



©2026, Issue #14

Free by request to residents of

East Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield, Brookfield, Leicester and Spencer

SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO [NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS](mailto:NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS)

Friday, April 10, 2026

## NBHS senior Cooper Mann is Friends of the Town House April Artist of the Month



NORTH BROOKFIELD — Dancer, model, actor, and choreographer Cooper Mann cannot remember a time when music and dancing was not part of his life.

According to his family, Mann was moving to music before he was walking.

So, it seemed natural that he should begin dancing at age six at Kara Anderson's Dance Studio in North Brookfield and, by age eight, join the studio's competition team.

Mann credits his teachers at the studio for the skills he learned every week. Kara Anderson and Miranda Desplaines have been a huge inspiration to him. "Miss" Miranda was his first teacher at the studio, and she introduced him to hip-hop. "Miss" Kara was more than a studio director. She was the person he wanted to make proud when he took the stage. Spending so much time at the studio, teachers became family and their support meant everything to Cooper. He recalls that Skooj Core-o (Sarah-Kay) pushed him "right out of [his] comfort zone even when [he] didn't want it, but it was for the best."

During his nine years at the Anderson studio, Cooper was trained in hip-hop, jazz, ballet, lyrical, contemporary, tap and musical theater. While following his passion for dancing and feeling most like himself when he performed, Cooper had no idea of all the doors dance would open for him.

His competitive dancing has been very successful. He has won multiple regional titles and two national titles for solo routines, especially in hip-hop and contemporary.

Expanding his career into modeling in 2022, Mann has promoted products from the toy company, Hasbro, and appeared in a fashion show wearing clothing from Eddie Bauer. At the International Modeling and Talent Association convention in

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## Spencer police adding fourth sergeant

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

SPENCER — The Spencer Police Department will add a fourth sergeant to its ranks following the recent approval by the Board of Selectmen on March 30.

Chief Michael Befford had previously requested the addition of the sergeant on March 17 during a joint budget discussion between the selectmen and Finance Committee. The unanimous vote by selectmen on March 30 solidified their approval of the position which the chief has argued will help the department create a more efficient system of supervision and reduce the need for overtime.

According to minutes posted from the March 17 joint meeting, Befford requested the addition of a day shift sergeant creating four sergeant positions in totals within the department. The addition would not present added costs as it would replace a court officer position recently vacated due to a retirement.

He briefly reiterated these details in his presentation to the selectmen on March 30 and expanded on the advantages of adding a new sergeant instead of a new court officer.

"By having a day shift sergeant instead of a court officer, we're able to put them on the floor for two shifts and get more coverage on the weekends. It's going to help me grow some future leaders of our department," said the Chief.

With no court officer, court obligations would be distributed between the day sergeant and the lieutenant.

The Chief also confirmed that while the department can't plan for every absence or vacation and days off will always be variables, the new sergeant will reduce the need for call-ins.

The Board of Selectmen's approval of the position effectively allows the chief to begin the hiring process immediately. Since there was no projected extra cost and it simply replaces an existing position, it did not require further approval on the town level.

## Spencer readies for election, town meeting next month

SPENCER — Residents of Spencer will gather in early May for the community's annual opportunities to weigh in on town government, with both the Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election scheduled within the same week.

The Spencer Annual Town Meeting is set for Thursday, May 7, at 7 p.m. Town Meeting serves as the town's primary legislative session, where registered voters consider and vote on the municipal operating budget, capital expenditures, bylaw proposals,

and other warrant articles that shape local policy for the coming fiscal year.

As in many Massachusetts communities that use the open Town Meeting form of government, Spencer's Annual Town Meeting allows residents to speak directly on issues before casting votes. Participation helps determine funding priorities for municipal services such as schools, public safety, roads, and infrastructure, along with decisions on special projects and long-term planning initiatives.

The Annual Town Election will follow the next week on Tuesday, May 12, with polls open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Voters will elect candidates to a range of local offices, which may include positions such as Select Board members, School Committee representatives, Planning Board members, and other municipal roles depending on the year's ballot.

Together, the Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election form the foundation of Spencer's local democratic process. The meeting determines

how the town will operate in the coming fiscal year, while the election selects the officials responsible for carrying out those decisions.

Residents are encouraged to confirm their voter registration status in advance and review polling locations through the Town Clerk's office. Participation in both the meeting and election helps ensure that local government reflects the priorities and voices of the community.

## CARE Leicester to erect anti-littering signs



Linda Colby of the Leicester CARE Group shows off new anti-littering signs that will soon be posted throughout Leicester.

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

LEICESTER — Locals will soon notice a new collection of signs showing up around Leicester urging everyone to keep the town clean and to avoid littering the streets with trash.

The Leicester Community Advocates for Resource Engagement (C.A.R.E.) Group has established new signage that reads "please do not litter" which will soon be strategically placed around town in the hopes that it will discourage the irre-

sponsible disposal of waste in an effort to keep the town beautiful and protect local environments. The signs were presented to the Select Board on March 31 who cast a symbolic vote of approval.

C.A.R.E. representative Linda Colby said they initially brought the concept of the signs to the Select Board a few months ago but finally had a physical version to present. The initial batch consists of 20 signs with at least 18 sponsored by local families or businesses. Each sponsorship costs \$200 to help fund CARE's

initiatives.

The question remains though, where will these signs find a home? Colby said they are working on determining appropriate locations based off posting limitations and trying to avoid areas already crowded with signage.

"We know that we're not able to put it on stop signs and things like that. We have been working with the Department of Public Works to figure out how to get poles and all that kind of stuff," she said.

The signs are only the lat-

est initiative by CARE to help promote clean practices in the community, and it's just the start for 2026. The group is also organizing a Nickels for Nips collection to encourage individuals to collect and bring in their small alcohol nip bottles for redemption. These bottles are among the most common types of roadside trash in many local communities. The group is also spearheading a Team Up to Clean Up effort again in 2026 and a full week of Clean Up Leicester from April 25 through May 2.

Colby also took the time to discuss how they are working with local schools to help bring students into their initiatives and further improve their visibility at community events.

"We've got all the kids creating some environmental artwork. We're going to put it all up at the Evening with the Arts and at the Harvest Fair. We're there, and people can see what we're trying to do," Colby said.

Details on these and other events and initiatives can be found on the CARE Leicester Facebook page.



## BOOTHBAY HARBOR VACATION

June 9-12	4-Day Boothbay Harbor Vacation from \$899
June 27	Lake George Cruise & Lunch \$185
July 11	Provincetown by Fast Ferry \$220
July 19	8-Day Bermuda & Halifax Cruise from \$1699
Aug. 30	8-Day Nova Scotia Cruise from \$1699

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For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357 or email [adventuretours@att.net](mailto:adventuretours@att.net) or visit [www.adventuretoursforwarren.com](http://www.adventuretoursforwarren.com) for details

# Swan Tavern Historical Museum launches 2026 programs

LEICESTER — The Swan Tavern Leicester Historical Museum is about to start its 2026 presentation series starting in the first week of April. The tavern staff is enthusiastic and once again, will combine a mix of presentations and performances and will be inclusive of local history.

Thursday, May 21 at 7 p.m.: “Resurrecting Lost Voices: The Letters of George Gould” In July 1862, the second year of the Civil War, a twenty-nine-year-old man named George W. Gould from Leicester enlisted in the 25th Volunteers to fight for the Union, leaving

his wife Almira and their three young children at home. Private Gould was killed on June 6, 1864 at the bloody battle of Cold Harbor. One hundred fifty years later, graduate student Morgan Kolakowski Zhang shared her collection of Gould’s letters with Stan Prager, owner of GoGeeks Computer Rescue in East Longmeadow, as well as an independent historian with an interest in the Civil War era. Stan was moved by the letters, and—in what he termed the perfect “marriage of history and technology”—set out to digitize and transcribe the letters, and create a

website to honor George W. Gould. Join him in the story of PVT Gould and the tale to preserve his story. Thursday, Oct. 29 at 7 p.m.: Vampires in Early New England In time for Halloween, Tom Kelleher returns to the Swan Tavern for presentation on Vampires in Early New England. The question of why

scores of people opened graves of their sweethearts, sons, or daughters, along with husbands and wives will perhaps not be what you expect. What terror would drive these people to take this extreme stance? How does Count Dracula fit into the picture? Answers to these and many other questions will be revealed. Thursday, Dec. 4 at

7 p.m.: “Traditional Songs of Christmas” Come visit the Swan Tavern as it is bright with warm Christmas décor for a live musical performance by the Olde Towne Carolers of Boston. Dressed in period Victorian attire, the performance of traditional Christmas songs will last approximately 45 minutes. This event is

free to the public, but reservations are requested.

All programs are presented by the Friends of Swan Tavern and/or the town of Leicester Historical Commission. This project is supported in part, by a grant from the Leicester Arts Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

## Solo/Duet series to blend poetry and chamber jazz at Merriam-Gilbert Public Library

WEST BROOKFIELD — A monthlong series celebrating poetry and jazz will return to the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library in April, offering four evenings of live readings and chamber jazz performances in recognition of National Poetry Month and National Jazz Month.

The program, titled “Solo/Duet,” will take place Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. throughout April at the library, 3 W. Main St. Each session pairs local poets with small-ensemble jazz performances, creating a format in which spoken word “bookends” instrumental sets.

Organizers describe the series as an opportunity for residents to experience two art forms together in an informal and accessible setting. Admission is free, though seating reservations are encouraged by calling the library.

The April lineup begins April 7 with bassist Jerry Wilfong and percussionist-trumpeter Dick Hummel. Poets Glenn D’Alessio and Susan Roney-O’Brien will provide readings that evening.

On April 14, Wilfong will return alongside guitarist Mitch Seidman and harmonica player Chet Williamson. Poetry readings that night will be presented by Clair

Degutis and Jim Beschta.

The April 21 program will feature Wilfong with guitarist Rich Falco and trombonist Rich Ardizzone. Judith Ferrara and Jonathan Blake are scheduled to read selections during the session.

The series concludes April 28 with a solo bass recital by Wilfong. The final evening’s readings will be delivered by Beth Sweeney and Stephen Campiglio.

According to program organizers, the series is structured to highlight the connections between improvisational music and contemporary poetry, offering audiences a chance to hear how rhythm, phrasing and narrative interact across disciplines. The alternating format allows listeners to experience both arts as complementary rather than separate performances.

Funding support for the series is provided through the West Brookfield Cultural Council, with additional backing from the Massachusetts Cultural Council’s local cultural council program.

Library staff say the program continues a tradition of spring arts pro-

gramming tied to National Poetry Month, observed each April across the country, and National Jazz Appreciation Month, which recognizes jazz’s cultural and historical significance in American life.

Residents of West Brookfield and surrounding communities are invited to attend any or all of the Tuesday sessions. Organizers recommend advance reservations due to limited seating in the library’s program space.

For more information or to reserve a seat, contact the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library at 508-867-1410.

## Brookfield Council on Aging announces April programs for seniors

BROOKFIELD — The Brookfield Council on

Aging has announced a full slate of April programs designed to keep local seniors active, informed and connected through a mix of educational presentations, wellness classes and social gatherings at the Senior Center on Common Street.

The month begins April 7 with a Bingo and pizza gathering, offering participants a chance to enjoy a relaxed afternoon of games and conversation. Later in the month, residents can meet with a Tri-Valley Options Counselor on April 13 for information about benefits, services and planning resources available to older adults and their families.

Safety and wellness remain a focus as well. A fall prevention and safety presentation scheduled for April 14 will provide practical strategies for reducing risks at home and maintaining independence. Regular weekly fitness programs also continue, including Functional Fitness classes held Mondays at 11 a.m. and Thursdays at 9 a.m., along with Chair Yoga on Tuesdays at 9 a.m.

Social opportunities remain central to the Council on Aging’s programming. “Donuts with the Director” returns April 23 and will include a follow-up presentation from Varnum Funeral Home, offering residents another chance to ask questions and continue earlier conversations on planning topics of interest.


Later in the month, a presentation on Brookfield history scheduled for April 28 will highlight the town’s past and provide participants with a deeper connection to their community. The program is expected to appeal to longtime residents as well as those newer to the area.

Creative activities round out the schedule. A cardmaking session planned for April 30 offers participants a hands-on craft opportunity, while ongoing crochet and handcraft gatherings take place Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Game Day options throughout the month include Pitch, Skip-Bo, cribbage and Yahtzee.

In addition to group programming, the Council on Aging continues to offer appointments for services such as the foot clinic and manicures. These services must be scheduled in advance.

Programs are held at the Brookfield Senior Center, 8 Common St., and are open to area seniors. Organizers encourage residents to follow the Brookfield Council on Aging on social media for updates and calendar reminders, or to contact staff directly for more information about registration and availability.

Additional details are available by email at seniors@brookfieldma.us.

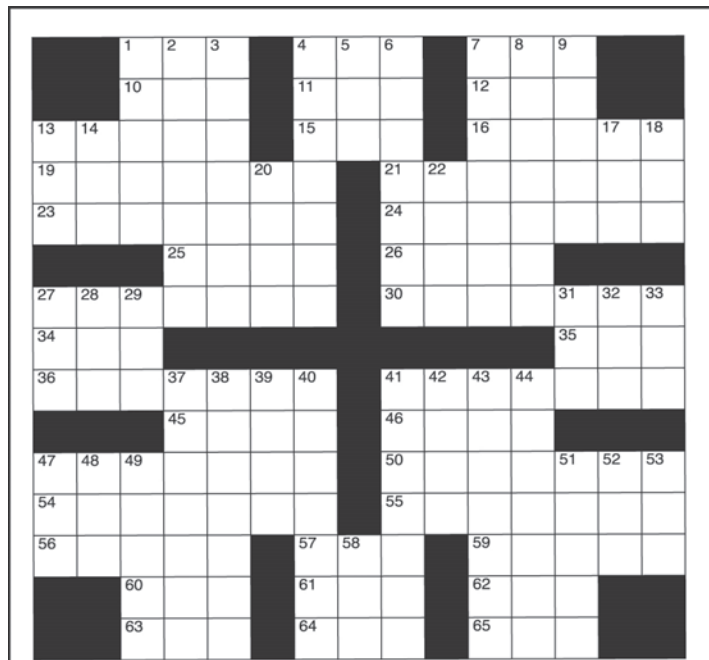


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**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Health care pros
- 4. A person inhabiting Benin
- 7. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
- 10. Split pulses
- 11. Frozen water
- 12. Small constellation
- 13. Perennial mountain rice
- 15. Pick up
- 16. Japanese historical period
- 19. Suggesting the horror of death and decay
- 21. Unattached
- 23. Fishing port in SE France
- 24. Products for dogs
- 25. One point south of southeast
- 26. Having the skill or resources to do something
- 27. Involve oneself deeply
- 30. Immobile
- 34. \_\_\_ pai dong: Hong Kong food stall
- 35. Move quickly on foot
- 36. Gathered
- 41. A way through
- 45. Another name for Thor
- 46. Sharp dueling sword
- 47. The supreme commander of a fleet
- 50. Seasoned sausages
- 54. Path
- 55. Christian hermit
- 56. Ancient region of Asia Minor
- 57. Where wrestlers go to work
- 59. Roman statesman
- 60. Explosive
- 61. Licensed for Wall Street
- 62. Where golfers start
- 63. Grow old
- 64. Autonomic nervous system
- 65. No seats available

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. A legally binding command
- 2. General feeling of discomfort
- 3. Dribble
- 4. Soft touch
- 5. South American plant
- 6. Clouds of gas and dust in space
- 7. Warm-blooded vertebrates
- 8. Lines created by folding
- 9. Strong belief
- 13. Senior officer
- 14. Adult
- 17. Joint entrance examination in India
- 18. Passports and drivers’ licenses are two
- 20. Those who go against an accepted authority
- 22. One point east of northeast
- 27. Journalist Tarbell
- 28. One’s mother (British)
- 29. Nowhere to be found
- 31. A way to save for old age
- 32. Fall behind
- 33. Midway between northeast and east
- 37. The work of a sailor
- 38. Mark with striae
- 39. Energy, style and enthusiasm
- 40. Sticky situation
- 41. Monetary units of Spain
- 42. Three-banded armadillo
- 43. Chooses
- 44. More disreputable
- 47. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 48. “The Partridge Family” actress Susan
- 49. Livestock owners assn. in Spain
- 51. Duplicating machine (abbr.)
- 52. OJ trial judge
- 53. Politician
- 58. Airborne (abbr.)

**PUZZLE SOLUTION**

	E	M	S		F	O	N		M	C	F
	D	A	L		I	C	E		A	R	A
S	M	I	L	O		N	A	B	M	E	J
M	A	C	A	B	R	E		U	N	M	A
A	N	T	I	B	E	S		L	E	A	S
			S	E	B	S		A	B	L	E
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		T	N	T			M	B	A	T	E
		A	G	E			A	N	S	S	R

### Transfer Station stickers on sale starting April 13

SPENCER — Town of Spencer 2026-2027 Transfer Station stickers will be on sale at the Water Department beginning April 13 during regular business hours: Monday to Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sticker fee is \$75.

Second stickers for same household cost an additional \$30. Renewals can be paid online at [www.spencerma.gov](http://www.spencerma.gov) or by mailing your completed form with check/money order.

Please include a stamped self addressed envelope to: Department of Utilities & Facilities Attention: Stickers 3 Old Meadow Rd. Spencer, MA 01562 Questions? Call 508-885-7515.

**PART-TIME PROGRAM ASSISTANT**

The Town of North Brookfield is looking for a part-time Program Assistant for the Council on Aging. Please submit a resume with a letter of interest to the Selectmen’s Office, 215 Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535; or by email to [selectmen@northbrookfield.net](mailto:selectmen@northbrookfield.net).

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# Kindergarten registration now open; free Integrated Preschool available for Leicester families

LEICESTER — The Leicester School District is pleased to announce that Kindergarten registration is now open for the 2026-2027 school year. We are also excited to continue offering tuition-free enrollment in our integrated preschool program for Leicester residents.

Children who turn five years old on or before Aug. 31 are eligible to enroll in Kindergarten at Leicester Elementary School. School hours are 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. There is no registration deadline, and families are encouraged to register as soon as possible to help us prepare for the upcoming school year.

To enter Kindergarten, students must provide:

Proof of a lead screening

with results

A physical exam dated within 13 months of the start of school

5 doses of Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTaP)  
4 doses of Polio  
3 doses of Hepatitis B  
2 doses of Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)  
2 doses of Varicella vaccine

or documentation of chicken-pox disease

Families are invited to attend Kindergarten Information Night on Wednesday, April 8, from 5-7 p.m. at the Leicester Middle School Fine Arts Center. The evening will include an informative presentation, a question-and-answer session, and a tour of Leicester Elementary School. It is a wonderful opportunity for families to learn more

and begin building connections within the school community.

Registration information can be found at: [https://leicester.k12.ma.us/parents/student\\_registration](https://leicester.k12.ma.us/parents/student_registration).

In addition to Kindergarten registration, Leicester is proud to offer a tuition-free integrated preschool program for in-town residents. Children who turn three or four years old on or before Aug. 31 are eligible to apply. District residents who qualify for special education services may begin attending once they turn three, regardless of the birthdate cutoff.

Children enrolling in the preschool program must be independently toilet-trained (no diapers or pull-ups), unless a specific special education service requires otherwise. Children who are not yet inde-

pendently using the restroom during the school day will need to wait to begin the program until they are developmentally ready.

More information about the integrated preschool program can be found at: <https://sites.google.com/lpsma.net/leicester-integrated-preschool?usp=sharing>.

For questions about Kindergarten or Preschool registration, please contact Leicester Elementary School at (508) 892-7050.

We look forward to welcoming our newest learners and partnering with families as they begin this exciting educational journey in Leicester!

## P.E.T. of the Week

Sponsored by Leicester Veterinary Clinic, LLC

### Meet Dante

Dante is not a cuddle bug and she's okay with that. She's the kind of dog who needs time, patience, and space to feel safe. It can take months for Dante to become comfortable with new people and her new home, but once she does, she will thrive in the right environment.



Important to know: Dante is an escape artist-even at her old age. She has escaped multiple times from her previous home and has even gotten loose while on walks. Because of this, a fully fenced, secure yard is absolutely required, and her adopter must be diligent with doors, gates, and leashes at all times.

Dante's ideal home:  
-Adult-only household (she prefers women) -No other pets  
-Fully fenced, secure yard (required) -Calm, low-activity home  
Someone experienced, patient, and willing to let her move at her own pace  
Dante does best in a quiet setting where there isn't a lot of foot traffic or constant activity. She's not looking for a busy social life-she's looking for stability, routine, and understanding.  
If you're someone who believes in giving a dog the time she needs to feel safe and doesn't expect instant affection, Dante may be the perfect companion for you.

Second Chance Animal Services  
www.secondchanceanimals.org  
East Brookfield, MA • 508-867-5525



## Leicester Veterinary Clinic, LLC

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Dr. Colm P. Scanlon  
Veterinarian



# JOY (Just Older Youth) Adventurers offers journey through Canadian Rockies & Pacific Northwest

PAXTON — This journey traces an unforgettable path from Canada's Pacific Coast deep into the heart of the Rockies, blending vibrant cities with some of North America's most awe-inspiring wilderness. Beginning in Vancouver, the adventure opens amid coastal mountains, historic neighborhoods, and lush green spaces before drifting across the Gulf Islands to the charming capital of Victoria. Here, manicured gardens, waterfront views, and rich heritage set an elegant pace.

The landscape soon transforms as the route climbs inland through British Columbia's dramatic highways toward alpine terrain. Highlights include the soaring presence of Mount Robson and the pristine beauty of Jasper National Park, where glacier-fed lakes, rugged peaks, and serene wildlife encounters define each moment. A cruise on Maligne Lake and time along the iconic Icefields Parkway lead to the immense Columbia Icefield, offering rare access to ancient glaciers and sweeping mountain vistas.

Further south, the turquoise waters of Lake Louise and the storybook charm of Banff National Park deliver classic Rocky Mountain magic, balancing outdoor exploration with relaxed town life. Crossing into the United States, the journey continues through the untamed grandeur of Glacier

National Park, where alpine passes, historic lodges, and cultural storytelling reveal the soul of the "Crown of the Continent."

The experience concludes as forests and mountains give way to vineyards, lakes, and the energetic waterfront of Seattle. From coastal elegance to icy glaciers and iconic skylines, this trip weaves together nature, culture, and comfort into a richly layered exploration of western North America.

Pricing: \$7,625 per person (double) - includes 14 days with 20 meals, hotels, and all transfers within tour; but does not include airfare and transportation to airport. Pricing for airfare and ground transportation to airport will be finalized soon, but plan for under \$1,000 per person. For more information, contact Bill Murwin at [whmurwin@gmail.com](mailto:whmurwin@gmail.com) or by phone 508-756-3193.

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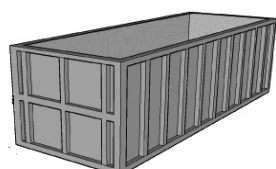


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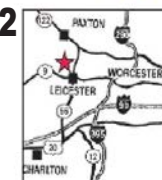


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# Thank You!

## Winding Down for Retirement

Have you heard the news??? After 39 years in business (and being 39 years older than when we started) one notices that there is now a shorter distance left to travel on life's journey than the distance that has already been traversed. That thinking led us to the decision to wind down our business during the first quarter of this year so we can retire.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE  
EDITOR

## EDITORIAL

### When one student steps forward, a community grows stronger

In small towns like North Brookfield, it does not take long for people to notice when a young person dedicates themselves to something unusual, demanding, or simply different. Sometimes, that attention becomes encouragement. Sometimes it becomes skepticism. And sometimes, it becomes something even harder to face.

That is why stories like the one unfolding in the life of dancer Cooper Mann matter more than they might seem at first glance.

Here is a student who began dancing as a child, stayed with it through years of practice and competition, and is now finishing his senior year with national titles, modeling credits, a television appearance, choreography experience, and an internship that will allow him to begin teaching others. Those accomplishments would be impressive in any setting. In a small-town studio environment, they are remarkable.

Yet what stands out most is not the résumé. It is the example.

Young people often hear that success comes from hard work, discipline, and persistence. It can sound like a slogan until they see someone close to home actually live it. A student who spent nearly a decade training across multiple styles, stepping onto unfamiliar stages, accepting criticism, and continuing forward anyway makes those lessons real.

Equally important is the message Mann hopes to share with other boys who may be curious about dance but hesitate to try.

For generations, small communities have taken pride in athletics, music programs, and academic achievement. Those traditions remain strong and valuable. But the arts deserve the same confidence and support. Dance, theater, and performance are not side activities. They are disciplines that build strength, coordination, confidence, and resilience.

They also open doors.

Experiences such as performing before large audiences, working with professional choreographers, appearing in film productions, or participating in national competitions rarely begin in major cities. They begin in places like a local studio in North Brookfield, where teachers invest their time and belief in students who are still discovering who they are.

That investment matters. So does the willingness of families to encourage their children to try something unfamiliar. And just as important is the willingness of classmates and neighbors to treat those choices with respect.

It is not always easy to be the student who steps outside expectations. Small towns are close-knit places, and that closeness can sometimes make differences feel larger than they should. But communities grow stronger when young people are supported in exploring their talents rather than steered away from them.

When one student succeeds in an unexpected field, it quietly expands what feels possible for everyone else.

Perhaps the most encouraging part of this story is that Mann is not simply moving on. He is returning to teach, mentor, and share what he has learned with younger dancers. That kind of cycle, where students become role models for the next generation, is how local programs stay vibrant decade after decade.

Every town hopes its young people leave with confidence. Every town hopes they carry lessons that last. And every town benefits when they bring those lessons back home again.

#### 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

### My plan to Save America

To the Editor:

Start with not passing the Save America bill, which is one percent about showing an ID and 99 percent about supplementing the files, that the courts rejected DOGE stealing from the IRS. It does not take 100 pages to write a bill that says show valid ID. Vetting should be when registering, not at polls. Musk already announced to the world that his money and technology is why we elected a perverted felon. Trump won the popular vote by just 1 percent, and only beat the far more qualified Hillary Clinton in the electoral college, which I consider a Jim Crow throwback, overdue to expire. Jan. 6, 2021, we learned how vulnerable it is to bad actors.

With (and maybe without) the states voter registry information, and something falsely called Citizens United, that enables ultra wealth to target spending, the days of free and fair elections will be over. If you supported this president, because he promised no wars, lower prices affordable healthcare, or making us great, then you probably also know the only way the GOP remains in charge is if cheating works well enough to control outcomes.

History repeats itself. The Romans conquered most of the known world, and subjugated their people. Along came Hitler, who attempted to repeat that process, and came close to succeeding. His racist and supremacist ideas have been embraced by a new tyrant, in control of the worlds most powerful military., and who has either brainwashed or struck fear into population that turned out to protest virtually Un-American, illegal, immoral and unacceptable behavior by Trump and his mob. The right answer is Article #2 Section #4 — a complete swamp draining.

We have a DOJ (Department of Justification), DOD, now department of war- that nobody wants, Health being run by a complete crackpot, Homeland security now the SS, emoluments being so blatantly ignored, that the grifting is an open book, courts either owned or ignored. I just read they want to cut healthcare more for war funding.

My Save America Plan: start over — not much left worth saving. Big Brother has arrived.

KEN KIMBALL  
BROOKFIELD

## Three letters

To the Editor:

Last week, a number of letters appeared on these pages. All of them ranked higher than at least one that appeared the week before, and likewise one likely to appear this week.

First, the “My two cents” letter. While I differ greatly with many points, like the writer, I patriotically love the United States of America. I love it because of our 250 year old Constitution, its fair laws and its’ historic democratic equality for all Americans, whatever their creed or color. I will also do my best to help overcome those who do not govern America “for the people.” but rather say “I rule America, I rule the world.”

Next, the better KK’s “DOGE” letter. It’s about how Trump, the damaged corrupt billionaire, the similar, soon to be trillionaire Elon Musk and rigid reactionaries like Miller and Voght have gutted, like they were a fish, government services and institutions that made and kept America “great” for hundreds of years. Services for the people like education, health care, consumer protection, public safety, and preserving our glorious environment. And to pay for this, collecting taxes the rich should and could pay, but are not. They also gut best in the world, what also - along with the private sector — what makes America “great” universities, research institutions and other for

the people, “not for profit” organizations.

Against strong Chinese and other competition, it will already take not years, but decades for, America, our beloved country, to recover.

The last a letter from a lady near Lake Lashaway. Like her, I learned about Christian morality (if the hard way through nuns and priests). So when I read or hear the leader of America saying “... king” or that he would bomb 92 million people “Back to the “Stone Age” because he isn’t winning a war he chose to begin, I, with total disgust, agree with the Pope from America says about such things.

More than that, I agree with the Lady from Lashaway about what we can and must do about it — make sure in 2026, and beyond, that we have free and fair elections and that all American citizen are encouraged to not suppressed from voting. As she indicates, Trump MAGAs “I rule” so-called “Save Act” wants to do the opposite. So if you wish, go online to Stonebridgepress.com, then Spencer New Leader Archives and read through the letters to see which organizations I think can help us preserve free and fair elections for all citizens. Examples include the Brennan Center named after a Republican appointed Supreme Court Chief Justice and the 1920 founded League of Women voters.

KEVIN KANE  
SPENCER

## The comfort of a familiar hardware store

There are some places in a Massachusetts town that do more than sell things.

A hardware store is one of them.

I stopped into ours the other afternoon looking for a replacement washer for a leaky outdoor spigot. It was not a complicated job. At least I hoped it was not. I stood in the aisle longer than I care to admit, holding two nearly identical little packages and trying to decide which one looked more trustworthy.

Before I could make the wrong choice, someone I recognized from town stepped around the corner and asked what I was working on. Not a clerk. Not someone wearing a name tag. Just another neighbor who had clearly solved the same problem once or twice.

That is how these places work.

You go in for a small repair and come out with

LANTERNS  
ALONG  
MAIN  
STREET  
By CHARLES

advice, conversation, and sometimes a better understanding of how many other people in town are fixing the very same thing you are fixing that week. A loose

hinge. A storm door closer. A stubborn lawn mower bolt that refuses to cooperate.

When I was growing up, hardware stores were part classroom, part meeting place, and part supply depot. The shelves were tall. The floors creaked. Somewhere near the counter there was always a bulletin board with handwritten notices about yard sales, lost cats, and community suppers.

Nobody hurried you. If you asked where something was, the answer was rarely just a direction. It was usually a short story about how to install it correctly and what mistake to avoid the first time around. Sometimes you left knowing more than you planned

to learn that day.

That still happens.

There is something reassuring about walking into a place where the people behind the counter understand not only what you need, but where you live and what kind of house you probably have. Older colonial. Mid century ranch. Cape with a drafty back hallway that always seems colder than the rest of the house in February.

Advice changes depending on those things.

In larger stores, everything is bigger. Brighter lights. Wider aisles. More choices than anyone really needs. There is nothing wrong with that. Sometimes you need those places. Still, there is a different feeling when someone hands you exactly the right size screw without checking a computer.

It feels like being known.

I noticed something else that afternoon while I waited at the counter. Two teenagers came in looking for sandpaper for a school

## Risks threatening Gen Z’s retirement — and how to tackle them



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While older generations worry about having enough money for retirement, many Gen Z workers aren’t even starting to save. Research in 2025 by Edward Jones and Morning Consult shows that nearly half haven’t begun setting money aside for their golden years, and only 22 percent are contributing to a workplace retirement plan.

The culprit is a perfect storm of financial pressures that can make saving for the future feel impossible.

One of the biggest challenges this generation faces is debt. High-interest credit card balances and persistent student loan payments leave many feeling they’re just trying to stay afloat, rather than planning decades ahead.

The cost of living doesn’t help either. Nearly 60 percent of Gen Z renters are considered “rent-burdened,” spending more than 30 percent of their pre-tax income on rent, according to a StreetEasy analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data. Rising prices driven by inflation and tariffs squeeze budgets further, moving retirement savings down the priority list.

The nature of work has also changed. Gen Z is more likely than previous generations to hold gig jobs, contract positions or other flexible work arrangements that often don’t include employer retirement plans, according to Pew Research. Even when plans are available, only 22 percent participate. Feeling overwhelmed by jargon, confused by investment choices or focusing only on today’s experiences and technology can all delay participation. These early gaps may lead to catch-up needs later in life.

Unfortunately, Gen Z has little faith in the retirement safety net. Only about a third of Gen Z-ers say they believe Social Security will still exist when they retire, according to the latest information from the CATO Institute.

Fortunately, there are steps Gen Z can take now to get their retirement savings off to a good start:

Start small: Even a few dollars per paycheck builds a savings habit and gets compounding interest working in their favor. Early momentum matters more than starting big.

Let compounding do its work: Small, consistent contributions can grow dramatically over time, especially when they have decades to accumulate.

Use a workplace retirement account: For anyone with access to a plan, enroll and contribute at least enough to receive any employer match. It’s one of the few forms of “free money” available.

Open an IRA: If no plan is available through work, take charge by opening an individual retirement account (IRA).

Simplify investing: If the choices feel confusing, consider options such as a target date fund, which reduces complexity and helps keep you properly invested without needing expert advice.

Use found money: Direct tax refunds, bonuses, or gig income into retirement savings to boost progress without straining the monthly budget.

Automate contributions: Automatic transfers make saving effortless. Review this annually and increase contributions as income grows.

Build confidence: If investing feels overwhelming, look for quick financial education resources from an employer, plan provider, or reputable nonprofit organization. Even a little knowledge can make decisions easier.

The path to retirement doesn’t require perfection — just progress. Building consistency early helps create choices, security, and financial breathing room later in life.

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. Edward Jones, Member SIPC

# Meet the candidates for Spencer offices April 27

SPENCER — Residents of Spencer will have an opportunity later this month to hear directly from candidates seeking local office ahead of the town's Annual Town Election during a public Meet the Candidates session scheduled for Monday, April 27, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

The event is designed to give voters a chance to learn more about individuals running for office in the Tuesday, May 12 town election, including any declared write-in candidates. Each participant will be provided up to five minutes to introduce themselves, outline priorities, and respond to questions from attendees.

Candidate forums have long served as an informal but important part of Spencer's civic calendar, offering residents a chance to compare perspectives on issues facing the community before casting ballots.

Unlike formal debates, the sessions are typically structured to allow each candidate equal time to speak while encouraging respectful audience engagement.

Local races on the Annual Town Election ballot often include positions such as Select Board, School Committee, Planning Board, and other municipal offices that influence budgeting decisions, policy direction, and long-term planning. Participation in forums such as Meet the Candidates can help voters better understand the experience and goals of those seeking to serve.

Organizers are encouraging all candidates appearing on the May ballot, as well as those planning write-in campaigns, to attend. Community members interested in submitting questions or seeking additional information about the session may contact Carolann, according to event organizers.

The Spencer Annual Town Election will take place Tuesday, May 12, with polls open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.


**Public Service Announcement**

Town of Spencer  
2026-2027

Transfer Station Stickers will be on sale at the Water Department beginning April 13, 2026 during regular business hours:  
Monday to Thursday  
8:00AM to 5:00PM  
Sticker fee is \$75.00  
Second stickers for same household cost an additional \$30.00.  
Renewals can be paid online at [www.spencerma.gov](http://www.spencerma.gov) or by mailing your completed form with check/money order  
Please include a stamped self addressed envelope to:  
Department of Utilities & Facilities  
Attention: Stickers  
3 Old Meadow Road  
Spencer, MA 01562  
Questions? Call 508-885-7515

**NOTICE**  
**HYDRANT FLUSHING**  
**TOWN OF SPENCER**

The Town of Spencer Water Department will be flushing fire hydrants throughout the western part of the distribution system starting April 13th thru April 30th 2026. Flushing removes sediment from the water mains to help maintain water quality. When the Water Department staff is in the immediate area, residents could experience loss of pressure and short periods of rusty water. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. A daily list of the flushing locations will be posted on the Spencer town website [www.spencerma.gov](http://www.spencerma.gov) each day by 8:00AM (click on Departments, then click Water Department, then click Hydrant Flushing 2026). If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact the Spencer Water Department office at 508-885-7525. Thank you.



## School District granted waiver on 180-day requirement

SPENCER — Superintendent Paul Haughey announced today that the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has officially granted a waiver to the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District regarding the 180-day school year requirement.

In a letter dated March 27, Commissioner of Education Pedro Martinez (acting on behalf of the Department) approved the district's request to reduce the instructional year by three days for the 2025-2026 calendar year. The waiver was requested following the emergency cancellation of classes at David Prouty High School due to a significant burst pipe in late December of 2025.

Under the terms of the approval:

The instructional requirement for the current school year is adjusted to 177 days.

The final day of school for students at David Prouty High School is now scheduled for June 18.

"We appreciate the Commissioner's understanding of the unique challenges posed by this facility emergency," said Superintendent Haughey. "This waiver allows our district to maintain a firm closing date for the year while ensuring we continue to provide a high-quality educational experience for our students."

For further information regarding the revised academic calendar, please visit the district Web site.


## Throwdown! Food Truck Festival returns to Spencer Fairgrounds May 16

SPENCER — The Throwdown! 2026 Food Truck Festival will be held Saturday, May 16 from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the Spencer Fairgrounds, 49 Smithville Rd. Admission is \$5 at the gate (children under 12 free).

Throwdown! 2026 is Worcester County's longest running and largest annual Food Truck Festival and Craft Fair. A panel of judges and event attendees cast votes for their favorite food truck to be honored with the prestigious "Best of Worcester County Food Trucks" and the ever coveted "People's Choice" awards. Along with great food from dozens of food trucks, customers may browse among the over 50 artisanal craft vendors, enjoy carnival style games, listen to music or participate in an array of yard games such as corn hole, giant blocks, ladder toss and other fun activities just for the kids. Enjoy craft beer and wines at this year's event from "The Stein & Vine", Central Massachusetts' favorite mobile bar service. It's a fantastic way to spend a Spring afternoon with family and friends in a beautiful outdoor setting.

WooTrucks has been the most trusted name in reliable food truck booking for over a decade. Our commissary, commercial kitchen, and base of operations for food trucks, caterers, bakers, and food entrepreneurs is located at 67 Main St., Boylston. Our fully permitted and approved facility to prepare food was established to foster a transparent, self-policing community of food trucks and food entrepreneurs practicing only the highest standards of customer service while maintaining strict adherence to health, sanitation and food codes. WooTrucks operates food truck festivals throughout the region and supplies food trucks to corporate clients, private businesses, breweries, academic institutions, and local municipalities.

**ATTENTION**  
**WEST BROOKFIELD RESIDENTS**  
**Hydrant Flushing**



The West Brookfield Water Department will be flushing hydrants April 20th through May 1st during the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Flushing will cause some disturbance in the water mains. The water may appear cloudy but will eventually dissipate.  
*Please plan water use accordingly.*

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**CROMESSETT WOODS** – Wareham, MA  
**ELIM HOUSING** – Norton, MA

**FOXGLOVE** – Harvard, MA  
**HEATHERWOOD** – Baldwinville, MA  
**KIRKWOOD PLACE** – Palmer, MA  
**MARCONI VILLAGE** – Marion, MA  
**PINEVIEW** – Baldwinville, MA  
**WELLINGTON** – Westminster, MA

Ashley Court, Astorwood Place, Autumn Ridge, Bayberry Point, Cromesett Woods, Elim Housing, Foxglove, Kirkwood Place, Marconi Village, Pineview and Wellington are for ages 62 or older or disabled regardless of age. They feature ONE bedroom apartments including:  
appliances, parking, on-site laundry, community room, alarm systems, **rents based on income.**

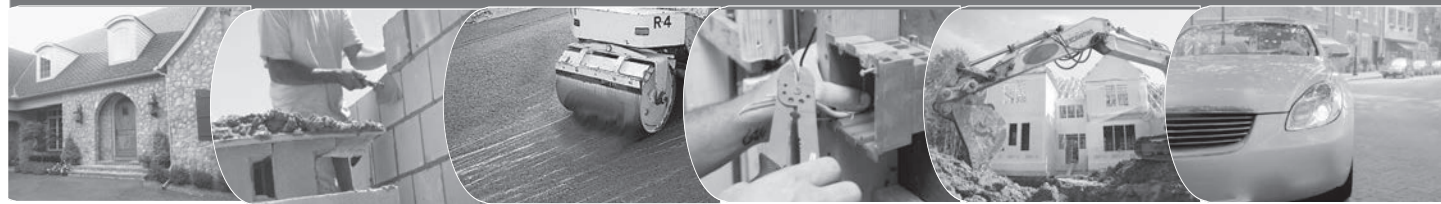
Heatherwood is a family complex which features 2 & 3 bedroom apartments.

Income must be within the USDA, Rural Development income guidelines. If needed, please request a wheelchair accessible unit.  
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### LANTERNS

continued from page A4

project. An older couple asked about furnace filters. Someone else needed a length of rope and could not remember how thick it should be.

Nobody seemed out of place.

A hardware store welcomes beginners and experts the same way. It assumes you are trying to fix something and that trying counts for a lot. That is a generous attitude for any place to have.

Communities depend on locations like that more than we realize. Not because of what they sell, but because of how they connect people who might not otherwise speak to each other on an ordinary weekday afternoon.

You go in for a washer and leave with a short conversation about the weather, the garden, or whether it is finally time to put the snow shovels away for good.

I am never entirely sure how long I have been standing there when that happens.

But I always leave feeling like the town is still working the way it is supposed to.



Wendy O'Leary

## Richard Sugden Library hosting Happiness Party

SPENCER — A Happiness Party is planned at the Richard Sugden Library on May 2 at 2 p.m. to celebrate the newest publication by local author Wendy O'Leary.

Wendy O'Leary, Spencer resident, has her 5th publication coming out on April 21, a card deck for children called "Let's Grow Happiness." All her publications focus on ways to support families and children in building emotional resilience, with an empha-

sis on mindfulness and self-compassion.

Though her books focus on children and families, Wendy also works with adults. She has been facilitating a meditation group for adults at the Richard Sugden Library since moving to Spencer eight years ago. Having the opportunity to create community and practice tools for wellbeing and resilience with others is the driving force behind her work.

This recent project,

co-authored with Dr. Helen Maffini, highlights ways that happiness can inspire us to live wholeheartedly even amid difficulties. The 50 cards in the deck offer a variety of practical, fun, and engaging ways to grow happiness: cultivating gratitude, focusing on our connections with others, being more present in the moment, being playful and silly, moving our bodies, being in nature, and so much more. Though written for children, the deck offers

fun and meaningful ideas for adults as well.

O'Leary shares that the deck is great for classrooms, families, therapists, and camp settings. The activities in the deck would be great for planning playdates and parties, and most can be used by children, either alone or in group settings.

Something happy is coming to Spencer. It's a Happiness Party for all ages!

## Community Heart & Soul coming to North Brookfield

NORTH BROOKFIELD — Developed and field-tested over a decade in partnership with more than 100 small cities and towns across America, Community Heart & Soul is a proven process for engaging a community in shaping its future. And it is coming to North Brookfield!

Lifelong residents and those new to town are being asked to participate in this program that could help identify ways to enhance the character of North Brookfield. By gathering input from neighbors, local officials, business owners and other stakeholders, citizens will be able to chart a path for their town's future.

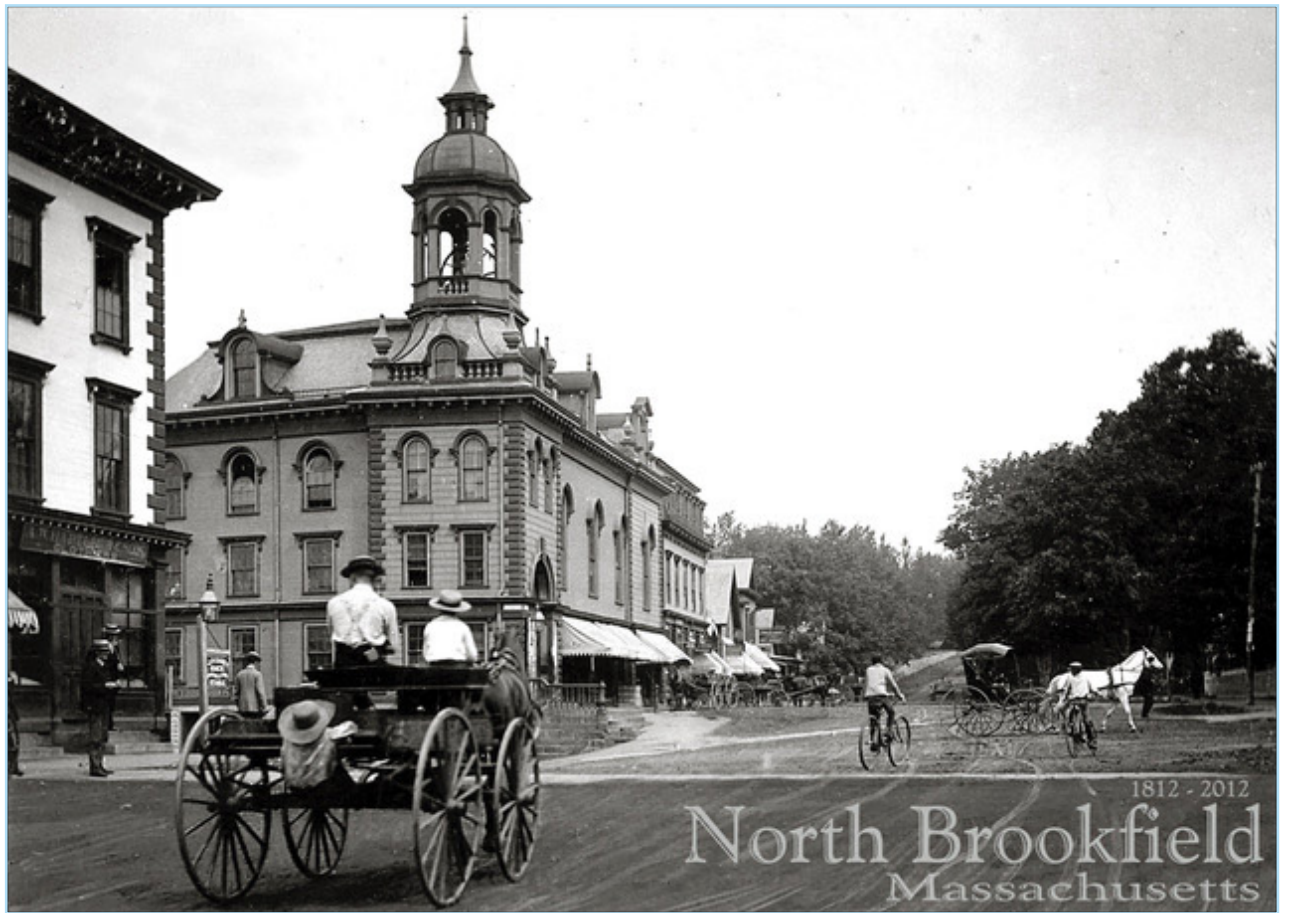
A dedicated group of community volunteers are leading the way, guided by a Community Heart & Soul coach. Funded through a grant from the Greater Worcester Community Foundation, the two-year process works in phases: identifying what matters

most to the community; bringing in different stakeholders to be involved with the discussion; planning for the "long game" to chart priorities and potential plans for future growth; and helping the town prepare to act on these goals.

Residents are encouraged to join our group at the Hoston Free Public Library from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 11 to learn about the benefits of the Community Heart & Soul program, share what they love most about our community, and decide if they want to actively participate in this "home grown" effort to shape the future of North Brookfield.

Refreshments will be provided by Subway.

If you are unable to attend on April 11, or would like more information before our event, you can refer to the Community Heart & Soul Web site, [www.community-heartandsoul.org](http://www.community-heartandsoul.org).



## QCC students give back through free tax assistance

WORCESTER — Students at Quinsigamond Community College are gaining hands-on experience by providing free tax preparation services to community members through the federally supported Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

After in-class training, students perform weekly sessions preparing tax returns under the supervision of QCC Associate Professor of Accounting Eduardo Rivas. While volunteering, they gain insight

into realworld scenarios, such as ride-share drivers navigating selfemployment and tax rules that have changed from the previous year.

"Our students truly go above and beyond in this program. It has been great to see their commitment not only to learning, but also to helping the community. Even during spring break and holidays, they continued to volunteer their time," Rivas said. "It is also very encouraging to see new students already asking how they can be part of the pro-

gram next year. This program creates a strong sense of belonging and community, and that is something we are very proud of."

The students described their experience as both rewarding and eyeopening, especially as they learned how to share difficult news, explain tax outcomes, and help guide clients in preparing their taxes for future years.

"People come here for the knowledge. If they understand why they owe or why they get a refund, that reduces their stress," said

student and second-year volunteer Joshua Roman. "There's no price on giving back to the community,"

Many QCC students bring critical multilingual skills to the VITA program, regularly assisting clients in other languages such as Spanish and Portuguese.

"Speaking two languages helps a lot," said Adriana Nunez Tang, who is studying business. "When the client can tell you their feelings, you can communicate better."

Others shared how the VITA program strengthens

skills beyond accounting and is helping to prepare them for the complexities of professional environments.

"Taxes are important, but teamwork is too," Nunez Tang said. "This program has motivated me to believe in myself, do better in life and give my kids a better future."

For many, the VITA program aligns directly with their career goals. Some aim to work in accounting firms, money management, or data analysis.

"I wanted to see what filing taxes would be like

and if I'd want to be in this career," said Gina Cela-Gualpa, a student who helps manage intake, scheduling and administrative support for the program. "I love it, especially working with people."

QCC's VITA services are available to individuals and families earning \$69,000 or less. Services are provided both in person and virtually. All returns are reviewed through a quality assurance process to ensure accuracy.

For more information, visit [QCC.edu/vita](http://QCC.edu/vita).

# Community Connection

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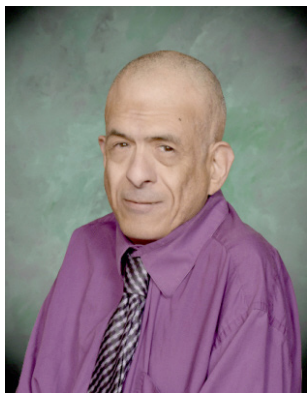
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# Saint Joseph School Educator participates in United Nations CSW70 event



Courtesy

Mr. John Kottori, Social Skills Instructor, Grade 5 Social Studies teacher, and Athletic Director at Saint Joseph School in Webster, recently served as a featured leader for an official parallel event of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70), sharing a powerful message of perseverance, dignity, and equal opportunity in sports and education.

WEBSTER — Saint Joseph School is proud to recognize Mr. John Kottori, who recently served as one of the featured leaders for “Progress and Paradox: Women’s Leadership in Sport After Title IX,” an official parallel event of the 70th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70), a global forum focused on advancing the dignity, equality, and opportunities of women and girls.

Building on this recognition, Athletes United for Peace – Level the Field hosted a virtual event on March 10, 2026, to explore progress for women and girls in sports since the passage of Title IX, and to address the ongoing need for equity, dignity, and leadership opportunities for all.

Mr. Kottori was born and raised in Webster, graduating from Bartlett High School (’87) and Springfield College (’93). While at Springfield studying Sports

Management, he learned about the significance of Title IX from Dr. Mimi Murray, who testified before Congress in support of it.

After graduating, Mr. Kottori returned to Webster and began his education career, coaching basketball at Bartlett under the mentorship of Mr. Donald Cushing, the school’s longtime Athletic Director. Observing Mr. Cushing’s implementation of Title IX first hand shaped Mr. Kottori’s perspective. Through this mentorship, Mr. Kottori succeeded in basketball and gained an even deeper appreciation for pursuing excellence in an equal-opportunity society.

Today, in his role at Saint Joseph School, Mr. Kottori serves as the Social Skills Instructor for Grades PreK through 8, the Grade 5 Social Studies teacher, and the Athletic Director. Through his work with students, he brings patience, encouragement, and a strong sense of compassion to both the classroom and the athletic field.

Athletes United for Peace sought Mr. Kottori to help lead and organize the event during the CSW70 at the United Nations. Recognizing the decline in female participation in sports, he suggested the Title IX topic, which was approved. Over six months of planning, he helped secure 4 of the 5 panelists, including the keynote speaker, Ms. Stephanie Dollar, a Webster resident.

Ms. Dollar, a graduate of Saint Joseph School and Marianapolis, serves as the Executive Deputy of Athletics for UMASS Boston, with one of her main duties being compliance with Title IX. Notably, Kottori and Dollar previously coached a boys AAU basketball team together in the

’90s and have a longstanding friendship.

During his presentation at the event, Mr. Kottori shared his moving story of perseverance and faith. Born with arthrogyposis, a condition affecting his joints and muscles, he underwent 23 surgeries on his feet as a young child and spoke about his determination not only to walk but to run and participate in sports. He reflected on how the spirit of Title IX opened doors for those too often overlooked, just as its call to fairness and dignity shaped his own journey as an educator and coach. Drawing a parallel between his early life and Title IX, he believes the legislation has enabled him to pursue equal opportunities in sports.

Continuing his remarks, he also expressed gratitude to the women who influenced his life and instilled in him the values of equity, compassion, and respect for others. His message served as a powerful reminder that every person is created with God-given dignity and that we are called to stand together in support of one another.

Reflecting on his 35-year career as an educator, including 25 years in Catholic schools, Mr. Kottori views supporting others in their struggles as his calling, stating, “How can I ask for others to support disability rights issues if I don’t support theirs?”

As a single parent to a daughter who plays soccer and basketball, he underscores the importance of ongoing improvement for all students and student-athletes, adding, “When I can no longer educate or coach, I would like to see the improvement growing for all students and student-athletes.”

# Massasoit Art Guild announces Spring Small Works show at Leicester Public Library

LEICESTER — The Massasoit Art Guild will present its Spring Small Works Art and Photography Show from April 30 through May 27 at the Leicester Public Library, offering visitors a chance to view a wide range of compact-format artwork created by guild members from across the region.

The members-only exhibition will feature original pieces limited to a maximum size of 12 by 14 inches, measured by outside frame dimensions. Artists may submit up to two entries each. Organizers said the smaller format encourages experimentation and accessibility while allowing a broad range of styles and media to be displayed in a shared community setting.

The show will be judged as a single category rather than divided by medium. Awards will be presented for first, second and third place, along with an honorary mention. A People’s Choice selection will also be recognized. Ribbon prizes will be awarded to winners.

Artwork drop-off and check-in is scheduled for Thursday, April 30, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in the library’s ground-floor Community Room. Later that day, the guild will host a public meet-and-greet reception with participating artists from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the same location. Organizers encourage all participating artists to attend the reception to connect with visitors and fellow exhibitors.

The exhibition will remain on display during regular library hours through May 27. Pick-up for submitted artwork is scheduled for Thursday, May 28, from 9:30 to 11 a.m., again in the Community Room.

Registration for the show opened Feb. 22 and continues through April 15, or until available space is filled. Advance registration is required, and artists must complete the entry process through the guild’s web-

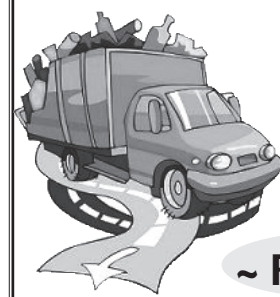
site.

Guild representatives said the annual small works exhibition provides an opportunity for artists to present new material while also introducing local audiences to the range of talent within the organization. The show is designed to be approachable for both established artists and newer members interested in exhibiting their work publicly.

Support for the exhibition is provided in part through a grant from the Spencer Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council.

Additional information about show rules and registration is available through the Massasoit Art Guild website. Questions may also be directed to the organization by email at massasoitartguild@gmail.com.

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# Cornerstone Bank donates \$5,000 to support Worcester summer learning program

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank has donated \$5,000 to support a summer enrichment program serving low-income youth in Worcester, continuing its support after a \$5,000 contribution in 2024.

The program serves students entering fourth grade in two of Worcester’s lowest-performing schools, providing academic instruction, mentorship and enrichment opportunities during the month of July. It is designed to prevent summer learning loss while helping students build the skills and confidence needed for a key academic transition year.

Participants receive daily instruction in core subjects along with arts, physical activity and field trips. The program also offers individualized attention and consistent mentorship, helping students strengthen both academic performance and personal development.

“Education opens doors, and every child deserves the support needed to succeed,” said Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank. “We are proud to continue investing in a program that gives Worcester students the tools, confidence and opportunities to thrive in the classroom and beyond.”

Program leaders aim to increase math and reading scores, improve readiness for fourth grade and provide a well-rounded experience that motivates students and expands their perspective on future success.

About Cornerstone Bank  
Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank’s local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone, which is a subsidiary of PeoplesBankCorp, MHC, operating independently under its own name and brand, provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities through a broad range of deposit and loan products and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank’s personal and business banking offerings, please visit [cornerstonebank.com](http://cornerstonebank.com) or call 800-939-9103.

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# OBITUARY

## Raymond Kallio, 99



**WORCESTER/SPENCER:** Raymond Kallio, 99, of Worcester formerly of Spencer, died Saturday, March 28 at Notre Dame du Lac Assisted Living in Worcester. He leaves his daughter; Nancy Nowak and her husband

Bernard of Spencer, three granddaughters, Lisa Rockwood and her husband James of Cache, OK, Marie Pasquale and her husband, Joseph of Raleigh, NC, Cheryl Lavoie and her husband, John of West Newton, MA, seven great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. His wife of sixty-nine years, Pauline (Simoneau) Kallio died in 2014. His sister, Ruth Morin of Las Vegas, NV died in 2015. He also leaves extended family and many friends, as well as the dedicated staff at Notre Dame du Lac, Notre Dame Hospice, and Amada Senior Care.

He was born in Worcester MA, the son of the late Hugh Kallio and Anna (Costley) Kallio. He was a Navy veteran of World War II. He worked in the heat treat and lab testing departments of Wyman-Gordon

Company, retiring in 1988.

He was a member of Mary, Queen of the Rosary Parish in Spencer, and formerly served on the parish council. A Eucharistic minister for many years, he also served in the elder outreach ministry. He was a member of Finnish Heritage Society, Sovittaja in Rutland, MA.

Ray's funeral was held on Tuesday, April 7th 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 Mary, Queen of the Rosary Cemetery, Spencer. A calling hour preceded the Mass from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to Mary, Queen of the Rosary Parish, 46 Maple Street, Spencer, 01562 or Notre Dame Healthcare, 555 Plantation Street, Worcester, 01605.



## Leicester Senior Citizens Club launches membership drive

**LEICESTER** — The Leicester Senior Citizens Club is a group of older adults that meets at the Leicester Senior Center twice a month. The club is looking to attract new members from all the area towns and cities.

The group meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Meetings begin at 10 a.m. At the conclusion of each meeting, there is a scheduled form of entertainment or informational presentation.

The Leicester Senior Citizens Club is linking older adults with each other, and to opportunities that improve their health, well-being, and sense of community. It is

the club's way of reducing the effects of isolation. We want to offer special programs beyond normal hours, and we need input and ideas from new members to help get us there. Membership is open to all individuals aged 60 and older. The cost to join is \$10 for an annual membership.

To learn more about the membership drive or to sign up, please visit the Leicester Senior Center at 40 Winslow Ave., Leicester, during operating hours (Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.), or call David Wood, Program Director at the senior center, at (508)-892-7016.

## WEEKLY POLICE BLOTTER

### Spencer

The Spencer Police Department had no arrests to report during the week of March 25-31.

### Leicester

The Leicester Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of March 26 to April 1.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on March 26 for operating a motor vehicle after suspension of license.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on March 26 for

Shoplifting By Asportation and Larceny in an amount under \$1,200.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on March 29 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of registration and operating an Uninsured Motor Vehicle.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on March 30 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of registration, operating an Uninsured Motor Vehicle, operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle, and operating a motor vehicle with No Inspection Sticker.

### COOPER

continued from page A1

New York City, he competed in modeling and performance categories receiving multiple awards and was chosen as principal dancer for the Nicole Miller Fashion Show. He found it exhilarating performing his jazz solo at the show banquet in front of more than 2,000 guests.

He also has tried acting and appeared in the 2024 Lifetime TV movie "My Acting Coach Nightmare" as an acting student.

Recently, Mann began concentrating on choreography which allows him to put a little more of himself into his craft. It was not easy displaying his own work for others to judge but the feedback that he has received has enabled him to grow even more in his dance.

Mann states, "I love taking what I have learned over

the years and compiling it into a dance to music that I love."

This spring, Mann will be interning at the Anderson studio and is looking forward to teaching choreography.

Through his work, Mann hopes to show other boys that dance is not just for girls. It is for everyone. He realizes that it is not easy to try something that is out of the norm for small town boys, but he encourages them to take that risk and assures them it is worth it. He admits that he was made fun of by those who did not understand the world that he was getting to experience and the interesting people that he was privileged to meet through dance. He was invited to be on the set of a movie starring Austin Butler, Bad Bunny and Matt Smith. He was able to meet Derek Hough of "Dancing with the Stars," dance for and get advice from him. And, last year he had a judge at a com-

petition tell him, after he saw him dance, that he was so impressed he texted the choreographers for "The Outsiders the Musical."

"I will never forget how that felt," Mann admitted.

His advice to other boys drawn to performing is to ignore the "haters" and follow what they want to do.

This is Cooper Mann's senior year of high school and his final year as a member of the Kara Anderson Competition team. He tells us that he is taking more than just memories with him when he moves on.

"I am taking the lessons that I have learned, the confidence that I have gained, and the knowledge that hard work is rewarded," Mann said. "I do not regret a single moment and will forever be grateful that my older brother was brave enough to take dance, then encouraged me to do the same. I do not know what the future will hold for me, but I do know that dance will always be part of my life because it is part of me."

## Nomination papers for Brookfield town election due March 16

**BROOKFIELD** — Brookfield will hold its Annual Town Election Monday, May 4, with polls open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Town Hall, 6 Central St.

Nomination papers for the Brookfield Annual Town Election are available until the March 16 filing deadline at the Town Clerk's Office. The following offices and terms are open to candidates:

- Moderator (1 Year Term)
- Select Board (3 Year Term)
- Assessor (3 Year Term)
- Planning Board (5 Year Term)
- Planning Board (4 Year Term)
- Elementary School Committee (3 Year Term)
- Water Commission (3 Year Term)
- Board of Health (3 Year Term)
- Trustee For Merrick Public Library (2 - 3

- Year Term)
- Cemetery Commissioner (2 Year Term)
- Cemetery Commissioner (3 Year Term)
- Town Collector (3 Year Term)

Monday, March 16, 5 p.m. Last day to obtain and return nomination papers (49 days before election)

Monday March 30, 5 p.m. Last day for registrars to certify Nomination Papers: (35 Days before election)

Monday, March 30, 5 p.m. Last day for candidates to withdraw (Letter to the Town Clerk)

Please note you can now register to vote online at: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>.

## Applications welcome for Quaboag Historical Society scholarship

**REGION** — The Quaboag Historical Society is proud to announce its annual scholarship program, designed to support high school seniors with a passion for history and a commitment to preserving the past. This \$1,000 scholarship aims to assist students planning to pursue higher education in any historical related field.

The scholarship is only offered to a student who resides in one of the Quaboag Plantation towns of Brookfield, East Brookfield, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Warren, or West Brookfield. It is offered to a current

high school senior planning to enroll in a college or university for the upcoming academic year who will pursue a degree in one of the following fields: Education, History, Museum Studies, Anthropology, Women's Studies, American Studies, or Archaeology. Students wishing to study closely related fields are encouraged to apply.

The application deadline is May 15. For applications or more information, please contact Jeff Robbins at [jeffrobbins@charter.net](mailto:jeffrobbins@charter.net) or 508-579-4786.

## Donations needed for Community Baby Shower

**LEICESTER** — Organizers are seeking donations for the Leicester Regional Public Health Coalition's Community Baby Shower for expectant parents coming up May 7 from 1-4 p.m. at the Leicester Town Hall Gym, sponsored by Walmart, Hannaford, Deja New, and C.A.R.E. Leicester.

Items needed include diapers (newborn to size three), baby wipes, rash cream, clothing (onesies), sleepers, sleep sacks, hats, socks, and newborn outfits), hygiene

& health items such as baby wash, shampoo, lotion, manicure sets, thermometers, and hand sanitizers), feeding equipment (bottles), formula, burping cloths, bibs, nursing pads, and pacifiers), gear & bedding (swaddle blankets, crib sheets, pack 'n plays, strollers, and car seats), and safety items such as outlet covers and cabinet locks.

Donation drop-off bins are located at the Leicester Public Library, Town Hall, Senior Center, and Deja New.

## LWPA organizes Lake Wickaboag Area Cleanup for April 25

**WEST BROOKFIELD** — In conjunction with Earth Day, the Lake Wickaboag Preservation Association ("LWPA") is once again hosting its annual cleanup effort around Lake Wickaboag shorelines and roadsides on Saturday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to noon, rain or shine. All are welcome!

Please meet at the town beach at 12 Lakeview Ave. in West Brookfield at 9 a.m. Light refreshments will be provided as will trash bags and clean up location assignments. Cash prizes will be awarded!

There will be an information table with lake and LWPA-related brochures and flyers. A member of the LWPA Board will be on hand for anyone who wants to "Ask

the Expert" about Lake Wickaboag's water quality, weeds, treatments, etc. A wide selection of LWPA merchandise will also be available for sale.

The LWPA will sponsor its first-ever "Reduce. Reuse. Recycle! Lake Gear Swap." Bring paddle boards, water skis, tow ropes, kayaks, life vests, etc. in good condition that you no longer need or use and swap it for something else, if you'd like! Corn hole will also be set up at the beach.

Bring your gloves and bring your energy to help bring back the spring sparkle to the area. For additional information, please email [lwpa01585@gmail.com](mailto:lwpa01585@gmail.com).

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# Hydrant flushing to begin April 13 in Spencer

SPENCER — The Town of Spencer Water Department will be flushing fire hydrants throughout the western part of the distribution system starting April 13 through April 30.

Flushing removes sediment from the water mains to help maintain water quality. When the Water Department staff is in the immediate area, residents could experience loss of pressure and short periods of rusty water. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. A daily list of the flushing locations will be posted on the Spencer town Web site, [www.spencerma.gov](http://www.spencerma.gov), each day by 8 a.m. (click on Departments, then click Water Department, then click Hydrant Flushing 2026). If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact the Spencer Water Department office at 508-885-7525.

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# LEGALS

## Town of Spencer Conservation Commission PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

**John Barbale** has filed an **RDA** with the Spencer Conservation Commission for pavement millings located at **75 McCormick Road**, Spencer, MA. Applications can be reviewed at the Office of Development and Inspectional Services, Town Hall. A public hearing regarding these filings will be held by the Spencer Conservation Commission in McCourt Social Hall at Town Hall, 157 Main Street, on Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at which time all persons having an interest may be present or call in remotely to participate. Conservation Commission meetings open at 6:15 p.m.

Mary McLaughlin, Chairwoman  
April 17, 2026

## FY2027 BUDGET – SPENCER PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Finance Committee will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in McCourt Social Hall of the Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, Massachusetts to review the Fiscal Year FY2027 Proposed Budget and Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Interested persons may present their views in writing to the Office of the Town Administrator, or in person at said hearing.

Mary E. Braney, Chair  
April 10, 2026

## THE TOWN OF EAST BROOKFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held on Monday, April 27, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Memorial Town Complex, on the petition of National Grid and Verizon, as follows:

**ADAMS ROAD** - National Grid to install 6 JO Poles on Adams Rd. beginning at a point approximately 330 feet north of the centerline of the intersection of Podunk Rd @ Adams Rd and continuing approximately 1,950 feet in a northeast direction. National Grid to install new JO Poles on Podunk Rd: Pole 68-50, Pole 70-50, Pole 82-75. National Grid to install new midspan poles on Adams Rd: Pole 0- 50, Pole 1-50, Pole 5-50, Pole 6-50, Pole 7-50, and Pole 8-50. National Grid to install new anchors: Install 20' anchor in the south direction from Pole 0-50; install 15' anchor in the northeast direction attached to Pole 8-50.

**ADAMS ROAD** - National Grid to install 1 SO Pole on Adams Rd. National Grid

to install new SO mid span Pole 10-50 approximately 90' east of existing PIO Adams Rd.

**SHORE ROAD**- National Grid to install 4 SO Poles on Shore Rd. National Grid to Relocate 5 SO Poles on Shore Rd. beginning at a point approximately 0 feet north of the centerline of the intersection of Quaboag St@ Shore Rd and continuing approximately 2,845 feet in the southeast direction. National Grid to install new SO mid span poles on south side of Shore Rd: Pole 18-50, Pole 17-50, Pole 16-50 and Pole 9-50. National Grid to Relocate SO Poles: Pole 9 approximately 100' east, Pole 8 approximately 65' east; Pole 7 approximately 40' east; Pole 6 approximately 35' east; Pole 5 opposite side of the road, approximately 165' west of Pole 4.

**PODUNK RD** - National Grid to install 3 JO Poles on Podunk Rd. National Grid to Relocate 4 JO Poles on Podunk Rd., beginning at a point approximately 175 feet southeast of the centerline of the intersection of Draper Rd @ Podunk Rd and continuing approximately 3,855 feet in a southeast direction. National Grid to install new JO Poles on Podunk Rd: Pole 68-50, Pole 70-50, Pole 82-75. National Grid to Relocate JO Poles on Podunk Rd: Pole 74-50 approximately 15' north, Pole 80 approximately 20' east, Pole 81 approximately 15' east, Pole 82-50 approximately 45' west. National Grid to install new anchors: Pole 68-50 with anchor lead length of 20' northeast.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office. Thank you for your attention and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,  
Sharon A. Larocque  
Executive Administrative Assistant  
Board of Selectmen  
April 10, 2026  
April 17, 2026

## NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 130 Faith Drive, East Brookfield, MA 01515

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Jamie Marie Nelson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Caliber Home Loans, Inc., and now held by **NewRez LLC**, said mortgage dated September 7, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 66006, Page 210, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Caliber Home Loans, Inc. to NewRez LLC D/B/A Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing by assignment dated July 9, 2025 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds

in Book 72230, Page 242; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on April 27, 2026 at 10:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

*The land in East Brookfield, Worcester County, Massachusetts, with the buildings thereon situated on the westerly side of Faith Drive and bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the southeasterly corner thereof at a point in the westerly line of Faith Drive which is also the northerly corner of a proposed street to be called Jean Avenue; THENCE S. 52 degrees 29' W. by said proposed street 122.15 feet to a point at land now or formerly of Albert Freeman et ux; THENCE N. 21 degrees 52' W. 180.63 feet to an iron pin; THENCE N. 88 degrees 33' E. 150 feet to an iron pin in the westerly line of Faith Drive; THE two preceding courses being by other land now or formerly of Albert Freeman et ux; THENCE S. 8 degrees 25' E. by Faith Drive 98 feet to the place of beginning. Being the same premises conveyed herewith.*

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated August 27, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 66006, Page 206.

**TERMS OF SALE:** Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

**FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00)** Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC  
23 Messenger Street  
2nd Floor  
Plainville, MA 02762  
Attorney for NewRez LLC  
Present Holder of the Mortgage  
(401) 217-8701

March 27, 2026  
April 3, 2026  
April 10, 2026

Pursuant to the Brookfield Zoning By-Laws, Section 7) Dimensional Requirements, subsection C) Dimensional Regulation Table. The Brookfield Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on an application from Kyle Brenner for a Variance to construct a house at 2 Prospect Street. This property is in the Business A District. The hearing will be held on April 29, 2026, at 6:00 PM in the Banquet Room of the T Hall located at 6 Central St. Brookfield, MA. The purpose of this hearing is for a variance in the Business District according to the Brookfield Zoning By Laws, Section 7-Dimensional requirements sub-section C and non-conforming land uses and structures according to a denial from the Zoning Enforcement Officer.

Holly Chisholm, Clerk to the ZBA  
April 10, 2026  
April 17, 2026

**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. WO23P3686EA  
CITATION ON PETITION  
FOR ORDER OF  
COMPLETE SETTLEMENT**


Estate of:  
Erica Lee Robert  
Date of Death: 07/18/2023


A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by **Jason Szczypien of Brookfield MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/28/2026**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: April 01, 2026  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
April 10, 2026






Jayden is a sweet, funny, and bright young boy with a joyful and engaging personality. He enjoys playing educational games on his iPad and even looks forward to everyday activities like grocery shopping. Jayden has a special interest in construction and loves pretending to work at Home Depot—proudly wearing his Home Depot robe as he imagines himself on the job. Jayden is full of energy and enjoys running, dancing, and celebrating the birthdays of others. His playful and social nature shines through in the way he includes others in whatever he is doing. One of his favorite treats is Oreo cookies, which always bring a smile to his face.

**Jayden  
Age 16  
Registration #8516**

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21179469744>

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

The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with. To learn more about adoption from foster care visit [www.mareinc.org](http://www.mareinc.org). Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster care.



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\* June Cazeault \* Laurie Sullivan \* Lori Johnson-Chausse \* William Gilmore II \* Maureen Cimoch \* Bryan Pelletier

**Featured Listing ~ New To Market!**  
**Webster ~ 33 Slater Street**



Sprawling 62'x30' fieldstone faced 1 Level Ranch, located on a +/- 0.5-acre level, w/24'x24' 2 car att'd garage. Offers: 1,860 sf main level plus 1,000 sf +/- finished lower level, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 2 stone fireplaces w/pellet stove inserts, FHW BB heat by oil. Open floor plan w/15'x13' kitchen, 15'x22' living rm, 13'x11' dining rm, 10'x28' breezeway w/sliders to rear deck, and 3 season sunroom, hardwood & c-tile floors, replacement windows/doors & more, more, more! How do you like it? **Call today to schedule a showing!** \$525,000

**Webster - 24 Cooper Rd**  
**New Construction-Craftsman Style home**



Tucked away on Cooper Rd. Webster Lake with access at Lakeside beach/boat ramp. 3rd of 4 homes being built at this site. Offers 2,155 sq. ft +/- of living area, 7 rms, 4 brs, 2 1/2 baths, 9ft ceiling, wood flooring throughout with ceramic tile baths. Spacious main BR Suite w/ walk-in closet, and private full bathr, double sink vanity, finished lower level walk-out w/ slider. Central AC, garage

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**Webster Lake Waterfront Listing!!**  
**On Indian Point # 10 "Private Rd"**



Astounding Panoramic Views across mid-section of Webster Lake! Sun drenched from early morning sunrise till sunset! View the lake from all windows. Located on a peninsula providing 2 Shorelines. Fireplaced Living Room! Recent Kitchen & Bath! Primary Bedroom w/walk-in closet. Hardwood Floors. 2 Baths. FHW Oil Heat! Central Air. Garage. \$900,000.

**Webster Lake - 302 Killdeer Island**



Renovated + move-in ready lakefront home w/1,700+/- sq ft. Open kitchen/dining/living w/cathedral ceilings + wall of windows. Primary suite w/private bath! 2 add'l bedrooms, 2nd Full bath. Lower level family room w/walkout to water. Wraparound deck, new vinyl railings, terraced yard, sandy beach, professional landscaping. Many updates \$775,000

**Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!**



Panoramic View, from this absolutely lovely home. 2800 +/- SF, 3+ Beds, 2 full baths, 2 car detached garage! 63' +/- waterfront. .37 Acres! Sandy Waterfront! \$1,100,000

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# Kids enjoy free April admission at Old Sturbridge Village



STURBRIDGE — As spring arrives in New England, Old Sturbridge Village invites families to celebrate the season with a special offer: kids receive free general daytime admission throughout April (April 1–30). During this month-long offer, up to two children, age 17 or younger, will be admitted free with each adult full-price general daytime admission ticket.

With warmer weather, children eager to get outside, and the nation approaching its 250th anniversary, it's the perfect time to step into New England's largest living history museum.

Visitors will experience life in early New England through hands-on activities, outdoor games, masterful storytelling, and encounters with heritage-breed farm animals, including playful lambs, cows, and the hardworking oxen that once powered local farms.

The Village will also feature farmers preparing fields for planting, potters shaping clay, blacksmiths forging tools, households cooking over open hearths, and costumed interpreters sharing stories from the Revolutionary era and the nation's early years.

During April vacation weeks (April 15 -19 and April 22 - 26, 2026), families can take part in Family Field Days, a series of 19th-century-inspired games, competitions, and feats of skill, including tug-of-war, jump rope challenges, scavenger hunts, and "trap, bat, and ball" (baseball, 1830s style).

Visitors in the Cabinetmaking Shop watch a costumed historian at work.

Courtesy

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"It's been an especially long winter, and I think families are ready to get outside again," said Jim Donahue, President and CEO of Old Sturbridge Village. "With kids visiting free in April, it's a great chance for families to come out, enjoy the fresh air, and spend a day exploring the Village."

**Ticket details**  
The offer applies to general daytime admission only and does not include field trips or special ticketed events.  
To maximize savings, visitors are encouraged to purchase tickets online in advance for an additional \$3 discount compared to door prices.  
Visitors must use code: KID26 at check out. Full details and tickets are available at [osv.org/event/kids-free-april](http://osv.org/event/kids-free-april).  
Old Sturbridge Village is open Wednesday–Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., April 1–30.  
See the full schedule of upcoming events on Old Sturbridge Village's calendar.

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