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Friday, May 12, 2023

Proposed solar projects spark concern among Spencer officials

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — Officials and residents are expressing concerns about a pair of proposals that may lead to further large-scale solar development in town.

Two separate proposals for development must receive Planning Board approval before moving forward. At the May 2 Planning Board meeting, a hearing on the proposed Ash Street subdivision project was continued to June 6.

Submitted by Spencer Solar, LLC, the Ash Street proposal consists of a private paved road off Ash Street (between houses 131 and 135), with a cul-de-sac and two lots. In 2019, the original submission proposal sought a site plan review and a special permit for a large-scale solar array, in addition to the subdivision. Over the next few years, a number of elements delayed the advancement of the proposal.

“The public hearing initially opened on Nov. 19, 2019. After the Chair of the Planning Board and several other members resigned at the end of 2021 and early 2022, there was no longer a quorum,” explained Town Planner Lauren Vivier. “In early 2022, new members were appointed to the Board. The applicant

Turn To **SOLAR** page **A11**



Gretchen Ertl — Courtesy

LHS STUDENTS KICK BUTTS...CIGARETTE BUTTS, THAT IS

Young people from the Leicester 84 Club at Leicester High School celebrated Kick Butts Day; Youth Day of Action, at the Massachusetts State House recently for the first time since 2019. As part of The 84 Movement, teens educated their legislators about the tobacco industry’s historic and unjust targeting of youth, communities of color, and LGBTQIA+ youth. Pictured, from left to right: youth leaders Diane Moffat, Cole Delage, Hannah Collette, Chloe Bouchard, Dylan Delage and Tyler Herron.

Prop 2 ½ override heads to polls

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — School officials last week moved one step closer to securing a Proposition 2 ½ override needed to maintain staffing levels and preserve extracurricular activities.

An article on the May 2 Annual Town Meeting warrant requested an additional \$2,650,000 for the Leicester Public Schools’ budget, contingent on approval of a ballot question at this week’s May 9 special election.

The ATM article passed by a vote of 516-297, setting the stage for the decisive May 9 ballot vote.

The special election took place after press time for this edition of

the New Leader. A majority vote was needed for the override to pass.

In the weeks leading up to the critical override decisions, school officials reached out to residents through several formats to convey the direness of the situation.

“This will dictate the course of Leicester Public Schools for the next ten years, if not longer,” Superintendent Brett Kustigian told the New Leader ahead of the Annual Town Meeting. “I have been here for ten months, and a lot of people have asked me how to turn around Leicester Public Schools. I have clearly outlined a plan, and now I am asking for people’s support.”

Superintendent Kustigian and School Committee Chair Donna McCance were encouraged by the Town Meeting results. With one last hurdle to clear at the election this week, school officials were hopeful for voters to support an override needed to save 35 staff positions that would otherwise be slashed.

“I am very excited about the future of the town of Leicester. Dr. Kustigian has been working very hard, putting forth solid plans that will help us retain students in our district through the development of vocational programs, while also drawing students in through school choice,” McCance said.

If approved, the override’s impact on the tax rate per \$1,000 would be \$1.86. The cost of the override to the average home valued at \$333,922 would be \$621.

Last month, multiple informational sessions were held to inform residents of the situation.

“There is no Plan B or additional funding that we can pull from. It would take a long time to rebuild from the loss of those positions and programs,” said Beth Auger, the school district’s Director of Finance and Business, in advance of the votes.

If the override is

Turn To **PROP 2 1/2** page **A11**

Spencer officials crack down on illegal ATV activity

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — Officials will be cracking down on illegal ATV operations after receiving multiple complaints and damage reports in recent weeks.

All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and dirt bikes are not allowed on town-owned land, but that hasn’t stopped several individuals from breaking the rules this spring. Damage from ATV activity has been observed at the Depot Trail, Howe Park, and the fields of O’Gara Park.

“These vehicles are tearing up conservation trails and parks, causing erosion and deep grooves in the terrain,” read a statement released by Town Planner and Conservation Agent Lauren Vivier. “In previous years, damage has even included manual removal of trees and fencing to improve access and widening of the trails.”

In addition to dozens of complaints received this year from residents regarding illegal ATV activity, concerns have been raised by the Conservation Commission, Parks and Recreation Committee, Highway Department, and the Spencer Fire and Police Departments.

“The damage impacts the experience for those who look to enjoy a scenic walk or a game of softball. Repairing such damage financially falls on the town, and there are often extensive processes that must be followed to conduct such activity,” read the statement released by Vivier.

In recent weeks, complaints have been discussed by the Parks and Recreation Committee, Conservation Commission, and first responders. Officials seek to remind residents of the rules regarding ATV use, as well as the consequences of illegal operation.

ATV use on posted town-owned land is a violation of MGL Ch. 90B. Such violations can result in arrest, criminal complaints, and/or citations, with fines ranging from \$100 to \$1,000. Depending on the type of violation, an ATV involved in an illegal activity can also be towed from the property.

“While ATVs and dirt bikes are prohibited on public property and conservation land because of the destruction they cause, it does not stop riders from illegally trekking down numerous trails across the area,” read the statement released by Vivier. “A great number of riders do not know where they can and cannot ride, but if they wish to ride in Spencer, they need to be proactive and get organized to be able to ride legally.”

The Parks and Recreation Committee will be posting signs throughout town-owned properties to serve as reminders that motorized vehicles are prohibited. Police will also monitor these areas more frequently this spring and summer.

To learn more about regulations, visit www.spencerma.gov. For additional information, call the town offices at 508-885-7500.

Special events to bring DPHS alumni together



Courtesy

The NRG Band will perform next month as part of a special event for David Prouty High School alumni.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — A pair of celebratory events will bring David Prouty High School alumni together next month.

Despite leaving Spencer following his college graduation nearly 40

years ago, DPHS Class of 1979 member Todd Civin has always held a fond place in his heart for his hometown and Prouty. Through multiple platforms and efforts, including his management of the David Prouty Alumni Facebook page and an

alumni database, Civin has helped his fellow Prouty alums stay connected over the years.

The alumni Facebook page, having skyrocketed to more than 3,000 members, allows DPHS alumni to post about reunions, favorite memories,

events, and obituaries, keeping longtime friends connected and informed.

In addition to this resource, Civin and fellow Prouty alumnus Linda St. Germain organized the first ever No Class Reunion several years ago at the Spencer Fish and Game Club. The event was created to bring together alumni from 1970-1990 to enjoy food, music, and memories. The program also raised funds to establish the No Class Reunion Scholarship, awarded to an unsung graduating DPHS senior.

“We wanted to hold a fun event where we didn’t take it all too seriously, which is why we dubbed it the No Class Reunion—a play on words to indicate the laid-back nature of the event,” Civin said. “We figured the Fish and Game [Club], some burgers, dogs, beer, and some rock ‘n’ roll was a great way to pull in classmates of all eras.”

Turn To **ALUMNI** page **A11**

New Movie Discussion Group formed at Haston Library

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER
NORTH BROOKFIELD

— The Haston Free Public Library staff has started a new Movie Discussion Group, among other exciting announcements for the upcoming month. The Movie Discussion Group will function in the same way as the library's Book Group, except members will talk about movies instead. After the group selects a movie to discuss each month, the library will have copies of the movie avail-

able for two weeks before the discussion group meets. "Check out the movie on your library card and watch it from the comfort of your home any time before the discussion group. We will then get together and talk about what we watched," read a statement released by the library. This month's Movie Discussion Group selection is "Dead Poets Society," a 1989 film rated PG. The discussion of the movie will take place on May 22 at 6 p.m. Meanwhile, the next Book Group meeting will take place on May 30 at 7 p.m. The selection is "Daughter

of Fortune" by Isabelle Allende. Additionally, young guests and families are invited to check out May story-time sessions at the library, beginning at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays. Special craft activities will be paired with the stories. If you're interested in the outdoors and nature, you won't want to miss an upcoming program called "The Importance of Bees." Set for June 3 at 10 a.m., the program will feature local beekeeper, John Hedly, as he presents artifacts and information about all things beekeeping. He will discuss an array of topics at the event, including how to start a beehive; collecting honey; the physical structure

of a beehive; the bee colony and how it is organized; bee chores inside and outside the hive; and the importance of pollination. To learn more about upcoming programs this spring and summer at the library, or to register for programs, call 508-867-0208 or send an email to hastonfreepubliclibrary@gmail.com. The library will be closed on Monday, May 29, in observance of Memorial Day. Finally, library officials remind guests that new non-fiction books are now located in the new book alcoves across from the new fiction section.

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DISCOVER

AMERICAN EXPRESS

Curry College welcomes Benjamin Carr into Beta Beta Beta Honor Society

MILTON — Curry College welcomes Benjamin Carr of Leicester into Beta Beta Beta, the International Biology Honor Society. Beta Beta Beta (TriBeta) is an honor society for students, particularly undergraduates, dedicated to improving the understanding and appreciation of biological study and extending boundaries of human knowledge through scientific research. Since its founding in 1922, more than 200,000 persons have been accepted into lifetime membership, and more than 626 chapters have been established throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. About Curry College Curry College, founded in Boston in 1879, is a private, co-educational, liberal arts-based institution located on 131 acres in Milton. The College extends its educational programs to a continuing education branch campus in Plymouth. The College offers 24 undergraduate majors in specialized and liberal arts programs, as well as graduate degrees in accounting, business, education, criminal justice, and nursing to a combined enrollment of nearly 2,500 students. The student body consists of 1,700 traditional students and nearly 800 continuing education and graduate students. The College offers a wide array of co-curricular activities ranging from 16 NCAA Division III athletic teams to an outstanding theatre and fine arts program. Visit us on the Web at www.curry.edu.

SPENCER ALMANAC

REAL ESTATE

BROOKFIELD

\$400,000, 23 Fiskdale Rd, Terry, Michelle L, and Terry Jr, David A, to Macdougall, Auston D.

EAST BROOKFIELD

None

LEICESTER

\$3,975,000, 1671 Main St, Nasar LLC, to Srec Leicester LLC.

\$409,000, 6 King Ct, Alves, Flavio A, to Bowhile, James S, and Morris, Sugar G.

\$42,000, 120 White Birch St, Gonzalez, Joseph, and Gonzalez, Katrina R, to Blanchard Jr, Paul A, and Blanchard, Lauren K.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

None

SPENCER

\$572,000, 116 Northwest Rd, Equity TCo, to Cusson, Robert L, and Cusson, Elizabeth A.

\$519,000, 50 Woodside Rd, Parlato, Christopher, and Parlato, Rebecca A, to Gaskill, Jeffrey, and Valentin, Vanessa I.

\$490,000, 18 Laurel Ln, Drazek, Laurie J, and Provo, Lucia F, to Weikel Jr, Robert E, and Weikel, Cathy M.

\$390,000, 95 Smithville Rd, Cusson, Robert L, and Cusson, Elizabeth A, to Grasso, Brian J.

\$385,000, 106 Meadow Rd, Waugh, Kelly E, to Cruz, Rafael, and Famanian, Yolanda.

\$385,000, 33 Old Farm Rd, Landstrom, Amanda R, and Landstrom, Geoffrey A, to Charest, Devon, and Charest, Richard.

\$230,000, 43 Lake Ave, Nichols Richard G Est, and Seigh, Kelly A, to Frost, Jeffrey L.

WARREN

\$8200,000, 193 Crouch Rd, Bahn, Mary E, and Rocket Mortgage LLC, to Truax Holdings LLC.

WEST BROOKFIELD

\$350,000, 8 Birch St, Prifti, Ilirjan, to Morissette, Bradley P, and Paradis, Brittany L.

\$276,850, 238 Wickaboag Valley Rd, Tirrell, Jill L, to Cave, Madeline P, and Cave, Jonathon T.

ALL SCHOOLS-ALL CLASS REUNION

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Nichols College graduates hear from Josh Kraft at Commencement

DUDLEY — Josh Kraft, President of the New England Patriots Charitable Foundation and lifelong advocate and supporter of youth, families and communities, delivered the Commencement address during the Nichols College Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony on May 6. Nearly 300 students participated in the graduation ceremony held at the DCU Center in Worcester, when Kraft was also bestowed a degree, an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters, along with Steve Belkin, founder and chair of the Trans National Group.

As President, Kraft is responsible for the Kraft family's many philanthropic initiatives. Through these programs, the Kraft family annually contributes tens of millions of dollars in support of education, health, social justice, diversity, youth development and family initiatives. Historically, the family has donated hundreds of millions of dollars to their communities. Prior to his full-time commitment as the President of New England Patriots Charitable Foundation, Kraft spent 30 years with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston (BGCB), including 12 as the Nicholas President and CEO.

At time when compassion can seem forgotten,

given the vitriol in political discourse that is being fanned or even led by U.S. lawmakers, said Kraft, "I can tell you where there's a lot of compassion right here with all of you and Nichols. I saw it in the community work you all do," referring to Nichols initiatives at the Dudley Boys and Girls Club, the Backpack Brigade, Relay for Life, and others.

"You all get it; you get that compassion is about action and that it's also community building—[compassion] brings folks together," said Kraft, discussing several examples of compassion in action spanning education, mental health, and scholarship.

Citing published work by Dr. James Ryan, President of the University of Virginia, Kraft continued, "Helping us all live a more fulfilled life, the most powerful question is 'How Can I Help?' It signals a willingness to help but also signals respect, humility, and the likelihood that in the end, it is you that will be helped just as much as the person you're helping."

"So as you all prepare to take the next steps in your lives, make the world a better place by reconnecting all of us with our compassion. Never be afraid to ask 'how can I help,' and never be afraid to show your unity with all of

humanity—and that will be your true measure of success. Because when you do it, you'll change the world. Not just for yourself, but for all generations for years to come," advised Kraft.

In his remarks to the graduates, Nichols College President Glenn M. Sulmasy, JD, LL.M said, "Loyalty, Service, Culture—you've led your time here according to these words," referring to those three words emblazoned on the college seal. "And now today imbued with the best possible characteristics for leading organizations, you will go forward into the world, and I can't wait to see where it leads for each and every one of you."

He also noted that the graduates have several more factors in their favor—the real-world applicability of their studies at Nichols as well as the College's recent AACSB accreditation and newly adopted Strategic Plan, titled "Embracing Greatness." Combined, this places "even more value and support from your degree for your future endeavors. Our successes lift all of us and you're going to find more ways to appreciate your Nichols degree on your path to even greater achievements in the future," said Sulmasy.

Class of '23 President and speaker, Jenna

DeLorenzo, remarked, "I know each of us has our own story, but we have shared some of the most important chapters right here together. No book becomes a bestseller without the help of an engaged and supportive editor. In our case, it was definitely an editorial team: the faculty and staff of Nichols College."

"As we're drafting the next chapter of our lives, I hope that you revisit these chapters with laughter and smile. We will move mountains and write many more chapters filled with greatness."

Madison Perrotti '23, Student Government President and speaker, said that while studying abroad in London, she became accustomed to the term 'mind the gap' used by the Underground metro system to urge travelers to note the gap between the platform and the train threshold while boarding.

"Before we jump on the next connection, I ask my classmates to mind the gap. Take a moment to reflect on how significant this singular journey has been," said Perrotti. "There may be additional challenging moments in your future travels, but be confident that your time at Nichols has given you the foundation you may need

to stay safely on track."

"I urge you to mind life's gaps, and that every chance you can, embrace greatness."

For more information on the event or to watch the entire event unfold, check out our recorded livestream video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=niyOVLX1jzM>

About Nichols College Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association of Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols

College transforms today's students into tomorrow's leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations. www.nichols.edu



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Country Bank grants \$20,000 to Main South Community Development Corporation

WORCESTER — Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts, proudly supports Main South CDC in Worcester. The Mission of the Main South CDC is to improve the quality of life for the community by working together on projects and issues that will maintain and create safe, affordable housing for low-to-moderate income individuals, support economic opportunities for businesses and residents of Main South, enhance the physical image of the area, and instill a sense of neighborhood pride and commitment.

"The Main South CDC is extremely grateful to Country Bank for its ongoing financial support of our neighborhood revitalization efforts. Such funding allows us to continue to address the equity and social justice needs within our community that were all too painfully demonstrated during the pandemic. Specifically, Country Bank's funding is supporting affordable housing and commercial development projects that address those needs and is making a real difference in the Main South community," stated Stephen Teasdale, Executive Director of Main South Community Development Corporation.

Memorial Day parade plans announced

SPENCER — The Memorial Day parade sponsored by Gaudette-Kirk American Legion Post #138 will take place on Monday, May 29 at 9 a.m.

The parade route will start at the Legion and proceed down Main Street, turning left onto Elm Street, then left onto Chestnut, left onto Maple Street back to Main Street, ending at Issac L. Prouty Memorial Park.

Memorial Day services will be held that morning at the Isaac L. Prouty Memorial Park immediately following the parade.

We welcome all groups, youth groups and organizations to participate in the parade and attend this year's services. For more information, please contact David Caputo, the Legion's Senior Vice Commander, at (508) 615-3338.

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Bay Path juniors
named to honor roll

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School congratulates the following members of the junior class on being named to the honor roll for the third quarter of the 2022-2023 school year.

High Honors
Sophia Balestracci, Rachel Carpenter, Meredith Clark, Yanieris Colon Vega, Mariselle Cosme, Zachary Cournoyer, Daniel Daige, Dylan DeJesus, Abbigail Egan, Jonathan Forget, Jenna Gajewski, Ethan Gallant, Patrick Luperchio, Hannah Luukko, Jenna McLeish, Maggie Mullaly, Kayla Nguyen, Peter Nhan, Madison Nollin, Catherine Sirard, Jacob Sirard, Victoria Tinsley, Jack Ugrinow, Gabrielle Zopatti

Honors
Kasey Babkauskas, Alex Beshiri, Jaden Blake, Luke Boliver, Ryan Bray, Samuel Brill, Vincent Brink, Kayla Brown, Samantha Buchanan, Caitlin Burke, Gabriella Cabrera, Riley Caruso, Jesse Catino, Charles Chivallatti, Kirsten Congdon, Shane Conti, Karoline Corpes Diaz, Richard Corriveau, Peter Courville, Kyleigh Czechowski, Emma DeJong, Edwin Delacruz Davila, Nyasia Delgado, Marissa Dumas, Jayden-James Dunston, Chase Forehand, Nichoals Gagne, Giovannai Garcia, Rachel Gormley, Simon Greening, Lucas Hafner, Tristan Hanson, Bridget Hast, Riley Heenan, Alba Henriquez Baez, James Heywood, Derek Hosley, Carly Impey, Ian James, Nathan Josey, Jady Katz, Abigail Kibaru, Matthew Lach, Braeden LaPointe, Anna Lehtola, Liberty Kristina, Albert Luciano, Catherine Magnusson, Jadier Maldonado, Sarah Martin, Marissa Masciarelli, Mateo Mastrototaro, Logan McCann, Shaun McLaughlin, Adrianna Navarro, Christian Nguyen, Alix Norman, Noah Okolita, Nason Omasta, Giana Pantalone, Noalani Perez, Dominic Pigeon, Esteban Pimental, Colin Plante, Evan Provost, Emily Quental, Wendy Ramirez, Jacob Reed, Harrison Renaud, Samantha Russell, Caterina Shciappa, Amanda Seidler, Sydney Seymour, Ryan Sinkewich, Gerald Splaine, Adriana Stanley, Ashton Stockenberg, Alan Suklis, Lacey Sullivan, Kyle Sylwanovicz, Alysha Szafarowicz, Landon Walker, Timothy Welch, Hailey Williamson, Stone Zink

Principal's List
Alexander Adkins, Fajr Ahmad, Juliana Alcivar, Aidan Anderson, Caroline Borgeston, Olivia Carrier, Madyson Choicoiine, Natalie Cierpich, Jomar Cintron Perez, Petru Cojocar, Jeffery Denham, Jared Evora, Carmine Giaquinto, Darius Gonzalez, Valerie Hernandez, Matthew Hutchins, Jr., Stanislaw Janusz, Madisyn Kozlowski, Tyler Labbe, Nolan Libby, Radiel Lopez, Kai Lukasek, Vincent Messier, Leah Monti, Kennedy Nom, Megan O'Shea, Peyton Parrettie, Nicholas Pollone, Ismael Porrata, Jared Powell, Logan Powers, Wyatt Rafferty, Kayliana Sevieri, Cody Sexton, Paige Seymour, Madison Sibert, Brady Staniunas, Cole Vignali, Thomas Wilk, Sebastian Winer

Editor's Note:
The honor roll for the sophomore and freshman classes will be published in the coming weeks.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
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frank@stonebridgepress.news

BUSINESS MANAGER
RYAN CORNEAU
860-928-1818 EXT. 102
ryan@salmonpress.news

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
JIM DINICOLA
508-764-6102
jim@stonebridgepress.news

EDITOR
BRENDAN BERUBE
508-909-4106
news@stonebridgepress.news

PRODUCTION MANAGER
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Midway between south and southeast

4. Fathers

9. Wine grape

14. Al Bundy's wife

15. Organic compound

16. Venezuelan state

17. Interest term

18. Experts

20. Central cores of stems

22. Smooth and glossy

23. One-time S. Korean city

24. One from Damascus

28. Short message at the end of an email

29. It cools your home

30. Oh, God!

31. Intestinal pouches

33. Men

37. Popular English soccer team (abbr.)

38. Former CIA
39. Arrange in steps

41. A baglike structure in a plant or animal

42. The Great Lake State

43. Dog-__: to mark a page

44. Stop moving

46. Ancient Dead Sea region

49. Of I

50. Clerical vestment

51. Songs sung to a lover

55. Charges

58. Popular design program manufacturer

59. Where to park a boat

60. One who values reason

64. Slang for cigarette

65. Sailboats

66. Actress Zellweger

67. Screen material

68. Country music legend Haggard

69. Puts together in time

70. When you hope to arrive

CLUES DOWN

1. An involuntary and abnormal muscular contraction

2. Philly's rail service

3. Leaves a place

4. No longer be a part in

5. Guitar players use them

6. Cease to exist

7. General's assistant (abbr.)

8. Shaking of the earth

9. Strong winds

10. For each one

11. A bog

12. The creation of beautiful or significant things

13. Affirmative

19. Pie __ mode

21. Nonclerical

24. Inspirational football player Hamlin

25. Learning environment

26. Khoikhoi peoples
27. Bring out or develop

31. Shows up

32. Theatrical device

34. Loads

35. Popular Hollywood alien

36. Distinguishes

40. College dorm worker

41. Secondary or explanatory title

45. Resembling wings

47. One who delivers a speech

48. In the middle

52. Loop with a running knot

53. Airborne (abbr.)

54. Beloveds

56. Ordain

57. Breed of small cattle

59. Very small period of time (abbr.)

60. Revolutions per minute

61. They __

62. Longtime ESPN anchor Bob

63. A place to stay

PUZZLE SOLUTION

A	T	E		S	C	N	A	S		E	L	R	E	M
D	C	L		E	E	N	E	R		S	A	O	R	P
R	A	T		T	S	I	A	N	O	I	T	A	R	
A	N	I	R	A	M			E	B	O	D	A		
S	E	T	A	R		S	E	D	A	N	E	R	E	S
		B	L	A		E	M			M	O	D	E	
E	S	U	A	P		D	E	R	A	E			I	M
C	A	S		E	T	A	D	A	R	G		S	S	O
U	M			S	E	T	A	M		A	C	E	A	C
D	A	G	E					C	A	G	I	S		
E	N	E	C	S	A	M	A	D		N	A	S	A	M
		K	E	E	L	S		S	E	L	E	T	S	
S	T	S	I	L	A	I	C	E	P	S		R	P	A
E	R	U	P	A		E	D	I	M	I		G	E	P
A	A	M	A	G		S	A	D	A	D		E	S	S



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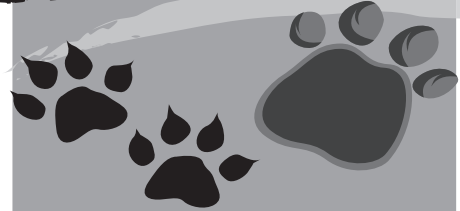
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ANSWER: PANDA BEAR

New Word

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ENGLISH: Garden

SPANISH: Jardín

ITALIAN: Giardino

FRENCH: Jardin

GERMAN: Beet

Did You Know?

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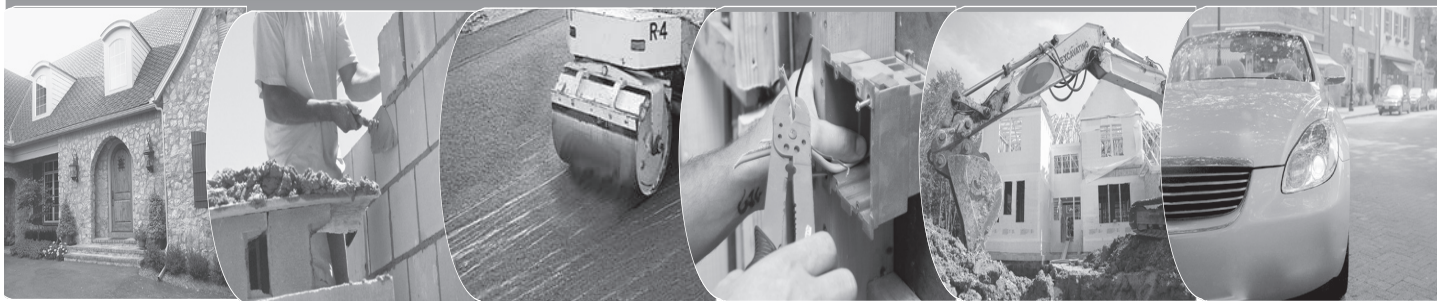
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ANSWER: GARDEN SHEARS

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ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

CRYPTO FUN

☐ⓈⓉⓊⓋⓌⓍⓎⓏⓈⓉ

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to healthy vision.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 26 = E)

A. 26 12 26 16

Clue: Needed for sight

B. 16 11 9 17 5

Clue: One of the five senses

C. 26 24 1 7

Clue: Test

D. 23 11 20 1 5 26

Clue: Widen

Answers: A. eyes B. sight C. exam D. dilate

SUDOKU

	1		4	6		8	5	
			8				6	
5						7		
4					8			
	8	5	6	9				
							2	
1						9		6
9				1	3			7
	5	7						

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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2	3	1	6	4	6	7	5	8
7	8	5	3	1	2	9	4	6
6	4	6	9	5	8	7	3	1
8	2	3	4	7	1	5	6	9
1	7	4	2	6	9	5	8	3
5	6	9	5	3	8	1	2	4
4	1	7	9	2	3	8	6	5
9	6	1	2	5	4	3	7	8
3	5	8	7	6	4	1	9	2

ANSWER:

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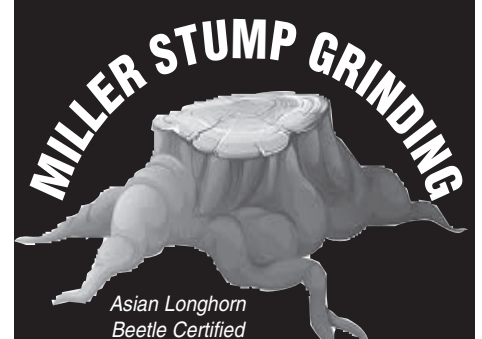
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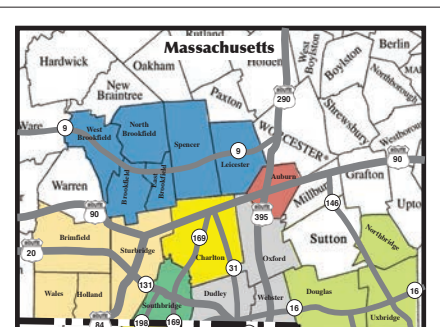
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EDITORIAL

Here’s to our moms

Another Mother’s Day is upon us, and we would like to recognize the fact that increasingly in our world, a “mother” is oftentimes a father, aunts, uncle, grandparents and other family members who step in to the role. To those people, we wish you a happy Mother’s Day as well. With that being said, motherhood should be celebrated. Our children bring out the best in us, and sometimes the worst; however, at the end of the day the bond between most mothers and children is one that is stronger than anything we can describe.

Interesting is the fact that the creator of the holiday, Anna Jarvis in 1908, fought to remove the day from the calendar after it became overly commercialized. Mother’s Day was officially placed on the calendar in 1914 by President Woodrow Wilson. Mothers were to wear white carnations given to them by their children and presented with other gifts.

The ancient Greeks, along with the Romans, held festivals to honor mother goddesses Cybele and Rhea. In more recent history the Christians called it ‘Mothering Sunday.’ Across the Atlantic Ocean, the holiday fell on the fourth Sunday during Lent and every mother was expected to return home to their ‘mother church’ to attend a Mother’s Day service.

Ann Jarvis (the mother of Anna Jarvis), along with Julia Ward Howe held special classes in West Virginia during the early 19th century to teach women how to care for their youngsters. In the year 1868, Jarvis put together a ‘Mothers Friendship Day’ where mothers would socialize with former Union and Confederate soldiers in helps to create reunification.

Howe penned a ‘Mother’s Day’ Proclamation in 1870 in which she asked mothers across the country to help promote world peace. Three years later Howe was pushing to have a ‘Mother’s Peace Day celebrated on June 2 annually. In Michigan Mary Towles Sasseen and Frank Hering worked together to organize the holiday into the 20th century.

In 1905, Anna Jarvis lost her mother Ann. The grieving daughter looked to honor the sacrifices her mother made for her by celebrating Mother’s Day and hoped other children would do the same.

The first big celebration took place in 1908 in West Virginia, where a business owner named John Wanamaker held an event at a church to honor motherhood. That same day in Philadelphia thousands attended a sister store of Wanamakers to celebrate as well.

In 1970, Coretta Scott King, wife of Martin Luther King, Jr., used the holiday to bring awareness to underprivileged women and children. In Thailand Mother’s Day is celebrated in August on the birthday of the current queen. In Ethiopia each fall, a big feast along with music is held over the course of a few days to celebrate motherhood. A fun fact is that more phone calls are made on Mother’s Day than any other day of the year.

Letter submission policy

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

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

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thoughts of the day

To the Editor:
The first 15 thoughts of the day are by other authors, and the last two are my contribution to this writing.
-Yesterday is gone, tomorrow has not come; we have only today. Let’s begin.
-Every day may not be good, but there is something good in every day.
-Little things are indeed little, but to be faithful in little things is the great thing.
-Success is achieved and maintained by those who try and keep trying.
-Fake people have an image to maintain by those who try and keep trying.
-One small thought in the morning can change your whole day.
-You can’t fix yourself by breaking someone else.
-Where charity is not found, God cannot dwell.
-Faith and prayer are both invisible, but they make impossible things possible.

-Life is too short to worry about anything.
-Love is an end in itself because God is love.
-Live simply so others may simply live.
-Your best teacher is your last mistake.
-Life is short; spend it happy.
-The key to achieve eternity with God is performance of good deeds for those in need.
-A definition of common sense is putting an end to the destruction of the country and death of the people in Ukraine without delay. May God bless you and your families.

DONALD L. GAUDETTE, SR.
SOUTH HADLEY

Editor’s note: The author is a former resident of Brookfield.

We need your help to craft Spencer’s Master Plan

To the Editor:
Spencer residents, we need your help! You are invited to gather at the pavilion of the Spencer Fish and Game Club, 155 Mechanic St., any time between 5 - 7 p.m. on May 17. Nine booths will be set up for you to visit and meet with our committee to discuss the future of Spencer. These will include land use and housing, transportation, economic development, open space, historic preservation, town services and much more. We welcome your comments and thoughts, and they will guide us as we

write a new master plan for Spencer. Please join us for free pizza and a chance to share your ideas. Activities will be provided for children.

Thanks to all of you who have already completed the master plan survey. Please take the time to fill one out if you haven’t already done so. For more information, go to www.spencermasterplan.com.

Thank you,

CAROL MCPHERSON
SPENCER MASTER PLAN
COMMITTEE

Support an amazing tradition

To the Editor:
To the residents of Spencer and East Brookfield, the David Prouty High School Scholarship Committee would like to ask for your help in continuing the tradition of supporting David Prouty graduates in their pursuit of higher education.
Since 1974, the committee, with essential community involvement, has awarded more than \$2 million to deserving students. Last year’s graduating class received more than \$40,000

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ROBERT BERTHIAUME
CHAIRMAN
DPHS SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The MAGA “Republican” fake debt ceiling crisis, risks of pushing the USA economy over the cliff and Xi Jinping’s China

To the Editor:
First, some evidence that most MAGA “Republicans” and their supporters aren’t that serious about the debt ceiling crisis.

If MAGA “Republicans” were serious, they wouldn’t have raised the debt ceiling three times during the Trump Administration, the main reason then for rising debt being tax cuts for the rich.

If MAGA “Republicans” were serious about reducing the debt, they would vote to provide the Internal Revenue Service to close the “Tax Gap” or the yearly difference between what is owed and actually paid in U.S. federal taxes. The generally conservatives Peterson Institute estimates this growing gap to be about \$500 billion. A too large share of these lost funds stay in the accounts of the wealthy and large corporations.

A final example of if MAGA “Republicans” were about reducing the budget deficit. I will use the agriculture sector because it provides a good contrasting example. It first concerns agricultural subsidies where a too large share of the government benefits goes to well-off farmers. For assistance to farmers, income-based limits should exist so that the wealthier ones do not take taxpayer dollars for what they can afford, but those with more moderate incomes who need to can. These include insurance subsidies in where taxpayers pay 60% of the costs, and unneeded price supports. Such adjustments would save taxpayers billions and reduce the budget deficit. However MAGA “Republicans” propose no cuts in these areas.

For a not insignificant difference, consider SNAP or food stamp assistance. More than 12 percent, or over \$41 million less well-off White, Brown, Black, etc. fellow Americans - of whom about 15 million are children - make use of SNAP as I once did. Here, especially where our American children and our future are concerned MAGA “Republicans” want cruelly

to do the reverse, that is to reduce by billions the government budget for SNAP benefits.

The award winning Journalist Catherine Rampell known for her evidence or “fact based” reporting, recently asked a number of highly respected finance sector people what might happen if our government, because of the MAGA debt ceiling fake issue, stopped paying the money we owe

She got these answers:

-Our government credit status would get downgraded raising our already high interest rates ,

-Our government’s debt service or interest cost would get even more costly, .

- The dollar would lose value,

- Stock markets would plummet,

- People and companies who have invested in federal government bonds would start to lose money, and

- Buying and selling assets such as housing, businesses, etc. would get more difficult because once stable “mediums of exchange” like government bonds would become more risky,

What all these and other similar situations means that using dollars to do business would become much more risky and expensive.

Rampell ends by saying that, longer term this MAGA “Republican” fake debt ceiling crisis could lead to this: “the United States might permanently lose its privileged economic and standing ability to influence global affairs as we now do.”

And if so, Xi Jinping’s China stands ready and oh so happy to replace our United States.

Rampell ends by saying “If you’re not afraid yet, you should be.”

My question to the MAGA “Republicans” about their fake debt ceiling threat is this: Do you not know or not care (or both) about the risks to America you take?

KEVIN KANE
SPENCER

Four ways to use cash wisely



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There has been a lot of talk about a “cashless” society, but it’s not here yet. In fact, cash can still be a valuable element of your overall financial picture – if you employ it wisely. But how?

Consider these four key uses of cash:

Everyday spending – Of course, you need sufficient cash on hand to pay for your cost of living – mortgage, debt payments, utilities, groceries, etc. You’ll likely rely on your savings or checking accounts to pay for these needs.

Unexpected expenses and emergencies – It’s never a bad idea to establish a monthly budget. But, as you know, life is unpredictable – and sometimes you may encounter “budget-busting” expenses, such as a major home repair or a large medical bill. If you haven’t planned for these costs, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments, such as your IRA and 401(k), which can result in taxes, penalties and less money for your retirement. A better alternative is to prepare in advance by building an emergency fund containing up to six months’ worth of living expenses in cash, or at least in a highly liquid account, held separately from your regular checking or savings account so you won’t inadvertently spend the money.

Short-term savings goal – When you are investing for a long-term goal – especially retirement – you will likely need to own a reasonable percentage of growth-oriented vehicles, such as stocks and stock-based mutual funds. The value of these investments will fluctuate, so, if it’s possible, you’ll want to avoid selling them when their price is down – which may make them unsuitable for short-term goals. But if you’re aiming for a goal that you want to achieve in a year or so – a wedding, a long vacation, and so on – you’ll want to be sure a specific amount of money is there for you when you need it. Consequently, you’ll want to put away cash for this type of goal, possibly in a short-term savings or investment vehicle that might pay somewhat higher interest than a regular checking/savings account.

Source of investment – In regard to your longer-term investment strategy, cash can play two important roles. First, it can serve as its own asset class, alongside other classes, such as stocks and fixed-income vehicles. Unlike these other classes – especially stocks and stock-based mutual funds – cash won’t fluctuate in value, so it can potentially help lessen the impact of market volatility on your portfolio. And second, having the cash available in your portfolio gives you the opportunity to quickly take advantage of other investment opportunities that may occur. And you may be able to use your existing investments to help replenish the cash in your portfolio. For example, if you choose to take stock dividends in cash, these dividends can be “swept” into your brokerage account and held there until you’re ready to invest them. (However, depending on your comprehensive financial strategy, it may be a good move to simply reinvest the dividends into the same stocks or stock funds.) Keep in mind that you won’t want your investment accounts to contain too much cash, as its purchasing power can erode due to inflation.

By managing your cash efficiently, and putting it to work in different ways, you can gain some key benefits – and you’ll help yourself to keep moving toward your short- and long-term goals.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Trevor Nielsen, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or trevor.nielsen@edwardjones.com.

A trip in search of tautog

This past weekend, this writer and my fishing buddy Matt made a trip to the Westport River hoping to catch a few tautog. Normally, we fish the outgoing tide for these great eating fish, so we try to plan our trip to arrive at our fishing spot on the river an hour or two before the tide changes.

After we dropped the anchor and slowly let the boat drift back to our honey hole, I quickly locked up the anchor rope and we started to fish. The tide was still coming in, and we had a couple of hours to fish before the outgoing tide. After cutting up a few green crabs to fish with, Matt barely had his bait hit bottom and he was fighting a tautog. It was a bit undersized, but it was a good sign that the tautog were still in our hot spot. For the next two hours, it was lock and

load on tautog, but they were all shorts. We were also surprised that the tautog were biting that well, and we could just imagine what the turn of the tide would be like.

When the tide finally turned, we were very disappointed with the abrupt stop in the action. You just never know how fishing is going to be from one day to the next. Numerous anglers were fishing a short distance from our boat and were having a great time catching stripers. As their boat drifted past ours, they were constantly hooking into stripers using some type of fishing lure. We wanted to try fishing for stripers, but we had our minds set on catching tautog. You cannot do both unless we had caught our limit of tautog. Striper fishing also came to a screeching halt with the turn of the tide. We decided to call



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
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it a day, and headed for home. It was still a great day on the saltwater.

Reports of some great striper fishing on the Providence River was also reported to this writer. A lot of Porgies (bait fish) are also in the Providence River. It should only get better in the next couple of weeks.

Now the Feds want to cut the slot limit to three inches in both Mass. & Rhode Island, making only fish 28 inches to 31 inches legal. Although the size limit for stripers remains the same for recreational anglers in both Mass. & Rhode Island, it will be changed soon. It

could even lead to a closure of stripers in the near future if limits are not changed!

This week, had members of the Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club watching Osprey catching some of the recently stocked trout at their club pond. It is amazing how the huge bird can cup their wings, and precisely spot and catch their prey in the water. The huge splash in the water as they scoop up a large trout, and fly off with their prey is something to watch. Hopefully, they will leave some trout for the kids fishing derby this Saturday. A big turnout is expected at the fishing derby, with free breakfast and numerous prizes being awarded to the youngsters catching the largest trout.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep them Rods Bending!



Courtesy

This week's picture shows 8 year old Boon Shaw with his first turkey harvested during the youth turkey hunt in Mass. this year. He sure had a hard time lifting the big bird for a photo shoot. Good job.

MAY is National Car Care Month

This month the Car Care Council reminds drivers of the importance of being "car care aware." National Car Care Month, held in May, is a nationwide effort geared to focus motorists' attention on the essentials of vehicle care and maintenance. And it's no wonder the importance of regular maintenance is stressed, as studies done by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) show around 20 percent of all traffic accidents are caused in some way by poor maintenance or lack of it.

In fact, the U. S. Department of Transportation reports the leading cause of mechanical breakdown on our nation's highways is overheating, a condition that is easily avoidable. Other deficiencies that are simple to detect include low antifreeze, worn or loose drive belts and defective cooling system hoses. For example, checking tire pressure and inflating a tire costs nothing, yet an average of 21 percent of cars inspected in check lanes during a previous National Car Care Month have under inflated tires. This can lead to a blowout and a serious accident. Poor maintenance also takes a toll on fuel mileage.

Below is a safety checklist as suggested by the Car Care Council to keep your mileage up to par and ensure you're driving safely this season.

*Check vehicle gas caps: About 17 percent of the vehicles on the roads have gas caps that

are either damaged, lose or are missing altogether, causing 147 million gallons of gas to vaporize every year.

*Inflate tires properly: When tires aren't inflated properly it's like driving with the parking brake on and can cost a mile or two per gallon.

*Replace worn spark plugs: A vehicle can have either four, six or eight spark plugs, which fire as many as 3 million times every 1,000 miles, resulting in a lot of heat and electrical and chemical erosion. A dirty spark plug causes misfiring, which wastes fuel. Spark plugs need to be replaced as recommended by the manufacturer.

*Replace dirty air filters: An air filter that is clogged with dirt, dust and bugs chokes off the air and creates a "rich" mixture -- too much gas being burned for the amount of air, which wastes gas and causes the engine to lose power. Replacing a clogged air filter can improve gas mileage by as much as 10 percent, saving about 20 cents a gallon.

*Check windshield wipers: Although climates vary, wipers generally need replacing every six months. An easy reminder is to change wiper blades in the spring and fall when you change your clock. Be sure the windshield washers are working properly, too, and keep the reservoir filled with solvent.



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*Check all vehicle lights: Motorists should check their lights monthly. When your vehicle's lighting is defective, other motorists may not get the message that you intend to stop or turn. The end result could be disastrous. In traffic, it could be beneficial to keep headlights both day and night. This helps define your car's position on the road, and its distance from other drivers.

**

The Car Care Council offers three suggestions for a traveler's 10-minute pre-trip checklist:

Not only can a pre-trip inspection help reduce chances of costly and possibly dangerous road trouble, it also provides an opportunity to have repairs made at home, with one's own technician

*Check all fluids. There are several fluids, in addition to antifreeze, that require attention, including engine oil, power steering, brake and transmission fluids and windshield washer solvent and antifreeze/coolant.

*Check hoses and belts. A belt that fails can affect the electrical system, air conditioning and power steering, as well as the cooling system. Cooling

system hoses may be deteriorating from within, so old hoses and clamps in marginal condition might need to be replaced.

*Check the tires. Check tire inflation and inspect the tread for uneven wear, indicating the need for wheel alignment. Also look for bulges and bald spots.

"While a last minute checkup is better than no checkup, motorists should plan ahead to allow time to perform necessary maintenance themselves or at the local service facility. A properly maintained vehicle is safer and more dependable and will even save a few dollars at the gas pumps," said the Car Care Council's Executive Director, Rich White.

Taking Ten

The Car Care Council recommends 10 basic maintenance procedures to keep your car operating at its best:

- Check the oil, filters and fluids. Oil should be checked at every fill-up and changed per the owner's manual recommended intervals. Brake, transmission, power steering, coolant and windshield washer fluids should also be checked regularly. Your car's filters, including those for the transmission, fuel system and interior ventilation, need regular inspection and replacement.
- Inspect hoses at each oil change and have them replaced when leaking, brittle, cracked, rusted, swollen or restricted. Check V-belts and serpentine belts for looseness and condition,

and have them replaced when cracked, frayed, glazed or showing signs of excessive wear. Typically replace the timing belt between 60,000 and 90,000 miles or the interval specified in the owner's manual to avoid a breakdown or serious engine damage.

- Check the engine brake system every year and have the brakelinings, rotors and drums inspected at each oil change.
- Check that the battery connection is clean, tight and corrosion-free. The battery should be securely mounted. If it is three years old or more, the battery should be tested and replaced if necessary.
- Inspect the exhaust system for leaks, damage and broken supports or hangers if there is an unusual noise. Exhaust leaks can be dangerous and must be corrected without delay.
- Schedule a tune-up that will help the engine deliver the best balance of power and fuel economy and produce the lowest level of emissions.
- Check the car's heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) system as proper heating and cooling performance is critical for interior comfort and for safety reasons, such as defrosting.
- Inspect the steering and suspension system annually, including shock absorbers and struts, and chassis parts, such as ball joints, tie rod ends and other related components.
- Check the pressure of all tires, including the spare, at least once a month. Check the tread

for uneven or irregular wear and cuts and bruises along the sidewalls. Have your car's alignment checked at least annually to reduce tire wear and improve fuel economy and handling.

• Test exterior and interior lights and have bulbs that are not working checked immediately. Replace windshield wiper blades every six months or when cracked, cut, torn, streaking or chattering for optimum wiping performance and safety.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The month of Mary

To the Editor:

For Catholics, May is the month of Mary, Jesus' mother.

It hit me one day that God created His own mother. He made just the mother he wanted. How amazing is that?

For those who have suffered from a lack of mothering, imagine how it would be to create or be able to have the mother that you would like to have, who would have been perfect for raising you. She would be noble, compassionate, fun, exquisitely gifted with every quality she needed to be a moth-

er. She would be full of love and always have your best interests at heart.

I believe that God created Mary to be as wonderful a mother as he desired, one who met his needs and raised Jesus as near perfectly as a human being could do. I see Mary as the ideal mother. How could she not be? And it is the desire of Jesus to share her with us! She is our mother too. (And don't we need her?) Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. And thanks be to God.

NANCY J. NOWAK
SPENCER

Thank you for helping with Pine Grove Cemetery cleanup

To the Editor:

The Pine Grove Cemetery Board of Directors would like to thank every volunteer that contributed to and worked on cleaning up the cemetery on Saturday, May 6.

Ten to 12 people raked leaves, removed cemetery baskets that were past their prime, picked up branches large and small, placed flags on graves, baked cookies, and brought us water/coffee.

We are extremely grateful for your continued support!

Sincerely,

D. LYN STEVENS
SECRETARY/TREASURER
PINE GROVE CEMETERY
CORPORATION
SPENCER

Katheryn Stapel inducted into Stonehill College Honor Society

EASTON — Katheryn Stapel of Leicester was recently inducted into Lambda Epsilon Sigma, Stonehill College's honor society. The organization recognizes outstanding juniors and seniors who have demonstrated academic excellence, provided evidence of a thirst for knowledge that goes beyond the classroom, contributed to the intellectual development of our community, and exhibited an ability to communicate effectively.

About Stonehill College

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

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

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

Tips for designing and maintaining a low-maintenance garden



Courtesy — Gardener’s Supply Company
Snip-n-drip irrigation systems apply water directly where it is needed and fit any garden planted in rows.
Don’t let your spring garden enthusiasm lead to overplanting and the creation of a summer gardening nightmare. A design with maintenance in mind and some strategic care can help reduce the time you spend managing your gardens and landscape.
Consider using fewer plant species

when designing perennial flowerbeds. Increase the number of each to boost the visual impact of the garden and reduce maintenance. You’ll have fewer species to manage, identify and differentiate from the weeds as they emerge in spring.
Select plants suited to the growing conditions and that do not require deadheading and staking. Avoid pest- and disease-prone plants as well as those that quickly multiply and overtake neighboring plants and the garden bed. Design garden beds with gentle curves and avoid tight spaces that limit access and will make managing the surroundings difficult. Make sure all parts of the garden can easily be reached for planting, weeding, harvesting, and care. Add a path of wood chips or a few steppers, like Leaf Stepping Stones, to large garden beds as needed for easier access.
Reduce watering needs by growing plants suited to your area’s normal rainfall. Group moisture-loving plants together to minimize the amount of water used and time spent watering. Enlist the help of soaker hoses or drip irrigation like the Snip-n-Drip Soaker system (gardeners.com) when watering is needed. This irrigation system



GARDEN
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applies water to the soil where needed and can be cut with scissors to fit any garden that is planted in rows.
Reduce watering frequency, suppress weeds, and improve the soil with the help of organic mulches like leaves, evergreen needles, and wood chips. You’ll gain multiple benefits with this one task. Spread a one- to two-inch layer of mulch over the soil surface. Pull it away from tree trunks, shrub stems and off the crowns of flowering plants and vegetables. The finer the mulch material, the thinner the layer of mulch you’ll need.
Slow the infiltration of grass and weeds into garden beds and eliminate the need to hand trim with a bit of edging. Use a shovel to dig a V-shaped trench around the perimeter of the garden edge. Fill this with the same mulch used in your flowerbed to create a mowing strip around the garden bed.
Join forces with neighbors and rent an edging machine for the day or weekend. These machines can make it easier and quicker to accomplish this task. With a shared rental, you all save money and no one has to maintain and store the equipment.
Keep tools handy to save time and energy spent retrieving forgotten tools

from the shed or garage. Weather-proof garden tool bags with multiple compartments make it easy to organize, store and carry hand tools, plant tags, gloves, and other small items to the garden. Or store them right where they are needed. Convert an old mailbox or invest in a small storage container like the waterproof Galvanized Garden Tool Storage Box. Mount it on the end of a raised bed, fence, or post to keep small tools, gloves, safety glasses, and more in a handy location.
Use carts, wagons, or a gardener’s summer sled when moving large or heavy loads. You’ll be able to accomplish the move with fewer trips and less muscle strain.
Take time this season to implement a few of these strategies. A few changes can save you time that you can instead spend relaxing, enjoying, or adding more gardens.

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



HELLO NEIGHBOR!



As a longtime resident of our area, I’ve always known what a special community we live in. For generations, we have trusted the Spencer New Leader. Local news and advertisers you can trust, week after week. As the local advertising rep for the New Leader, it brings me great pleasure to help a local business get results!

Our readers trust our advertisers.
Our advertisers trust us.

And you can trust me!
Your neighbor,
Mikaela

Mikaela Victor
East Brookfield Resident
Advertising Account Executive
mikaela@stonebridgepress.news
(774)200-7308



Negativity is about the naysayer, not you

I don’t want to sound negative, but have you ever noticed that when you’re feeling good about something you’re about to do, someone comes along and tries to bring you down with a mean comment? It’s almost like they’re determined to spoil your excitement and make you doubt yourself.
There are people out there eagerly waiting for someone to step up and make a difference, only so they can tear you down and try to break your morale.
This week, I was promoting my company on social media. The whole mission of my company is to make a positive impact on the independent film world. I speak to hundreds of filmmakers at all experience levels and work with as many as possible.
This is why it was so strange a filmmaker began harassing me online, spewing negative comments about me and my company, and claiming that we would fail. It was incredibly bizarre because he is part of the community I’m trying to serve and support.
Despite my efforts to reason with him, he chose to harass me digitally, attacking me with hurtful words on every post I made. Eventually, I had to block him.
I used to think that if I talked to naysayers and tried to reason with them, they might change their minds and see things more positively. I’ve learned that it’s like trying to teach a goldfish how to bark - it’s just not going to happen!
When you come across a naysayer, arguing and defending your position can be tempting. But here’s the truth: the naysayers are just as stubborn in their beliefs as yours. So please don’t waste your time trying to convince them otherwise. It only causes arguments and more negativity.
Instead, keep your responses short and sweet. There’s no need to assert your stance or try to explain yourself. The naysayer will come up with reasons why they’re right, and you’re wrong.
I’ll admit I was very bothered, and it’s so crazy how the mind works. Despite many positive things happening to me in the last few weeks, this one negative

experience dominated my thought process.
We’ve all been around those who subtly or not, so subtly try to disparage and bring us down. It could be a career path they thought was impractical or an idea for a project that seemed too ambitious.
Initially, it gets under your skin, but later you find you’re doubting your mission; what if they’re right? What if they know something I don’t?
Then I start to wonder why? Are people like that simply projecting their limitations onto us? Are they jealous? Are they just negative people?
After a while, I realized, what’s the point? It’s none of my business what he thinks of me, and it doesn’t matter why he thinks that way about me. I need to focus on what I must do, and unless someone offers constructive criticism, I don’t need to let it occupy my mind.
It’s not our business to absorb their negativity and let it affect your beliefs, self-worth, or aspirations.
Everyone has different dreams and aspirations. Some people have grand visions, while others have more modest goals. And unfortunately, some have given up on their dreams or are too afraid to pursue them.
We can analyze all day, but it’s straightforward. Not everyone will think your goals are great, not everyone will be for you, and some will be against you no matter what. Some are rooting for your failure. Knowing this is important, but only think about it a little.
We can’t control what others say or think about us, but we can control our actions and the value we create.
Stay focused on your goals, work hard, and trust in the power of your vision and determination. We don’t need anyone else’s approval or validation to pursue what matters most.
When a naysayer tries to bring you down, remember, it’s not about you. It’s about their insecurities and limitations. As Gandhi said, “First, they ignore you. Then they laugh at you. Then they fight you. Then you win.”

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LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE:
TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, 18-25, as amended by Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2009, The Wetlands Protection Act, the West Brookfield Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on WEDNESDAY May 17, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the Lower Level Meeting Room, West Brookfield Town Hall, 2 East Main Street.
6:30 – Public Hearing:
• RDA – 62 Lake View Ave – Wayne Clayborne – Stair repair/replacement
• NOI – 79 Lake View Ave – Ronald Sicotte – Tear down and replace barn and regrade and repair ROW
• NOI – 7 Nashaway Lane – Jeff Ludwig – Demo, septic repair and rebuild
May 12, 2023

Town of Spencer Conservation Commission PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
In accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, MGL c. 131, s. 40 and the Spencer Wetlands By-Law:

Cody Berman has filed an **RDA** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to remove two trees located at **43 Point Eastalee Drive, Spencer, MA.**
Miroslaw Swiderski has filed an **NOI** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to demolish a house & rebuild a home at **31 Wilson Avenue, Spencer, MA.**
Anthony Moschini has filed an **RDA** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to add two decks at **7 Cedar Road, Spencer, MA.**
Applications can be reviewed at the Office of Development and Inspectional Services, Town Hall. A public hearing regarding these filings will be held by the Spencer Conservation Commission in McCourt Social Hall at Town Hall, 157 Main Street, on Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at which time all persons having an interest may be present or call in remotely to participate. Conservation Commission meetings open at 6:15 p.m.
Mary McLaughlin
Mary McLaughlin, Chairwoman
May 12, 2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Docket No. WO23P1472EA Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate of: Edgar H. Buck, Jr., also known as Edgar Buck, Jr., Edgar Buck. Date of Death: 03/03/2023 To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of will with Appointment of a Personal Representative has been filed by Mary Anderson of Boerne, TX requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Mary Anderson of Boerne, TX, be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Personal Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day

of 06/06/2023. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court. Date: April 27, 2023, Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate May 12, 2023

SOLAR
continued from page A1

needed to readvertise the project; they withdrew the request for the special permit and site plan and removed all aspects of solar, and now here we are with just a subdivision before us.”

The current subdivision plan does not contain solar elements, but if the Planning Board approves the proposal, officials anticipate the applicant to seek approval for a large-scale solar array. This would require both Planning Board and Conservation Commission approval.

A second proposed project, submitted by Spencer Solar II, LLC, calls for development between Charlton Road and Bacon Hill Road. The proposal has also been before the Planning Board for several years and is nearing the end of its review phase.

Charlton Road resident Aaron Hutchins has raised multiple concerns about the impacts the project would have on his adjacent property. If approved, the project would require workers

to blast through six feet of granite to create an access road. The blasting site would be approximately 20 feet away from Hutchins’s well.

“In order for the grade of the road to be legal for town bylaws, they would have to go through this process of blasting to meet the correct grade,” said Hutchins, who has already dealt with significant issues from water runoff and sinkholes in his yard as a result of recent logging work done on the adjacent property. “I don’t want this road being built. This solar company has shown no concern for the impacts on safety, property values, and families.”

If Hutchins’ well is damaged by blasting work, he said there is no other place on his property to install a new well due to worsening sinkholes and flooding. He also has concerns over potential impacts on his foundation, windows, and walls, in addition to safety concerns over a proposed post-and-rail fence to separate his yard from the new road.

Town officials and residents share many of Hutchins’s concerns over

both the Ash Street and Charlton Road proposals. Spencer Solar, LLC, and Spencer Solar II, LLC, are both divisions of the same company, Melink Solar Development. The company could not be reached for comment by press time.

“This has become a pattern of companies seeking to come into town, put up their solar projects without listening to residents’ concerns, then move on to the next town,” said Selectman Ralph Hicks. “This pattern is very concerning to me as a resident and a selectman.”

Added Matthew DeFosse, a resident who has closely followed Spencer solar developments and attended meetings over the last decade, “There are many ramifications involved with these projects, and the companies do not present all of the risks. I understand there are two sides to the coin and they can produce benefits, but I believe the risks far outweigh the benefits.”

The Charlton Road proposal is also expected to be addressed by the Planning Board on June 6.

OBITUARIES
Barbara D. Pierce, 89



North Brookfield - Barbara D. Pierce, 89, of North Brookfield, died peacefully on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center after a short illness.

She leaves her son, Brian E. Pierce and his wife Janet A. of New Braintree; her grandson, Jeremy E. Pierce and his girlfriend AlyssaBeth Heller of Brookfield; two great-grandchildren, Joseph and Autumn; her sister, Helen Hart of North Brookfield, and her sister-in-law, Norma Cernauskas of North Brookfield. She also leaves her nieces and nephews, including her special niece, Linda Artruc with whom she spent a lot of quality time over the past few years. She was predeceased by her husband of 49 years, Edward W. Pierce in 2006, her 3 brothers and 6 sisters, and her grandson, Zachary W. Pierce in 2021. She was born in Ware, daughter of the late George and Anna (Kudzma) Cernauskas. Barbara was raised in Wheelwright and was a graduate of Hardwick High School. Ed and Barbara lived in Wheelwright before moving to North Brookfield in 1978.

Barbara was a talented seamstress and baker. She made delicious straw-

berry rhubarb pie along with many other treats. She enjoyed reading, as well as feeding and watching the birds, especially the cardinals. She never drove, but she and Ed enjoyed many years together traveling the coast of Maine – with Booth Bay Harbor, Wells, and Freeport being among their favorite destinations. They enjoyed camping in Vermont and traveling to Cape Cod in their younger years. Together, they were happy being beloved grandparents. They enjoyed fishing with Zachary and attending many of Jeremy’s sporting events, along with all their special events.

Her family would like to thank the staff at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care for the dedicated and compassionate care that they provided to Barbara. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Hardwick Historical Society, P.O. Box 492, Hardwick, MA 01037.

A Graveside Service for Barbara was held on Monday, May 8, 2023 at 11AM in St. Joseph Cemetery, South Barre Rd., in Barre.

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

An online guest book is available at varnumfuneralhome.com

ALUMNI
continued from page A1

This year, seeking to create even more opportunities for alumni celebration, Civin and a committee comprised of Nadine Ekstrom and Kate Civin decided to hold two special events next month.

The first ever All-School-All-Class Reunion, slated for June 2 at 6 p.m., will feature an Italian dinner and a comedy show at Spencer Country Inn. The event is open to all guests, regardless of whether they attended Prouty. The dinner lineup will feature a buffet of chicken, meatballs, and pasta, and the event will also include a cash bar. The comedy portion of the celebration will showcase legendary comedians Steve Sweeney, Johnny Pizzi, and singer Billy Pezzulo.

Tickets for the All-School-All-Class Reunion are \$39 per person and are available on Eventbrite. The cash bar and a 50/50 raffle will help fund the No Class Scholarship.

“This isn’t really a

reunion per se, as everyone from everywhere is encouraged to attend,” Civin added. “We kept the word reunion in the name for consistency, but this is open to all and intended to be an unforgettable evening of fine dining and entertainment at the fabulous Spencer Country Inn. We are grateful that the Ekleberry family and Spencer Country Inn have agreed to host the event. The intent of this event is to present something a bit more upscale for those that don’t want to kick back at the No Class [program].”

Sweeney, widely viewed as the kingpin of Boston comedy, has appeared on the Late Show with David Letterman, Evening at The Improv, and Comics Come Home. Additionally, he has appeared in more than 20 films and is currently featured as a headliner at clubs around New England.

Pizzi enjoys performing stand-up comedy and magic, specializing

in close-up, stage magic, and mentalism. He has become a fixture on the Boston comedy scene, as well as in Las Vegas, Florida, California, and venues up and down the east coast.

For Prouty alums seeking to maximize their celebrations of old friends and new memories next month, the second ever No Class Reunion will be held for all Prouty alumni members on Saturday, June 17, at the Spencer Fish and Game Club. Beginning at 6 p.m., the event will feature a catered chicken barbecue and the music of The NRG Band. Dinner music will be played by Exodus Roberts.

Tickets for the event are \$30 per person and are available on Eventbrite. A cash bar and a 50/50 raffle will help fund the No Class Scholarship.

For more information about the events, call Civin at 978-502-1453 or send an email to lolentertainmentgroup1@gmail.com.

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Friday’s Child



Malayaja
Age 12

Hi! My name is Malayaja, 12, and I like to sing, dance and listen to music.

Malayaja, who goes by the name Jack, is a sweet and funny child. She most definitely likes to sing and dance. She likes K-pop and spending time with others. She enjoys watching K-Dramas and YouTube. She also likes to learn different dance routines. Jack does well in school with the support of an IEP. Jack is described as an entertainer who likes making others laugh. Jack enjoys spending her extra time napping and listening to music.

Jack would do well in a family of any origin. She would like a family that would help her maintain contact with her siblings. Jack would benefit from caregivers who are patient and kind.

Can I Adopt?

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

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

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



PROP 2 1/2
continued from page A1

approved, officials said it would pave the way for major momentum. This would include new vo-tech programs; continued investments in athletic programs and facilities; and supports for teaching and administrative staffs at the district’s schools.

In other Annual Town Meeting news, the FY2024 operating budget was approved by a vote of 650-168.

The Annual Town Meeting was scheduled to reconvene on May 11, whereupon the rest of the warrant would be voted on.

Be sure to check out next week’s edition of the New Leader for a full recap of the special election.

SpringFest Carnival kicks
off summer season

NORTH BROOKFIELD — Residents can’t wait for the fun to begin this spring and summer, highlighted by the North Brookfield SpringFest Carnival.

Set for Memorial Day weekend (May 25-29), the five-day extended carnival will be located on the Town Common. Festivities will include games, food, and thrilling rides for all ages.

Carnival hours will run from 6-10 p.m. for the Thursday and Friday events. On Saturday and Sunday, the carnival will run from 3-10 p.m. The final leg of the show on Monday will have hours from 3-9 p.m.

The program is made possible by the Coalition for a Healthy North Brookfield and Rockwell Amusements. Additional information is available on Facebook.

Leicester Senior Citizens Club
sponsoring Foxwoods trip

LEICESTER — On Friday, June 23, the Leicester Senior Citizens Club is sponsoring a bus trip to Foxwoods Casino.

The cost is \$35 per person. The price includes round trip motor coach transportation provided by the Wilson Bus Company.

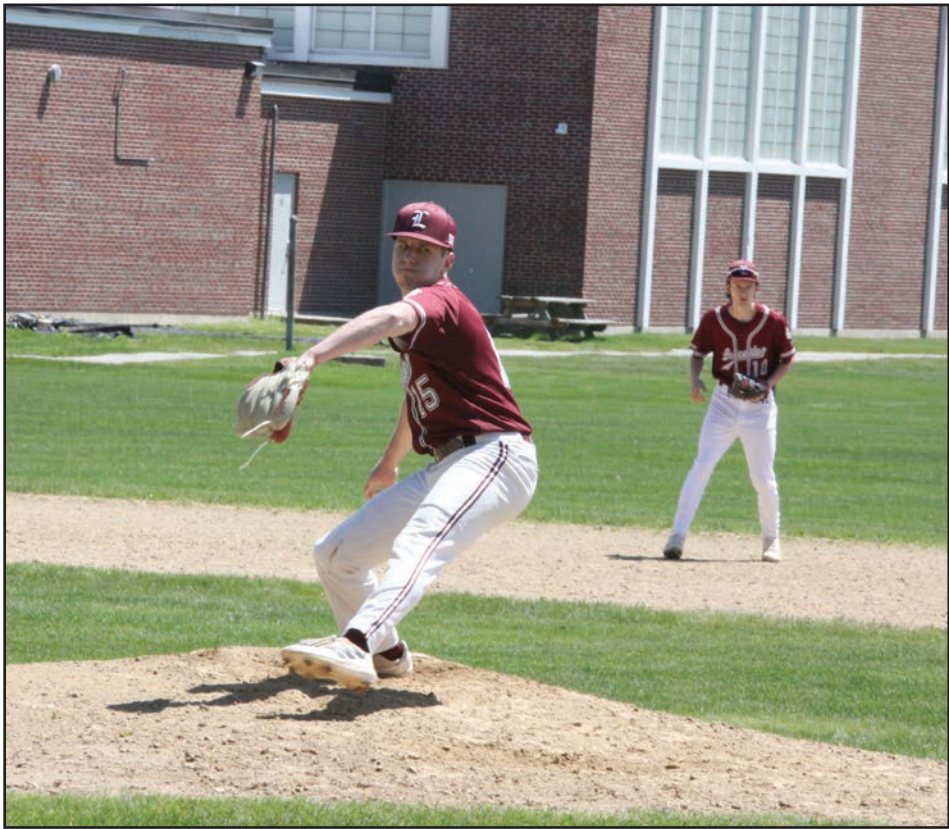
The bus will depart the Leicester Senior Center at 7:45 a.m. The bus is scheduled to return at approximately 3:15 p.m.

All payments are due by June 19. Checks must be made out to the Leicester Senior Citizens Club.

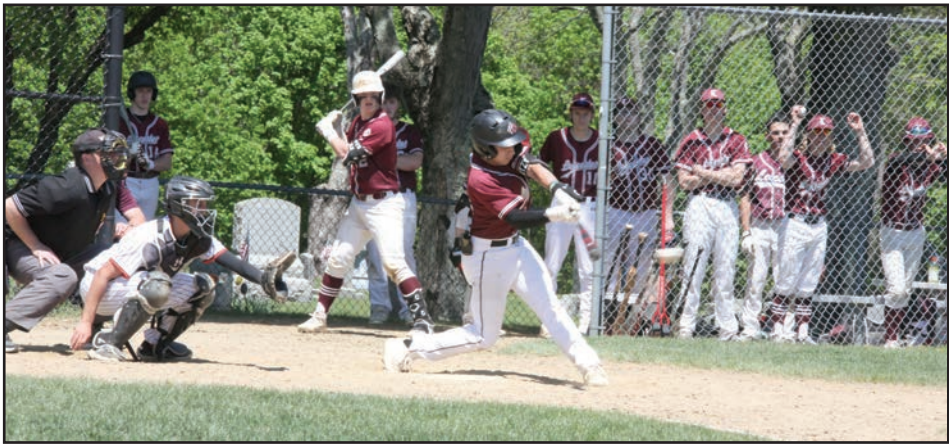
For more information about the trip, please call David Wood at 508-330-1118.

SPORTS

Pitchers' duel goes to Remington and Oxford, 2-0, over Metcalf and Leicester



Leicester's Griffin Metcalf tosses a pitch in versus Oxford.



Caden Birtz of Leicester follows through on his swing, which produced a single.



Leicester's Alex Russo scoops up a groundball hit his way at third base.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

OXFORD — With Evan Remington of Oxford High and Griffin Metcalf of Leicester High engaged in an old-fashioned pitchers' duel when the Pirates hosted the Wolverines on Sunday, May 7, the run total was destined to be low.

Oxford scored once each in the bottom of the third and fourth innings, while Leicester stranded five runners in the first two innings and seven total — and it would have been nine if not for two base runners being picked off — which led to a 2-0 Pirates' victory.

"The frustration lies in us not executing at this point in the season. We need to execute a lot better than this," said Peter Fenuccio, head coach of the Wolverines. "In a two-run game, leaving nine guys on, there's the math right there."

On the other side of the field, Oxford head coach Justin Richards was

thrilled with not only the win, but also the overall play exhibited from both sides.

"This was an excellent high school baseball game, great pitchers' duel and they were both outstanding," said Richards, who also called Remington and Metcalf, "two really good, athletic seniors."

In the bottom of the third inning, with two outs and nobody on, Pirates' leadoff hitter Lucas Lambert was hit by a pitch. With Remington now at-bat, Lambert headed toward second base as the pitch left Metcalf's hand. Remington hit a hard shot down the third base line, which rolled into left field. Lambert got on his horse and not only got to third, but he hustled all the way around to score.

"Speed kills," said Richards. "It was worth trying to score Lucas and he's so darn fast, and he got a good jump.

Anybody but him is at third on that."

Although there was no error on the play, and Leicester didn't commit a miscue all day long, Fenuccio hoped for a crisper defense during that scenario.

"A little quicker on the relay, we at least hold them to third and Griffin gets another chance to make an out," said Fenuccio.

Oxford padded its lead in the fourth when Cody McDonald and Nolan Remington each singled, setting up a first-and-third situation. Nick Jablonski, the Pirates' No. 9 batter, then beat out an infield single for the RBI.

"He had a fantastic at-bat," Richards said of Jablonski. "I thought he had a chance to put the ball into play the way he was seeing the ball."

Leicester then ran into outs on the basepaths in the top of the fifth and sixth innings, ending any threat of a comeback.

"Two guys leaning that shouldn't have been leaning, and that's what kills momentum," said Fenuccio.

Richards noted that Evan Remington has added the pickoff element to his already impressive resume, which will continue next year at Assumption University.

"He's starting to really understand that it's his feel up there. He's doing that on his own," Richards said of Evan Remington picking runners off.

Evan Remington's complete game included

11 strikeouts, two walks and five hits allowed. Oxford is now 9-4 and as of press time was the No. 1 seed in the Division 5 Power Rankings to determine seeding for the State Tournament.

Leicester dropped to 5-6.

"We wasted a fantastic pitching performance," Fenuccio said of Metcalf, whose complete game featured 11 strikeouts, five hits, one walk and two hit batters. "He's been outstanding all season. He's already thrown a no-hitter for us and a two-hitter."

The Wolverines were ranked No. 11 in the latest Division 4 Power Rankings. The top 32 teams at the end of the regular season automatically earn berths into the State Tournament.

"Last year, this is where we were turning the corner and started to play sound, fundamental baseball. Today was a step back. Fundamentally, we should be better," said Fenuccio. "We'll be in it, we'll get to the playoffs and we'll see what happens."

QUAIL HOLLOW GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB RESULTS

Members Opening Day

First place net (-14) — Match of Cards: Gary Ward, Mike Toomey, Tony Woodman
Second place net (-14): Tom Staiti, Clayton Rice, Samatha Patchen
Third place net (-11): Jim Kularski, Nate Rearick, Mark Morin, Barbara Rossi
Low gross (166): Ryan Toomey, Jim Wilson, David Burke, Bonny McDonald

Sturbridge American Legion posts tryout dates

Any baseball players interested in playing Sturbridge Legion Baseball that are born on Jan. 1, 2004 or later are eligible to play. All players that live in Sturbridge or attend Tantasqua Regional are all eligible to play for the Sturbridge team, also players from surrounding towns may also be eligible to play. The tryout times on Saturday, May 20 have CHANGED to noon to 3 p.m. The other tryout date remains unchanged on Sunday, May 21 from 1 to 3 p.m. Both tryout dates will be held at Tantasqua Regional's varsity baseball field. For more information you can contact team manager Jim Rosseel at (774) 230-1784 or email jimrosseel@hotmail.com, or coach Rich Wetherbee at (508) 981-0987 or email qcards@aol.com.



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SPORTS

Defense the name of Tantasqua’s game to get past Auburn



Tantasqua’s Zack Godek releases a pass down the field.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

STURBRIDGE — High school varsity-level lacrosse is oftentimes regarded as a high-scoring sport, and it can certainly become so. But a shutdown defense is a valuable tool that can hinder an oppo-

nent’s offense, which the Tantasqua Regional boys’ team is using effectively. Led by seniors Luke Boisvert, Griffin Smith and Gabe Laprade “anchoring” the defense, according to head coach James Putney, as well as junior goalie Sam Panek

stepping up, the Warriors have allowed just 5.5 goals a game. That included two goals against when hosting Auburn High on Wednesday, May 3 in a 13-2 victory as Tantasqua improved to 9-1. “Our defense has been holding teams to single digits,” said Putney.



Tantasqua’s Landon Rice avoids multiple Auburn defenders while trying to score a goal.



Trevor Harris of Tantasqua runs past an Auburn defender while possessing the ball.

In fact, the Warriors’ opposition has scored in single digits in all of Tantasqua’s wins. The lone time the Warriors gave up more than nine goals was in its only loss, 15-9, to Grafton High. Putney is proud of his team’s strong start to the season. “Any year you can get wins — it’s not easy to win — especially when you can stack some together and build some momentum, I think it’s really beneficial to build off that and get better each day,” he explained. Putney, now in his third year as Tantasqua’s head coach, believes that he and his staff sticking together has helped the program mesh. “Turnover with coaches always is tough. I think the benefit that we’ve had, the three coaches and now the addition of our volunteer assistant, we’ve all been together since I’ve started,” said Putney. “A lot of

our guys are juniors and sophomores, so they’ve been with us so there’s a lot of familiarity with our group. I think that’s been a huge part of our success.” Putney’s staff includes JV head coach and assistant Patrick Lucas, former head coach and now assistant David Ashworth, and volunteer assistant Josh Newell. “The team was young and I think that’s been a part of a lot of our success. It’s just been building,” said Putney. One player that isn’t young is senior Jack Ricci, who takes the faceoffs for Tantasqua. Winning the draws at over an 80 percent clip gives the Warriors possession, which means more chances at goals and fewer opportunities for the opposition. “He’s got to be one of the top guys in the state,” Putney said of Ricci before explaining how important of a piece Ricci

is to the team. “It’s huge. It’s how we’re able to coach the way we are and play the way we’re able to play. You know you’re always going to be able to get that possession and when teams play against us, they can’t match up.” Against Auburn (7-5), the Warriors’ scoring was spread out. Aidan Way, Patrick Dunn and Cole Jalbert each potted two goals, while Noah Wotton (two assists), Max Cohen (one assist), Braedan Rich, Landon Rice, Ricci, Trevor Harris, and Zack Godek also scored. Liam Hubacz provided two helpers, and Avery Michalak added an assist. Tantasqua then hosted Grafton High on Friday, May 5, hoping to exact revenge from the one team to hand them a defeat. Although the Warriors held the Gators to a single-digit scoring performance, Grafton was able to defeat Tantasqua, 8-6.

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POLICE REPORTS

Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, APRIL 27
12:35 a.m.: suspicious mv (Moose Hill Road), resolved; 12:58 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), resolved; 1:04 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Road), verbal warning; 6:58 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 7:17 a.m.: ambulance (Craig Street), transported; 10:39 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 11:04 a.m.: mv stop (Pine Street), written warning; 11:14 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), written warning; 11:20 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), written warning; 11:25 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), written warning; 11:42 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), verbal warning; 11:47 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), written warning; 11:53 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), verbal warning; 12:14 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 12:29 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 12:54 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 1:05 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued; 1:30 p.m.: assist other agency (Locust Street), report taken; 1:49 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:36 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:20 p.m.: assault (Main Street), report taken; 5:03 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:15 p.m.: mv stop (Pine Street), verbal warning; 6:11 p.m.: welfare check (Pine Street), services rendered; 6:33 p.m.: ambulance (Queen Street), transported; 6:48 p.m.: investigation (Victor Avenue), report taken; 6:53 p.m.: mv stop (Henshaw Street), spoken to; 8:37 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), report taken; 9:24 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 9:29 p.m.: assist citizen (Stafford Street); 9:57 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 11:33 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning.
FRIDAY, APRIL 28
12:22 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 2:02 a.m.: mv stop

(Paxton Street), spoken to; 2:24 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 2:24 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:17 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), resolved; 6:04 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 9:46 a.m.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), resolved; 11:51 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:34 p.m.: animal complaint (Warrant Avenue), referred to ACO; 12:55 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 1:10 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 1:44 p.m.: investigation (Carleton Road), report taken; 1:48 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license/subsequent offense, no inspection sticker, criminal application issued; 3:38 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:52 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 5:12 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 7:18 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning.
SATURDAY, APRIL 29
12:36 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 12:54 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 1:01 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), resolved; 1:33 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:47 a.m.: welfare check (South Main Street), assisted; 2:51 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 6:22 a.m.: accident (Stafford Street), report taken; 8:24 a.m.: keep the peace (Rawson Street), peace restored; 10:43 a.m.: ambulance (Mayflower Road), transported; 2:14 p.m.: ambulance (Edward Street), services rendered; 5:23 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), name and address redacted from police log, shoplifting over \$250 by asportation, criminal application issued; 5:45 p.m.: ambulance (Marshall Street), transported; 7:35 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), unable to locate; 7:54 p.m.: ambulance (Edward Street), assisted; 9:31 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning.
SUNDAY, APRIL 30
2:07 a.m.: assist citizen (Stafford

Street, Worcester), transported; 3:55 a.m.: assist other PD (Main Street, Spencer), services rendered; 9:42 a.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), taken to family/guardian; 11:16 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), written warning; 11:21 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), written warning; 11:27 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), written warning; 11:31 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), written warning; 11:39 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), written warning; 11:43 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 11:48 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 12:04 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 12:16 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 12:22 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 1:03 p.m.: assist citizen (Willow Hill Road); 1:31 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 2:57 p.m.: fraud (Paxton Street), report taken; 3:17 p.m.: suspicious mv (Chapel Street), resolved; 4:16 p.m.: ambulance (Grove Street), transported; 4:59 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 5:33 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), resolved; 6:06 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended registration, uninsured mv, criminal application issued; 6:23 p.m.: disturbance (Henshaw Street), unable to locate; 9:38 p.m.: accident (Mulberry Street), report taken.
MONDAY, MAY 1
2:21 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 9:29 a.m.: ambulance (Hemlock Street), transported; 10:10 a.m.: disturbance (Watch Street), spoken to; 1:03 p.m.: accident (Soojians Drive), report taken; 2:27 p.m.: assist citizen (Fairview Drive); 2:41 p.m.: animal complaint (Lakeview Drive), referred to ACO; 4:09 p.m.: ambulance (Edward Street), assisted; 4:42 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 5:07 p.m.: RV complaint (Memorial School Drive), unable to locate; 5:13 p.m.: debris in road (Charles Street,

Street), citation issued; 8:50 p.m.: investigation (Folsom Street), report taken; 9:36 p.m.: restraining order service (Main Street), served; 10:07 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:17 p.m.: debris in road (McNeil Highway), resolved; 10:21 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning.
TUESDAY, MAY 2
12:27 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:42 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:54 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:13 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:58 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 5:17 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 5:47 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 6:16 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:00 a.m.: summons service (Main Street), unable to serve; 7:11 a.m.: summons service (Main Street), unable to serve; 10:46 a.m.: ambulance (Wellington Street, Worcester), transported; 1:07 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 4:23 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:46 p.m.: ambulance (Elm Street, Spencer), transported; 6:10 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 7:05 p.m.: suspicious activity (Soojians Drive), resolved; 9:46 p.m.: disabled mv (South Main Street), resolved; 10:09 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), services rendered; 10:14 p.m.: warrant service (Ferencroft Road), William A. Deming, 66, 10 Ferncroft Road, Leicester, warrant served, arrest.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 3
2:09 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:51 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 8:19 a.m.: transport prisoner (Main Street, Spencer), transported; 9:16 a.m.: ambulance (Charlton Street), transported; 9:22 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 10:01 a.m.: ambulance (Paxton Street), transported; 10:02 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 10:08 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 10:15 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street),

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Auctioneer makes no representation as to the accuracy of the information contained herein.

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POLICE REPORTS

stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:23 a.m.: suspicious person (Soojians Drive), services rendered; 11:49 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 12:00 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 12:26 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:36 p.m.: suspicious person (River Street), call canceled; 12:42 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), report taken; 12:46 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), citation issued; 1:14 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street), referred; 1:24 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:52 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 4:32 p.m.: ambulance (Ward Farm Circle, Worcester), transported; 5:06 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 5:24 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 5:45 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 8:14 p.m.: ambulance (White Birch Street), transported; 9:34 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 10:12 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), spoken to.

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Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

1:05 a.m.: medical/general (Holmes Street); 1:34-3:17 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:55 a.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 2:44 a.m.: suspicious mv (Chestnut Street), investigated; 2:54 a.m.: intelligence/bikers (West Main Street), info taken; 6:16 a.m.: suspicious mv (South Spencer Road), investigated; 7:18 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 7:31 a.m.: LTC issued/2 (West Main Street), assisted; 11:06 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street), lift assist; 11:28 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), no contact; 12:20 a.m.: sex offender registration/annual (West Main Street), assisted; 1:36 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 2:24 p.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), re: issue w/ neighbor; 2:41 p.m.: mv lockout (Main Street), assisted; 2:43 p.m.: medical/general (Pleasant Street); 3:15 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address/2; 4:31 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 6:46 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 6:47 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 6:49 p.m.: suspicious persons (Chestnut Street), Peter J. Carey, 34, 5 Prairie Schooner Trail, Brookfield, heroin/morphine/opium, trafficking in 36 grams or more, less than 100 grams, arrest; Corey J. Oliver, 37, 109 School Street, North Brookfield, warrant, arrest; 7:16 p.m.: suspicious persons (Grant Street), info taken; 7:20 p.m.: mv complaint (Smithville Cross Roads), racing on road; 7:46 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: assault; 8:31 p.m.: juvenile matter (Rustic Lane), re: threatening texts; 11:29 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), resolved; 11:34 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 11:46-11:51 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (total daily mv stops – 5).

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

12:34-2:50 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:48 a.m.: parking violation (Chestnut Street), ticket issued; 1:57 a.m.: parking violation (Grant Street), ticket issued; 2:22 a.m.: parking violation (Bay Path Road), ticket issued; 5:38 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), aggressive operator; 6:46 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 7:35 a.m.: animal complaint (South Spencer Road), loose dog; 8:19 a.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), re: comment by bf; 8:42 a.m.: property checked (Thompson Pond Road), check req.; 9:04 a.m.: officer wanted (Cherry Street), items in apt. disturbed; 9:29 a.m.: DPW call (Roys Drive), wire down; 10:10 a.m.: fraud (Howe Village), poss. scam; 10:22 a.m.: animal complaint (Bond Street), loose dog; 11:48 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo/road rage; 1:08 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), RMV req. immediate threat service; 1:33 p.m.: officer wanted (Clark Street), question re: retrieving belongings; 1:34 p.m.: officer wanted (Wall Street), req. welfare check; 1:40 p.m.: suspicious persons (West Main Street), investigated; 2:00 p.m.: property checked (Kingsbury Road), check req.; 3:06 p.m.: medical/general (Wire Village Road); 3:08 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: info for police; 3:35 p.m.: officer wanted (Lake Avenue), req. welfare check; 4:19 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: earlier incident; 4:25 p.m.: mv complaint (Pleasant Street), erratic operator; 6:11 p.m.: medical/general (Sullivan Street); 6:38 p.m.: animal complaint (Wire Village Road), poss. rabid skunk; 11:49-11:55 p.m.: buildings checked, secure.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

12:05-2:47 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:10 a.m.: suspicious mv (Cranberry Meadow Road), investigated; 5:00 a.m.: mutual aid (Northwest Road), assist Mass. State Police; 5:12 a.m.: parking violation (Church Street), ticket issued; 8:01 a.m.: 911 call (Greenville Street), accidental; 9:11 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 9:35 a.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), referred; 10:32 a.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), req. welfare check; 11:26 a.m.: larceny (Howe Road), items taken from mv; 11:38 a.m.: officer wanted (Paxton Street), req. welfare check; 12:41 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 12:46 p.m.: fraud (Main Street), rep. of fraud; 1:54 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), re: consignment issue; 2:15 p.m.: intelligence/drugs (West Main Street), info taken; 2:20 p.m.: 911 call (Main Street), open line; 3:30 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 3:41 p.m.: juvenile matter (Church Street), son was assaulted; 4:12 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), req. welfare check; 4:19 p.m.: larceny (Wall Street), money taken from pocketbook; 5:58 p.m.: juvenile matter (Ash Street), spoken to; 6:11 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 6:28 p.m.: officer wanted (North Spencer Road), re: public urination; 6:48 p.m.: harassment (Church Street), rec'd threatening phone call; 10:11 p.m.: mv complaint

(Main Street), erratic operator; 11:13 p.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), loud bang/house shook; 11:23 p.m.: suspicious mv (Mechanic Street), investigated; 11:52 p.m.: building checked, secure; (total daily mv stops – 0).

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

12:00-3:26 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:09 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 1:06 a.m.: school alarm (Ash Street), services rendered; 2:43-2:49 a.m.: parking violations/2 (Pope, Main streets), tickets issued; 6:02 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Norcross Road), accidental; 6:29 a.m.: suspicious mv (Church Street), tire changer; 8:33 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 9:12 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), accidental; 10:14 a.m.: suspicious persons (North Spencer Road), investigated; 11:56 a.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), fire lane violation/ticket issued; 12:20 p.m.: disturbance (Jones Street), loud m/f argument; 1:04 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), mv speeding; 1:58 p.m.: suspicious persons (Smithville Road), panhandling; 2:11 p.m.: mutual aid (Smithville Road), East Brookfield PD/searching for female on foot; 3:55 p.m.: fraud (Deer Run Road), unemployment/bank scam; 6:39 p.m.: 911 call (Charlton Road), accidental; 7:34 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 7:36 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 8:04 p.m.: commercial alarm (Linden Street), services rendered; 8:21 p.m.: building checked, secure; 9:25 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), req. escort/retrieve belongings; (total daily mv stops – 4).

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

12:10 a.m.: mutual aid (Charlton Road), Paxton PD bolo; 12:13-2:45 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:06 a.m.: suspicious mv (North Spencer Road), investigated; 1:15 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 8:03 a.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 10:30 a.m.: animal complaint (Hastings Road), loose dog; 12:18 p.m.: RV complaint (Smithville Cross Road), dirt bikes racing in road; 2:10 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 3:30 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), services rendered; 4:19 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), subject of call redacted from police log; 4:19 p.m.: animal complaint (Smithville Road), loose dogs; 6:00 p.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), re: posts on Snapchat; 7:03 p.m.: medical/general (Adams Street); 7:05 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 7:27 p.m.: officer wanted (High Street), req. welfare check; 8:08 p.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 8:14 p.m.: lost/found (Maple Street), lost keys; 11:13 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), neighbors fighting; (total daily mv stops – 1).

MONDAY, APRIL MAY 1

1:05-2:00 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:42 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 1:42 a.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; 2:03 a.m.: disturbance (Irving Street), wireless 911 call; 5:35 a.m.: building checked, secure; 7:21 a.m.: multiple LTC issued/4 (West Main Street), assisted; 8:21 a.m.: animal

complaint (South Spencer Road), dead beaver; 8:39 a.m.: mutual aid (Main Street), assist State Police; 9:19 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 9:57 a.m.: medical/general (Paxton Street); 10:52 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Warren PD bolo/welfare check; 11:10 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Maple Street), no contact; 12:07 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 12:11 a.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 12:23 p.m.: officer wanted (Lake Street), atty. re: client; 12:40 p.m.: fire (Main Street), referred; 12:52 p.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), ATM card found; 2:47 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), dog at preschool again; 3:22 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street), welfare check; 4:25 p.m.: animal complaint (North Spencer Road), stray cat; 4:27 p.m.: fire alarm (Maple Street), referred; 5:58 p.m.: warrant service/welfare check (Main Street), Joseph R. Perron, 55, homeless, Spencer, warrant, arrest; 6:20 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 7:19 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Fourth Avenue), lawn mower fire; 7:38 p.m.: suspicious persons (Cherry Street), public urination; 8:48 p.m.: accident (Clark Terrace), report taken; (total daily mv stops – 1).

TUESDAY, MAY 2

12:58 a.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), lost keys; 1:33-4:53 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:24 a.m.: medical/general (Ledge Avenue); 7:28 a.m.: multiple LTC issued/3 (West Main Street), assisted; 8:58 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), misdial; 9:20 a.m.: accident (G.H. Wilson Road), report taken; 9:26 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), TT backing up in lane; 10:13 a.m.: disabled mv (Water Street), tow on site; 10:24 a.m.: animal complaint (Mechanic Street), loose dogs; 10:42 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), misdial; 10:57 a.m.: mv complaint (Cherry Street), re: unregistered mv/trailer; 11:01 a.m.: 911 call (Ash Street), misdial; 11:31 a.m.: animal complaint (G.H. Wilson), re: concern for puppy; 11:36 a.m.: harassment prevention order service (Mechanic Street); 11:55 a.m.: medical/sudden death (Donnelly Cross Road); 12:50 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 1:30 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village), lift assist; 1:31 p.m.: medical/general (Jones Street); 1:58 p.m.: accident (Greenville Street), report taken; 2:59 p.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 4:37 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), noise complaint/obscene music; 5:04 p.m.: medical/sudden death (Elm Street); 5:06 p.m.: medical/general (Pleasant Street); 6:02 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 6:55 p.m.: medical/general (Donnelly Cross Road); 7:55 p.m.: school alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 8:30 p.m.: animal complaint (Highland Street), loose pot belly pigs; 9:47 p.m.: disturbance (Sullivan Street), family issue; 11:23 p.m.: officer wanted (Richland Avenue), Kyle J. Soboleski, 43, 1 Richland Avenue, Spencer, probation warrant, arrest.

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