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Friday, April 7, 2023

Informational session planned on lease of Becker dorms

Patrick Ricard, David Prouty's 'generational player,' has No. 42 jersey retired

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — The Select Board hosted a public information session this week to discuss a proposal to lease three dormitories on the former Becker College campus.

During the April 4 public session at Town Hall, residents learned more about the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) proposal for a one-year lease of the three dormitories: Hampshire Hall, Berkshire Hall, and Barrett Hall.

The DHCD is seeking to use the dormitories as temporary quarters for Massachusetts families experiencing housing instability. If the program is successful, additional lease periods could be considered by the respective parties.

"We have been approached by DHCD with a proposal to use three of the former Becker dormitories as transitional housing that is exclusively for families or pregnant women facing housing insecurity," said Town Administrator David Genereux.

If approved, the lease program would be administered through the DHCD's Worcester-based nonprofit partner, the Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance (CMHA).

The CMHA would serve as the town's point of contact throughout the contract period, officials said.

The Select Board is currently in negotiations with the DHCD regarding the financial aspects of the agreement. Selectmen decided to schedule the public meeting to allow DHCD and CMHA officials to present their proposal and answer questions from residents and town leaders.

Looking ahead, selectmen will use input from the April 4 meeting as part of their ongoing deliberations.

"The proposal is for a one-year period, with possible renewal, for up to 65 families to be housed by DHCD through a program run by the Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance. There would be an annual lease payment, which is currently under negotiation by the Select Board and DHCD," Genereux added.

To learn more about upcoming meetings or public sessions on the matter, visit www.leicesterma.org.

The DHCD is responsible for managing funding and resources to help residents across the state live affordably and safely. With assistance from its community and business partners, the department provides affordable housing options, financial assistance, and other supports to Massachusetts residents.

For more information about the department, visit www.mass.gov.



Nick Ethier

After having unveiled the No. 42 football jersey to be retired, David Prouty Athletic Director Chuck Fahey, left, poses with alumnus Patrick Ricard, now a member of the Baltimore Ravens.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

SPENCER — Patrick Ricard wore the jersey No. 42 when playing football at David Prouty Regional from 2008 until 2011. Then, when Ricard grad-

uated from the Spencer East Brookfield Regional School District in 2012, he went on to play football at the University of Maine. There, the defensive lineman donned jersey No.'s 44 and 5.

But when Ricard, whose named wasn't called at the 2017 NFL Draft, found a landing spot with the Baltimore Ravens as a free agent — and they were trying him out as a defensive

lineman and a fullback (42 is a wearable option for fullbacks) — the magical number was back on the table.

"I knew it was fate when the No. 42 was

Turn To **JERSEY** page **A10**

Leicester PD prepares to launch K9 program

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — After securing approval from the Select Board last month, the Leicester Police Department is taking steps toward launch-

ing its first ever K9 program.

The department has attempted to establish the program since 2009, but a series of budget cuts and layoffs over the years prevented K9

operations from getting off the ground until now. With the leadership of LPD Chief Kenneth Antanavica—and support from the Select Board and other officials—the program will soon be a major asset for the town.

The LPD's K9 Officer is Matthew Fenuccio. His K9 partner, 5-year-old Cooney, was named in memory of Rutland Police Officer Sean Cooney, who died in 2012.

"In January, the LPD hired Officer Fenuccio, who came from Rutland PD. The Rutland Chief was kind enough to sell Cooney to Officer Fenuccio, since Cooney could not be put with a new handler," Antanavica explained.

The LPD is in the process of applying to the Stanton Foundation for equipment to assist the K9 team. The foundation provides grants to police departments across the country to facilitate their K9 programs. Grant funding can assist with needs such as veterinary care, food and supplies, home-based kennel shelters, and specialized transport

equipment, among others.

Leicester officials and residents are looking forward to the program launching once additional equipment is received. LPD leaders hope the program is operational within two months.

"We are currently applying for several other grants to fund medical care and feeding for Cooney," Antanavica said. "The police union is fully on board with the program and will be doing fundraisers, including selling K9 patches for operational expenses. The goal is to have a minimal impact on the LPD budget."

The LPD has routinely utilized K9 units from surrounding departments to assist with missing person searches, breaking and entering investigations, narcotics cases, and suspect tracking. The use of K9 units has led to the recovery of narcotics and drug currency, as well as the location of wanted persons, police said.

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West Brookfield church shakes up Asparagus Festival tradition

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

WEST BROOKFIELD — Volunteers with the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield are changing up their Asparagus Festival tradition this year, but guests will still be able to enjoy their beloved chowder.

Since the beginning of the festival, church volunteers have prepared asparagus chowder for guests. Within a few short years of making their very first pots of chowder, it became a signature favorite among festival guests, and most of the same volunteers keep the tradition alive to this day.

In years past, the volunteers have always made 55 pots of chowder at the church and then transported them in wagons across the street to the Town Common. This year, to make the process more convenient, volunteers have decided to serve hot chowder on the front lawn of the church during the festival.

Meanwhile, quarts of cold chowder will be sold on the Common. The idea to sell cold chowder originated during the pandemic years, when volunteers were determined to continue offering their famous chowder from the church when the festival was canceled for two years (2020-21).

After seeing plenty of interest from residents during the COVID-impacted seasons, church volunteers decided to introduce the cold chowder element into their regular lineup once the festival returned.

"We know people like to buy cold quarts of chowder, take it home, and heat it up," said Terry Hall, who serves as the co-chair of the church's Asparagus Chowder Committee. "We will be serving cold quarts on the Common for people who want to take it to go."

For guests seeking the church's classic hot chowder during festival hours, simply visit the church lawn and enjoy the deliciousness. Drinks and cookies

Turn To **TRADITION** page **A12**



Courtesy

Leicester Police Officer Matthew Fenuccio and his K9 partner, Cooney, will soon be leading K9 services in town.

FLEXcon participates in Habitat for Humanity's Operation Playhouse



SPENCER — FLEXcon Company, Inc., an innovator in adhesive coating and laminating, partnered with Habitat for Humanity as part of their Operation Playhouse project to build playhouses for the families of two local military veterans.

"FLEXcon puts an emphasis on supporting our local communities," says Community Engagement Director, Howie Letendre. "When we started to brainstorm team building activities, we knew right away that we wanted to partner with Habitat for Humanity. They identified two local families for whom we could build playhouses."

Members of FLEXcon's Operating Team were led by a team from Habitat for Humanity through the construction process of two playhouses. By the end of the day, the farmhouse themed playhouses were ready. Army Veterans, Jeremy Gaudette and Cody Myers, and their families joined the FLEXcon team later in the day to receive their playhouses.

"We were honored that the families joined us on-campus at FLEXcon," said Jess Barnes, Human Resources Director. "It was a treat to see the delight in the faces of the children, and it felt great to express our gratitude to the veteran families in a tangible and meaningful way."

Working with Habitat for Humanity

just one way FLEXcon contributes to the community. Other endeavors include supporting the S.T.E.M. program at local schools, partnering with MassMEP for various training programs, supporting local food, clothing and toy drives, coordinating with local high schools, colleges, and groups such as Girls, Inc. to educate students on careers in manufacturing, and sharing scrap pressure-sensitive materials with teachers and individuals through their School Stock program.

About FLEXcon

FLEXcon Company, Inc. is a global leader in coated and laminated films and adhesives used as functional components in manufactured goods and in graphics applications. A family-owned company for over 65 years, FLEXcon serves as a development partner to engineers and designers to bring their innovative ideas from concept to reality, for markets such as transportation, electronics, industrial, healthcare, and construction & energy, with a focus on improving human lives through emerging technology. Headquartered in Spencer, Mass., the company has operations throughout North America and Europe with distribution worldwide. For more information, visit FLEXcon.com, follow FLEXcon on LinkedIn, or call 1-508-885-8200.



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Spencer reminds voters of election timeline

SPENCER — Officials remind residents of several important dates and deadlines ahead of town meeting and election season.

Monday, April 24, is the last day to register to vote—and be eligible to vote—at the Annual Town Meeting. Please register at the Town Clerk's office.

Saturday, April 29, is the last day to register to vote at the Annual Town Election. The Town Clerk's office will be open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. that day.

The Annual Town Meeting warrant will be posted by Thursday, April 27, seven days before the meeting. The election warrant, meanwhile, will be posted by Tuesday, May 2.

The last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot is May 2.

The Annual Town Meeting will take place on Thursday, May 4, at 7 p.m.

The election is set for Tuesday, May 9, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The following offices will be elected during the May 9 Annual Town Election: selectman (two seats up for re-election); treasurer/collector; assessor; Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School Committee member (Spencer representative); Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational School District Committee member; water commissioner; park commissioner; library trustee; Board of Health member; sewer commissioner; Tree Warden; and Housing Authority member.

To learn more about town business, visit www.spencerma.gov.

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Friday's Child



JACOB
AGE: 15

Hi! My name is Jacob and I love rap music and video games!

Jacob, who likes to go by Jake, is an athletic teenager. Jake enjoys being active and engaging in activities like fishing, swimming, and basketball. He also has shown interest in lacrosse and martial arts. Jake is performing at grade level and enjoys spending time with his peers at school.

His social worker feels he would do best in a family with at least one female. Jake would do well with older children in the home or children similar in age. Jake would do best in a home that is active and has clear expectations.

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/7770>

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.



Mock code team holds second training scenario

CHARLTON — The Practical Nursing Class of 2023 Mock Code Team (MCT) under the guidance and leadership of Professors Rianna Romano, Cheryl Cahill, and Jennifer DeFilippo prepared and executed the Term 2 Mock Code Scenario. Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy's MCT and Simulation Training improves response to code events. During cardiac arrests, the quick response of a code team requires cohesiveness, timely defibrillation, and clearly defined roles. It is important for members of the healthcare team to intuitively know their role as part of the response team especially during code situations when seconds count.

"Using simulation training improves performance," said Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director. "We are blessed to have the guidance, experience, and expertise of Professors Romano, Cahill, and DeFilippo, and excellent practical nursing students" Bolandrina added.

The timely use of defibrillation and empowered, confident nurses result in a positive response to code events. According to the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines (GWTG) resuscitation program, time to first shock is one of four achievement

metrics. The guidelines state that hospitalized patients exhibiting ventricular fibrillation or pulseless ventricular tachycardia should receive defibrillation within two minutes to improve outcomes. Members of the PN Class of 2023 Mock Code Team are Ana Hilner of Oxford, Animat Poku of Southbridge, Fidelis Mensah, Angela DiGregorio, Elizabeth Agyeiwaa-Asabere, Ramatu Abukari, and Nancy Kamicha, all of Worcester.

In 2017, the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy MCT was formed to improve resuscitation skills and comfort levels for practical nursing students. The MCT meets for a full day of preparation, with members practicing as much as possible. On Mock Code Day, the MCT runs the code scenarios multiple times. The formation of the MCT increased mock code opportunities and participation three times in an academic year. Participation in mock codes increases the comfort level of practical nursing students. An effective code team is one that acts safely, and efficiently, and saves lives. The MCT aims to be proficient with skills and knowledge, effective with communication, and highly organized.



Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy student medalists headed to SkillsUSA state competition



CHARLTON — Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy students will compete at the State SkillsUSA Conference from April 27-29 in Marlboro after winning gold, silver, and bronze medals at the district level.

Medal finishers in five categories at the district level – and earning the honor of representing Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in the state competition are:

First Aid/CPR: Ana Hilner Gold, Aminat Poku Silver, and Fidelis Mensah Bronze

Medical Math: Ramatu Abukari Gold, Michael Yeboah Silver, and Elizabeth Agyeiwaa Asabere Bronze

Medical Terminology: Carmen Villanueva Gold, Brittany Plourde Silver, and Carmen Ilarraza Bronze

Practical Nursing: Alice Maina Gold, Faith Wanjohi Silver, and Nancy Kamicha Bronze

Busy month ahead at Spencer Senior Center

SPENCER — Local seniors are invited to check out a busy schedule of programs this month at the Spencer Senior Center.

The month will be highlighted by a trip to Foxwoods on April 21. The bus will leave the Senior Center at 8 a.m.

The cost of the trip is \$30 per person, and you must pay in advance. Please make your check payable to: The Friends of Spencer Seniors.

If you would like to sign up for the trip, see April or Nicole at the Senior Center.

The return bus will leave the casino at 4 p.m.

The Senior Center will hold its open house on April 29 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Ongoing programs at the Senior Center include line-dancing, Tai Chi, yoga, bingo, and aerobics, among several others.

Health Knowledge Bowl: Gold medalists: Gearlyn Wetherbee, Evan Cleveland, and Paulina Asante. Silver medalists: Maureen Bittner, Laurie Barkoskie, and Andrew Pereira.

"We thank SkillsUSA Advisors for Bay Path, Pam Staney and Mr. James Primes, and also the Superintendent, Mr. Kyle Brenner for his support" said Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director. "Our Practical Nursing students did very well and represented the Academy with pride."

According to SkillsUSA.org, "the philosophy of the Championships is to reward students for excellence, to involve industry in directly evaluating student performance, and to keep training relevant to employers' needs." SkillsUSA is a career and technical student organization serving more than 395,000 high school, college and middle school students and professional members enrolled in training programs in trade, technical and skilled service occupations, including health occupations. For more information visit www.skillsusa.org

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Gender Male
Size Large
Color White/Brown



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DPHS seniors announce college acceptances

SPENCER — The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District is a community committed to teaching and learning with purpose. To these ends, we wanted to provide everyone with an update on college acceptances received - so far - by our David Prouty High School Senior Class. And as we begin these early days of spring, please join us in celebrating their achievements...

- William Anderson - UConn, UMass Amherst, Clark University, UMass Lowell, Framingham State University, and Assumption University
- Thomas Bain - UMass Amherst, Westfield State University, and Berklee School of Music
- Tyla Barry - UNC Greensboro, UNC Asheville, Elizabeth City State University, University of Arizona, and Arizona State University
- Olivia Bostwick - Roger Williams University and Worcester State University
- Emily Brown - Assumption University, Worcester State University, and Anna Maria College
- Connor Caseday - Quinsigamond Community College
- Braeden Cashman - Westfield State University
- Olivia Charette - Nichols College, Assumption University and Anna Maria College
- Cody Chen - UMass Amherst and UConn
- Marcus Chesna - Quinsigamond Community College
- Anthony Costello - Nichols College, Westfield State University, and Framingham State University
- Marlee Domey - UMass Amherst, UConn, University of Maine, Clark University, and Suffolk University
- Jessica Duda - University of Rhode Island, Plymouth State University, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and UMass Amherst
- Avani Edmonds - Nichols College
- Noel Gomez - Quinsigamond Community College, Hampshire College, Florida Tech, and University of Miami at Ohio
- Brielle Hart - Bridgewater State University, Assumption University, Westfield State University, Worcester State University, and Merrimack College
- Cameron Hoekstra - Westfield State, Worcester State and Nichols College
- Denaysha Kinsey - Quinnipiac University, University of Akron, Xavier University, Hawaiian Pacific University, New England Tech, Vermont

- State University, St. Leo University, Hudson State University, University of Louisville, Rhode Island College, University of New Hampshire, and UMass Boston
 - David Johnson - Quinsigamond Community College
 - Jackson Lampron - Quinsigamond Community College
 - Brodey Perchak - Quinsigamond Community College
 - Adriana Mullins - Quinsigamond Community College
 - Gianna Mattie - Quinsigamond Community College
 - Poker Meas - Quinsigamond Community College
 - Gabby Nokeo - Quinsigamond Community College
 - Ivelisse Rodriguez - Quinsigamond Community College
 - Lindsey Soter - Assumption University, University of Hartford, Worcester State University, Westfield State University, Salve Regina University, Merrimack College, Emmanuel College, University of Rhode Island
 - Emily Soter - Roger Williams University, Worcester State University, Curry College, Westfield State University, Merrimack College, Lasell University
 - Charlie Lascom - Worcester State University, Hofstra university, Nichols College, UMASS Boston
 - Faith Lamonda - Assumption University, Worcester State University, Westfield State University, Nichols College
 - Jocelyn Lamonda - Assumption University, Westfield State University, Anna Maria College
 - Dylan Stanley - Assumption University, WPI, Clark University
 - Kaitlyn O'Neill - Worcester State University, Franklin Pierce University
 - Axel Power - Worcester State University, UMASS Amherst
 - Denise Maldonado Caceres - Assumption University, Worcester State University
 - Olivia Pepin - Worcester State University
 - Braeden White - Lasell University, Keene State College and Fitchburg State University
 - Paige Parenteau - Wentworth Institute of Technology, UMASS Amherst
- As we receive more "college, career and life-readiness" news from our seniors, we will continue to keep you updated. More news to follow in the coming months ahead on this exceptional group of young people. In the meanwhile, many kudos on a job well done to our David Prouty High School Seniors! #ProutyInnovates #ProutyInspires #ProutyAchieves @ChooseSEBRSD

Cornerstone Bank donates \$15,000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 10 locations throughout South Central Massachusetts, has donated \$15,000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central

Mass & Metrowest. The funds support the organization's 60th Anniversary Big Celebration on Saturday, April 1 at the AC Hotel by Marriot in Worcester, and its Golf Fore Kids event on

Monday, June 12 at Framingham Country Club.

"We are proud to celebrate the important work of Big Brothers Big Sisters and its impact on our communities over the past 60 years," said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. "Like Big Brothers Big Sisters, we believe in the potential of every child and are committed to helping them realize it."

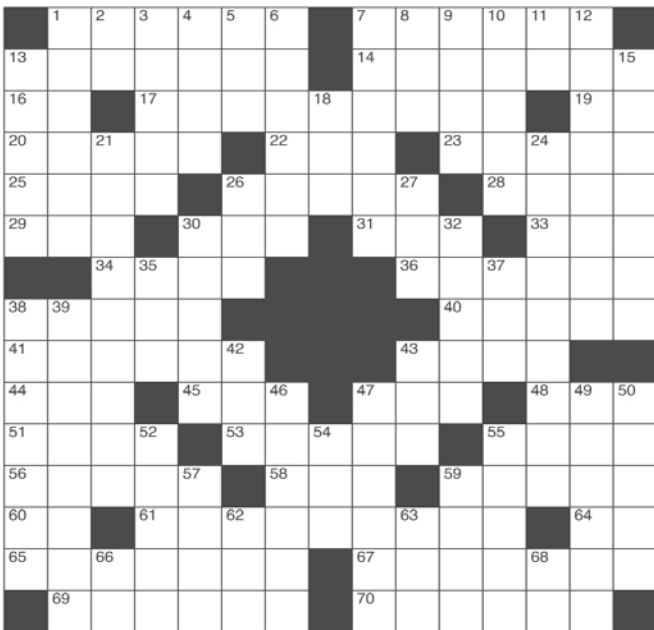
Proceeds from the Big Brothers Big Sisters 60th Anniversary Celebration and the Golf Fore Kids event will support the organization's growing programs

in the 87 towns and cities it serves throughout the region. Visit bbbbscm.org for tickets or to support these events.

Founded in 1963, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Mass & Metrowest helps children through individualized mentoring programs. Volunteers serve as mentors (Bigs) to children (Littles) who face adversity, offering quality time on a weekly basis between a reliable, caring mentor and a child in need of additional adult support.

About Cornerstone Bank
Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities, through a broad range of deposit and loan products, and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values.

Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank's personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank.com or call 800-939-9103.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Colas
- 7. Single-celled animals
- 13. The rear car of a train
- 14. Endangered
- 16. It cools your home
- 17. Helper
- 19. "The First State"
- 20. More aged
- 22. Partner to cheese
- 23. Type of wrap
- 25. From a distance
- 26. Satisfies
- 28. "Dallas Buyers' Club" actor Jared
- 29. God of battle (Scandinavian)
- 30. Cooking utensil
- 31. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 33. Able to perform
- 34. Big man on campus
- 36. Second epoch of the Tertiary period
- 38. Porticos
- 40. Alban and Peter are two
- 41. Gets up
- 43. Humble request for help
- 44. One-thousandth of an inch (abbr.)
- 45. Unhappy
- 47. Hint or indication
- 48. A way to plead
- 51. Digits
- 53. Broadway actress Daisy
- 55. Jewish calendar month
- 56. Author Gore
- 58. Peacock network
- 59. White poplar
- 60. Promotional material
- 61. A period of calm
- 64. Take too much
- 65. Emit energy
- 67. Something you can take
- 69. Mended with yarn
- 70. Inconsistent

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Calm down
- 2. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
- 3. One who pretends
- 4. Hang glide
- 5. Distinctive practice
- 6. Mariner
- 7. Peaks
- 8. Queens ballplayer
- 9. Geological times
- 10. Twofold
- 11. Atomic #13
- 12. Tranquillizing
- 13. Metric weight unit
- 15. Indicates
- 18. Unwanted rodent
- 21. Partly cooked with hot water
- 24. One who can be recommended
- 26. Resembles a bag or pouch
- 27. Midway between south and southeast
- 30. Sets up for a photo
- 32. California white oak
- 35. More (Spanish)
- 37. After B
- 38. Decorated tea urn
- 39. Island
- 42. Car mechanics group
- 43. Wordplay joke
- 46. Cut a rug
- 47. Prickly plant
- 49. Speech in praise of a deceased person
- 50. European buzzard
- 52. Influential linguist
- 54. West African languages
- 55. Siskel's partner
- 57. Skinny
- 59. Oblong pulpit
- 62. Consumed
- 63. Small, mischievous sprite
- 66. Powerful lawyer
- 68. Indicates position



Leicester Women's Club meets April 19

LEICESTER — The Leicester Women's Club will meet on Wednesday, April 19, at 6 p.m. at Pine Ridge Country Club in Oxford.

The focus of this program is: "Installation of Officers." The cost of the dinner is \$25 per person. To make your reservation for the program, call Maureen at 508-864-6871 by April 11. Dues of \$20 are due at the event. New members are always welcome.

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Gobi continues to bring attention to foundation issues

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — Continuing her quest to provide assistance for desperate homeowners dealing with crumbling foundations, Sen. Anne Gobi recently hosted an advocacy event in Boston.

Joined by State Rep. Brian Ashe, Gobi (D—Spencer) hosted a program called Massachusetts Residents Against Crumbling Concrete Advocacy Day. The event was held on March 28 at the State House.

Homeowners affected by the crumbling foundation crisis—which has impacted thousands of homes across the region—were invited to attend the March 28 event. Attendees rallied in support of passing legislation aimed at addressing the crisis.

In recent years, support has steadily expanded for Massachusetts Residents Against Crumbling Foundations, a group of homeowners committed to raising awareness and providing information.

“We are working with our legislators to pass legislation to provide some kind of relief to homeowners with failing foundations due to the mineral pyrrhotite that has contaminated the aggregate in the concrete supporting our homes,” read a statement released by the group.

For Gobi, who has supported affected homeowners since the onset of the crisis, finding solutions for residents has remained a priority for several years.

During the 2019-20 legislative ses-

sion, Gobi chaired the Commonwealth’s special commission to study the economic impacts of crumbling concrete on area homes. The commission investigated the prevalence of the naturally occurring mineral pyrrhotite, which can destabilize concrete. Through the work of the commission, additional pyrrhotite-impacted homes were found across central and western Massachusetts.

The vast majority of the affected homes were serviced by Stafford Springs, CT-based J.J. Mottes Company, which is no longer in business. The company poured concrete for foundations at local homes until 2015.

Affected homes were all built in 1982 or later. Most of the homes are located in Massachusetts or Connecticut, within a 40-mile radius of the com-

pany’s headquarters.

Many affected homeowners have been forced to perform costly repairs and renovations on their foundations in recent years, with little external relief or assistance. Others have been unable to pay for renovations because they already poured significant funds into purchasing or building their homes.

“The only safe and effective method to fix a home that has tested positive for pyrrhotite is to lift the house off the existing foundation and completely replace all the concrete,” read a statement released by FEMA. “This process can cost anywhere from \$100,000 to \$250,000, often more than the total value of many affected homes.”

According to FEMA statistics, as many as

34,000 homes may have concrete foundations containing pyrrhotite and are at risk of cracking or crumbling.

For residents like Michelle Loglisci, of Monson, the nightmare has endured for several years.

“I found out we had a crumbling foundation in December of 2017,” Loglisci told the New Leader. “I found out there’s no insurance coverage or legal recourse, so I found a handful of others in our shoes and formed the Massachusetts Residents Against Crumbling Concrete in June of 2018.”

Determined to help spread awareness about the issue, Gobi and other local legislators have held multiple forums and informational sessions over the years. Affected

residents are thankful for the efforts of legislators in supporting them during this uncertain time. The March 28 event represented another favorable step in a long, challenging process, residents said.

“Our homeowner’s group members were encouraged by the interest and attendance at today’s legislative briefing and meetings with legislators and staff,” Loglisci said. “We appreciate all the hard work put into this issue by Sen. Gobi and hope one day, thanks to her efforts, we will again live in safe, marketable homes.”

To learn more about the Massachusetts Residents Against Crumbling Foundations group, visit www.massracf.com.

Haston Library welcomes new director



Courtesy

Newly hired Haston Free Public Library Director Amy Vessella has enjoyed her first month on the job.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The Haston Free Public Library team recently welcomed new director Amy Vessella.

Taking over last month for retired director Dawn Thistle, Vessella is thrilled to continue meeting community members and library patrons this spring. She previously worked as a reference librarian at Gale Free Library in Holden, and she also has career experience as a library technician and a children’s librarian.

“I was excited about the

opportunity to work as a library director in North Brookfield because it was an opportunity for me to advance my career while also working in a small-town environment,” Vessella said. “As a former resident of North Brookfield myself, I know how wonderful the community is here.”

Looking ahead, Vessella is eager to continue Thistle’s work of offering engaging programs for guests of all ages. The library staff worked hard throughout the pandemic to make sure they were ready for the return of patrons. Now, with the building bustling once again, officials are looking forward to a busy summer.

“My favorite part of working in library settings is getting to know the community and connecting patrons with the materials, resources, and information they need. It is a very rewarding career to be a librarian,” Vessella added.

In addition to her work at Haston Public Library, Vessella is also working toward completing an advanced master’s degree in library and information science through the University of Southern Mississippi.

In her first month-plus at Haston, Vessella has enjoyed the welcoming spirit and support shown by staff members and guests alike.

“The former director, Dawn, has been here to help me transition into the position. The staff, Board of Trustees, and patrons have been very welcoming,” Vessella said. “I feel very privileged to be here. I hope to carry on all the good work Dawn has done during her tenure as director.”

Outside of work, Vessella enjoys traveling with her husband, spending time in the outdoors, going to concerts, and spending time with her family and dog.

Library officials are excited to have Vessella on their team, as her wealth of experience in multiple areas will be a major asset.

“She writes newsletters, communicates via social media, and loves to keep library collections up-to-date with judicious weeding of outdated materials,” read a statement released by the library.

To learn more about upcoming events at the library, call 508-867-0208. The library is located at 161 North Main Street.

Save the date for Paxton’s Town Wide Yard Sale

PAXTON — As we start the month of April, it is time to prepare for your Yard Sale. Please sign up for your sale at your home or on the Paxton Town Common.

One of the large chores of Spring is cleaning out, and there is no better way than holding a yard or garage sale. The Paxton Lions Club will again be holding our annual Town-wide Yard Sale on Saturday, May 20. The Lions Club will also be offering space on the Town Common. The Paxton Select Board has approved the Lions to use the Common that day. The First Congregational Church will be holding its sale that day as well.

Start getting your salable articles together. It is also a great way to meet your neighbors, friends and others after a long winter.

Again, the Lions will be producing a map of the locations of all the registered homes in town. Fees will not change from last year, Paxton Residents at their home- \$15. We will again use the Paxton Common for Paxton Residents- \$20. Out of towners are welcome to join us on the Common - \$25. All participants on the common will need to supply their table and a chair.

For more details, and to sign up, contact Lion Bob Wilby at rwilby@charter.net or 508-792-4662.

Payments should be made out to the Paxton Lions Club and either delivered or mailed to Bob Wilby, 11 Tanglewood Rd., Paxton, MA 01612.

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Massachusetts Beat Poet Laureate Tommy Twilite to feature on April 20

WEBSTER — Poets at Large continues its 2023 series of spoken word/poetry readings on Thursday, April 20 at The Rose Room Café, 4 East Main St., Webster. Featured readers will be Massachusetts Beat Poet Laureate (2021-2023) Tommy Twilite Woodstock poet and resident Karen Warinsky, and Worcester poet/funny man Joe Fusco, Jr. This event is free to the public (ages 14 and up) and will be held from 6-8 p.m. There will be an intermission and an open mic after the featured poets. Anyone wishing to participate in the open mic should email karen.warinsky@gmail.com. Open mic readers will get five minutes each.

Poet and songwriter Tommy Twilite (a.k.a. Thomas Clark) is the founding co-director of the Florence Poets Society (2004-present), Executive

Editor of Silkworm (2006-present), and host of the Twilite Poetry Pub on WXOJ-FM. He is a retired Fire Captain with over 30 years of distinguished service. His poems have appeared in various publications including: Equinox, Polarity, Meat for Tea, Naugatuck River Review and Nefarious Ballerina. Twilite was selected to serve as Beat Poet Laureate of Massachusetts for 2021-2023 by the National Beat Poetry Foundation. Fifty Words for Rain is his first full length collection.

Karen Warinsky has published in various anthologies and literary magazines including the 2019 Mizmor Anthology, Honoring Nature and Ms. Aligned 4. She is the author of Gold in Autumn (2020), Sunrise Ruby (2022), and is a former finalist of the Montreal International Poetry Contest. Warinsky is the

coordinator of Poets at Large, a group of regional poets who perform in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Joe Fusco, Jr. is a well-seasoned humorist/poet from Worcester, Massachusetts. Fusco is a humor columnist for Worcester Magazine and was the Worcester Mega-Slam winner in 2017. He is the host of the Poetry Extravaganza at Redemption Rock Brewery. Fuso is also the Vice-President of Programming for the Worcester County Poetry Association.

This year's series at The Rose Room is sponsored in part by bank-Hometown, the Putnam Area Foundation, and Global Partners (Ashford Xtra Mart and Webster Honey Farms). Find the Poets at Large 2023 schedule on Facebook.

Katheryn Stapel inducted into Education Honor Society

EASTON — Katheryn Stapel of Leicester, a member of the Class of 2024, has been inducted into Alpha Beta Gamma, Stonehill's chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, the international honor society for education majors.

"Congratulations to all our new members! Their commitment to learning demonstrates that they will become effective teachers who will make a difference in the lives of children," said Margaret Pierce, associate professor of education and faculty advisor for Stonehill's chapter of Kappa Delta Pi.

Founded in 1911, the honor society fosters success in teaching by building a collaborative community focused on providing quality, equitable education for all. Kappa Delta Pi includes several hundred chapters around the world. Membership is open to undergraduate students with a grade point average of 3.5 and above.

Stonehill's chapter is currently lead by President Elizabeth Buczek '23, Vice President Gina Herosian '23, Treasurer Heidi Grove '23, Secretary Alexandra Ashe '23 and Historian

Gabriella Moreschi '23. During the 2022-2023 academic year, they have held several programs to benefit students involved with the organization, including a workshop designed to help future teachers prepare for the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure.

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.

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

Public invited to hearing on Quaboag Hills Community Health Improvement Plan

REGION — Local residents and organizations are invited to attend an upcoming meeting on the Quaboag Hills Community Health Improvement Plan (QHCHIP).

The next meeting is set for Wednesday, April 12, from 5:30-7 p.m. at 308 Lakeside in East Brookfield (dinner provided).

To learn more about the event, contact Emily Coderre at ecoderre@townofware.com, or by phone at 413-478-2526.



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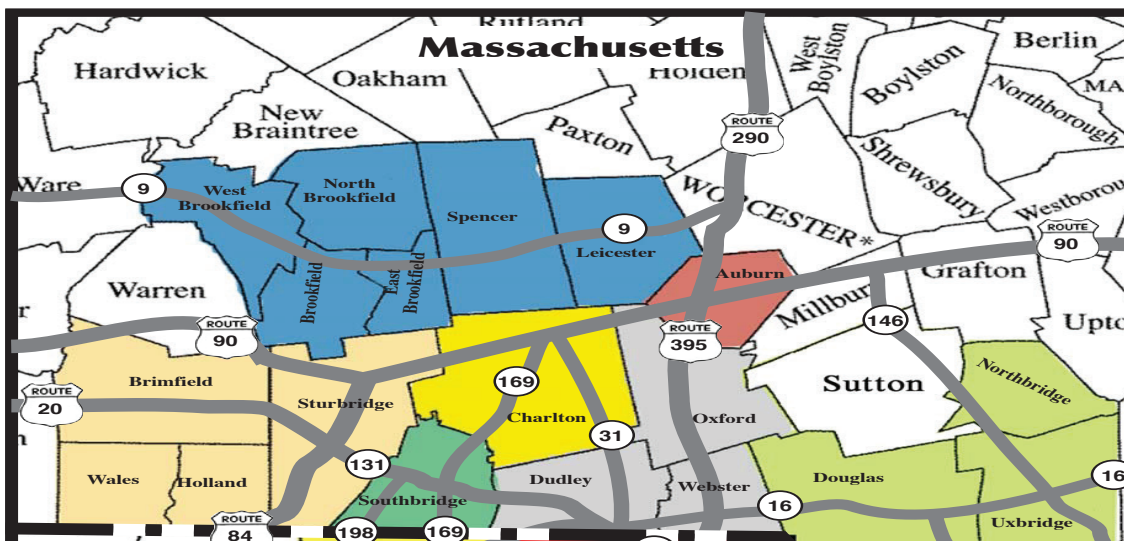
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EDITORIAL

Don't sweat the small stuff

Every day, we wake up with the best intentions — or at least, we like to think that most of us do. Each new day brings with it specific challenges. Many times, those challenges come by way of a misunderstanding or a shifted perspective. As journalists, we have come to realize that often, there is more to a story than we can see at its surface. Just being aware of that one simple fact, can change the way a situation is viewed. Oftentimes, it's easier said than done, however the more we choose to remain optimistic the better. What might seem catastrophic in the moment is usually nothing more than a small frustration that has an easy fix and will pass. A wise man once said, "Don't sweat the small stuff, and it's all small stuff."

This isn't to negate the fact that larger issues do surface and take some time to sort out, however we need to remind ourselves that we are all surrounded by well intended, intelligent people. People who are willing to be helpful, generous, rational and kind through productive conversations will always find the pot of gold in any situation.

Remembering to check a knee jerk reaction before gathering all of the facts is crucial to your ability to remain optimistic. Again, this is not always easy, but once mastered can change everything.

Believe it or not, optimism is a choice and offers surprising benefits. Choosing to look on the bright side of life (Monty Python fans, we know you're singing) can lower your risk of heart disease and stroke while also extending your life.

One study revealed that individuals who spent five minutes a day thinking positive thoughts about their future, increased their ability to be optimistic in just two weeks. Before turning in at night, list five things that you are grateful for and five things that you are looking forward to. Every time you stop at a traffic light, tell yourself something that you like about yourself. This works especially well if you are in the middle of a sing along to your favorite tune, concert of one. Keeping pessimists in your life, at a distance is always a good idea.

When a negative thought does creep through your mind, that's OK. Recognize it, and decide how realistic it actually is. To offset those thoughts, try spreading positivity yourself. While at work, offer a co-worker an 'Atta boy' or 'Atta girl' for a job well done. If your child has been hard at work on a school project, tell them how proud you are. Send a letter to someone who has had a positive impact on your life. When you bestow positivity on others, it has a lasting effect on your own life.

One way to practice being more optimistic is to flip every negative thought with a positive one despite how creative you need to get. For example, if you're thinking 'I'm going to be late for dinner and I don't feel like cooking,' you can flip that by reminding yourself about the wonders of the microwave and take out. If a rainy day has you feeling groggy, remind yourself that those are the best days to read all day, catch up on Bridgerton season 2, and not feel guilty about missing all of that sunshine.

Here are five things we are grateful for and looking forward to. A solid group of co-workers who work hard every day, summer hikes with trail mix that includes M&M's, a community who works together, outside barbecues with ice cold lemonade and shrimp cocktail and road trips to the ocean on a sunny day.

A quote from Rodolfo Costa, "Learn to adapt. Things change, circumstances change. Adjust yourself and your efforts to what is presented to you so you can respond accordingly. Never see change as a threat, because it can be an opportunity to learn, to grow, evolve and become a better person."

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

BY PAUL HAUGHEY
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
SPENCER EAST BROOKFIELD REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

at mass.gov/masshealthrenew.

I hope this Superintendent Update for April 2023 finds you and yours well. There is a very old saying that April showers bring May flowers! Well, so far, the weather has been rather cold, wet and damp... So, let's look forward to some sun and fun in the weeks ahead as we continue our journey together focused upon "teaching and learning with purpose!"

Enrollment

Our enrollment as a regional school district has steadied. As of this morning, we have 1,452 students enrolled within our district. David Prouty High School has 351 students enrolled; Knox Trail Middle School has 378 students; Wire Village School has 440 students; and East Brookfield Elementary School has 254 students including 118 students enrolled for the "Cubs Corner" Preschool!

Personnel

Open positions for summer and fall have begun to be posted within the district. If you are interested in becoming a part of our family, please continue to check back and apply at: <https://www.schoolspring.com>.

Project Bread Advocacy

Recently, I had the honor and privilege to share a virtual space with Addario Miranda, Amy Mistrot, Bernie McMann, Dr. Magda Parvey, and Marta Garcia. To hear their encouraging words during the webinar was such a great reminder of why we do this work every day. A recording of the panel is linked here to revisit and share.

We're so grateful to have legislators, school administrators and staff, students, community leaders, and grassroots advocates alike continuing to discuss the issue of—and fight against—food insecurity while centering the experiences of those most impacted by hunger and poverty. This event was a reminder of the impact and necessity of this policy, and we are thankful that Massachusetts has heard us and passed the supplemental budget needed to secure School Meals for All for the rest of the school year.

As for next steps, we ask that legislators maintain support by cosponsoring An Act Relative to School Meals (H.603/S.261) and urge their colleagues to pass the one-year extension of the school meals program for the 2023-2024 school year to ensure children can make the most of their education.

For our fellow hunger advocates, if you are not already a part of our Feed Kids Coalition, please be sure to join here, and take action by thanking Governor Healey and the legislature for supporting School Meals for All here.

Thank you again to Project Bread and others for what you have done and continue to do to make all our shared efforts a success!

MassHealth Redetermination process begins!

As you may or may not have already heard, Starting April 1, MassHealth will begin the eligibility redetermination process, renewing all 2.3 million members over the following 12 months. This will generally be the first-time members are at risk of losing their coverage since February 2020. In preparation for this effort, MassHealth has increased staffing significantly to handle a greater volume of calls and applications, improved our systems to automatically renew as many members' coverage as possible, and is working in close collaboration with health plans, providers, and other stakeholders. Even with this preparation, we understand that this may be difficult for members. We're asking for your support as part of our outreach strategy.

MassHealth is sharing the Phase 2 Redeterminations Outreach Toolkit for you and your partners to help educate members and make sure they are prepared and know how to complete their renewal. This toolkit includes key messages as well as downloadable flyers, posters, and other materials in nine languages. This toolkit also includes materials for specific populations, such as children and families, members experiencing homelessness, or members with disabilities. We are also excited to share the MassHealth Renewal Help Guide, a new resource for individuals who interact with members.

You can learn more about the upcoming redeterminations process

Hoax phone calls

It has been brought to our attention that "swatting" calls resumed last week with hoax phone calls coming in to many schools throughout the Commonwealth.

"Swatting" is a hoax in which a caller seeks to bring about a significant police response by making a non-credible threat of violence.

If a school were to receive a call, we would immediately initiate our safety procedures (e.g., Shelter-In-Place, Lockdown) that have been established with the support of our local police departments to ensure the well-being of our students and staff. As we have done in the past, caregivers would be notified if their student's school was initiating a safety procedure via the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District's automated "alert" messaging system through Apptegy.

The safety, health and wellness of our students and staff is our highest priority. Please contact your son or daughter's school principal if you have further questions

Student recognition

As we turn our attention to spring 2023, we would be remiss if we did not take time to celebrate our students-athletes and all of their successes from the winter season.

Winter Cheer finished up their season with a solid showing at regionals and was in attendance cheering on every one of our boys' basketball games throughout the tournament.

The Boys Basketball Team went undefeated in the SWCL; won the Clark Small School Championship; and finished in the Division 5 State Finals at UMass-Lowell's Tsongas Center on the last day of the winter season.

Girls Track: As well, our Girls Track Team won the SWCL «Division B» Championship and sent a handful of student-athletes to states in Boston, where they had a strong showing representing David Prouty HS!

Take A Bow!

Many congratulations to the entire cast and crew on an outstanding set of performances over the past few days. DPHS Drama "Addams Family The Musical" was the first production put forward by our district in over four-plus years. Please join us in extending a heartfelt "Job Well Done" to each and every member of the DPHS Drama "Addams Family The Musical" production!

Podcasts growing in popularity!

Since the introductory episode of the Choose SEBRSD podcasts, students have been working diligently to produce multiple episodes covering their experiences in the CTE marketing program, as well as a recap of the boys' basketball season and work experiences in the community with various companies. To catch one of their exciting episodes on Spotify, or Apple.

MSBA Update: Sustainability – Front & Center!

David Prouty High School Students and Staff met recently with the Owner Project Mgr, Architects, and Specialists - to review sustainability efforts including NE Chips for our building project!

Next meeting

Our next meeting of the David Prouty High School Building Committee is tentatively planned to take place on Thursday, April 13 at 6 p.m. at the Wire Village School. All are welcome to these important in-person meetings.

The My Ideal School Contest is back! The 14th Annual My Ideal School Contest is officially OPEN! Grab your crayons, grab your watercolors, grab your colored pencils because it's time to get drawing!

Early college update!

David Prouty High School continues to offer Early College courses. This spring semester Entrepreneurship is taking place in partnership with Worcester State. Students are working diligently to learn about what it takes to be an entrepreneur in the 21st century and are really enjoying the course. Moving forward, David Prouty High School administration, faculty and staff are looking to expand our offerings in Early College with Anna Maria College, Mount Wachusett and Worcester State. We thank our local colleges and universities for their

Turn To **SUPERINTENDENT** page **A9**

New law may offer financial opportunities



FINANCIAL FOCUS

TREVOR NIELSEN

Your own decisions and actions typically determine your financial strategies. But outside events can affect your choices, too. And that may be the case with the recent passage of the SECURE 2.0 Act.

This piece of legislation covers many areas. But here are some changes that may be of interest to you, depending on your situation:

If you're a retiree ...

Higher age for RMDs – The age at which you must take withdrawals — known as required minimum distributions, or RMDs — from your traditional IRA and 401(k) has increased from 72 to 73, effective this year. (If you turned 72 in 2022, but still haven't taken your first RMD, you will need to do so this year.) And in 2033, the RMD age will increase again, to 75. You don't have to wait until these ages before taking withdrawals, but the new age limits may affect your withdrawal decisions.

Lower penalties for missed RMDs – If you don't take at least the RMD for a given year, you could face tax penalties. Previously, this penalty was 50 percent of the amount you were supposed to have taken but now it's reduced to 25 percent.

New options for qualified charitable distributions – If you're 70 and a half or older, you can make a one-time qualified charitable distribution (QCD) of up to \$50,000 to entities that previously couldn't receive these QCDs, including charitable remainder annuity trusts, charitable remainder unitrusts and charitable gift annuities that meet certain criteria. Because QCDs are typically excluded from your taxable income and could satisfy some or all of your required RMDs, which are otherwise taxable, these expanded opportunities may prove beneficial from a tax standpoint. Consult with your tax advisor to determine if and how QCDs make sense for your situation.

If you're still working ...

Roth contributions to retirement plans – Starting this year, if you participate in a 401(k) or similar plan, you can take your employer's matching and other contributions on a Roth basis. While these contributions will count as taxable income, they can ultimately be withdrawn, along with any earnings they generate, tax free, provided you meet certain conditions.

If you're a business owner ...

Increased tax credit for starting a retirement plan – If you have 50 or fewer employees, you can now claim a startup credit covering 100 percent — up from 50 percent — of the administrative costs of opening a 401(k) plan, up to \$5,000 for each of the first three years of the plan.

Employer contribution credit – You may now be able to get a tax credit based on employee matching or profit-sharing contributions. This credit is capped at \$1,000 per employee and phases out gradually over five years.

Military spouse tax incentive – If you have 100 or fewer employees who earn at least \$5,000 annually, you can earn a tax credit of up to \$500 for three years if you make military spouses eligible for a retirement plan, such as a 401(k) or SEP IRA. You can receive the credit for the year in which the military spouse is hired, plus the next two taxable years.

These aren't the only provisions in the SECURE 2.0 Act that may be relevant to you, and some parts of the new law go into effect in the future. You may want to contact your financial and tax advisors to see just how you might ultimately be affected by this legislation, and how you could take advantage of it.

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No one is above the law

To the Editor:

I guess we are about to find out if there is any truth to this old saw. Evidence of past events indicates that it is only sometimes slightly true. Since, as I compose this, the actual charges are unknown, the fact that Ron Desantis has already rejected extradition, and Marjorie Taylor Greene, instead of using her legislative hiatus to return to her district and address their issues, has committed to bringing her Gang Greene to NYC for the dual purpose of protesting and finding out why. Sadly, what should be noteworthy but routine, should not be subject to battle lines. In consideration of the conviction of Michael Cohen, during Trumps term, for a campaign funding violation, and a DOJ policy of not prosecuting sitting presidents, nobody should be surprised when individual #1 should face the same laws as his lawyer. The fact that their multiple indictments is indication that he and his company tend to ignore actual laws and rules, as evidenced by his CFO being in jail, him pardoning his convicted posse, and perhaps, thinking his candidacy was a shelter from prosecution.

While I don't claim much knowledge of Alvin Bragg, a standout graduate of Harvard Law and sitting AG for New York, I do suspect that he is smart enough to know that issuing the first indictment of a past POTUS, is calling down a level of scrutiny and abuse previously unknown. I am making book that you do not take this step lightly, or without belief that the evidence you have is a slam dunk. Remember, he carried nothing in from the last AG, choosing to dot every i and cross every t, before acting. This will play out in regular order and probably be far less spectacular than Georgia's just find 11,780 votes election tampering case, the Feds insurrection and failure to turn over documents cases. That said, we as a nation are embarrassed to see a president indicted, but I am proud that, unlike other countries where this

would never happen, we are showing the world what a nation of laws looks like, and how it acts on equal justice issues.

Anyone who was not already fed up with hours of Capital Takes only to Faux News, Kevin McCarthy, and the clown show he is presiding over like releasing of 40 hours of Capital security tapes only to Faux News who is claiming their 4 minute report is the whole story, or putting the congressman from Ohio, who sat in his office while his students were abused in the next room, failed to respond to a congressional subpoena to testify, denied election results and never passed the bar, is now the chair of the judiciary committee, screaming for law and order, but now railing against this enforcement. Clearly, they do think some in just their party are above the law.

In watching today's talking heads, I found agreement with two with whom I almost never agree. Joe Manchin rightly points out that extremism even finds its way into areas of agreement, as radical elements charged with implementation of passed bills, push far from center views on actual implementation. The other commentator, John Bolton who is also mulling whether to run in 2024, both seem to agree that addressing our division is vital. He thinks that Trump getting the nomination of the GOP would be better served with a morality conservative Reagan style candidate, as Biden would crush Trump again, and by a greater amount. I also think Trump getting the nomination is a decider for Biden.

We are assuredly living the Chinese curse - "May you live in interesting times." I will save my views on «hopes and prayers» for assault rifles and other topics for another time. Take care of each other and your kids

KEN KIMBALL
BROOKFIELD

Collecting guitars

I've discussed vintage musical instruments in past columns and today I will be focusing on collecting guitars. Just like all antiques and collectibles, everyone has their own reason why they collect guitars. Oftentimes, guitar collectors are musicians and they



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
WAYNE TUISKULA

collect guitars that they like to play. Collectors may also seek out the model of a certain guitar played by their favorite musician. Or they may like the aesthetics and collect a guitar to display it in their home. Many collectors also collect guitars as investments.

There are various different types of guitars including classical, acoustic, electric, or a combination of these types.

Well-crafted vintage guitars can bring strong auction results. A Martin "Eric Clapton" model classical guitar sold for \$2,200 in May 2018. A boutique classical guitar by Darryl Perry Cedar also brought \$2,200 in November 2022. A 1949 Martin 000-28 acoustic guitar went for \$15,000 in November 2022. A 1931 Martin OM-18 Acoustic Guitar fetched \$17,500 in December 2021. As for electric guitars, a Gibson Les Paul model electric guitar sold for \$12,000 in November 2022. A Gibson

SG electric guitar reached \$17,000 in November 2022.

Guitars created by master craftsman or those featuring connections to famous musicians can bring hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars. According to inside-guitar.com, a Herman Hauser I guitar set the auction record for a classical guitar in 2006. The guitar had a spruce top and the sides were rosewood. Hauser wrote his name inside the guitar marked MP, "an abbreviation for 'manu propria,' meaning the guitar was built exclusively 'by my own hand' without his assistants." The guitar had an auction estimate of \$50,000 to \$60,000 but far exceeded it, selling for \$179,000.

A Kurt Cobain-played guitar holds the auction record for electric guitars. The Fender 1969 Mustang was played by Cobain in his band's "Smells like Teen Spirit" video. It went for \$4.5 million and was sold to Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay last year.

Another Kurt Cobain guitar set a different auction record. A 1959 Martin D-18E guitar played by Cobain during his 1993 MTV Unplugged performance hit a high note in November 2022 when it sold for over \$6 million, the highest price ever for a guitar.

A collection of over 60



guitars from a Boston estate will be sold in our upcoming online auction. Our seventh online auction of model railroad, diecast and promo cars, and antique and vintage toys ends on April 12. The auction of art, antiques, and household items from a finely furnished Beacon Street, Boston home runs until April 19. I'll be appraising items at the Charlton Senior Center on May 16, starting at 10 a.m. I also recently began writing the "What's selling on eBay?" monthly column for the Journal of Antiques and Collectibles journalofantiques.com. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to upcoming events.

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

Our new progressive Democratic state auditor can't get no love

To the Editor:

No one can say the newly elected State Auditor, Diana DiZoglio, doesn't know the Massachusetts state legislature. This includes many of the nooks and crannies the very far from transparent Democratic party leadership would like have voters and taxpayers to know as little as possible about.

A resident of the small city of Methuen, and a graduate of a community college, and then a university DiZoglio began her work on Beacon Hill as a young legislative aide.

Then, according to her, she was "sexually harassed" at a legislative event and filed a complaint. As a result, she was fired. In addition, she was told she would not receive her severance package, which she needed for her apartment rental, unless she signed a non-disclosure agreement. This means she could not publicly discuss her sexual harassment claim.

Those who follow the operations of our essentially one party state legislature would be shocked about either the harassment charge or follow up actions taken. Long regarded as the USA's most non-transparent state legislature, it also is seen as extremely self-serving and far too often shown as criminally corrupt.

In 2012, Di Zoglio returned to state government as an elected member of the state legislature. Later with another legislative victory, she rose to become a state senator. She held this a position until 2022. Then running as a progressive, and despite leadership opposition, she won primary and overall election and in 2023 became our Massachusetts State Auditor.

Once elected, DiZoglio, unlike many politicians, has begun to execute her campaign promises. Most importantly, she has announced her intention to independently audit or inspect the House's and Senate's financial accounts and operations. If she finally receives the requested funding for this and similar matters, it will be the first time they will be independently audited in 100 years!

The Democratic Speaker of the House and President of the Senate have reacted with shock and horror.

They have tried to ignore the need for an independent audit by attacking the process and ignoring the need, essentially saying that the state auditor is not "authorized" to conduct such audit. They have indicated they may not approve its' funding - that is voters and taxpayers shouldn't know what and how they do things.

The newly elected governor has likewise been silent about the request from one of her elected state administration officials.

Give DiZoglio credit where credit is due and support her efforts to shed light on what our often dishonest legislative leaders would like to remain concealed.

Our worst ever President has been indicted. As of the time this letter was written, the indictment has not been opened so it can't be clear what the actual charges will be. However, it appears that at least one will involve a bribe to keep someone quiet during Trump's 2016 election campaign. That Trump a lifetime crook, cheater liar, law breaker etc. (and his organization's) faces a court trial should not surprise. Over the years, the total of guilty court verdicts and settlement payments has exceeded 200. Likewise, at least a dozen other possible court cases have been or are being prepared. I am aware of no other president, who criminally compares comes close to Trump.

Finally, the prize winning Presidential historian John Meacham last week appeared for an interview on the Goggle accessible "New Yorker Radio Hour" In it, he indicated that he expected Trump to become the 2024 "Republican" Party nominee for President. If so, Meacham expects we will reach a pre-Civil War moment if the mentally damaged Trump "wins." He believes our United States will again become divided between White nationalist autocrats and those who believe in our imperfect but inclusive 250 year old democracy.

I would go one step further. This would result in the world and our country controlled by Xi Zinping's China.

KEVIN KANE
SPENCER

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.

SUPERINTENDENT

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partnership and look forward to becoming an Early College designated high school in the coming school year with the Massachusetts Board of Education and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education... More to come.

CTE Update: Quality Support System (QSS) happening this spring!

David Prouty High School is excited to be a part of the Quality Support System process with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE) Career and Technical Education Division. David Prouty High School is one of nine schools that DESE will partner with in this learning process to examine our work in the area of career and technical education. We appreciate DESE's readiness to work together. This is a learning process, and we look forward to the opportunity this spring to learn from them and them from us, as well. More to come.

Upcoming events in April!

As you know, each month we have many exciting activities taking place throughout our learning community. This month, in the month of April, here are just a few things planned.

Event: SEPAC Meeting - Bullying: What Parents Need to Know via Zoom. (Mon, April 3, 6:30 p.m.)

Event: School Closed: Holiday - Good Friday (Fri, April 7)

Event: School C o m m i t t e e Meeting (Tue, April 11, 6 p.m.)

Event: SEBRSD/Spencer Night at the Worcester Red Sox (Wed, April 12, 6 p.m.)

Event: School B u i l d i n g C o m m i t t e e Meeting (Thurs, April 13, 6 p.m.)

Event: School Closed - April Recess (April 17 - 21)

MCAS Season Begins! MCAS has been upgraded to better measure the critical skills students need for success in the 21st century: deeper understanding; knowledge application; synthesizing; and writing. Most students will

take the test on a computer reflecting the digital world we live in today. MCAS helps the Commonwealth identify schools and districts that need additional support. The next-generation MCAS reports your child's scores in new categories that better show whether your child is meeting expectations in their grade level.

Beginning at the end of March/beginning of April, your child will be taking MCAS, our Commonwealth's standardized test. Let's work together and make your child's experience a positive and successful one! We've been preparing at school. Here are some suggestions you can do to help everyday:

- ✓Ensure your child arrives at school on time.
- ✓Have your child eat a healthy breakfast at home or at school.
- ✓Ensure your child gets a good night's sleep.
- ✓Gently encourage them to do their best.
- ✓And finally, take a quick moment to write an encouraging note to your child.

To learn more on steps you can take as parents/families, go to the Parents' Guide to the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System.

And finally, thank you for your continued partnership and support of the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District. #Innovate #Inspire #Achieve

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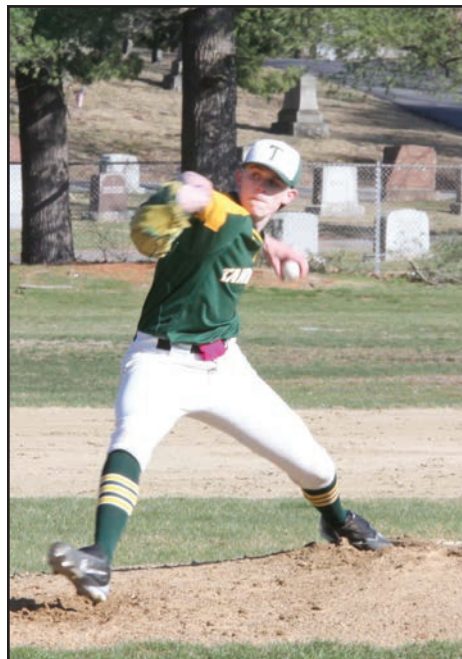
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SPORTS

Tantasqua baseball, softball teams sweep Rams in season opener for both schools



Tantasqua's Hunter Normandin is all fired up after hitting a first inning triple versus Northbridge.



Miles Blake of Tantasqua stretches before releasing a first inning pitch.



Tantasqua pitcher Katelyn Schneider watches the ball sail toward home plate.



Second baseman JulieAnne Petersen of Tantasqua sees the ball into her glove on a grounder.

NORTHBRIDGE — For both the Tantasqua Regional and Northbridge High varsity baseball and softball programs, Monday, April 3 served as Opening Day as the games were played behind Northbridge Middle School.

The Warriors won both games, as the baseball team jumped out to a five-run top of the first inning before holding off the Rams, 6-1. And, on the softball diamond, Tantasqua had an 8-0 lead through two frames and won a high-scoring affair, 17-9.

JERSEY

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available," said Ricard before a contingent of over 100 at the Spencer Country Inn on Friday, March 31. "It was like a full circle moment for me when I chose the same number I wore back in high school. Now, every time I'm on the field playing, it's just a constant reminder of where I'm from, the people who grew with me, all the amazing memories, accomplishments and triumphs I had playing at David Prouty."

The reason why Ricard was speaking in front of family, friends and David Prouty administration was because 42 has been immortalized and retired from ever being worn again.

"Now that I have the football No. 42 retired, it's an incredible honor to not only myself and my family, but to those who came before and to those after," said

Ricard, now a six-year NFL veteran and four time Pro Bowl selection.

David Prouty Athletic Director Chuck Fahey served as Master of Ceremonies at the event, and after a dinner was served, Fahey called up Superintendent Paul Haughey as the night's first speaker.

Haughey talked about the successful vote of a new school being in the works and all the hard work that it took. He compared it to how hard Ricard has worked at David Prouty and how it got him to the NFL.

"Be respectful, responsible and do your best work," said Haughey. "It all started by going to David Prouty."

Up next was Andrew Tuccio, who coached Ricard all four years at Prouty when the Panthers went 33-15, including a perfect 13-0 year in 2009 when the team won the Central Mass. Division 2 Super Bowl over Northbridge High, 11-7.

Tuccio called Ricard a "generational player."

"By his sophomore year, he was instrumental to our Super Bowl," added Tuccio.

In that Super Bowl game, Tuccio mentioned, Ricard wore many hats, playing tight end, full-back, wing and linebacker.

And, in Ricard's final game on Thanksgiving Day against Leicester High on Nov. 24, 2011, Ricard recorded 12 tackles, 13 key blocks, stuffed a fake punt and ended the game with an interception as the Panthers emerged victorious.

"He's the type of player every coach wants," said Tuccio.

The third speaker was Kevin Shea of Spectrum News 1 and the host of the Friday Night Football Frenzy. Shea spoke to numerous past teammates for stories on Ricard, many of them filled with humor.

"At heart, he's just a video game nerd still searching for Pokemon," said Shea, which filled the Inn with plenty of laughs.

Shea also spoke of how smart Ricard is.

"It's hard enough for a rookie to come in, you have to learn terminology and you have to learn schemes at your own position. Pat comes in as a rookie and he has to learn offense, defense and special teams," said Shea. "You can't do that if you're not smart, you can't do that if you're not brilliant."

Shea added that Ricard has "revolutionized the position of fullback" and that many local kids want to wear 42 because of him.

Fahey next called Christian Ricard, Patrick's older brother, to the stand. The elder Ricard,

who was a senior when Patrick was a sophomore on the Super Bowl winning squad, said that their "bond became very strong" during that championship season.

Christian Ricard, who played college football at Stony Brook University, got to play against Patrick twice.

"He beat us the first time, but I got him the second time. At least I got that," said Christian Ricard, to a chorus of laughs.

In closing, Christian Ricard became serious when speaking about his brother.

"I think the thing I'm most proud of is your character and what you've become as a person," said Christian Ricard.

Fahey then told a story of how then-principal Bob O'Brien said to the 2009 team that he would get a tattoo if the Panthers won the Super Bowl. When Prouty did just that, O'Brien sported a Panther on his calf in ink. O'Brien is no longer at the school, but the tattoo remains.

Fahey noted that Ricard finished his career with 222 total tackles (101 solo tackles), 27 of those for a loss. Ricard also had 8 sacks and 3 interceptions. Starting in 2023, the team's Defensive MVP will get his name on a trophy that is now called the Patrick Ricard Defensive MVP Award.

Ricard's 42 jersey is also the third in school history to be retired after Brian Sweeney (76 in football) and Kaitlyn Langlois (14 in soccer). Sweeney was killed during the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001 and Langlois passed away from cancer before graduating.

Ricard then took to the podium and recalled the Super Bowl winning season of 2009.

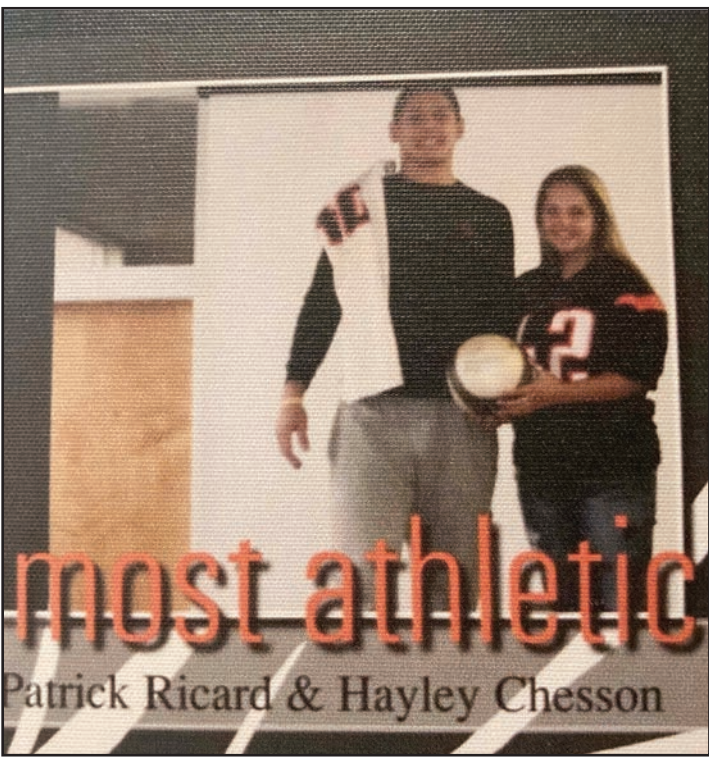
"Will forever be my favorite year of playing football," said Ricard.

The 6-foot-3, 305-pound 28-year-old then thanked Fahey, Tuccio, Shea, past teammates and assistant coaches, parents Judy and Paul, and his wife Hayley, a fellow David Prouty Class of 2012 alum. The two met in geometry class during their sophomore years.

Although the Ricard's don't have children, Patrick lastly thanked his three cats at home, which again came with plenty of laughs.

In closing, Ricard dished out a strong message about working hard and achieving dreams.

"I'm living proof that dreams can come true as long as you believe in yourself and dream big," he said. "I'm just a normal dude who happens to be good at football."



Patrick Ricard and Hayley Chesson were named David Prouty's Class of 2012's Most Athletic in the school yearbook. The two are now married.

What's in a name? More than you think

Picture this: You've been granted an opportunity to travel back in time, and you find yourself face-to-face with none other than Napoleon Bonaparte, the legendary French emperor. As you stand in awe of him, you notice he's captivated by your name. He leans in, furrowing his brow, "Pardon, I didn't quite catch your name." You eagerly repeat it, and as you turn to leave, you catch a glimpse of him pulling out a notepad. He scribbles down your name, briefly describing your appearance and the intriguing subjects you discussed.

Fast forward a few years, and you're granted another chance to meet Napoleon. He recalls your name and every detail of your previous conversation. It's as if time stood still between your encounters, and the memory of your meeting has been etched into his mind.

How would you feel? Undoubtedly, you'd be left with an unforgettable impression of the man, his character, and his ability to connect. This connection results from Napoleon's intentional effort to remember your name and the details of your conversation.

Now picture this: You're at a party, surrounded by fascinating individuals from all walks of life. Amidst the laughter and clinking of glasses, you converse with a particularly intriguing guest. Time flies as you dive deep into thought-provoking topics, sharing stories and insights for over an hour. As you part ways, you suddenly realize you've completely forgotten their name!

In the grand scheme of things, it seems impossible to remember every name that crosses our path. We

may consider it trivial, believing it's just a tiny, inconsequential detail. But what if I told you that the key to unlocking your wildest dreams and aspirations might lie in remembering someone's name?

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

Dale Carnegie, author of the groundbreaking bestseller "How to Win Friends and Influence People," shares a captivating insight: "A person's name is to that person the sweetest and most important sound in any language."

While writing his book, Carnegie sought the wisdom of Jim Farley, a man who, at age 46, had already been given honorary degrees from four universities, held the title of Chairman of the Democratic Committee, and served as the Postmaster General of the United States.

Intrigued by Farley's meteoric rise, Carnegie inquired, "What's the secret to your success?" Farley quipped, "Hard work!" Carnegie, unamused, retorts, "Don't be funny."

Turning the tables, Farley asked Carnegie for his take on the reason for his success. Carnegie ventures, "I understand you can call 10,000 people by their first names." Stunned by the underestimate, Farley corrects him: "No, you're wrong; I can call 50,000 people by their first names."

When Farley encountered a new face, he would commit their full name to memory and intimate details about their family, their line of work, and any other tidbits he could glean. He meticulously recorded these nuggets of information. Whether it was months or years later, he could effortlessly reconnect with these individuals, asking after their families and

reminiscing about their shared conversations. This uncanny ability left a lasting impression on everyone he met.

Remembering someone's name is the ultimate demonstration of care and consideration. Carnegie says, "The average person is more interested in their name than in all the other names on Earth combined. Remember that name and call it easily; you've paid a subtle but very effective compliment. But forget it or misspell it, and you've placed yourself at a sharp disadvantage."

You may think I have a terrible memory. I could never do that! Well, Napoleon and Jim Farley had to take notes. Remembering names wasn't a natural talent. It was a skill they consciously developed.

By developing this skill, you'd instantly set yourself apart from the crowd, creating unforgettable impressions and nurturing lasting connections.

In a world where so many things compete for our attention, remembering a name can be a game-changer. It's an investment in building meaningful relationships and a testament to your genuine interest in others.

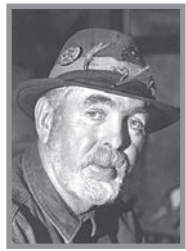
By harnessing the power of names, you unlock a world of possibilities and turn every encounter into an opportunity. So, take a stand against the sea of forgotten names, and become that rare individual who can captivate hearts and minds by always remembering the names of those you meet.

Hopes high for a fully stocked Wallum Lake

Wachusetts Reservoir opened this past Saturday under rainy, but warm temperatures. The rain did not deter many fishermen from attending the annual opening day; however, local anglers that fished on opening day found the action to be very slow. Anglers using castmasters and other favorite lures did catch a few lake trout, but the action remained slow throughout the day for most anglers.

Many local fishermen made calls to the Mass. Fish & Wildlife last week, and protested the slow stocking of local lakes, ponds & rivers. Although Wallum Lake was reportedly scheduled to be stocked prior to opening day this Saturday, no reports of the lake actually being stocked by either Mass. or Rhode Island was made prior to this past Monday. Hopes are high that both states will not let anglers down, and a fun day of catching trout by young and old will become reality on April 8, this Saturday. It is the only real opening day in Mass. for trout fishing anglers.

Opening day at Wallum Lake has seen a big drop in attendance since the



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH
TRUE

early days of the '50's & '60's, when cars lined up along the entrance road to the lake because the parking lots were full. Many including this writer camped out overnight to insure a place to park and launch our boat. During the early morning hours, you could smell bacon & eggs cooking from a camp stove or from numerous vans that were equipped with cooking facilities. There was always an environmental police officer at the ramp to keep some form of normality among the hundreds of anxious fishermen, waiting to wet their line and hopefully catch a few trout.

Wallum Lake always received a good stocking of brown trout, and rainbow trout back in the day and both Mass. & Rhode Island made numerous stockings of trout throughout the spring fishing season. Broodstock salmon were also stocked at the lake after a few fishermen complained about the lake being left out of the salmon stocking program. We did not know how good we had it back in the day. Numerous anglers were trolling worms and live bait, which often produced some impressive brown trout. I always had good luck trolling streamer flies like the gray ghost and nine three to mention a couple. Trolling streamers

using light wire to get the fly down to the proper depth to where the trout were feeding, often took a little practice, but when you found the correct speed of the boat, and the proper depth of the wire, you could really catch a lot of trout. We also used copper wire, and used it in the same way.

Trolling shiners using downriggers or wire also works very well when the fish are feeding a bit deeper, as the water warms. Fortunately, most anglers now have their boats equipped with a sonar and GPS unit that constantly shows the depth, and any fish in the area you are fishing. Using downriggers, you can basically drop the bait right on the fish. Some days you can do almost everything right to catch fish, but they just are not hungry, and will not bite. Constantly changing flies or lures can help, but if fish are not feeding you may as well go home and mow the grass, or do other yard work, and come back another day. Hope to see you there on opening day!

SBCBA continues to advise saltwater anglers on the comment period which ends April 14. Your comments on the seabass, fluke and scaup fishing season for 2023 is very important. Go to the SBCBA Web site to find out where to send your comments.

Take A kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!



Courtesy

This week's picture shows my fishing partner, Matt, with a nice doormat fluke he caught a few years ago in Rhode Island.

Clean Up with Homemade Spring Cleaning Solutions

It's finally spring, and along with the long-anticipated season comes spring cleaning chores! Thankfully, times have changed, and today most of us do spring cleaning in convenient spurts, eventually shortcutting our way through to a reasonable facsimile of the original task. But let's face it, with today's busy lifestyle, even the revised edition of the dreaded yearly chore can be daunting. If the mere thought of Spring Cleaning has you fretting about the hard work and toxic chemicals (not to mention the cost) of commercial cleansers, help is on the way. From floor scrubs to scouring powder, these homemade cleaners provide not only a cost effective alternative to commercial offerings, but in most cases are kinder to the environment. ***

TrueBlue Glass Cleaner This classic "recipe" is a real money saver. It works well and the addition of the blue food coloring tricks the brain into thinking you're still cleaning with costly commercial window cleaners!

Ingredients: 2 cups water; ½ cup rubbing alcohol; one tablespoon ammonia; blue food coloring (optional) Directions: Mix everything together in a spray bottle. Use as you would a commercial window cleaner. ***

"Fantastic" All Purpose Cleaner This recipe fills a gallon jug. Make it once and use it all year to refill your spritz bottles.

Ingredients: ½ cup vinegar; one cup clear ammonia; 1/4 cup baking soda; one gallon warm water Directions: Mix the ingredients together well. ***

Febreze Clone Fabric refreshers can be the solution to pet odors and other smells that linger on upholstery and fabrics. Try this version for an inexpensive alternative. Best of all, you can choose your favorite fabric softener scent!

Ingredients: two cups fabric softener; two cups baking soda; four cups warm water Instructions: Mix together; transfer to a spray bottle. Spray on fabrics to dis-



TAKE
THE
HINT
KAREN
TRAINOR

pel odors almost instantly. * * * Luxury Vinyl Plank; Laminate Floor Cleaner This homemade solution was passed on from a floor dealer as an alternative to expensive commercial cleaners for vinyl plank and laminate flooring:

Ingredients: one third cup white vinegar, one third cup rubbing alcohol, one third cup water and three drops dishwashing liquid. Directions: Mix together in a spray bottle. Just spray and mop. The alcohol aids in quick drying. ***

Hardwood Floor Cleaner Your hardwoods will not only get clean with this natural mix, but they will perk up in both color and shine

Ingredients: 1/2 cup apple cider vinegar; one

gallon of warm water. Directions: For best results, wipe wood floors with a soft cotton cloth that has been moistened with the hardwood floor cleaner, or dampen a Swiffer mop with the solution. Buff with a dry cloth or drySwiffer as you go. ***

Homemade Swiffer Jet Cleaning Solution Swiffer cleaning solution is expensive; try this cost effective alternative from pantry ingredients:

Ingredients: hot water; vinegar; rubbing alcohol; essential oil (optional)

Directions: Mix together equal parts hot water and vinegar; pour in a splash of rubbing alcohol. Add to the refill container. If desired, add a couple of drops of essential oil. Mop as usual. ***

Citrus Floor Cleaner The power of citrus not only cleans the floor, it also freshens it with a clean, citrus scent.

Ingredients: one gallon hot water; two tablespoons liquid soap; 15 drops orange essential oil; eight drops lemon essential oil

or 1/4 cup lemon juice Directions: Mix together and wash floors.

*As with all floor cleaners, it is important not to damage the flooring by over wetting. Whenever possible, dry the floor as you go. * * *

Daily Shower Spray Cleaner This works as well as the name brand shower spray and it dries quickly!

Ingredients: three tablespoons liquid Jet Dry (for dishwashers); water Directions: Combine Jet Dry and water in a spray bottle to fill. Spray shower walls after every shower. ***

Homemade Scouring Powder Move over Comet, this environment friendly version is a gritty alternative. Store in an old Parmesan cheese tin or other jar with a sprinkle top.

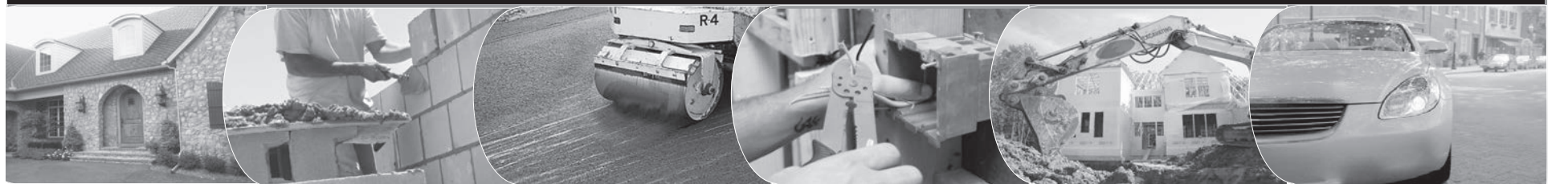
Ingredients: one cup baking soda; one cup borax; one cup regular salt Directions: Combine the three ingredients and keep them in a tightly closed container. Use as you would any commer-

cial scouring powder. ***

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

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OBITUARIES

Benjamin B. Whittaker, 82



SPENCER- Benjamin B. Whittaker, 82, passed away in his home, on March 30. Ben was born in Enfield, NH on July 23, 1940 to Benjamin B. and Maude (Lothrop) Whittaker.

He attended Orford High School in Orford, NH, where he met his wife, Nancy (Davis). They were married for 63 years.

Ben worked as a carpenter, first in New Hampshire, then Florida before settling in Massachusetts. In 1977, he started BW Construction, a successful commercial construction company now run by his son Pete.

Ben loved travel and took some amazing trips with his wife Nancy across the U.S., to Africa, South America and Europe. He also loved the beach, spending many winters after retirement in Sarasota, FL.

Ben was devoted to his family and was always happiest when everyone was together. His Christmas Eve gatherings were legendary, drawing family and friends from all over.

Ben is survived by his loving wife Nancy, his children, Christine Whittaker and her husband Thane Thompson, Peter Whittaker and his wife Bonnie, Bonnie Toomey and her husband Tim, his grandchildren, Ashley Whittaker, Ben Whittaker and his wife Wendy, Nicholas Bracewell, Justin Bracewell, Eva Sofge, Henry Sofge and his great grandson Grayson Whittaker.

A Funeral Service will be held Thursday, April 6 at 11:00 A.M. in the J. HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer.

A calling hour will precede the Service from 10:00-11:00 A.M. Burial will follow in Pine Grove Cemetery, Spencer.

www.morinfuneralhomes.com

Clifford M. Rutter, 89



Warren - Clifford M. Rutter, 89, of Warren, died on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center.

He leaves his beloved friend, Barbara C. Mouriguart of West Palm Beach, Florida. He also leaves his sister, Betsy J. Rutter and her husband Larry Tuttle of Monson, his brother, Alden B. Rutter and his wife Joan of Belchertown, his sister-in-law, Janet Rutter as well as 2 nieces and 3 nephews along with their families. He was predeceased by his brother Robert D. Rutter and his sister Judy Doering. He was born in Ware, son of the late Robert F. and Marjorie E. (Delano) Rutter, and was a life-long resident of Warren.

Clifford graduated from Warren High School in 1951. He was a United States Air Force Veteran of the Korean War serving from 1953 to 1957.

Cliff worked as a machine operator at Flexcon for several years, before retiring in 1995. He was very active in the community. He was a former member of the Federated Church of Warren, and the former Quaboag Lodge of Masons where he was a life-time mem-

ber and past master. He was recently recognized for 60 years as a Past Master. He was a member of the Scottish Rite Bodies in Springfield, the Morning Star Chapter R.A.M., the Springfield Council R&SM, the Melha Shriners of Springfield, and the former Warren Thief Detecting Society. He was also a 14 gallon blood donor. He loved his time spent at the family vacation home on Cliff Island, Maine which has been in his family since 1880.

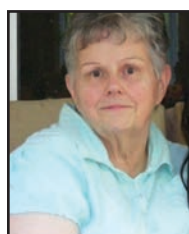
A Funeral Service for Cliff was held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 10:30AM in the Varnum Funeral Home, Inc., 43 East Main Street in West Brookfield. A calling hour was held in the funeral home from 9:30 to 10:30AM prior to the service. Burial will follow in Pine Grove Cemetery in Warren.

In lieu of flowers, Cliff's wish was that memorial donations be made to the Shriners Hospital for Children, 516 Carew St., Springfield, MA 01004 or at <http://shrinershospitalforchildren.org> or to a charity of donor's choice.

An online guest book is available at varnumfuneralhome.com



Elizabeth Wade, 83



N O R T H B R O O K F I E L D - Elizabeth (Foley) Wade, 83, of North Brookfield, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on Thursday, March 16, 2023 in the Overlook Masonic

Home.

She leaves 2 sons Michael Wade & his wife Pamela and David Wade & his wife Kristine; her daughter Carrie Mierzejewski; a cousin Kathy Lisauskas and son in law Dan Mierzejewski; 7

grandchildren Brandon, Christina, Danielle, Tyler, Jenna, Andrew and Katie; 3 great grandchildren Colton, Khloe and Bailey.

She was predeceased by her husband Carl L. Wade in 1998 and her brothers Herbert and Richard Mawdsley.

There are no calling hours or services. Following cremation burial will be in Worcester County Memorial Park in Paxton.

Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 44 Gilbert St. North Brookfield. For an online tribute please visit: Pillsburyfuneralhome.com

*Send all obituary notices to
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Enjoy the many benefits of adding water features to the landscape

Boost the beauty and your enjoyment by adding a fountain, birdbath, or other water feature to your balcony, deck, or landscape. This one addition to your outdoor space provides many benefits.



GARDEN MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA MYERS

to water features prevents mosquitoes from breeding there. Just toss this donut-shaped cake of *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti) into the water. This naturally occurring bacteria only kills the larvae of mosquitoes, black flies, and fungus gnats. It won't harm people, pets, fish, or wildlife.

The sound of moving water helps create a sense of peace and relaxation. It is a form of white noise that helps calm the mind and revive your spirit.

It also helps mask noise pollution. Combine water features with strategic screening to create a quiet and private space.

Water is also a great way to attract songbirds and pollinators to your gardens. A birdbath with gently sloping sides allows birds and insects to take a sip without getting all wet. Or add a few stones to your birdbath to accomplish the same results. Be sure to change the water often as providing fresh water is important for the health of your winged guests.

Bring in even more birds by adding some type of water agitator to your birdbath. Moving water is very appealing and helps attract more birds, especially during spring and fall migration.

No need to worry about mosquitoes taking residency in your water feature. Moving water is less appealing and adding Summit® Mosquito Dunks® (SummitResponsibleSolutions.com)

flies, and fungus gnats. It won't harm people, pets, fish, or wildlife.

With so many options you are sure to find one that fits the size and style of your outdoor space. A wall-mounted fountain provides calming sound to patios, porches, and spaces near your home without taking up any valuable floor space.

A small tabletop water garden or fountain can make a nice centerpiece when dining outside or entertaining guests. Then simply move your miniature water feature as needed to maximize your enjoyment.

A natural boulder-turned water fountain is the perfect addition for those with informal or natural spaces. Make it appealing to birds by selecting one with a flat area or small indentation to capture some of the water before it flows over the edge.

Select a garden statue with a built-in water fountain for a different aesthetic. Animals and mystical figures add playfulness to the garden while stately figures fit nicely in more formal settings.

Convert one or several plant pots into a fountain. You'll find lots of ideas and step-by-step directions on the internet. Or purchase one ready to install in the garden. These, like other fountains, recirculate water which reduces water waste.

Freshen up any space in the landscape with one of these water features. As soon as it is in place, you'll enjoy the relaxing sounds of water and the songbirds, butterflies, and others it attracts to your gardens.

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



Melinda Myers

A water feature and statue add interest and relaxation to the landscape.

K-9

continued from page A1

But after years of relying on the help of other departments, the LPD will soon be able to lead operations with its own K9 unit.

"Currently, Leicester has had to rely on mutual aid for this important resource. Often, these units are dispatched from State Police barracks across the state," Antanavica said. "This costs critical time, which

has undoubtedly prevented some positive outcomes."

Once the LPD's K9 team is deployed, they will be able to immediately respond to incidents across town.

"As an added benefit, increasing the opportunity for specialized assignments within an agency can have a positive effect on hiring and retention," Antanavica said. "I see this as a real game changer for the community and the police department."

Selectmen are equally excited about the final preparations being made to launch the program. The Board voted unanimously to greenlight the program, with only one selectman missing from the meeting.

"I think it is fantastic to have Cooney on board. This will enable the town to use the K9 services without having to search for—and then wait for—a K9 unit," said Select Board Chairman Allen Phillips.

TRADITION

continued from page A1

will also be offered on the church lawn.

Volunteers are looking forward to the convenience of the new system. And since many festival guests already park well away from the Common or take the shuttle to the event, the short walk across to the church will barely be noticed.

Church volunteers can't wait for another strong attendance next month at the event, which regularly draws

up to 10,000 guests from throughout the area. And when guests arrive with their families and friends, the famous chowder will be waiting on the front lawn of the church.

"We have been involved in the festival since day one," Hall added. "The church has always been an enthusiastic supporter of the festival and the town committee that puts it together. They do a great job."

The process of preparing the chowder typically starts for volunteers on the Monday prior to the

event. The church relies on two crews to prepare for the festival—a kitchen crew and a tent crew. The kitchen staff handles the entire chowder-making process, from buying the vegetables to making the 55 pots of chowder (138 gallons). The tent crew takes care of setting up the tents, buying the paper supplies, and arranging all of the tables, coolers, and other equipment.

This year's Asparagus Festival will take place on Saturday, May 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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LEGALS

Notice of Public Hearing— Planning Board

The Spencer Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on Tuesday April 18, 2023 in McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, and the hearing will be conducted in person and remotely on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:

Major Site Plan Review/ Stormwater Permit – Applicant/Owners: Jaime Scarff/ Spencer Solar Farm LLC. Location: North Brookfield Road, Spencer, MA; Assessor's Map R39-14. The applicant is requesting a Major Site Plan Review and Stormwater Permit under sections 7.4, 7.4.5, and 4.8.9 of The Spencer Zoning Bylaw and Stormwater Regulations to develop a large scale solar PV facility. The property is located within the Rural Residential (RR) zoning districts

March 31, 2023
April 7, 2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO23P0534GD
NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Appointment of
Guardian of a Minor
In the interests of
Odin A. Ferreira
of Brookfield, MA
Minor
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED
PARTIES**

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 02/15/2023 by **Kate-Lynn Costa** of Brookfield, MA **Nicole Costa** of Brookfield, MA will be held **05/23/2023 08:30 AM Guardianship of a Minor Hearing** Located **Worcester Probate and Family Court.**

Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and
Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE: An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice.

Date: February 16, 2023

Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate

April 7, 2023

(SEAL)
THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket Number: 23 SM 001352
ORDER OF NOTICE

To:

Shane A. Bayer

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):

NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Spencer, numbered 4 Lambs Grove, given by Shane A. Bayer to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Inland Bank and Trust, dated April 27, 2018, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 58736, Page 343, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance

and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before May 15, 2023, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on March 31, 2023.

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson

Recorder

23427

April 7, 2023

FY2024 BUDGET – SPENCER PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Finance Committee will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in McCourt Social Hall of the Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, Massachusetts to review the Fiscal Year FY2024 Proposed Budget and Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Interested persons may present their views in writing to the Office of the Town Administrator, or in person at said hearing.

Mary E. Braney, Chair

April 7, 2023

TOWN OF NORTH BROOKFIELD OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR OF TAXES 4/6/2023

The owner(s), occupant(s) and public are hereby notified that the following described parcels herein, located with the municipality of the TOWN OF NORTH BROOKFIELD and WORCESTER County, of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, have taxes for the year 2022 as committed to the Collector of Taxes by the Board of Assessors of this municipality which remain delinquent and unpaid and the property herein described will be taken by the TOWN OF NORTH BROOKFIELD on APRIL 20, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. for non-payment of taxes including interest and all legal costs and charges thereon unless the property shall be previously discharged.

Lisa Taylor
Collector of Taxes

Property

Location: 63 SUMMER STREET
Assessed Owners: BATCHELOR,
PAMELA & BRANDON E.
Bill Number: 124
2022 REAL ESTATE TAXES

3,084.94

3,084.94

DESCRIPTION: A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing about 0.320 acres described as parcel 1060 0039 00630 in the office of the Assessors of the TOWN OF NORTH BROOKFIELD identified in book and page 60533 298, in the WORCESTER COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS.

Property Location: 76 WARD STREET
Assessed Owners: JACKSON, TANYA
Bill Number: 1058
2022 REAL ESTATE TAXES

723.22

723.22

DESCRIPTION: A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing about 0.250 acres described as parcel 0320 0100 00780 in the office of the Assessors of the TOWN OF NORTH BROOKFIELD identified in book and page 62007 308, in the WORCESTER COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS.

Property Location: 17 EDNA CIRCLE
Assessed Owners: STEWART, GAIL,
TRUSTEE OF ANDE REALTY TRUST
Bill Number: 1971
2022 REAL ESTATE TAXES

569.45

569.45

Description: A parcel of land with buildings thereon, containing about 0.00 acres described as parcel 0320 0114 00170 in the office of the Assessors of the TOWN OF NORTH BROOKFIELD identified in book and page 48489 171, in the WORCESTER COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS.

April 7, 2023

Notice of Public Hearing for a Special Meeting – Planning Board

The Spencer Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, in McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, or remotely on the following item(s) starting at 6:30 PM or as soon thereafter as can be heard: Zoning Bylaw Section 3.4.2. Floodplain District, as required by FEMA, for the updates to the Worcester County Flood Insurance Rate Map and Worcester County Flood Insurance Study report. Interested Parties may review the proposed changes at the Office of Development & Inspectional Services and Town Clerk's office in the Memorial Town Hall during regular business hours.

March 31, 2023

April 7, 2023

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Alicia Benoit to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, dated February 28, 2013 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 50517, Page 55, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, recorded on April 2, 2015, in Book No. 53546, at Page 62

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, recorded on June 9, 2017, in Book No. 57233, at Page 114 Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to U.S. Bank National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as trustee for the RMAC Trust, Series 2016-CTT, recorded on April 11, 2018, in Book No. 58650, at Page 173 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 3:00 PM on April 21, 2023, on the mortgaged premises located at 10 Lyford Road, Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:

Land on the southerly side of Lyford Road in Spencer, Worcester County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts being shown as Lot 5 on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Spencer, MA owned by the Estate of Esther Gale, Joy White, Executrix, April 12, 2006, Donald A. Para, Land Surveyor, Inc., New Braintree, MA" which plan is recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 844, Plan 25 and which lot is more particularly bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a solid rod set in the southerly line of Lyford Road at the northeast corner of the lot herein described and the northwest corner of Lot 4 as shown on said plan; THENCE S. 30° 43' 15" W., 282.67 feet along Lot 4 as shown in said plan to a solid rod set; THENCE S. 00° 16' 08" W., 223.26 feet along said Lot 4 to a re-rod set in a pile of stones at land or formerly of Burdett; THENCE S. 1° 21' 38" E., 58.37 feet along said Burdett land to an iron pin found at land now or formerly of Roy; THENCE N. 89° 02' 19" W., 170.00 feet along a fence along said Roy land to a solid rod set; THENCE N. 2° 00' 55" E., 389.94 feet along Lot 6 as shown on said plan to a solid rod set; THENCE N. 30° 54' 47" E., 330.00 feet along said Lot 6 to a solid rod set in the southerly line of Lyford Road; THENCE S. 42° 56' 00" E., 117.84 feet along the southerly line of Lyford Road to a stone bound; THENCE S. 37° 57' 12" E., 82.16 feet along the southerly line of Lyford Road to a solid rod set at the point of beginning. Containing 113,586 square feet (2.608 acres).

For mortgagor's(s)' title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 50517, Page 53.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE FOR THE RMAC TRUST, SERIES 2016-CTT Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
2016050518
March 24, 2023

March 31, 2023
April 7, 2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO23P0536GD
NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Appointment of
Guardian of a Minor
In the interests of
Rune A. Ferreira
of Brookfield, MA
Minor**

NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED
PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 02/15/2023 by **Kate-Lynn Costa** of Brookfield, MA **Nicole Costa** of Brookfield, MA will be held **05/23/2023 08:30 AM Guardianship of a Minor Hearing** Located **Worcester Probate and Family Court.**

Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and
Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE: An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice.

Date: February 16, 2023

Stephanie K. Fattman

Register of Probate

April 7, 2023

Notice of Special Public Hearing East Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals

A Zoning Board hearing will take place at the East Brookfield Town Hall, 122 Connie Mack Drive, East Brookfield, MA on Thursday April 27th, 2023. Hearing will commence at 7:00PM in meeting room A or soon thereafter as can be heard. Interested parties can attend in person.

Applicant:

Wannakuwatte.W.J.S.Fernando; owner.
Property location: 210 Stone Road, East Brookfield, MA.

The applicant is requesting a "Finding" that a change, extension or alteration as outlined in Section 4 non-conforming uses, paragraph 2 of the East Brookfield Zoning Bylaws will not be substantially more detrimental than the existing non-conforming use. Additionally, a "Variance" is requested for a right sideline setback and front setback.

March 31, 2023

April 7, 2023

Notice of Public Hearing— Planning Board

The Spencer Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on Tuesday April 18, 2023 in McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, and the hearing will be conducted in person and remotely on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:

Major Site Plan Review/ Special Permit/Stormwater Permit – Applicant/Owners: Paul Haughey/ Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District. Location: 302 Main Street, Spencer, MA; Assessor's Map U05-5. The applicant is requesting a Major Site Plan Review, Special Permit, and Stormwater Permit, under sections 4.6, 6.1, 6.1.1, 6.3, 6.5.3, and 7.4 of The Spencer Zoning Bylaw and Stormwater Regulations for redevelopment, renovations, and improvements of David Prouty High School (DPHS). The property is located within the Suburban Residential (SR) zoning districts.

March 31, 2023

April 7, 2023

POLICE REPORTS

Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, MARCH 23
 1:28 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), transported to hospital; 2:35 a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), unfounded; 6:24 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:01 a.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 10:37 a.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 10:56 a.m.: investigation (Paxton Street), report taken; 11:05 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 12:14 p.m.: open door/window (Kingsbury Road, Spencer), services rendered; 12:30 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 12:34 p.m.: trespassing (Soojians Drive), spoken to; 12:44 p.m.: ambulance (Hillside Road), transported; 1:01 p.m.: neighbor dispute (Autumn Lane), resolved; 1:08 p.m.: investigation (Locust Street), spoken to; 2:23 p.m.: investigation (Paxton Street), report taken; 3:40 p.m.: restraining order service (Pond Court), unable to serve; 5:47 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 6:22 p.m.: restraining order service (Pond Court), served; 8:35 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 9:23 p.m.: commercial alarm (South Main Street), false alarm.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24
 1:04 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), citation issued; 8:32 a.m.: assist citizen (Salminen Drive); 11:48 a.m.: summons service (Waite Street), served; 12:00 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street, Worcester), call canceled; 2:00 p.m. ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), transported; 4:32 p.m.: accident (Marshall Street), report taken; 5:25 p.m.: assist citizen

(Baldwin Street); 6:54 p.m.: disturbance (Cemetery Road), unable to locate; 8:08 p.m.: investigation (Baldwin Street), report taken.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25
 12:05 a.m.: welfare check (Sunset Drive), unable to locate; 2:44 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:00 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 9:57 a.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 11:19 a.m.: ambulance (Auburn Street), transported; 12:50 p.m.: family problem (Henshaw Street), transported to hospital; 7:34 p.m.: commercial alarm (Huntoon Memorial Highway), call canceled.

SUNDAY, MARCH 26
 12:09 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), written warning; 12:50 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, criminal application issued; 2:32 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Nixon Javier de los Santos Curiel, 20, 200 Ingleside Avenue, #2, Worcester, OUI liquor, OUI drugs, mv lights violation, negligent operation, speeding, no inspection sticker, arrest; 9:56 a.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), unable to locate; 10:21 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 10:54 a.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, op w/registration revoked, uninsured mv; name and address redacted from police log, shoplifting by asportation/2nd offense, criminal applications issued; 12:45 p.m.: disturbance (White Birch Street), spoken to; 2:47 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 5:29 p.m.: accident (Stafford Street), mv towed; 5:52 p.m.: animal complaint (Henshaw Street), referred

to ACO; 7:24 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), referred to ACO.

MONDAY, MARCH 27
 1:00 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:07 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), spoken to; 10:33 a.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 1:35 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 1:59 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 2:59 p.m.: disturbance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), spoken to; 3:31 p.m.: assist other PD (Huntoon Memorial Highway), services rendered; 3:49 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 4:06 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 4:13 p.m.: hit/run accident (Soojians Drive), report taken; 4:13 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), spoken to; 4:45 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 4:55 p.m.: assist citizen (Baldwin Street); 5:49 p.m.: ambulance (Sanfred Road), transported; 6:10 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:30 p.m.: disturbance (Stafford Street), transported; 7:59 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), no action required; 9:17 p.m.: assist citizen (Huntoon Memorial Highway); 10:07 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), citation issued; 10:26 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:08 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), assisted.

TUESDAY, MARCH 28
 12:17 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 1:05 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 1:36 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 5:49 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), written warning; 8:49

a.m.: abandoned 911 call (South Main Street), resolved; 10:46 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 11:38 a.m.: summons service (Deer Pond Road), served; 12:05 p.m.: restraining order service (Stone Ridge Drive), served; 4:25 p.m.: ambulance (Henshaw Street), transported; 4:37 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 4:51 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended registration, uninsured mv, criminal application issued; 5:22 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:04 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 7:51 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 9:16 p.m.: runaway (Upton Street), report taken; 9:32 p.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), referred to ACO.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29
 7:16 a.m.: property found (South Main Street), report taken; 7:41 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Sargent Street), resolved; 8:11 a.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), referred to ACO; 11:01 a.m.: erratic operator (Soojians Drive), unable to locate; 1:42 p.m.: assist other PD (Stafford Street), services rendered; 3:49 p.m.: welfare check (Waite Street), transported to hospital; 4:48 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:19 p.m.: fraud (Baldwin Street), report taken; 8:23 p.m.: animal complaint (Victor Avenue), referred to ACO; 8:56 p.m.: harassment (River Street), spoken to; 8:58 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:41 p.m.: suspicious mv (South Main Street), no action required; 10:30 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken.



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DUDLEY - 20 NELCO AVE.

SORRY, SOLD!

NEW LISTING! A Must See! Cape - Renovated 4 bedroom, 2 bath home. New shingles, gutters, siding, railings, & deck, electrical Service! Gorgeous NEW kitchen, granite counters, island & SS appliances! Fireplace. **\$414,900.**

WEBSTER - LAND WINDY RIDGE RD

Exploring the possibility of building a new construction? Land on a private Cul de Sac in Brian Acres! Established 40 year +- neighborhood. 1/2 acre w/150' road frontage. Access to municipal water & sewer. **\$75,000**

WEBSTER - 100 PARK AVENUE NEW LISTING

COMING SOON! Custom 3 bedroom Cape! 1400+- Sq Ft, kitchen, dining room, living room, hardwood floors 12' x 12' enclosed porch, Detached garage, all on a 14,000 +/- Sq Ft fully landscaped lot **\$255,000.**

WOODSTOCK - 4 BARBER RD

What a Beauty! Circa 1800 Vintage 4 bedrooms. Renovations included kitchen & bath, refinished wood flooring, interior painting & more... Barn, large lot. **NEW PRICE \$429,000**

WEBSTER - 17 ASSELIN AVENUE

FIRST TIME OFFERED! "In Brian Acres" Established 40 year+- Development. SPACIOUS 1,262 SQFT+- ONE LEVEL RANCH HOME! 3 BRs, 1-1/2 Baths, 2 Car Garage & Sunroom. **\$355,000.**

WEBSTER - 108 LOWER GORE RD

NEW LISTING! First Time Offered! Cute 2 Bedroom Ranch that needs some Love! Originally a 3 Bedroom home. Master Bedroom has a 1/2 Bath. Flat lot with Storage Shed in the Backyard. Town Water & Sewer. **SORRY, SOLD!** **\$249,000.**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagogmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

- Webster Lake Waterfront Lot - Corner of Black Point Rd & Cedar Point Rd

SORRY, SOLD!

Hard to find 6500 +/- Sq Ft corner Lot. Beautiful View & Setting! Sandy Beach! Few tall Pines for shade. Town Water & Sewer Available! Will Custom Build if Preferred! **\$333,000. FIRM**

Webster Lake 13 Loveland Rd

SORRY, SOLD!

Eastern Exposure & Amazing Sunrises! Beautiful shoreline, 3 bedroom Cape features eat in kitchen w/island, fireplace living & dining room. 2nd floor, 2 bedrooms with 1 1/2 bath! **\$785,000**

Webster Lake 27 South Point Road

SORRY, SOLD!

OOH! WHAT A VIEW!!! Middle & South Ponds! 80' +/- ft sandy beach! Expansion possibilities! 2 Bedrm, 2 1/2 Bath, Garage. **\$811,000.**

Webster Lake 13 Bates Point Road

SORRY, SOLD!

1st Time Offered! Impeccable Home! 6 Room, 3 bedroom 2-1/2 Baths. Master bedroom, Master Bath! Level Lot to the Shoreline. Nicely Landscaped! **\$705,000**

OXFORD:
3 bdrm cape; new septic system, enclosed 12 X 24 porch, stairs to & deck under, 1st fl laundry rm. Updated Buderus & Amtrol Boilermate, roof, 200 Amp electric, wiring & outlets, cable, tel (all underground) 1 3/4 baths, and kitchen nestled on .72 acres **\$369,900.**

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 Diane Luong 774-239-2937
 Maria Reed 508-873-9254

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* Over 55 Park
 * Recent 30' Family Room
 * Living Room

67 Breezy Lane \$139,900

STERLING- YOUNG CONDO TOWNHOUSE STYLE

* 2 Bedrooms
 * 1670 Sq. ft.
 * Fireplace
 * 2 Car Garage

5 Turtle Lane \$469,900

STURBRIDGE- CAPE
 * 4 Bedrooms
 * 3 Full Baths
 * New roof, heating system, kitchen, baths, flooring & garage

21 River Rd \$495,000

DUDLEY- WATERVIEW
 * Sides
 * 3 Berrooms
 * 2 baths
 * Town Water & Sewer

11 Pattison \$349,900

WEBSTER-COMING SOON

2 FAMILY- 3 bedroom each unit, 1 car garage **\$359,900**

2 FAMILY- 2 bedroom each unit 1 car garage **\$349,900**

DUDLEY-COMING SOON

3 Bedroom Colonial
 2.5 baths
 New Main Bath, Pellet Stove, Driveway **\$525,00**

Dee Mann
508-340-6594
manndee761@gmail.com

POLICE REPORTS

Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22
 12:07 a.m.: suspicious mv (Park Street), investigated; 12:16-12:59 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:26-2:36 a.m.: parking violations/9 (Main, Mechanic, Chestnut, Adams, High, Grant streets) tickets issued; 1:33 a.m.: suspicious persons (Brown Street), investigated; 2:15-5:34 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:43 a.m.: LTC issued/2 (West Main Street), assisted; 8:25 a.m.: sex offender registration/annual (West Main Street), assisted; 8:29 a.m.: fire alarm (South Spencer Road), referred; 10:04 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 11:02 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), wireless test; 11:29 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 12:23 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), loose dog; 1:01 p.m.: disabled mv (Clark Road), services rendered; 1:16 p.m.: illegal dumping (Howe Road), dumping in park; 1:53 p.m.: fraud (North Spencer Road), rep. of fraud; 2:50 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: threatening call; 3:07 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 3:15 p.m.: animal complaint (Dustin Street), re: howling/crying dog; 4:24 p.m.: medical/general (Salem Street), lift assist; 7:45 p.m.: medical/general (Garrette Lane); 11:45-11:56 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (total daily mv stops - 3).

THURSDAY, MARCH 23
 12:01-2:44 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:13-4:15 a.m.: parking violations/6 (Main, Mechanic, Elm, Grove streets), tickets issued; 2:25 a.m.: mv repossessed (Crestview Drive), info taken; 6:07 a.m.: building checked, secure; 6:35 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:46 a.m.: animal complaint (Wilson Avenue), re: dead goose; 10:30 a.m.: mv lockout (Casey Street), assisted; 10:55 a.m.: property check req. (Paxton Road), re: issues at residence; 11:31 a.m.: medical/overdose (Maple Street); 11:44 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: issue w/person's LTC; 12:33 p.m.: animal complaint (Kingsbury Road), dog complaint; 1:25 p.m.: juvenile matter (Ash Street), son barricaded in room; 1:45 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 2:40 p.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), lost wallet; 3:04 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), inquiry re: restraining order; 6:06 p.m.: residential alarm (Sherwood Drive), services rendered; 7:48 p.m.: medical/general (Crown Street); 7:58 p.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), mc doing wheelies; 9:30 p.m.: mv complaint (Charlton Road), reckless operation; (total daily mv stops - 2).

FRIDAY, MARCH 24
 12:28-1:45 a.m.: buildings checked,

secure; 12:30 a.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; 1:45-2:39 a.m.: parking violations/5 (Church, Mechanic, Main streets), tickets issued; 2:44 a.m.: animal complaint (Condon Drive), dog died; 5:04-5:20 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:03 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), Harrington CT down; 2:09 p.m.: fraud (Main Street), rep. possible scam; 3:49 p.m.: 911 call (North Brookfield Road), accidental; 3:56 p.m.: medical/general (Hastings Road); 3:59 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 4:20 p.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), req. extra patrols; 4:42 p.m.: disabled mv (Greenville Street), services rendered; 5:17 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 5:45 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 6:10 p.m.: erratic operator (North Spencer Road), erratic operator; 7:33 p.m.: medical/general (Kittredge Road); 8:39 p.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), re: upstairs neighbor; 9:09 p.m.: suspicious mv (Route 49), investigated; 9:12 p.m.: officer wanted (Grove Street), wife being harassed; 9:16 p.m.: mutual aid (Temple Street), req. welfare check/origin of req. not noted; 10:13 p.m.: building checked, secure; 10:51 p.m.: residential alarm (Wilson Street), services rendered; (total daily mv stops - 2).

SATURDAY, MARCH 25
 12:22 a.m.: disturbance (Chestnut Street), noise complaint; 12:36-2:33 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:53-2:28 a.m.: parking violations/5 (Grove, Mechanic, Church, Main, Valley streets), tickets issued; 5:18 a.m.: building checked, secure; 5:31 a.m.: medical/general (Pleasant Street); 8:16 a.m.: fire (West Main Street), referred/training; 9:39 a.m.: 911 call (Lincoln Street), misdial; 11:55 a.m.: fire/woods/grass (Crown Street), open burn complaint; 12:48 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Southbridge PD bolo/re: shooting; 1:35 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 3:11 p.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), assisted; 3:18 p.m.: vandalism (Meadow Road), mailbox damaged o/night; 4:00 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), assist Leicester PD/search for male; 4:06 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), re: dog chained out since morning; 5:15 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 6:56 p.m.: officer wanted (Cooney Road), weasel trying to get chickens; 10:33 p.m.: disturbance (Chestnut Street), noise complaint; 11:38 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), re: issues w/neighbors; (total daily mv stops - 1).

SUNDAY, MARCH 26
 1:25-3:03 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:14 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 8:42 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street), lift assist; 9:58 a.m.: DPW call (Old Farm Road), water meter

leaking; 10:35 a.m.: school alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 1:02 p.m.: elderly matter (Pleasant Street), fem. staggering; 1:36 p.m.: accident (Ledge Avenue), report taken; 1:39 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), misdial; 1:58 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 2:18 p.m.: medical/general (Hastings Road); 3:47 p.m.: animal complaint (Wm. Casey Road), loose potbelly pig; 3:52 p.m.: vandalism (Ash Street), tire ruts on front lawn; 3:58 p.m.: accident (R. Jones Road), report taken; 4:52 p.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), assisted; 4:53 p.m.: medical/general (Laurel Lane); 4:54 p.m.: mv stop (Lake Street), Danielle E. Diruzza, 47, 3 Duggan Street, Spencer, warrant, op w/suspended license, arrest; 5:35 p.m.: officer wanted (Bixby Road), info given; 6:10 p.m.: 911 call (Maple Street), accidental; 7:34 p.m.: animal complaint (Kittredge Road), loose dog; 7:42 p.m.: 911 call (North Brookfield Road), accidental/hang-up; 7:51 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street), lift assist; 8:16 p.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), assisted; 8:37 p.m.: (Paxton Road), incident/response redacted from police log; (total daily mv stops - 3).

MONDAY, MARCH 27
 2:06-3:42 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:16 a.m.: odor of gas (Pearl Street), referred; 2:52 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 5:05 a.m.: fire alarm (Lloyd Dyer Drive), referred; 5:13 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), req. from FD; 5:15 a.m.: officer wanted (Chickering Road), re: issues w/ex-gf; 7:06 a.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), assisted; 7:26 a.m.: disturbance (Dustin Street), neighbor tampering with mailbox; 9:31 a.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 11:10 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), harassed in parking lot; 11:51 a.m.: DPW call (Main Street), line down; 12:42 p.m.: vandalism (Lake Street), window smashed; 12:49 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), neighbors gesturing at Ring camera; 1:22 p.m.: juvenile matter (Bay Path Road), req. welfare check/son; 1:42 p.m.: suspicious persons (Ash Street), male was at residence; 2:34 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 3:48 p.m.: animal complaint (Borkum Road), re: neighbor's dog; 4:18 p.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 4:44 p.m.: medical/general (Grove Street); 5:19 p.m.: animal complaint (Brooks Pond Road), stray dog; 6:12 p.m.: animal complaint (Wire Village Road), loose dogs; (total daily mv stops - 5).

TUESDAY, MARCH 28
 1:26 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo/arrest; 2:29-3:05 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:51 a.m.: FID card issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:11 a.m.: medical/general (Grove Street), lift assist; 8:25

a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), accidental; 8:49 a.m.: medical/general (High Street); 9:51 a.m.: medical/general (Grove Street); 11:40 a.m.: suspicious mv (Smithville Road), camper in lot/2 days; 2:05 p.m.: suspicious mv (Howe Road), investigated; 2:10 p.m.: medical/general (Roys Drive); 2:30 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 4:22 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), assisted citizen; 4:33 p.m.: missing person/juvenile (Ash Street), 14 yo female; 4:34 p.m.: mv complaint (Holmes Street), re: mv parked all day; 5:26 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 7:17 p.m.: mv complaint (Duggan Street), speeding; 7:58 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 8:35 p.m.: mv complaint (Charlton Road), erratic operator; 8:51 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), hears someone in bldg.; 9:53 p.m.: building checked, secure; 9:53 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 11:58 p.m.: building checked, secure; (total daily mv stops - 1).



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Donna Flannery named Emerald Level Top Producer in Individual Category at RACM

WORCESTER — Donna Flannery, with ERA Key Realty Services in Spencer was awarded the 2023 Emerald Level Top Producer Award for Individual Production at the REALTOR® Association of Central Massachusetts Top Producer Luncheon on Thursday March 23 at the DCU Center in Worcester.

Top Producers of the Association were recognized for outstanding levels of production in real estate transactions based on dollar volume or units sold in the 2022 calendar year. Only 9 percent of RACM members qualified for this award. The Top Producer Levels go as follows: Ruby Level, Emerald Level, and Diamond Level.

Flannery, who joined the REALTOR® Association of Central Massachusetts in 1991, resides in Spencer and can be reached at her office at 508-612-6771.

About Us

The REALTOR® Association of Central Massachusetts has been proudly serving its members of the Greater Worcester and Central Massachusetts areas since 1923. RACM is celebrating their 100th year anniversary this year, 2023. The Association assists more than 2,000 real estate professionals, providing the services and resources necessary for a successful career as a REALTOR®. Association members are involved in residential and commercial real estate as brokers, salespeople, property managers, appraisers, counselors, and others engaged in all aspects of the real estate industry.

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

For more information, contact Colleen Pappas, CEO of the Association, at 508-832-6600, or via e-mail at cpappas@real-torscentralma.org.



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