



# SPENCER NEW LEADER

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

SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO [News@StoneBridgePress.news](mailto:News@StoneBridgePress.news) Friday, January 29, 2021



## Girl Scout helps Leicester youth discover music

Photo Courtesy

Leicester High School junior Erin Arsenault is using a Girl Scout project to support her school's music program

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – A local Girl Scout recently struck gold with her project that allows students to discover their love for music and instruments. Erin Arsenault, a junior at Leicester High School and a long-time member of Girl Scout Troop

11077, earned a Gold Award with the completion of her project. After extensive planning, she established a musical instrument lending library for students in the Leicester Public Schools. “My love for music inspired my project. When I was coming up with ideas for my Gold Award, I had no idea what to do until one of my class-

mates was unable to play an instrument because of the cost. I knew right then that my project had to do something to help with that,” said Arsenault, a member of her school’s Tri-M Music Honor Society. “My project is now able to give kids the chance to play an instrument when they never thought they could.” Arsenault held instrument drives

and raised funds to help repair school-owned instruments. She also developed a plan for the lending library program to continue following her graduation, with the help of the LHS chapter of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. For many students who don’t have

Turn To **ERIN**, page **A4**

## Local libraries work to continue services during pandemic

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

REGION – Although COVID-19 has put a freeze on many library activities this winter, local officials are working hard to provide continued services. Over the past several months, most area libraries have been limited to remote programs and curbside pickup services. Some buildings have partially reopened, but state regulations on gatherings limit the number of patrons who can attend the library. At Leicester Public Library, such services as printing, faxing, and referencing can be done remotely. The library currently circulates hotspots to provide users with internet access at home, and

Turn To **LIBRARIES**, page **A15**

## Spencer library embraces optimism with luminary project

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – During a time of unprecedented darkness, local organizations, first responders, essential workers, and businesses have served as lights of hope. At Richard Sugden Public Library, a recent luminary project celebrated the optimism of the community. “The Friends of the Richard Sugden Library purchased a banner and stickers designed by our staff to promote our library as a light during these dark times,” read a statement issued by Library Director Cheryl Donahue. Patrons of all ages picked up votive kits during curbside services in recent months. After decorating their materials, patrons returned them to the library for display. Last month, the luminaries were arranged on the library’s front lawn as a display of hope and solidarity during the long, dark winter. In total, the community came together to decorate over 60 bags. Library officials are looking forward to the eventual reopening of their



building. They don’t know when conditions will be safe enough for a return to programs and activities, but staff members can’t wait to welcome patrons back through their doors.

Meanwhile, officials have found ways to continue assisting residents through limited services.

Turn To **LUMINARIES**, page **A15**



## West Brookfield church welcomes new pastor

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

WEST BROOKFIELD – Faith leadership has taken Rev. Dr. Ann Michele Rogers Brigham across the nation and the globe. After several decades in ministry – and countless miles between destinations – she found herself drawn to central Massachusetts. Rev. Dr. Ann Michele Rogers Brigham was recently selected to lead First Congregational Church of West Brookfield.

Photo Courtesy

Rogers Brigham was recently selected as the new pastor at First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, UCC. She brings to town 40 years of experience in professional ministry, leading churches from California to Thailand – and plenty of stops in between. But after inspiring churchgoers in communities large and small, urban and rural, Rogers Brigham was called back to New England by a desire to be near family. She felt immediately wel-

comed by the church community and town leaders. “Even though we are in the midst of a pandemic, and are isolated in many ways, my first few weeks in West Brookfield have gone well,” Rogers Brigham said. “The congregation has warmly welcomed me and provided for me in generous, affirming ways – like finding me housing in West Brookfield and bringing me food and other pro-

Turn To **BRIGHAM**, page **A3**



# 3RD ANNUAL ABC'S OF THE WINTER SEASON 2021

Find the ABC's Crossword inside this issue.

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\$368,000, 23 Quaboag St, Braconnier, Christine R, and Braconnier, Craig G, to Rosario, Irving, and Rosario, Elisabeth S.

#### LEICESTER

\$630,000, 2 Marshall St, Sansoucy, John E, and Sansoucy, Donna R, to Sacco, David J.

\$543,000, 59 Parker St, Coll, Dennis M, and Coll, Deborah M, to Giffen, Brian M, and Giffen, Lisa M.

\$375,000, 3 Cricklewood Dr, Cunningham, Thoms, and Cunningham, Nancy S, to Cunningham, Andrew T, and Cunningham, Lindsey M.

\$339,000, 290 Pine St, Perry, Thomas E, and Perry, Marguerite H, to Rivas, Jose.

\$335,000, 30 Warren Ave, Hart, Joel G, and Hart, Michelle A, to Achia-Larbi, Mary R.

\$320,000, 31 Ingram Rd, Mead, Anthony, and Belaska, Marissa, to Lamothe, Andrew C, and Lamothe, Tiffany A.

\$265,000, 1001 Stafford St, Leonard, Lynda L, to Gauthier, Daniel P.

\$171,000, 6 Woodland Rd, Antanavica, Kenneth M, to Rock, Laura.

#### NORTH BROOKFIELD

\$225,000, 11 Batchelor Dr, Lamothe, Andrew, and Lamothe, Tiffany A, to Thebeau, Nicole Y.

\$220,000, 6 Stoddard Ct, Lopato, Francis J, and Lopato, Erin, to Majeed, Mona.

\$59,000, New Braintree Rd, Tillotson, Howard E, and Tillotson, Marcia E, to Hathaway, James R.

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\$381,000, 20 Wire Village Rd, Maclean, Scott D, to Bartkus, Michael J.

#### WARREN

\$185,000, 1212 Southbridge Rd, Cuifo Richard S Est, and Aranzullo, Linda, to Suntrex LLC.

#### WEST BROOKFIELD

\$194,000, 73 W Main St, Dewar, Aaron, and Dewar, Katherine E, to Schnitzer, Zachary.



## 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](mailto: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.

## Justin Howard named to American International College Dean's List

SPRINGFIELD — Justin Howard, of W Brookfield, has been named to the American International College (AIC) Dean's List for the fall 2020 semester. Dean's List students are full time students who have achieved a 3.3 to 4.0 GPA. AIC commends the efforts and accomplishments of these scholars during this unprecedented time.

Founded in 1885, American International College (AIC) is a private, co-educational, doctoral granting institution located in Springfield, Massachusetts, comprising the School of Business, Arts and Sciences, the School of Education, and the School of Health Sciences. AIC supports and advances education, diversity, and opportunity for its students and the community.

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## BRIGHAM

*continued from page A1*

visions to help me get settled in. Living right here in the community has given me the opportunity to meet my neighbors and become acquainted with the town, even if it is a walk to the Post Office."

Reflecting on her long, rewarding journey, Rogers Brigham has made unforgettable memories at all of her stops along the way. She started on her road to ministry in the 1970s, as a freshman at Mississippi College. To reach her goal, she had to push through several obstacles and refuse to allow others to dictate her dreams.

"It was not easy in the early days for a woman to be ordained and be in professional ministry, so I feel gratitude for those congregations and academic institutions who have supported me and affirmed my call to ministry," Rogers Brigham said.

After completing her Doctor of Ministry program at Andover Newton Theological School, Rogers Brigham served as the Protestant Chaplain at Bentley College. She then answered calls to serve Massachusetts UCC churches in Woburn, East Walpole, and Orleans.

Years later, as an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ, Rogers Brigham served as a pastor in Plymouth, Wisc., Hinesburg, Vt., San Jose, Calif., and Clinton, Miss. She headed overseas to Thailand in 2016 to teach at Christian University, then returned to Clinton, Miss., for her next chapter in faith leadership.

As she continues to settle into West Brookfield, Rogers Brigham feels that her experience and background are perfect fits for her new church com-

munity.

"Through the years, my experience and training have been to help churches become healthier and more focused on their mission to be agents of compassion, justice, and inclusion," Rogers Brigham added. "I was eager to return to the northeast to be closer to family, and First Congregational Church of West Brookfield had specific needs to address, so we became a match."

The introductory period for Rogers Brigham in her new community was made even more challenging by the pandemic. Whenever COVID-19 conditions improve and residents feel more comfortable returning to public settings, Rogers Brigham and her team are eager to welcome them.

Meanwhile, the church is continuing its worship services online through Zoom (Sundays at 10 a.m.). For those seeking additional guidance or information, Rogers Brigham is available by phone or in-person appointment. She understands that many residents – especially seniors – are feeling isolated and discouraged this winter. But even though the church is holding services remotely, its doors are never closed.

"I want to be here for the local and wider community who have expressed need for help, especially at a time when the pandemic leaves us in lonely, vulnerable places – physically, emotionally, and spiritually," Rogers Brigham said.

Church members have been working hard for the past several months to provide relief throughout the community. This includes the work of Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry, which is operated out of the church. The food pantry continues to take donations

that can be distributed with the help of volunteers. For more information about the program, call 508-867-7078.

The church also runs several other outreach ministries. New members are always welcome to get involved.

In the months and years ahead, Rogers Brigham looks forward to meeting community leaders in all sectors. She is hoping to not only strengthen current community bonds, but also branch out and build new ones.

"As I continue to become acquainted with the town of West Brookfield and surrounding towns where many of our members live, I hope to learn more about ways we are connected and ways we may work together in our schools, government, businesses, and other faith communities to support one another," Rogers Brigham said.

## Friday's Child



Bailey  
Age 13

Hi! My name is Bailey and I enjoy spending time with animals!

Bailey is a kind and creative girl of Caucasian descent. Bailey has many interests and hobbies such as playing outside, swimming, cooking and baking. She also enjoys playing imaginative games with her stuffed animals and dolls. She will often ask others to compete in a game of Uno, Candyland, or Connect Four with her. She is a competitive, playful child who is always willing to try new games and activities. Animals are also very important to Bailey and she enjoys going to farms to visit and interact with different types of animals.

Bailey is very eager to have good relationships with adults and peers in her life. She puts in a lot of effort

and energy into forming positive relationships. In the school setting, Bailey has been able to create and maintain friendships with several peers in her classroom.

Bailey has identified that she wants to be an only child in a family that will love her and keep her safe. She would also like to be in a family that has pets and shares her love for ravioli! Bailey's team would love to see her placed in an active two-parent family that has a strong support system and is very involved in their community. Bailey's future family should be willing to engage in services and maintain contact and visits with her birth parents and siblings.

#### 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.mare-inc.org](http://www.mare-inc.org). The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.



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# Open Sky Community Services opens new Family Support Center

WORCESTER — Open Sky Community Services, Inc. is opening the Blackstone Valley Family Support Center in Whitinsville in February 2021, according to agency President and CEO, Ken Bates. The Center will serve children and adults with Intellectual Disabilities and/or Autism and their families.

“We are very pleased to

have been selected by the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to operate this program in the Blackstone Valley,” said Bates.

The Center will operate at 70 Douglas Rd. in Whitinsville, the site of the historic Alternatives Whitin Mill.

The Center will offer a wide range of services designed “to

help individuals live, learn, work, play, have relationships and pursue their life’s aspirations in the community,” according to DDS.

Among others, services will include help in applying for DDS services and other benefits, trainings, information and referral, navigation of systems and community resources, social and recreational opportunities and connecting individuals and families with each other.

The Alternatives Whitin Mill is the perfect location for this service, according to Donna MacLeod-Prior, Vice President of Developmental Services at Open Sky. “This site has long been a place where the community gathers for plays, concerts, gallery exhibits, and so much more. While these events are currently virtual, we look forward to welcoming our new DDS families and individuals to in-person events in the near

future.”

The Family Support Center will be staffed by a manager and service navigators and is expected to serve between 300 and 450 families once fully operational.

For more information, email [familysupportcenter@openskycs.org](mailto:familysupportcenter@openskycs.org).

For more information about Open Sky Community Services, please contact Lorie Martiska, [lorie.martiska@openskycs.org](mailto:lorie.martiska@openskycs.org).

About Open Sky Community Services

Open Sky Community Services is dba for Alternatives Unlimited, Inc. and The Bridge of Central MA. Open Sky offers a wide range of services for adults, adolescents, and children with mental health challenges, developmental and intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, brain injury, homelessness and other challenges throughout Central Massachusetts. Open

Sky Community Services has more than 1,300 dedicated employees and an annual budget of \$83M with more than 100 programs throughout the region. For more information, please visit [www.openskycs.org](http://www.openskycs.org).

About The Bridge Training Institute

The Bridge Training Institute is an industry leader in providing both theoretical and real-world training on evidence-based and best practices for clinicians and school personnel. Offering over 20 trainings per year, the Institute features expert trainers from human services, education, professional practices and academia. Institute trainers have worked directly with leaders in the field such as Marcia Linehan, Aaron Beck, the BU Center for Psychological Rehabilitation and others.

## Alexander Demarski earns spot on Dean’s List at Coastal Carolina University

CONWAY, S.C. — More than 2,300 undergraduate students

at Coastal Carolina University were named to the Dean’s List for the Fall 2020 semester, including Alexander Demarski a Recreation and Sport Management major from East Brookfield.

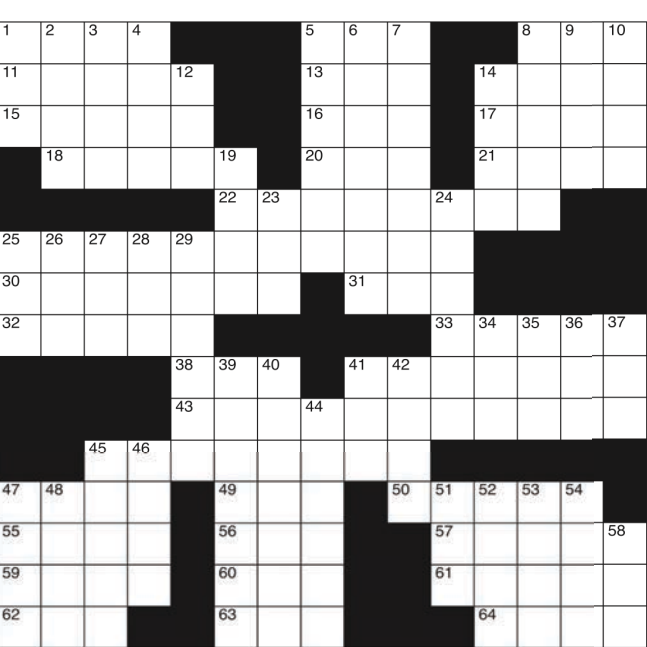
Coastal Carolina University is a dynamic, public comprehensive liberal arts institution located in Conway, just minutes from the resort area of Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Coastal Carolina University offers baccalaureate degrees in 94 major fields of study. Among CCU’s graduate-level programs are 27 master’s degrees, two educational specialist degrees, and the doctor-

ates in education and in marine science: coastal and marine systems science. The most popular undergraduate majors are marine science, management, exercise and sport science, communication and psychology. CCU boasts a growing array of internship, research and international opportunities for students, as well as numerous online programs.

More than 10,000 students from across the country and around the world interact with a world-class faculty, and enjoy a nationally competitive NCAA I athletic program, an inspiring cultural calendar, and a tradition of community interaction that is fueled by more than 120 student clubs and organizations.

Visit [coastal.edu](http://coastal.edu) for more information.



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Gather a harvest
- 5. Federal Republic of Germany
- 8. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 11. “The Little Mermaid”
- 13. The common gibbon
- 14. Volcanic island in Fiji
- 15. Mother of Perseus
- 16. Egg cells
- 17. Teams’ best pitchers
- 18. Credit associations
- 20. Advance
- 21. Hair styling products
- 22. Benign tumors
- 25. Arriving early
- 30. Called it a career
- 31. \_\_ Paulo, city
- 32. Avoid with trickery
- 33. Easter egg
- 38. Veterans battleground
- 41. Lack of success
- 43. Thing that causes disgust
- 45. Deep, continuing sound
- 47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 49. You might put it in a fire
- 50. Partner to “oohed”
- 55. Actor Idris
- 56. Slippery
- 57. Plant of the bean family
- 59. One point north of northeast
- 60. Patti Hearst’s captors
- 61. Places to hang clothes
- 62. Midwife
- 63. Of she
- 64. S. Korean statesman

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Cool!
- 2. Amounts of time
- 3. Aboriginal people of Japan
- 4. Popular veggies
- 5. Wedding accessory
- 6. Deep, narrow gorges
- 7. Dry cereal
- 8. Competitions that require speed
- 9. Cain and \_\_
- 10. Snake sound
- 12. Type of amino acid (abbr.)
- 14. Pattern of notes in Indian music
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. Misfire
- 24. Nearsightedness
- 25. Indicates before
- 26. Increase motor speed
- 27. When you hope to get there
- 28. Indicates position
- 29. Where rockers perform
- 34. Substitute
- 35. \_\_ juris: of one’s own right
- 36. Earliest form of modern human in Europe: \_\_-magnon
- 37. Adult female bird
- 39. Do away with
- 40. Lens
- 41. Flattened appendage
- 42. Post or pillar in Greek temple
- 44. A medieval citizen of Hungary
- 45. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 46. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
- 47. Sew
- 48. Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Grayish-white
- 53. A way to illustrate
- 54. College basketball superpower
- 58. Midway between south and southeast



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### P.A.L. of the Week

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**Name:** Pokus  
**Breed:** DSH  
**Sex:** Female  
**Age:** Young Adult

Pokus has quite a story to tell but we will only be able to tell part of the story. She showed up outside the shelter several months ago. She was extremely skittish and shy. We started to feed her but could not get within feet of her. Slowly she started to trust me as I was the person who fed her (the way to a cat’s heart is through their tummy). Pokus is a beautiful cat who has mellowed considerably. I pet her and she actually enjoys it. She really is a lovely girl who will need a quiet home where someone can be patient and kind to her. She is not aggressive but still skittish. I know she will bond with the right person as she has to me. We will never know the beginning of her story but we are hoping someone will give her a happy ending.

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**Dr. Colm P. Scanlon**  
Veterinarian

### ERIN

continued from page A1

access to instruments or can’t afford one, the lending library will help break down a barrier to entry.

“The most rewarding part of my project is the fact that I get to see other kids find their love for music the same way I did when I first started playing,” said Arsenault, who has been involved in Scouting for 12 years, beginning when she was in kindergarten.

Similar to the Eagle Scout Award for Boy Scouts, the Gold Award in Girl Scouts is the highest rank attainable in Scouting. A major difference is that all Gold Award projects must be sustainable and maintained after an individual’s participation in Scouting.

Thanks to the support of Leicester High School’s Tri-M Music Honor Society, Arsenault’s project will be continued every year to assist aspiring student-musicians.

LHS teachers commend Arsenault for her hard work and commitment to promoting enjoyment of music.

“Erin is an all-around dedicated student. She has always been dedicated to the Leicester music program and her other activities,” said LHS music teacher Kristina Looney. “Her humility, work ethic, and dedication to her school and community will take her far. Erin tends to leave everything a little better than it was before. I am especially thankful for all she has done to make the Leicester music program more accessible to all future students.”

Looking ahead, Arsenault hopes to study law enforcement at the United States Coast Guard Academy. She has aspirations of joining the Coast Guard Band.

## PERSON of the WEEK

**SUE ANGELA HEALY**  
North Brookfield, MA

I would like to recognize Sue Angela Healy who passed away unexpectedly on December 17. She was an amazing woman who loved to write poems about people she knew and others she never met, often memorializing people who had passed. Her thoughtful poems had been featured month after month in The Write Stuff, a Spencer New Leader feature, for many years. My sincere condolences to her family and friends. Even though I never met Sue, I feel as if I’ve known her for years. Her beautiful poems will be forever missed. May God bless you Sue and may you write with the angels.

— June Simakauskas

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# Anglers take to the ice

The old saying: if you do not like the weather in New England, just wait a day or two. Fishermen have been waiting or some safe ice, and it has finally happened. Numerous small ponds were safe this past weekend, but it was safe in some areas and not so safe in others. Caution still needs to be practiced as not all areas of the lakes and ponds are frozen equally. The Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club had a few anglers catching some recently stocked trout this past Saturday, with Steve Bedard of Uxbridge landing a real impressive rainbow trout, as this week's picture shows.

Not all sections of the pond were safe, but anglers concentrated on the safe areas to fish. While some anglers were fishing Steve Bedard was busy cooking breakfast prior to his big catch. Waffles and eggs were great, according to all in attendance. Steve loves to cook, and does a pig roast for the club every year!

This past week, I visited Jerrys' Bait & Tackle shop in Milford to get the latest information on fishing conditions in other parts of the state. One angler that I spoke with did not want to be identified, but he did reveal some great information on his success fishing for Northern Pike in the Western part of the state the week before. Trophy fishing for pike can be a bit on the pricey side when it comes to purchasing live bait, as I quickly found out. You want to catch big fish, you need to use large bait! Six- and seven-inch bait fish cost the angler \$5 each, while the four-inch bait cost \$3 each! He was just glad to get them, as bait fish that size are not easy to find.

I asked the angler if he had any pictures of his fish from the prior week of fishing, and he was quick to show me one fish that was a monster Northern Pike. I asked him if he would allow



THE GREAT  
OUTDOORS  
.....  
RALPH  
TRUE

me to use it for my next column? Sorry, I do not want people following me to my favorite fishing hole! I can understand, as one local angler that has some great fishing spots for Northern Pike had that happen to him. He found anglers parked down the road from his house, waiting for him to leave, and they would attempt to follow him to his fishing spot that morning.

He was smart enough to notice he was being followed, and managed to lose them on some of the back roads, prior to arriving at his destination. Deer hunters are also reluctant to disclose their trophy deer hunting spots for the same reason, and have gone through similar experiences. Is this what fishing and hunting is coming to? It also happens on the ocean. It makes reporting on trophy fish and deer success a lot harder. Oh, well! It is the world we live in today! I do not need to worry about anyone trying to follow me my hot spots, as they have been fished out by commercial draggers.

Dog owners need to keep their pets close to home and under their control at all times. The threat of losing them to predators is extremely high this time of year, and the other threat is to have them fall through thin ice. In the last few weeks, dog owners have had their pets fall through thin ice, but were lucky that they were rescued in time. Numerous deer are also falling through thin ice as they attempt to cross local ponds and lakes.

Even when you are taking walks with your dog at this time of year, they should be kept on a leash when walking near ponds and lakes. A few years back, I was taking my dogs Molly and Twig for a walk along the banks of the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club, when my wife's beagle Molly spotted a couple of mallard ducks flying by. As soon as she



Photos Courtesy

Jim Lavallee & Steve Bedard ice fishing at the Uxbridge Club Pond this past Saturday.

spotted them, she started to chase them by sight.

Not watching where she was going, the ducks banked to the right over the pond. She followed them and found herself under a thin layer of ice. I quickly jumped into the water that, thankfully, was not too deep. I could see her swimming under the coating of ice (about an inch), and I managed to break the ice and grab her collar. I threw her towards the shore as my walking buddy looked on. This happened prior to my wife's passing, and I knew that if I had gone home without her, my life would be hell! She suffered no ill effects from the ordeal, and I was lucky the water was not too deep.

Talking to young family members about the dangers of thin ice cannot be stressed enough at this time of year. They need adult supervision at all times, and some adults need to be supervised by their children!

Bringing in your dogs to a warm place during extremely cold weather should be practiced, and there outdoor living quarters need to be clean, dry,



Steve Bedard with a monster rainbow trout caught this past Saturday!

with plenty of straw! They also need plenty of water at this time of year with plenty of high protein food.

The Massachusetts late Canada Goose hunting reopened on Jan. 15 in the Central District, and will remain open until Feb. 15, with a five-bird daily limit. Fortunately, the fields are absent of snow having numerous geese frequenting them on a daily basis. Unfortunately, most fields are now frozen making food for the geese hard to get, and some fields that do have food and numerous geese in them, are off limits to hunting. Rivers should provide some great hunting opportunities to harvest a few geese before the season ends on Feb. 15.

The 2020 black bear season in Massachusetts was a record year, with 325 bears harvested! The September season had 236 bear harvested, and the November season had five.

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



POSITIVELY  
SPEAKING

GARY W.  
MOORE

## The pandemic of pessimism vs. the opportunities of optimism

"The sky is falling! The end is near!" In a variety of words, we are hearing these dire warnings issued by the talking heads on television and on talk radio, daily. The fear then permeates into the minds and hearts of listeners who then spread to their friends, family, and coworkers. Yes, fear and pessimism can travel just like a virus. Washing your hands and wearing masks won't help. Social distancing will, but it requires far more than staying six feet away. Avoid the carriers of pessimism like the plague.

Pessimism is a tendency to see the worst aspect of things

or believe that the worst will happen. Sound familiar? How many people do you know live this way? A pessimistic outlook causes lack of hope or confidence in the future. It's a terrible feeling to live without hope. Even worse, pessimism is a self-fulfilling prophecy. If you live your life believing the worst is coming, your mind and body conspire together to make it so. What you look for, you usually find.

We speak often about optimism and the opportunities for a successful and happy life. But like the typical optimist, I usually avoid pessimism like a nasty virus.

The typical pessimist doesn't realize he or she is a pessimist. They say things like, "I call them the way I see them," or, "I'm a realist." When you believe the worst is coming, what do you think you look for? And when you look at life through pessimistic eyes, everything looks negative. When you see the worst in situations and people, you respond in kind, while creating a negative and unhappy life.

I spent a lot of years in leadership positions and as a CEO. In searching for future leaders, experience and education was always important but took a back seat to attitude and out-

look. I always sought out the optimists. I wanted people who saw a successful and bright future at the helm. If they were optimistic about success, they were far more likely to succeed. No, optimism alone will not always win, but an optimistic person with the right experience and training will.

I've mentioned this before, but it's appropriate to mention again. On February 15, 2020, an oncologist told me that I had nine months to a year at the most to live. I was stunned, and asked, "so what's the plan?"

He shrugged and said, "We'll make you as comfortable as we can until the end."

"What are my other options?" I asked.

He looked confused, so I rephrased the question. "What is our plan to beat this cancer?"

He said firmly, "You have stage four gastric cancer. It's inoperable and unbeatable. You need to get your life in order and enjoy what time you have left."

That type of pessimistic outlook just doesn't compute in my optimistic brain, so I decided to find a doctor more in line with my philosophy. I began my search for an optimistic physician who would fight with

Turn To **MOORE** page **A11**



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# School District accepting Kindergarten registrations

SPENCER – The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District is now accepting Kindergarten applications for the 2021-22 school year.

Applications are being accepted for children who have reached the age of five years old by Aug. 31. Kindergarten is offered at both Wire Village School in Spencer and East Brookfield Elementary School, depending on residency.

School hours are 8:25 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., Monday through Friday. Due to the ongoing pandemic, there is no open house scheduled at this time. There is no registration deadline.

Parents or guardians must submit the following completed documentation to register your child for kindergarten:

- Registration form
- Nurse's form
- Medical forms (physical and immunizations)
- Original birth certificate for your child
- Two proofs of residency

Transportation form

Home language survey

Kindergarten survey

Medical documentation of a child's current physical is required (within one year of the start date). In addition, up-to-date immunizations must be completed by your physician and returned to Student Services two days prior to the opening of school.

Children will not be able to attend school unless all completed medical forms are provided.

Additionally, your family physician must indicate that your child has been given the following immunizations and also provide the dates of immunization:

- 5 doses Diphtheria, Pertussis, and Tetanus (DTaP)
- 4 doses Polio
- 3 doses Hepatitis B
- 2 doses Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)
- 2 doses of Varicella vaccine or chicken pox disease
- Proof of lead screening

Vision and hearing screenings

All required forms, letters, and notices can be obtained directly from the Student Services department and are also conveniently located on the district's website: [www.sebrsd.org](http://www.sebrsd.org).

In-person registration can be done at the Office of Student Services, located inside David Prouty High School at 302 Main Street, Spencer, MA, 01562.

Registration hours are Monday through Thursday (8-3). Appointments are recommended but not required; they can be made throughout the year.

Completed packets can also be mailed to:

Student Services  
Attention: District Registrar  
302 Main Street  
Spencer, MA 01562

For more information about the process, contact District Registrar Susanna Sadusky at 508-885-8515 (ext. 1). You can also send an email to [saduskys@sebrsd.org](mailto:saduskys@sebrsd.org).

# Crash leads to recovery of stolen vehicle

SPENCER – A stolen car was recovered by police last week after a wreck on South Spencer Road.

The Jan. 19 incident occurred shortly before 8 a.m. Upon arrival at the one-vehicle crash site, officers discovered the driver trapped inside his overturned vehicle.

The driver, a 17-year-old from Worcester, was freed from the car by Spencer firefighters. He was not injured in the wreck, police said.

An investigation revealed that the 2014 Subaru sedan had been stolen from Worcester. The driver was later arrested and charged with receiving stolen property, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and negligent operation.

The suspect was transported to juvenile court in Worcester. He was not identified by police due to his age.

# Springfield College recognizes Dean's List students for the 2020 Fall Semester

SPRINGFIELD — Springfield College Recognizes Dean's List Students for the 2020 Fall Semester.

Springfield College has named Morgyn Astrella from West Brookfield to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Astrella has a primary major of Business Management.

Springfield College has named Caitlin Kemp from Leicester to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Kemp has a primary major of Communication/Sport Journalism.

Springfield College has named Katelyn McKay from Rochdale to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. McKay has

a primary major of Health Science/Occupational Therapy.

Springfield College has named Hannah Schultz from North Brookfield to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Schultz has a primary major of Health Science/Occupational Therapy.

Springfield College has named Kaitlyn Bonneau from W Brookfield to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Bonneau has a primary major of Human Services.

The criteria for selection to the Dean's List are as follows: The student must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded coursework for the term, exclusive of "P" grades. The

student must not have any incompletes or missing grades in the designated term. The student must have a minimum semester grade average of 3.500 for the term.

Springfield College is an independent, nonprofit, coeducational institution founded in 1885. Approximately 4,100 students, including 2,500 full-time undergraduate students, study at its main campus in Springfield, Mass., and at its regional campuses across the country. Springfield College inspires students through the guiding principles of its Humanics philosophy - educating in spirit, mind, and body for leadership in service to others.



Photo Courtesy  
Spencer Police identified this vehicle as stolen after it was involved in a wreck last week.



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# The Write Stuff

SINCE 2001

All Ages Welcome! Open topics.  
Please share your creative writing and thoughts with us!  
(Limit 0 0 d )

Thank you to Lamoureux Ford for sponsoring these pages, and to this month's authors!

- Here are some suggested topics for February, but please feel free to write about anything you'd like.
1. February is Creative Romance Month. Write an old fashioned love letter or poem to someone special.
  2. February is National History Month. Whom would you like to have dinner with from American History and why?
  3. When do you think life will return to normal and how has it changed for you since last February?
  4. Topic of your choice.

The Next Write Stuff will be published on Feb. 26th.  
Please email or mail your submission to jsima@stonebridgepress.news by Feb. 18th or The Write Stuff, P. O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

## ICICLES

BY RICHARD TRAUSCHKE, WEST BROOKFIELD, MA

I picked icicles as a kid;  
in Winter it was the thing to do.  
I believed everybody did,  
and I'll bet you did too.

There's something about them;  
that just catches your eye,  
the way it glistens like a gem,  
in the frosty morning light.

February is when icicles are sweet  
from the twigs of the Maple tree.  
Sap rises to branches, drips and  
freezes;  
two percent sugar, and it's all free.

Whatever you choose, plain or  
sweet,  
far be it for me to say;  
God put both here for you and me;  
be my guest, pick an icicle today.

~~~~~

## ICICLES In The Blue

By Richard Trauschke, West  
Brookfield, MA

Just this morning I looked around  
up and out, into the azure sky;  
I beheld a spectacle quite profound  
upside-down icicles way up high.

I knew it was the freezing rain;  
that coated the treetop spires;  
even so, when sunlight came  
with a breeze that began a choir.

The gentle tinkling of ice on ice;  
sparkling with the sun's reflec-  
tions;  
came a heavenly sound, soft and  
nice  
an angel's lyre and God's selection.

~~~~~

## Cardboard

BY RICHARD TRAUSCHKE, WEST BROOKFIELD, MA

I never owned a flexible Flyer;  
but borrowed one now and then;  
I was only an occasional rider;  
on the sled owned by my friend.

I used a rickety old sled one time;  
with rusty runners, it wouldn't go  
I tried to sand them up to shine  
but still there were rust tracks in  
the snow

I didn't own a "Lehman's Racer  
Sled"  
or the "Yankee Clipper we couldn't  
afford;  
I found a useful substitute, in the  
shed;  
with an old used sheet of card-  
board.

Talk about fast!, there's nothing  
better;  
hang on to the sides, and let her  
rip.  
It does break up as it gets wetter  
but 'til then it'll give you a super  
fast trip.

Some would rather a one-horse  
sleigh,  
or maybe a jet ski with a pull cord;  
my pleasure came in a different  
way  
with that old used bit of cardboard.

## MY SONGBIRD

BY CHRISTOPHER REILLEY, CHERRY VALLEY, MA

My warbler harmo-  
nizes with darkness,  
trilling in perfect pitch,  
thinking of nothing but the song,  
singing 'never lose hope

For I am the crown of rain  
that falls from the heavens  
to wake you from your slumber.

In dreams you must hear me,

because I will eventually fade away,  
but my song is a part of everything.'

My indigo bunting is the swirl-  
ing mélange of my mind  
at 3 AM when my mind  
chews hungrily on itself,  
aware of just how unaware it really is,  
the stake in the chest  
of my vampiric self,  
that feeds on my twisting blood rage.

My scarlet tanager is  
the soft laugh you make  
as the puzzle you are  
working confounds you,  
the dance party of shining headlights  
on their way home  
from a night festival,  
a conquistador of silvered heartbeats,  
the engine of divine cacophony.

My treesparrows summons my djinn,  
a cosmologist of the quantum,  
high priest of every-  
thing I never wanted to be.  
Together they tell me of stolen dreams,  
the way light glim-  
mers on the river of Life,  
and the path that leads out of the  
Crisis Woods.

But the favorite is my  
songbird, the pine siskin,  
who is hearty appe-  
tite and redolent mirth,  
drinking directly from the stream,  
singing a song that will never fade,  
never fall off the edge,  
or spool into the night,  
and so I listen, and I hear, and some-  
times,

I sing along.

February Laughs At Us  
BY CHRISTOPHER REILLEY, CHERRY VALLEY, MA

February laughs at us -  
poor mammals,  
shivering in our borrowed skins.  
The month finds fun  
in wrapping us in frozen air  
like galvanized iron.

There is little else for February to do  
except fling icy shards of wintry bite  
at us with jaggedly fresh winds.  
Hard pack ice makes  
footfalls dangerous,  
giving the second month a belly laugh  
when we fall on our ass.

We run around, afraid of cabin fever,  
thinking of other kinds of warmth,  
shrugging our shoul-  
ders with tired indifference  
as we wonder at the blue of the sky,  
the gray-white of the ground,  
and the ruddy smile of yet  
another attempt to get warm.

And we sing, oh, how we sing,  
trying once more  
to brave February's guile,  
each note that escapes us  
a patch of white hope  
in the frosty air.

~~~~~

## Ode To A Ginger

BY CHRISTOPHER REILLEY, CHERRY VALLEY, MA

It was the eyes that got me, those eyes,  
undecided between green or brown,  
the transition betwixt and between,  
a cosmic riot -  
galactic nebulae swirls  
like pictures from Hubble,  
iridescence that caught the light,  
played with it like a lazy cat  
then loosed upon you,  
drowning you in complex beauty.

The hair was the primary lure, sure,  
New England Forest red -  
a shade that demanded attention,  
drawing the eye  
away from drab gray reality.

Freckles pulled you closer -  
like a pointillist painting  
their overall shade

scintillated into individuated dots,  
skin refusing to brown in sunlight  
converted tan to a binary score,  
compelling my vision to wander,  
a glance extending to a visual caress.

And where her skin  
was un-kissed by sun;  
pale as moon-milk,  
porcelain frail -  
a kiss would find shivering life  
quicken into heat.

But it was those eyes;  
those piercing portals to goddess  
born to a race called unlucky,  
those eyes spun me around  
from the inside, reversed my polarity  
and taught my heart the cruellest trick -  
the creation of a hole  
where only she could reside.

And when we parted,  
said farewells with for-  
ever in their echo,  
she carried a small piece  
of me away with her  
and it is out there still.

Ode to a Ginger appeared in  
my third collection, "One Night  
Stanzas," from Big Table Publishing

## Forget Me Not

BY EVA E. PERRON, EAST BROOKFIELD, MA

Moving a long distance to a new  
state proved to be a bigger under-  
taking than Mary D, a retired nurse  
imagined. Her two daughters,  
30-year-old Sue and 25-year-old Amy,  
although upset, were determined  
to help their mother and make the  
most of their new home in a western  
state; the small farming communi-  
ty had a population of 2,000 inhabi-  
tants, and when Mary appeared at  
the town clerk's office, she found out  
that she was the third resident with  
the same name as two other ladies.

The town clerk added, "I  
hope your mail and other undertak-  
ings don't get mixed up, good luck!"  
Mary was determined that she  
wouldn't get stressed out over hav-  
ing the same name as two others.

Their home which they moved to  
belonged to Mary's aunt and uncle,  
and it contained lots of photos, let-  
ters, trophies, and books through-  
out the home. The girls spent many  
hours exploring and examining  
papers and records.

The neighbors, though friendly,  
were so busy working their farms,  
that outside of church suppers on  
special occasions, or a stop at the  
post office, did they visit with others.

Amy insisted that her mom always  
include a message when she signed  
her name to anything to prove her  
identity

"What should I write?" Mary  
asked.

"Do what Auntie Ella was in the  
habit of writing, Forget me not."

It was at the harvest festival, a big  
lawn party, the top prize of \$1,000  
drawing - the winning name, Mary  
D. Brown and three ladies came for-  
ward.

Amy was hoping that her mom  
followed her advice.

The mayor asked, "did anyone of  
you ladies write down an identifying  
message?"

Mary, the retired nurse said, "Mine  
says, "Forget me not" on the back of  
the ticket."

A big kiss and hug for Amy fol-  
lowed as her mom received her win-  
nings.

This message might be old fash-  
ioned thinking to some, but in Amy's  
mind, she found solace and common  
sense in her great aunt's writing.

~~~~~

## His Name Was John

BY SHER MORSE, SPENCER, MA

We called  
him son.  
He answered to  
dad, brother,  
and friend as well.  
His name was John.  
We lost him  
way too young,  
this free spirit  
of a man.  
He now wheelies thru  
the clouds.  
His name  
was John.  
And, as his  
birthday approaches,  
we mark  
another year  
without him  
by our side.  
We know that  
his suffering  
has come  
to an end,  
but our pain  
still stabs  
at our hearts.  
Our world  
is forever changed  
with his loss.  
We miss him,  
but our love  
for him  
will always  
live on.  
His name  
was John.

~~~~~

## Roses In The Snow

BY SHER MORSE, SPENCER, MA

Every year  
I visit  
your grave  
and leave  
each of you  
a flower.  
A red rose  
for mum,  
and one  
for dad.  
They are my  
gifts to you,  
as I pray  
they reach Heaven,  
as does  
my love.  
And, as Christmas  
draws near,  
the snow piles  
and the wind blows.  
But it doesn't  
take away  
the roses  
in the snow.  
They peek out  
over the drifts,  
and all is well  
with you  
in Heaven.  
Blessings be  
with you.

# Please See Next Week's Issue for More Write Stuff

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**FRANK G. CHILINSKI**  
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

**BRENDAN BERUBE**  
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Facts are stubborn things

John Adams was right when he said “Facts are stubborn things.” It’s pretty funny, albeit disturbing, to sit and listen to what some individuals believe to be true, not based on facts, rather hearsay. We’ve become a society where facts just don’t seem to hold much weight anymore.

The sky is blue, grass is green, milk is good for your bones, helmets prevent head injuries in accidents, a cow has two eyes, and George Washington was our first President. All of these things we know to be true because we’ve either seen it with our own eyes, or trust the documents of history. Our grandparents tell us stories of days gone by about other family members and the way things were, and we sit and listen intently and enthusiastically, and while we take in this information, we know it to be true.

We can dig through old newspaper archives, old and current court documents, valid witness testimony, police reports, judges’ orders, and we accept this information as fact. This isn’t to say that certain things ought not to be questioned; however, when facts upon facts upon facts are staring you dead in the eye and you still believe them not to be true, well, that’s simply dumbfounding.

We know that surgeons wear masks to prevent infection. We know that vitamin C boosts our immune systems. We know what elements make up oxygen and water. We know that Ibuprofen is an anti-inflammatory. We know that too much alcohol can hurt our livers, we know that plants need sunlight and water to grow. We know all of this to be factual, because of science.

So now, when scientists express how important mask wearing is during a pandemic to prevent the spread of a deadly virus (a practice done even in 1919), we have some individuals who just brush it off. It would be humorous if it wasn’t so disturbing. The fact is, based on science, that proper masks prevent the spread of airborne viruses, just like sunblock can prevent a sunburn. Why is one scientifically proven technique widely accepted and the other not? Well, a sunburn has never been politicized. Science has been saving lives and keeping our parents, friends and family members alive for longer, since the dawn of time.

Enter the ever interesting topic of conspiracy theories. A conspiracy theory is an explanation for an event or situation that invokes conspiracy by sinister and powerful groups, often in political motivation when other explanations are based on actual, proven facts.

Such theories have been around forever. They are nothing more than fairytales. Recently, psychologists have begun to unravel why certain individuals are more likely to believe in conspiracy theories and what attributes about them, make them so gullible.

Experts have surmised that characteristics of those people who are likely to believe in conspiracy theories include distrust of others, low agreeability and Machiavelliansim (when a person is so focused on their own interests, they will manipulate, deceive, and exploit others to achieve their goals.)

Low agreeability is typically defined as someone who is not very kind, nor dependable or cooperative with others. People more susceptible to conspiracy theories are more likely to have lower levels of analytic thinking.

When a person who believes in nonsense, is presented with demonstrable, thorough, proven, hard facts, they are often responded to with even further out there thinking, and it is noticeable that there is very little critical thinking.

Further it has been discovered that conspiracy theories make a person feel special. Some individuals who need to feel unique but can’t any other way, may fall prey. Conspiracy theories rely on ‘secret information’ which can give those believers a false sense of belonging.

It has been discovered that those individuals also are narcissists with a grandiose idea of the self and a touch of paranoia. Further, those who fall prey are likely more alienated, powerless and socially isolated.

Remember, conspiracy theories are brought about by people, not actual facts. Take note that you cannot argue with those who believe in conspiracy because those beliefs are not rational.

The simple answer here is to not ignore the facts — wear your sunscreen, wear your mask, drink water, eat your vegetables, have some fun, laugh and be kind to one another.

VIEWPOINT  
OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mob violence is not the American way

To the Editor:  
The actions of the Trump supporters on Jan. 6 were nothing short of sedition and treason brought on by President Trump’s virulent speech where he even promised to walk with them to the Capitol. Instead, he went into the White House and watched it unfold on TV. Joe Biden’s victory has been upheld by 82 judges and election officials, many of whom are Republicans, throughout the nation. Ballots in Georgia have been triple counted, certified by Republican election officials, and endorsed by Georgia’s Republican governor.

Five people died and dozens were injured in an attempt to destroy our democracy. They stomped on our Constitution, some shouting they were going to kill Speaker Pelosi and Vice President Pence. Those responsible, including President Trump, are anarchists and terrorists who should be punished to the maximum extent. Trump

emboldened the protesters, saying “You will never take back our country with weakness,” which was preceded by Rudi Giuliani addressing the crowd, encouraging them to get ready for “trial by combat.”

Trump’s protesters wave the American flag, as if it is only they who are entitled to do so. Enough is enough. Our forefathers did not make tremendous sacrifices and risk everything they had so that 245 years later it could be thrown away by the supporters of an egotistical president who can’t admit defeat. There is no excuse for what happened on Jan. 6. Mob violence is not the American way, even if you are waving Old Glory as you pillage and sack our Capitol and commit murder along the way.

RALPH E. HICKS  
SPENCER  
SPENCER, MA 01562

Madame Vice President

To the Editor:  
We have now inaugurated our 49th Vice President - our first woman, South Asian-American, African-American Vice President. Kamala Harris may be the first but she will not be the last. One of the most uplifting parts of the 2020 campaign (probably the only uplifting part) was that Kamala hardly was an issue. The election was fought over Donald Trump’s failings and fundamental unfitness for office, Joe Biden’s age, faux claims of socialism, etc. A woman of color as the VP nominee was hardly an issue in one of the nastiest campaign seasons of my memory.

If a woman of color as VP didn’t seem like a big deal, why are people making it out to be a big deal? Consider for a moment that during the tenure of our 16th Vice President, Andrew Johnson, Kamala Harris would have been enslaved. It wasn’t until the tenure of our 29th Vice President, Calvin Coolidge, that Kamala Harris would have been allowed to vote (at least on paper). She would have been forced

to attend inferior segregated schools until our 36th Vice President, Richard Nixon, was in office.

It wasn’t until the tenure of our 38th Vice President, Hubert Humphrey, that she would have actually been able to vote with the passage of the Voting Rights Act. It wasn’t until our 39th Vice President’s term, Spiro Agnew, that Kamala Harris would have been able to hold a bank account in her own name.

A major party didn’t nominate a woman for Vice President until 1984 when Geraldine Ferraro unsuccessfully ran for office with Walter Mondale in an attempt to become the 44th Vice President of the United States in what in retrospect was a doomed campaign given Reagan’s popularity. Sarah Palin unsuccessfully ran with John McCain to be elected the 47th Vice President in what in retrospect was a doomed campaign given Barack Obama’s popularity and the terrible approval ratings of the GOP in 2008. Both the 1984 and 2008 campaigns that chose women as VP seemed to be doing it as a “Hail Mary.”

Turn To **COHEN** page **A12**

We’re still waiting...

To the Editor:  
Mr. Berthiaume: We’re still waiting for your response, now solicited in this newspaper two weeks in a row from three separate authors. This letter marks the third week in a row. In case you’ve forgotten, the question is whether you approved of Former President Trump’s behavior, misinformation, refusal to concede the election he lost, and incitement of insurrection from Nov. 8 through Jan. 20. Regardless of whether you support or condemn the former president, please use his name in your statement.

Mr. Durant: We’re still waiting for your response. Recently you had a squishy statement in the Telegram mildly warning against being no better than BLM, something about “being vigilant not to become hypocrites.” You went on to say “We can’t condemn the Antifa riots this summer, and then turn a blind eye or make excuses for

what happened yesterday” in reference to the Jan. 6 insurrection and failed coup d’etat incited by Former President Trump.

Mr. Durant: That’s not good enough. You think it is, but it isn’t. Glossing over the “Antifa” comment, do you approve of Former President Trump’s behavior, misinformation, refusal to concede the election he lost, and incitement of insurrection from Nov. 8 to Jan. 20 – including the storming of the Capitol on Jan. 6? I’m not asking about “bad apples”. I am asking you to make a statement about the former president and please be specific. Use his name! Cite the things he did that you support and the things he didn’t! Stop trying to turn a blind eye and waiting for it to go away.

Ms. Gobi: I understand you denounced the insurrectionists on Jan. 6, and you never supported Former

Turn To **BAGG** page **A12**

A new administration

To the Editor:  
Joe Biden was sworn in as the President of the United States this past week. The inauguration was shockingly normal – a lot of pomp and circumstance, and no violence. One thing about the inauguration that did stand out for me is when Lady Gaga sang the star spangled banner and she turned to the flag while she sang, “and the flag was still there.” It was stirring because it was reclamation of the symbol of the United States by the people of the United States and away from Donald Trump and his cult of personality.

As the new administration and the news cycle around it settles in I for one have a sense of feeling welcome in this country once again, feeling like this country is my home like I had since before Trump ever came on the scene. Specific policies and politics aside, we are now led by a person with empathy, decency, of moral character, and someone who sees the country as it is and wants to lead all of us and not just the 81 million people who voted for him. Joe Biden understands that he is the President of the United States, all of it, including the 74 million people who didn’t vote for him.

Joe Biden once said that in life, sometimes you need a hand and sometimes you’re called upon to lend a hand. This

is the type of America he envisions, which is an interdependent America where we help each other out and we all need to rise if any of us are to rise. His calls for unity are not naïve, but it is a call for a new vision of America where we are all in this together and away from the recent years of ever widening ravines between rich and poor, black and white, left and right, educated and not. President Biden knows we aren’t terribly united right now, he is calling for us to come together.

There’s been a flurry of executive orders and statements. There is no permanent change from executive orders, but it is a reversal in some of the most egregious executive actions from the Trump administration as well as a series of statements. There is no better statement than action and the statements we are seeing is that there is a return to competence and action in the Oval Office. President Biden is also making good on the promises he made for action on day 1 first and foremost around getting a handle on the COVID pandemic but also addressing Trump’s Muslim ban, pulling out of WHO, and other things.

Donald Trump reversed whatever he could from Barack Obama on day 1 and

Turn To **ROSENBERG** page **A11**

Remote work may offer financial benefits

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many of us have been forced to work from home. But once we’ve moved past the virus, many workers may continue working from home. More than one-third of companies with employees who started working from home now think that remote work will stay more common post-pandemic, according to a Harvard Business School study. This shift to at-home work can affect people’s lives in many ways – and it may end up providing workers with some long-term financial advantages.

If you’re one of those who will continue working remotely, either full time or at least a few days a week, how might you benefit? Here are a few possibilities:

Reduced transportation costs – Over time, you can spend a lot of money commuting to and from work. The average commuter spends \$2,000 to \$5,000 per year on transportation costs, including gas, car maintenance, public transportation and other expenses, depending on where they live, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and the U.S. Census Bureau. If you are going to work primarily from home, you should be able to greatly reduce these costs.

Potentially lower car insurance premiums – Your auto insurance premiums are partially based on how many miles you drive each year. So, if you were to significantly reduce these miles by working from home, you might qualify for lower rates.

Lower expenditures on lunches – If you typically eat lunch in restaurants or get takeout while at work, you could easily be spending \$50 or more per week – even more if you regularly get coffee drinks to go. By these figures, you could end up spending around \$3,000 a year. Think how much you could reduce this bill by eating lunch at home during your remote workday.

Lower clothing costs – Despite the rise in “casual dress” days, plenty of workers still need to maintain appropriate office attire. By working from home, you can “dress down,” reducing your clothing costs and dry-cleaning bills.

As you can see, it may be possible for you to save quite a bit of money by working from home. How can you use your savings to help meet your long-term financial goals, such as achieving a comfortable retirement?

For one thing, you could boost your investments. Let’s suppose that you can save \$2,500 each year by working remotely. If you were to invest this amount in a tax-deferred account, such as an IRA or your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored plan and earned a hypothetical 6 percent annual return for 20 years, you’d accumulate more than \$97,000 – and if you kept going for an additional 10 years, you’d have nearly \$210,000. You’d eventually pay taxes on the amount you withdrew from these accounts (and withdrawals prior to age 59 and a half may be subject to a 10 percent IRS penalty), but you’d still end up pretty far ahead of where you’d be otherwise.)

You also might use part of your savings generated by remote work to help build an emergency fund containing a few months’ worth of living expenses. Without this fund, you might be forced to dip into your retirement accounts to pay for something like a major home repair.

Becoming an at-home worker will no doubt require some adjustments on your part – but, in strictly financial terms, it could lead to some positive results.

*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.*

Spencer resident named to President’s List at College of Charleston

CHARLESTON, S.C. — The College of Charleston has recognized Madison Streeter, a senior from Spencer, with placement on its President’s List for academic achievement during the fall semester of 2020.









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**HAR-YAROK**  
*continued from page A9*

former presidents club got together and released a joint statement in a socially distanced video – of course missing the 96-year old with brain cancer who can't travel and missing the egomaniac who was president merely hours before that did travel that day – traveled away from Washington as all the dignitaries assembled.

So far, Joe Biden has cleared the very low bar set for him. President Biden has seemed like an incredible breath of fresh air, his 15 or so executive orders strike me as “captain obvious” such as a national strategy for tackling COVID, press releases that are informative, and press briefings that are boring. We don't mentally count the lies when watching TV, and hear the White House Press Secretary talk about crowd sizes. We're seeing a return to normalcy and functioning government.

Think about what standard has been set by our 45th (former) President. All Biden needs is a vaccine plan and he seems like the next George Washington. In most respects Joe Biden is the most unlucky president in history given the historic size, scope, and number of messes he needs to clean up... But in another sense he is super lucky in that he gets to follow the worst possible act therefore he will look like the best president in history when in reality he is just mediocre.

Of course, even with Trump gone, we still have a looming impeachment trial that should be quick, should result in a conviction, and should result in him being barred from ever holding public office ever again. Ironically, this would be what is best for the GOP long term given Trump's popularity within the party combined with corporate donors running from him and his propensity to practice scorched-earth politics. It would be in the GOP's best interest to get the Senators not up for reelection until 2026 to convict him, but we shall see...

Meanwhile, at Mar-a-Lago, it seems that Donald Trump has already threatened to start a “MAGA Party” to exact revenge on Republicans Trump feels abandoned him. In Trump's waning

weeks in office he had discussed starting “The Patriot Party” but I really hope it becomes the MAGA Party. He wants to go after Rep. Liz Cheney, Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp, and a few Republican Senators.

While the “right thing” would be for Trump to be convicted in the Senate, barred from holding office again, and charged with a litany of both state and federal crimes not connected to his presidency, never mind crimes he committed while president. The “right thing” would be for him to be in a cell for the rest of his life. I don't however think that would be good for the country because it would turn him into a martyr. The best thing is probably for him to be ignored until there is some sort of self-destruction which at his advanced age is likely.

I like to be entertained by my politics and from a pure entertainment perspective I hope that the “MAGA Party” becomes reality. I hope that Don. Jr. is sent to buy a house in WY to run against Liz Cheney in the GOP primary and if unsuccessful as a MAGA general election candidate for 2022... I hope Ivanka is sent to buy a house in AK and challenge Lisa Murkowski in the same way... Eric and Tiffany can be sent to lower value targets. It would be hilarious for all of the Trump kids to be in congress under the MAGA Party from backwater states and then Trump run as the MAGA candidate for president in 2024, splitting the conservative vote, and guaranteeing a Democratic win.

Some falsely stated that we'd stop hearing about COVID-19 after the election. Well, The COVID-19 pandemic of course continued on. In the United States 62 percent of the cases have been after the 2020 election and 44 percent of the deaths have occurred after the election, not before it. For those who falsely then thought that COVID would go away as soon as the inauguration was over, not so much – we have averaged more than 3,000 deaths per day both before and after the inauguration... The hospitalizations and deaths continue to increase. The pandemic is playing out much as the experts said it would.

This isn't just a disease of the old or obese... Yes, older and obese folks

make up a disproportionate share of the carnage, but there are plenty of people at all ages and all fitness levels getting sick. I know personally of people in their 20's that were severely ill, people in their 30's who have been hospitalized, a guy in his 50's who died, and I think by now we all know a lot of older people who have had trouble with this. This disease is no joke.

The Christmas/New Year's surge seems to be behind us and January is probably the month most ordinarily socially distant anyway. Last week we saw the number of cases and deaths stabilize; not go down, but not up.

In the United States we saw us hit 400,000 confirmed COVID-19 deaths on Donald Trump's last full day in office. That is about 25 percent of the world total when we only have 4 percent of the world population. What an embarrassment... In the past week we've seen an additional 1.2 million confirmed infections in the USA for a grand total of 25 million. On the death front, we've seen an additional 21,588 Americans die of COVID – people that used to be alive – in just the past week. Our total death toll is now 417,539 – 20 percent of the world total against our 4 percent of the population.

The saddest part of all is that there is no reason for the U.S. to be the world disaster zone. We have the most capa-

bility to fight this disease, we are the most advanced large country, we have incredible infrastructure, and even our private car culture allows people to both socially distance and drive to get a vaccine at a deep freezer facility far away.... Yet we are doing terribly. We are #1 in the world for genetic sequencing capability, but we are 41st in the world for actually sequencing our COVID positive swabs. Much of this comes from the fact we are the only first world country without national healthcare, but much of it from our cultural underpinnings. It is both pathetic and sad.

The next frontier, which is likely weeks rather than months away, is fighting the anti-vaxxers. For the last year we have been waiting for a safe and effective vaccine. Now that we have several, will our people take the vaccine and end this pandemic, or will we have holdouts which cause this pandemic to go on for years? One Congressman has suggested the next round of “Corona bucks” - \$1,400 for all, be contingent on getting vaccinated. The cost to our country, our public health, and our economy is too high to tolerate these anti-vaxxers. We have the money to bribe them, I say let's do it.

OMAR HAR-YAROK  
EAST BROOKFIELD

**ROSENBERG**  
*continued from page A8*

now Joe Biden is reversing everything he can from Donald Trump on day one. There is a ping-pong to this and of course Biden's successor can always reverse these actions. The importance of these executive actions are two-fold, they change government policy for four years at a minimum, and they set the stage and move the conversation for more permanent change through legislation. The American people have spoken – 81 million voted to reject Trumpism and 74 million wanted to keep it, Biden owes it to the majority of this country to make good on his promise.

Biden seems to be operating under

the hope that his calls for unity will bring a new era of cooperation in Washington but of course this isn't likely. Joe Biden has been in Washington for a long time, and this isn't his first rodeo. He is giving the Republicans a chance. Joe Biden is a skilled politician and a veteran Senator. He wants to build consensus but I am sure he is ready and willing to decide “enough is enough.” If there is a repeat of what the GOP did to President Obama I am sure Joe Biden will change course quickly.

If for one hope that future weeks are as politically boring as this last week has been. It's amazing how docile things can be when there is no longer a reality TV star as the center of attention!

DAVID ROSENBERG  
SPENCER

**MOORE**  
*continued from page A5*

me and find a way to extend my life or beat this cancer all-together. I found Dr. Kasi at the University of Iowa, Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center and he said, “We'll explore every option and fight this cancer. There's a new treatment that's a combination of an immunotherapy called Keytruda and chemo that's creating promising results. I like our chances.”

I thoroughly checked out his education and background and realized I had found the best physician for the job and he was an optimist. I'm past the nine-month death prediction and I'll fly by the year. I promise you I'll be writing this column for years to come.

If you think optimism isn't important, think about this. If I were a pessimist, I would have accepted my first doctor's death proclamation and gone home to die. But the eternal optimist inside me screamed, “No way!” I searched and found a way, and today, I'm still living my life fully and making plans for the five-year anniversary party of my death proclamation and I fully expect to attend ... and you are invited!

No. Being an optimist will not cure cancer but being an optimist will push you to not give up. Your optimism will search for a positive outcome. Being optimistic doesn't always mean you'll find a solution, but it will give you a dramatically better chance than pessimism.

I'm roughly four weeks away from my projected “death day” and I believe

I'm healthier now than I was a year ago. And that's not just optimism. My blood tests and scans agree.

So, what about you? There is a cure for the “Pandemic of Pessimism” and it's the choice to become an optimist. What is your picture of a happy and successful future? Believe the best is yet to come and go to work to make it so.

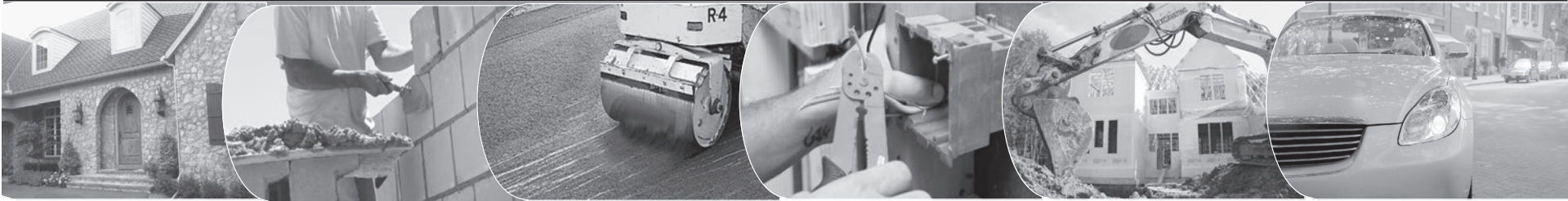
I'm optimistic that 2021 will be my best year ever. What about you?

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 @ GaryW Moore721 and at www.garyw-moore.com.*



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# LEGALS

## PUBLIC HEARING

The West Brookfield Water Department is having a public hearing on Feb. 4, 2021 on the updating of the West Brookfield Water Department Rules & Regulations, and rate increase, to obtain a copy of proposed updates, please call (508) 867-1421 Ext. 8 or Ext. 306 office to be mailed a copy of planned updates and rate increase or Town Clerks office to review updates during regular office hours. Proposed updates will take effect immediately. The West Brookfield Water Department hearing is in the Town Hall, 2 East Main Street, in the Great Hall, West Brookfield, Massachusetts 01585 on Feb. 4, 2021 at 10:00a.m. Any Person wishing to be heard and have discussion on the proposed updates should appear at the time and place designated. Respectfully Submitted  
The West Brookfield Water Department  
Board of Water Commissioners  
Robert E. Benson - Chairman  
January 22, 2021  
January 29, 2021

## PUBLIC HEARING

The North Brookfield Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 7:15PM at the Police Station meeting room, 55 School St. to consider the application of CMG Engineering/C.C.S. Realty LLC for a convenience store/gas station proposed for 192/206 North Main St. per zoning bylaw Section IV. C. b. and E. and Section VI. G. 2. a. Any person interested in this proposal is invited to attend this hearing. Copies of plans and project application for a special permit and site plan review are on file at the office of the Town Clerk, 215 North Main St., North Brookfield, MA. William King, Chair  
Planning Board  
January 22, 2021  
January 29, 2021

## Brookfield Planning Board Notice of Public Hearing

In accordance with M. G. L., Chapter 40A, and the provisions of the Brookfield Zoning Bylaws Section 4.D, Use Regulation Table 6.c; Section 8.C., Site Plan Approval; and Section 12.C., Special Permits; the Brookfield Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on an application for the construction and operation of a commercial Fuel Storage Facility (propane) in on property owned by TCP Realty, LLC, 37 Hook Street, Southbridge, and located at 14 Post Road, in a Business “A” District. The public hearing will take place on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 via Zoom, starting at 6:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard. To attend online or via telephone, go to the Planning Board page at [www.mytowngovernment.org/01506](http://www.mytowngovernment.org/01506). Note: The Town Hall is currently closed to the public. A copy of the application and site plan may be inspected at the office of the Town Clerk at Brookfield Town Hall by appointment; call (508) 867-2930, ext. 12 or (508) 867-5500. Masks are required.

Sharon Mahoney, Chair  
Brookfield Planning Board

January 22, 2021  
January 29, 2021

## NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Teresa Johnson and Phyllis Schoof to “MERS”, Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a separate corporation that is acting solely as nominee for GreenPoint Mortgage Funding, Inc., “Lender”; and its successors and assigns dated April 24, 2007 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 41306, Page 356, as assigned by Assignment of Mortgage dated October 26, 2011 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 48090,

Page 120 and as assigned by Assignment of Mortgage dated November 20, 2015 and recorded recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 54663, Page 74, and assigned by Assignment of Mortgage dated July 6, 2017 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 57379, Page 185, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction at 10:00 AM, on February 12, 2021**, on the premises known as **115 Charlton Road, Spencer, Massachusetts**, the premises described in said mortgage, together with all the rights, easements, and appurtenances thereto, to wit:

A certain tract of land on the easterly side of the Charlton Road, Route 31; in Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts being shown as a parcel of land entitled “Norman S. Kenward (sic), et ux, September 12, 1972, Reney Bros. Inc. Registered Engineers and Surveyors, Worcester, Massachusetts” which plan is recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 370, Plan 84 and which property is more particularly bounded and described as follows: Beginning at the southwesterly corner thereof, which point is in the easterly line of said Charlton Road, Route 31, and which point is the northwesterly corner of land now or formerly of Eaton; Thence N. 05° 44' 05” E., 376.6 feet +1- along said Charlton Road, Route 31, to a point at land now or formerly of Hamelin; Thence S. 84° 16' 00” E., 155.2 feet along said Hamelin land to a point at land now or formerly of Myron H. Sibley; Thence S. 11° 09' 00” W., along said Sibley land to a point at land now or formerly of Eaton; Thence N. 84° 16' 00” W., along said Eaton land to the point of beginning.

Granting the right of way to take water for ordinary household purposes from a spring on Myron Sibley's land lying easterly of the granted premises; and subject to the restriction that the grantees premises and the adjoining land of Myron H. Sibley.

Being the same premises conveyed as described in a deed epm (sic) Harold E. Tousignan and Marian L. Cutter to Alfred E. Deschamps dated September 30, 1991 recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 13682, Page 239. See also deed from Irene R. Kenward to Harold E. Tousignan and Marian L. Cutter dated July 31, 1980 and recorded in said Deeds in Book 13616, Page 27 regarding water rights.

Conveyed with an easement to maintain an existing barn on land of Myron W. Sibley as recited in a deed from Harold E. Tousignan and Marian L. Cutter by deed of Myron W. Sibley dated September 26, 1991 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 13682, Page 327.

Terms of Sale: These premises are being sold subject to any and all unpaid real estate taxes, water rates, municipal charges and assessments, condominium charges, expenses, costs, and assessments, if applicable, federal tax liens, partition wall rights, statutes, regulations, zoning, subdivision control, or other municipal ordinances or bylaws respecting land use, configuration, building or approval, or bylaws, statutes or ordinances regarding the presence of lead paint, asbestos or other toxic substances, sanitary codes, housing codes, tenancy, and , to the extent that they are recorded prior to the above mortgage, any easements, rights of way, restrictions, confirmation or other matters of record.

Purchaser shall also bear all state and county deeds excise tax. The deposit of \$10,000.00 is to be paid in cash or bank or certified check at the time and place of the sale, with the balance of the purchase price to be paid by bank

or certified check within forty-five (45) days after the date of the sale, to be deposited in escrow with Guaetta and Benson, LLC, at 73 Princeton Street, Suite 208, North Chelmsford, Massachusetts.

In the event that the successful bidder at the foreclosure sale shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the time of the foreclosure, the Mortgagee reserves the right to sell the property by foreclosure deed to the second highest bidder or, thereafter, to the next highest bidders, providing that said bidder shall deposit with said attorney, the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within five (5) business days after written notice of the default of the previous highest bidder.

Other terms, if any, are to be announced at the sale.  
Dated: January 15, 2021  
Present holder of said mortgage  
MTGLQ Investors, L.P.  
by its Attorneys  
Guaetta and Benson, LLC  
Peter V. Guaetta, Esquire  
P.O. Box 519  
Chelmsford, MA 01824  
January 22, 2021, January 29, 2021  
and February 5, 2021  
January 22, 2021  
January 29, 2021  
February 5, 2021

## NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Raymond W. Clinton and Nancy L. Lewis to “MERS”, Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a separate corporation that is acting solely as nominee for NE Moves Mortgage, LLC, “Lender” and its successors and assigns dated August 27, 2007 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, in Book 41710, Page 167, as assigned by Assignment of Mortgage dated February 6, 2013 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, Book 50467, Page 299 and as assigned by Assignment of Mortgage dated June 26, 2017 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, Book 58403, Page 68 Assignment dated January 7, 2019 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, Book 59913, Page 115 and as assigned by Assignment of Mortgage dated April 4, 2019 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, Book 60246, Page 240 and as assigned by Corrective Assignment of Mortgage dated May 29, 2019 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds, Book 60492, Page 44 of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction at 11:00 AM, on February 12, 2021**, on the premises known as **40 Ash Street, Spencer, Massachusetts**, the premises described in said mortgage, together with all the rights, easements, and appurtenances thereto, to wit:

The land in Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts, with the buildings thereon, on the west side of Ash Street in said Spencer, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at the northeast corner thereof on the west side of Ash Street; Thence southerly by said street about 82 feet to the center of a brook; Thence westerly by the center of said brook about 90.0 feet; Thence northerly by a fence about 96.0 feet, the last two courses being by land conveyed to Charles Perron; Thence easterly by land now or formerly of George Walker about 86.0 feet to the place of beginning.

Being the same premises conveyed to the mortgagors by deed dated August 22, 2007 and recorded with the

Worcester District Registry of Deeds herewith in Book 41710 Page 165.

Terms of Sale: These premises are being sold subject to any and all unpaid real estate taxes, water rates, municipal charges and assessments, condominium charges, expenses, costs, and assessments, if applicable, federal tax liens, partition wall rights, statutes, regulations, zoning, subdivision control, or other municipal ordinances or bylaws respecting land use, configuration, building or approval, or bylaws, statutes or ordinances regarding the presence of lead paint, asbestos or other toxic substances, sanitary codes, housing codes, tenancy, and , to the extent that they are recorded prior to the above mortgage, any easements, rights of way, restrictions, confirmation or other matters of record.

Purchaser shall also bear all state and county deeds excise tax. The deposit of \$10,000.00 is to be paid in cash or bank or certified check at the time and place of the sale, with the balance of the purchase price to be paid by bank or certified check within forty-five (45) days after the date of the sale, to be deposited in escrow with Guaetta and Benson, LLC, at 73 Princeton Street, Suite 208, North Chelmsford, Massachusetts.

In the event that the successful bidder at the foreclosure sale shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the time of the foreclosure, the Mortgagee reserves the right to sell the property by foreclosure deed to the second highest bidder or, thereafter, to the next highest bidders, providing that said bidder shall deposit with said attorney, the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within five (5) business days after written notice of the default of the previous highest bidder.

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

Dated: January 15, 2021  
Present holder of said mortgage  
NewRez LLC f/k/a New Penn Financial, LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing  
by its Attorneys  
Guaetta and Benson, LLC  
Peter V. Guaetta, Esquire  
P.O. Box 519  
Chelmsford, MA 01824  
January 22, 2021  
January 29, 2021  
February 5, 2021

## Town of Spencer Request for Proposals (RFP) For Permit System Software & Implementation

The Town of Spencer, acting through its Town Administrator, is soliciting proposals from qualified vendors to provide licensing, permitting and work order software for use in multiple Town departments. Software will effectively and efficiently implement and manage the various licenses and permits issued across town departments. It will streamline the application and tracking of a license or permit. The software will have mobile capabilities and be hosted on the cloud. The work order component will offer seamless public and department interaction on an issue.

The RFP will be available electronically in the Office of the Town Administrator on Monday, February 1, 2021. Requests to receive a copy may be initiated by calling 508-885-7500 ext. 155 or by emailing [tgregory@spencerma.gov](mailto:tgregory@spencerma.gov). To be considered, proposals must be received in the Office of the Town Administrator, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA 01562 no later than **Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 11:00 AM**.

The Town of Spencer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, and to waive informalities when in the opinion of the Chief Procurement Officer it is in the Town's best interest.  
January 29, 2021

## MCRAE

*continued from page A9*

presently ensconced on that bus. I've told you people before: working-middle class, “real” Americans—of any race, either sex, age, or life experience—are simply the best, the most genuine and compassionate people America has to offer.

Disembarking the bus at the beautiful Union Station, we walked quietly through the D.C. streets in the cold darkness for a couple miles to the Washington Monument. As the day broke and we looked around, the sight of hundreds of thousands of our brothers and sisters from all corners of our beloved country streaming into the area with their tens of thousands of flags and signs was as electrifyingly exhilarating as anything I've ever witnessed. The fatigue of the previous 24-hour lack of sleep was washed away in an instant. We were with our people!

And who were “our people?” Although the large preponderance of the throng

were at first blush white working/middle class Americans, it soon became apparent many other types of citizens had shown up. There were hundreds of Chinese Christians circulating through the crowds soliciting petition signatures in opposition to the CCP (Chinese Communist Party). They had come down from New York City to bear witness against the horrors of communism from which they had fled, and they were vociferously supportive of President Trump. They were disbelieving that their new country—the land of the free—could possibly be going down the same totalitarian path as that of the land of their birth.

Then we began noticing hundreds of yellow flags with three narrow horizontal red stripes. People were asking, “What’s that flag?” It was, of course, the ill-fated banner of the Republic of South Vietnam which, unhappily, went out of existence in 1975. Like the Chinese who had materialized to warn of the hideous dangers of communism, so, too, had the Vietnamese come to implore their American countrymen to wake the hell up and apply the brakes to this nation-

al train hurtling down the mountain to certain destruction once it hits the metaphorical trestle hopelessly weakened by Democrat/socialist/communist saboteurs.

We saw “African-Americans for Trump”, “Hispanics for Trump”, “Iranians for Trump”, “Jews for Trump”, “Asians for Trump”, and other groups (farmers, veterans, union people, etc)—all proclaiming their support for the President and America with their signs and flags. It was a beautiful thing to see.

For six to seven hours, we stood there unable to move in any direction due to the press of the crowd, but the time flew as the various speakers pounded the themes we had come to support: free and fair elections; exposure of the crooks from both parties who had denied us our hard-fought and honestly-won victory; and, in general, a hymn of praise and thanksgiving for America and all she has meant to us throughout our lives.

When President Trump spoke—which we watched via a jumbotron as he was speaking from about a mile away—I

watched and listened with rapt attention as he methodically and comprehensively laid out the case for concluding the election was clearly stolen in those six controversial, sorry, crooked states. I sensed this was going to be an historic moment, and was grateful for the opportunity to have been able to be there to witness it.

In his closing, the President asked us to take a stroll down the broad avenues leading to the Capitol (Pennsylvania and Constitution) to “peacefully and patriotically” let our voices be heard by those on the inside, especially the Republicans and Vice President Pence, who would be debating the relative merits of the electoral votes submitted by those states in question. Got that, you liberals? “Peacefully and patriotically” petition the government just as the First Amendment guarantees free Americans the right to do? Unlike, surely, the way your side besieged the U.S. Supreme Court with a violent disruption during the Kavanaugh hearings, or the attack



# OBITUARIES

## Johnny Blanton Jr, 65

BROOKFIELD- Johnny Blanton Jr, 65, passed away on January 19, 2021 in the comfort of his home. Johnny passed from a fast but courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Johnny graduated class of 73 from Tantasqua High school.

He was a basketball player throughout his high school years. He was also an avid hockey player and fan well into his adult life. Johnny worked for many years at WD Matthews where he was loved by all that came in contact with him.

He enjoyed the outdoors and was a lifetime member of the Spencer Fish and Game club. Johnny was also a lover of animals. He was also a proud Free Mason. Johnny loved being around to help the area youth. He was a coach for many years in multiple sports, hockey, baseball, softball, and basketball.

He dedicated many hours to Spencer Fish and Game's fishing derbies over the years. Johnny will be lovingly missed by his son Johnny Blanton III,

and his wife Elizabeth of Spencer MA, his three sisters Rosemary Lozeau, and her husband Bill of New Ipswich, New Hampshire, Patricia Duhamel and her husband Dave of Charlton, MA, and Darlene King of East Brookfield, MA. He leaves his extended grandchildren Faith, the littlest Tom, and Skylar. His loving companion Donna Gorman. He leaves many nieces and nephews, extended family and friends.

The family would like to say thank you to Beacon Hospice for their compassion during this process.

A graveside service for Johnny was held on Friday, January 22, 2021 at 11AM in Brookfield Cemetery. The family will host a Celebration of Life for Johnny during the summer months. For those planning to attend the funeral service we would ask that if you have New England Sports Team attire that you wear it as Johnny was a true fan especially of the Bruins.

In lieu of flowers, the family would ask that you make a donation to the Second Chance Animal Shelter PO Box 136 E.Brookfield, MA.01515. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 3 west Brookfield Rd Brookfield.

SPENCER- Stanley W. Nussey, 82 died Saturday, January 23 in Heywood Hospital after being stricken ill.



His wife Annette R. (St. Germain) Nussey died in 2008. He leaves two sons; Michael W. Nussey and his wife Linda of Charlton and Daniel D. Nussey of Spencer, a daughter Marlene A. Grigarauskas and her husband Robert of Spencer, seven grandchildren; Amy Nussey, Amanda Starr, Patrick, Christopher & Brian Nussey, Ryan Grigarauskas and Julie Derosier, 10 great grandchildren; Derek, Peyton, Parker, Sophia, Mason, Gavin, Lena, Liam, Annabelle and Beau, two brothers; Donald Nussey and his wife Nancy and David Nussey and his wife Diane of Spencer, a sister Mareita Lanagan and her husband John of Bradenton, FL and his long-

time companion and caretaker Sylvia Lemerise and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a sister Shirley Rose and his faithful dog Max.

Stanley was born in Worcester, son of William and Evelyn (Pettie) Nussey. He served his country in the United States Navy. He was a bricklayer for 33 years with the Local 6 Chapter 1 Bricklayers Union retiring in 2000. He enjoyed rebuilding his Mustang, gardening, playing Keno and scratch tickets. He loved to travel with his wife especially to Mexico, going snowmobiling and spending as much time as they could at their home in Maine.

A funeral service with COVID 19 precautions, masks and social distancing was held on Thursday, January 28 at 11:00 AM in J. HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer. Burial followed in Worcester County Memorial Park, Paxton. A calling hour preceded the service from 10:00-11:00 AM. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Second Chance Animal Services, Inc., P.O. Box 136, East Brookfield, MA 01515. [www.morinfuneralhomes.com](http://www.morinfuneralhomes.com)

## Lillian R. Davenport,88

AUBURN- Lillian R. (Johnson) Davenport,88, of Pakachoag Village, died Saturday, Jan. 23 at Beaumont Rehab & Skilled Nursing in Northbridge.

She was the wife of Albert Davenport Sr. who died in 2017. She leaves her daughters Anna Smith and her

spouse Brian Moore of Shrewsbury, Margaret Klosek and her husband William of Leicester and Kathleen Garrity and her husband Robert of Barre, a son Francis Davenport and his wife Tracy of Leicester, 13 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, several nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by a son Albert J. Davenport, Jr., a daughter Daryl A. Tinnerholm, brothers Charles, Robert and Thomas Johnson, two sisters Ruth

and Ivy Johnson. Born in Worcester, she was the daughter of Winslow and Mae (Davey) Davenport.

Lillian worked at Millbrook Distributors for many years, prior to her retirement. She enjoyed playing bingo, listening to music and spending time with her "grand dogs".

Private graveside services were held in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Leicester.

Please omit flowers, contributions may be made to Leicester Food Pantry, 759 Main St. Leicester, Ma., 01524. MORIN FUNERAL HOME, 1131 Main St., Leicester is directing arrangements for the family.

[www.morinfuneralhomes.com](http://www.morinfuneralhomes.com)

# Students named to Dean's List at Fitchburg State

FITCHBURG — Fitchburg State University President Richard S. Lapidus has announced the students who qualified for inclusion on the Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester.

A student is placed on the Dean's List for the semester if an average grade of 3.20 or better is attained, and the student is attending the university full time.

Fitchburg State University enrolls 7,000 day and evening students in more than 50 programs of study. The university was established in 1894.

Breanna R. Benoit Gianna M. Bernier Ayva J. Borelli Nicole A. Fancy Emma M. Ganley Cameron J. McGrath Riley J. Millay Blackstone Claire A. Collins Isaiah R. Trumble Charlton Avalon M. Huber Jonathan M. Leduc Douglas Ashley E. Deluca Sarah A. Haire Aubrey M. Harris Ryan M. Stickney Kosmo J. Symock Dudley Hannah M. Volpe Groton Anthony M. De Freitas Matthew S.

Gingras Brecken R. Gingras Jodice Zachary X. Harrison Heather K. Holmes Jared R. Lelievre Brittney A. Mattson Curtis J. Monahan Mishayla S. Silver Andrew J. Wilson Holland Angela G. Gonzalez Sarina J. Johnson Northbridge Chrissa A. Gannon Elijah V. Perron Gabrielle K. Perron Susan M. Timmons Oxford Suzannah R. Lambert Kaylyn N. Violette Southbridge Gynariss G. Colon-Morales Joseph R. Postale

Ryan P. Pratt Spencer Sarah E. Jewell Kathleen V. Ricard Sutton Abigail K. Menzendorf Uxbridge Lorenzo G. Demalia Kailyn M. Lachapelle Neve E. Palmieri Katyana M. Russin W Brookfield Hannah J. Niemiec Webster Sophia M. Gardner Brandyn J. Geldart Madison T. Podedworny Isabelle M. Sargent Elliot A. Zopatti

## Students named to President's List at Fitchburg State

FITCHBURG — Fitchburg State University President Richard S. Lapidus has announced the names of students included on the President's List for the Fall 2020 semester.

The President's List honors students for consistently high academic achievement. A student is named to the list after achieving a 3.75 average in each of three successive semesters.

Fitchburg State University enrolls 7,000 day and evening students in more than 50 programs of study. The university was established in 1894.

Auburn Nicholas D. Bisceglia Jessilyn S. Collette Sophia L. Laperle Mary G.

Leufstedt Dudley Jillian E. Laabs North Oxford Jared S. Orrell Oxford Bridget L. Richardson Southbridge Fintan D. Neff Spencer Brittney A. Dube Lauryn M. Hines Sutton Samantha K. Beauchamp W Brookfield Chase W. Carlson Webster Nichole M. Lambert

## Roger Williams University announces Fall 2020 Dean's List

BRISTOL, R.I. — Select students have been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a GPA of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester. The following students have earned this achievement:

Nathan Barley of West Brookfield Andrew Carlson of Leicester Ryan Greaney of Leicester Daniel Griffiths of Leicester About RWU With campuses on the coast of Bristol and in the heart of Providence, R.I., Roger Williams University is a for-

ward-thinking private university committed to strengthening society through engaged teaching and learning. At RWU, small classes, direct access to faculty and guaranteed opportunity for real-world projects ensure that its nearly 4,000 undergraduates - along with hundreds of law students, graduate students and adult learners - graduate with the ability to think critically along with the practical skills that today's employers demand. Roger Williams is leading the way in American higher education, confronting the most pressing issues facing students and families - increasing costs, rising debt and job readiness.

# How valuable is your antique painting?

We often find antique paintings in the New England estates that we handle. Prices vary greatly, as some paintings are worth little while others can be quite valuable. This column will offer tips to determine if that painting on your wall will help you with your retirement fund.

The first thing you should do is check to see if what you have is an actual painting. Prints can often look like paintings to the naked eye. If you check your piece with a magnifying glass, you may find dots, the © copyright mark and other indications that it is just a print. You may also see a number such as 246/500 signed in pencil along with the artist name. These markings are seen on limited edition prints or AP (artist proof) prints. They have some value, but typically are not as valuable as an original painting. There are exceptions though. Nearly 20 years ago, we sold a group of prints that were signed by Andy



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES  
• • • • •  
WAYNE TUISKULA

Warhol. They brought around \$500 then and may be worth even more if they were auctioned today.

If you are certain you have a painting, there are other things you can check for or you can ask someone more knowledgeable to help you check it. Look at the painting detail. Do the details, such as hands in a portrait or items in the background of a scene, look like they are painted well? Try to estimate the age by examining the frame. If it is in an antique gold leaf frame, the painting could very well have been done in the 19th century. Also examine what material it was painted on. If the painting is on canvas, turn it around and check to see if the canvas has the discoloration that you would expect with an older painting. Paintings on canvas are typically more valuable than those painted on board. Oil paintings typically bring more than watercolors or pastels.

The subject matter also makes

a difference in value. An artist may be well known for their seascapes, but they could have also painted portraits or landscapes. The paintings that they specialized in are typically more valuable. Painting size is also important. Some painting appraisals are based on the price per square inch. Condition is another important factor. Holes, tears and repairs will detract from value. The provenance (definition according to Merriam Webster: "the history of ownership of a valued object or work of art or literature") is important with paintings, as with other antiques. We sold an abstract painting by a French artist at one of our auctions. The winning bidder asked for the family name from the estate who consigned it so that he could track the provenance of the painting and prove it was original.

Lastly, look for the name of the artist and see if it is dated. When you have the artist name you can look it up in Davenport's Art Reference and Price Guide or an online database. Paintings that we found in local estates have brought five figures at auction. There are plenty more in



this area that could bring six or seven figures. If you have a valuable painting, you can sell it and always replace the space on the wall with a reasonably priced limited-edition print.

Our current online auction features paintings by well-known equestrian artist Fay Moore from her estate. Bidding ends Feb. 17. We will soon be running our next auction of antique, vintage and more recent toy vehicles and trains. We continue to accept quality consignments of gold jew-

elry, sterling silver, paintings, coins, and better collectibles such as 1960s and earlier comic books and baseball cards for that sale. Keep watching [www.centralmassauctions.com](http://www.centralmassauctions.com) for more details on upcoming events.

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



# POLICE REPORTS

## Spencer Police

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13  
12:02 a.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 12:23-12:52 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:22 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Worcester PD bolo; 3:15 a.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 4:25 a.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 5:22 a.m.: animal complaint (Church Street), dog bite; 9:41 a.m.: mv lockout (Temple Street), assisted; 10:39 a.m.: medical/overdose (Church Street); 10:48 a.m.: medical/general (Vine Street); 12:23 p.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 2:06 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), info given; 2:58 p.m.: disturbance (Mechanic Street), dog issue, threats from neighbor; 3:53 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), unwanted party; 5:27 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), East Brookfield PD bolo; 7:23 p.m.: 911 call (Linden Street), non-emergency; 8:07 p.m.: mv lockout (Lloyd Dyer Drive), assisted; 9:01 p.m.: fire alarm (Howe Village), referred; 9:19 p.m.: medical/general (Cottage Street); (Total daily mv stops – 2).

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14  
12:36 a.m.: parking violations/2 (Elm, Mechanic streets), tickets issued; 12:45 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:58 a.m.: parking violation (Pearl Street), ticket issued; 2:36 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 8:56 a.m.: medical/general (Cottage Street); 10:21 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 11:15 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 1:46 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 2:42 p.m.: animal complaint (Maple Street), re: tenant's cats; 3:37 p.m.: 911 call (Woodside Road), accidental; 5:11 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 5:53 p.m.: DPW call (North Spencer Road), icy conditions; 5:59 p.m.: medical/general (Hastings Road); 6:21 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), box in road; 7:24 p.m.: residential alarm (Wilson Avenue), services rendered; 7:42 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 8:23 p.m.: medical/general (Cranberry Lane); 8:27 p.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), escort to former residence; 10:09 p.m.: disturbance (Prospect Street), noise complaint; 11:14 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; (Total daily mv stops – 4).

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15  
12:16 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:32-12:43 a.m.: parking violations/2 (Pearl, Main streets), tickets issued; 1:03 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo; 2:51 a.m.: residential fire (Leon Drive), referred; 3:37 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Brookfield PD bolo; 5:45 a.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 6:11 a.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 10:35 a.m.: DPW call (Bixby Road), water issue; 10:35 a.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 10:44 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 11:06 a.m.: building checked, secure; 11:35 a.m.: restraining order service (Main Street); 11:39 a.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), low-hanging wire; 11:43 a.m.: disturbance (Howe Village), noise complaint; 12:03 p.m.: 911 call (Clark Road), re: Rx refill; 12:35 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 12:46 p.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), theft from account; 1:55 p.m.: mv repossessed (Wall Street), info taken; 3:04 p.m.: elderly matter (Main Street), welfare check; 4:13 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), debris in intersection; 4:14 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 4:17 p.m.: fraud (Howe Village), SS scam call; 4:19 p.m.: suspicious person (Northwest Road), investigated; 4:42 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 5:13 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), North Brookfield PD bolo; 5:35 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 5:55 p.m.: fire alarm (Howe Village), referred; 6:56 p.m.: disturbance (Borkum Road),

unwanted parties; 7:13 p.m.: medical/general (Sherwood Drive); 9:26 p.m.: medical/general (Point Eastalee Drive); 9:30 p.m.: parking complaint (Charron Street), mv blocking spot; (Total daily mv stops – 5).

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16  
1:59-2:03 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:37 a.m.: residential alarm (Chickering Road), services rendered; 10:26 a.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), loose dog; 11:31 a.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), assisted; 12:28 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), info requested; 12:43 p.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), poss. restraining order violation; 2:06 p.m.: parking complaint (Pleasant Street), truck on sidewalk; 2:18 p.m.: 911 call (South Spencer Road), misdial; 2:46 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), piece of metal fell off mv; 2:52 p.m.: disturbance (Northwest Road), gunshots heard; 3:13 p.m.: officer wanted (R. Jones Road), info taken; 3:35 p.m.: mv lockout (Main Street), assisted; 3:46 p.m.: RV complaint (South Spencer Road), ATV speeding on trail; 4:36 p.m.: officer wanted (Lyford Road), gate left open; 4:38 p.m.: medical/general (Clark Road); 5:52 p.m.: vandalism (Main Street), car keyed; 6:10 p.m.: building checked, secure; 6:39 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 8:19 p.m.: building checked, secure; 8:37 p.m.: lost/found (Main Street), bank card found; 9:30 p.m.: 911 call (Sherwood Drive), accidental; 10:07 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 10:53 p.m.: medical/general (Pond Street); (Total daily mv stops – 0).

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17  
1:24 a.m.: building checked, secure; sometime between 2:59-8:00 a.m.: entire incident, including time, redacted from police log; 9:02 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 9:27 a.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), req. info; 9:38 a.m.: residential alarm (Hastings Road), services rendered; 9:45 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), failure to pay for cigarettes; 10:23 a.m.: medical/general (Pleasant Street); 10:39 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), mv damaged by door; 10:57 a.m.: medical/general (Grove Street); 12:02 p.m.: medical/general (Grove Street); 12:38 p.m.: school alarm (Lake Street), services rendered; 1:22 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 3:00 p.m.: officer wanted (North Spencer Road), one patron bothering another; 3:26 p.m.: officer wanted (Greenville Street), welfare check; 3:52 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 7:29 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), noise complaint; 8:23 p.m.: building checked, secure; 11:02 p.m.: disturbance (Bixby Road), unruly female; (Total daily mv stops – 0).

MONDAY, JANUARY 18  
12:48 a.m.: building checked, secure; 12:49 a.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; between 12:49-3:17 a.m.: entire incident, including time, redacted from police log; 3:18 a.m.: building checked, secure; 5:00 a.m.: fire alarm (Cherry Street), referred; 7:44 a.m.: disabled mv (Pleasant Street), assisted; 8:15 a.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), assisted; 8:38 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 9:06 a.m.: DPW call (Northwest Road), low-hanging power lines; 11:00 a.m.: medical/general (Sunberg Road); 11:31 a.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), purse/keys found; 12:22 p.m.: suspicious persons (Chestnut Street), investigated; 12:26 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 12:45 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); between 4:00-4:35 p.m.: entire incident, including time, redacted from police log; 4:35 p.m.: officer wanted (Spring Street), spoken to; 4:39 p.m.: medical/general (Jolicoeur Avenue); 6:05 p.m.: residential fire (Hastings Road), referred; 8:18 p.m.: 911 call (Smithville Road), hang-up; 9:22 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Charlton PD bolo; 9:34 p.m.: suspicious

mv (High Street), investigated; 10:07 p.m.: building checked, secure; (Total daily mv stops – 1).

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19  
12:38-12:39 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:46 a.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 3:43 a.m.: suspicious persons (South Spencer Road), investigated; 3:47-4:18 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:19 a.m.: suspicious mv (Chestnut Street), investigated; 4:21 a.m.: building checked, secure; 6:36 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 7:40 a.m.: accident (South Spencer Road), report taken; 7:57 a.m.: residential fire (Cherry Street), referred; 8:39 a.m.: medical/general (Crestview Drive); 8:50 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 9:20 a.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 10:08 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 10:21 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village), lift assist; 10:28 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 12:32 p.m.: medical/general (Sherwood Drive); 12:34 p.m.: suspicious persons (Maple Street), investigated; 12:38 p.m.: fraud (Main Street), SS scam call; 12:45 p.m.: animal complaint (Mechanic Street), dogs keep getting loose; 12:48 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 1:04 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), texting/driving; 2:13 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 2:25 p.m.: suspicious persons (Water Street), info taken; 3:42 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), tenant issue; 5:52 p.m.: multiple LTC issued/3 (West Main Street), assisted; 5:59 p.m.: DPW call (South Spencer Road), icy bridge; 6:00 p.m.: fire alarm (High Street), referred; 6:35 p.m.: accident (Greenville Street), report taken; 7:03 p.m.: multiple LTC issued/8 (West Main Street), assisted; 7:06 p.m.: accident (North Spencer Road), assisted; 7:08 p.m.: FID issued (West Main Street), assisted; 10:52 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 11:56 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT up/running; (Total daily mv stops – 1).

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## Leicester Police

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14  
12:36 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:40 a.m.: assist citizen (Mill Street); 7:30 a.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), services rendered; 10:45 a.m.: mc stop (McNeil Highway), written warning; 2:00 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Elgan Webster, 60, 61 Union Street, #1 Rear, Southbridge, receiving stolen mv, failure to stop for police, use of mv w/out authority, negligent operation, leaving the scene of a property damage accident, resisting arrest, speeding, disturbing the peace, arrest; Tyron Andre Valentine, 27, 50 Dimock Street, Boston, possession Class B drug/subsequent offense, arrest; 3:15 p.m.: assist citizen (Stafford Street); 5:02 p.m.: welfare check (Burncoat Lane), services rendered; 5:41 p.m.: disabled mv (Auburn Street), gone on arrival; 9:26 p.m.: welfare check (Paxton Street), services rendered; 11:09 p.m.: erratic operator (South Main Street), referred.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15  
6:20 a.m.: mutual aid (Church Street, Spencer), transported to hospital; 10:12 a.m.: suspicious mv (South Main Street), message delivered; 10:49 a.m.: accident (Paxton Street), report taken; 10:57 a.m.: assist citizen (Huntoon Memorial Highway); 2:02 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 2:21 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street), advised civil action; 2:35 p.m.: family problem (Baldwin Street), assisted; 2:51 p.m.: ambulance (Baldwin Street), transported; 5:27 p.m.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), referred; 7:52 p.m.: welfare check (Lake Drive), services rendered; 8:55 p.m.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), referred.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16  
10:25 a.m.: investigation (Pitcairne

Avenue), services rendered; 10:57 a.m.: investigation (Hyland Avenue), services rendered; 12:16 p.m.: ambulance (Victoria Drive), transported; 12:58 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 2:09 p.m.: investigation (Paxton Street), services rendered; 2:47 p.m.: ambulance (Mulberry Street), transported; 6:12 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:02 p.m.: ambulance (Charles Street), transported; 7:04 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 7:11 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:24 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:08 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 8:21 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 8:29 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 9:02 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 9:32 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:37 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 9:51 p.m.: assist other PD (Stafford Street), message delivered; 10:03 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:10 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:33 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:52 p.m.: investigation (Whittemore Street), services rendered.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17  
12:54 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:05 a.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), spoken to; 1:28 a.m.: mv stop (McNeil Highway), no action required; 2:55 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), investigated; 4:12 p.m.: investigation (Whittemore Street), services rendered.

MONDAY, JANUARY 18  
12:30 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:28 a.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), ticket issued; 9:08 a.m.: malicious mischief (Main Street), report taken; 9:52 a.m.: assist citizen (Green Street); 11:00 a.m.: investigation (Main Street), services rendered; 11:57 a.m.: accident (Soojians Drive), report taken; 4:19 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), no action required; 5:29 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), report taken; 6:03 p.m.: suspicious activity (Mulberry Street), services rendered; 11:38 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19  
12:05 a.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), spoken to; 1:09 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, no inspection sticker, criminal application issued; 8:02 a.m.: mutual aid (Cherry Street, Spencer), assisted; 9:42 a.m.: residential alarm (Auburn Street), false alarm; 11:57 a.m.: investigation (Piedmont Street, Worcester), services rendered; 12:56 p.m.: investigation (Grove Street), services rendered; 1:15 p.m.: welfare check (Winslow Avenue), services rendered; 4:10 p.m.: restraining order service (Winslow Avenue), served; 5:51 p.m.: accident (Main Street), services rendered; 6:13 p.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), services rendered; 6:20 p.m.: assist other PD (Stafford Street, Charlton), no action required; 8:35 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20  
5:54 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), gone on arrival; 9:47 a.m.: investigation (South Main Street), services rendered; 12:41 p.m.: suspicious activity (South Main Street), report taken; 12:57 p.m.: investigation (Vernon Street, Worcester), services rendered; 1:03 p.m.: suspicious person (South Main Street), investigated; 1:30 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street), services rendered; 4:31 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 4:51 p.m.: suspicious activity (Waite Street), unable to locate; 6:38 p.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), services rendered; 6:58 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:22 p.m.: assist citizen (Boyd Street); 7:56 p.m.: welfare check (Worcester, no address given), message delivered; 10:02 p.m.: disabled mv (Pleasant Street), assisted.

ties as scavenger hunts, weekly meditation, book groups, and other programs that promote learning and literacy.

“We encourage at-home learning by assembling grab and go kits to pick up via curbside delivery,” read a statement released by the library. “The kits contain engaging educational activities and often come with brand new books for families to keep. We are pleased to have given away hundreds of new and used books throughout 2020.”

Outside the rear entrance of the building, several carts filled with used books, movies, and audiobooks are available to take home. Library staff members continue to encourage patrons to take advantage of curbside service and other offerings.

“Curbside services are critical during this pandemic, a responsible way to keep employees and users safe while limiting exposure to the virus,” read the library statement.

Librarians typically work Monday through Wednesday from 10-4, as well as Thursday from 10-6. Although the building is closed to the public, staff members are working hard throughout the week to maintain the library's collection, answer phone calls and emails, perform reader advisory actions, and prepare requested materials.

To learn more, visit [www.SpencerPublicLibrary.org](http://www.SpencerPublicLibrary.org).

## LIBRARIES

*continued from page A1*

the wi-fi service is kept on 24/7 for use immediately outside the library.

In Brookfield, Merrick Public Library was restricted mostly to curbside appointments for pickup through Jan. 24. In-library browsing was scheduled for one patron or family at a time, but library officials are hopeful that more services can resume in the coming weeks. Details have not been announced for upcoming protocols.

“Patrons may call or email to make appointments for curbside pickup. Our other services such as photocopying, faxing, and notary service will be available curbside only. We also provide readers advisory services,” read a statement released by Merrick Public Library Director Brenda Metterville.

For more information about services provided at Merrick Public Library, call 508-867-6339.

Local libraries are also taking advantage of statewide opportunities this winter. All Massachusetts residents can register online for a Boston Public Library e-card and have access to a wide range of digital collections and online resources. To get started, visit [www.bpl.org](http://www.bpl.org).

Streaming services like Hoopla and Kanopy are available through your Boston e-card.

Meanwhile, Richard Sugden Public Library in Spencer is closed until further

notice for in-building programs. Curbside pickup times are posted on the library's website, [www.SpencerPublicLibrary.org](http://www.SpencerPublicLibrary.org).

Upon arrival for curbside pickup, call the library at 508-885-7513 (extension 1). Provide the librarian with your name and the color of your vehicle, and a staff member will deliver items to you.

In North Brookfield, Haston Free Public Library was forced to close its doors again on Jan. 11. In the state's latest statistical report, nearly every town in the region was in the “red zone” for COVID-19 transmission risk.

“Due to the increasing numbers of COVID-19 cases in North Brookfield, the library will be closed to in-person visitors beginning on Monday, January 11, hoping to reopen on Monday, January 25,” read a library statement.

Added Haston Library Director Dawn Thistle, “We had a good six-month run of being open to the public for limited hours, but now we need to take a break and give the virus a chance to slow down a bit.”

Haston Public Library patrons wishing to request materials should call 508-867-0208. You can also email the library at [ilnbn@cwmmars.org](mailto:ilnbn@cwmmars.org), or request materials online through your personal CWMARS account.

Library staff members will call patrons who have items available for pickup following a mandatory three-day quarantine. To learn more about the process, or to obtain information on when the library will reopen, visit [www.NorthBrookfieldLibrary.org](http://www.NorthBrookfieldLibrary.org).

## LUMINARIES

*continued from page A1*

“Although our building is not open to the public, we continue serving our community,” Donahue said. “Librarians serve their patrons both in and outside of the building. To address isolation, we provide services for those who are unable to physically come to the library. [These include] home delivery where staff bring books right to the door.”

The library also provides access to media and reading materials from its collection, as well as from other libraries' holdings. Additionally, the library increased its number of e-books and audiobooks in response to growing demand. The manner in which patrons enjoy their books is always changing, and librarians are committed to ensuring that all readers have access to their favorite formats this winter.

“In 2020, our resource sharing consortium, CW MARS, loaned over a million e-books,” Donahue added.

Also, the library's Pandemic Puzzle Mania program has seen a major increase in interest. The puzzle swap allows patrons to borrow or donate puzzles; the library also features online puzzles designed by the children's staff.

Richard Sugden Library has also implemented virtual programming for a variety of interests and ages. YouTube and Zoom are employed for such activi-





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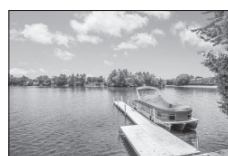


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**WEBSTER LAKE** – 7 Cedar Drive! Middle Pond! 8 Rm English Tudor across the street from w/Direct Waterfront Lot – Full Lake Access! Offering the Option of an In-Law Apartment or Plenty of Room for Family & Friends! Entry Foyer enters from 3 Sides w/locked door access into the house, stairway to the lower level In-law and the convenience of a Half Bath! The 1st Floor features Applianced Kit w/Breakfast Bar, Open Floor Plan – Frplcd Beamed Cathedral Ceiling Great Rm (Dining & Living Rms), Comfortable Bdrm & Hall Full Bath w/Laundry! Upstairs to the Spacious Master w/Master Bath & Slider to Lake View Deck! Additional Bdrm w/Built-ins! Lower Level with 2nd Kitchen, Open Dining & Living Area w/Brick Hearth, Full Bath & Possible (4th) Bdrm! Central Air! Huge Carport! Detached 3 Car Garage! Lakefront Lot w/Deck, Concrete Patio & Boat Dock! Take Advantage of the Low Interest Rates & make this House Your Home! Summer's Just Around the Corner! **\$489,900.00**

**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 Frplce 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/Double 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**

**WEBSTER LAKE** – 124-2 Gore Road! 1.68 Acres! Private Retreat Lot with 320' of Road Frontage and 200' of Waterfront! Located in North Pond! Beautiful Panoramic Views! Sucker Brook Cove! Lot has been split from a larger parcel! Survey, Home Rendering and Conservation Items Addressed – Order of Conditions Pending! This is the Opportunity to Build a Unique Home with Spectacular Views! Direct Lake/Boat Access! Water and Sewer in the Road! Walk to Restaurants! Surrounded by Wildlife, including Swans and Eagles! **\$175,000.00**



**WEBSTER LAKE** – 112 Gore Rd! NORTH POND! Sucker Brook Cove! 8 Rm, 3 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath Ranch is Ready for You! Southwestern Exposure! Gorgeous Sunsets! Unique Waterfront! An Open Floor Plan! Lake Views from Nearly All Rooms! 2x6 Construction! Energy Efficient Blinds in Every Room! 4 Oil Tanks – Fill Up Once a Year! C/Air! Gas Fireplace! Whole House Fan! Meticulously Cared For! Large workshop! 3 Car Garage! Carport! 2 Sheds w/Electric! Back Yard is Perfect for Family Gatherings! Plenty of Off Street Parking! Summer is Here! **\$539,900.00**

**WEBSTER** – 55 Hillside Ave! 7 Rm, 4 Bedroom Cape! Great Highway Access! Walk to Memorial Beach! View July 4th Fireworks from Your Backyard! Liv Rm w/Hrds, Ceiling Fan & Pellet Stove! Eat-in Kit! Fam Rm! Full Bath! 1st Flr Master w/Hrds & 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**

**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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### FEATURED PROPERTY!

#### DUDLEY - 22 ROBERTS ROAD



**SORRY, SOLD!**  
Lovely 3 bedroom Ranch! Single door 2 car garage with storage! Eat-in kitchen. Fieldstone Fireplaced Living Room! 3 bedrooms, hardwood floors, Remodeled bathroom! Lower Level fieldstone walls/fireplace! In-ground pool! - 3.58 ACRES includes extra lot. **\$312,000.**

#### OXFORD - 12 WINTER STREET



**SORRY, SOLD!**  
Home "Sweet" Home! TOTALLY Renovated! New Roof – Updated Electrical – New Heating System!! Bedroom, 1.5 Bath – 2 Story Conventional Home. Dead-End St. Rare find, Large Lot .77 Acre – Inside -Neutral Palette of Complimentary Paint Colors throughout the Entire House! Loads of Character! **\$281,000.**

#### THOMPSON - 5+ ACRE WATERFRONT LAND - BECOLA ROAD



**5+ Acre Waterfront Land** - on "Little Pond". Also known as Schoolhouse Pond. Private, pastoral setting. Open Field surrounded by tree line. 250+ feet waterfrontage. At the end of a Dead end road! **\$179,900**

#### THOMPSON - 25 TERRACE DRIVE



**SORRY, SOLD!**  
Off Thompson Hill! At the end of a Dead end road well maintained & loved! Kitchen with double wall ovens, gas cooktop, granite countertops. Formal dining room. Fireplaced Living room! master, on the first floor, 4 bedrooms total! 2nd full bath - second level. 2 car garage! assisted sale **\$325,000.**

#### WEBSTER - 103 UPPER GORE RD



**SORRY, SOLD!**  
Home "Sweet" Home! TOTALLY Renovated! New Roof – Updated Electrical – New Heating System!! Bedroom, 1.5 Bath – 2 Story Conventional Home. Dead-End St. Rare find, Large Lot .77 Acre – Inside -Neutral Palette of Complimentary Paint Colors throughout the Entire House! Loads of Character **\$319,000.**

#### LAND WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS

**Oxford** - 4 Leicester St - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Frontage Possible to be Subdivided! **\$89,900**  
**Webster** - Upper Gore w/View of the Lake! 1+ Acre! Artesian Well, Septic Design & Conservation - DONE. **\$115,000.**  
**Webster** - Cooper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res! **Each \$24,500.**  
**Douglas-Mount Daniels** 2.5 Acres about Douglas State Forest! **ON DEPOSIT! \$132,900**

#### WEBSTER - 29 WEST AVE.



**SORRY, SOLD!**  
Cozy 2 Story House with 3 BIG Bonuses! #1. Land almost 1 ACRE! #2. Zoning is MR-12 - Possible Multi Family Use - Investment Opportunity! #3. Large Over-sized 2-Car Garage, Work Bench, Power & 2nd Floor! Great Space for the Hobbyist, DIY or Contractor! 1ST Floor - Living rm, Bedroom, Large Kitchen/Dining Area with Galley Pantry & Full Bath! 2nd Flr, 2 Bedrooms! All New Carpets - Recent Paint! Multi Level Back Deck with Jacuzzi! **\$255,000.**

#### WOODSTOCK - 33 DEER MEADOW LANE



**SORRY, SOLD!**  
Beautiful 2,422 Sq Ft Colonial! 4 Bedroom! 3 Bath! Fireplace, 2 Car garage! So much more!  
assisted sale **\$415,000**

#### 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/bat 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.**

#### WEBSTER - 52 CUDWORTH ROAD



**SORRY, SOLD!**  
1.99 ACRE INDUSTRIAL ZONED LOT! GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE & WORK FROM HOME! Amazing 1790 Antique Colonial! Undergone major updates & renovations, maintaining Antique Charm! Great Room graced by an Open Hearth Stone Fireplace! Soaring Cathedral Ceilings! **\$499,900.**

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**MCRAE**

continued from page A13

on the White House over the summer orchestrated by Antifa and BLM insurrectionists with neither action being denounced by a single Democrat, only rationalized if not applauded.

As I observed the President's countenance, I marveled at how strong, clear and, dare I say it? manly his voice sounded, and how well he looked: somewhat tanned and smooth skin, alert eyes, showing no indication of the sadness, the disappointment he must

have been feeling over the previous two months knowing his electoral victory which in reality was probably an historic blow-out had been stolen from him and from us, his supporters.

And, I mused, could the American people actually be this stupid as to throw out a vibrant and preternaturally energetic man who had worked virtually around the clock for four years on behalf of us—and delivered on his campaign promises—in favor of a life-long political hack, a career plagiarizer, an inveterate crook, a serial liar, a girl and woman-groping pest, and a stumbling, gaffe-prone, octogenarian so deep in his senectitude that

it would take a heart of stone not to pity him despite his record of corruption making him, an utterly unremarkable man, the filthy-rich owner of three mansions—all on a government "servant's" paycheck.

I remembered Otto von Bismarck's crack that "God watches out for drunkards, fools, and the United States of America." Well, we're about to find out whether the Iron Chancellor knew what he was talking about, I fear.

As we happily but slowly moved in a mass down Constitution Avenue, we came to some sort of traffic control obstacle—a concrete cylinder about

four feet high and four feet in diameter—which caused, like a protruding rock in the middle of a river bed, the stream of humanity to part and then rejoin once past the impediment.

It was at this point I beheld a sight that caused me to stop dead in my tracks, unable, at first, to believe what my lying eyes were telling me. This was a scene I will take with me to my dying day, such was its immediate impact on my senses.

JOHN MCRAE  
EAST BROOKFIELD



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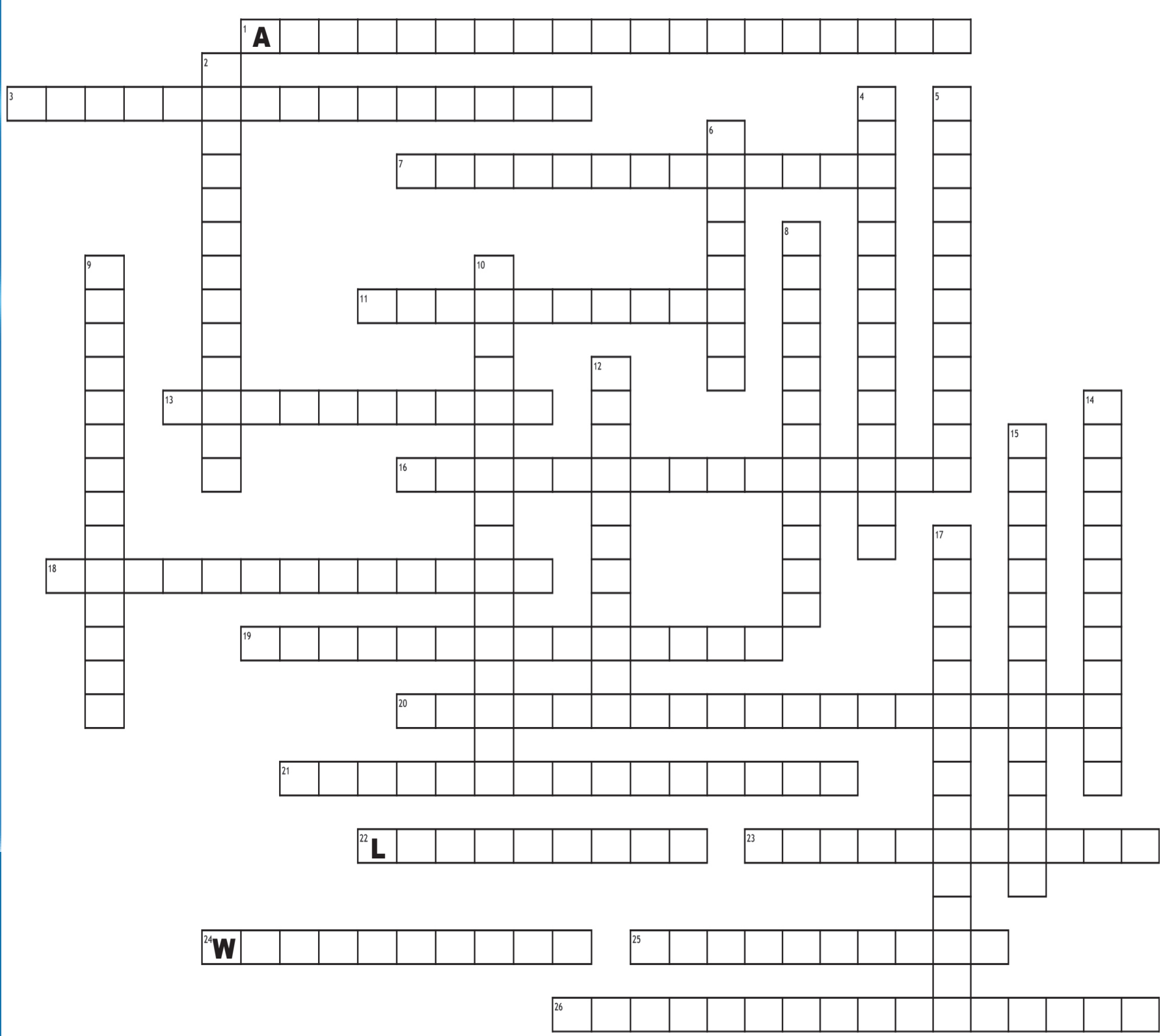
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# 3rd Annual ABC's of the Seasons

## WINTER EDITION



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Please find the answers to this crossword puzzle on page 2 of this section. Enter to win a \$25 gift card to one of these local businesses by mailing in your completed crossword to **ABC Crossword Puzzle, Stonebridge Press, P. O. Box 90, 25 Elm Street, Southbridge, MA 01550**  
OR scan & email or take a picture and email it to [jsima@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:jsima@stonebridgepress.news) by Thursday, February 18.  
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# New librarian hopes to ignite children's love of reading

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS**  
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER—A lifelong love of reading is often ignited at a young age, and newly hired children's librarian Kaeleigh Hart hopes to provide the spark for local kids. Earlier this month, Hart was welcomed to the Leicester Public Library staff. Although many patrons and youngsters haven't yet been able to meet her in person due to the pandemic, she is looking forward to gradually strengthening

her roots in the community. "This position drew me in because of the endless possibilities. I'm drawn to public libraries, and working with kids has always been something I loved," Hart said. "I've been able to talk over the phone to a few patrons, and everyone is so welcoming and patient while I figure out this library." Hart earned a Bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies, with a concentration on elementary education and

adolescent development. After graduation, she went on to work for a public library for five years; she also worked in a school library for two years. Having engendered a passion for stories and creativity among several young readers in both of her previous positions, Hart is eager to build a new foundation in Leicester. Library officials were seeking a children's librarian who could work with kids of all ages, and they discovered the perfect candidate in Hart. "She comes to us from the Barre Public Library and the Quabbin Regional School District, so she already has all sorts of plans to offer Leicester's younger library patrons," said Library Director Suzanne Hall. With the rise of social media sites, video-sharing platforms, e-sports video games, and on-demand TV services, it has become a steep challenge for educators and librarians to sustain kids'

interest in books. Long gone are the days when there was little else to do on a frigid winter afternoon but curl up with a good book. In the kingdom of Facebook, Instagram, Netflix, and YouTube, it takes an earnest effort in every household to prevent reading from being crowded out of the mainstream. But with children's librarians like Hart employing creative strategies, there is strong hope for America's next wave of readers. "My favorite aspect of the job is fostering a love of reading throughout all ages," Hart said. "It's hard when reading is viewed as a chore, and being able to find books that don't feel required is my favorite challenge." As local youngsters continue to grapple with reduced athletic events, limited travel, and canceled school activities because of the pandemic, it's the perfect time for families to create new reading traditions. "My favorite part about reading is the world you create in your head for a temporary period of time. And you can always revisit it anytime you crack open the pages," Hart told the New Leader. In the coming weeks, Hart will help launch new online programming for kids of all ages. She invites families to stay current with library happenings by checking out the Leicester Public Library children's room Facebook page. For more information about other library programs, visit [www.LeicesterLibrary.org](http://www.LeicesterLibrary.org).



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Photo Courtesy  
Kaeleigh Hart recently took over as the new children's librarian at Leicester Public Library.



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