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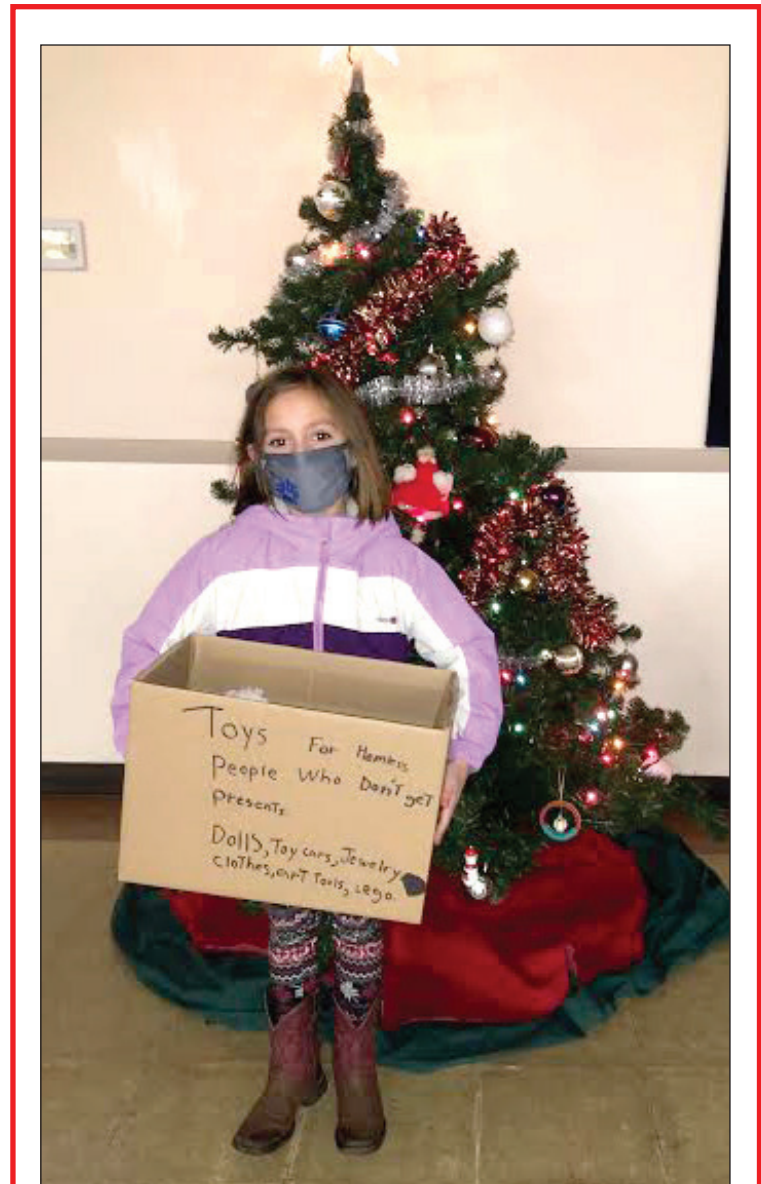


Photo Courtesy

Spencer's Isla Jones, seven, recently found a creative way to support residents in need.

Spencer girl gives back to those in need

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – Volunteers from throughout the area have stepped up this winter to assist those in need. Even elementary school students like Isla Jones have helped lead community relief efforts.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, Jones, a seven-year-old from Spencer, sold her drawings at Thibault's Country Store. She asked that all proceeds from her sales be donated to the Mary Queen of the Rosary Parish food pantry, and store patrons eagerly jumped in to support the effort.

After only two weekends of receiving community donations, Isla's collections jar had amassed more than \$100. Jim Ingalls, the store owner, then matched Isla's donation with a contribution of his own. Together, they presented the money to food pantry director Kathy Sullivan on Dec. 21.

Isla also set up a box for toy collections. With parents out of work throughout central Massachusetts because of COVID-19, every donation of money or toys helped brighten the holiday season.

Food pantry officials thank all residents who have made efforts to assist those in need. Isla's desire to give back was especially impressive to town leaders.

"For a seven-year-old to come up with this idea is tremendous. We are very blessed to have the support of the entire community," Sullivan said.

The funds donated by Jones and Ingalls were used to support a single mother with two children, as well as a local homeless man. The winter of 2020-21 has already been a nightmare for countless families, seniors, and homeless individuals, but donations are pouring in

Turn To **JONES** page **A3**

Locke retires from Spencer Fire Department

SPENCER – After more than four decades of service to his community, Spencer Fire Department Deputy Chief Bill Locke recently announced his retirement.

Locke's 42-year career began just after he graduated high school in 1978. Fire Chief Robert Parsons and his staff have countless fond memories of Locke and everything he provided to the department. Parsons recently took some time to reflect on how firefighting has changed since his early days with Locke at the SFD.

"From how calls are received, dispatched, and responded to – along with every truck in the station being replaced since he started – my, how things have changed," read a statement issued by Parsons. "Bill was the best deputy a chief could have ever asked for and made other towns envious of us."

Although Locke is retiring



Photo Courtesy

Spencer Fire Department Deputy Chief Bill Locke recently announced his retirement.

from fire responses and training operations, he will still be a frequent face around the department.

"We'll remain close friends, and I can't wait till Covid is over to head back to camp," Parsons said. "Thank you, Bill, for always being there – good times and bad."

North Brookfield School Committee retires Indians nickname

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD – After a lengthy process of research and discussion, School Committee members decided last month to retire the junior-senior high school's "Indians" nickname and logo.

The unanimous vote at the Dec. 21 School Committee meeting was the culmination of several months of research and community engagement. School officials were committed to ensuring that every voice was heard.

"I am proud of the decision the School Committee made," said North Brookfield Public Schools Superintendent Richard Lind. "They went through a thoughtful process and heard from all stakeholders, gathered information, and took the time to make a hard decision."

At the July 20 School Committee meeting, members discussed a letter sent by several residents and junior-senior high school alumni members. The document requested the retirement of the mascot, and committee members discussed the matter further at their Oct. 21 meeting.

During the committee's Nov. 16 meeting, a panel of Native

American leaders addressed the controversial topic remotely. Speakers vehemently denounced the use of Native American mascots and nicknames by any school, organization, or sports franchise.

"Some people think we should be honored, or they are honoring us. We are not honored – you are not honoring us. That is no way to honor a person, to use them as a mascot," said Faries Gray, a chief representing the Ponkapoag Tribe, during the virtual meeting on Nov. 16.

After taking all of the information into account – including the comments from Native American presenters; student and staff surveys; written comments from residents and alumni members; and additional research on the subject – School Committee members were well-prepared for their vote on Dec. 21.

"There is no question this was a very challenging decision, as there was definitely going to be some folks that were unhappy no matter what the School Committee decided," Lind added. "However, it is time for a change and a new start with regard to this nickname and logo. The strength of our community does not lie in

a nickname or logo – it lies in the people of our community."

A brief discussion at the Dec. 21 meeting involved potential funding issues for new athletic uniforms and other items featuring the new logo. Superintendent Lind said this shouldn't be a problem, as new uniforms are not purchased annually for each sport, but instead on a rotating schedule every few years. When each sport has its next turn for new uniforms, the new logo will be applied then as part of the regular expense budget, Lind said.

The same process will take place for maintenance updates in the gymnasium and other athletic venues. The transition to the new logo won't take place all at once, officials said, but they are committed to slowly ushering in a new era of respect and acceptance of all communities.

Championship banners and other school history items featuring the Indians nickname will be kept to preserve the school's history, officials said.

Looking ahead, a committee made up of students, staff members, administration, and community members will be established to develop a new nickname and logo for the school.

Holiday contest lights up East Brookfield

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

EAST BROOKFIELD – Amid the darkest winter in recent memory, the town's 100th Anniversary Committee helped provide a little light during the holiday season.

With its Light the Town event, the committee allowed residents the opportunity to decorate their houses for a chance at prizes. The contest featured three categories, plus a grand prize winner.

"It was nice to see how many people in town decorated their houses. It truly brought some holiday spirit in a time when we all needed it," said East Brookfield 100th Anniversary Committee member Heather Gablaski. "Several residents



Photo Courtesy

Several East Brookfield residents took part in last month's Light the Town contest.

expressed their gratitude in the fun they had driving around town looking at the lights."

At a time when several beloved holiday traditions were canceled due to COVID-19 – including White Christmas in West Brookfield, the Spencer Parade of Lights, and local craft fairs – families were starved for fun ways to celebrate the season.

The 100th Anniversary Committee thanks everyone who stepped up to make the event happen this year. Residents of all ages enjoyed the opportunity to see the lights.

The contest was also made possible by 14 community judges who volunteered their time to check out each property. After a difficult process of

deliberation, the property at 109 Maple Street was selected as the grand prize winner.

The following properties were chosen as winners in various categories:

First place for Traditional Elegance: 842 Podunk Road

Second place for Traditional Elegance: 180 Podunk Road

First place for the Clark W. Griswold Award: 214 East Main Street

Second place for the Clark W. Griswold Award: 695 Podunk Road

First place for Creative Inflatables: 140 Dunn Brook Road

Second place for Creative Inflatables: 114 Blaine Avenue

Gift cards to local businesses

Turn To **LIGHT UP** page **A3**

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News, really close to home

StonebridgePress.com

Hannah Garabedian of Spencer serving in leadership position of Assumption's Commuters Club

WORCESTER — The Assumption University Office of Student Activities has announced that Hannah Garabedian, of Spencer, is currently serving as President of the Commuters Club for the 2020-21 academic year.

The Commuter's Club provides a community and voice for commuters on campus. Through this club, commuters have the opportunity to engage with others who live off-campus, discuss the benefits available to Assumption commuter students, and become involved in the University's vibrant campus life. Events and meetings are held to facilitate relationships between those living on and off-campus.

At Assumption, students have the opportunity to participate in more than 60 groups and organizations on campus that serve an array of interests including leadership, academic interests, club sports, performance, and media" said Sara Swillo Muckian, director of student activities and leadership develop-

ment. "Student clubs and organizations complement classroom instruction by providing students the opportunity to plan a number of exciting events in which students use their talents and passions, as well as what they have learned in the classroom. In addition, clubs and organizations help to sustain the Assumption traditions beloved by students and alumni alike."

During the fall semester several student groups continued their important work virtually, such as collecting donations to purchase supplies for Veterans and raising money for a local charity that was used to buy Christmas gifts for children in need. These are two of many examples of how these student-run groups give Assumption students outlets to apply classroom knowledge to projects that help better both the campus and Worcester communities, network with professional, and learn important leadership skills.

For more information about

Assumption's student activities, visit www.assumption.edu/campus-life/student-activities.

Assumption University, founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption, is New England's premier university for high-quality education, integrating career preparation and education of the whole person, drawing upon the best in the rich and centuries-long tradition of Catholic higher education. Assumption, located in Worcester, Massachusetts, seeks to provide students with a transformative education that forms graduates who possess critical intelligence, thoughtful citizenship, and compassionate service. The University offers 34 majors and 49 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, nursing and professional studies; as well as master's and continuing education degrees and professional certificate programs. For more information about Assumption University, please visit www.assumption.edu.



ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

If you find a mistake, call (508) 909-4106 or email news@stonebridgepress.com, news during normal business hours. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor's voice mailbox. The editor will return your phone call or email.

JONES

continued from page A1

from throughout the community to provide relief.

"We always get excellent support from our churches, schools, the police department, the fire department, and the library. We live in a wonderful community where everyone comes together to help," Sullivan added.

For Isla Jones's mother, Aimee, it was a thrill to see her daughter recognize the urgent need and get involved. The family frequently visits Thibault's Country Store, and they thank Ingalls for his facilitation of the project.

"We're all very proud to be a part of this. We have always donated a little around the holidays, and we are over there [Thibault's Country Store] every weekend," said Aimee Jones.

Added Ingalls, "It means a lot for us to support our community in any way we can. It was really cool to see her start this entire thing up."

Ingalls also supports local artists by featuring their creations at his store. He enjoys celebrating the area's many creators and rich history.

Thibault's Country Store is located at 92 North Spencer Rd.

Investigation continues into fatal crash

LEICESTER – Police continue to investigate last month's fatal wreck on Stafford Street.

The Dec. 27 two-vehicle crash occurred at approximately 6:45 p.m. in the area of

500 Stafford St. Both drivers sustained serious injuries and were transported to the University of Massachusetts Memorial Medical Center in Worcester.

One of the drivers, Louquita Alston-Madison, 24, of Worcester, later died as a result of her injuries.

Leicester's police, fire, rescue, and EMS personnel all responded to the scene. They were assisted by the Worcester Police Department, the

State Police, and the Auburn Fire Department.

Stafford Street was closed for several hours while the Central Mass. Law Enforcement Council's accident reconstruction team investigated the crash.

District Attorney Joseph Early's office is continuing the investigation. As of press time, no charges had been announced.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

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\$390,000, 97 Lake Rd, Pascale, Randy P, to Speroni, Amie E, and Vogel, Brandon C.

\$50,000, Rice Corner Rd #F, Wilfred A Steadman T, and Steadman, Dana C, to Terry, David A, and Terry, Michelle L.

\$289,900, 88 Rice Corner Rd, Boucher, Anna M, to Pingeton, Melissa, and Bourque, Mitchell.

\$267,000, 21 Pleasant St, Gagne, Alan, and Gagne, Melanie L, to Jackson, Heidi M, and Jackson, Lucas.

EAST BROOKFIELD

\$259,900, 202 Adams Rd #1, Franson, Kristen, to Sandman, Jeffrey.

\$253,000, 202 Adams Rd #2, Franson, Katherine, to Hugenberger, Sara.

LEICESTER

\$450,000, 10 Marshall St, Dileo, Vincent S, and Dileo, Lisa J, to Lynch, James.

\$392,500, 34 Victoria Dr #34, Briarcliff Estates SV LLC, to Nash, Craig L, and Nash, Claudia R.

\$290,000, 16 Carleton Rd, Lisenio, Louis R, to Dodd, Mark J.

\$285,000, 3 Bunker Hill Rd, Madore, Christine, to Beaulieu, Robert R, and Beaulieu, Tia.

\$232,323, 17 Cricklewood Dr, Colby Realty LLC, to Colby, Kevin S, and Colby, Tracy.

\$216,000, 1100 Main St, Dun Brim Holdings LLC, to Alves, Flavio A, and Dos-Santos, Sostenes.

\$369,000, 7 Felix St, S W Brigham Const Co Inc, to Green, Adam J.

\$320,000, 21 Virginia Dr #21, Connole, Carol A, to Mancini, Donna K.

\$275,000, 345 Pleasant St, Smith, Justin, and Anger, Alysha, to Nguyen, Thuong, and Truong, Cuong N.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

\$326,000, 2 W Brookfield Rd, Dwelly, Richard G, and Caron, Raeann M, to Lucier, Heather L, and Lucier, Peter J.

\$250,000, 26 W Brookfield Rd, Patchen, Catherine A, to Patchen, Donald J, and Patchen, Jaclyn S.

\$135,000, 5 Pine Rd, Elizabeth Lloyd 2017 LT, and Lloyd, Elizabeth, to Dow, Jonathan F, and Mullen, Shawna M.

\$35,000, 142 Summer St, Imagetech Properties LLC, to Lambert, James P, and Lambert, Daphne L.

SPENCER

\$885,000, 6 Olde Main St, RMK LLC, to 6 Olde Main LLC.

\$382,500, 85 Ash St, Casavant 2008 IRT, and Casavant, Mark J, to DaSilva,

Bruno P.

\$325,000, 30 Cherry St, Carlile, Anthony, to Murphy, Kevin P, and Louton, Zoe I.

\$275,000, 4 R Jones Rd, Oleary, Meghan, to Picard, Jennifer F.

\$220,000, 35 Jolicoeur Ave, Cattaneo, Christopher, and Cattaneo, Colleen, to Basein, Tinzar, and Naing, Htwie.

\$219,000, 7 Grant St, Senior, Karla J, to Devault, Nina L.

\$210,100, 19 Grant St, Mary E Madden FT, and Madden, William J, to Meloche, Michael C.

\$12,000, Clark Rd, Watson, George W, to Donahue Martin P Jr Est, and Goyette, Steven F.

\$380,000, 4 Richland Ave, Breuer, Michael A, to Chronchio, Jessica M.

\$365,000, 68 Hastings Rd, SJC Development Inc, to Schaefer, Darrell E, and Schaefer, Felicia D.

\$315,000, 423 Main St, Laventure, Elizabeth T, to Berman, Cody D.

\$230,000, 5 Grant St, Sabbey, Norman C, to Round, Norman S.

\$220,000, 17 Donnelly Cross Rd, Mondor, Joseph L, and Mondor, Joyce E, to Mondor, Benjamin A.

\$178,000, 52 Lake St, Whitcomb, Ronald, and Whitcomb, Diane, to Novia, Nathan R, and Novia, Rachael N.

WARREN

\$335,000, 993 Southbridge Rd, M J Toomey Inc, to Devargas, Kevin.

\$290,000, 100 Mechanic St, Bouchard, Jeffrey P, and Bouchard, Chrstine, to Regan, Joshua.

\$280,000, 1068 Bemis Rd, Blouin, Richard, and Blouin, Julia, to Grover, Curtis.

\$279,900, 241 Quaboag St, Paquette, Kevin M, and Paquette, Cynthia L, to Hubbel, Shannon M, and Hubbel, Douglas E.

\$323,500, 100 Reed St, Kelley, James



STELLA MORIN, North Brookfield, MA

I would like Stella to be recognized as a teacher in the Worcester Public School system who works very hard with special needs students. She, unlike many teachers, spends countless hours adapting their lesson plans remotely.

All teachers need to know that their work does not go unnoticed. 2020 was a crazy year. I want Miss Stella to know her work, as well as all the other teachers, are greatly appreciated!!!

— Submitted by Katie DeSimone, North Brookfield, MA

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J, and Kelley, Elizabeth, to Murras, Eduardo P.

\$205,200, 250 Reed St, FNMA, to Rucci, Michael S, and Rucci, Karen L.

\$185,000, 50 Dean St, Ditomasso, Anthony P, and Lemieux, Jason R, to Miele, Michael, and Cooper, Jason.

WEST BROOKFIELD

\$83,000, 166 Birch Hill Rd, McCrevey RT, and Maynard, Mark S, to Patriot Farm Dev LLC.

\$352,250, 117 Ragged Hill Rd, Lewis FT, and Lewis, William C, to Roy, Robert A, and Roy, Jeryl L.

\$341,900, 77 Lyon Rd, Richard, Robert J, and Richard, Patricia A, to Garcia, Marcos D, and Faherty, Christopher D.

\$319,900, 32 Cottage St, JCO Real Estate LLC, to Kiraly-Thomas, Christine, and Root, Donald R.

\$235,000, 7 Hemlock St #2, Birch, Abigail H, to Lacasse, Joshua P.

\$176,500, 33 E Main St, Baird, James F, to Sroka, Michael, and Gower, Melissa.

\$18,000, 5 Old Longhill Rd, Sherman Mark L Est, and Hicks, Jeffrey S, to Sherman Oil Co Inc.

Friday's Child



Photo by Mike Ritter

Nyla Age 10

Hi! My name is Nyla and dancing and singing make me happy!

Nyla is a very friendly girl of Hispanic descent. Her nationality is Dominican and Puerto Rican. She can be cute and sassy! Her favorite color is blue, and she likes cats and dogs. Her favorite hairstyles are half up and half down and space buns. For coping strategies, Nyla uses an oatmeal bath when upset. She states that it makes her feel good, clean, and relaxed. Nyla's favorite food is lasagna and her favorite games are Sorry, Skip-bo, and Mancala. She also likes to create fidgets. She loves to be around others and is very social. A few of Nyla's talents are dancing, swimming, drawing, and making jewelry. Nyla also likes music and enjoys singing along to it. She is very artistic.

Nyla is very intelligent, motivated to learn, and especially enjoys reading and math. She is very bright and excels in and loves school. There are no concerns about Nyla's behaviors in school. She states that she'd like to be a cosmetologist when she is older. Her clinician describes her as hilarious and explains that spending time with her always includes a lots of laughter.

Legally freed for adoption, Nyla will thrive in most any family constellation with older children or no other children in the home. Families interested in starting a relationship with Nyla as a visiting resource with weekly visits will certainly be consider and encouraged. Nyla resides in Eastern MA. Her new family should be willing to help her visit with her biological siblings on a regular basis and possibly her maternal grandmother who lives in Western Massachusetts. There is an open adoption agreement in place for three visits per year with her birth mother.

Who Can Adopt?

Can you provide the guidance, love and stability that a child needs? 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.

The process to adopt a child from foster care requires training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you, and if so, to help connect you with a child or sibling group that your family will be a good match for.

To learn more about adoption from foster care, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at 617-964-6273 or visit www.mareinc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.

LIGHT UP

continued from page A1

and other prizes were mailed out to contest winners last week. Event organizers also wished to recognize The Thai House with an honorable mention, as it was the only business in town to enter the contest.

Additionally, Lashaway Drive earned the judges' distinction as the most decorated street in town, with several houses entered in the contest. And even though residents couldn't come together as usual this year, they were still able to celebrate from a distance while taking in the lights.

Looking ahead, organizers hope to make the event a new holiday tradition in town.

"It was so nice to see all the holiday spirit out there. Keep building on those displays for next year," read a statement released by the 100th Anniversary Committee.

Toys for Joy program assists dozens of local children

EAST BROOKFIELD — The East Brookfield/Brookfield Toys for Joy program was able to assist 39 children from 22 families. The committee wishes to thank all of the businesses and citizens for their continued commitment to this program. Without you, we would not be able to make this happen.

The following is a summary of the donations.
Jean Ledoux \$25
Donna Neylon \$25
Ann Auger \$50
In memory of The Melesky Family, Bob Salem, The Constantine Family; The Carter & Davis Family \$50
Karol & Robert Foster \$50

Robert J. Perreault \$50
Robert/Jean Bain \$50
George & Louise Woodard \$50
Lex T. Varney \$50
The Morin Family \$75
Girl Scout Troop #64526 \$75
Lisa/Herbert Chaffee \$75
Daniel/Margaret O'leary \$100
Maryellen/Stephen Brunelle \$100
Laurel Chesson \$100
Kathy Robertson \$100
Anonymous \$250
Brookfields' Lions Club - Brookfield \$250
Brookfields' Lions Club - East Brookfield \$250
Northeast Vehicle Services, LLC \$250
EBES - 5th & 6th Grade Kindness

Council \$365
Donations
East Brookfield Elementary School 5th & 6th grade Kindness council, who sponsored a fundraising event for their service-learning project in December. The students brought in monetary donations for Toys for Joy. The students received an ornament in exchange for their donation. They decorated the ornaments and hung them on their giving tree in the foyer of the school. They donated a total of \$365 to the program. (special thanks to Chrissy Lavin)
To the Brookfield Community Club for clothing donations for the families (special thanks to Lois O'Leary)
For those who adopted families (who

wish to remain Anonymous) and:
The Mahoney Family, The Cooper Sposato Family, The Pope Family, The Aguiar Family & The Egan Family
To our shopping superheroes and Toy Room Organizers:
Peter & Patti O'Neil, Debby Silliman, Heather & Jordan Gablaski
To our distribution day helpers:
Tammy & Tim Josti/ Peter & Patti O'Neil
Toys for Joy Committee of East Brookfield/Brookfield
Donna & Roger Lafleur
Debbie Morgan

Sheriff's Department announces promotion of Brookfield resident

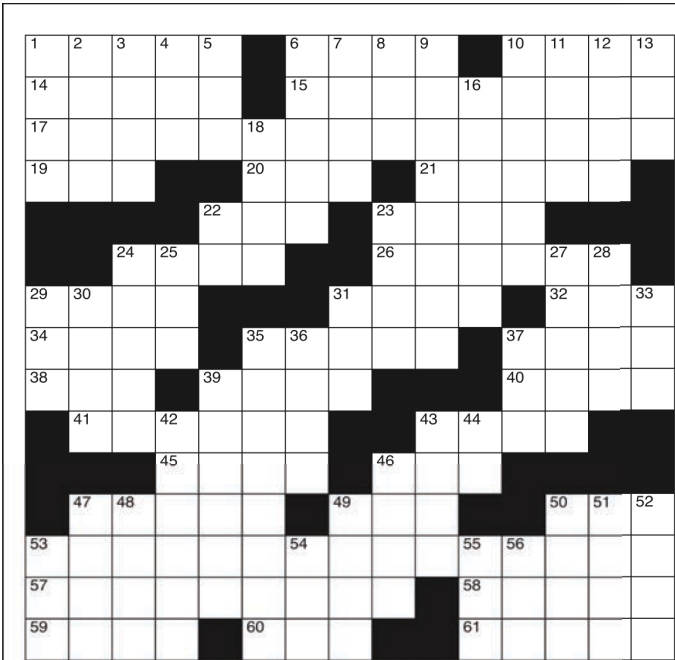
WEST BOYLSTON — Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis announced he has promoted Lt. Timothy Hubacz of Brookfield to the rank of Captain.
“The Worcester County Sheriff's Office is pleased to announce the promotion of Lieutenant Timothy Hubacz to the rank of Captain. Captain Hubacz will immediately begin serving in this important role and leadership position at our correctional facility.

ity. All promotions at the Worcester County Sheriff's Office are based on merit, work ethic and a dedication to duty. Congratulations to Captain Hubacz as he represents the best in the field of corrections today and will work hard to make us a better department,” said Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis.
Hubacz, a 23-year veteran of the department, started his career with the Worcester County Sheriff's

Office in September of 1997, was promoted to Sergeant in April 2010, Lieutenant in 2017 and most recently to Captain. Hubacz most recently served as Lieutenant of maintenance operations. He will continue to oversee that department in addition to inmate services, education and substance abuse. As Captain, he will also

be responsible for commanding and supervising lieutenants, sergeants, correctional officers and staff under his charge as well as monitoring the care, custody and control of inmate activity ensuring the safety of both staff and inmates.
Capt. Timothy Hubacz resides in Brookfield with his wife Mia and their two chil-

dren, Haven and Liam.
The Worcester County Jail & House of Correction located in West Boylston is responsible for both pre-trial detainees and inmates sentenced to two and a half years or less. The correctional facility houses up to one thousand inmates and has a staff of over six hundred.



- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Partner to "oohed"
6. Relaxing places
10. Humorous monologue
14. Simple elegance
15. Bearable
17. Disobedience
19. Express delight
20. Gov't attorneys
21. Wake up
22. A type of band
23. Remain as is
24. Turfs
26. Battle-ax
29. Volcanic crater
31. The mother of Jesus
32. One's life history
34. "Rule, Britannia" composer
35. Doubles
37. Jacob __, American journalist
38. House pet
39. S. African river
40. Broad sashes
41. Establish as a foundation
43. KGB double agent Aldrich __
45. Part of a book
46. Taxi
47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
49. Train group (abbr.)
50. Frames per second
53. Have surgery
57. Formal withdrawal from a federation
58. Guitarist sounds
59. Greek war god
60. 2,000 lbs.
61. Helps escape

- CLUES DOWN**
1. Currency exchange charge
2. River in Tuscany
3. Breakfast dish
4. Defunct European currency
5. Upper class young woman
6. Part of a purse
7. Self-contained units
8. Boxing's GOAT
9. Legislators
10. Flightless birds
11. U. of Miami's mascot is one
12. Floating ice
13. Low, marshy land
16. Seldom
18. Lyric poems
22. Law enforcement agency (abbr.)
23. Full extent of something
24. __ Claus
25. Naturally occurring solid material
27. Acquired brain injury behavior science (abbr.)
28. Thirteen
29. Partner to cheese
30. Member of a Semitic people
31. One thousandth of an inch
33. Former CIA
35. Most lemony
36. Engage in
37. Small Eurasian deer
39. Provisions
42. All humans have them
43. Swiss river
44. Storage term (abbr.)
46. Famed Broadway lyricist Sammy
47. Dutch colonist
48. Full-grown pike fish
49. Egyptian sun god
50. Flute
51. Flew off!
52. Scottish tax
53. Young women's association
54. Populous Brazilian city
55. Malaysian Isthmus
56. Pointed end of a pen



Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis presenting newly promoted Captain Timothy Hubacz of Brookfield with his rank insignia gold bars signifying his promotion to the rank of Captain.

Spencer Police Association organizes surprise food delivery

SPENCER – It's only the beginning of a long, punishing winter, but local residents, businesses, and organizations are rallying to provide relief. During the holiday season, the Spencer Police Association was one of many groups to step up and offer support.
Thanks to donations from its members, local business owners, and generous residents, the Spencer Police Association was able to purchase and arrange a surprise holiday delivery of food.
The donations were given to the food pantry at Mary Queen of the Rosary Church. The deliv-

ery included 50 hams, 500 pounds of potatoes, and 200 pounds of onions.
Police officials and area business owners were thrilled to support the volunteer-run food pantry. Demand has skyrocketed this winter, with COVID-19 conditions worsening statewide and the holidays creating a financial strain for unemployed residents.
Several local families and seniors have reported experiencing food insecurity for the first time ever this winter. Countless others are struggling with isolation, mental health challenges, or substance abuse.
For Spencer's first respond-

ers, who have seen the far-reaching effects of COVID-19 on a daily basis, it means a lot to give back. The Spencer Police Association also helped ensure that local elementary school students received gifts this year during the organization's annual Christmas party.
“I'm very proud of our men and women in blue. Helping people, either at work or during their free time, is habit forming,” said Spencer Police Chief David Darrin. “It is a good thing we have people willing to make the sacrifice.”

Alyssa Bettencourt named to President's List at Plymouth State University

Alyssa Bettencourt named to President's List at Plymouth State University
PLYMOUTH, New Hampshire — Alyssa Bettencourt of West

Brookfield, has been named to the Plymouth State University President's List for the Fall 2020 semester. To be named to the President's List, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.7 or better for the Fall 2020 semester and must have attempted at least 12 credit hours during the semester. Bettencourt is a Nursing major at Plymouth State.
About Plymouth State University
Established in 1871, Plymouth State University serves the state of New Hampshire

and the world beyond by transforming our students through advanced practices where engaged learning produces well-educated undergraduates and by providing graduate education that deepens and advances knowledge and enhances professional development. With distinction, we connect with community and business partners for economic development, technological advances, healthier living, and cultural enrichment with a special commitment of service to the North Country and Lakes Region of New Hampshire.

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This section reaches 47,000 households in 7 Massachusetts newspapers.

Country Bank welcomes new BSA officer

WARE—Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving central and western Massachusetts, is pleased to announce that Victoria Graffam has joined its Corporate Risk Division. Graffam held various BSA and loss prevention roles before joining Berkshire Bank in 2017 as the BSA/AML, EDD Manager. While at Berkshire Bank, her focus was to develop and maintain a program to identify and mitigate risk for higher-risk customers. She is also a member of the Association for Certified Anti Money Laundering Specialists.

"I am passionate about inclusion and the value in having different perspec-

tives as it pertains to combating various forms of fraud. I believe that when we work together sharing our experiences and knowledge, we all contribute to making well-rounded decisions," stated Graffam.

"We are excited to welcome Victoria to Country Bank; she brings over thirty years of professional experience with twenty years in Community Banking and is a perfect cultural fit for our team. Her "can do" attitude, commitment to customer service, and collaborative management approach aligns perfectly with our iSTEP Corporate Values of Integrity, Service, Teamwork,

Excellence, and Prosperity. We are proud that Victoria has chosen Country Bank to be her employer of choice," stated Miriam Siegel, Senior Vice President of Human Resources at Country Bank.

About Country Bank Country Bank is a full-service mutual community bank serving central and western Massachusetts with 14 offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton, and Worcester. Country Bank is a member of FDIC, DIF, and the SUM network. Country Bank can be reached at 800-322-8233 or online at countrybank.com.



Victoria Graffam

Easy Indoor Plant Project for the Kids

With COVID restrictions keeping people close to home, and students learning remotely, it can be a challenge to find new (and fun) projects for the kiddos. So how about getting a jump start on the gardening season, by recycling foods in your refrigerator? All it takes is a little soil, sunlight, and some common produce to grow a wonderful windowsill garden. Best of all, planting with kitchen castoffs is great fun for all ages. The next time you need a lesson on the fly, just open up the refrigerator or kitchen cupboard and make these plantings a family project. To personalize the project and encourage responsibility for young children, allow each child to choose their own fruit or vegetable, and allow them to "tend" to their plant on their bedroom windowsill. Chances are the gardens may not serve as anything more than a houseplant for the indoor duration, but by the time they die out or are ready to be replanted, spring will be around the corner! **

New England boiled dinners are comforting fare for winter weekends. The next time you are preparing parsnips to drop into the bubbling pot, save one or two to "plant." Parsnip is a good first choice because it grows quickly, allowing impatient children to witness the fruits of their labor in almost no time! How to do: First, choose a deep planter. You can recycle a child's summer sand pail, or even use an old plastic container embellished with felt tip marker designs. Scrub parsnips thoroughly under water and dry. Cut of a piece of the parsnip and place it cut side down into your container filled with a stan-

dard potting soil mix. Leave about an inch of the parsnip visible above the soil. Water lightly and place in sunlight. After leaves sprout, a spiked flower will appear. Keep soil moist, but not soggy. After a week or two feed every couple of weeks or so with a stick fertilizer (cut it in thirds and work up to half, then a full stick). **

Make a lush hanging plant from... soybeans! Believe it or not, the soybean plant boasts purple or white self-pollinating flowers that are as pretty as any mainstream houseplant. To do: Soak soybeans overnight. Then place wet beans into a wide mouthed mason or mayonnaise jar (beans will expand as they sprout). Cover jar with cheesecloth and secure with an elastic band. The next day, drain off any water and lay the jar on its side in a warm, dark location. Keep adding water a couple of times a day, shake jar to rinse the seeds, and drain. Place jar back on its side. Beans should not sit in water too long or be allowed to dry out. Germination will occur in about four days. When they sprout to about 4 inches, plant in a hanging pot with standard potting soil and place in the sun. Feed with a commercial plant food and soon you'll have a beautiful houseplant! **

If you are really ready to take on a challenge, why not try your hand at growing a peanut plant? Because peanuts are great fun to watch grow,



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

choose an old Mason jar or mayonnaise jar so the kids can view the miraculous growing process. To do: Start with unprocessed peanuts in a shell (no salt). Shell three or four peanuts and place them on their side in a four-inch container filled with potting soil. Cover the peanuts with a thin layer of soil and keep them in a warm location. Water lightly. The peanut will germinate in about a week, forming a sprout. Soon after leaves will form. Keep moist and transplant when plant is about 8 inches tall. If you are patient, yellow flowers will develop above the soil. When peanuts begin to set, the plant will die back. You can either dig up the peanuts and eat them, or leave them in the soil where they will sprout again. **

Here are some other plants you can grow with pantry groceries: * Radish plants are easy to grow and the salad fixings are quickly harvested, even in a windowsill garden. Kids love the almost-instant results they see before too long! Choose a firm radish and wash under running water, pat dry. Place root side down into standard potting mixture. Like parsnip, you should leave an inch of the radish above the soil. Place in good light and water when needed. Don't overwater or the plant will rot. Radish leaves will grow in about 6" of soil, so you can really use your imagination when selecting a suitable growing container.

* Garlic is quick and easy to grow.

And the garlic plant does not give off an odor, so plant away! Save a clove from a garlic bulb and remove all the skin. Plant pointed end up in a container with soil to which you've added a layer of pebbles for drainage. Feed with fish emulsion every couple of weeks. Keep the soil moist and in a sunny area, and in about four weeks your plant will be nearly a foot tall! **

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

How will you make this new year different from the last?



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

GARY W.
MOORE

If you are to only read one of my columns this year and take it to heart ... make it this one.

A new year is upon us and I couldn't be happier. I don't think that in my lifetime I've been more relieved to see a year end and a new year begin.

With that said, there is nothing magical about turning the page on a calendar. If magic is to happen, it happens in our heads and hearts by creating

an optimistic view of what is to come and taking positive actions that make our optimism real.

I'm optimistic that 2021 will be a better year. This isn't wishful thinking. We have two new vaccines that are now approved and being administered. I'm hearing that a third and maybe a fourth could be approved early this year. The news is promising, and 2021 will be a positive year of turnaround and renewal.

So, we're upon a new year. Now what?

My dad used to always say, "If you always do what you always did, you'll always get what you always got." That's true for everything we do,

including how we approach this new year. Our happiness and success can be determined by an optimistic approach to 2021. In other words, you have the power to be the change you wish for your life. And why not?

The difference with last year was that there was so much out of our control. A pandemic of the size and scope of Covid-19 changes everything. Losses of life, jobs and personal freedoms are beyond our ability to control, so 2021 can lead to a new and better season.

I believe that almost every successful person will begin this year with the idea that "This year will be a better year than last, and I have the power

to make it so."

I already know that a large group of Americans have decided to have a bad year. Pessimism with some abound as they find it difficult to see the brightness ahead. That is a choice they make based on opinion and not fact, and it will drive and guide the results of their new year.

For me, and hopefully you, the voice of truth tells us a different story and that truth is that 2021 will be a year of tremendous positive turnaround. Again, the vaccines alone are a game changer. As the vaccines continue to be administered, I believe our economy will begin opening and our personal freedoms restored. Could the news

be more positive?

So, we have a choice to make. We can wallow in the past pain of 2020 or rejoice and celebrate the brighter days ahead in 2021. Optimism is a choice for happiness and success, while pessimism is a choice for misery and failure. Which will you choose?

I already hear a response of "Yeah, but ..."

But what? The choice could not be clearer and there really are only two choices. Some may say "wait and see" which is also a choice, but I believe that is a choice for pessimism. The wait and see crowd always get what's left over as the opti-

Turn To **MOORE** page **A7**



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Leicester Middle School student wins statewide Design Thinking Award



Jacob Cruz

LEICESTER — Even in the midst of a global pandemic, students at Leicester Middle School continue to learn and grow in the STEM Industry. During this year's Massachusetts STEM Week, students in Mr. Alesbrook's classes participated in the Mass STEM Hub Online Industry Challenge where they

worked to code/program an LED light display to communicate a message of their choosing. Their display needed to include a variety of features (for example, scrolling text, animations, images, etc.). They also needed to create a flowchart of their program and a coordinate grid that displayed any image or animation they designed.

After all submissions had been judged, eighth grader Jacob Cruz was chosen by industry professionals as the Design Thinking Award winner for his blinking sign that simulates two football plays. Jacob demonstrated a mastery of the engineering design process, including testing and iterating on his design to improve on the initial concept.

One of the biomedical engineers on the judging panel said, "You did a great job using the LED planning grid to visualize your design. It is the effort that you put into these intermediate steps that lead to a great final product."

Cruz's blinking sign impressed the STEM experts who reviewed student Project Lead The Way (PLTW) work from across the Commonwealth.

All students who submitted projects received feedback from industry experts, including mechanical, civil and biomedical engineers, biological

researchers and computer scientists. These experts represented companies and organizations including Moderna, Mass Department of Transportation, Fresenius Medical Care, Toyota, National Grid and Project Managers from a Formula Racing Team!

"Opportunities like this encourage our students to continue to think outside the box and connect with professionals in order to make their classroom learning real," said Principal Chris Fontaine. "This type of learning provides a fantastic answer to the age-old question, 'When am I ever going to use this?' It gives students a clear answer -- and a vision of what pathways their lives can take if they continue with STEM in high school and college."

Industry professionals shared a little bit about themselves and their jobs with students, then gave each student feedback on their project.

Sixth Grade student Taylor Gallant had her project reviewed by Thomas Balch: "Hi Taylor! I'm a software engineer at the Toyota Research Institute where I am working to make self-driving cars smarter and better at driving on all kinds of roads. You had a very creative idea for your sign! And you did a great job bringing your idea from

paper to code. Your flowchart was very clear about what you wanted to do, so when I looked at the code, it was clear what was going on. I am very impressed by the work you are doing and the things you are learning. There is so much technology around us all the time now, and projects like this one will help you understand how the things around you work. Knowing how things work enables you to make them work better and invent new ways of doing things!"

"We are so proud of all of our students, and grateful to Mr. Alesbrook for finding creative ways to keep students engaged and excited about STEM during both Hybrid and Remote learning," said Mr. Fontaine.

Mr. Alesbrook summed it up perfectly: "We should all be extremely proud of these kids. They're designing unique and thoughtful solutions to complex problems that require high-level thinking. The feedback and recognition we're receiving from the industry professionals just strengthens a concept we've known for a while here at LMS: We've got a great group of kids! It is nice to know that a larger audience has now had the opportunity to be impressed by their work."

MOORE

continued from page A6

mists act quickly and seize the day. What if we instead said, "yeah, and..."

In other words, we can grieve and lament 2020, and we can be hopeful and optimistic for 2021.

"Yeah, and."

Optimism takes no more energy than pessimism and studies show that optimists are both happier and achieve

more in life. How can someone purposefully choose pessimism?

I've said it over and over ... and will say it again. Your belief system creates a mind/heart conspiracy to make what you believe will happen, come true.

Napoleon Hill said, "What the mind of man can conceive and believe, it can achieve." I don't believe truer words have ever been spoken, yet so many purposefully avoid optimism. Please ... don't let this be you. Choose a better year for you and your family.

I'm out of space for now but will continue next week. Please consider the power of your belief system in creating a better year. Optimism is a choice to be happier, healthier, and more successful. Why would you choose otherwise?

Until next week, consider this ancient wisdom from Marcus Aurelius. "You have power over your mind, not events. Realize this and you will find strength."

You hold the key to your own magic. It's a new year. I'm choosing to optimistically make 2021 my best year, ever.

You can too.

Will you join me?

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @GaryWMoore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

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~PARTY SALADS~

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Cheers
to 2021

The past year has been challenging, and the months ahead only look slightly different as far as the pandemic is concerned. The rollout of the vaccines does, however, offer some promise in getting our lives back to normal.

It's been discouraging; however, to see people behave so unkindly towards one another. Not so much on the local level — here, we are fortunate. But nationally, the temperature has been turned up for far too long. When did it become 'cool' or 'macho' to behave with such hate towards another person, simply because you disagree? Why are so many individuals filled with so much hate that they take it out on complete strangers? We remind everyone, that when it comes to national politics, listen to several news sources, and not a passing meme on social media. Too many uninformed people are acting out, when if they truly were aware of how things work, beyond just a talking point, they may see things a bit more clearly. Again, we have faith that in the months ahead, the climate will become one of which we can all be proud. It's ok and actually a good thing to question and even disagree with others if it's how you feel. It is not OK when decency, lack of respect and kindness falls by the wayside. It is possible to disagree and yet still be kind and helpful to each other. The constant chest puffing on social media and on national news is just, well, sad. You get more bees with honey.

On another note, as we sit and reflect about how much time has been spent apart as a society, we do need to give a nod to solitude. Extroverts across the globe, just want their social lives to be in full swing again. Heck, even introverts do as well. Being social is an important part of our existence. As things move in that direction, we want to remind everyone that there is a benefit to having some much needed alone time. Something we all don't get very often.

Life in normal times can move very swiftly. We're always looking ahead at what needs to be done next, planning, over thinking and stressing about the future. Studies show that when you stop and enjoy some alone time, your brain will rest. Overstimulation can have adverse effects on our well-being. Take time to detach from the internet, television even music.

When we're alone, our parasympathetic nervous system, that relaxes us, is triggered. Alone time relaxes your muscles, lowers your blood pressure and slows your heart rate. Time alone is a great way to prevent burn out. Burnout can cause us to go about our days in an inefficient manner.

Another check mark in the 'pro' column of solitude is that we become more creative. Our minds are free from distractions. Spending time solo can reduce the chance you'll suffer from vital exhaustion which can lead to increased anger and heart trouble.

One analogy that makes sense regarding solitude, is that it gives you time to get a bird's eye view of your life — the bigger picture, instead of feeling stuck in the day to day sometimes mundane activities.

In the New Year ahead, we wish you all health and happiness. As always, take care of each other.



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VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Take the time

By Donald L. Gaudette, Sr.

Take the time
To say a prayer to a friend in need.
You will be rewarded for this good deed.

To assist a neighbor with a chore.
This kind action will bring satisfaction galore.

To set aside some time to assist a friend.
Taking this action we recommend.

To reflect on your freedom to make choices, even though you have been encouraged and influenced by many voices.

To congratulate someone for a job well done.
This action requires you to do this job one on one.

To ask someone you may have offended in the past for forgiveness.
Do this act with a great deal of remorse and quickness.

To take a few moments to visit someone who feels down in the dumps and feels lonely this day.
Give the attention, laughter and cheer; yes, and also make sure you pray.

To make an effort to greet people you meet with a simple hello and smile.
Also, they will know you are genuine

Back to a different future, but needing to remember

To the Editor:

Beginning in 2021, we have the chance to renew our America. Make no mistake our country even now continues to slide in the wrong direction. Here our worst ever President, and his Trumplings (rhymes with a similar WWII group), have poured oil on the slide. This includes their deadly denial and mismanagement of the Covid epidemic, ignoring incredibly dangerous Russian cyber-attacks, and yet again betrayal of our democratic values and election processes.

Trumps election interference has become so bad that even before Sunday's Georgia phone call, all nine previous Secretaries including Trumps two appointments, Rumsfeld and for Vice President Chaney told Trump to respect the election results and not even think about calling in the military.

All this has dramatically increased our country's downhill speed as adver-

We are at God's mercy

To the Editor:

What does that mean? It means we have a choice for our future we can depend on God, Jesus or you can continue to live independent from God as though God does not exist. The question is! Do you believe and are you willing to humble yourself? Your choice [free will] Revelation 22: 17

If we do not humble our self it is clear evidence we will be experiencing humility very soon, in the next month when the possibility we will begin being governed by Democratic Socialist government or the possibility of continuing to be governed by President Trump and the Democratic Republic Government which many democrats will not be very happy. Either way God is still in control and we will need to humble our self to God for God's direction for our lives or live with the consequence of rejecting God's direction.

God, Jesus, is a God of love, discipline, judgment and forgiveness and God makes it very clear in 2 Chronicle 7: 14 and throughout His Word in the Bible that we have the responsibility and ability to remove this virus [COVID-19] from our lives "and" to establish a peaceful government and it starts with us, our choice, and it starts with humility, we need to humble our self and admit our sins, and we need to

Management

To the Editor:

I occasioned to catch a comment by Rand Paul on a news station [recently]. He opined that it makes no sense to be sending stimulus checks to people who did not lose their jobs or are back to work. Having formerly worked for a state contractor, it confirmed my view that the most expensive, least efficient way to do anything is letting government do it.

I can cite many examples, like paying more for parts tubes, than if they actually had toilet paper wrapped around them, or NASA paying more for windshield sealant to be made in small batches in the lab, than the new improved product being mass produced for military and commercial use, because changing the thousand page of specs cost too much to do.

and care. This act could make both parties glow.

To really listen to others with opinions, views and philosophy much different than your views. Taking the time, with patience, trying to understand their beliefs could be a first step that will allow both parties to talk rationally and peacefully. Won't that be great news?

To accept someone new in your community with a call, visit and greeting card. Don't miss out on this one-time opportunity.

To say each day a simple prayer of thanksgiving to Him. Could be your first action of the day. If this is so, please take this step right away.

To remember things you have done wrong in the past, that clutter your mind. Just make sure you don't repeat these acts and with time, everything will be just fine.

To take time to visit someone who is ill. This action could give them a great thrill.

To accept each day when you awaken, with gusto, passion and a plan. You will find out at the end of each day both footprints were with you in the sand.

sary China rises.

Partly as a result, on numerous ranking of national well-being, the United States often has trouble making the top 20, often behind many European and Asian countries. In education tests, sometimes we do not even make the top 30!

What "stuff" do better countries do that we need to do too?

Very importantly, these "better" countries provide good education all of their children. These countries especially make sure that those who live in communities or situations with limited resources get the same good education as well off children.

For now, put aside the religious morality of "Love thy neighbor's children."

Rather think about simple but needed economic growth. In the United States our "native" population—unlike needed immigrants — gets older and

pray to God, Jesus asking for forgiveness for our sinful ways, behavior with a true repentant heart not just talk, God is faithful to forgive.

Commitment and responsibility starts with us as individuals and hopefully continues as a majority and as a nation. God's word [Matthew 18: 20] teaches us that where 2 or 3 are gathered in God's name God, Jesus is with us and will hear and forgive us from heaven and heal, bless our land this Country USA, and as always the choice is ours. [2 Chronicle 7: 14]

Psalms 67 God continues to cry out to us to humble our self and to make us understand that apart from God, Jesus, we will not experience God's blessings, protection, and apart from Jesus evil forces will enter, invade our lives. Evil does not wait to be asked. Satan does not wait to be asked he is not a gentleman like God, Satan will invade us like this corona virus plague and socialist rioters we are witnessing.

Again, God is crying out to us to humble our self and turn to Him [God, Jesus] what does it mean to turn to Jesus? It means to humble our self and forsake the way of this world and accept, receive God's way, principles, values, and standards and to have fellowship with Jesus and

Turn To **BLAIS** page **A11**

As a former retail manager, I remember opening several new locations in the Philadelphia-South Jersey area. We hire everyone and their brother, daughter and her friends. Because it was a major undertaking, many hands lightened the load. Upon completion we assessed the performance of the crew members and narrowed the staff down to the most effective, hardest working, and let the rest go. It is my impression that government is more attuned to the Peter principle, it being as long as you do your job, you will be promoted, until you reach your level of incompetence, where you will stay.

Without discounting the atrocity of a police training officer kneeling on some-

Turn To **KIMBALL** page **A11**

Time for
New Year's
financial
resolutions



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Many of us probably felt that 2020 lasted a very long time. But now that 2021 is upon us, we can make a fresh start — and one way to do that is to make some New Year's resolutions. Of course, you can make these resolutions for all parts of your life — physical, emotional, intellectual — but have you ever considered some financial resolutions?

Here are a few such resolutions to consider:

Don't overreact to events. When the coronavirus pandemic hit in mid-February, the financial markets took a big hit. Many people, convinced that we were in for a prolonged slump, decided to take a "time out" and headed to the investment sidelines. But it didn't take long for the markets to rally, rewarding those patient investors who stayed the course. Nothing is a certainty in the investment world, but the events of 2020 followed a familiar historical pattern: major crisis followed by market drop followed by strong recovery. The lesson for investors? Don't overreact to today's news — because tomorrow may look quite different.

Be prepared. At the beginning of 2020, nobody was anticipating a worldwide pandemic and its terrible consequences, both to individuals' health and to their economic well-being. None of us can foretell the future, either, but we can be prepared, and one way to do so is by building an emergency fund. Ideally, such a fund should be kept in liquid, low-risk vehicles and contain at least six months' worth of living expenses.

Focus on moves you can control. In response to pandemic-related economic pressures, some employers cut their matching contributions to 401(k) plans in 2020. Will some future event cause another such reduction? No one knows — and even if it happens, there's probably nothing you can do about it. Instead of worrying about things you can't control, focus on those you can. When it comes to your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan, put in as much as you can afford this year, and if your salary goes up, increase your contribution.

Recognize your ability to build savings. During the pandemic, the personal savings rate shot up, hitting a record of 33 percent in April, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. It fell over the next several months, but still remained about twice as high as the rate of the past few years. Of course, much of this surge in Americans' proclivity to save money was due to our lack of options for spending it, as the coronavirus caused either complete or partial shutdowns in physical retail establishments, as well as dining and entertainment venues. But if you did manage to boost your own personal savings when your spending was constrained, is it possible to remain a good saver when restrictions are lifted? Probably. And the greater your savings, the greater your financial freedoms — including the freedom to invest and freedom from excessive debt. When we reach a post-pandemic world, see if you can continue saving more than you did in previous years — and use your savings wisely.

These aren't the only financial resolutions you can make — but following them may help you develop habits that could benefit you in 2021 and beyond.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Jeff Burdick, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or jeff.burdick@edwardjones.com.

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In Print and Online



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Looking back at 2020

To the Editor:
As terrible of a year as 2020 was due to the pandemic, it is important to look back and see what lessons we can learn. In a normal year, there would be good and bad, but as I look back on 2020, I am having a hard time seeing the good. As a country we lost faith in ourselves. We were failed by our institutions including the CDC, the FDA, and we were failed by our elected leaders. We like to think of ourselves as a country that can really come together and solve problems in the face of a crisis and we failed to that, we failed each other. We never shut down the way other countries did, we aren't doing it now, and our cases, hospitalizations, and deaths all reflect how we let each other down.
Around the world, the United States has traditionally been admired, feared, envied, loved, or loathed and sometimes all at the same time. We went into 2020 as the sole superpower after the Cold War, the largest economy the world has ever seen, and the strongest military the world has ever seen. For the first time though, America is now pitied. While I don't want to believe that America is a country permanently in decline, we certainly witnessed decline in 2020.
As a planet, we did learn some positive lessons. We learned that good

How does it end?

To the Editor:
After a long and restful holiday break, it is time to go back to our routines, and there is no reason to let the Dec. 25 edition of the Spencer New Leader go unanswered.
Mr. Herholz's letter is standard Trump-cult-member fare, at least for Dec. 18, when he presumably read it. The Trumpists seem to be slowly and gradually coming to grips with the fact that Joe Biden won the election and Donald Trump lost. There was no fraud of any significance. Trump's legal challenges have all been laughed out of court. Mitch McConnell, the true villain of the last six years, accepted the (entirely predictable) Electoral College vote and begged his fellow Republicans not to object to the count on Jan. 6. The stunt is nothing short of sedition, doomed to fail, and force Republicans to either go on record with their sedition or go on record not supporting Dear Leader and soon to be Former President Trump. It looks like even Moscow Mitch can't control the Frankenstein he created.
Mr. Herholz – if it is so obvious that there was fraud, where's the evidence? Surely there must be a smoking gun, considering we have 50 states, 3,007 counties, and 230,000 voting precincts one would think there would be a trail of evidence. Setting aside Trump's Twitter feed and various internet conspiracy theorists, where's the evidence? Like, the verifiable kind?
The letter of Dec. 25 that is truly

Stand up, North Brookfield!

To the Editor:
Well, the “Indians” of North Brookfield junior and senior high schools are no longer, last seen heading west into the hills and misty sunset of time and history. This, thanks to yet another display of cultural imperialism coming from the usual suspects, i.e., the indubitably smarter, better, and more exquisitely morally sensitive elements of the town, in this case the three members of the North Brookfield School Committee
You don't even have to ask their reasons why, as it's always the same old same old: The name “Indians” is disrespectful to the Native American community (which, according to my research, is about one-third of one percent in a town of about 4,800 residents); it is incorrect, as Columbus began the misnomer when he mistakenly thought he was in the East Indies after he had reached the “New World”; and, of course, the old chestnut, the go to pejorative when a liberal wants to shut down all debate: it's “racist.”
I am told the school(s) nickname goes back about 60 years, when the town was celebrating the 300th anniversary of the settling of what then was called the Quaboag Plantation and consisted of land a part of which would become the Town of North Brookfield in 1812. The Indians—or Native Americans, or Indigenous Peoples, or whatever the politically correct term is which you wish to use—were a very big part of that story. It seems to me to be a reasonable deduction that those who proposed the name for the school teams did so out of a sense of admiration and respect for many of that beleaguered native population's attributes, especially their fighting skills and courage. There was not, I submit to you, even the slightest degree of insulting or contemptuous intent by whomever it was that urged that name be chosen. Any reasonable observer of the appellation's saga would have to conclude it was precisely the opposite: the name denotes a ferocious determination to win despite overwhelming odds against the chances of one's prevailing, courage, strength, endurance, and pride in who and what you are.
North Brookfield, in honoring the

government, responsible leadership, and capable management is imperative and pays enormous dividends. We also learned how disastrous ineffective government is in a time of crisis. We learned that a competent government here at home could have worked. With a better president, a better administration, and taking the pandemic more seriously from the start we would have fared far better. The firsthand knowledge of how important it is to have competent government should shut down those who think it doesn't matter who wins elections or what party is in power.
The one bright spot for the pandemic is the vaccine development which was done in record time and with incredible efficacy. Vaccine development was a worldwide effort and credit should be given where credit is due: The United States funded some of it and Donald Trump stayed out of the way of pharmaceutical companies so they could get it done. I would have guessed President Trump would have thwarted vaccine development because it interferes with his narrative that COVID is not a big deal. I was impressed with his restraint. As soon as the exuberance around the vaccine faded though, we immediately started

Turn To **ROSENBERG** page **A10**

frightening belongs to Mr. Robillard. Democracy depends on the consent of the losers to accept their loss, accept their role as the loyal opposition, regroup, and try to appeal to more voters next time. Democracies fail when the losing side loses faith in democracy itself and decides to break it instead. Mr. Robillard is off the rails and there are so many lies about vote counting it is hard to even know where to begin.
The term “loyal opposition” indicates that the non-governing parties may oppose the actions of the sitting administration while remaining loyal to the constitution and the country itself. This loyalty allows for the peaceful transition of power and the strengthening of our institutions. It seems as though Mr. Robillard wholly rejects the idea of the GOP as the loyal opposition but instead hopes they become political arsonists, commit treason, and he is volunteering to be traitor #1.
I must give credit where credit is due. Mr. Robillard's idea of organizing widespread voter fraud to benefit Republican candidates is likely to yield permanent GOP governing majorities. If they get away with it, they win. If they get caught the only resolution will be to make voting difficult which benefits Republicans. Democrats vote by mail more often than Republicans, so shutting that down will have an obvious beneficiary. Something like 11% of U.S. Citizens don't have photo

Turn To **HAR-YAROK** page **A11**

Indian people by naming their teams as they did, were only following in the great tradition of tens-many tens, at that—of thousands of places and things named in honor of American Indians in this country be it cities, towns, villages, counties, states (at least 24 named for Indian tribes), roads, parks, mountains, lakes, ponds, rivers, creeks, swamps, deserts, valleys, colleges, schools, all kinds of teams, stores, restaurants, etc. Do you think these names were chosen as a way to humiliate or dishonor the Indians? Of course not, it's ridiculous to even consider the thought.,
North Brookfield has absolutely nothing for which they need to apologize or explain: the name was meant to honor their history and inspire those wearing the name on their athletic jerseys, and, just as importantly, to give the students and the athletes—and the whole town—a sense of tradition, something to give the schools an identity of which they could be proud not only as students but for the rest of their lives, as in “Once an “Indian,” always an “Indian!”
It is disappointing to me to consider the parents of the school kids, especially the ones coming up who might have looked forward to playing for the “Indians” one day, are probably just going to roll over and let three self-appointed guardians of the moral rectitude of the townsfolk decide how these people (those who pay for the schools and their staff in the first place) may choose to express their preferences for something as basic as a nickname for the school teams. I have no idea who these school committee arbiters of “good taste” may be, but I'm willing to bet they are probably teachers in other school systems, or married to teachers, the parents or children of teachers, or in some other way have a connection to the Massachusetts Teachers Association or the Democrat Party. If so, you already know where their loyalties lie, and they're not with the majority of the people of a town that was so retrograde as to vote for President Trump. They (the Committee) need to be opposed. Period. It is not a hill to die on, I suppose, but it's an

Turn To **MCRAE** page **A15**

Mask science from an engineer

To the Editor:
I am a mechanical engineer, and have studied fluid flow mechanics in college. I also took chemistry and biology. I am going to explain the mechanics of the human body, and how masks are affecting the function of our bodies.
The human body is a biomechanical machine. The design uses sugar intake from the foods we eat as energy. This sugar is distributed throughout our bodies, to the brain and all other organs, by the blood using a pump called the heart. Our body needs to oxidize this sugar to produce the energy. It does this by absorbing oxygen from the air and transferring to the Hemoglobin in the blood. The intake system of our bodies has been designed for this purpose over millions of years. It has developed to work efficiently. The nose has hairs and mucus inside that act as filters. The nose is used primarily for low flow applications. When we need increased flow, we use the mouth, which has no filters. It was designed explicitly this way so we can increase energy consumption quickly to fight or escape. It is designed to have an open, free air flow. So, what happens when a mask or restriction is placed across the opening? The exact same as happens on any system. It makes the pump and absorbing system work harder; this means in humans, the heart beats harder and the lungs need to work faster to get the same air flow as without one. So therefore, a mask is stressing the body out in those who already have underlying issues. It can cause those systems to fail earlier, or if the system cannot keep up, deprive vital organs of oxygen. Decreased oxygen could cause muscles to fatigue and damage to the brain.
Another issue is the mask design themselves. If these are used as a filter, then what is the mesh? This is the size of the holes in the fabric. The smaller they are, the smaller particles they filter out. Adversely, the smaller the holes, the harder it is to breathe through. So has the Dr. Fauci come out and told us what mesh a mask needs to stop the Covid particles? Of course not, because he doesn't know. So a general statement of wear a mask means nothing. The other critical question is what is the filter (masks) material made of? Are they FDA compliant materials that have been demonstrated to not cause cancer? Do they contain asbestos fibers or PCB's? So where is this data on the masks available to the general public? The answer is it is not. Ninety-nine percent of the masks come from China. We have absolutely no idea of their mfg. processes and what

materials they are using. What happens when people start developing lung cancers down the road from wearing these masks because they were made of carcinogenic materials from China? Would you rather you have a child wear a cancer-causing mask or take the chance of getting Covid where he has almost a 99% chance of no ill effects. I personally would not want the chance of cancer. If you do develop cancer, who is at fault? A Chinese company cannot be sued so you have no recourse from the mask producer. Maybe you can sue Gov Baker if your child gets lung cancer? He mandated that you had to wear it. If a company forces you to wear a mask and you develop lung cancer, do you have a right to sue them? You should have a good case against them in a lawsuit unless they can prove they provided safe masks. I suggest you keep documented samples of them. You may need them later if you develop cancer. I would definitely not sign a waiver.
Another issue is concerning the masks is the effectiveness in real world conditions. These are generally tested in a lab with controlled conditions. What happens as it captures these particles. At what point is it overloaded and no longer functioning. How long can the Covid virus live on the masks? What happens when you touch it and then touch your nose or eyes? Did the FDA and Fauci research the effect under these conditions. It does not appear they did. So how did they judge their effectiveness to real life conditions? The answer is they did not.
I personally only wear a mask when I am forced to. Usually in stores or at work. Whenever outside, I immediately remove it to relieve the stress from my breathing system. I use a cotton bandana as a mask because I know the material. Prior to using I wash it to remove any loose particles. It also allows air flow from the bottom, so it is not a complete restriction. also find riding my motorcycle beneficial. The open exposure to air at high speed greatly increases the airflow into my lungs, invigorating my system. It's almost identical to a turbo charger on a gas engine. You can take this letter as direct evidence of the increased cognitive function I get from riding my Harley. More Oxygen to the brain. It also explains why most bike riders are Trump supporters.
The above is my view of the masks debate. I am sure the constantly masked liberal Democrats will try to take umbrage to it. Let them refute my sci-

Turn To **ROBILLARD** page **A11**

Apparently, no lives matter

To the Editor:
Over the last week or so, I have seen and heard a lot of 2020 retrospectives. It is almost hard to imagine that the news last January and February, fully 16 percent of 2020, did not focus on the Coronavirus, Black Lives Matter, or the fires and orange/red skies of the U.S. West Coast.
Does anyone remember January 2020? There was record heat and drought in Australia for the peak of their summer, leading to enormous forest fires that killed 500 people, destroyed 10,000 buildings, burned 46 million acres, and had killed so many animals that many are now on the brink of extinction. Climate change was in full force this year between Australia's record fires, the west coast's record fires, and the most active Atlantic hurricane season on record.
On the Trumpian front, the president ordered the assignment of Iranian Gen. Qasem Soleimani by dropping a bomb on his car in Iraq from a drone. The strike was not approved by the U.S. Congress, consented to by the Iraqi government, and appeared to violate the Charter of the United Nations regarding extrajudicial summary executions, which as a treaty we signed carries the force of law. To make it not violate U.S. law, Iraqi law, international law, and treaties we ratified, the Trump administration claimed it was an act of self-defense against an “imminent threat...” A drone strike on a car driving on a road seems a bit thin, but OK... Doesn't seem like a great precedent for the “leader of the free world” to set... Iran retaliated by launching ballistic missiles into a U.S. base in Iraq with no deaths but 100 traumatic brain injuries. Hours after Iran had struck the U.S. base a Ukrainian Airlines 737 had taken off from Tehran carrying 176 people including 63 Canadians, 10 Swedes, and 3 Brits. Iran, on highest alert for retaliation from the U.S., mistook this plane for a U.S. bomber and shot it down killing everyone. We shouldn't forget who started this volley of violence...
This thing called the “novel coronavirus” which was discovered on Dec. 31, 2019, was reported on by WHO on Jan. 5, and had its genome sequenced and published on Jan. 11 was spreading and causing enormous strain on Wuhan, China's medical system leading to a complete and sudden lockdown on Jan. 22. The Chinese government managed to start construction on a 1,000 bed hospital on Jan. 23, and was completed on Feb. 3 with a new 22,000 square foot lab to process 10,000 samples/day being built in five days, opening on Feb. 5. Meanwhile in the U.S., it took Alex Azar 18 days

to finally get a telephone meeting with Trump to discuss the virus only for the president to interrupt and ask when flavored vaping products would be back on the market. It seems as though President Trump told journalist Bob Woodward on Feb. 7 that Coronavirus was “deadly stuff,” transmitted by air, “more deadly” than the flu, and admitted that the warnings around him had been rampant. The National Security Advisor told Trump that COVID-19 would be “the largest national security crisis of your presidency.” Trump even admitted to Woodward that he always wanted to play it down, and he still prefers to play it down as to not cause a panic.
As we got into March it became obvious that the coronavirus had been spreading undetected in the United States for all of February and people started flowing in to our hospitals at unprecedented rates. Trump called it the Democrats’ “new hoax”, said it was going away, and all sorts of other things counter to what he seemed to understand on the Woodward tapes. Of course, the governors ended up taking things into their own hands in a disjointed manner with no organized strategy to avoid a mass death event. Some governors took it seriously, others thought it was a joke. One of the funniest was Ron DeSantis of Florida who fired the data scientist in charge of tracking the pandemic for refusing to lie that it was safe to re-open, went on TV gloating about how Florida “did it right” and took a victory lap of re-opening, only for a major outbreak in the summer which filled their ICU's and actually caused DeSantis to pull back.
There was a racial reckoning in America this year following George Floyd's death which was caused by a police officer kneeling on his neck for 8 minutes while bystanders recorded the incident and tried to reason with the manslaughterer-in-blue. This caused the largest protest movement in history with Black Lives Matter protests in 2,000 cities and town in all 50 states, all 5 inhabited U.S. territories, D.C., and even a few in the Brookfields with an estimated 26 million people participating nationwide. Outside the United States, Black Lives Matter protests were held in 60 countries and on all 7 continents in thousands of individual protests involving millions of people.
The Black Lives Matter movement didn't start with George Floyd but he was certainly a catalyst to the massive protests. Just looking at the high profile ones for 2020 alone, Ahmaud Arbery was killed on Feb. 23, Breonna Taylor was killed by

Turn To **TAYLOR** page **A11**

KANE
continued from page A8

older. This means that possibly fewer working age people have to work and provide more of the economic growth needed for the well-being of children and more and more retirees, (or in my case, approaching “upper middle age”). Therefor It is in our American interest to well educate not only who live in a well-off suburbs, but each and every possible child in the United States.

What happens when “better” countries make sure almost all children get a good education and we do not?

We fall further behind the “better”

countries

As we continue to decline and China rises, we become more at risk,

Relative to our overall population, our labor force not only shrinks but has less ability to “grow” our economy, and

We have a larger working age “dependent” population of NEETs, those Not in Education, Employment or Training or worse - living lives of despair and/or bad behavior.

Because we can study “Better Country” educational practices, if willing, doable solutions exist. These include:

Raising the respect, appreciation, and salary levels of good teachers and educators to at least that of similar

professionals in the private sector,

Upgrading school buildings, infrastructure, facilities and IT systems to 21st century needs and private sector like levels, and

Providing resources needed to educate children who for one reason or another require extra attention and support.

This requires levels of local school funding similar to well off Boston suburbs. Our towns cannot reach these levels alone, especially from property taxes. State and national governments need to assist. For this we need to raise taxes on the wealthy. This not just “help the poor”. Rather this additional funding will help our country build the kind of labor force we need to

improve our economy and our people's well-being.

Likewise, it is not that the wealthy are overtaxed. They have paid higher taxes in the past and have still prospered. Also, they - not so much people in our towns - save money with tax cuts for the rich and often receive - from our tax payments - subsidy payments, or “welfare for the millionaire.”

If we want to regain top rankings and increased security, we need to put education for all our children at the top of the “Back to the Future List.”

KEVIN KANE
SPENCER

ROSENBERG
continued from page A9

botching the rollout.

President-Elect Biden is going to inherit this mess which is a lot harder to clean up than it would have been to ameliorate it from the beginning. None of us should expect any silver bullet or things to improve overnight, but government can perform better than our government performed for us in 2020 and I expect things to gradually improve in 2021.

The unsettling lessons we learned are about democracy in the United States and just how weak our institutions are. Democracy in the United States at the end of 2020 looked a lot more fragile than any of us understood it to be. The aftermath of the 2020 election we saw what everyone assumed was an unassailable democratic norm – the concept that a candidate would accept the outcome of an election they lost. Even as irresponsible, self-involved, and unpatriotic as President Trump has been since even before he became president, we still assumed he would accept in the end the results of a democratic election begrudgingly and ungraciously. Instead, we see the spectacle that is continuing and is going to continue after President Trump is no longer

President. Joe Biden will be sworn in as president on January 20, what is concerning about this is how the unimaginable has become normalized and is no more imaginable going forward... As we go forward, is accepting the outcome of an election you lost only something “losers” do?

Joe Biden is walking into a mess and there isn't much he can do on day one, but as we get deeper into 2021, we will start to see the impact of having a professional staff and competent leadership. We have seen messing up at every level for years now and it is hard to imagine a time when the federal government did its job and wasn't subject to whims on Twitter. We aren't out of the woods, though; Mitch McConnell and Republicans are likely to retain control of the Senate. Joe Biden's impact will unfortunately be mostly focused on the executive branch and undoing the damage Trump has done, re-establishing regulations, repealing and enacting executive orders, etc.

At the very end of 2020, we saw an interesting political fight over \$2,000 direct payments. Trump said he wanted them, then the House passed a clean bill, then Mitch McConnell blocked it instead saying that he wanted to tie internet regulations and an election fraud commission to it. For all those years of Republicans

wanting “clean bills” that didn't have unrelated things it them it is rich for McConnell to bundle unrelated silly things Trump wanted into a single bill. The funniest though was when several Republicans spoke at length about how Coronavirus relief should be targeted to those who need it and not given to higher income folks who don't need it. “Targeted aid” would be things like unemployment, food stamps, public housing, etc... When did Republicans start supporting increasing “targeted aid”? As for opposing untargeted aid to those that don't need it, that is also disingenuous considering how the 2017 tax cut shoveled billions of dollars at wealthy people who didn't need it. I'm really disappointed that Bernie Sanders didn't write a new bill for \$2,000 direct payments for all Americans and call it a “tax cut” since Republicans love untargeted aid when it bears the name “tax cut.”

It should be obvious to all that Mitch McConnell simply wanted to stop the bill in its tracks and not send you \$2,000 – he never cared about 47 U.S.C. § 230, the provision of the Communication Decency Act Trump hates so much because it prevents him from suing Facebook and YouTube.

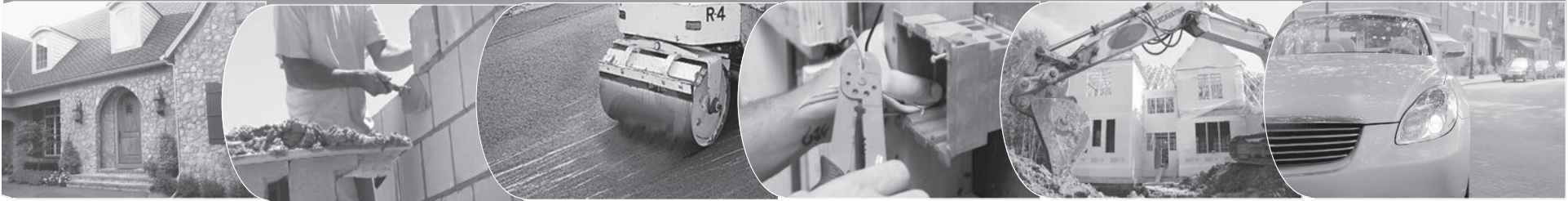
Concerning the scores of Republican Senators and Congressmen that are planning on objecting to certifying

Joe Biden's Electoral College win, it moves the Republican party even more divorced from reality for the post-Trump era than they even have been. The movement is led by Sen. Josh Hawley, a historian and a Yale Law graduate, knows better. He's pretending that something is true he has to know is not true because it plays to his base. Going forward, it looks like Republican politicians are going to be doing a lot of performative display of Trumpian unreality. This is very bad news for the country because we can't move forward unless and until there is one 1 shared reality and shared truth between all parties.

In some respect, the Jan. 6 stunt of objecting to the Electoral College count has a strange upside. Too often during Trump's presidency, Republican elected officials have been able to avoid taking a stand on the outrageous things Trump said or did. At least when they try to overturn the election on Jan. 6 the Republican Senators and House members will have to admit to the public whether or not they are more dedicated to the cult of Trump or respecting the constitution. It's important for these traitors to be memorialized as such in the History books.

DAVID ROSENBERG
SPENCER

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HAR-YAROK

continued from page A9

ID, and minorities are 5x more likely not to have ID than white people, so obvious advantage Republicans. When you consider that Biden’s margin of victory in Georgia, Arizona, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Nevada was all less than 3 percent, of course voter suppression as a primary strategy would work.

My answer to Mr. Robillard is this: DO IT. I dare you. Do your best to organize widespread voter fraud to benefit Republicans. I double-dog-dare you! You think it’s easy to steal and election and not get caught but I’m pretty sure there is a cell in the federal penitentiary with your name on it. Let’s see who is right. Register your dog and your dead relatives to vote by mail. Go break democracy with your “civil disobedience.”

On the COVID front, the United States missed our last chance to control the situation and limit the carnage. We failed to close the roads and shut down Thanksgiving which predictably led to everything getting worse in Massachusetts. Not only the number of new daily cases to double by Christmas Eve but the number of people hospitalized with COVID also doubled, and the number of people in the ICU also doubled. Oh, don’t forget, we saw the number of daily deaths double between Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve double as well. One would think that with these grim statistics, Gov. Baker would finally do the right thing, but no such luck. It will take a few weeks to fully understand the impact that

TAYLOR

continued from page A9

police on March 13, George Floyd on May 25, Rayshard Brooks shot in the back and killed on June 12, Jacob Blake was shot in the back, the Kenosha incident where a teenage white nationalist crossed state lines to shoot people protesting, and many more...

We heard the familiar chant of “Black Lives Matter” which of course no reasonable person could disagree with only to be countered by Right-ists (conservatives, Republicans, Trumpicans) with “ALL LIVES MATTER”. The point of the “Black Lives Matter” chant is of course that black lives are currently treated like they don’t matter by our state funded institutions. To avoid confusion the BLM movement should probably be, “BLMT” for “Black Lives Matter, Too”. The implicit “too” apparently wasn’t understood by all.

Of course all lives matter, but are all races being treated equally by our institutions? The data says no. So, what’s wrong with “All Lives Matter” as a direct response to “Black Lives Matter...” It is a naked attempt to change the subject and willfully ignore the problem. It’s a way of dismissing the BLM mission by falsely suggesting they have an implicit “only” in their mission. Furthermore, it is an attempt to cause an unrelated culture war to distract from the problem being protested.

As we moved from summer into fall, the racial reckoning and the backlash it started fading back into the background and the coronavirus crisis came back front-and-center. The pandemic hit its

KIMBALL

continued from page A8

one’s neck until they die, we have recently learned of a no knock search warrant being served by a dozen Chicago police officers, in the middles of the night, at a wrong address. Upon entry, they found a naked woman, whom they handcuffed, but left standing naked in the presence of the dozen police wearing body cameras, for 35 minutes before covering her, and well beyond when they realized they were in the wrong apartment, which they searched anyways. (Perhaps grasping at straws for justification.)

Whoever furnished the wrong address should be fired. Whoever was in charge on site should have known why they were there, as should all of those present- failing that, should be fired. Those officers, even not in charge, should have asked questions, and possess some level of judgement and basic moral decency. For their inaction, they should be fired.

I am not sure if any apology was ever given, but it took the lady almost a year to obtain the bodycam footage, and no investigation record exists. The mayor of Chicago indicates that her city pays

Christmas and New Year’s gatherings had. On the bright side, January and February are pretty socially quiet months anyway.

The US, blue states included now, seem to have a strategy of only “feathering the brakes” of this as we threaten to literally overrun the hospitals and ICU’s leading to rationing of care. Southern California literally ran out of ICU space, and then general hospital space leading to beds with patients in hallways. In Massachusetts we now have 2 Army field hospitals operating in convention centers and mathematically we are projected to run out of capacity even with that by the end of January. Gov. Baker to the rescue, and he means business! He limits restaurant capacity to 25 percent starting Saturday, Dec. 26 – apparently cancelling Christmas restaurant reservations is scarier than literally running out of hospital capacity... Of course he ignored the fact that COVID is a “talking disease,” it spreads within tables, not between tables. The Governor used his vast executive powers to “urge” and “implore” people not to have New Year’s parties. Talk about saying you did something when actually accomplishing nothing...

How does the COVID crisis end? The holidays are behind us and several vaccines are in front of us so there is light at the end of this tunnel. We only vaccinated 10 percent of the goal for December – so far, not-so-good. On a per-capita basis Israel has already vaccinated nine times more people than the USA. It doesn’t appear that enough people intend to take the vaccine to achieve herd immunity meaning it will never actually go away, many won’t get their second shot, immu-

lowest point around Labor Day, but the U.S. still had a substantial base level of infection. After Labor Day cases and deaths began to rise exponentially once again. Once again, we started the same argument from the spring about whether the deaths mattered or not. After all, a lot of them were old people who were going to die of something, anyway... After all, 40 percent of them were in nursing homes... After all, most of them had underlying conditions (ignoring the fact that 60% of our population has an underlying condition)... After all, so many of the dead were fat and had let themselves go...

The thing nobody wanted to say too loudly is that black people got the virus at 1.7 times the rate of whites and if they got it died at 2.8 times the rate of whites... Hispanics got the virus at 1.7 times the rate and died at 2.8 times the rate of white... Native Americans got the virus at 1.8 times the rate and died at 2.6 times the rate... So the chances of a non-white person dying from coronavirus was up to five times more likely compared to a white person. The reasons for this are complex but in the United States, at least for the first wave, this turned out to be a “brown person disease” – no wonder it was considered by Trumpicans to be no big deal. How many deaths were there of young fertile healthy Aryan people? Obviously, we need to subtract out the elderly, the underlying conditions, the poor health due to lifestyle, and the browns before we can get to the number of deaths Trumpicans care about...

Throughout the year, the epicenter of the coronavirus in the U.S. kept moving making it hard to understand who to blame. By late fall the epicenter was in the middle of the country to some of

out billions in damages and restitution for this kind of police work. When Biden was asked about his position on defunding the police, he indicated that we need to spend more. Have more trained and capable responses in every situation. Had those billions been used this way, these kinds of ridiculous stories would be far less frequent.

I assure you that I am not ridiculing police. We have some in the family, and they are more embarrassed and outraged at this kind of policing than the rest of us. All police that I know are well trained, capable public servants, and deserve our respect and thanks every day, as do our other people in uniform.

If you have heard the term-”pennywise and dollar foolish” it brings to mind a sign my brother-in-law posted in his garage.

Repairs-\$25/hour, \$35/hour if you help, \$50/hour if you already screwed it up and want it fixed.

My former boss had a couple of stories he used when people complained about his prices.

“When you buy good fresh oats, you must pay a fair price. Oats that have already passed through the horse, are cheaper.”

Whether we are talking about police,

nity will wane with time, etc. What then? What does “new normal” look like, and how will we get there? How will it end?

I predict that the current surge will continue to rise and crest in February with governors getting spooked if/when they run out of hospital capacity and care is rationed. After that, the effects of vaccinations and natural infection will bring down the infection and hospitalization rates, and it will look good. A dull roar of 1,000 deaths per day will look good. We will not squash this but instead stabilize at an infection rate that hospitals can handle. The deaths, disease, and a permanently lower life expectancy will be normalized. One lasting impact to our society might be a permanently higher number of hospital beds per capita. America didn’t have it in us to control this virus, we collectively found rationing care unacceptable, so perhaps we will settle on building hospital infrastructure for a permanently sicker population.

Soon, COVID will be a normal risk of living in America, like car accidents. When we settle into a stable number of hospitalizations and deaths, it will no longer be news.

The social scars will live on for years. Some people will decide its over in summer 2021, while others will be judging maskless group photos on Facebook for years. There is a long tail of businesses that will go under waiting for customers to gradually become less scared. Restaurants will fail anyway if only 50 percent of their former clientele even wants to go back. Imagine if we turned it off like a switch and back on six weeks later. We could have had in-person fireworks on New Year’s Eve, like Auckland,

the Trumpiest states where the Dakotas became the worst place on the planet on a per-capita basis for cases and deaths. This was especially unforgiveable because they had the benefit of many months of warning before it got to them and they decided to ignore the experts. This time the coronavirus was killing white Trump supporters, so you would think that would change the calculus? Well, by this point the cult-of-Trump couldn’t admit they made a mistake trusting Trump and couldn’t face the obvious ways he mishandled the situation so these coronavirus victims would just as to be the sacrificial lambs to keep the delusion alive.

Between irresponsible military strikes causing collateral damage, then retaliation causing severe and possibly lifelong injuries, and then collateral damage of western civilians...to intentionally ignoring the biggest disease threat to humanity in 100 years in an ill-fated attempt to avoid a stock market collapse...to undermining managing the global plague to stick to a narrative...to the visceral reaction and backlash to millions of people protesting against police killing unarmed people...to ignoring the global plague again as it resurged to an even larger death toll than before this time calmly deciding that saving people isn’t worth denting the delusion...to not caring when the plague finally reached the rural nooks and crannies of our society full of “real Americans”... Oh, and don’t forget willfully ignoring climate change... We can only be sure of one thing: Apparently, no lives matter.

RICHARD TAYLOR
SPENCER

New Zealand...

How is COVID doing? Worse than ever. Cases continue to rise, we’re now at >280,000/day confirmed. The situation is even worse than the statistics suggest because testing was way down during the holiday weeks, the test positivity rate is up, and hospitalizations continued to climb while confirmed cases remained stable. This indicates we’re missing cases.

Since I wrote my last letter, active COVID hospitalizations have increased 21 percent in Massachusetts. Since I wrote my last letter, 40,000 more Americans have died for a total of 351,302 and 3.2 million more Americans have been confirmed to have the disease for a total of 20,577,177 Americans. While some people claim that COVID deaths are “over-counted,” I contend that they are in fact under-counted. Looking at data from the CDC, there were 15 percent more deaths than usual for March-Nov 2020 compared to a 3-year average. If we scale that to today’s death toll, that would mean that 484,796 more American died since this pandemic started than a normal year. Perhaps there is another explanation for this sudden increase...

We had a chance to squash this, and it was squandered. We had the chance to shut down holidays and save hundreds of thousands of lives in the years to come but we squandered that, too. Our deal is sealed. We professed our national values. It’s disgusting, it’s pathetic, but at least the path we’re on is now clear.

OMAR HAR-YAROK
EAST BROOKFIELD

ROBILLARD

continued from page A9

ence. I don’t think they could. Judging from letters, they have suffered from the decreased oxygen to the brain. If they attended college, it was probably a degree in Liberal arts. Math and science would be too hard for them to comprehend. They don’t want you to evaluate the pros and cons and make your own decision on what’s best for you. They want to scare the populace with the pseudo-science of the doctors they put in front of you. The reason is obvious. It was always political tool to be used to attack Trump. In the end, the COVID is just like the Flu. If you get it, stay home until you feel better. If you see someone with symptoms, stay clear of them. If you think you are coming down with something, stay clear of people. Just like the flu or a cold, wash your hands frequently. Remember the science. You were designed by our creator and thru evolution with the necessary systems to overcome this virus. Once you get it and recover, you are stronger for it.

MARK ROBILLARD
SPENCER

Editor’s note: The views expressed in the preceding letter are the author’s own, and are not shared or endorsed by the staff of the Spencer New Leader.

BLAIS

continued from page A8

rebuke Satan [evil] it is God’s desire to bring each one of us into fellowship with Himself [God] through God’s Son Jesus. The choice is yours; it is a gift of free will [choice] from God. [Ezekiel 18: 21]

This message comes from the heart of God through James a New Testament apostle of Jesus.

To all who are reading this, take the time to take this serious that God’s love for you has been from the beginning of time, it is Adam and Eve’s sin that caused us today to inherit our sinful nature, “and” God’s love for us is so great, eternal that God has been giving us endless opportunity to redeem us through God’s Son Jesus sacrificing Himself on the cross; and again today God’s is crying out to us through His apostle James to humble our self. {James 4: 10]

Jesus is saying, teaching come, come to the Father [God] through Jesus who loves you. God created us with a free will to make our own choice, choices for our earthly and eternal future. The choice is ours, yours, each of us as individuals. [Revelation 22: 17] Do you want a bless life now and eternal, live by God’s moral laws.

ROLAND BLAIS
BROOKFIELD

LEGALS

Town of West Brookfield
Zoning Board of Appeals

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the West Brookfield Town Hall, to act on an application for a Special Permit for Camie Lamica, for the property located at 24 Maple Street, West Brookfield. The applicant wishes to build a single-family dwelling, in the General District. This requires a special permit as per section, -4 Dimensional Requirements: §4.2 Schedule of Dimensional Requirements (a) (et al). The public is invited to attend.

Renee Adams White
Clerk

January 8, 2021
January 15, 2021

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. WO20P3489EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate of:

Marian Elizabeth Cogswell
Date of Death: 09/29/2020

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Pamela J. Velazquez** of **Spencer MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner Requests that: **Pamela J. Velazquez** of **Spencer MA**

be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an 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 01/12/2021.** 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: December 15, 2020

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate

January 8, 2021

POLICE REPORTS

Spencer Police

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9
12:19-12:30 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:32 a.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), flyer issued; 12:35-12:51 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:24 a.m.: DPW call (Crestview Drive), lg. limb over road; 9:55-10:01 a.m.: parking violations (Mechanic, Church streets), tickets issued; 10:10 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 11:09 a.m.: officer wanted (Browning Pond Road), delivery driver stuck; 12:14 p.m.: animal complaint (North Spencer Road), loose horse; 1:30 p.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 1:59 p.m.: medical/general (Sherwood Drive); 3:33 p.m.: medical/general (Wm. Casey Road); 3:41 p.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 4:04 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (South Spencer Road), accidental; 4:04 p.m.: trespass (Main Street), hunters on property; 4:21 p.m.: restraining order service (Pearl Street); 4:53 p.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 5:47 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 5:49 p.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 6:14 p.m.: parking violation (Chestnut Street), ticket issued; 6:58 p.m.: medical/general (Treadwell Drive), lift assist; 8:15 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), services rendered; 6(Total daily mv stops – 4).

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10
12:00-1:40 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:48 a.m.: assault (Mechanic Street), Jeff M. Castro, 39, 8 Sunset Lance, Spencer, assault/battery w/ dangerous weapon, threatening to commit a crime, assault w/ dangerous weapon, accosting/annoying another person, arrest; 3:22 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 7:04 a.m.: animal complaint (Park Street), dog in water; 8:22 a.m.: medical/general (Chickering Road); 8:41 a.m.: officer wanted (Summit Street), rep. of threats; 9:40 a.m.: medical/general (Wilson Street); 10:00 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 11:48 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), interpreter services/relay; 1:16 p.m.: disturbance(-Main Street), fem. out of control; 1:21 p.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), assisted; 2:33 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), baby duck in road; 2:49 p.m.: larceny (Mechanic Street), tires stolen; 3:20 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 4:00 p.m.: medical/general (High Street); 4:11-4:40 p.m.: parking violations (Mechanic, Main streets), tickets issued; 4:45 p.m.: animal complaint (Borkum Road), loose dog; 5:46 p.m.: parking violation (Charlton Road), ticket issued; 5:48 p.m.: animal complaint (Clark Road), mv vs dog; 6:29 p.m.: 911 call (Cherry Street), family issue; 7:40 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), tailgating; 8:39 p.m.: suspicious mv (North Spencer Road), investigated; 9:00 p.m.: building checked, secure; 11:48 p.m.: officer wanted (Rene Drive), spoken to; 11:58 p.m.: suspicious mv (South Spencer Road), investigated; 11:59 p.m.: building checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops – 2).

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11
12:05 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:20 a.m.: disturbance (I. Capen Road), services rendered; 12:39 a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 12:44-3:16 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:35 a.m.: commercial alarm (Meadow Road), services rendered; 9:46 a.m.: officer wanted (High Street), welfare check; 9:53 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), mailboxes rifled through; 9:55 a.m.: mv lockout (Clark Street), assisted; 10:12 a.m.: officer wanted (South Spencer Road), services rendered; 10:38 a.m.: medical/general (Jolicoeur Avenue); 10:46 a.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 11:05 a.m.: medical/general (Temple Street); 11:17 a.m.: mv repossessed (Bixby Road), info taken; 11:33 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 12:38 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 2:05 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 2:44 p.m.: fire alarm (Olde Main Street), services rendered; 3:36 p.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 3:50 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), loose dog; 3:57 p.m.: parking violation (Maple Street), ticket issued; 4:30 p.m.: officer wanted (Wall Street), info given; 4:36 p.m.: officer wanted (Duggan Street), rep. threats; 4:44 p.m.: multiple LTC issued/4 (West Main Street), assisted; 5:23 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), welfare check; 5:40 p.m.: suspicious mv (Browning Pond Road), investigated; 6:26 p.m.: medical/general (Grove Street); 8:45 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 9:01-9:35 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:47 p.m.: fire (North Spencer Road), referred; 11:33-11:34 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 11:45 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Grafton PD bolo; 11:49-11:54 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops – 5).

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12
12:12 a.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 12:14-12:31 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:33-12:37 a.m.: parking violations (Church, Elm streets), tickets issued; 12:41-12:46 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:50 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Johnn N. Riel, 31, 12 Englewood Avenue, Worcester, OUI liquor, negligent operation, marked lanes violation, speeding, arrest; 2:27 a.m.: abandoned 911 call

(Lincoln Street), open line; 7:51 a.m.: DPW call (Maple Street), spoken to; 9:11 a.m.: officer wanted (Greenville Street), re: texts from ex-gf; 9:13 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 10:52 a.m.: medical/general (Jolicoeur Avenue); 11:42 a.m.: parking complaint (Mechanic Street), info taken; 11:55 a.m.: animal complaint (Adams Street), injured hawk; 12:23 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), issue w/co-worker; 12:39 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 1:14 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 1:25 p.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 2:22 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 2:43 p.m.: medical/general (High Street); 3:22 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), spoofed; 3:24 p.m.: medical/general (Norcross Road); 3:57 p.m.: officer wanted (Franklin Street), wire in road; 4:02 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Old East Charlton Road), no contact; 4:06 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 6:25 p.m.: officer wanted (Chickering Road), limb in road; 8:08 p.m.: disabled mv (Brooks Pond Road), assisted; 8:23 p.m.: accident (Howe Road), assisted; 8:29-8:31 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:51 p.m.: parking violation (Church Street), ticket issued; 8:52-8:56 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:57 p.m.: animal complaint (Jolicoeur Avenue), loose dog; (Total daily mv stops – 5).

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13
12:54-1:58 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:29 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 3:03 a.m.: medical/general (Lewalson Lane); 7:43 a.m.: mv lockout (Pleasant Street), assisted; 8:17 a.m.: fire alarm (Valley Street), referred; 10:04 a.m.: residential alarm (Old East Charlton Road), services rendered; 11:10 a.m.: mv lockout (Mechanic Street), assisted; 11:19 a.m.: vandalism (Main Street), abandoned 911 call; 12:03 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 12:30 p.m.: officer wanted (Bixby Road), req. escort/retrieve belongings; 1:45 p.m.: 911 call (Main Street), open line; 2:47 p.m.: animal complaint (Oak Lane), loose dogs; 2:54 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 3:17 p.m.: 911 call (Main Street), no contact; 3:44 p.m.: officer wanted (Northwest Road), gunshots heard; 5:21 p.m.: medical/general (Sullivan Street); 6:28 p.m.: disturbance (West Main Street), verbal altercation; 6:42 p.m.: building checked, secure; 7:10 p.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), shirt found; 9:54 p.m.: animal complaint (Greenville Street), mv vs deer; 11:48 p.m.: disturbance (Chestnut Street), Ruby M. Mancini, 25, 37 Beechmont Street, Worcester, disturbing the peace, arrest; (Total daily mv stops – 0).

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14
1:32-2:31 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:31 a.m.: disturbance (Chestnut Street), noise complaint; 6:29 a.m.: mv theft (Pleasant Street), investigated; 10:28 a.m.: mv repossessed (Valley Street), info taken; 11:17 a.m.: medical/general (Ash Street); 11:24-11:55 p.m.: parking violations (Mechanic Street), tickets issued; 12:14 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 1:48 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), mv keyed; 2:18 p.m.: fraud (Kittredge Road), SS scam call; 2:37 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 3:27 p.m.: animal complaint (South Street), injured animal; 4:01 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 5:04 p.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), rep. being followed; 5:37 p.m.: mutual aid (Bixby Road), welfare check; 8:50 p.m.: officer wanted (Wall Street), rep. fell; 9:15 p.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), icy conditions; 9:32 p.m.: suspicious mv (Hastings Road), investigated; 9:48 p.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; 10:37 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 10:46 p.m.: medical/general (Grove Street); 11:30 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops – 1).

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15
12:09-2:22 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:55 a.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 8:01 a.m.: DPW call (Pleasant Street), stones spilled in roadway; 9:29 a.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 10:29 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (west Main Street), no contact; 10:29 a.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 10:34 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:38-10:55 a.m.: parking violations/4 (Mechanic Street), tickets issued; 10:58 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), branch in road; 11:00 a.m.: 911 call (Sherman Grove), accidental; 11:10 a.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), services rendered; 11:17-1:10 a.m.: parking violations/3 (Mechanic Street), tickets issued; 1:40 p.m.: 911 call (McCormick Road), accidental; 1:44 p.m.: DPW call (Main Street), low-hanging wire; 2:06 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 2:49 p.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 3:08 p.m.: DPW call (Walnut Street), wire down; 4:28 p.m.: fire alarm (Lake Extension Street), referred; 4:33 p.m.: FID card issued (West Main Street), assisted; 4:33 p.m.: multiple LTC issued/3 (West Main Street), assisted; 4:42 p.m.: fraud (Sherwood Drive), rep. scam; 5:38 p.m.: medical/general (Woodland Lane); 7:06 p.m.: mv lockout (Pleasant Street), assisted; 7:58 p.m.: fire alarm (Grove Street), referred; 8:18 p.m.: fraud (G.H. Wilson Road), theft from account; 8:21 p.m.: medical/general (Chickering Road); 9:14 p.m.: 911 call (Northwest

Road), open line; 9:28 p.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 9:32 p.m.: building checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops – 3).

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16
12:46-1:20 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:22 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 7:30 a.m.: intelligence/criminal (West Main Street), Dudley PD bolo; 7:40 a.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), assisted; 8:41 a.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), traffic lights out; 10:10 a.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 10:11 a.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 10:42 a.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 10:44 a.m.: accident (West Main Street), info taken; 11:01 a.m.: 911 call (Wherry Lane), misdial; 11:08 a.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 12:00 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 12:03 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. traffic control; 12:06 p.m.: burglary (Smithville Road), money taken; 1:06 p.m.: DPW call (North Brookfield Road), debris in road; 2:23 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road), lift assist; 2:24 p.m.: officer wanted (Northwest Road), fence knocked down; 2:48 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 3:19 p.m.: medical/general (Summit Street); 3:41 p.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 3:48 p.m.: DPW call (Hastings Road), flowing water; 4:27 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 5:53 p.m.: animal complaint (Clark Street), loose dog; 5:58 p.m.: parking complaint (Church Street), services rendered; 7:49-7:55 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:49 p.m.: residential alarm (Fourth Avenue), services rendered; 9:06 p.m.: medical/general (Northwest Road); 9:36 p.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), road conditions; 10:31 p.m.: accident (Northwest Road), plow struck wall; 11:31 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 11:35 p.m.: building checked, secure; 11:43 p.m.: officer wanted (Brooks Farm Road), welfare check; (Total daily mv stops – 3).

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17
6:14 a.m.: disabled mv (Maple Street), assisted; 7:04 a.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), assisted; 8:40 a.m.: suspicious mv (Pleasant Street), info taken; 9:05 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 9:40 a.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 12:26 p.m.: assault w/knife (Bixby Road), Cashia Coffey-Arakelow, 41, 19 Bixby Road, Spencer, assault w/dangerous weapon, arrest; 12:57 p.m.: DPW call (Grant Street), TT unit stuck; 1:31 p.m.: medical/general (Temple Street); 1:41 p.m.: accident (Summit Street), hit/run; 2:35 p.m.: larceny (Lloyd Dyer Drive), delivered pkg. stolen; 2:52 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 3:15 p.m.: intelligence/criminal (West Main Street), info taken; 4:10 p.m.: counterfeiting/forgery (West Main Street), info from Town Hall; 4:30 p.m.: DPW call (Old East Charlton Road), cable down; 5:03 p.m.: DPW call (Northwest Road), ice conditions; 5:43 p.m.: accident (Wall Street), hit/run; 6:53 p.m.: officer wanted (Valley Street), boyfriend missing; 7:14 p.m.: disturbance (Wall Street), noise complaint; 8:12 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Water Street), accidental; 9:01 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 9:37 p.m.: building checked, secure; 9:52 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 10:20 p.m.: building checked, secure. (Total daily mv stops -1).

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18
1:56-2:35 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:44 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), silent call; 6:29 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (North Spencer Road), disconnected; 8:03 a.m.: accident (Greenville Street), report taken; 10:26 a.m.: fraud (Jolicoeur Avenue), SS scam call; 12:47 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 1:23 p.m.: 911 call (Valley Street), hang-up; 2:28 p.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 3:16 p.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 4:10 p.m.: animal complaint (High Street), dog bit by dog; 4:27 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Bixby Road), open line; 4:34 p.m.: DPW call (Greenville Street), icy conditions; 4:50 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 6:19 p.m.: parking complaint (Church Street), services rendered; 6:22 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Paxton Road), open line; 6:33 p.m.: fraud (Grove Street), SS scam call; 6:33 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 6:39 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 7:19 p.m.: parking complaint (Temple Street), d/way blocked; 7:52-7:53 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:41 p.m.: 911 call (North Spencer Road), open line; 11:13 p.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; 11:27 p.m.: building checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops – 3).

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20
12:07 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 12:24-12:55 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:04 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Dudley PD bolo; 1:46-2:33 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:54 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), East Brookfield PD bolo; 4:17 a.m.: 911 call (Bixby Road), accidental; 7:46 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Cranberry Meadow Road), accidental; 10:21 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), hang-up; 10:31 a.m.: residential alarm (Crown Street), services rendered; 10:41 a.m.: accident (Maple Street), report taken; 10:44 a.m.: fraud/confidence game (G.H. Wilson Road), re: calls, social media; 11:37 a.m.: park-

ing complaint (Mechanic Street), mv wrong side of road; 11:49 a.m.: disabled mv (North Spencer Road), assisted; 12:07 p.m.: medical/general (Kingsbury Road); 12:17 p.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 12:19 p.m.: accident (Mechanic Street), report taken; 1:24 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 1:28 p.m.: animal complaint (Paxton Road), goose stuck on ice; 2:50 p.m.: medical/general (Overlook Drive); 2:52 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), info taken; 4:08 p.m.: medical/general (Gold Nugget Road); 5:13 p.m.: larceny (Paxton Road), package stolen from d/way; 7:36 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 7:45 p.m.: disturbance (Chestnut Street), neighbor dispute; 10:40 p.m.: fire alarm (Pleasant Street), referred; (Total daily mv stops -2)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20
12:07 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), welfare check; 12:58 a.m.: officer wanted (South Spencer Road), welfare check; 1:16-1:58 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:02 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), car into snowbank; 2:12-2:21 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:07 a.m.: medical/general (Valley View Drive); 9:46 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 10:06 a.m.: elderly matter (Jolicoeur Avenue), welfare check; 10:26 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Webster PD bolo; 10:36 a.m.: animal complaint (McCormick Road), fox in area; 11:27 a.m.: juvenile matter (Elm Street), welfare check; 1:28 p.m.: officer wanted (Dufault Road), welfare check; 2:15 p.m.: fraud (Grove Street), info taken; 2:43 p.m.: accident (North Spencer Road), report taken; 2:46 p.m.: accident (Maple Street), report taken; 2:50 p.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), icy conditions; 3:07 p.m.: 911 call (Bixby Road), open line; 3:23 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 3:33 p.m.: accident (Hastings Road), report taken; 3:38 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), homeless man in store; 4:19 p.m.: accident (Water Street), report taken; 4:47 p.m.: officer wanted (Cherry Street), welfare check; 7:18 p.m.: mv stop (Smithville Road), Shane R. Malvey, 29, 26 South Buffumville Shore Road, Charlton, OUI liquor, negligent operation, marked lanes violation, arrest; 8:07 p.m.: medical/general (Donnelly Cross Road); 8:11 p.m.: accident (Donnelly Cross Road), report taken; 9:50 p.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 10:01 p.m.: animal complaint (Church Street), loose dog; 11:30-11:57 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops – 1).

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21
12:00-1:23 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:55 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), hang-up; 2:36-2:43 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:24 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Bixby Road), hang-up; 3:50 a.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 6:19 a.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), icy conditions; 6:29 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), courtesy transport; 7:17 a.m.: accident (Maple Street), report taken; 7:39 a.m.: DPW call (Cherry Street), sewage backing up; 7:44 a.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road), lift assist; 7:50 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 8:38 a.m.: accident (Main Street), hit/run; 11:34 a.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 11:49 a.m.: 911 call (Thornberry Circle), open line; 12:09 p.m.: parking complaint (Mechanic Street), info taken; 12:23 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Road); 1:16 p.m.: fraud (LaCaire Lane), info taken; 1:35 p.m.: parking complaint (Mechanic Street), services rendered; 1:45 p.m.: RV complaint (Smithville Road), services rendered; 1:46 p.m.: animal complaint (North Spencer Road), caught loose dogs; 2:53 p.m.: mv lockout (Main Street), assisted; 2:59 p.m.: medical/general (Ash Street); 3:35 p.m.: medical/general (Vista Lane); 3:57 p.m.: animal complaint (Salem Road), loose, aggressive dog; 4:27 p.m.: multiple LTC issued/4 (West Main Street), assisted; 4:28 p.m.: FID issued (West Main Street), assisted; 4:54 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 4:58 p.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 5:24 p.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), assisted; 6:45 p.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), wants COVID test; 7:28 p.m.: mv complaint (Route 49), erratic operator; 7:42-7:43 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:44 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), complaint re: business; 8:02 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 8:04 p.m.: parking violation (Starr Street), ticket issued; 8:10 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 8:16 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 8:24-8:35 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:45 p.m.: parking violation (Main Street), ticket issued; 11:56 p.m.: building checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops – 5).

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22
12:07-12:18 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:23 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 12:25-12:40 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:42 a.m.: disturbance (Chestnut Street), loud domestic dispute; 1:22-2:00 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:09 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), misdial; 10:17 a.m.: DPW call (Northwest Road), trucks striking wires; 11:02 a.m.: 911 call (Salem Street), accidental; 11:06 a.m.: animal complaint (Mechanic Street), caught loose dog;

POLICE

continued from page A12

11:21 a.m.: counterfeiting/forgery (Wire Village Road), unauth. account activity; 11:39 a.m.: elderly matter (Jolicoeur Avenue), welfare check; 12:10 p.m.: mv lockout (Pleasant Street), assisted; 12:43 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 1:19 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 1:47 p.m.: restraining order service (High Street); 1:49 p.m.: commercial alarm (Meadow Road), services rendered; 2:12 p.m.: medical/general (High Street); 2:23 p.m.: warrant search (Wilson Street), welfare check; 2:46 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 4:06 p.m.: juvenile matter (Cranberry Meadow Road), child alone on ice; 4:28 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 4:34 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 5:10 p.m.: parking violation (Main Street), ticket issued; 5:25 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 6:50 p.m.: animal complaint (Thompson Pond Road), loose dog; 7:38 p.m.: suspicious mv (Route 49), info taken; 7:50 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:56 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), loud verbal dispute; 8:23 p.m.: mv complaint (Charlton Road), speeding; 8:28 p.m.: parking violation (McDonald Street), ticket issued; 8:38 p.m.: suspicious mv (Howe Road), investigated; 10:14 p.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), welfare check; 11:04 p.m.: mv repossessed (Maple Street), info taken; 11:19 p.m.: 911 call (Donnelly Cross Road), open line; 11:48 p.m.: suspicious persons (Brown Street), investigated; (Total daily mv stops – 3).

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23

12:30-2:06 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:43 a.m.: medical/general (Jolicoeur Avenue); 7:31 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village), lift assist; 7:36 a.m.: parking complaint (Pleasant Street), info taken; 8:15 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 9:19 a.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 10:14 a.m.: lost/found (Smithville Road), bicycle found; 10:17 a.m.: juvenile matter (Park Street), kids ice fishing; 3:06 p.m.: FID issued (West Main Street), assisted; 3:08 p.m.: mv lockout (West Avenue), assisted; 4:01 p.m.: disabled mv (Paxton Road), assisted; 5:08 p.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 6:15 p.m.: accident (North Spencer Road), mv vs deer; 7:57 p.m.: animal complaint (Grove Street), barking dog; 8:01 p.m.: officer wanted (North Brookfield Road), unauth. use of c/c; 8:12-8:18 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:20 p.m.: suspicious mv (Greenville Street), investigated; 8:43 p.m.: building checked, secure; 11:05 p.m.: medical/general (Vista Lane); (Total daily mv stops -1).

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

12:35 a.m.: medical/general (Temple Street); 1:08-1:52 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:13 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo; 8:12 a.m.: accident (North Spencer Road), report taken; 9:19 a.m.: 911 call (Main Street), misdial; 9:38 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 9:50 a.m.: medical/general (R. Jones Road); 9:57-10:05 a.m.: parking violations (West Main, Mechanic streets), tickets issued; 10:40 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), restraining order inquiry; 12:09 p.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), storm drain collapsing; 1:18 p.m.: residential alarm (Sherwood Drive), services rendered; 2:00 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), assist East Brookfield PD; 2:10 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 2:44 p.m.: suspicious persons (West Main Street), poss. shoplifting; 3:35 p.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road), lift assist; 3:39 p.m.: officer wanted (Spring Street), c/o Auburn business; 4:46 p.m.: suspicious mv (Wire Village Road), investigated; 5:13 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), suspected child abuse; 5:14 p.m.: parking violation (West Main Street), ticket issued; 8:38 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. harassment prevention order; 10:05-10:11 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 10:16 p.m.: accident (Main Street), hit/run, rep. taken; 10:43 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), male/drunken & threatening; (Total daily mv stops – 2).

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

12:25 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), ankle monitor check; 1:08-1:23 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:31 a.m.: DPW call (Greenville Street), tree across road; 7:34 a.m.: DPW call (address not given), tree across d/way; 7:38 a.m.: DPW call (Sunset Lane), street flooding; 12:38 p.m.: officer wanted (Holmes Street), welfare check; 12:49 p.m.: officer wanted (Smithville Road), req. assistance; 1:14 p.m.: officer wanted (Northwest Road), trash cans moved; 1:18 p.m.: disturbance (Maple Street), sisters fighting; 1:30 p.m.: officer wanted (Bond Street), street flooding; 1:32 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo; 1:56 p.m.: officer wanted (Ash Street), unauth. use of mv; 2:12 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), window broken; 2:35 p.m.: DPW call (Pleasant Street), street flooding; between 2:35-3:19 p.m.: entire incident, including time, redacted from police log; 3:19 p.m.: officer wanted (Bixby Road), Harrington CT down; 3:27 p.m.: medical/general (Holmes Street); 5:27 p.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 6:14 p.m.: accident/deer (Paxton Street), basement flooding; 7:56 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 9:26 p.m.: disturbance (Mechanic Street), unruly male; 10:18 p.m.: officer wanted (Smithville Road), basement flooded; (Total daily mv stops – 0).

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

2:22-2:52 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:27 a.m.: medical/general

(Treadwell Drive); 6:08 a.m.: burglar alarm (Fourth Avenue), canceled per homeowner; 7:15 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo; 7:34 a.m.: 911 call (Greenville Street), accidental; 7:48 p.m.: DPW call (Old East Charlton Road), tree on wires; 7:51 a.m.: DPW call (Greenville Street), street flooding; 7:51 a.m.: DPW call (Main Street), icy conditions; 8:12 a.m.: animal complaint (Fourth Avenue), loose dog; 8:28 a.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 9:27 a.m.: fire alarm (Howe Village), referred; 10:47 a.m.: abandoned mv (Main Street), investigated; 12:40 p.m.: suspicious persons (Northwest Road), hunters trespassing; 1:51 p.m.: 911 call (Chickering Road), accidental; 2:34 p.m.: medical/general (Donnelly Cross Road); 4:28 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 5:05 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), unruly male; 6:02 p.m.: DPW call (Emmett Street); 6:19 p.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 7:05 p.m.: officer wanted (Adams Street), lg. gathering at residence; 8:14 p.m.: medical/general (Crestview Drive); 8:45 p.m.: building checked, secure; 8:54 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 9:13 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), hang-up; (Total daily mv stops – 14).

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

12:16-1:58 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:08 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 10:09 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 11:17 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 12:37 p.m.: DPW call (R. Jones Road), icy conditions; 1:21 p.m.: 911 call (Woodside Road), child w/phone; 1:21 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Grove Street), no contact; 2:27 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), State Police bolo; 3:43 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 6:32 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), unwanted party; 6:37 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), investigated; 8:11 p.m.: 911 call (Paxton Road), accidental; 8:49-8:59 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:06 p.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; 9:14-9:27 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:35 p.m.: parking violations (Grant, Lincoln streets), tickets issued; 10:39 p.m.: disabled mv (Old Farm Road), assisted 11:37 p.m.: disturbance (Jolicoeur Avenue), loud verbal confrontation; (Total daily mv stops – 3).

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28

12:58-2:03 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:08 a.m.: medical/general (Bay Path Road); 9:19 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), re-set traffic lights; 9:28 a.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 9:54 a.m.: fraud (Cherry Street), unemployment scam; 9:55 a.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 10:05 a.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 11:33 p.m.: officer wanted (Lambs Grove), custody dispute; 12:29 p.m.: medical/general (Church Street), lift assist; 2:02 p.m.: harassing phone calls (Elm Street), rep. disturbing text messages; 2:22 p.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 3:24 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Old Farm Road), heavy smoke; 3:35 p.m.: illegal dumping (Lyford Road), report taken; 3:41 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), info taken; 3:54 p.m.: parking violation (Maple Street), ticket issued; 4:33 p.m.: multiple LTC issued/3 (West Main Street), assisted; 5:49 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 6:20 p.m.: 911 call (Howe Village), accidental; 7:02 p.m.: medical/general (Norcross Road); 7:50 p.m.: building checked, secure; 8:40 p.m.: 911 call (Norcross Road), accidental; 8:41 p.m.: medical/general (Sampson Street); 9:22-9:28 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:31 p.m.: disturbance (McDonald Street), rep. harassment; 9:41 p.m.: building checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops – 2).

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29

12:42 a.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 12:46-12:50 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:51 a.m.: school alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 12:51-2:14 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:14 a.m.: suspicious persons (McDonald Street), investigated; 11:40 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. husband's phone pinged; 11:44 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 11:49 a.m.; abandoned 911 call (Main Street), no emergency; 11:57 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Howe Village), accidental; 12:45 p.m.: parking violation (Temple Street), ticket issued; 12:50 p.m.: commercial alarm (West Main Street), services rendered; 12:51 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo; 2:37 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street), lift assist; 2:48 p.m.: harassment prevention order service (Main Street); 2:59 p.m.: LTC issued/2 (West Main Street), assisted; 4:14 p.m.: LTC issued/2 (West Main Street), assisted; 4:17 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 4:43 p.m.: parking violations/2 (Mechanic Street), tickets issued; 6:54 p.m.: suspicious mv (Grove Street), investigated; 8:13 p.m.: building checked, secure; 8:50 p.m.: disturbance (Adams Street), noise complaint; 9:04-9:45 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops – 2).

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Leicester Police

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

12:04 a.m.: assist citizen (Main Street), services rendered; 1:26 a.m.: noise complaint (Main Street), services rendered; 11:47 a.m.: summons service (Henshaw Street), served; 11:57 a.m.: summons service (Main Street), served; 12:19 p.m.: assist other agency (South Main Street), services rendered; 12:24 p.m.: accident (River Street), mv towed; 1:04

p.m.: ambulance (Sabine Circle), transported; 1:24 p.m.: ambulance (Rawson Street), transported; 2:14 p.m.: assist other agency (Main Street), services rendered; 2:25 p.m.: ambulance (Queen Street), transported; 2:35 p.m.: ambulance (Edward Street), transported; 5:20 p.m.: fire/CO detector (Pine Street), unfounded.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

1:14 a.m.: assist other PD (Wells Street, Oxford), services rendered; 8:43 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 10:30 a.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 11:33 a.m.: assist citizen (Pleasant Street), peace restored; 12:15 p.m.: restraining order service (Pleasant Street), served; 1:05 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 2:08 p.m.: suspicious person (West Street), no action required; 3:36 p.m.: property found (Huntoon Memorial Highway), no action required; 4:14 p.m.: child abuse/neglect (Main Street), report taken; 4:34 p.m.: fraud (Pleasant Street), referred; 4:37 p.m.: fraud (Main Street), report taken; 5:03 p.m.: restraining order service (Pleasant Street), served; 6:24 p.m.: investigation (Marshall Street), services rendered; 6:59 p.m.: erratic operator (Huntoon Memorial Highway), no action required; 7:33 p.m.: keep the peace (Brook Street), advised civil action; 10:08 p.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), services rendered.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

12:53 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 8:36 a.m.: assist citizen (Locust Street); 10:01 a.m.: keep the peace (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 12:48 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street), services rendered; 12:54 p.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), spoken to; 1:21 p.m.: harassment (Henshaw Street), report taken; 3:34 p.m.: keep the peace (Main Street), services rendered; 5:22 p.m.: assist other PD (Park Lane), report taken; 9:04 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street), message delivered.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

4:30 a.m.: erratic operator (South Main Street), spoken to; 8:01 a.m.: ambulance (Monterey Drive), transported; 9:37 a.m.: hazardous conditions (Huntoon Memorial Highway), services rendered; 2:57 p.m.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), message delivered; 3:26 p.m.: suspicious person (Soojians Drive), gone on arrival; 4:17 p.m.: trespassing (Paxton Street), spoken to; 4:37 p.m.: mv stop (Mannville Street), verbal warning.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

1:12 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:38 a.m.: investigation (Pond Court), services rendered 3:07 p.m.: welfare check (Winslow Avenue), services rendered; 5:56 p.m.: residential alarm (Bond Street), false alarm; 6:56 p.m.: disabled mv (Auburn Street), services rendered.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

2:53 a.m.: mutual aid (Stafford Street), unfounded; 5:44 a.m.: harassment (Main Street), spoken to; 11:54 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 12:05 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 12:20 p.m.: accident (River Street), report taken; 12:30 p.m.: restraining order service (Henshaw Street), served; 1:37 p.m.: disabled mv (South Main Street), assisted; 2:17 p.m.: assist citizen (Soojians Drive); 6:07 p.m.: accident (Main Street), mv towed; 6:49 p.m.: disabled mv (South Main Street), assisted.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

10:17 a.m.: welfare check (Deer Pond Drive), assisted; 10:23 a.m.: mv stop (Dale Street), written warning; 10:53 a.m.: welfare check (King Street Extension), transported to hospital; 1:00 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 5:39 p.m.: welfare check (Charles Street), services rendered; 7:42 p.m.: welfare check (Huntoon Memorial Highway), report taken.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

12:13 a.m.: suspicious mv (Pleasant Street), no action required; 5:42 a.m.: mv off road (Main Street), services rendered; 6:45 a.m.: assist other agency (Hillside Road), services rendered; 1:22 p.m.: disturbance (Pine Ridge Drive), Jonathan Whitney Hine, 54, 12 Pine Ridge Drive, Leicester, fugitive from justice/court warrant, arrest; 1:41; accident (Walbridge Road), report taken; 3:56 p.m.: assist citizen (Pine Ridge Drive).

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

4:18 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 8:19 a.m.: harassment (Upton Street), report taken; 9:04 a.m.: assist citizen (Huntoon Memorial Highway); 11:06 a.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), no action required; 1:14 p.m.: investigation (Huntoon Memorial Highway), services rendered; 8:49 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

12:11 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 8:34 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), no action required; 9:48 a.m.: harassment (Soojians Drive), report taken; 10:31 a.m.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street), no service; 12:19 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), spoken to; 12:38 p.m.: parking complaint (Soojians Drive), verbal warning; 3:23 p.m.: assist other PD (Stafford Street), message delivered; 3:47 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 6:16 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street).

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

10:45 a.m.: open door/window (West Street), services rendered; 11:55 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 12:49 p.m.: larceny (Stafford Street), report taken; 1:19 p.m.: mv off road (Mannville Street), assisted; 4:03 p.m.: mv off road (Paxton Street), no action required; 6:06 p.m.: larceny (Howard Terrace), report taken; 7:15 p.m.: welfare check (Stafford

Street), message delivered.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21

9:59 a.m.: welfare check (Howard Terrace), message delivered; 11:40 a.m.: investigation (Main Street), services rendered; 12:36 a.m.: investigation (South Main Street), services delivered; 2:12 p.m.: assist citizen (Pine Ridge Drive); 3:31 p.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), services rendered; 4:23 p.m.: welfare check (Peter Salem Road), services rendered; 5:322 p.m.: keep the peace (Crestwood Road), assisted; 6:16 p.m.: debris in road (Main Street), investigated.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22

2:19 a.m.: mutual aid (Elmwood Avenue, Auburn), services rendered; 8:37 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:11 a.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), no action required; 11:12 a.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), gone on arrival; 1:07 p.m.: restraining order service (Pine Ridge Drive), served; 1:32 p.m.: restraining order service (King Street Extension), unable to serve; 2:03 p.m.: investigation (Huntoon Memorial Highway), services rendered; 3:49 p.m.: restraining order service (King Street Extension), unable to serve; 4:30 p.m.: fraud (South Main Street), report taken; 5:28 p.m.: restraining order service (King Street Extension), unable to serve; 6:51 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Paxton Street), services rendered; 7:50 p.m.: investigation (Clark Street), services rendered; 7:58 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), criminal application issued; 9:21 p.m.: disturbance (Stafford Street), spoken to.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23

12:37 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), services rendered; 5:22 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), unfounded; 9:39 a.m.: mvstop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:49 a.m.: parking complaint (Soojians Drive), citation issued; 11:16 a.m.: malicious mischief (Soojians Drive), report taken; 11:23 a.m.: fraud (Whittemore Street), report taken; 2:09 p.m.: restraining order service (King Street Extension), unable to deliver; 2:28 p.m.: abandoned mv (Soojians Drive), investigated; 3:45 p.m.: investigation (Millbury Street, Worcester), services rendered; 6:17 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), services rendered; 7:28 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:14 p.m.: restraining order service (King Street Extension), unable to serve; 9:36 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 10:46 p.m.: mv off road (Paxton Street), services rendered.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:39 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Stafford Street), unfounded; 5:57 a.m.: open door/window (Peter Salem Road), services rendered; 11:08 a.m.: funeral assistance (Main Street), services rendered; 11:38 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 2:22 p.m.: restraining order service (King Street Extension), served.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

2:04 p.m.: assist citizen (Pine Street), unable to locate; 2:27 p.m.: assist citizen (Huntoon Memorial Highway); 5:30 p.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), William John Morrissey, 66, 10 Pine Ridge Drive, Leicester, OUI liquor, negligent operation, leaving the scene/property damage accident.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26

8:22 a.m.: debris in road (Mulberry Street), services rendered; 9:57 a.m.: keep the peace (Pleasant Street), services rendered.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

1:53 a.m.: welfare check (Lexington Avenue), transported to hospital; 2:04 a.m.: ambulance (Lexington Avenue), transported; 3:01 a.m.: disturbance (Stafford Street), peace restored; 3:24 a.m.: suspicious mv (Huntoon Memorial Highway), investigated; 4:39 a.m.: disabled mv (Bond Street), report taken; 6:20 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 11:11 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), services rendered; 12:15 p.m.: assist other agency (Stafford Street), services rendered; 4:31 p.m.: debris in road (Stafford Street), removed; 5:57 p.m.: larceny (Main Street), Anna Lu, 25, 1053 Johnson Road, Woodbridge, Conn., failure to stop for police, shoplifting by asportation, arrest; 6:01 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), criminal application issued; 6:42 p.m.: accident (Stafford Street), mv towed; 10:29 p.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), peace restored.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28

5:31 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), no action required; 5:37 a.m.: ambulance (Pine Street), assisted; 12:10 p.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), report taken; 2:32 p.m.: assist other PD (Stafford Street), services rendered; 3:04 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 4:04 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 5:17 p.m.: open door/window (Chapel Street), investigated.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29

8:32 a.m.: mv stop (Mulberry Street), verbal warning; 9:53 a.m.: mv stop (Whittemore Street), verbal warning; 2:17 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:12 p.m.: disturbance (Ingram Road), no action required; 6:35 p.m.: keep the peace (Pine Ridge Drive), no action required; 9:21 p.m.: erratic operator (Pleasant Street), mv towed; 11:02 p.m.: disturbance (Towtad Street), no action required; 11:58 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30

1:03 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 3:18 a.m.: mv stop (Auburn Street), verbal warning; 9:57 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:03 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 6:39 p.m.: lockout (Soojians Drive), no action required; 11:26 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported.

OBITUARIES

Herbert A. Frew, Jr., 91

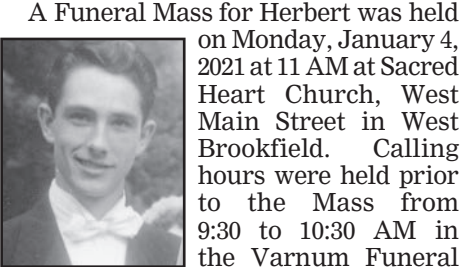
West Brookfield – Herbert A. Frew, Jr., 91, of West Brookfield died on Tuesday, December 29, 2020 at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center after a long battle with cancer.



He leaves his wife of 70 years, Jane L. (Stone) Frew of West Brookfield, his son, Michael H. Frew and his wife Betty of West Brookfield, his granddaughter, Monica L. Frew, his grandson, Gregory M. Frew and his wife Tanya; his sister, Genevieve Cook of West Brookfield, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased in 2015 by his sister Janice Mincy of Ware. He was born in Ware on April 7, 1929, son of the late Herbert A. and Florence L. (Mundell) Frew.

Herbert was a Welder and Machine Operator at Gavitt Wire in Brookfield for 10 years and the former Johnson Steel and Wire of Worcester for 27 years, before retiring in 2000.

He enjoyed the outdoors, especially his time spent hunting and fishing. Herbert was a member of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish.



A Funeral Mass for Herbert was held on Monday, January 4, 2021 at 11 AM at Sacred Heart Church, West Main Street in West Brookfield. Calling hours were held prior to the Mass from 9:30 to 10:30 AM in the Varnum Funeral Home, Inc., 43 E. Main Street, in West Brookfield. Burial will be in Pine Grove Cemetery in West Brookfield following mass. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, P.O. Box 563, West Brookfield, MA 01585.

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

Robert H. “Bob” Hope, 76

FISKDALE- Robert H. “Bob” Hope, 76, died on December 25, 2020 in Worcester.



He was born on July 22, 1944 the son of the late Henry and Evelyn (Minckler) Hope and lived many years in Brookfield, Brimfield and later moved to Fiskdale. Bob served in the US Army and was a member of the American Legion in West Brookfield. He was a former Police Officer in Brookfield, a skilled laborer for Kanzaki Specialty Paper and he managed the White Coach Motel in Brimfield for several years along with his wife.

He leaves his wife Carol R. (Lavigne) Hope; a brother David Hope of Warren; a sister Suzanne St. Francis; 4 stepchildren Tina Karlon & Kellie Paquette both of N. Brookfield, Melissa Karlon of Fiskdale and Mark Karlon and his wife Nira of Webster; many nephews, nieces,

grandchildren and greatgrandchildren. He was predeceased by a brother and 3 sisters.

Bob was passionate about music and entertaining. He loved performing over the years at various functions and backyard barbecues. Everyone knew him as “Bob Hope” the entertainer. He was a jokester and loved to make people laugh. He also enjoyed fishing, antiques, flea markets, working on cars, road trips with his wife and traveling to see family in Vermont. He fought the good fight. During his long battle with various illnesses he suffered in silence and continued to make others laugh while enduring his physical battles. His sense of humor will be sorely missed.

A celebration of Bob’s life will be held at a later date. Burial will be private with full Military Honors in Brookfield cemetery, Brookfield. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral home 3 West Brookfield Rd. Brookfield.

Lois E. MacDonald, 91

NORTH BROOKFIELD- Lois E. MacDonald, 91, of Amherst, formerly of North Brookfield, passed away Monday, December 28, 2020 at Cooley Dickenson Hospital in Northampton, MA after a long battle with Alzheimer’s Disease. She succumbed to COVID-19.

Lois is survived by her 3 children Judith Loischild of Amherst, Karen MacDonald of Amherst, and Elizabeth Wimberly & her husband Michael of Ware; 8 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, William MacDonald in 2002.

Born in Waltham, Massachusetts, the daughter of Judith (Larson) and Charles Russell, Lois graduated from Waltham High School in 1948. She worked as a bookkeeper prior to her marriage, and also for Zayre Corp., now TJX, later in her life. Lois had a lifelong love of her family, and enjoyed keeping up with her children and grandchildren.

Lois relished taking her dog Lucy for walks in later years. She was involved in church activities, but always wanted to keep her role in the background. Her commitments to her children and her church were always very important to her.

The family wishes to thank the caregivers at the Arbors of Amherst and the nursing staff on C-3 of Cooley Dickinson for the excellent care they gave Lois in her final days.

A private graveside service will be held on Friday, January 8, 2021 in Walnut Grove Cemetery in North Brookfield. A memorial service will be held at a later date when it is safe to do so. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to The Alzheimer’s Association, 100 North Parkway, Worcester, MA 01605. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 44 Gilbert St. North Brookfield.

Shaler Emerson Combs, 89

NORTH BROOKFIELD- Shaler Emerson Combs, 89, of North Brookfield, died on December 23, 2020, at home surrounded by his family after a long illness.



He leaves his wife of 60 years, Kay E. (Proctor) Combs. He was a father to Daniel E. Combs and his wife, Carol (Nydham) Wirf; and to three daughters, Sharon P. Combs, Ruth E. Alford and her husband Mark, and Judith T. Combs, all of North Brookfield and Kathy Dismuke of Ocala, Florida. He was grandfather to five grandchildren: Jason Caddell, Nathanael Combs, Rachael Combs, Beth Alford and Hannah Alford. He also leaves his brother, Arthur D. Combs (90) of North Brookfield; a nephew David and his wife Laura Combs and 2 great nephews Lee and Keith Combs all of Columbia, CT.

He served in the Navy during the Korean War. Serving on the USS Capricornus AKA-57 and the USS Iowa BB-61. He served 4 years active duty and 28 years active reserves, retiring January 1, 1985. Shaler was a member of the Brotherhood of Mason’s for over 60 years.

Shaler was born April 25, 1931 in Worcester son of the late Don T. and H. Beaulah (Hawkins) Combs and graduated from Worcester Boys Trade. He became an apprentice at Sheet Metal Union #63 in 1957. He joined Sheet Metal Union #63 in 1961 and retired in 1993. After retiring, he began a full time career of producing maple syrup products and selling them from his home as

well as at local Farmers markets. At one time he tapped trees all over the neighborhood as well as other places in town. He was proud of his sugar shack and invited everyone for tours of his maple producing process. He sold his maple sugar products at the Canal District Farmers Market, West Brookfield Farmers Market, the Brimfield Farmers Market, the Tantasqua Craft Fair and the Apple Country Fair in Brookfield. He generously shared his maple syrup with many people.

He was an auxiliary Police officer in North Brookfield. He was also a member of the First Congregational Church (joined in 1967) of North Brookfield where he served as Deacon, served on the Property Committee, taught Sunday School and was a Boys Brigade Leader for many years. He was also a long time choir member, singing into his late 80’s. He was a role model to many people. He was loving, generous, kind, compassionate, helpful, hardworking, adventurous, a lover of cats, creative, persistent, tenacious, had integrity and the gift of words, and a strong faith. He never knew a stranger and loved talking to anyone he met. He was dearly loved by many and will be deeply missed.

A memorial service for Shaler will be held in the spring at the First Congregational Church of North Brookfield followed by burial with full military honors in Walnut Grove Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the First Congregational Church of North Brookfield, 144 North Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535 or online at firstchurchnb.org. Memorial donations may also be made to ARCHWAY Inc., 77 Mulberry Street, Leicester, MA 01524. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 44 Gilbert St. North Brookfield.

Leonard William Ackerman, 88

WEST BROOKFIELD - Leonard “Lenny” William Ackerman, 88, of West Brookfield died on Friday, December 18, 2020 at Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge. Born in Springfield, MA, he was the son of the late Lourston and Marion (Murphy) Ackerman.



Known by his family as “Pops,” he is survived by his wife of 68 years, Joan (Moquin) Ackerman. Having met at the age of 14, Joan and Lenny shared a true life-long relationship over six decades with adventure at every turn.

In addition to his spouse, Lenny leaves behind his beloved daughter, Deborah (Ackerman) Maagero and her husband Ray Maagero of Suffield, CT; two grandchildren, Ashley Maagero Lee and her husband Jeffrey Lee of Boston, and Michael Maagero of Waltham; as well as two great grandchildren, Christian and Harrison William Lee, the second of whom bears his name.

Lenny had an incredible zest for life. He loved history, boats, cars, Boston sports teams, and reading the daily newspaper. Lenny celebrated every holiday to the fullest and enjoyed spending winters in Florida with dear friends. There, he proudly participated in many costume parties for various events. Lenny had a wonderful sense of humor and his gregarious personality could be seen and heard from across any room. He never shied from sharing his opinion, especially on political matters, for which he had a particular affinity.

His grandchildren were fortunate to spend much of their childhood and adult lives with Lenny at their sides. He frequently cheered on the sidelines at their many sporting events, hosted parties for the children and their friends, and enjoyed weekends at the lake filled with boat rides and water skiing, along with many winter breaks spent together in Florida.

Whether rescuing a sinking boat or painting a room, Lenny was the first to reach out to lend a helping hand – but no one ever had to ask, he was just there. Lenny spent countless hours pulling water skiers at American Water Ski Association events, and, for those who wanted to “hit the ramp” at optimum speed, he was the man!

Lenny worked for the Monsanto Company and then owned and operated The Village Store in Wilbraham before retiring in 1989. He was a United States Navy Veteran of the Korean War and a member of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish in West Brookfield, where he attended mass every Sunday.

The family will miss Lenny’s bright blue eyes, big spirit, and warm smile. They thank the staff at Mount Auburn Hospital for their incredible and compassionate care in his final days.

A celebration of Lenny’s life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Joslin Diabetes Center, Inc., One Joslin Place, Boston, MA 02215, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), <https://secure.aspca.org/donate/>, and the American Heart Association, 300 5th Avenue, Waltham, MA 02451.

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

Marjorie Ann Reim, 77

WEST BROOKFIELD - Marjorie Ann (Buckley) Reim, 77, of West Brookfield, died on Saturday, December 26, 2020 at her home with her family by her side.

She leaves her husband of 58 years, Charles D. Reim; two sons, David A. Reim, D.V.M. and his wife Elizabeth of Reno, NV and Russell A. Reim of Alameda, CA; one daughter, Melissa A. Tetreault and her husband Daniel of Charlton; six grandchildren, Katherine Holzenthol, Emma Reim, Porter Reim, Victoria Reim and Erin and Nathan Tetreault, and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her two sisters. She was born in Fall River, daughter of the late Frederick and Irene (Roberts) Buckley. She and Charlie have owned a home in West Brookfield for many years.

In addition to being a wonderful mother and grandmother, Marge worked as an Administrative Assistant at St. John’s Cemetery in Worcester for several years. She was a longtime and active member of the George Whitefield United Methodist Church in West Brookfield.

Due to current restrictions, a Funeral Service for Marge will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the George Whitefield United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 576, West Brookfield, MA 01585.

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

An online guest book is available at varnumfuneralhome.com

Steven P. Kane, 66

NEW BRAINTREE – Steven P. Kane, 66, passed away on Monday, December 21, 2020, at Quaboag on the Common after an illness. He was born in Worcester the son of the late Paul B. Kane and had lived in New Braintree since 1967.

Steven leaves his mother, Irene Kane; his brothers, Richard and Paul Kane, all of New Braintree; and his nieces and his nephew. Steven was a quiet unassuming gentleman who loved to talk about history. He was a published author and

contributed to numerous articles over the years. He was known for his knowledge of World War II, with special interest in the Battle of the Bulge.

Services are private and will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to your favorite animal shelter. Arrangements are under the care of the Miles Funeral Home, 1158 Main Street, Holden. To share a memory or offer an online condolence, please visit www.milesfuneralhome.com

Leona R. “Lee” Anderson, 76

LEICESTER – Leona R. “Lee” (Deschenes) Anderson, 76, of Leicester, died Tuesday, December 22, 2020 at St. Vincent Hospital.



She was a loving mother to her son Carl Everett Anderson and his wife Joann of Sudbury, VT. She was the eldest sister to 5 siblings of a very close-knit French Catholic family growing up in Worcester: three brothers, Paul H. Deschenes of Oxford, Normand Deschenes and his wife Lynda of Charlton, and Gerard Deschenes of Manchaug, MA; and two sisters, Pauline Anderson and her husband Robert of Leicester and Anita Joslin of Livermore Falls, ME; many nieces and nephews. She was born in Worcester, daughter of Harvey J. and

Rosanna (Robidoux) Deschenes.

Lee was a clerk and administrative assistant at Verizon for many years. She was a devoted member of her church community at St. Aloysius in Rochdale where she discovered a love for singing in the choir. She often reminisced about her love for square dancing and southwestern life from her years of living in Arizona. After returning to her roots in Massachusetts, she forged a strong bond with all her family including several nieces and nephews and many grandnieces and grandnephews. Lee was also fondly remembered as the gifter of her famous homemade Christmas time fudge to all her beloved friends and family.

Funeral services will be held in the spring at a date to be announced. Arrangements are in the care of Rice Funeral Home, 300 Park Ave, Worcester.

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OBITUARIES

Margery Woodbury, 86

WEST BROOKFIELD- Margery (Snelgrove) Woodbury, 86, on December 19, 2020 surrounded by the love of her family as her soul peacefully drifted towards the heavens.



Marge was more than just the oldest of 14, she was a wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother (Gigi) and friend. The daughter of Malcome & Pauline Snelgrove, Marge was born & raised in Putnam.

After graduation Marge worked as a secretary. Soon afterwards she met the love of her life, Philip Woodbury of Woodstock, Ct, and married him on February 4, 1954. A few years later they moved to Huntsville, AL and adopted a day-old baby girl, Lori. She was then a homemaker to raise Lori. In 1963 Phil's job called him to upstate New York so the family packed it up and headed north. They then moved to Connecticut and eventually Massachusetts in 1981, where they built their dream home, a log cabin on a quiet street with 20 acres. Before she and Phil owned a video store and a pet store, she was a CNA then the purchasing agent for that nursing home. A few years after they "retired" she found herself working at the Sturbridge, MA, Wal-Mart in the craft department. It was the best job she ever had; she would tell you.

In 2002 she and Phil decided to escape the winters and trade them for the Florida sunshine. Phil passed in May of 2005 and in November of 2010, she moved to South Carolina to be with her daughter, son-in-law, granddaughter, her husband and their son. She moved one last time, this time back to Massachusetts with Lori in 2018 to be closer to her two grandsons and 4 great-grandchildren. She loved being Gigi and watching the kids grow up.

In her free time throughout her life, she liked to tend to her garden, sew, knit & crochet. She would knit hats & mittens and donate them to local charities. She would also crochet lap robes and donate them to Meals on Wheels. When Shayla showed her how to browse the web, she learned how to order yarn online and couldn't wait for her package to arrive. In their younger years, she and Phil enjoyed jumping on their motorcycles and going on adventures around New England. She enjoyed eating out at restaurants, anything her grandsons would cook and king crab legs.

Predeceased by her parents, Malcome & Pauline Snelgrove, her husband, Philip Woodbury and her son-in-law Steven Perrin (2012). Marge leaves behind her daughter Lori Perrin of West Brookfield, her granddaughter Shayla Joy and her husband Greg Joy of Columbia, SC, and their son Hunter. She also leaves her grandson Craig Brothers and his girlfriend Jill Porier of Sturbridge, MA and Craig's son Cole of Pittsfield, MA, and her grandson Andrew Fusco and his wife Marcie of West Brookfield, MA and their 3 children Alexis, Walter & Harper. Marge was also predeceased by three of her siblings and leaves behind many.

Marge wasn't one to be fussed over. Instead, she would like everyone to remember her in their own way, light a candle or say a prayer in her honor as she has requested no services be held. In lieu of flowers please donate to the SCAD Alliance (<https://scadalliance.org/donate/>), a heart foundation she was familiar with, in which studies a rare form of heart attack her granddaughter Shayla suffered in 2019, or to the American Cancer Society ([donate3.cancer.org](https://www.cancer.org)). Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 3 West Brookfield Rd. Brookfield.

Judith Ann (Paul) Sullivan, 84

NORTH BROOKFIELD- Judith Ann (Paul) Sullivan, 84, was called home to be with her loving husband Robert J. Sullivan on Wednesday 12/30/2020.



Judith was born 6/6/1936 the daughter of Delina (Gallant) (Paul) Martin & Earnest Paul Sr. She was born and raised in North Oxford with her 8 siblings. She was a loving Wife, Mother, Grandmother, and Great Great Grandmother.

She will be deeply missed by everyone who knew her, especially, her sister, children, and grand children. Jon Sullivan (Wife) Brenda, Brenda Foley, Debra Kite (Husband) Tom, Rhonda Warren, Timothy Foley (Loving Care Providers) Lisa & Rich Duval, Jeffrey Sullivan (Wife) Tammy, Scott Sullivan, (Wife) Kelly, Cindy Sullivan (with whom she lived with), Kelly Falk (Husband) Paul. Jacqueline Leary (Sister). Blessed with 19 Grandchildren, 15 Great Grandchildren. Grandsons Sean (Wife) Becca (Children) Brielle, Ryan (Wife) Kenzi (Children), Natalie, Landen, Raylinn, & Cody Sullivan. Granddaughter Heather Foley (Children) Hayley & Zachary. Grandsons Rocky & Ryan Foley & Granddaughter Allyssa Foley, Grandsons Russell & Ross Ranks (Wife) Jenna (Children) Cameron & Riley. Granddaughter Rebecca Butler (Wife) Danielle. Grandsons Zachary & Joshua Foley. Granddaughters Jennifer Amick (Husband) Treymayne (Children) Brian, Brianna & Robert. Granddaughters Nicole Lajoie & Megan Warren. Granddaughters Taylor Hough (Husband) Jonathan (Children) Elizabeth & Killian, Lauren Sullivan (Fiance) John (Children) Mason. Granddaughter Julia Aiken (Children)

Emma, & Katelyn Sullivan. Two Great Great Grandsons Jr., & Kahlil. Several nieces & nephews whom loved her dearly. She was pre-deceased by her sons Robert B. Foley, Thomas A. Foley, and Step-Daughter Cheryl A. Sullivan. Brothers Joe, Earnest, Armand Paul and sisters Theresa, Dolores, Lorraine, Loretta.

Judith devoted her life to her husband, children & grandchildren. She attended her children, and grandchildren's sporting events, and concerts over the years. She enjoyed spending time with her husband traveling to events for the Fraternal Order of Eagles. She was President of the West Warren Auxiliary. They spent lots of time together with their eagle friends & family over the years. Judith will be forever remembered by those that new her as always being in the kitchen cooking up an amazing meal, or baking something special. She also enjoyed crocheting, and the frequent visits from her children, and grand children. It always put a smile on her face when the little ones would run into the house to see her, yelling Grammy, and would run over to give her a hug & kiss. A graveside service will be held at 11:00AM, on Thursday January 7, 2021 in Worcester County Memorial Park, 217 Richards Ave., Paxton. Everyone is asked to meet at the cemetery office by 10:45AM. MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIRED

The family will be forever grateful for the love, compassion and care from her daughter Cindy, and all of her home health aides through the years. In lieu of flowers the family has asked that donations be made to the Leicester/Spencer Fraternal Order of Eagles #4541 Memorial Fund - 850 Main St. Leicester MA, 01524. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 44 Gilbert St. North Brookfield.

Antiques, collectibles, and auctions in 2021

2020 was a difficult year for everyone, and antique collectors and dealers were no exception. I am a member of several auctioneer and estate liquidator groups and have the chance to hear from other business owners across the country. Some members have lost family to COVID, most have struggled financially, and all have had to adapt to working in this new environment. Locally, it has also been a challenge for auctioneers, antique dealers and estate sale companies with regulations constantly in flux throughout the year. With the recent approval of vaccines, there is optimism that 2021 will be a much better year for those buying and selling antiques and collectibles.

As the New Year begins, some auction houses running live auctions are extending preview hours and offering previews on multiple days to ensure there won't be a large number of bidders gathering together at once. Some auctioneers are allowing only a small number of bidders to attend the auction in person. Other bidders are required to leave absentee bids or bid by phone.

When the warm weather returns this spring, I expect we will see auctioneers return to outdoors sales, like some did during the summer and fall of 2020. Many other auction houses (like ours) have switched to all online auctions. When the situation improves, auctioneers will have to determine whether



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES

WAYNE TUISKULA

they want to switch back to live auctions this coming year or to continue running auctions online.

Some estate sale companies continue to run live estate sales by limiting the number of people who can enter the estate, requiring masks, social distancing and offering hand sanitizer. Many other estate sale companies have switched to online auctions instead of traditional estate (tag) sales. Others are offering items from estates online with fixed prices. You can purchase items outright and then make arrangements to pick up your items(s).

Some estate sale companies may also reevaluate how they've done business in the past and determine how to move forward in 2021.

How things will change in 2021 is partially dependent on the distribution of the COVID vaccine. The Massachusetts timeline for COVID vaccinations shows that Phase One is taking place now through February, Phase Two from February to April, and Phase Three from April to June. Connecticut plans to offer vaccinations for members of the general public early in the summer.

This timeline gives us hope that we may be able to walk the fields of Brimfield in September, possibly even by July. In what may be another promising sign for us, the Malvern Flea Market recently opened in England. It is scheduled to run on weekends through-



out 2021. The distribution of the new vaccine and the good news from our friends across the pond should provide optimism to antique fans throughout New England. Thank you for reading my column in 2020. Happy New Year to all as we look forward to a better 2021!

The first session of a huge toy collection, all from one estate, is taking place online now. We are currently selling the diecast cars. Most are unopened and in their original boxes. Vintage and antique toys will be sold in later

sessions. We will be offering the equestrian and other paintings from artist Fay Moore's estate in another online auction soon. Keep watching www.centralmassauctions.com for details.

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique Auctions, Estate Sales and Appraisal Services www.centralmassauctions.com (508-612- 6111) info@centralmassauctions.com.

MCRAE

continued from page A9

less, and the decision to get rid of the name ought to be vigorously resisted-respectfully but firmly.

I am told a petition was circulated opposing the rescinding of the name, and it garnered a very large number of signatures. That was a start. Now, some energetic young parents-I'd prefer to see young fathers of future "Indians"-need to step up and tell the Anointed Troika that unless they accede to the wishes of a clear majority of the voters-as shown by the popularity of the petition-and reverse their decree, they will be strenuously contested for re-election when their term expires (hopefully this spring.) Then, some brave soul(s) has/have to be willing to run and, when elected, revert to the "Indians", and serve a term or two. It's not that difficult a job, as the state has seen to it the local school committees have relinquished almost all their once-meaningful authority. The position of the state-and liberals in general-is to demand the taxpayers pay all the bills of the schools but have absolutely nothing to say about how they are run regardless of their too many failures and less-than-exemplary products they frequently bring forth. If you want something good to happen, you have to organize, plan, and fight for it. It's not like you're being asked to go into the streets and fight with bare hands and Molotov Cocktails against Russian tanks as the Hungarians did in Budapest in 1956; this is just nitty-gritty politics and

ou t r a g e n o n e t h e

only requires determination, time, and energy.

These school committee members, whoever they are, may actually believe what they say about this issue, but that is only their personal opinion formed by the indoctrination they received in their college "education." The reality is that the Indian people in this country generally oppose-or are indifferent-to-eliminating these names like Redskins, Seminoles, Braves, Indians (Cleveland), Warriors, etc. They feel the names are a tribute to very admirable traits of their ancestors. But, that doesn't matter to "informed" white liberals whose attitude is-whether they admit it or not-these poor people (the Indians) don't know what's good for them, but we-the enlightened-do, so just keep quiet and let us handle things.

There used to be a great spirit of defiance-yea, rebellion-alive in the American people, especially with small town New Englanders, which often manifested itself at the annual town meeting where the will of the people was actually heard and obeyed. That spirit was very much alive in North Brookfield in the early 1960's when they stubbornly held out to the bitter end becoming the last town in Massachusetts to surrender to the edicts of the United States Supreme Court banning prayer in the public schools. And that was such a great and wise decision wasn't it? The collapse of academic standards, the breakdown of classroom discipline, and the disintegration of the reputation of American public schools as being the envy of the world can almost without question be traced to that lamentable fiat. I think

the North Brookfield dead-end resisters of the early sixties were wise and had that American spirit of defiance, but it remains to be seen if this current crop of North Brookfieldians have inherited that same kind of grit.

Should the clear thinking people of North Brookfield win this skirmish and have the name reinstituted, think of the inspiration they would be to the other ten towns in Central Massachusetts who also love their "warrior" traditions and all that goes with it. They could see tiny North Brookfield win a fight, and choose to wage a battle themselves rather than just take another beating from these pests, these know-it-alls who have, to everyone's great misfortune, insinuated themselves into positions of authority where they generally cause more harm than good.

But, if you, North Brookfield, just roll over and take your medicine like good children, now comes the hard part: What to call the teams from here on forward? Will it be something really exciting and exotic like Lions? Tigers? Diamondbacks? Grizzlies?

There's not much of a history in these parts to connect to such ubiquitous school mascots as those noble beasts, but there is a long and proud history of dairy farming in the town. Maybe the North Brookfield "Heifers"-or "Guernseys"-would be an interesting possibility. Or, even better, since the whole area was once overrun with sheep pastures serving the woolen trade, how about the North Brookfield "Sheep"? (black or white, it doesn't matter.) I think that's what the school committee might find appealing. After all, sheep

do exactly what they're told, they don't argue, they submit meekly to any and all instructions even if it means their life. I think it's a natural choice and one certain to gain the nodding approval of every liberal who hears about it. I can see it now, the night of the big game and the packed, restless gym is electric with excited anticipation: "And, fans, here they come! Let's hear it for our beloved Sheep!" And the N.B. students and fans rise as one and start bleating "Baaaaaaaa! Baaaaaaaa!" A grand and noble tradition could be started right there in that gym. Consider the possibilities.

If I were a parent in that town with no choice but to send my kids to those schools, I'd be fighting just like the Indians of Old Quaboag Plantation, and hoping one evening before long I'd be in the gym watching a hard-fought basketball or volleyball game and hearing the N.B. kids chanting "We are the Indians, the mighty, mighty, Indians!! Hear us! Fear us! Gooooooooooooooooo Indians!!!"

Come on, North Brookfield! Stand up and be counted, or do you intend to be pushed around by the "better" people for the rest of your lives? Do it for your kids, do it for your own self-respect. If you won't fight for something as simple as this, a fight you can win, what else are you prepared to hand over to your masters without protest?

JOHN MCRAE
EAST BROOKFIELD

How to avoid foggy eyeglasses

Billions of people across the globe need eyeglasses to drive a car, read a book, watch television, and perform a host of other tasks of daily life.

Although glasses are highly effective, people who wear them understand they may have to make a few concessions while doing so. Unlike contact lenses, which sit directly on the eye, glasses rest on the bridge of the nose. They may slightly impede peripheral vision or even slip down if not properly fitted. Those accustomed to wearing glasses in the cold weather understand fogging of the lenses is a nuisance they may be forced to confront. That nuisance became even more profound when masks became a must-have accessory to help curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Glasses may fog due to the formation of condensation on

the lens surface, which happens when moving from a cold outdoor environment into a warm indoor one. This is a problem that has affected eyeglass wearers for some time, including health professionals who often wear masks. The issue has become even more widely known due to the sheer number of people who have been wearing face masks as a public health safety measure.

So how does one counteract the condensation and fogging that occurs from both winter weather and increased mask usage? There are a few different methods, but eyeglass wearers should always consult with an optometrist to verify the safety and efficacy of any method before trying it.

Use soapy water

A 2011 study published in the Annals of The Royal College

of Surgeons of England found that washing eyeglasses in soapy water and shaking off the excess can help reduce fogginess. Afterward, let the spectacles air dry before putting them back on. The soapy water leaves behind a thin surfactant film that reduces surface tension and causes the water molecules to spread out evenly into a transparent layer. This can help prevent fogging.

Use a commercial product

Antifogging products are widely used to prevent fogging of scuba masks or ski goggles.

Get a mask that fits tightly

Make sure the mask fits securely over the nose, advises The Cleveland Clinic. Also, a mask with a nose bridge will help keep warm exhaled breath from exiting up to the glasses.



Use your glasses to help seal the mask on your face by pulling the mask up higher on the nose.

Block breath with a tissue

The AARP suggests placing a folded tissue between your mouth and the mask. The tissue will absorb the warm, moist air, preventing it from rising up to reach the glasses.

Adjust the fit of glasses

Choosing glasses that sit fur-

ther away from the face can improve air circulation and reduce the formation of condensation.

Consider other options

If these tricks seem like a lot of work, you also can speak to an eye doctor about contact lenses or eye surgery.

Fogging of glasses has been a problem for some time, but has become more widespread thanks to the use of masks during the pandemic.



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WEBSTER – 6 Nicholas Circle! 8+ Rm Center Hall Colonial! 1.22 Acres! Sought After Neighborhood! Great Commuter Location Accessible to Many Major Routes! Spacious Stainless Steel Applianced Cabinet Packed Eat-in Kitchen & Formal Dining Rm! 23 x 24 Firplace Family Rm w/Cathedral Ceiling & Slider to the Huge Deck! Front to Back Living Rm! 1/2 Bath w/Laundry Closet! The 2nd Floor You'll Find the Comfortable 12X17 Master w/Walk-in Closet & Full Bath w/Linen Closet! 2 Additional Bedrooms plus an Office/Nursery/Bedroom all w/Ample Closets! 2nd Full Bath off the Hall w/Linen Closet! 2.5 Total Baths! Lower Level Ideal for Storage or Future Expansion! 2 Car Garage w/Electric Openers w/Dble Door Entry to the Basement for Moving Larger Items aka Boys Toys! 2 Z Oil Heat, 2 AC, Separate Oil Water Heater! Irrigation! Don't Delay! **\$418,900.00**



SOLD



SOLD



DOUGLAS – 102 SE Main St! Start Packing! Spacious 9 Rm Colonial! 2.23 Acres! Center Island Granite Kit w/Soft Close Cabs, SS Appliances! Slider to 24' Deck! Open Floor Plan! Hickory Wood Floors throughout the Kit, Din & Liv Rms, all w/Recessed Lighting! 1st Flr Office or Possible 4th Bdrm w/Oak Hrdwd Flr! Full Bath in the Hall! 2nd Flr w/Full Dble Vanity Bthrm & 3 Comfortable Bdrms, all w/Beautiful Wood Laminate Flrs! Master w/Cathedral Ceiling, Skylight, Ceiling Fan, Bay Window overlooking the Back Yard and a Master Bath! Lower Level w/2 Finished Rms, Utility Rm w/Laundry and Half Bath! 3.5 Baths Total! Recent CAIR, Heat & Roof! 2x26 2 Car Detached Garage! Huge Shed! Nearby Nature Trails & Walum Lake Beach! **\$379,900.00**



SOLD



ON DEPOSIT



WEBSTER – 55 Hillside Ave! 7 Rm, 4 Bedroom, Capel, Great Highway Access! Walk to Memorial Beach! View July 4th Fireworks from Your Backyard! Liv Rm w/Hrdwds, Ceiling Fan & Pellet Stove! Eat-in Kit! Fam Rm! Full Bath! 1st Flr Master w/Hrdwds & Ceiling Fan! Oil Heat! Vinyl Sided! Younger Roof! Replacement Windows! Town Services! Fenced Yard! 1 Car Garage! **\$239,900.00**



WEBSTER LAKE - 20 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Western Exposure w/Panoramic Lake Views! Beautiful Sunsets! 7 Rms, 3 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths! Recently Renovated from Top to Bottom! Move-in Ready! Professionally Landscaped! Exterior Stonework Front & Back! Open Floor Plan! 1st Level w/Huge Family Rm w/Lake View & Access out to Stone Patio, 1/2 Bath & Laundry, Travertine Tile Throughout! 2nd Level w/Custom Granite Kitchen w/Stainless Steel Appliances, Center Island w/Seating & Large Pantry! Spacious Living Rm w/Sliders to 14X34 Composite Deck! Dining Area w/Water Views, Hardwood Floors Throughout, Bath w/Tiled Shower, Guest Bedroom or use as Office! Lake Facing Master Bedroom w/Walk-in Closet & Private Deck! Bathroom w/Double Sinks, Tiled Shower & Separate Tub! Comfortable 3rd Bedroom w/Lots of Storage! Level Lot w/Room for Entertaining and Enjoying All The Lake has to Offer! **\$749,000.00**



ON DEPOSIT



ON DEPOSIT



CHARLTON –74 Daniels Road! Completely Renovated 9 Rm, 4 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath Gambrel w/Attached In-Law Apt! Picturesque 3.39 Acres! Deeded Water Rights to South Charlton Reservoir! Extensive Updates! House w/New Roof, Siding, Kit, Bthrms, Windows, Int Doors, Electrical, Flooring, R60 Insulation in Attic, Water Heater, Well Pump & More! In-Law w/Open Flr Plan, Kit, Bdrm w/Walk-in Closet, Full Bath w/Laundry! Both Fully Applianced! 2 New Driveways, Irrigation, AG Pool! Shed! Security! Generator Hookup! **\$489,900.00**



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THOMPSON - 5+ ACRE WATERFRONT LAND - BECOLA ROAD



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ON DEPOSIT

N. ATTLEBORO - 523 KELLY BLVD.



SORRY, SOLD!

Farmhouse style home! Sun-drenched interior! Spacious floor plan! living room, eat-in kitchen, 6 rooms total, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths! Heated by gas / hot water baseboard! Outdoor kitchen, pool! Jacuzzi tub/shower. Located just minutes from Rt 95 & 495! assisted sale **\$408,500.**

WEBSTER - 103 UPPER GORE RD



SORRY, SOLD!

Estate Sale! LOCATION, LOCATION! Scenic Upper Gore Rd! Amazing View of Beautiful Webster Lake! Main level has 3 Bedrooms, Kitchen, Dining Rm, Common Bathroom, Master Bedroom & Master Bath ~ Fireplace Living Room! Finished Lower Level, 1/2 Bath, Laundry, Large room w/Pellet Stove & Direct Garage Access! Tiered deck, w/Screened porch, leads directly to your "Salt water" Inground Pool! **\$319,900.**

LAND WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS

Oxford - 4 Leisester St - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Frontage Possible to be Subdivided **\$99,900**

Webster - Upper Gore w/View of the Lake! 1+ Acre! Artesian Well, Septic Design & Conservation - DONE **NEW PRICE \$115,000.**

Webster - Cooper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res! **Each \$24,500.**

Douglas-Mount Daniels 2.5 Acres abuts Douglas State Forest! **ON DEPOSIT! \$132,900**

Dudley - Marshall Terrace 12,000+- Sq Ft Lot! Potential for a 2 Family! **SORRY SOLD! \$70,000.**

Dudley - Packard Dr. 2 Lots! Very Private! off Ridge Dr. Will not last! **SORRY SOLD! \$50,000.**

OXFORD - 4 SPICEBUSH LANE



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One level living with added 35 x 18 finished walk-out lower level. Cathedral ceilings, skylight dining, hard-wood flooring and central air. Stainless appliances w/large double oven. Over-sized 30 x 14 deck, quiet cul-de-sac! **New Price \$314,900.**

SOUTHBRIDGE - 14 SERVANT WAY



SORRY, SOLD!

Young ranch with heated 2 car garage, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Efficient Propane heat, central air! Open floor plan! gas fireplace! Master Suite w/bathroom, Master California Closet! assisted sale **\$279,900.**

OXFORD - 115 CHARLTON ROAD



SORRY, SOLD!

Beautiful home set back off road providing privacy and oversized yard. Kitchen w/granite counters & abundance of cabinets. Cathedral ceilings kitchen, dining and living room. Open floor plan! large deck with large backyard through sliders in dining room. Hardwood floors! Tile baths. Master bedroom/master bath! Finished walkout lower level w/brk 2 car garage. Extras above ground pool! **\$369,900.**

WEBSTER - 20 KINGSBURY



SORRY, SOLD!

NEW TO THE MARKET! Custom Sprawling Split 2800+- SF! Central Air! Kitchen, Dining Room, Cathedral Ceiling Living Room, 3 Bedrooms! Granite Counters & New Flooring! New Boiler - Hot Water Tank - Oil Tank! FULL finished Lower Level w/ Full Bath & Laundry! THERE'S MORE! 2 Car Garage, renovated to include Hydro Heat, AC & 1/2 Bath! Great for Fitness Studio, Game Room or Home School! Over 1.4 Acres! **\$360,000.**

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Webster Lake - 100 Lakeside Ave



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WEBSTER LAKE! PANORAMIC VIEWS! BEAUTIFUL SUNSETS! Extraordinary Waterfront Contemporary! Architect designed with Lake Living in mind. Custom Built with Attention to High Quality & Detail. Outstanding open concept, water view from almost every room. Nicely situated on a .25 acre level peninsula, 180'+/- prime lake frontage! Enhanced by a all natural shoreline! All you need to live is located on the 1st floor. Grand 2 story foyer, cozy fireplace living room, gourmet kitchen, lake facing dining , formal dining room, media room & spacious 1st floor guest BR Suite w/ private bath. Incredible 2nd floor fireplace lake-facing corner master suite w/luxurious private bath, 3 more 2nd floor BRs & full bath! Something Special! Remember, Timing Is Everything! **\$1,075,000.**

Lake Shirley - 647 Reservoir Rd



SORRY, SOLD!

Lakefront! Lake Shirley! Modern Flare on a Lakefront Colonial! 1st level Formal large entry foyer, living room, gas fireplace, chef kitchen, Impala black granite, center island, 3 season porch, overlooking the lake. 1st FL bedroom suite w/ shower and jacuzzi tub, 2nd floor Master Suite! Lower level Summer kitchen, full bath, game room. Crown moulding & hardwood floors throughout, wired sound system, radiant floors. oversize 2 car garage. Additional Guest House! assisted sale **\$1,040,000.**



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Decembers' Single Family Homes Real Estate Market

AUBURN			
	December 2019	December 2020	Trend
Median Price	\$280,000	\$344,000	▲
Market Volume	\$5,326,050	\$9,592,900	▲
# of Homes Sold	17	24	▲
Avg Days on Market	41	32	▼

DUDLEY			
	December 2019	December 2020	Trend
Median Price	\$282,000	\$323,000	▲
Market Volume	\$2,302,400	\$3,167,400	▲
# of Homes Sold	8	10	▲
Avg Days on Market	32	30	▼

Contact us to find more about your neighborhood market & what your home is worth!
Happy Holidays from our family to yours!

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Dudley: 8 Acres, Possible 55+ development opportunity in hand. Water & sewer available or build 2 mini estates.
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Dudley:
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\$239,900

ON DEPOSIT

Webster: Condo, 2 bdrm, totally redone
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Time to get back on the ice



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The cold weather is her to stay. Hopefully! Checking your ice fishing gear should be done by now. Checking your line and hooks are very important. Ice fishing tilts or tip ups, as the new generation calls them, are becoming very expensive. This writer prefers the older ice tilts that work very well, and are easy to repair. Because of the rain that was predicted this past Friday, ice conditions have deteriorated, and very few ponds are safe for ice fishing locally.

Anglers wanting to do some ice fishing, may need to travel North and West of the valley area, or even consider Maine and New Hampshire. Ice conditions were a lot better last week, as the temperatures dropped to - 10 degrees in those states. First ice is extremely dangerous and should be navigated with extreme caution. Checking the ice with a hand chisel and striking it into the ice as you navigate across a frozen pond, is extremely important. Remind youngsters about the dangers of unsafe, ice and tell them to stay off of the ice without parental supervision.

This writer has been fishing on ice for most of my life, and has found jig fishing as being the most fun and most productive. A simple jig stick equipped with a small reel loaded with 10-pound test braided line and four feet of six-pound test monofilament as leader, equipped with a Swedish pimple jig, and baited with a perch eye, is deadly for bottom feeding fish. Back during my younger years, I used a hand chisel to cut my holes for jigging, sometimes cutting as many as 100 or more a day when the ice was six inches or less thick. The method was called spudding! The hole was only a couple of inches around, enough to accommodate the lure, or a small perch.

We had no reel on the jig stick, which was called dead sticking.

When a large fish was hooked, we often had to call a buddy to chop the hole larger, while the fish was held just under the ice. A small hand gaff was used to hold the fish, until the hole was large enough to pull the big fish through. Most often I fished for yellow perch and calico bass, but we often encountered a largemouth bass. While fishing for perch, catching as many as 10 or more from one hole was not uncommon, and catching 100 or more in a day, was also not uncommon. The best eating size was 8-to-10-inch fish, although numerous perch well exceeded the 12-inch size. Pan fried in a mixture of ground cornmeal & flower in a pan of oil and a quarter pound of butter can provide some great eating.

When ice fishing on the Cape in the town of Carver, we found a pond that was loaded with pickerel, back a number of years ago. While fishing with the late Dick Blanchard of Uxbridge we caught a couple of limits of the extremely boney fish. Dick convinced this writer to retain a few, as he was going to find a receipt for pickling the fish. A few weeks later he dropped of a jar of pickled pickerel for me to try. It was great. Every year after, Dick always made a few jars of the tasty fish which consisted of pickling salt, raw onion rings, pickling spices in a combination of two thirds white vinegar, and a third water. The pickling process softened the bones of the pickerel, making for a great appetizer on our future fishing expeditions.

Deer hunters were happy to see the snow of two weeks ago, resulting in some great tracking conditions. Numerous deer were harvested in the last two weeks of the Black Powder season, some of the bucks carrying only one antler. Every year the bucks shed their antlers and grow new ones for the following year.

Duck & goose hunting opened on Dec. 14, and provided some great shooting opportunity's after the recent snow and cold weather. The freeze and snow drove the birds into major rivers and

unfrozen ponds. A lot more mallards and a few wood ducks that lagged behind from their annual migration, provided some great shooting. The final season ends on January 4, 2021 in the Central District. Sea duck hunting in Massachusetts ends on Jan. 25.

Now that I have compiled more information on the dissolved Sea Scouts organization, the following information from my memory, and from Elvin Winchell of Grafton is as follows: Back in the '50s up until the '70s or so, the Sea Scouts had a clubhouse on the shores of Meadow Pond in Whitinsville. Tom Frieswick, Mr. Cahill were scoutmaster for many years getting the young generation ready for the draft. The scouts also had a large Dory, 20 feet plus, and the scouts were often observed rowing the Dory across the Meadow Pond a few times a week. Pete Oppenwall, Jack Cunningham, the Baldwin brothers, Jim Bouley are only a few of the original Sea Scouts. Elvin Winchell was a bit younger than the scouts, but still hung around with the group, later joining the Sea Scouts.

After their rowing work out, they cruised into the boat wharf at Joe Tops bar and Grill. All of the rowers held there oars up in a vertical position, as the helmsman navigated the boat alongside the wharf. There was also a candy shop on the side of the bar, that sold them soda and potato chips before they headed back out. Harding's Boat House and Bait Shop was also a stopping off spot to get fresh bait for fishing.

The clubhouse burned down around the '80's, but the Sea scout's organization continued to meet weekly. They also spent many days fishing, which was one of the top activities back in the day. You could say that the Meadow Pond was a popular playground for many residents of the Village in Whitinsville years ago. My generation sure lived in the best years, although our parents had little money, and worked hard to raise us.

It was a time that people went to their local Fish & Game Club to play cards and bingo, and enjoy a dinner of Raccoon and Ham, beans, & pota-



Photo Courtesy

This week's picture shows Dan Southwick with a 9.15-pound largemouth bass.

to. Tickets were a mere \$2 each, which was a lot of money back then. Raffle's and other entertainment were enjoyed on weekends ,and then they got ready to return to work on Monday, with most residents in the valley working at the former Whittin Machine Works.

The incredible Dan Southwick landed another whopper a couple of weeks ago, as this week's picture shows. The largemouth bass weighed in at 9.15 lbs. and was caught in a neighboring state. Nice fish!

Happy New Year! Hoping everyone had a very Merry Christmas and good health!

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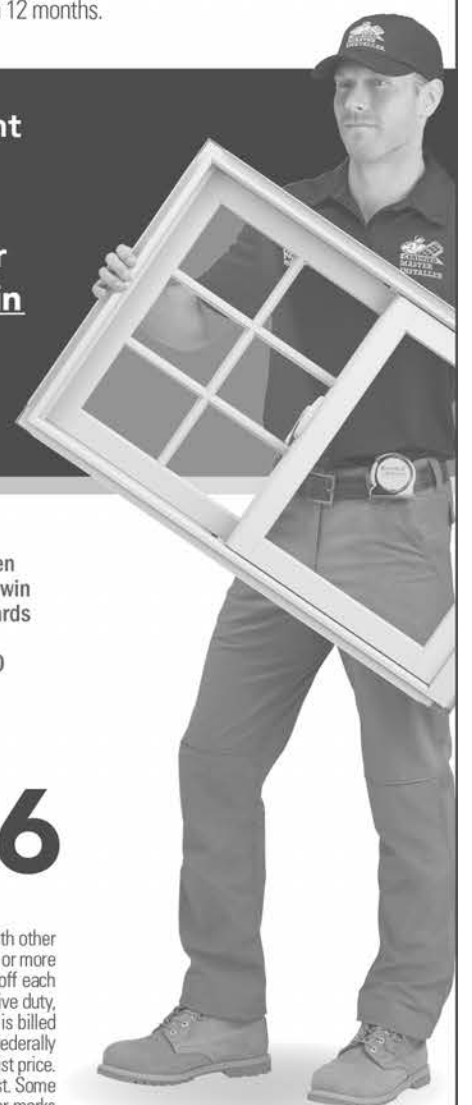


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Winter care for houseplants



Moon Valley Pilea is a moisture-loving plant that prefers high humidity but will tolerate average home humidity.

Holidays are filled with new plants and decorations that often find our houseplants relegated to any out of the way available space. Be sure to keep your houseplants looking their best with proper winter care.

Make sure houseplants receive sufficient light now and throughout the winter. The shorter, often gray days of winter mean less light reaches our plants. Start by moving plants to the sunniest available window. A south-facing window is usually best, but if it is obstructed by trees, awnings or shears it may be no better than an unobstructed window facing another direction.

If brightly lit locations are limited in your home, try rotating plants between high and low light areas. Switching plants every few weeks usually keeps them growing healthy. Give the pots a turn every few weeks to ensure each side of the plant has time facing the light. This encourages even growth and discourages stems stretching toward the light.

Consider supplementing natural light with artificial light when light is limited. Newer styles that clip onto pots, are mounted on the wall, or tucked into furniture grade stands make them attractive and easier to use. And now LED plant lights are more affordable, longer lasting and use less energy.

Humidity is the other winter stress. Many of our houseplants are tropical and require higher humidity than our homes provide. As we turn up the heat, the humidity declines.

Boost the humidity around your plants by displaying them together. As one plant loses moisture, the others will benefit. Add a gravel tray for additional humidity. Fill a tray or saucer with pebbles and water. Then set the plant on the pebbles elevated above the water. As the water evaporates, it increases humidity around the plant.



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Adjust your watering schedule to fit the conditions in your home. Always water thoroughly but only as needed. Use your finger to check the soil moisture below the soil surface. Water moisture-loving plants, like Moon Valley Pilea, when the top few inches are barely moist. Allow the top few inches of soil to dry for cacti and succulents. And always pour off excess water that collects in the saucer. Or use gravel trays to capture the excess water, eliminating this task.

Most houseplants do fine in the same temperatures we prefer. They do not tolerate drafts of hot air from heat vents or cold air from windows and doors. Move plants as needed to avoid drafty locations.

Never trap houseplants between the curtain or blinds and the window. The temperature can be significantly colder, resulting in injury and even death of some plants. Place plants on a table near the window or windowsill extension, leaving room to close the window coverings at night.

Wait until spring to fertilize. Plants do not need as many nutrients when their growth is limited by less-than-ideal winter conditions. As the outdoor growing conditions improve with longer days and brighter light, so do those indoors.

You will be rewarded with healthier, more attractive plants when giving them the care they need this winter. And as you tend your indoor garden, you will help fight the winter blues.

Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*. 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 her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

The many benefits of houseplants

The lines between the outdoors and indoors are being blurred. Homeowners build extensive outdoor living spaces so they can relax on weather-resistant furniture and even cook in lavish kitchens in their backyards. In addition, indoor three-season rooms full of bright, open windows that showcase outdoor vistas challenge the boundaries between outside and inside.

For those working with limited budgets, there are some easy, inexpensive ways to enjoy the majesty of natural landscapes indoors. Houseplants can be used to improve indoor spaces, and they also provide various health benefits.

Help with allergies

According to WebMD, rooms with houseplants tend to have less dust and mold in them than those without any foliage. Leaves and other parts of the plants serve as natural filters, catching airborne particles and allergens. Plants with textured leaves might be especially effective at trapping particles.

Put more oxygen into the air

The human respiratory system works by bringing in oxygen and releasing carbon dioxide. Plants do the opposite during photosynthesis. They absorb carbon dioxide and then release oxygen. Plants can put much more oxygen into the air, improving indoor conditions.

Increase indoor humidity and reduce illness

Studies from the Agricultural University of Norway found that indoor plants can increase humidity in indoor spaces, which decreases the incidences of sore throats, dry coughs, dry skin, and the common cold. Higher absolute humidity can decrease the chances of

survival and transmission of the flu virus.

Filter the air

Researchers who presented their work at the 252nd National Meeting & Exposition of the American Chemical Society found certain houseplants can combat the potentially harmful effects of volatile organic compounds. Plants may help filter out VOCs like benzene, acetone and formaldehyde, which can enter indoor air via cleaning supplies, dry-cleaned clothes, furniture, printers, and paints.

Improve interior atmosphere

Prevention magazine says plants can be used to screen unattractive areas, moderate room temperature by shading spots from the sun and even reduce noise. Plants also can improve ambience and create a pleasing atmosphere in a room.

Can improve mood

Growing and caring for plants can alleviate everyday stress. A nationwide study from UK Magazine Gardeners World found 80 percent of gardeners declared themselves satisfied with life compared to 67 percent among non-gardeners. Gardeners were more positive mentally. Greenery can help people feel more at home and improve mental health. A rehab center in Norway found patients reported a greater increase in well-being four weeks after having greenery added to their surroundings.

Houseplants can improve indoor areas and positively affect personal health.



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