

SPENCER NEW LEADER

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Friday, February 2, 2024

DOER grant paves the way for green projects in West Brookfield

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

WEST BROOKFIELD — A major grant award will pave the way for several green projects in town.

The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Green Communities Division recently approved \$180,526 in grant funding for proposed projects in West Brookfield. The award will be disbursed as part of the Green Communities Competitive Grant program.

"The Division reviewed West Brookfield's grant application and has determined these are viable projects that meet the eligibility requirements of our Competitive Grant program," read a statement released by the DOER.

The following projects will receive grant funding as part of the award: LED lighting at the elementary school (\$100,000); weatherization at Town Hall (\$34,422); weatherization at Merriam Gilbert Library (\$31,831); weatherization at the Senior Center (\$1,312); weatherization at the fire department (\$3,443); and transformers at the water department (\$4,518).

Jane Pfister, the Green Communities Grant coordinator, will follow up with town officials to discuss the next steps in the process. These include the coordination of the grant contract process.

"The Green Communities Division looks forward to working with the Town of West Brookfield on grant projects," the DOER statement read. "We congratulate

Turn To **GRANT** page **A9**

John Tripp remembered for service to community

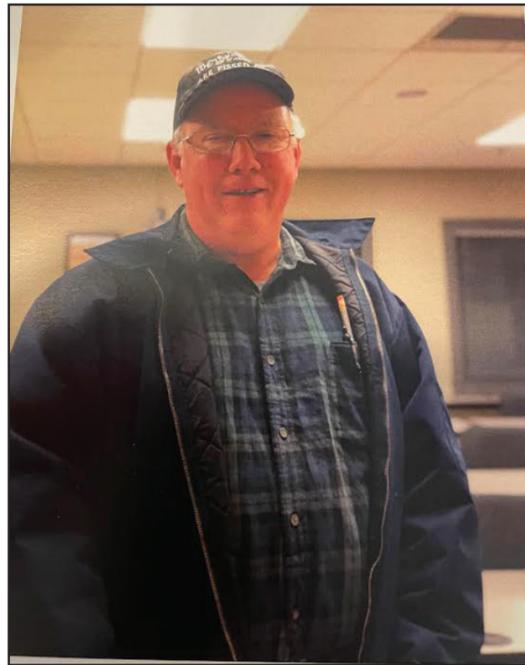
BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD — Community members thank former selectman John Tripp for his service that went well beyond attending meetings and participating in discussions.

After serving on the board for nearly six years before resigning last month, Tripp is thanked for always making the extra effort to assist residents and improve North Brookfield. He regularly took part in community events, led cleanup projects, and got involved as a volunteer on upgrade efforts across town.

Tripp helped lead the Rail Trail project through the center of town, and he was instrumental in the effort to renovate the park at the intersection of School Street and North Main Street. He also took part in a number of improvement projects at the Town House, in addition to work at the Bates Observatory.

"I hope my time on the board was beneficial to the town. I feel that a lot of projects got accomplished while I was on the board," Tripp wrote in a Jan. 9 letter sent to the Board. "Due to some



Courtesy

North Brookfield residents thank former selectman John Tripp for his service to the town.

health issues, I can no longer give up my time as I have in the past few years. I thank my wife, family, friends, and all the volunteers for their support."

Local and regional officials appreciated the opportunity to work with Tripp on a number of

projects that improved the community.

"It has been an honor working with Selectman John Tripp during his tenure on the board," said State Rep. Donald Berthiaume. "John is a true friend of the town of North Brookfield, and his dedication to the commu-

nity is unparalleled, giving his replacement some incredibly large shoes to fill."

In 2021, North Brookfield's Annual Report was dedicated to Tripp. He was congratulated by colleagues and residents alike for his multiple volunteer and service activities.

"John's affection for North Brookfield and its residents may be unsurpassed," read a statement appearing in the dedication of the Annual Report. "John has devoted incredible amounts of time and money to various projects for the betterment of North Brookfield."

In honor of Tripp's dedication to North Brookfield, residents recently placed signs recognizing his service.

Looking ahead, the town will continue with two selectmen until the Annual Town Election. Once Tripp's successor is seated this spring, the Board will return to its regular three-member format.

The Select Board currently includes Chairman Jason Petraitis and member Elizabeth Brooke Canada.

LHS student plays alongside region's most gifted musicians



Courtesy

LHS junior Ryan Delage recently attended the Central Districts Senior Concert. Here, he is pictured with Sam Raillo from Hedera School (left) and LHS Band Director Alexis Phillips.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Leicester High School junior Ryan Delage recently joined some of the region's most talented musicians at Senior Central Districts.

Delage specializes in mallet percussion, which consists of the xylophone, bells, and marimba, among other instruments.

Having spent three years as a member of the Junior Central Districts Band, this year's selection marked his debut in the accomplished Senior Central Districts Band.

"My favorite part of Central Districts was being a part of a band where everyone was as dedicated as I was. I loved that everyone worked hard on getting their parts as perfect as they could, and it was fun to play with the best of the

best," Delage told the New Leader. "I was able to meet new people that play the same instrument as me, and I learned new things over the whole experience. It was really cool to perform in front of the audience at Mechanics Hall."

The band performed several pieces at the event, including "Folk Dances" by Dmitri Shostakovich; "Firefly" by Ryan George; and "Downey Overture" by Oscar Navarro.

"My favorite song out of all of the pieces would probably be 'Firefly' by Ryan George because I was able to play a lot of mallet percussion in that song. This included the bells and the crotales," Delage said.

The audition process for the band is always a major challenge for students, as only the most accomplished performers from throughout the region are chosen.

To ensure he was ready for auditions, Delage dedicated significant time to practice. He thanks everyone who supported him throughout the process, especially his family and educators.

"I would like to thank my parents for supporting me through the auditions for Central Districts and the practice rehearsals," Delage added. "I would like to thank my music teacher, Ms. Alexis Phillips, for supporting me and staying after

Turn To **DELAGE** page **A9**

Therapy dog makes a "paws-itive" impact at Leicester Public Library

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — The dog days have arrived several months early at Leicester Public Library, where Nellie the Therapy Dog enjoys greeting guests of all ages.

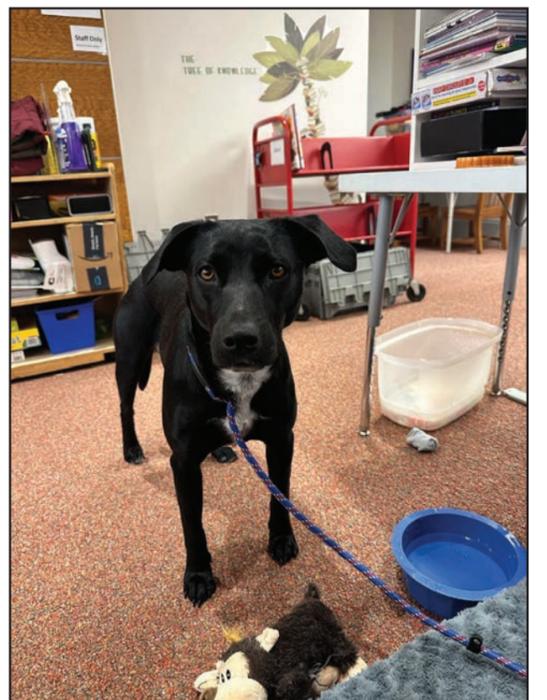
Adopted by the library's Assistant Director Kaeleigh Hart, Nellie received therapy dog training at Every Great Dog in Needham. Certified since mid-November, the black lab is all smiles and tail wags whenever she meets local kids, families, and patrons.

"Nellie is here to provide love and happiness. We have lots of patrons who come in just to seek out a few minutes of petting and puppy love," Hart told the New Leader. "Nellie is mainly here for children's programs, but we love seeing adult patrons come in and say hi."

In today's fast-paced, often stressful society, there's no better way to relax and unwind than spending time with a four-legged friend. For library patrons, it's a thrill to stop in, visit Nellie, and enjoy programs.

Nellie was adopted through New England Lab Rescue. Town officials and residents thank Hart for taking the time to certify her and provide a community benefit with her own pet.

Looking ahead, Nellie will have a "paws-itive" impact on several library programs. These include



Courtesy

Nellie the Therapy Dog looks forward to meeting local kids and families at Leicester Public Library.

literacy activities for kids.

"We are starting Tales to Tails, where children who are learning to read can come in and read to her for 15 minutes," added Hart, who also serves as the Children's Librarian. "Dogs are great to practice confidence in reading, because they don't judge you about pausing or mispronouncing words."

Nellie also brings an array of other educational benefits to the library. If you're thinking about

adding a four-legged friend of your own to the family, this is the perfect opportunity to teach kids about dogs' behaviors and interactions.

"Nellie is also great as an introductory dog for people who are learning to greet dogs because she's just happy to be here, whether or not you say hi," Hart said.

To learn more about upcoming activities at the library, or to sign up for a program, visit www.leicesterlibrary.org.

6th Worcester hopefuls discuss agricultural issues

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — The Republican candidates for the 6th Worcester state rep seat faced off Jan. 25 in a focused forum exploring farming issues at Charlton Grange.

Voters will choose between Southbridge Councilor David Adams and Dudley Selectman John Marsi on primary day Tuesday, Feb. 6. The primary is likely to decide who gets the seat in the March 5 special election, so this may be the only chance to have a real choice. The voter registration deadline for Feb. 6 has passed, but any registered Republican or unenrolled voter can take a Republican ballot that day. There has been some talk about a Democrat seeking write-in votes Feb. 6 for the March 5 ballot, but where that stands is unclear.

What was clear on Thursday, though, is that area farmers are concerned about how the Legislature can help local agriculture survive, particularly in the face of much larger corporate farms.

One was Dudley's Jim Koebeke, who noted his family's Walnut Lane Farm recently eliminated its raw milk production because "milk at scale was way beyond what we could do. ... The costs are really too high." He pointed to size as the key factor — his 250 acres with about 80 cows versus mega-dairies having "tens of thou-

sands" of cattle. Instead, his farm focuses on grass-fed beef, which they started 10 years ago.

Kevin McCarthy of Charlton's Signal Rock Farm said he took a different path, now focusing on hay. He has been raising sheep for meat and wool, but is now "taking a break, and not sure if it'll be temporary or permanent," he said. His reason is the same — cost, specifically of slaughtering, which he said has gone from \$90 to \$150 per sheep with next to no state or federal aid.

That point was one that sparked some comments from both candidates, and there is now an effort afoot to create one in Southbridge. Adams brought it up first, noting his father had been a farmer briefly in Pennsylvania and a brother had started a mobile slaughterhouse in Oklahoma. To him, the area needs one for "cost-effectiveness," since farmers now have to take animals long distance for slaughter.

Marsi agreed, noting having one should be up to the community. While local opposition can be "a very, very touchy issue," if towns want to do it and devise zoning for it, the state shouldn't be able to prevent it with over-regulation, he said.

McCarthy said he's seen that issue. He uses a New Hampshire slaughterhouse, but it had an issue where the federal government shut it down for three months, forcing

him and other farmers to maintain their animals that much longer. Adams said his brother saw a similar shutdown in Oklahoma, but it only lasted two days.

Later, Rich Labbe brought up the related issue of poultry processing, saying federal law allows states to allow it on farms with direct-to-customer sales. In New York, he said, farmers can do it for up to 1000 birds a year, but birds "are really hard to get slaughtered in this state."

When Adams asked why, Labbe replied "over-regulation." Adams said the government sometimes tries to give people more chances to do things themselves, but sees "overbearing individuals" take over such rule-making.

Marsi said poultry-slaughter is "harder" locally because of the run-off, but should be encouraged where zoning allows it. "The zoning regs have to be crafted in such a way ... that people will be comfortable [with it]." Doing so, he said, requires people to talk to their town boards, but "the state will always have a say in these over-arching environmental issues."

To Marsi, the ultimate solution is to make things "hyper-local. You have the ability to shape it." Forum emcee Pam Paquin said the federal Farm Act allows some on-farm slaughter and direct sales, including at farmers' markets. There are some programs try-

ing to promote such sales, including Farmer and the Door and Fresh Please, but one issue that still needs to be addressed is that WIC/SNAP card readers are \$400 each. She described that as "a prime example of a way state policy is prohibitive" to people getting local food.

Marsi suggested creating a state incentive for farmers to accept such benefits and use the readers. A couple in the audience noted the state was offering them free for a while, but one issue is that WIC and SNAP have different requirements.

In that vein, Dudley's Lynette Lepper encouraged the candidates to look at Maine's Food Sovereignty Law, which she said gives communities a right to choose where they buy food without excessive state red tape.

"I'd love to see Massachusetts follow suit, but I'm not holding my breath," she said.

On the other hand, McCarthy said he'd like to see more regulation in a certain area: "Stop the over-consolidation and private equity coming in and becoming rent-seekers" over equipment and land. He specifically cited the fact several area John Deere branches were locally-owned but are bought by a Texan company. (John Deere has also been criticized at the national level for making it very difficult for farmers to fix their own tractors.)



Forum emcee Pam Paquin introduces 6th Worcester state rep candidates Dave Adams, left, and John Marsi.



Dave Adams talks to a Southbridge horse farmer afterward.

Land, in fact, was a core issue of the discussion overall. Marsi noted Dudley has the highest percentage of Chapter 61A property (tax-break farmland) in the county, if not the state. He'd like to make Dudley a "destination" for tourists seeking farm experiences, adding, "when we say economic development, we always want to include our farmers."

To him, any grants or legislation "that can bring things closer to the 6th Worcester" are good. Adams agreed, saying Southbridge has an urban core, but extensive rural land. He compared our area's situation to a memory of growing up in southern California. There, he said, "all that surrounded [us] was farms" but over the years, all of that land got developed. There are often financial pressures to sell, and "people take advantage of that."

"Once you give up that land ... 10 times out of 10, you're never going to get that land back to farming," he said, later noting when the farms vanished "the prices of things went up." He also suggested reducing property taxes for older farmers.

A major key to keeping farming going, Marsi added, is education — both for the public and of the next farming generation. Many kids don't want to do it, but those who do have to go to Norfolk or Smith agricultural tech schools — trips that take time and cost the towns a lot. Marsi noted there's been some talk of having Tufts in Grafton do this, and "Southbridge has the capacity."

Adams said he sees that

as part of educating kids for a trade; while traditional academics tend to leave students with big debts, trades give them a way to make a living quickly. He advocated for a local voke-ag school, noting that Bay Path "has the tech to help us out."

Another land issue is the fact a lot of 61A land has been taken for development, especially for Chapter 40B "affordable" housing to meet state 10 percent requirements. When one audience member noted Chapter 61 gives towns the "right of first refusal" of such land, Adams noted the issue is usually cost, and it's "tough to make that decision" on local budgets. (The law requires the town to buy it at market rates, which is usually far higher than its agricultural value.)

Adams said he expects Southbridge to hit the 10 percent figure, while developers turn to Dudley and Charlton "because you have the land." He wants to see a "smooth process when affordable housing comes your way."

Marsi agreed, saying cost is one reason why "we tend to push back heavily on that" and encourage the reuse of existing buildings instead. He cited the Stevens Mill as one example and the fact another sold property stayed in farming as a hemp farm. (A similar example in Southbridge is the ongoing redevelopment of the American Optical campus, with 5-15 Case Street being a 40B project.)

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

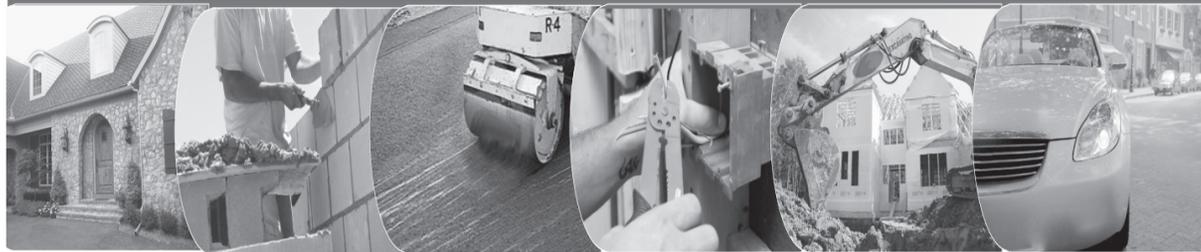


Courtesy

MILESTONE ACHIEVED IN BAY PATH METAL FABRICATION PROGRAM

Chris Wong Kam, lead instructor at Bay Path RVTHS's Metal Fabrication program, proudly announces a significant achievement by the Metal Fab. Class of 2026. The students, under the guidance of their instructors (Chris Wong Kam and Patrick Fogarty) have successfully passed the D9.1m/D9 American Welding Society, Gas Metal Arc Welding certification. This marks the program's inaugural inclusion of this certification, with plans to continue in the future. The Sophomore class demonstrated their skills by MIG welding 10-gauge mild steel with a one eighth inch opening in the vertical position. The welding process was evaluated and certified by Tom Ferri. Mr. Ferri is an American Welding Society Certified Welding Inspector (CWI). All students received a passing grade. Notably, this certification is one of two that Metal Fab students undertake, with the next one being the AWS/Mass.DOT D1.5 3/8 structural certification scheduled for the end of junior year. This achievement reflects the commitment and dedication to excellence in Metal Fabrication program at Bay Path RVTHS. Pictured, back left: Sam Kittredge, Nathan Dube, Joey Kelley, Cody Dombroski, Aidan Ferandes, Jayson Everitt. Front Left: Patrick Fogarty, Alex Audunsson, Valentina Culberson, Grace Dumas, Chris Wong Kam.

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Kory Eng, president and CEO of the United Way of North Central Massachusetts; Timothy Garvin, president and CEO of the United Way of Central Massachusetts; Tina Puzo, vice president and branch officer of the Auburn office of bankHometown and the bank's workplace campaign coordinator; Robert J. Morton, bankHometown president and CEO; Mary O'Coin, executive director of the United Way of South Central Massachusetts.

bankHometown donates \$27,000 to United Way

OXFORD — bankHometown and its employees recently made donations of more than \$27,000 to three United Way organizations in Central Massachusetts.

Employees pledged more than \$17,000 of their own funds in the bank's United Way workplace campaign for 2024. Combined with the bank's donation of \$10,000, the campaign total of \$27,419 will be divided among the United Way organizations of Central, North Central, and South Central Massachusetts as determined by the employees. The campaign lets employees donate and direct funds to advocate for causes most important to them. As a long-time contributor, the bank and its employees have donated more than \$176,000 through the workplace campaign and donations to other United

Way-related campaigns, events, and initiatives.

The United Way is a volunteer-driven organization that serves residents through its own programs and services as well as those of its partner agencies. The organization works to advance the common good by focusing on the building blocks for a good life — education, financial stability, health, and basic needs.

“bankHometown and our employees are proud to support the United Way in its mission to unlock the full potential of our friends, neighbors, and communities in need throughout Central Massachusetts,” said bankHometown President and CEO Robert J. Morton.

Nichols College alum contributes \$1 million to advance innovation in data science

DUDLEY — Nichols College has received a \$1 million gift from an alumnus of the school who wishes to remain anonymous. The gift will support the innovative work of Nichols faculty and students in advancing knowledge and the critical data science skills needed for today's workforce.

“Nichols College has been at the forefront of preparing graduates for the digital transformation of business through our signature student-managed programs in intelligent process automation and real-world consulting,” said Bill Pieczynski, interim president of Nichols. “A gift of this magnitude will greatly enhance these already robust efforts by expanding research and experiential learning opportunities that ultimately broaden career prospects for our students.

“I am immensely grateful to the donor, not only for his generosity but for his foresight in recognizing the impact this gift will have on educating the next generation of professionals.”

Nichols currently immerses students in a range of data science and student-managed initiatives, including training on specialized software to create bots, or robotic process automations, to solve business challenges for area companies and nonprofit organizations. The gift will support additional technology and resources, increase experiential and leadership opportunities for students, and promote Nichols' preeminence as a college of choice for data science.

About Nichols

Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols College transforms today's students into tomorrow's leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations.



BAY PATH NURSING STUDENTS CELEBRATE NATIONAL PIE DAY

CHARLTON — The Practical Nursing Class of 2024 at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy observed the National Pie Day Jan. 23.

Traditionally, National Pie Day is a celebration of pies that occurs annually in the United States which started in the mid-1970s by Boulder, Colo. nuclear engineer, brewer, and teacher, Charlie Papazian. Since 1986, National Pie Day is sponsored by the American Pie Council. The class of 2024 participated with the team lead, Christiana Sochiletey of Worcester who coordinated the celebration. The photo shows from left Regina Njuguna, Tracy Nakyagaba, Kaitlin Millauskas, Christiana Sochiletey, Bridgit Waweru, and Princess Agyeman, all holding pies!

Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director, is grateful for Sochiletey's leadership and the class of 2024's participation.

Bolandrina said, “It was the first time for all of us to celebrate national pie day. Term 2 for our practical nursing students is challenging, having reason to celebrate makes the time they spend together a little sweeter.”

Just like the pies, everyone was encouraged to grab a slice and celebrate. Grab a slice of life.

Photos of the national pie day celebration and other PN students with their pies are available for viewing at the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy's Facebook Page, <https://www.facebook.com/BayPathPracticalNursing2015>.

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The Town of Brookfield is accepting applications for a full-time Highway Foreman (Operator 1)
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P.E.T. of the Week

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Wyatt!

Meet Handsome Wyatt! Wyatt is a 5-year-old, 35lb bundle of love in search of a quiet haven to call his own. Since the passing of his devoted owner, Wyatt has been feeling a bit lost. Having not socialized much, he's become quite the independent couch potato. Wyatt dreams of a serene environment with adults who can respect his boundaries, offering him the safety and love he deserves. While he might not be the typical “lap dog,” he promises to be a gentle and loyal companion for life. Wyatt would benefit from a few visits before transitioning to his new home and may feel more comfortable around women. If you're ready to open your heart and home to this sweet boy or would like more information, please give us a call. Let's help Wyatt find the loving family he so deeply deserves!



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Country Bank appoints Mary McGovern as President and Chief Operating Officer



McGovern as President and Chief Operating Officer, effective April 1. In her new role, McGovern will oversee the bank's operations and drive its strategic growth initiatives. Paul Scully who has been the President and Chief Executive Officer will remain as the CEO.

McGovern brings more than 30 years of experience in the banking industry, making her a valuable asset to Country Bank. She holds degrees from Emmanuel College and Babson College, and her extensive knowledge and expertise have been instrumental in the bank's success. She joined Country Bank in 2011 as its Chief Financial Officer and has since been an esteemed member of the Bank's Leadership Group.

McGovern recently attended the American Bankers Association (ABA) Wharton Leadership Lab at the University of Pennsylvania, earning an ABA Wharton Leadership Certificate. This accomplishment further solidifies her commitment to excellence and continuous professional development.

"We are thrilled to announce Mary's appointment as the next President of Country Bank," stated James Phaneuf, Chair of the Board. "Mary's proven track record, dedication, and strategic vision make her the ideal candidate for this role. We are especially proud to break the proverbial glass ceiling by appointing the first female president in Country Bank's 174-year

history."

Phaneuf further stated, "The Board is confident that Mary's leadership will drive the bank's continued success and growth. With her extensive experience, strategic mindset, and dedication to excellence, Mary is poised to lead the bank into a new era of innovation, and customer satisfaction while maintaining its position as one of the most highly capitalized financial institutions in the region."

McGovern, a resident of Wilbraham, is married to Stephen, and they have two children, Abigail and Aidan. Her deep roots in the community and passion for serving others makes her an exceptional fit for Country Bank's customer-centric approach.



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openskycs.org/stonebridge-spencer

REGION — The Board of Trustees of Country Bank announced today the appointment of Mary

Alexis Gosselin named to Regis College Dean's List

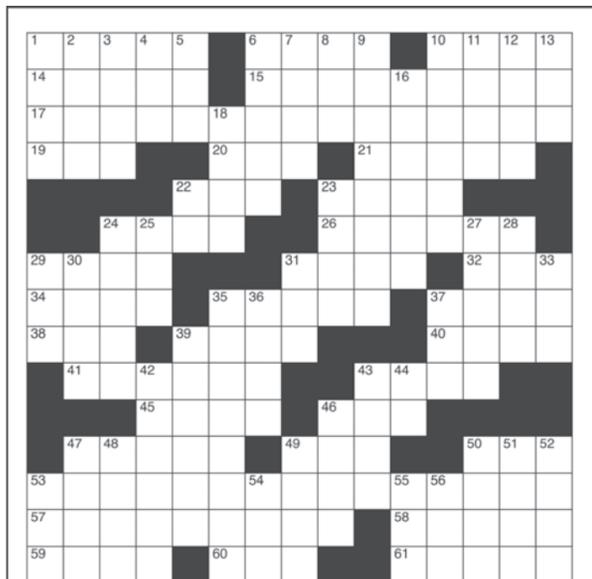
WESTON — Regis College proudly announced that Alexis Gosselin, of Spencer was named to the university's Fall 2023 Dean's List recognizing their outstanding academic achievements.

"Being named to the Dean's List is a recognition of a student's semester-long unwavering commitment to their academic program," said Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Mary Erina Driscoll, PhD. "Regis is committed to building students' character and confidence as they are intellectually prepared for a life and career of meaning through an inclusive and innovative environment. Alexis's steadfast commitment to academic excellence is reflected in being named to the Dean's List."

To earn a spot on the Dean's List, Regis sophomores, juniors, seniors, and professional studies students must have a GPA of 3.5 or higher; first-year students must have a GPA of 3.25 or higher. Additional criteria can be found in Regis' Academic Catalog.

Regis College is a coed university 12 miles west of Boston in Weston, founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston nearly a century ago. With over 3,200 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students enrolled on campus and in fully online graduate programs, Regis provides an academically rigorous education within the schools of nursing, arts and sciences, business and communication, and health sciences. In line with Regis' mission of providing innovative, industry-focused

learning opportunities, the university offers academic partnerships with hospitals and local employers, a clinical dental center in Waltham, Mass., and bachelor's completion and accelerated nursing programs at its campus in Lawrence, Mass. The university's 20 NCAA Division III athletic teams compete within the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC). Regis challenges, inspires, and supports students who are driven by passion, purpose, and a pursuit to positively impact the world within a learning community that embraces inclusivity and innovation and builds strong character, confidence, and careers. Visit regiscollege.edu to learn more.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Become less intense
- 6. Variety of pear
- 10. Religion native to China
- 14. Type of tooth
- 15. Fitted out
- 17. Make every effort
- 19. Autonomic nervous system
- 20. Complete
- 21. Alternate name
- 22. River in France and Belgium
- 23. Miami's mascot is one
- 24. Turfs
- 26. Most cognizant of reality
- 29. Broad volcanic crater
- 31. Canadian surname
- 32. Satisfaction
- 34. Traitorous Greek mythological prince
- 35. Collide
- 37. Immune response
- 38. Feline
- 39. High opinion of one's own appearance
- 40. Thin strip to align parts
- 41. Containers
- 43. Convicted American spy
- 45. Breathe noisily
- 46. Taxi
- 47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. I.M. __, architect
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Formal withdrawal
- 58. Dutch and German surname
- 59. Square measures 2,000 lbs.
- 61. Degrade someone

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Siberian river
- 2. Blessing
- 3. Substitutes (abbr.)
- 4. Principle underlying the universe
- 5. Work unit
- 6. Yellow edible fruits
- 7. Gemstone
- 8. A place ships dock (abbr.)
- 9. Evergreen tropical tree
- 10. Reality TV star Richards
- 11. Nonflowering aquatic plant
- 12. Stakes
- 13. Antidiuretic hormone
- 16. Make warm again
- 18. Light beams
- 22. Lethal dose
- 23. Terrorist group
- 24. Kids love him
- 25. Naturally occurring solid
- 27. German surname meaning "man from Saxony"
- 28. Popular cuisine
- 29. Partner to cheese
- 30. Type of horse
- 31. __ Diego
- 33. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 35. Most shrewd
- 36. It may be for shopping
- 37. Midway between south and southeast
- 39. A stock of foods
- 42. The bindings of books
- 43. Swiss river
- 44. Megabyte
- 46. Sammy __, songwriter
- 47. Dutch colonist
- 48. Clare Booth __, American writer
- 49. Sun or solar disk
- 50. Popular type of bread
- 51. Transfers of money (abbr.)
- 52. Association of engineering professionals
- 53. Young women's association
- 54. City
- 55. Niger-Congo branch of languages
- 56. Pointed end of a pen

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — In a winter of sharply fluctuating temperatures, local first responders are urging residents to heed ice safety tips.

Last week, conditions rapidly swung from single-digit overnight lows to a multi-day thaw. On multiple occasions in January, snowstorms were followed by rain events within 48 hours.

For those who enjoy ice fishing, skating, and other recreational activities on frozen water bodies, it's been frustrating to see the many vagaries of Mother Nature this winter. Ice might be safe for certain activities on a given day, but the very next day conditions could be unsafe, officials warned.

"When you do choose to go on the ice, be prepared with a cell phone in case of emergency, as well as rope," said Leicester Fire Chief Michael Dupuis. "New ice is usually stronger than old ice. Clear ice is also stronger than white, cloudy ice."

Residents are encouraged to consider several factors before stepping onto the ice.

"You can't judge ice conditions by appearance or thickness alone. Many other factors like water depth, size of water body, water chemistry, currents, snow cover, age of ice, and local weather conditions impact ice strength," read a statement released by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Ice should be at least four inches thick to support activities on foot, officials said. Small vehicles can be supported by at least twelve inches of ice.

Outdoor enthusiasts should also avoid rivers, streams, or other bodies of moving water, officials warned.

"Ice formed over flowing water and currents is often more dangerous. Avoid traveling onto ice-bound rivers and streams, as the currents make ice thickness unpredictable," the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife statement read. "Many lakes and ponds may contain spring holes and other areas of currents that can create deceptively danger-

ous thin spots."

Officials recommend that you always share your plans with a family member or friend before heading out on the ice, including where you are going and when you expect to return.

Always carry ice picks and rope with you on the ice, and be sure to wear a life jacket. In case of emergency, drive the nails into the ice and pull yourself to safety while kicking.

"If you fall in, a life jacket will keep you at the surface and can provide insulation against the effects of cold water," read the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife statement.

Additionally, bring a tape measure to check ice thickness at regular intervals. Thickness can vary throughout larger water bodies.

To learn more about how to stay safe on the ice this winter, visit www.mass.gov.

Local first responders urge caution around ice

Leicester Women's Club meets Feb. 21

LEICESTER — The Leicester Women's Club will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 11:30 a.m. at Pine Ridge Country Club in Oxford.

The program theme is "Game Day—Trivia."

The cost of lunch is \$20 per person.

To reserve your spot at the event, call Linda at 508-330-9250. Please make your reservation by Feb. 9.

New members are always welcome.



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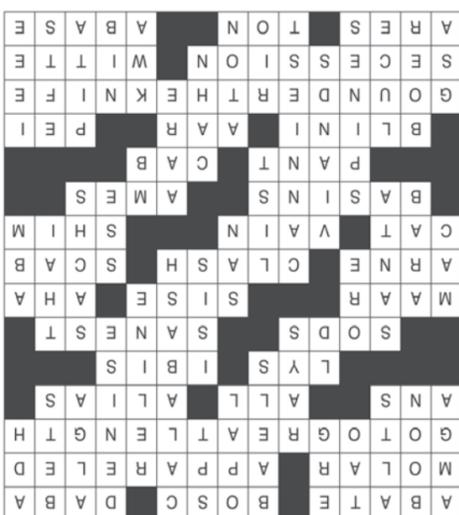
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ArtWorks Gallery celebrates the color “BLUE” with new exhibition

WARE — Things are looking colorful on Main Street in Ware! ArtWorks Gallery’s latest exhibition, aptly named “BLUE,” features works of art exploring the color blue and its various psychological and symbolic associations. Works on display represent a wide and varied range of materials and approaches, including ceramics, printmaking, watercolor, photography, charcoal, paint, mixed media, and more! ArtWorks Gallery is located at 69 Main St. in Ware.

“BLUE” opened with a reception on January 20th and will be on display from Jan. 20 through Feb. 25. Winter gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. For those who cannot attend the show in person, a virtual gallery is avail-

able for viewing at workshop13.org.

Anne Seuthe, Interim Director at the Augusta Savage Gallery at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and former Director of the Hampden Gallery, served as the juror for “BLUE.” As Director of the Hampden Gallery at UMass Amherst for 20 years, she curated over 100 solo and group exhibitions. Maurita Eaton was awarded Best in Show for her realistic and emotionally resonant white-on-black charcoal drawing, “Tangled Up & Blue.” Eva Lin Fahey’s unique watercolor combining abstraction and text, “The Deep Blue Sea,” received the honor of Most Original. John Starinovich’s striking wood and mixed media sculpture Revamped in



Blue was recognized for Best Use of Materials. Joyce Eichacker’s photograph “Havana Doorway 1,” with its compelling

play of depth of field and architecture, was awarded Best Composition. And Lee Moonan’s poignant watercolor portrait on

canvas, “Sylvia Rivera,” was awarded Best Interpretation of Theme. Each of these artists and their works will be spot-

lighted on Workshop13’s social media pages as well as in their weekly newsletter.

About ArtWorks Gallery and Workshop13: ArtWorks Gallery is Workshop13’s gallery on Main Street. This space features numerous art exhibitions each year and is also available to rent for individual or group shows. Workshop13 Cultural Arts and Learning Center is a rural non-profit arts innovator located in Ware, Massachusetts and devoted to increasing the appreciation and accessibility of the arts, strengthening the creative life of our community through instruction, collaborations, and arts-based initiatives.

Local students earn Dean’s List honors at Nichols College

DUDLEY — More than 220 students at Nichols College in Dudley have achieved Dean’s List honors during the fall 2023 semester.

Dean’s List recognizes those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. In order to be included on the Dean’s List, a student must have a minimum average of 3.5 for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and must have received no grades below B- during the semester.

The following local students earned Dean’s List honors for the fall 2023 semester:

- Olivia Charette of N. Brookfield
 - Alannah Downs of Spencer
 - Brennan Ogert of Spencer
 - Logan Talbot of North Brookfield
- About Nichols College

Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols transforms today’s students into tomorrow’s leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations. www.nichols.edu

Local students earn President’s List honors at Nichols College

DUDLEY — More than 215 students at Nichols College in Dudley have achieved President’s List honors during the fall 2023 semester.

President’s List recognizes those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. Students whose semester average is 3.85 or higher for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and no grades below B- will receive President’s List honors.

The following local students earned President’s List honors for the fall 2023 semester:

- Kiana Barnes of E Brookfield
 - Dylan Clark of Brookfield
 - Stephen Comtois of Brookfield
 - Connor Niddrie of Leicester
- About Nichols College

Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols transforms today’s students into tomorrow’s leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations. www.nichols.edu



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
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EDITORIAL

The story behind our most unique weather-predicting tradition

Every year on Feb. 2, the town of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania becomes the center of attention as the entire country waits with baited breath to see whether or not its most famous resident will see his shadow when he emerges from his underground den. It's a quirky tradition that combines weather prediction folklore with community celebration.

Groundhog Day has its origins in European weather lore, brought to North America by German immigrants. They believed that a groundhog's behavior could predict the weather, and this tradition has been passed down through generations.

Punxsutawney Phil, the famous groundhog, takes the spotlight on Groundhog Day. If Phil sees his shadow when he emerges from his burrow, it's believed that winter will last for six more weeks. If not, spring is expected to arrive early.

The celebration at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney is turned into quite the event. Thousands gather early in the morning to witness Phil's prediction. After being awakened, Phil's verdict is announced to the crowd by the "Inner Circle," who show up replete with top hats and tails. It may seem superstitious, but that is part of its charm. In a world full of serious matters, Groundhog Day is one of the rare occasions when people come together to enjoy a bit of whimsy.

This tradition has a way of uniting communities. For Punxsutawney, it's a point of pride and a symbol of local identity that's been celebrated for over a century.

Regardless of Phil's prediction, let's hope for an early spring!

Letter submission policy

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

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

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Biden is doing the job that Trump failed at

To the Editor:
 President Biden is doing his job while DJT is traveling the country spreading lies. In his State of the Union address, President Biden said he would be at ribbon cutting ceremonies to celebrate projects sponsored by the Infrastructure Bill. This bill supports hundreds of projects that have needed attention for years. Unrepaired situations have been dangerous. Witness the derailing incidents that occurred during Trump's tenure. High speed trains and neglected repair of tracks are not a good combination.

In his State of the Union address, President Biden said he would attend celebrations of Infrastructure Projects anywhere — blue, red or purple states. President Biden kept his word. While the House was taking 15 votes to elect a Speaker of the House, Biden was presiding at a celebration of repairs to a bridge between Ohio and Kentucky. Thousands of vehicles pass over this bridge daily, and lack of repair was making it a dangerous crossing. The Infrastructure Bill would enable much needed repair to take place and to provide hundreds of jobs as well. This is an example of hundreds of similar projects taking place across the country.

And the irony of it all is that Republicans are trying to take credit for the Infrastructure Bill when they all voted against it. Hypocrites!

There were those who complained about inflation — cost of eggs and gas were repeatedly used as examples of how awful it was. President Biden brought inflation down. Unemployment is at a decades low rate. President Biden is always working for the country while the former president is work-

ing for himself. Just recently it was discovered that TFG was receiving money in business deals with multiple foreign countries some with which our country had tenuous relations. And this money making took place during his presidency and was not reported. It should be evident that the former president has no regard for the rule of law or defending the Constitution.

Meanwhile, the House is trying its darndest to find some way to impeach President Biden. There is nothing there. Give it up.

And Nikki Haley recently said with pride that President Biden is too old. Recently, President Biden flew to Poland and boarded a train for a ten hour trip to Ukraine where he met President Zelensky and confirmed continued support for Ukraine. Back to the United States and right back on the job. President Biden has strengthened NATO and our partnership with it. Biden is too old? I say more experienced. And by the way, Trump is old too. And his latest meandering tirades may be showing he is the senile one.

Remember when Trump said he would solve the Ukraine war in 48 hours? I wonder if that solution would be to hand Ukraine over to Russia. After all, he did say Putin was a smart guy for invading Ukraine. Trump meanwhile might be aiding and abetting WWII by supporting Putin. But then Trump wants to be a dictator. Believe him when he indicates this on his campaign trail. That is one thing he is not lying about.

PATRICIA JACKMAN
 NORTH BROOKFIELD

Biden taxflation

To the Editor:
 The consequences of voting for Dem Progressive Liberals like Biden and Healy is going to hit residents of the Commonwealth square in their wallets. Not only will you be paying record high electricity and food prices, but now, you're going to see the costs of providing "Free stuff" to all the illegals flooding our state due to Biden's open border policies. You see, nothing in life is "Free"; somebody has to pick up the tab. Now we know ultimately who that is. It's you, the hardworking taxpayers of Massachusetts.

Remember that rebate from excess collections last year. It's now gone this year to fund illegals' housing. Remember the state's rainy day funds? Gone to fund the rain of illegal aliens unleashed on the state by Biden's open borders. Progressive Healy is giving them free housing, free college, free childcare, free everything at your expense. You see, in the Dem Progressive vocabulary, 'free' means funded by taxation on those that work hard. You are going to see a push by the state Dems to raise the state income tax to fund Healy's new budget. The one that gives affordable housing to illegals. The excess tax money that used to go back to towns to help cover the school costs is now being allocated to the freeloaders. You read last week in this paper of all the cuts in state funding for local projects. This is all happening while giveaways to illegals by Healy increased. With her cutting local aide and funding, where do you think the money is going to come from to pay for the state DEI mandates in our schools? You guessed it — property owners in towns. You're going to now see the towns try to push 2 ½ overrides to offset this loss of revenue. It's a lot easier for a town manager to raise your taxes than take on the schools. They'll say it's for police and fire to make towns safe. Keep your town "Strong." (Won't mention from the illegals flooding the towns.) Try to cut money from the school DEI programs and the teachers' union will strike. Of course, they will say it's for "For the kids." They need to learn about racial and sexual problems in our society. The result for residents? A double whammy of Progressive Dem taxflation. In

addition, Healy is already proposing that towns add surcharges on excise tax bills. That makes it a triple whammy to your paycheck. Taxflation, all brought to you by Joe Biden, Healy, and the Progressive Democrats.

Have you seen Biden and the Senate Dems' idea of "Closing the Border" bill? It would allow 5,000 illegals a week before Biden could close the border. And then only if he wants to! That's a quarter of a million illegal aliens a year. Only in the altered reality of the Democrats is that considered "closing the border." The leftist news acts as if the Republicans are the ones keeping the border open. Just more disinformation and lies from the Dem Socialist propaganda dept to their useful fools. The only thing you can do is resist. When an override comes up, vote it down. Make Healy and her progressive fund the schools. Instead of paying for illegals make them pay for our kids. It is your money not hers.

We have a lot of dopes out there that think Biden's economy is doing great. Double the housing costs, double the energy costs, and now taxflation. They will say none of this is caused by Biden. Kind of hard to believe that there are people out there that believe this. Obviously, they are the ones that the state needs to provide for due to their limitations. We experiencing it know the truth. It's all caused by the Dem Progressives DEI policies and open borders with puppet leaders like Biden and Healy. If you are a thinking, hardworking American that believes you should keep what you work for; that advancement should be by merit, that race or sexual preference should not be a deciding factor, then there is only one answer for you to help solve the problem. Get on the Trump train for 2024! Ride into a new America where you are not getting taxed out of existence to pave the way for Dem DEI socialism. Also, you have to Feb 24 to change your part affiliation. Change from Democrat to Republican to ensure you can vote in the Republican primary. Make sure the Dems don't try to take away the right for you to vote!

MARK ROBILLARD
 SPENCER

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Benefits of fixed-income investments



When many people think about investing, the first thing that comes to mind is the stock market. And that's not surprising, as the rise and fall of stock prices is constantly in the news. But if you're going to achieve your financial goals, you may well need to look beyond stocks and include fixed-income investments in your portfolio.

Fixed-income investments offer three important benefits:

Income — When you invest in fixed-income vehicles, such as bonds, Treasury securities and certificates of deposit (CDs), you receive regular income in the form of interest payments. And you continue to receive this income until your investment matures or you sell it, no matter what's happening in the financial markets. Of course, the income you can receive from fixed-income investments will always depend on the interest rates at which these investments were issued. But if you own a mix of long-term and short-term fixed-income investments, you can gain some protection against fluctuating rates. When market rates are low, you can get greater income from your longer-term bonds, which typically — although not always — pay higher rates. And when market rates rise, you can benefit by reinvesting the proceeds from your shorter-term bonds.

Diversification — If you were only to own stocks, or stock-based mutual funds, your portfolio would be susceptible to higher risks, especially with market downturns. But you may be able to reduce the impact of market volatility by adding fixed-income investments to your holdings. Bond prices often move in a different direction from stocks, so if stock prices are falling, you might find that the value of your bonds is rising. You can also diversify within the fixed-income portion of your portfolio by owning a mix of corporate and Treasury bonds, as well as CDs, just to name a few.

Stability — As mentioned, you will always receive interest payments from your bonds if you hold them until maturity. But if you wanted to sell your bonds before they mature, you could get more, or less, than what you originally paid for them. When market interest rates rise, the price of your current bonds will likely fall, as no one will pay you the full price for them when they get newer ones that pay more — this is what's known as interest-rate risk. Conversely, when market rates fall, the prices of your current bonds will probably rise. But here's the key point to remember: Bond prices generally don't fluctuate as much as stock prices. In other words, bonds are typically less volatile than stocks. Consequently, owning bonds can add diversification to your portfolio. And to maximize the stabilizing effects of bonds, you may want to stick with high-quality bonds rated as "investment grade" by independent bond-rating agencies.

How much of your portfolio should consist of fixed-income investments? There's no one right answer for everyone. And over time, your interest in these types of investments may well change — for example, as you near retirement, you may want to consider shifting some of your growth-oriented investments into income-producing ones, though you'll still need some growth potential to keep up with inflation. In any case, the combination of income, diversification and stability provided by bonds and similar securities should be compelling enough for you to find a place for them in your investment mix.

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.

Reader's Share Favorite Tips and Tricks

Here we are in the middle of a New England winter, and what better time to cozy up to a column of helpful hints from readers? From repurposing throw-aways to an ingenious de-icing hack, this week's column features an array of useful, proven strategies to make everyday life a little easier!

And remember readers, send in your favorite tips and you'll have the chance win a three course dinner for two at the Publick House!

** This reader shares a duo of helpful hacks –

one to save money and another to share memories!

Tired of all those brown paper grocery bags? Here's one idea that can save you money. Instead of throwing them out you can cut them up and use them as needed to wrap items that you ship in the mail. On one side, just cut down one long seam from top to bottom and then keep cutting out all around the bottom square section. Roll up the long piece and keep adding to the roll with a rubber band. Eventually, you will have a lot of free,



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

Cindy Randall
Auburn, MA

A Reader shares an innovative way to store seasonal flags. As a bonus, would-be trash is recycled!

I have always enjoyed your "Take the Hint!" column and have often wondered what kind of "hint" I could provide that I haven't seen. I just had a revelation that I would like to share.

If you are anyone like me, I like to swap out my holiday "flags" to be displayed in front of my home.

As I was taking down my autumn decorations and putting up my Christmas ones, I started folding my "autumn" flag. I happened to glance over at some new Christmas wrapping paper on cardboard rolls, and I suddenly came up with a great idea!

I ran upstairs and found an older roll of Christmas wrapping paper that was almost gone. I removed the cardboard tube, and ran back downstairs! The roll fit perfectly into the part of the flag where the flagpole goes! After inserting the cardboard tube, I rolled the flag around it! Voila!

Next autumn when I take out my flag, I will not have to iron out the wrinkles, as it is rolled around the tube! I am going to save all of my cardboard rolls from this Christmas to do the same thing with my other seasonal flags.

I hope this helps some of your readers! Even if it doesn't...it sure helped me!

Kathy Nuge
(no address submitted)

Here's a recycling tip that keeps shoes clean when traveling; as a bonus it doesn't add any weight!

Save the long, thin plastic sleeves that come from newspaper deliveries! They are an ideal fit for shoes when packing a suitcase, and you can easily replace as needed.

Lois O'Leary
Brookfield, MA

This clever reader figured out a common sense solution when she found herself iced out:

With the recent ice storm, I couldn't touch the frozen fuel door of my vehicle and the inside release lever couldn't function either! I had alcohol wipes and heat a couple of chemical shake hand warmers in my car. It took a while, but by scratching gently through the ice around the door with the alcohol wipes, and holding the hand warmer over the ice to keep warming it, I finally got the door to open!

I now have loaded my pocket with those aerosol de-icer lock solutions, I hope your readers do the same.

Viola Bramel

Northbridge, MA

Prize Winner
Congratulations to Donna Joyce of Southbridge, MA whose name was drawn for Dinner for Two at the Publick House. She shared the bag recycling and photo tips above.

** Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

The rising cost of pet ownership



Courtesy

This week's picture shows John Gareri with a couple of monster largemouth bass caught in Maine last week at Gareri's lodge.

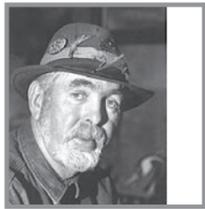
Ice fishing in the valley took a hard hit from this past weekend's warm weather & rain, although some did brave the poor ice conditions. Better ice conditions should return this coming week with the return of bitter cold temperatures for early week. Unfortunately, snow was also in the forecast this past Sunday, which could keep the ice from refreezing, causing dangerous ice conditions for anglers.

Last week's picture of a 15-pound rainbow trout that was caught in Rhode Island was one of a number of large rainbow trout recently stocked by the state of Rhode Island! The hatchery was cleaning out some of their breeders, as new ones came along. Too bad none of the big Rainbow trout were not stocked in Wallum Lake. At least no reports of any have reached this writer.

Jerry Gareri ice fished in Maine near his camp last week, and he had a great weekend catching numerous species of fish with his son, Johnny! This week's picture shows his son with a couple of nice largemouth bass, which were all returned to the water to fight another day. Local ice fishing anglers are taking a lot of action when they can find safe ice.

The economy is great for some, and not so good for others. There is sad news of animal shelters full to capacity in most areas, and it is only getting worse. Residents in numerous states are giving up their pets because of the high cost of caring for them. Veterinary bills cost as much to care for their pets as it is to care for family members!

Adopting a pet from an animal shelter is also expensive. At one time, an adoption was reasonable,



THE GREAT OUTDOORS

RALPH TRUE

and could be afforded by wage earners in the lower bracket pay scale. A simple visit to a veterinarian can cost hundreds of dollars. If they are sick and

need surgery, it can cost a couple of thousand dollars or more.

I often watch veterinarian shows on TV, and the work that these veterinarians do to save animals is amazing. Taking proper care of your pets prior to them needing medical care could avoid their pets suffering from broken bones and some serious operations that can also be extremely expensive care.

Labrador Retrievers' number one reason for major surgery is from eating anything in sight. They have swallowed a kitchen knife & socks to a baby's plastic nipple from a formula bottle. A number of years ago, I was waiting to have my Lab checked in at the veterinarian's office when a young woman came in crying because her Lab had swallowed the baby's nipple, from the formula bottle. The worst part of the story was that the dog had one surgically removed, only a couple of weeks prior. The boric line is, owning a dog or cat requires a lot of time & money, but if you can afford one, it is worth it all!

Local Rod & Gun Clubs are still planning their annual ice derbies. Stay tuned!

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

good quality, heavy duty packaging paper that you can use with the blank side showing when you need to mail/ship package!

Another idea, if you have numerous photographs hanging around that you don't know what to do with if they are not going into a photo album: Separate them by family or friends in a clear plastic gallon-sized bag labeled by name, and when you send out Christmas cards or greeting cards or when you write to someone, just insert a couple of their pictures. Chances are your recipients will have completely forgotten that the photos were even taken, and they will reliving the moment and bringing back the memories. It will help you get rid of your stash of pictures and de-clutter at the same time, bringing a smile to their faces and happy memories of past events.

Donna Joyce
Southbridge, MA

Here's an easy and effortless tip to extend the life of your razors (and prevent nicks from dull blades):

To keep your razors sharp, let them soak in baby oil between uses.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

You have a clear choice to represent the 6th District

To the Editor:

On Feb. 6, you have the opportunity to choose the next State Representative for the 6th Worcester District, and Republican primary voters in Dudley, Charlton, Southbridge, and Spencer have a clear choice.

I'm John Marsi; I've been a Dudley Selectman for 12 years, three years as Chairman, seven years as vice chairman. I have two kids, one in college and another at Shepherd Hill. I'm a chemical engineer by trade and have over 25 years of experience in business management, budgeting, and leadership. I am a problem solver by nature.

Throughout my time in public service, my priorities have always prioritized public safety, local aid, and education. Over the past months, I've traveled the district and talked to residents. From those conversations, it's clear that we need strong leadership on three state issues:

Addressing the illegal immigration crisis unfolding right before our eyes in Massachusetts

Protecting taxpayers' wallets by making Massachusetts more affordable

Defending our Second Amendment rights.

With state revenues down \$1 billion this year, the Governor has already used her 9C powers to cut local projects. Add to that the almost \$1 billion she's already promised to the immigrant crisis - a \$2 Billion deficit. That money must come from someone, and that someone is you.

In the Governor's \$58 billion budget released last week, municipalities are allowed to raise local taxes on meals and hotels, shifting the burden to you.

Let's move the 6th District forward

To the Editor:

I am asking for your vote to be your next State Representative in the 6th Worcester District.

I want to thank you for your support in my run for the Republican candidacy, and I have been truly humbled. I committed to transparency, maintained open communication daily and pursued an aggressive approach to present my platform, leadership, and experiences to our voters, and I believe I was successful at doing it.

My platform encompasses a wide range of issues, including affordable housing, 40B projects, healthcare, agriculture, addressing unfunded mandates, education, budget cuts, infrastructure, support for Veterans, seniors, mental health, and first responders, among other crucial concerns, I held nothing back including speaking on our Second Amendment Rights and immigration.

As a retired Sergeant Major, gun owner, and instructor, I wholeheartedly support our Second Amendment Rights. I emphasize individual responsibility and oppose tightening laws affecting law-abiding citizens. It's crucial to recognize the issues lie not with the gun but gun owner(s) who may be facing mental health challenges or engaging in criminal activities, addressing these specific aspects for a more comprehensive approach to public safety needs to be the priority.

Having grown up in a state bordering Mexico, I am well aware of the immigration issues. I advocate for legal immigration, recognizing our shared immigrant roots. However, I do not support illegal immigration and am critical of recent federal and state actions in this regard. The federal government has let us down at every corner when it comes to securing the border and the financial burden of nonsupport to all the states. Simultaneously, our state has fallen well short of their own immigration policies, leaving our

In turn, we expect to see local aid cuts – and that's wrong. We need to ensure local aid gets to all of the towns in this district. And that is my commitment to you. Furthermore, the Chapter 70 educational funding formula is broken and needs to be addressed - we shouldn't have to choose between public safety and education. Massachusetts can live within its means and still prioritize local aid.

How do we fix this?

We need to amend the Right-to-Shelter law to ensure we can take care of our own residents, and I will work with Senator Peter Durant to do that.

Let me be clear: the immigration issue is not about the people, it's about the financial burden that its inflicting on every individual and municipality. I'm a great-grandson of Italian immigrants who came here with nothing. From their hard work and the lessons they have taught me, I'm honored to put my name forward to represent you. I believe we need to prioritize our own residents, our veterans, and our seniors right now because they are hurting, and without help, their situation will only get worse.

I'm the only candidate endorsed by Republican leaders, such as Senator Peter Durant and Sheriff Lew Evangelidis. I'm the only candidate who has signed the No New Taxes pledge, earned a 100% rating from the Gun Owners Action League, and will represent the entire district, not just one town.

I humbly ask for your vote on Feb. 6 in the Republican Primary.

Thank you very much; I won't let you down!

JOHN MARSI
DUDLEY

residents without shelter, and costing taxpayers over \$1 billion.

Throughout discussions (all released through physical meet and greets, live streaming and text) about my agenda, I consistently provided detailed perspectives, expressing support or opposition only after thorough consideration. I delved into the specifics, addressing concerns, offering recommendations, and highlighting how my experiences and leadership skills from my career in the United States Marine Corps, Town Councilor and multiple Chairmanship roles uniquely qualify me to be your next State Representative (please go to www.votedaveadams.com for more information).

I strongly advocate for first responders, was endorsed by the Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts. I support seniors and Veterans, securing over \$150,000.00 in ARPA funds, earning endorsement from the Massachusetts Retirees Association, was instrumental in planning, infrastructure and fostering economic growth, contributing to community revitalization worth millions of dollars to Southbridge and can do the same as your next State Representative.

I am a lifelong Republican, Town Councilor for 6 years, and retired Marine Corps Sergeant Major. I ran a grass roots independent race, staying true to my moral convictions setting me apart from my opponent by avoiding false witness for votes and my integrity is in tact. I am a seasoned leader with a track record of effective governance and community development. My experience and proven leadership reflect my passion and the trust of my peers and my residents which will be crucial being your next State Representative.

I ask for your support and vote on Feb. 6 to move this district forward.

DAVID ADAMS
SOUTHBRIDGE

OBITUARIES

Jane G. Bates, 95



LEICESTER- Jane G. (Moreau) Bates, 95, two days shy of her 96 birthday, died peacefully, Wednesday, January 24 at her home surrounded by her loving family.

She leaves her two daughters, Heidi J. Laliberte and her husband Kenneth of Spencer; Lisa B. Laliberte and her husband Norman of North Brookfield, 4 grandchildren; Heather, Joshua, Eric, Brooke, 8 great-grandchildren, 1 great-great grandson, many nieces and nephews, her close friends and neighbors, Chuck and Sue Krikorian and her cat "Bo".

She was predeceased by a daughter, Donna Sutter and a granddaughter Alicia Sutter.

Born in Worcester, she was the daughter of Neal S. & Alice L. (MacClure) Moreau.

Mrs. Bates was a graduate of Leicester High School and then worked at Verizon and its previous telephone companies for 45 years, retiring

in 1989.

She was a member of the former Leicester Federated Church and the Leicester Senior Center. She enjoyed volunteering for F.I.S.H., the

Spencer/East Brookfield and Leicester school systems as a bus monitor and also read to the children there. She loved gardening, bird watching and shooing away the squirrels from the bird feeders, her daily walks and traveling.

Above all, she loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

At the family's request there are no services planned. A private graveside service in Pine Grove Cemetery, Leicester will be held at a later date and at the convenience of the family. Please omit flowers. Contributions in Jane's name may be made to a local animal shelter or to a charity of one's choice.

The MORIN FUNERAL HOME, 1131 Main St., Leicester is assisting the family with arrangements.

www.morinfuneralhomes.com

David P. Boutillette, 75



SPENCER: David P. Boutillette, 75, of Spencer, died Thursday, Jan. 25th, at his home surrounded by his loving family.

He leaves his wife of 55 years, Linda K. (Parrotta) Boutillette, his daughters; Angela M. Almendarez and her husband Carlos of Rebecca, GA and Lori A. LaFlower and her husband Michael of Spencer, his grandchildren;

Linda Celina Gunderman of Northampton, Anneliese Hester of Fitzgerald, Ga. and Vanessa Polinski of Spencer. He also leaves behind many cousins and many friends that he considered family.

The family would like to give a special thank you to Regina Amagyei for her love and special care that she gave to David during his final years.

David was born in Worcester, the son of Phillip and Claire V. (Bernard) Boutillette. He graduated from David Prouty High School in Spencer in 1966. After graduation he attended Ward's Business School. He then served his country with the US Army and was stationed in Da Nang, Vietnam. When he returned home he attended Worcester State College.

David was an entrepreneur who

owned several area businesses including: Custom Shed Designs, Dalin Modular Homes and Spencer's One Hour Photo. David loved his hometown, He created the game About Town Spencer donating all the proceeds to the Spencer Little League in order to build Powder Mill Park for the children. He also served as Spencer's sewer commissioner in the early 1980's.

He loved playing the guitar. In the 1960's he was a guitarist for the group The Illusions, and in the 1980's he played with The Country Rebels. He was also a car enthusiast and especially enjoyed driving his Corvettes. He also enjoyed spending many of his winters at his home in Florida. He was a member of the Gaudette-Kirk Post 138 American Legion and a parishioner of Mary, Queen of the Rosary Parish.

David's funeral was held on Wednesday, Jan. 31 from the J.HENRI MORIN & SON FUNERAL HOME, 23 Maple Terr., Spencer with a Funeral Mass at 10 a.m. in Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 7 Church St., Spencer. Burial with Military Honors followed in Worcester County Memorial Park, Paxton. Calling hours were Tuesday from 5 to 7 p.m. in the funeral home. Memorial donations may be made to either Gaudette-Kirk Post 138, 175 Main St., Spencer, MA 01562 or Veterans Inc. 69 Grove St., Worcester, MA 01605.

www.morinfuneralhomes.com

Ross Newell, 59



East Brookfield - Ross Newell, 59, of East Brookfield, passed away on Saturday, January 13, 2024 after a long stay at St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester.

He leaves behind his sister, Cindy Varney, whom he called DeeDee, and whom he loved dearly; as well as his brother, Ray Varney. He was predeceased by his sister, Lynn Varney; his brother, Lane Varney; his nephew, Derek Paquette; and his niece, Jennifer Lane. He was born in Ware, son of the late Harry J. Newell and Ellen M. (Lane) Grant.

Ross loved Gloucester, swimming, fishing, action movies, all sports, music, going out to eat, dancing, and just going for rides in the car. His infectious laugh and personality will be sorely missed.

A Graveside Service for Ross will be held in the Walnut Grove Cemetery in North Brookfield at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Cerebral Palsy Foundation, 3 Columbus Circle, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10019 US, or online at <https://donate.cerebralpalsyfoundation.org>.

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

An online guest book is available at varnumfuneralhome.com

Send all obituary notices to Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail to obits@stonebridgepress.news

Erica Cordeiro named to UM Dean's Honor Roll

UNIVERSITY, Miss. — Erica Cordeiro, of Spencer was named to the University of Mississippi's Fall 2023 Honor Roll lists.

Cordeiro, majoring in Finance, was named to the Dean's Honor Roll, which is reserved for students who earn a semester GPA of 3.50-3.74.

In order to be eligible for honor roll designation, a student must have completed at least 12 graded hours for the semester and may not be on academic probation during the semester.

The University of Mississippi, affectionately known as Ole Miss, is the state's flagship university. Included in the elite group of R1: Doctoral Universities - Highest Research Activity by the Carnegie Classification, it has a long history of producing leaders in public service, academics and business. Its 16 academic divisions include a major medical school, nationally recognized schools of accountancy, law and pharmacy, and an Honors College acclaimed for a blend of academic rigor, experiential learning and opportunities for community action. Recognized among the nation's most beautiful, Ole Miss' main campus is in Oxford, which is routinely acknowledged as one of the country's best college towns.

Justin Howard of W. Brookfield named to Dean's List at American International College

SPRINGFIELD — American International College (AIC) student Justin Howard of W. Brookfield has earned Dean's List honors for the fall 2023 semester.

Howard is majoring in Exercise Science. Dean's List honors are awarded to full-time students who have achieved a 3.3 to 4.0 GPA. AIC commends Baxter and all of those on the Dean's List for their hard work and dedication.

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

Jaime Mann named to Elms College Dean's List

CHICOPEE — Jaime Mann, of Leicester, was named to the College of Our Lady of the Elms fall 2023 Dean's List.

Mann was among 482 students named to the fall 2023 Dean's List. To qualify, a full-time student must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher, without incompletes.

Elms College is a coed Catholic college offering a liberal arts curriculum that prepares students holistically for a purposeful life in a diverse and interconnected world. Founded in 1928 by the Sisters of St. Joseph, Elms College has a tradition of educating reflective, principled and creative learners, who are rooted in faith, educated in mind, compassionate in heart, responsive to civic and social obligations, and capable of adjusting to change without compromising principle.

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GRANT
continued from page A1

you on your grant award and applaud your efforts to create a cleaner energy future for your community and the Commonwealth as a whole.”

For town leaders, the grant award is an exciting step toward making West Brookfield a greener community. Town Administrator Ron San Angelo, with support from the Select Board, applied for the state grants to upgrade several buildings.

“The Green Communities Grant of \$180,526 will improve energy efficiency and save local tax dollars. This is a win for our environment and for taxpayers,” San Angelo told the New Leader.

Select Board Chair Roland Sickenberger and his team are thanked for their ongoing support of green projects. Julia Moore, an associate planner with the Central MA Regional Planning Commission, has also played a role in the process.

DELAGE
continued from page A1

school with me to practice and make sure I was ready. Also, I would like to thank my music lessons instructor, Samantha Raillo, for all of the practice sessions and time she put in for me to be as ready as I could for

Central Districts.”

School officials are thrilled to see Delage continue to excel and represent LHS at major functions. In recent years, the school’s Music Department has seen several young musicians progress through its programs and perform alongside the best talents

the region has to offer.

“Ryan put in so much work to prepare for his audition. We spent countless hours reading through the music, changing tempos, and staring at the music until it made sense,” said LHS music teacher Alexis Phillips in a previous interview. “Ryan is one

of the most hard-working students at LHS. Between AP classes, soccer, track, and homework, he finds time to practice something that truly means so much to him. I am so proud of all the work Ryan puts into our music program.”

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GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

Get a jump start on managing plant pests this winter

Just like us, insects spend their winters in different locations. Unlike us, they spend their winters in different stages of development. Some may overwinter as adults, others in their immature stage as grubs, caterpillars, or nymphs, while others will be in the pupal stage like a chrysalis or cocoon. Understanding their lifecycle and location can help us support beneficial insects while managing problem insect pests.

Invite beneficial insects like lady beetles, parasitic wasps, and predatory mites to your landscape to help manage populations of plant-damaging pests. Add a birdbath to encourage insect-eating songbirds into your gardens. Most songbirds eat insects or feed them to their young while adding color, movement, and entertainment to your garden.



Melinda Myers

This lilac is infested with scale insects that form a grayish to dark brown protective covering called a test that resembles an oyster or mussel shell. It is an insect pest of more than 130 species of plants.

Keeping your plants healthy with proper care is the first and an important step in any pest management strategy. Healthy plants are better able to tolerate pest attacks and are more likely to recover from the damage.

Despite your best efforts, insect pests may attack and damage your plants. Birds and predaceous insects often manage small populations but there may be times you decide to inter-

cede. Winter is a great time to monitor and, in many cases, manage plant-damaging insects.

Scale insects can be one of these and come in a variety of colors and shapes, but all grow and reproduce under a waxy covering. This covering protects them from predators, desiccation, and pesticides. Depending on the scale species they may overwinter as an immature scale, fertilized female, or eggs

under the protective covering.

Treating plant damaging scale in late winter or early spring is one way to jump-start control of this pest while having minimal or no impact on beneficial insects that will help manage this pest. Take some time now to check plants for problem pests like the invasive oystershell scale.

This insect is not native to North America and is a pest of more than 130 species of plants including poplars, ash, beech, maple, willows, dogwood, cotoneaster, and lilacs. Adult scale insects form a grayish to dark brown protective covering called a test that resembles an oyster or mussel shell. In the fall the mated female lays 20 to 100 eggs inside the test, dies and the eggs remain there throughout the winter.

Removing heavily infested twigs and branches is an option when the scale population is contained in a small portion of the plant. You can also gently scrape

the scale off branches and stems with a plastic dish scrubber. Be careful not to damage thin-barked plants.

Another option is to apply organic lightweight horticulture oil like Summit Year-Round Spray Oil when plants are dormant. The temperatures must be 40 degrees or higher when treating. As always, read and follow label directions for effective and safe control. Since the eggs are so well protected, a second application of the horticulture oil can increase success. Make a second application, if needed, when the eggs hatch and the immature insects known as crawlers emerge in spring after the buds have burst.

As you survey your landscape this winter, pay special attention to stressed plants and those susceptible to oystershell scale and other insect pests common in your area. Plants exposed to road dust and pesticides may also be more vulnerable as these

conditions negatively impact predators and parasites that help manage plant pests.

Regularly monitoring plant health, working with nature, and strategically managing invasive pests like the oystershell scale can help improve the health, vigor, and longevity of your landscape plants.

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.

To conquer or be defeated is your choice

I was recently reading Norman Vincent Peale's renowned book, "The Power of Positive Thinking." In it, a chapter titled "I Don't Believe in Defeat" particularly caught my eye.

That's an intriguing statement. He doesn't believe in defeat?

Yet, history and everyday life are littered with examples. The Nazis faced a resounding defeat in World War II, legendary boxer Muhammad Ali tasted defeat in the ring, and once-giant corporations like Blockbuster and Kodak have crumbled under the weight of progress.

Defeat seems not just a possibility, but a certainty. So, what exactly does Peale mean when he boldly claims he doesn't believe in defeat? When you dig deeper into Peale's book, you understand exactly what he's getting at.

He discusses two types of individuals and their approaches to life's challenges. Inspired by Peale's

insights, let's conceptualize a hypothetical scenario that embodies his principles.

Imagine two characters: 'The Overcomer' and 'The Obstacle Person.' These are not individuals Peale specifically names but archetypes we can use to explore his ideas further.

In this scene, The Overcomer, who embodies Peale's philosophy of positive thinking and problem-solving, discusses with The Obstacle Person, who symbolizes the defeatist attitude Peale warns against.

The exchange unfolds something like this:

The Overcomer, noticing a habitual negativity in the other's responses, addresses The Obstacle Person with a mix of curiosity and challenge. "Why do you always emphasize the obstacles rather than the possibilities?" he asks, his voice tinged with genuine curiosity.

With a shrug of resignation, the Obstacle Person replies, "Because

to be intelligent, one must always be realistic. There are undeniable obstacles in this project. And you, how do you propose we deal with these obstacles?"

"That's simple," the Overcomer responds with unwavering confidence. "I'd just remove them, that's all, and then forget about them."

The Obstacle person laughs sarcastically and replies, "That's easier said than done," skepticism heavy in his voice.

A knowing smile creeps across The Overcomer's face as they lean in slightly. "My life has been a journey of overcoming obstacles. I've yet to meet one that couldn't be dismantled with enough faith, guts, and hard work."

This interaction between The Overcomer and The Obstacle Person illustrates the essence of Peale's philosophy. It's about recognizing obstacles and having the mindset to confront and dismantle them. This leads us directly to one of Peale's

core pieces of advice.

To overcome any obstacle, Peale says, "Stand up to it and don't complain about it or whine under it but forthrightly attack it. Don't give way under it, and it will finally break. You will break it. Something has to break, and it won't be you, it will be the obstacle."

The Obstacle Person is already defeated before they even begin to strive toward a goal. Why is this? It's because they are ensnared in a web of defeatist thinking.

Before embarking on any venture, the Obstacle Person already catalogs reasons for failure. Their mind is a battlefield where pessimism consistently overpowers optimism. Every potential problem is magnified, and every hurdle seems insurmount-

able. In this state of mind, defeat isn't just a possibility; it's a foregone conclusion. The Obstacle Person, crippled by defeatist thinking, loses the battle before it even begins.

This mindset is The Obstacle person's most significant barrier, more so than any external challenge they might face.

Contrast this with The Overcomer, who approaches the same venture with a different lens. The Overcomer acknowledges the obstacles but doesn't grant them the power to halt progress. Instead of being paralyzed by what might go wrong, this person is energized by what could go right.

I'm sure you've recognized this in your own life.

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TOBY MOORE

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SPORTS

Following tough first quarter, in-game adjustment helps Bay Path blow by Bulldogs



Nick Ethier photos

Bay Path's Gabbi Lapan drives the ball down the court.



Alison Welton of Bay Path eyes the basket before releasing a jump shot from the corner.



Bay Path's Anika Ferrantino moves the ball down the floor while on the fast break.



Battling between two Monty Tech defenders, Kendall Bond of Bay Path drives toward the basket.



Bay Path's Allie Klar tries to finish off a layup versus Monty Tech.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

CHARLTON — Following the initial eight-minute quarter between the Bay Path and Monty Tech girls' varsity basketball teams, the Bulldogs held a slim lead of 17-16 in a game played last Friday, Jan. 26.

"Every time we stole it, we were giving it right back to them and they were scoring in transition," explained Randy Schulman, head coach of the Minutemen.

Schulman added that in that first quarter Bay Path was trying out a half-court 1-3-1 defense.

"We tried something a little different that we hadn't tried yet this year in the first quarter," said Schulman, who changed defenses in between the first and second quarters. "We're a good man-to-man team, and that's where I challenged the girls. I said, 'Listen, we've got to play our defense,' and I thought they did exceptional, especially in the end of the third and the whole fourth quarter."

Monty Tech scored a total of just 19 points the rest of the way — 8 in the second quarter, 9 in the third and 2 in the fourth — as Bay Path ultimately won going away, 68-36, to secure their eighth straight win and third of the week. The Minutemen did all of this while playing shorthanded.

"We had three girls out because of some type of sickness or illness," Schulman said of playing without Noalani Perez, Kortnie Adams and Arianna Gonzalez.

The Bay Path players who were there, though, played cohesively to get the job done.

"We preach a lot about team basketball. We have five players that average between 6 and 10 points. We don't have that one — it's a different player every night," explained Schulman. "I thought in the first half Ali Welton, her shots were on."

Welton scored a team-high 17 points, with the majority (13) coming in the first two quarters.

"In the second half I thought Kendall Bond really stepped up," Schulman added. "She's more of a forward. Sometimes with us — we're not a very big team — she'll pay center for us. It started with her defense. We've been preaching not to foul, and she's been keeping her arms straight up. And then she was relentless on the boards tonight."

"I thought she made the play of the game. In the third period they cut it to seven and she hit a 3-pointer in the

corner," added Schulman. "From that point on, it got us going again."

Bond registered a double-double, scoring 13 points and pulling down 15 rebounds, while Gabbi Lapan was also in double figures with 10 points.

Bay Path's Anika Ferrantino was also mentioned by Schulman following the game. Ferrantino scored 7 points, but it was her defensive play that was impressive.

"We put her on the top offensive player," Schulman said of Ferrantino

guarding the Bulldogs' Cassidy Boutell. Boutell scored a game-high 18 points, but 12 of those came in the first quarter with Bay Path employing their new defense and Ferrantino not yet guarding her.

"As soon as we switched at the end of the first quarter, she kind of shut her down for the most part," said Schulman.

Bay Path improved to 9-2 following the victory, while Monty Tech slipped to 2-8 after the setback.

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SPORTS

Balanced attack, backed by offensive rebounding, boosts Cougars by Bartlett



Quaboag's Jacoby Labillois begins to shoot a midrange jumper.

Nick Ethier photos

For Auburn/Webster, use photos 1-4.

For Spencer, use photos By Nick Ethier Sports Editor

WEBSTER — When the final buzzer sounded inside the Saint Joseph School's Richard A. Nowak Gymnasium on Thursday, Jan. 25, the Quaboag boys' varsity basketball team emerged victorious over Bartlett, 55-45. And Chris Reilly, head coach of the Cougars, was proud of the way his team performed.

"One of the things that I said to them, 'This was a good team effort tonight.'

They were unselfish. We distributed the ball at the right time. There were some really nice offensive plays," said Reilly. "This was a good victory."

Six Cougars found the scoresheet, and it was a balanced attack. Ryan Fernandez scored a team-high 12 points, with Jacoby Labillois (11), Evan Long (10), Owen Stevens (10), Matthew Tiberii (7) and Hart Waz (5) following suit. And Reilly credited Long, a forward, and Stevens, a center, with their play down low in the paint.

"He kept so many offensive possessions alive because of the

tips," said Reilly of Long. "Owen Stevens played a strong game tonight. I don't know how many rebounds he had, but he must have had 10 or 12."

Overall, Quaboag out-rebounded the Indians, 30-23.

The Cougars led at all the stops in this one: 14-13 after one quarter, 32-21 at halftime and 45-32 through three before winning by 10 points. The victory propelled Quaboag's record to an even 5-5, and Reilly alluded to the fact that the Southern Worcester County League (SWCL) is so wide open this season.

"You look around the



Ryan Fernandez of Quaboag draws the foul on Bartlett's Aiden Wolfram while driving to the basket.

SWCL and everybody's vulnerable," explained Reilly. "I know that it's a cliché, but this year everybody can have that good game."

The Cougars are hoping for berths into the Clark Tournament and Division 4 State Tournament, and more victories will go a long way toward achieving those goals.

"Until we win some games, it doesn't matter. We've won two in a row now, so we're back on that track and we've got to keep doing it," said Reilly.

According to Bartlett head coach Alex

Hetherman, his team fell short due to the rebounding disadvantage.

"I don't think we ever got in a rhythm tonight. We got killed on the offensive glass. We did not rebound the ball," said Hetherman. "It seemed like, to me, all of their offensive rebounds were timely. And they scored off offensive rebounds, too."

Ayden Carlson, the Indians' enter, did not play due to injury, which may have affected Bartlett's rebounding.

On the offensive end, Caiden Steeves (16) and Kenny Arpin (15) scored in double figures for

Bartlett, but the other Indians managed just 14 combined points.

"Tonight shots didn't fall and we didn't defend, so it was a bad nucleus of everything," said Hetherman, as Bartlett slipped to 4-9.

The Indians still have a chance to qualifying for the Division 5 State Tournament, though, as the top 32 teams — regardless of record — automatically get in. Bartlett was ranked 33rd before the contest with Quaboag and slipped to 34th in the following days' ranking.

Friday's Child



Andre Age 15

Hi! My name is Andre and I'm awesome!

Andre, self-described as "awesome" is a lovely young man of African American descent. He is very empathetic and loves animals. Andre plays basketball, makes music (especially rap), and enjoys showing off his skills. He also loves to play PlayStation 5 and to be outdoors. Andre likes to make others laugh. He is very good with younger children and enjoys being a leader. He does well in school with the support of an IEP. Andre is smart, enjoys reading, doing math, and enjoyed participating in school online and with a tutor. He does well when he receives a lot of positive reinforcement.

Andre would love nothing more than to have a loving and devoted two-parent family of any constellation with or without other children in

the home. Interested families should have the knowledge about the IEP process and the educational background to assist Andre with his education. He is of African American descent. Interested families need to be firmly committed to providing appropriate ethnic and cultural role models and information with respect to his birth cultures which includes discussing racism and discrimination. It is also important that interested families are willing to allow him to maintain contact with his birth family, as Andre describes them as important to him and they are important to maintaining a connection to his culture. Currently, he has phone contact with his sister and birthparents and likely once a month in-person visits.

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Quaboag's Matthew Tiberii focuses before shooting a free throw.



Owen Stevens (22) and Hart Waz (4) of Quaboag try to block a shot by a Bartlett player.

SPORTS

Defense is key for Rams, who grab victory over Quaboag



Nick Ethier photos

Quaboag's Mia Letendre eyes the basket after catching a pass out at the top of the key.



Evelyn Doe of Quaboag works the ball around Northbridge defender Rachel Sawyer.



Quaboag's Parker Tunley gets low to inch closer to the basket as Northbridge's Molly Gahan defends.



Maddie Potvin of Quaboag prepares to fling a pass away from the Northbridge defense.

BY NICK ETHIER
SPORTS EDITOR

WARREN — Defense is the top attribute for the Northbridge girls' varsity basketball team, and that was on full display when they took on Quaboag on Monday, Jan. 29.

The Rams surrendered quarter totals of 4, 5, 4 and 2 points en route to a 40-15 victory over the Cougars.

"That's what we've tried to hang our hat on all year. We've been a really strong defensive team," said Northbridge head coach Jeff Kozik. "They like that. They like getting a shot clock violation. It's a sense of pride for them."

The Rams were also playing the game without Delaney Mahoney, one of

their top defenders.

Northbridge's defense is so good, in fact, that the 15 points allowed wasn't even a season-best total. The Rams gave up 4 points to Auburn, 12 to Leicester and matched the Quaboag total with 15 against Nipmuc. The 15 points scored was the Cougars' lowest of the season.

"We didn't execute well at all in order to get looks. And then, when we did have looks, we didn't take them," said Quaboag head coach Bill Beaugard after crediting Northbridge's defense as well.

The prime matchup in the game took place in the post, which pitted the Rams' Molly Gahan and the Cougars' Parker Tunley. Gahan poured in

a game-high 19 points — with all coming inside the 3-point arc — and Tunley had a double-double with 11 points and 10 rebounds.

Both coaches were complimentary of the two athletes.

"That's what makes her good, she can score inside and out," Kozik said of Gahan. "She likes to get downhill and mix it up inside the post, and she does that very well."

Regarding Tunley, Kozik noted, "She's strong. She's aggressive. So yeah, it was a good matchup."

Beaugard called Gahan, "An excellent player," and added, "She can play inside-outside... just a smart player."

"Parker just competes so hard and works really

hard. She's a tough kid physically. She's not shy of contact," Beaugard added of Tunley's play.

The Rams, who also saw Ellory Manning get into double figures with 10 points, improved to 10-3 with the win as they have officially punched their ticket into the Division 4 State Tournament. Northbridge also figures to get into the Clark Tournament bracket.

"The offense could use some cleaning up — I'm sure a lot of coaches think that — but defensively there's no quit in them and they work really hard. They take a lot of pride on the defensive end," Kozik said. "We have a tough stretch coming up. We've got five games left, and they're all tough ones. It's a great opportunity for us to

test our merit going into the playoffs and make sure that we are playoff ready, and it will help our standing, our strength of schedule."

Quaboag, meanwhile, dropped to 5-7.

"We have five games coming up that are huge," Beaugard said

of also trying to reach the 10-win plateau and automatically qualify for the same Division 4 State Tournament while also battling to get a big in the Clark Tournament. "The kids are fighting hard and getting better. We just got outclassed tonight."

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HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK —

TANTASQUA SWIM COMPETES WITH ALGONQUIN, THEN TYNGSBOROUGH



Courtesy photo

Tantasqua's Ethan Zhu competes in the 100 butterfly in the Warriors' swim meet versus Tyngsborough on Friday, Jan. 26.

The Tantasqua swim program competed against Algonquin on Wednesday, Jan. 24. Warriors' winners were: Ethan Zhu won two events in the 300 free and the 100 back, Sam Merchant with the 200 IM and the 500 free, Alison Regan in the 100 backstroke, and Abby Korenda in the 100 free and the 100 breaststroke.

The Warriors then took on Tyngsborough on Friday, Jan. 26. Both Tantasqua teams defeated the Tigers in their last home meet of the season; Boys: 115-37, Girls: 123-51.

First place finishes for Tantasqua boys: Evan Dambly 200 free, Sam Merchant 200 IM Ethan Korenda 50 free and 100 free, Ethan Zhu 100 butterfly and 100 backstroke, and Keenan Scherer in the 500 free.

First place finishes for Tantasqua girls: Sasha Hildago 200 free and 500 free, Tori Stendrup in the 50 free Abbey Korenda in the 100 butterfly and 100 breast and Ali Regan in the 100 free.

Tantasqua's record is as follows: Boys 10-1, Girls 3-8.



SPORTS

With another win, Tantasqua takes two from perennially strong Woolies



Nick Ethier photos

Tantasqua's Riley West finds just enough space to shoot a jumper in front of Millbury defender Brielle Brothers.



Nicki Vejack of Tantasqua defends an inbound pass by Millbury's Caylee Wilbur.



Tantasqua's Gabby Scanlon goes around a Millbury defender for a layup.

with Millbury. "They get better every season as the season goes on. We just knew we had to be ready to go."

The Warriors, who were also celebrating Senior Night — where they honored tri-captains Gabby Scanlon, Nicki Vejack and Riley West — came out of the gate flying. They held a 13-9 first quarter lead and exploded for 16 points in the second frame, while holding the Woolies to just two, as they surged ahead, 29-11, at halftime.

Millbury got no closer than 10 points away from the lead in the second half, as Tantasqua took a 46-33 decision.

"It's a positive thing because we've been winning, but we've been king of scuffling a little bit. This was a good win against a good team," said Haley.

And the seniors showed out for the Warriors. Vejack scored a game-high 17 points — 15 of them coming in the first half — and also pulled down 6 rebounds.

"In her mind, she's not a scorer," Haley said of Vejack. "When you have a player who in their mind is not a scorer, and they go off and have 15 in the first half...that might be her career high."

Vejack is known for her defense, and it was on full display versus the Woolies. Leading 21-11 midway through the second quarter, Vejack stole the ball away from a Millbury player. She



Sophie Webb of Tantasqua holds onto the ball from the outside while backing down a Millbury defender.

then went coast-to-coast for a layup. Seconds later, Vejack again came up with a steal. She again drove the ball down the court for another layup. She was fouled on this occasion and also knocked down the free throw for a three-point play.

"Nicki is our energy on the floor. She talks on D all the time. She always covers the other team's best player," Haley said of Vejack's defensive prowess.

As for West, she scored 5 points and pulled down a team-high 7 rebounds. West, normally the first player off the bench for the Warriors, got the start and played a ton of minutes.

"She's played every

position on the floor. She is doing such a good job this year at being that sixth person and filling in spots," Haley said of West's versatility. "Not only has she improved, but she has really embraced the role that she has. She gets a lot of tips and deflections, and she's really aggressive to get rebounds."

Scanlon, normally one of Tantasqua's highest scorers, finished with a modest 8 points but still played a strong game, as she normally does.

"What's great about her is she's just a team player. If she has to score — we played Auburn last year and she had to score 30, so she scored 30 — so tonight she didn't have to and she didn't

care," explained Haley of Scanlon's team-first attitude. "She'll make the passes, run the offense and play good D."

Tantasqua sophomore Sophie Webb joined Vejack in the double-digit scoring category with 11 points, including three 3-pointers.

The win boosted the Warriors' record to 8-3, while the Woolies slipped to 7-5.

The 46 points scored was tied for Tantasqua's most over their last six games, so Haley hopes that that trend continues into the back half of the regular season schedule.

"Tonight, we got going offensively and hopefully we can keep that going," said Haley.

SWCL schools compete for league bragging rights



Photos courtesy Dawn Pepka-Jones



The Southern Worcester County League member schools took part in the league championship indoor track and field league meet last Wednesday, Jan. 24 at Tantasqua.

STURBRIDGE — The Southern Worcester County League (SWCL) girls' indoor track Championships took place Wednesday night, Jan. 24 in the packed Tantasqua gymnasium. These student-athletes trained all season to showcase their talents. Athletes represented the following schools proudly: Auburn, Bartlett, David Prouty, Grafton, Leicester, Millbury, Northbridge, Oxford, Quaboag, Southbridge, Tantasqua and Uxbridge. The top three final team results were: Auburn (90 points); Uxbridge (62 points); Tantasqua (51 points).

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LEGALS

At the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, in the McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, a public hearing will be held on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard: Notice of Public Hearing – Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals

Special Permit– Applicant: Daniel Rubin/ Freedom Forever, Owner: Michael Fish Location: 23 Condon Drive, Spencer Assessor's Map R21-17. The applicant is seeking a Special Permit under Sections 4.8.9 (solar photovoltaic generating installations) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to install 5kw ground mounted solar panels with 16 modules for private use. The property is in the Suburban Residential (SR) zoning district.

January 26, 2024
February 2, 2024

Town of West Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the West Brookfield Town Hall, to act on an application for a Special Permit, for Marcie Fusco for the property located at 147 Wigwam Road, West Brookfield. The applicant wishes to have an educational day program. Special Permit as per section(s) -3.26 (4) privately organized camp.

January 26, 2024
February 2, 2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT

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ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: **David H. Bird, as Co -Personal Representative of the Estate of Gordon F. Bird a/k/a Gordan, Farnum Bird, Donna L. Sperl, as Co -Personal Representative of the Estate of Gordon F. Bird a/k/a Gordan, Farnum Bird, Dayna L. Puza, Darla J. Lis, David H. Bird, Donna L. Sperl**

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

Mortgage Assets Management, LLC claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in **Spencer, numbered 16 Ledge Avenue, given by Patricia J. Bird and Gordon F. Bird a/k/a Patricia Jean Bird and Gordon Farnum Bird to Wells Fargo Bank, NA., dated November 19, 2008, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 43536, Page 198,** 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 03/04/2024 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 1/18/2024.

Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder
February 2, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508)831-2200 Docket No. W023C0648CA CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

In the matter of:

Joyce Marie Cycz

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by

Joyce Marie Cycz of Spencer MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Joyce Marie Mulherin

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/20/24. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 23, 2024

Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
February 2, 2024

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ATTENTION SPENCER SEWER USERS A PUBLIC HEARING WITH THE SEWER COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD TO DISCUSS SEWER RATE FEES THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024 @ 6:30 P.M. BROADCAST LIVE FROM MCCOURT SOCIAL HALL 157 MAIN ST, SPENCER, MA

January 26, 2024
February 2, 2024

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by John Stearns and Shirley Stearns and John B. Stearns, Jr. to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Prospect Mortgage, LLC and successors and/or assigns, dated October 14, 2009 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 44969, Page 1 as affected by a Loan Modification recorded on October 18, 2017 in Said Registry of Deeds at Book 57896, Page 291, subsequently assigned to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Prospect Mortgage, LLC, its successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 48808, Page 180, subsequently assigned to M&T Bank by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 60252, Page 69 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 AM on February 9, 2024 at 5 Candlewood Drive, Unit 7L, Spencer, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

Unit 7L, Candlewood Condominium VII, a Condominium established by the Grantor pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 183A by Master Deed dated September 14, 2009 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 44967 Page 205 which Unit is shown on the floor plans of the building comprising the Condominium recorded in Plan Book 878 Plan 10 and by a trust through which the unit owners will manage and regulate the Condominium under the name of Candlewood Condominium VII Trust under a Declaration of Trust recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 44967 , Page 220 , hereinafter referred to as the "Trust".

UNIT ADDRESS: 5 Candlewood Drive, Spencer, MA 01562.
For my title reference see Deed recorded herewith in Book 44968, Page 376. The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.

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

M&T Bank
Present Holder of said Mortgage,
By Its Attorneys,
ORLANS PC
PO Box 540540
Waltham, MA 02454
Phone: (781) 790-7800
21-006348

January 19, 2024
January 26, 2024
February 2, 2024

(SEAL)
THE COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL
COURT
Docket Number: 24 SM 000351
ORDER OF NOTICE

To:

Andrzej Conner
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):
Nationstar Mortgage, LLC
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Spencer, numbered 5 Treadwell Terrace, given by Andrzej Conner to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Prospect Mortgage, LLC, dated May 7, 2012, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 48935, Page 367, as modified by a certain modification agreement dated September 1, 2017, and recorded with said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 57718, Page 180, 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 March 11, 2024, 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 January 26, 2024.

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
25168
February 2, 2024

This is to certify that on June 1, 2023, the Town of Brookfield adopted and the Attorney General approved Articles 32, 33, 34 and 36.

The by-laws and the articles as they were written and accepted can be found at mytowngovernment.org/01506.

January 26, 2024
February 2, 2024

Last Day to Register To Vote

In the

Special State Primary

Sat. Feb 27th

9:00 – 5:00

Spencer Police Department

Precinct 1 ONLY

February 2, 2024

(SEAL)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT

23 SM 004657
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:

William Anifantis
And to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (et seq):
Lakeview Loan Servicing LLC
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Spencer, numbered 13 Highland Street, given by William Anifantis to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for OCMBC, Inc., dated September 13, 2021, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 66049, Page 7, 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 March 4th, 2024 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on January 24th, 2024.
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
February 2, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE OXFORD ROCHDALE SEWER DISTRICT PO Box 246 ROCHDALE, MA 01542 508-892-9549 RULES & REGULATIONS OF THE OXFORD ROCHDALE SEWER DISTRICT

CUSTOMERS OF THE OXFORD ROCHDALE SEWER DISTRICT ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE OXFORD ROCHDALE SEWER DISTRICT VOTED TO AMEND THE RULES & REGULATIONS FOR THE DISTRICT AT A REGULARLY SCHEDULED MONTHLY MEETING ON JANUARY 12, 2024. THE MEETING WAS HELD AT THE DISTRICT OFFICES LOCATED AT 28 COMINS ROAD IN NORTH OXFORD, MASSACHUSETTS.

THE AMENDED RULES & REGULATIONS ARE POSTED ON THE DISTRICT'S WEB PAGE; <https://orsd.org> . PAPER COPIES OF THE RULES & REGULATIONS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST AT THE DISTRICT OFFICES.

ROBERT F. WILSON -
ACTING SUPERINTENDENT
CHRISTOPHER MONTIVERDI-
CHAIRMAN
ARTHUR PAQUETTE -
COMMISSIONER
KEVIN REED - COMMISSIONER
February 2, 2024
February 9, 2024

OXFORD-ROCHDALE SEWER DISTRICT P.O. BOX 246 ROCHDALE, MASS. 01542

I, Mary T. Kennedy, Clerk of the Oxford-Rochdale Sewer District, Hereby Certify that on January 12, 2024, at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Sewer Commissioners, Said Board voted to amend Chapter 12 Section 3, "SEWER SERVICE CHARGES" Effective April 1, 2024 as follows:

PER EACH LIVING UNIT
540.00 Per Annum

PER EACH COMMERCIAL
ESTABLISHMENT
EMPLOYING SIX (6) OR LESS
PEOPLE 540.00 Per Annum

PER EACH ADDITIONAL SIX (6)
EMPLOYEES OF
COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENT AN
ADDITUIONAL 540.00 Per Annum

FOR EACH INDUSTRY OR SPECIAL
COMMERCIAL USER RATE
TO BE ESTABLISHED
BY THE BOARD OF SEWER
COMMISSIONERS

Mary T. Kennedy, Clerk
Oxford-Rochdale Sewer District
February 2, 2024
February 9, 2024

At the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, in the McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, a public hearing will be held on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard: Notice of Public Hearing – Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals

Special Permit– Applicant/Owner: Sheena and Anthony Toscano; Location: 89 Hastings Road, Spencer Assessor's Map R48-17-2. The applicant is seeking a Special Permit under Sections 4.8.1 (Accessory Apartments) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to add an accessory apartment in new addition. The property is in the Rural Residential (RR) zoning district.

January 26, 2024
February 2, 2024

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WEBSTER - 60 CUSHING ROAD

Young 3 Bedroom Colonial! Living Room, Kitchen, Dining Area ~ Washer/Dryer & 1/2 Bath!! 2nd Floor - 3 Bedrooms plus 2 Full Baths!! Walk out Lower Level. Large finished room in lower level. Furnace Replaced 2023.

List Price \$355,000 Sale Price \$385,000

June Cazeault * Laurie Sullivan * Matthew Ross * Lori Johnson-Chausse * William Gilmore II * John Kokocinski

OXFORD - 68 PLEASANT ST UNIT 36

SORRY, SOLD!



Fairway Woods! Unit 36, rare end unit that boasts new windows, skylights, slider door and bay window, new central air, granite counters, 3 Level living. Loft can be your personal oasis! garage. **\$319,900**

DUDLEY - 28 PARTRIDGE HILL RD



This Home is a FIXER UPPER PROJECT. Special Property, needs some love to bring it back to life. Wood Floors, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, loft. Garage. *Being Sold AS IS* **\$349,000**

WEBSTER - 17 BRODEUR AVENUE



BEING BUILT!! SPRAWLING 2000 SF ONE LEVEL RANCH HOME! Situated on a level 1/2 acre Lot! OPEN FLOOR PLAN. Living room, dining room, upscaled kitchen with 8' island, 3 bedroom, 2 baths, Beautiful Hardwood Floors! central air. 2 car garage, & shed. **\$615,000**

WOODSTOCK - 723 BRICKYARD RD

SORRY, SOLD!!



Split Level 4 bedrooms, two baths, one 1/2 bath, 3224 +/- Sq. Ft. Living Area. including in-law set up. 2 car garage. 3+ Acres. Assisted sale **\$420,000**

WEBSTER - 30 EAST MAIN



INVESTORS TAKE NOTICE ! 3 Units. Solid Brick commercial/Residential Building! Zoned GB4. **\$450,000**

WEBSTER - 131 LAKESIDE AVE.

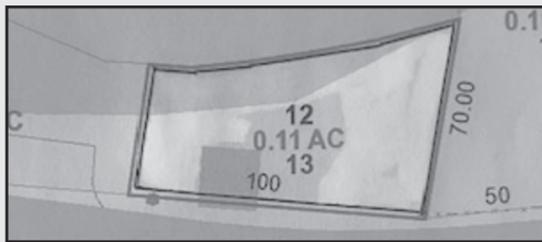


Well maintained Cape. living room, 4 bedrooms, garage. **\$329,900**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

*Webster Lake
13 South Point Rd.*

100' of frontage on the water & road. An old cement block garage is located on the property.. Land area surveyed, DEP approval to build. Property suitable for small craft dockage/off season storage. Town Water & Sewer available **\$195,000**



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316 Dresser Hill Road \$425,000

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- *Recent Heating System
- *Fantastic Waterviews *
- *Garage

805 Beacon Park \$364,900

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- * Recent Roof * 3 Units
- * Town Services

16 Granite Street \$269,900

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POLICE REPORTS

Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18
 3:57 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 5:51 a.m.: welfare check (Foster Court), assisted; 10:12 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:31 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:55 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued; 11:00 a.m.: ambulance (Locust Street), transported; 12:14 p.m.: ambulance (Salminen Drive), transported; 12:34 a.m.: ambulance (Pitcairne Avenue), transported; 2:47 p.m.: welfare check (Reservoir Street), assisted; 3:07 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Spencer), gone on arrival; 5:01 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 5:33 p.m.: ambulance (Parker Street), transported; 7:13 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), gone on arrival; 7:24 p.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), transported to hospital; 8:25 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 8:50 p.m.: hazardous condition (Stafford Street), referred; 10:07 p.m.: assist citizen (Pitcairne Avenue); 10:34 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 10:40 p.m.: suspicious activity (Norway Street), call canceled; 10:48 p.m.: disturbance (Burncoat Lane), spoken to; 11:30 p.m.: suspicious person (Flint Way), resolved; 11:44 p.m.: ambulance (Peter Salem Road), transported.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19
 12:38 a.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), citation issued; 12:54 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:21 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:48 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 2:10 a.m.: ambulance (Boyd Street), transported; 4:23 a.m.: welfare check (Pitcairne Avenue), spoken to; 5:37 a.m.: water/sewer problem (Wesley Drive), referred; 8:08 a.m.: ambulance (Mayflower Circle), transported; 8:16 a.m.: ambulance (Franklin Street), transported; 8:32 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), spoken to; 9:00 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued; 9:26 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:32 a.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), resolved; 10:30 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 10:51 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued; 11:17 a.m.: summons service (South Main Street), served; 11:24 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended registration, uninsured mv, criminal application issued; 11:34 a.m.: disabled mv (Huntoon Memorial Highway), resolved; 11:55 a.m.: debris in road (Stafford Street), resolved; 11:56 a.m.: disabled mv (Stafford Street), resolved; 12:05 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:17 p.m.: ambulance (Queen Street, Worcester), transported; 12:30 p.m.: ambulance (Boyd Street), transported; 12:48 p.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), assisted; 1:35 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 2:20 p.m.: ambulance (Silver Street, Worcester), transported; 3:06 p.m.: assist citizen (Carleton Road), report taken; 4:10 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 4:35 p.m.: suspicious mv (Reservoir Street), gone on arrival; 4:39 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 7:12 p.m.: investigation (Pleasant Street), report taken; 7:50 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), gone on arrival; 9:13 p.m.: debris in road (Westminster Street), referred; 9:20 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), resolved; 9:23 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), resolved; 9:31 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:36 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, OUI liquor, negligent operation, criminal application issued.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20
 3:40 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 6:00 a.m.: investigation (Main Avenue, Spencer), report taken; 7:01 a.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 9:49 a.m.: ambulance (Elm Street, Spencer), call canceled; 9:58 a.m.: investigation (Lake Avenue North, Worcester), report taken; 10:18 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:38 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), no service; 12:16 p.m.: suspicious person (Main Street), gone on arrival; 2:04 p.m.: investigation (Huntoon Memorial Highway), report taken; 3:49 p.m.: ambulance (Peter Salem Road), transported; 4:30 p.m.: investigation (Stafford Street), report taken; 4:53 p.m.: open door/window (Waite Street), resolved; 6:02 p.m.: accident (Henshaw Street), report taken; 6:19 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 7:00 p.m.: investigation (Pleasant Street), report taken; 8:41 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:50 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), no action required; 9:45 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 10:06 p.m.: family problem (Redfield Road), resolved; 10:29 p.m.: commercial alarm (Huntoon Memorial Highway), false alarm; 11:55 p.m.: investigation (Pleasant Street), report taken.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21
 12:05 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 12:29 a.m.: family problem (Marshall Street), resolved; 2:01 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 6:37 a.m.: welfare check (Main Street), resolved; 9:07 a.m.: investigation (Stafford Street), report taken; 10:20 a.m.: investigation (Carleton Road), report taken; 10:25 a.m.: ambulance (East Charlton Road, Spencer), transported; 10:34 a.m.: investigation (Carleton Road), report taken; 10:35 a.m.: investigation (Huntoon Memorial Highway), report taken; 10:39 a.m.: sus-

picious mv (Mannville Street), unable to locate; 10:48 a.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 11:05 a.m.: mv stop (Mannville Street), verbal warning; 11:09 a.m.: welfare check (Henshaw Street), transported to hospital; 11:16 a.m.: icy conditions (Henshaw Street), referred; 12:01 p.m.: investigation (Stafford Street), report taken; 12:21 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 12:53 p.m.: investigation (Huntoon Memorial Highway), report taken; 12:57 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 2:10 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 2:53 p.m.: missing person (Mayflower Road), report taken; 3:53 p.m.: summons service (King Street), unable to serve; 4:26 p.m.: hit/run accident (Soojians Drive), report taken; 5:06 p.m.: assist citizen (Hemlock Street); 5:39 p.m.: summons service (Marshall Street), served; 6:11 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), assisted.

MONDAY, JANUARY 22
 1:49 a.m.: ambulance (Virginia Drive), transported; 6:15 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 7:39 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 7:47 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 7:53 a.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), written warning; 8:08 a.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), citation issued; 8:27 a.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, no inspection sticker, criminal application issued; 9:23 a.m.: ambulance (Timrod Drive, Worcester), transported; 10:58 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:18 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:46 a.m.: parking complaint (Pine Street), services rendered; 1:07 p.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), verbal warning; 1:13 p.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), verbal warning; 1:14 p.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), verbal warning; 1:17 p.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), verbal warning; 1:22 p.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), verbal warning; 1:38 p.m.: investigation (Stafford Street), report taken; 1:40 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 1:41 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 1:54 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:56 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), citation issued; 2:05 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 2:05 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 2:58 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 3:29 p.m.: disabled mv (Stafford Street), services rendered; 4:54 p.m.: missing person (Auburn Street), services rendered; 5:01 p.m.: accident (South Main Street), report taken; 5:54 p.m.: ambulance (Beaver Brook Parkway, Worcester), transported; 10:57 p.m.: ambulance (McCarthy Avenue), transported.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23
 12:58 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended registration, uninsured mv, number plate violation to conceal ID, criminal application issued; 7:24 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 8:15 a.m.: animal complaint (Moose Hill Road), referred to ACO; 10:29 a.m.: arrest warrant service (Boyd Street), unable to serve; 10:39 a.m.: keep the peace (Charlton Street), assisted; 11:18 a.m.: fraud (Pine Street), report taken; 12:27 p.m.: assist citizen (Pleasant Street); 2:27 p.m.: investigation (Stafford Street), report taken; 2:59 p.m.: threats (Paxton Street), report taken; 3:39 p.m.: assist other agency (Boyd Street), resolved; 4:19 p.m.: summons service (King Street), served; 4:39 p.m.: disturbance (Henshaw Street), transported to hospital; 9:43 p.m.: disturbance (Chesnar Drive), spoken to; 10:09 p.m.: welfare check (Pitcairne Avenue), spoken to; 10:45 p.m.: disturbance (Pleasant Street), spoken to.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24
 6:39 a.m.: mv off road (Pleasant Street), report taken; 8:17 a.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 9:05 a.m.: accident (Mannville Street), mv towed; 9:25 a.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), referred to ACO; 10:59 a.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), report taken; 12:38 p.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 12:55 p.m.: lobby service (Pleasant Street), report taken; 1:51 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:01 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 2:36 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 2:40 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), spoken to; 3:15 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Main Street), unable to serve; 3:29 p.m.: summons service (Mayflower Road), unable to serve; 3:38 p.m.: summons service (Lexington Avenue), unable to serve; 3:42 p.m.: hanging wires (Bunker Hill Road), referred; 4:03 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 4:12 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, criminal application issued; 4:38 p.m.: accident (Waite Street), report taken; 5:08 p.m.: welfare check (River Street), gone on arrival; 5:22 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), transported to hospital; 7:49 p.m.: icy conditions (Colonial Drive), referred; 9:49 p.m.: commercial alarm (Clark Street), false alarm.

Spencer Police Logs
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17
 12:07-2:38 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:10 a.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 1:21 a.m.: DPW call (Maple Street), streets signs are down; 5:23 a.m.: building checked, secure; 8:31 a.m.: disabled mv (Thompson Pond Road), mv off road; 9:04 a.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), assisted; 9:33 a.m.: DPW

call (Main Street), debris in road; 10:15 a.m.: commercial alarm (Mechanic Street), services rendered; 11:22 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 2:42 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: property not returned; 3:08 p.m.: officer wanted (Bixby Road), req. welfare check; 3:19 p.m.: officer wanted (Pearl Street), req. welfare check; 3:40 p.m.: officer wanted (Thompson Pond Road), LTC change of address; 4:02 p.m.: lost/found (Main Street), bill fold found; 4:38 p.m.: harassment prevention order service (Grove Street); 5:10 p.m.: elderly matter (Main Street), re: unruly customer; 7:21 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), fem. causing disturbance; 7:21 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 7:47 p.m.: disturbance (Chestnut Street), re: unruly customer; 8:03 p.m.: lost/found (Chestnut Street), Percoret found on floor; (total daily mv stops - 0).

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18
 1:04-3:01 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:15 a.m.: parking violation (Deer Run Road), unfounded; 2:24 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 2:42 a.m.: parking violation (Main Street), ticket issued; 4:11 a.m.: medical/general (Hastings Road); 4:54 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; 7:11 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 7:42 a.m.: parking complaint (Lloyd Dyer Drive), mv blocking d/way; 8:15 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 11:36 a.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), c/o snowboarding; 12:03 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Road); 2:49 p.m.: medical/general (Donnelly Road); 2:53 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), no action needed; 2:53 p.m.: fraud (Rene Drive), rep. stolen check; 3:00 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 3:28 p.m.: juvenile matter (Paxton Road), rep. threats to school; 4:05 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 4:06 p.m.: suspicious persons (Cherry Street), info taken; 4:46 p.m.: officer wanted (Prospect Street), welfare check; 5:05 p.m.: hit/run accident (West Main Street), report taken; 5:33 p.m.: disturbance (Temple Street), services rendered; 5:52 p.m.: medical/general (Smithville Road); 6:06 p.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), req. welfare check; 8:24 p.m.: animal complaint (Wall Street), barking dog; 9:16 p.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); (total daily mv stops - 0).

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19
 12:14-2:47 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:47 a.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 1:57 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; 2:15 a.m.: parking violation (Deer Run Road), ticket issued; 5:48 a.m.: medical/general (Tom Casey Road); 10:38 a.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), dog barking; 11:24 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 11:31 a.m.: DPW call (Mechanic Street), damaged utility pole; 1:11 p.m.: mutual aid (South Spencer Road), constable req. police escort; 2:44 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 2:54 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 6:14 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 11:05 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), assist state police; 11:41-11:49 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 11:49 p.m.: medical/general (G.H. Wilson Road); (total daily mv stops - 10).

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20
 12:49 a.m.: building checked, secure; 7:55 a.m.: medical/general (Jolicoeur Avenue); 9:04 a.m.: commercial alarm (Mechanic Street), services rendered; 9:11 a.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), spoken to; 9:24 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 9:38 a.m.: medical/general (Elm Street); 11:53 a.m.: suspicious persons (Lincoln Street), info taken; 12:20 p.m.: officer wanted (Lyford Road), spoken to; 1:18 p.m.: animal complaint (Donnelly Cross Road), found kitten; 1:22 p.m.: animal complaint (Charlton Road), found dog; 2:14 p.m.: fraud (Collier Circle), report taken; 2:17 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 2:56 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 4:05 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 4:10 p.m.: DPW call

(North Spencer Road), snow on roads; 4:59 p.m.: suspicious mv (Chestnut Street), poss. disabled mv; 6:23 p.m.: fire alarm (Maple Street), referred; 7:05 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), re: locked out of Legion; 8:30-8:44 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:46 p.m.: suspicious persons (Chestnut Street), info taken; 9:17 p.m.: disturbance (Valley Street), tenant/landlord dispute; 9:25 a.m.: accident (Barclay Road), mv vs deer; 10:00 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), state police cruiser accident/Treasure Valley; 10:10 p.m.: DPW call (North Spencer Road), icy conditions; 10:39 p.m.: officer wanted (West main Street), re: loud noise in basement; (total daily mv stops - 1).

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21
 2:22 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Charlton PD bolo/erratic operator; 8:34 a.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 10:06 a.m.: medical/general (Briarcliff Lane); 10:17 a.m.: medical/general (East Charlton Road); 10:29 a.m.: fraud (Wilson Street), rep. online dating scam; 11:37 a.m.: mv lockout (Mechanic Street), assisted; 12:33 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), re: shootout/Palmer-Wilbraham line; 1:01 p.m.: medical/general (Ledge Avenue); 3:53 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 4:00 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), no response recorded; 4:37 p.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 6:21 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), debit card stuck; 7:45 p.m.: juvenile matter (Dustin Street), issue w/son; 8:08-8:37 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:13 p.m.: animal complaint (Ethier Drive), coyotes in yard; 8:34 p.m.: fire alarm (Wilson Avenue), referred; 10:00 p.m.: building checked, secure; 11:59 p.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info taken; (total daily mv stops - 1).

MONDAY, JANUARY 22
 12:26 a.m.: accident (Hastings Road), report taken; 1:17-2:51 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:48 a.m.: parking violation (Irving Street), ticket issued; 2:54 a.m.: suspicious persons (Howe Village), investigated; 4:14 a.m.: medical/general (Paxton Drive); 8:21 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:29 a.m.: medical/general (Point Eastalee Drive); 8:41 a.m.: commercial alarm (Mechanic Street), services rendered; 9:00 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Maple Street), no emergency; 9:25 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 10:10 a.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 11:00 a.m.: medical/general (Hebert Road); 12:11 p.m.: medical/general (Watson Street); 1:21 p.m.: fraud (Main Street), report taken; 1:47 p.m.: officer wanted (Wall Street), req. welfare check; 1:51 p.m.: restraining order service/2 (Lincoln Street); 4:49 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 5:20 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 6:20 p.m.: medical/general (Pleasant Street), lift assist; 6:56 p.m.: DPW call (Main Street), sign blew off bldg; 9:43 p.m.: accident (North Spencer Road), mv vs deer; 10:31 p.m.: disturbance (Howe Village), services rendered; (total daily mv stops - 4).

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23
 12:20-2:57 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:54-3:06 a.m.: parking violations/3 (Grove, Pearl, Mechanic streets), tickets issued; 6:12 a.m.: accident (R. Jones Road), mv vs deer; 7:05 a.m.: accident (Cranberry Meadow Road), school bus/no injuries; 9:13 a.m.: officer wanted (Browning Pond Road), req. welfare check; 10:49 a.m.: medical/general (Ledge Avenue); 1:07 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), hang-up; 2:03 p.m.: medical/general (Smithville Road); 2:19 p.m.: medical/general (Hastings Road); 2:19 p.m. LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 2:46 p.m.: restraining order service (North Street); 4:44 p.m.: DPW call (Charlton Road), box spring/side of road; 6:06 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 6:18 p.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), slick conditions; 7:58 p.m.: suspicious mv (Howe Road), investigated; 11:22 p.m.: DPW call (Meadow Road), slick roadways; (total daily mv stops - 5).

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Courtesy

Recipients of the Spencer Exchange Club's 2023 18 Under 18 Award collect their citations at Polar Park in Worcester.

Exchange Club accepting nominations for 18 Under 18 Awards

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — For the fourth consecutive year, the Exchange Club of Spencer will honor young people who are making a difference in their community.

This spring, the club will announce the recipients of its annual 18 Under 18 Award. Nominees must be 18 years of age or younger, with a residence in either Spencer or East Brookfield.

Club members always appreciate the opportunity to recognize young residents who are giving back and achieving success in different forms. Past award recipients have taken part in such activities as volunteering to assist younger students; leading school cleanup projects; and getting involved with athletic or art programs.

Last year, David Prouty High School student Madison Ethier was selected as an 18 Under 18 Award recipient in honor of her work as a Girls on the Run junior coach.

The 2021 18 Under 18 class included Spencer's Ryleigh Modig, who inspired the community with her talents on NBC's The Voice.

But even though the program celebrates many students with salient accomplishments each year, it also recognizes those who are quietly excelling at school, work, leadership programs, or neighborhood activities. Few people are ever aware of the students taking care of a sick family member or offering support to a friend in need—but the 18 Under 18 program aims to honor those unseen difference makers.

"The Exchange Club membership has annually been made aware of young men and women whose impact on their communities may have gone unnoticed," read a statement released by the club. "They are not necessarily the highest academic achievers, star athletes, or the most popular among their peers. They are those unassuming young adults who demonstrate attributes of leadership, passion, a caring and supportive nature, selflessness, and citizenship. They are making a difference to others and their communities."

Over the past three years, the Exchange Club has honored 54 young people with the 18 Under 18 Award. Recipients were nominated by their teachers, employers, school counselors, or local leaders who felt they made a significant impact on their communities.

Previous award ceremonies were held at Polar Park in Worcester. Students were presented with citations and monetary awards.

"The Exchange Club membership is invested in the future of the Spencer and East Brookfield communities. They wish to highlight the innate talents that our youth exhibit unselfishly every day in what sometimes seems like the simplest actions of caring and the ability to relate to others," the club's statement read. "They believe that curiosity, analytical thinking, dependability, and a strong work ethic make the greatest difference where we all live, work, and play. The club's vision of the future is that these young men and women will carry on the Exchange's mission of 'Unity for Service.'"

Application and nomination forms can be accessed by visiting the Spencer Exchange Club's Facebook page.

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