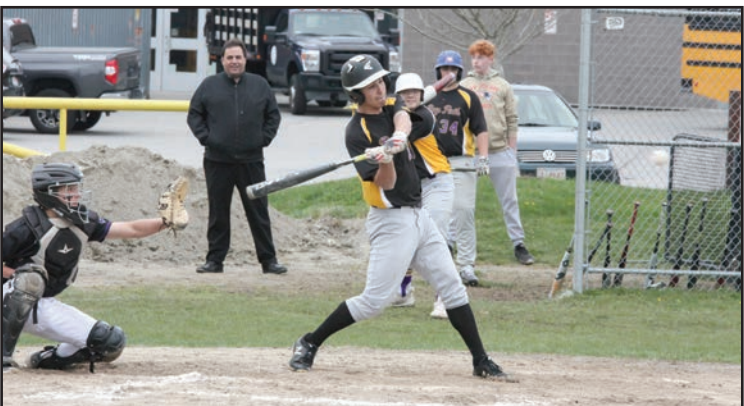
“They’ve got a good team,” Burke said of Bay Path. “They’ve been rattling off wins and it would have been nice to

get one back on them.”

The Beavers struck first for one run in the top of the first inning when Evan Charron roped an RBI double into right-center field. But the Minutemen countered with three runs in the home half of the first. With the bases loaded John Schramm was clipped by a pitch to send a run in and then Matt Rousakos grounded into a fielder’s choice. But, instead of the at-bat resulting in a double play, a throwing error allowed two more runs to cross home plate.

Valley Tech tied the game in the second inning when Sean Sage hit an RBI groundout and Jake Rinaldi (2-for-3) followed with an RBI single to left field, but Bay Path again regained the lead in the home half. There, Schramm had his second RBI on a fielder’s choice.

The Minutemen kept the 4-3



Nick Ethier photos

Bay Path's Brandon Martocci rips a second inning single against Blackstone Valley Tech.

advantage through the third and fourth innings until BVT grabbed their first lead in the top of the fifth. Corey Magill (2-for-3) tied the game with an RBI single up the middle. Magill then scored when he attempted to steal third base and a throwing error saw the ball bound into the outfield.

That ended the outing on the hill for Rousakos, Bay Path’s starter, who went 4-plus innings. Dale Nussey took over from there and finished the fifth frame, and pitched the sixth, allowing no runs on one hit with four strikeouts and no walks.

“We had the momentum, we rolled the double play ball, and then the inning got a little sloppy,” explained Burke.

With Kaiden Brochu (single) and Jon Nussey (walk) on base, pinch hitter Joe Fritze tied the game with an opposite field RBI single into right field. With the game tied, Bay Path retook the lead when Pratt tried to pick off a base runner. But his coinciding throwing error plated the go-ahead run.

After both teams failed to score in the sixth inning, the Minutemen’s Zach Fritze (2-for-3 at the plate) closed the door with a seventh inning save. An error, hit by pitch and sacrifice bunt had two runners in scoring position, but when BVT’s Nick Laflamme sent a hard shot down the first base line that was snagged by Rousakos, the game came to its dramatic close.

“He’s tough, he’s nails. He’s hard-nosed. He thrives on stuff like that — feeds off that,”

Turn To **BAY PATH** page **A19**



Courtesy photo

Coach Gregg “Sully” Szalay’s brother, Glen, receives a token of appreciation from Bay Path head coach Mark Sansoucy during Sully’s recognition on April 25.



Sully’s number, 14, is proudly displayed behind the mound.

Minutemen to honor season for Bay Path alum Coach ‘Sully’

CHARLTON — On Monday, April 25, following the Bay Path Regional varsity baseball team’s home opener — where the Minutemen defeated Monty Tech, 9-3 — the program recognized Coach Gregg “Sully” Szalay.

Sully had coached fall baseball for about six years and had been associated with the Bay Path baseball team since head coach Mark Sansoucy started coaching back in 1997. His support and dedication was above and beyond. Sully was the first one there to help or do whatever the Minutemen were planning or just trying to get something done without ever asking for anything in return. He loved being around anything that involved Bay Path sports.

Sully passed away unexpectedly after the last fall ball game a couple of weeks before his 50th birthday. Bay Path is dedicating the season to Sully. The Number 14 behind the mound was his high school number and his name “SULLY” will be on the sleeve of the Minutemen’s home jerseys. Sully graduated from Bay Path in 1989. He was a four-year varsity baseball player for coach Jim Gomes and Mike Hubbard. He also played basketball. His senior year he was awarded the sportsmanship award. He will be dearly missed.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

Tuesday, May 3  
Auburn 3, David Prouty 2 — The first doubles team of Ava Bergeron and Ayla Messier (6-2, 6-2), plus the second doubles tandem of Grace Haftarczuk and Bella Costello (6-2, 6-1) earned the points for the Panthers in a very close girls’ tennis loss to the Rockets.

Thursday, May 5  
Tantasqua 10, Worcester 3 — The Warriors improved their record in girls’ lacrosse to 6-4 after defeating Worcester. Kelsie Lucas (4 goals, assist), Maeve Ashworth (3 goals, 2 assists), Kaydie O’Neil (2 goals), and Sophia Parker (goal) filled up the stat sheet for Tantasqua.

Friday, May 6  
David Prouty 5, Burncoat 0; David Prouty 5, Burncoat 0 — The Panthers were able to play numerous individuals as the girls’ tennis team blanked Burncoat in a double header. In the first match, the winners were Jess Fulmer (first singles, 8-1), Mel Reil (second singles, 8-4), Greenly Waugh/Allison Decelle (first doubles, 8-0) and Eva Laporte/Juliana Rondeau (second doubles, 8-1). In the second match, the winners were Lindsey Soter (first singles, 8-3), Ayla Messier (second singles, 8-1), Ava Bergeron/Rianna Ortiz (first doubles, 8-0) and Grace Haftarczuk/Bella Costello (second doubles, 8-0). The third singles matches were forfeited by Burncoat.

Monday, May 9  
South 4, David Prouty 1 — Despite losing a tennis decision to the Colonels, the Panthers’ tandem of Ava Bergeron and Ayla Messier registered a win at first doubles.

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## BAY PATH

continued from page A18

Sansoucy said of Zach Fritze, noting that he never thought about intentionally walking a Valley Tech player to load the bases and have force outs across the diamond.

Sansoucy is thrilled with his young squad's start to the season.

"I knew that we had a lot of really good young kids, but were they varsity ready was the question, and they're all stepping up," he said.

Sansoucy added that four players — Brochu (.611), Schramm (.536), Dale Nussy (.400) and Dylan McDonald (.400) — are all near the top of the league in batting average.

The Beavers, meanwhile, are hopeful to turn their season around before it becomes too late.

"We've been hitting well, but some days we throw it well and don't field it well. Some days we field it well and don't throw it well. It's just getting everything clicking at the right time," Burke explained. "At some point you've got to start winning games. It's there. It's just a matter of closing games out."

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