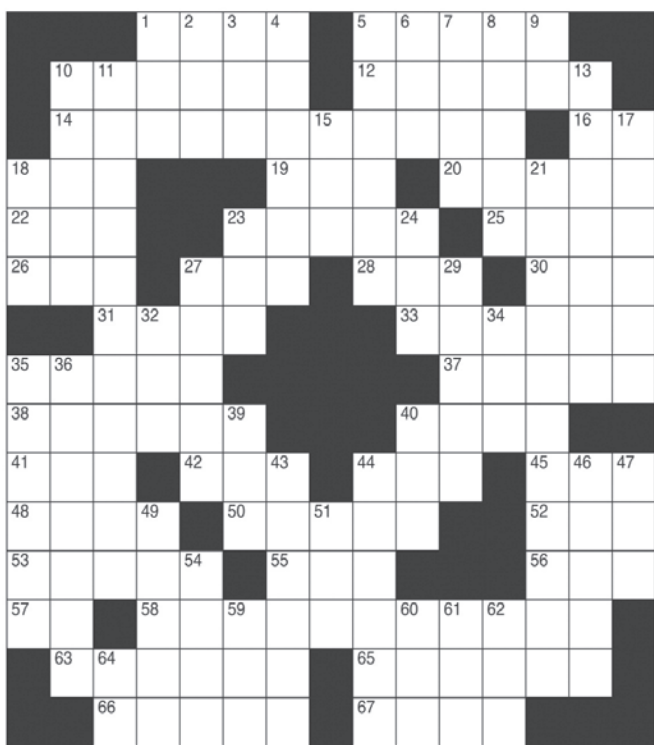






# Knights of Columbus to hold spaghetti dinner

WEST BROOKFIELD — Knights of Columbus Council 11080 is sponsoring a spaghetti dinner this month. The event will be held on Saturday, Jan. 18, inside Dugan Hall at Sacred Heart Church (10 Milk St.). Proceeds from this event will benefit Supporting Orphans Nationally and Globally (S.O.N.G.). Dinner includes pasta fagioli, a garden salad, meatballs and sausage, spaghetti and sauce, Italian bread, dessert, and beverages. The dinner cost is a \$15 donation (\$10 for children under 12 years old). Take-out meals will be available for guests, beginning at 6 p.m. The sit-down dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Admission tickets are also good for entry for a special door prize. Meanwhile, tickets will be available for a 50/50 raffle. Advance ticket purchases are encouraged. To secure your tickets, call 413-813-8100. To learn more about the event, send an email to wallycon-nor122@gmail.com.



- CLUES ACROSS
1. Hand (Spanish)

5. Siskel and \_\_, critics

10. Seaman

12. Chemical weapon

14. One who eliminates

16. They precede C

18. Baseball stat

19. Americans’ “uncle”

20. Cassia tree

22. Surround

23. Crisp and Pebbles are two

25. A sudden very loud sound

26. Affirmative

27. Disadvantage

28. Corpuscle count (abbr.)

30. OJ trial judge

31. New York art district

33. Become more bleak

35. Upstate NY city

37. Clarified butters

38. One who witnesses

40. Condemn

41. \_\_ juris

42. Natural

44. Prohibit

45. Swiss river

48. Greek war god

50. 5 iron

52. New Zealand mountain parrot

53. Scandinavian surname

55. Follows sigma

56. Doctor of Education

57. Spanish be

58. One that feeds on bugs

63. Tooth issue

65. Get into

66. Lumps of clay

67. Overly studious student

- CLUES DOWN
1. Variety of Chinese

2. Boxing’s GOAT

3. Japanese classical theater

4. Prayer

5. Inspire with love

6. Ballplayers’ accessory

7. Retailer payment system

8. More raw

9. Atomic #81

10. Fencing sword

11. Hostilities

13. Sea dweller

15. Resinlike substance secreted by certain insects

17. Businessmen

18. Rest here please (abbr.)

21. Loud devices

23. Make a soft murmuring sound

24. One point west of due south

27. Trout

29. Type of grass

32. South American plant

34. Letter of the Greek alphabet

35. Not secure

36. Traveler

39. Sweet potato

40. Period after sunrise and before sunset

43. Some are choppy

44. Asian country

46. Genus of mosquitoes

47. Cool!

49. Shrill, wailing sound

51. A baglike structure in a plant or animal

54. Within

59. Unhappy

60. Decorate a cake with frosting

61. Videocassette recorder

62. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)

64. It cools a home



## SPENCER ALMANAC REAL ESTATE

**BROOKFIELD**  
\$577,000, 2 W Main St, Parker, Kevin S, and Parker, Justyna M, to Conlin, Thomas M, and Oconnell, William D.  
\$338,000, 143 Fiskdale Rd, Cash, Tina M, to Haley Jr, James W, and Haley, Melissa J.  
\$235,000, Lake Rd, Quaboag Vly Prop Mgmt LLC, to Paul, Dave, and Paul, Cindy.  
\$25,000, 6 Forrest St, Toto Rita Fern Est, and Toto, Eugene, to Lojko, Alexander S.

**EAST BROOKFIELD**  
\$165,000, 342 Podunk Rd, Deibel, Robert E, to Deering, Charles.  
\$75,000, 126 Drake Ln, Rodriguez, Ricardo, and Rodriguez, Catherine, to Rodriguez, Ricardo.

**LEICESTER**  
\$550,000, 562 Pine St, Asquith, Lindsey, and Bearegard, David, to Belmore, Jeffrey, and Ricci, Alyssa.  
\$490,000, 1271 Main St, Young, Robert L, to Miranda, Masill E.  
\$350,000, 300 Clark St, Tretheway, Christine S, to Nogueira, Daniel M, and Anholetti, Laylla G.  
\$675,000, 437 Rawson St, Deblois, Tasha, to Fabiano, Sarah A, and Fabiano, Gerson C.  
\$475,000, 55 Hemlock St, Sjogren, Alan J, and Sjogren, Deborah A, to Tomahawk T, and Sjogren, Christopher J.  
\$460,000, 68 Paxton St, Connly Sean C Est, and Tritone, Sarah, to Perez, Kevin O, and Peters, Nicole D.  
\$355,000, 11 Overlook Dr, Chartier, James R, and Chartier, Terry A, to Spahiu, Anxhela.  
\$300,000, 4 Sunset Dr, Desmararis, Melanie A, to Trudeau, Michael.  
\$272,500, 442 Henshaw St, Berisha, Linda, to Regele, Sean T.  
\$175,000, 392 Henshaw St, Lefebvre, Sandra M, and Lefebvre, Thomas L, to Strandgaard, Sandra M.  
\$167,000, 75 Huntton Memorial Hwy #3-3, Kennedy-Keefe, Jeannine, and Cialone, Donna, to Milioli, Julianio.  
\$580,000, 135 White Birch St, DAgostino FT, and Dagostino, Anthony, to Foster, Sasheya, and Chiari, Nickelda A.  
\$490,000, 136 Charles St, Radzik, Steven J, and Radzik, Sonia K, to Radzik, Jason P.  
\$35,000, Chapel St, Amidon, William, to Graham, Clifford.

**NORTH BROOKFIELD**  
\$629,000, 43 Rufus Putnam Rd, Seymour 3rd, Herbert F, and Seymour, Kristi L, to Hardaker, Mary, and Hardaker, Alexandra.  
\$450,000, 43 Smith Hanson Rd, Hodder, Stuart R, to Capodanno, Abbey, and Cronin, Conor.  
\$315,000, 4 Summit Ter, Berkshire Prop Buyers LLC, to Prashaw, Brandon S, and Prashaw, Nicole S.  
\$725,000, 10 Stoddard Rd, Howland, Wesley, and Fredette-Howland, Janice, to Mathers, Ryan, and Mathers, Ashley.  
\$549,900, 73 Maple St, Asante-Bio, Akwasi, and Asante-Bio, Matilda, to Arce, Chadassi.  
\$385,000, 342 N Main St, Equity TCo, to Mandella, Jack E, and Labelle, Samantha R.

**SPENCER**  
\$608,000, 6 Garrett Ln, Molloy, Michael J, and Molloy, Brittany, to Maloy, Nicholas, and Maloy, Christina.  
\$170,000, Gold Nugget Rd #7, Bruso Ft, and Bruso, Joseph P, to Agbay, Anthony J, and Agbay, Maureen F.  
\$990,000, 78 Donnelly Rd, Czechowicz, Peter, and Czechowicz, Joanne, to 611 Chelmsford LLC.  
\$599,000, 37 William Casey Rd, Morrissey, Ann M, to Clark Jr, Kenneth W, and Bellio, Regina A.  
\$458,000, 14 Brown St, Bauckman Ft, and Bauckman, William, to Barry, Lucy.  
\$398,000, 48 Buteau Rd, Griffin, Scott D, and Griffin, Angela K, to Woods, Richard.  
\$200,000, 16 Ledge Ave, Bird Gordon Farnum Est, and Bird, David H, to Bird, David H.  
\$425,000, 92 E Charlton Rd, Cassanelli William C Est, and Cassanelli, Jesslyn L, to Prunier, Jennifer, and Munroe, Benjamin A.  
\$400,000, 105 Clark Rd, Kleciak, Lauren M, to Coleman, Bryan, and Coleman, Joy.  
\$387,000, 14 Holmes St, Gregoire, Tyler M, and Gregoire, Brittany R, to King, Grace.

**WARREN**  
\$225,000, 11 Quaboag St #B, Wittnebert, Jennifer L, and Wittnebert, Dina, to Trabucco, Tonya N.  
\$490,000, 29 Chapel St, Parker, Robert, to Provost Partners LLC.  
\$422,500, 34 Nelson St, Azusa Rt, and Kirchner 2nd, Dominic, to Kenneway, Jayson.  
\$350,000, 145 Little Rest Rd, Wicked Deals LLC, to Rockwood, Kelly.  
\$255,000, 743 Main St, Gagne, Ashley E, and Gagne, Daniel A, to Hubert, Raymond.

**WEST BROOKFIELD**  
\$640,000, 98 Tucker Rd, Booth, Seth C, and Booth, Jennifer A, to Marshall, Torrey, and Epstein, Brook.  
\$176,300, 4 Foster Hill Rd, Byczek, Louise C, to Seymour 3rd, Herbert F.

# Haston Library starts new year with variety of programs

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER  
NORTH BROOKFIELD — The Haston Free Public Library team invites guests of all ages to get the new year off to a good start with fun, educational programs.

Craft Night for Adults returns on Thursday, Jan. 9, at 6 p.m. Guests will learn how to make craft snowmen to celebrate the winter season. Please register for this event in advance by contacting the library by phone or email. The library’s Book Discussion Group will next meet on Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. This month’s featured book is “Indian Horse,” written by Richard Wagames. The library’s Movie Discussion Group will next meet on Jan. 23 at 6 p.m. Group members will watch “While You Were Sleeping,” a 1995 film. Several January story-time programs will be offered to youngsters on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. Winter-themed books will be paired with craft activities covering such topics as snowmen, animals in the winter months, snowflakes, and hot cocoa. Additionally, the library will host Community Connections programming for kids on Jan. 15, Jan. 22, and Jan. 29. All sessions will begin at 10 a.m. Explore reading, crafts, and play activities with your child.

Contact the library for information on age groups for each session. The library continues to host the Children’s Art Club on the first and third Monday of each month. All sessions last from 4-5 p.m. The library’s Lego Club takes place every Thursday at 4 p.m. On Tuesday, Jan. 21, check out a historical story-time session at 1 p.m. A book set in nineteenth-century North Brookfield will be featured. This program is part of the library’s series celebrating its 130th anniversary. Snacks will be provided at the event. Guests are also invited to help celebrate the library’s anniversary by purchasing T-shirts available in new colors and sizes. Contact the library if you are interested. Additionally, the library has plenty of new technologies and programming opportunities for guests to explore. “We have added more Nintendo Switch games to our collection. Take a look at our new additions,” read a statement released by the library. As a reminder to guests, the library will be closed on Jan. 20 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. For more information about upcoming library events, or to register for an activity, call 508-867-0208. You may also send an email to: hastonfreepubliclibrary@gmail.com. The library is located at 161 North Main St.

# Local students named to UW-Madison Dean’s List

MADISON, Wisc. — The University of Wisconsin-Madison has recognized students named to the Dean’s List for the fall semester of the 2024-2025 academic year, including Kasey Dutter of Spencer.

Students who achieve at a high level academically are recognized by the dean at the close of each semester. To be eligible for the Dean’s List, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester. Each university school or college sets its own GPA requirements for students to be eligible to receive the distinction. Most call the honor “dean’s list”, but some grant the “Dean’s Honor List” and “Dean’s High Honor List.”

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# Spencer police spread cheer at annal Christmas party

SPENCER — The Spencer Police Department spread holiday cheer during its annual Christmas party for the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District.

Held on Dec. 19, the event saw multiple gifts handed out to youngsters from grades K-4, visits from special guests, and a magic performance.

“It was an unforgettable day filled with joy, laughter, and holiday magic,” read a statement released by the SPD. “Thanks to the incredible efforts of the Spencer Police Union, every student from kindergarten through fourth grade in the district received a special present, remind-



Members of the Spencer Police Department recently helped brighten the holiday season for local kids.

ing us all of the magic of giving this holiday season.”

Santa and Mrs. Claus stopped by to meet local kids. Everyone involved in the program is thanked for helping to make the holidays memorable for students.

“Events like this are a cornerstone of our commitment to the Spencer community,” the SPD-issued statement read. “The Spencer Police Union takes pride in giving back, and we’re so grateful to everyone who made this event possible. Your generous donations helped bring this event to life and create memories that will last a lifetime.”

Courtesy

# Sheriff’s Office toy drive benefits local families



REGION — Several local families and organizations benefited from the annual toy drive run by the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office.

Staff members from the Sheriff’s Office combined to collect massive piles of toys for families in need throughout the area.

In recent weeks, toys were delivered to the following local organizations: Net of Compassion, El Buen Samaritano Food Program, Inc., Planting The Seed Foundation, and Safe Exit Initiative-SEI.

“A big thank-you to all of the staff members who contributed and made a difference in the lives of others,” read a statement released by the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office.

Courtesy

Members of the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office recently held a toy drive to help brighten the holiday season for local families.

www.StonebridgePress.com

# Homework help and Technology Tuesdays at East Brookfield library

EAST BROOKFIELD — Need help with a homework question? A staff member will be available to assist children with homework questions. This is not a tutoring session; this program is designed for children to ask for help on a specific question.

Mondays from 5:30-6:30 p.m., children under the age of 12 must have a parent or guardian remain with them.

Need help with technology? We’re here for you! We can teach you how to do things like use the library catalog to look for books and materials, place holds, add Libby to your e-reader or phone, and generally make the most out of the online resources we have available for you! We can also help with non-library related things like setting up an e-mail account. Note: If you would like help specific to your device, please bring it along. For quick basic instructions only, we are unable to instruct beyond basic needs.

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# QCC’s Intersession courses offer more access to education

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College is offering accelerated courses during its Intersession 2025 semester, which runs from Jan. 6 to Jan. 22. Students can earn up to four college credits per course in only two and a half weeks.

“Intersession is a great way to quickly earn college credits, whether you’re a student from QCC or a student from another institution looking to fill in a course at QCC during winter break,” said Vice President of Strategic Enrollment and Student Engagement Michelle Tufau.

QCC is offering more than 25 diverse classes during Intersession that cover a variety of topics such as Cultural Anthropology, Windows Client Operating Systems, Principles of Management and Social Problems & Social Change.

Students from other institutions are encouraged to contact their registrar’s office to ensure credits will transfer before enrolling. An official transcript from QCC will be required to transfer credits to another institution.

To learn more about Intersession courses, visit theq.qcc.edu/ICS/Course\_Offerings\_and\_Schedule.jnz.

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# Donations as of 12/30/2024

12/16/2024	In Memory of Maureen O'Leary	\$100.00
12/17/2024	The D'Amato Family	\$100.00
12/18/2024	Santa/Sunshine Visuals	\$200.00
12/19/2024	Joseph & Susan Lacroix	\$100.00
12/20/2024	Sons of the American Legion Post 138	\$250.00

Monetary Donations may be sent to: Spencer Toys for Kids, P.O. Box 186, Spencer, MA 01562.

New, unwrapped toys can be dropped off at: Spencer Fire Dept, Cornerstone Bank (Spencer office), ERA Key Realty Services (415B Main St). If you would like to sponsor a child, please contact Donna at donnaflannery@erakey.net or call 508-885-6336. If you are in need of assistance, applications can be picked up at: Spencer Post Office, Mary Queen of the Rosary Food Pantry, Town clerk's office in the town hall, or ERA Key Realty Services (outside mailbox). You can see updates on Facebook at Spencer Toys for Kids.

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# New Year's victory

After their stunning victory on Christmas morning, 1776, Washington and his army held Trenton, aware that the British would not let the humiliation go unanswered. Just days earlier, they had achieved the impossible. After a daring midnight crossing of the icy Delaware River, Washington's army launched a surprise attack on the Hessians, overwhelming the enemy in a fierce battle. The victory saw over 900 enemy soldiers captured and reignited hope for the revolutionary cause.

But Washington knew the war wasn't over. The British, eager for revenge, sent reinforcements to crush the rebellion. Washington, outnumbered, outgunned, and with no easy escape, prepared his men for the inevitable showdown. Suspense hung in the frigid air as the sound

POSITIVELY  
SPEAKING  
  
TOBY  
MOORE

of marching British troops grew closer each day, setting the stage for a desperate fight to survive.

On Jan. 2, the British arrived in Trenton with 8,000 men under General Cornwallis. "We've got the old fox now!" Cornwallis reportedly exclaimed, convinced there was no escape for the Continental Army. Throughout the day, Washington's men battled fiercely, holding the British at bay in skirmishes that pushed them to the brink. As night fell, the British, certain of their impending victory, settled in to rest, confident they would crush the rebels at dawn.

But Washington wasn't about to wait for defeat. Knowing that holding Trenton was impossible, he devised a bold plan. On New Year's night, under the cover of darkness, he ordered his men to quietly abandon their camp-

fires, leaving them burning brightly to deceive the British into thinking the army was still there. Then, in a daring maneuver, Washington led his troops on a silent march toward Princeton.

Princeton, about 12 miles away, was strategically vital. It housed a smaller British force and was a key supply and communication hub. Striking Princeton would weaken the British and allow Washington to escape the trap at Trenton and keep the momentum of his campaign alive.

In the early hours of Jan. 3, Washington's army arrived at Princeton under the cover of darkness. The Redcoats caught off guard, scrambled to defend themselves as the Continental troops launched a swift and ferocious attack.

Initially, the element of surprise worked in Washington's favor, but the British quickly

regrouped. Their disciplined volleys tore through the smoke-filled air, threatening to break the Continental line.

Amid the chaos, General Hugh Mercer, one of Washington's most trusted officers and a key leader, was surrounded by British soldiers and mortally wounded while leading a daring charge. His fall sent a ripple of panic through the American ranks, and the line began to falter. Soldiers hesitated, their resolve wavering as confusion spread across the battlefield.

At that critical moment, Washington rode to the front, a commanding figure on horseback. With bullets whizzing past him, he placed himself squarely in the line of fire, rallying his men with an unshakable display of courage. "Stand firm, men!" he shouted, his voice steady and resolute, cutting through the din of battle.

Inspired by their commander's fearless leadership, the troops surged forward with renewed determination.

The tide of the battle turned. The Continental soldiers pressed their advantage, outflanking and overwhelming the British forces. By mid-morning on Jan. 3, 1777, the town of Princeton was firmly in American hands. The victory was hard-fought and costly, but it proved once again that Washington's leadership and the army's tenacity could triumph against all odds.

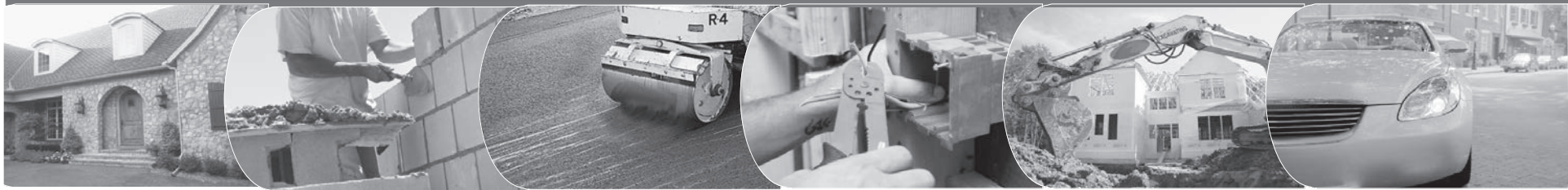
The back-to-back wins at Trenton and Princeton reinvigorated the revolutionary cause at its darkest hour. Washington's daring maneuvers and ability to outthink and outfight the British proved that the Continental Army was a force to be reckoned with.

Cornwallis, upon discovering Washington's brilliant escape, was stunned. Across the colonies, news of the victory spread like wildfire across the colonies, inspiring hope and a new wave of recruits joining the fight for independence.

General Washington and his band of underdogs had prevailed. His New Year's resolutions were clear: defy the odds, outwit his enemies, and keep the dream of independence alive, no matter the cost.

Let this be the year you face your battles, big or small, with the same fearless resolve—proving that, like Washington and his army, you, too, can achieve greatness against the odds. What will your resolutions be this year?

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**The Trial Court**  
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**Worcester Probate and Family Court**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**(508) 831-2200**  
**Docket No. WO24P4382EA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Estate Of:  
Lynne J. Johnson  
**Date of Death: 10/25/2024**  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Emily J. Ziemann of Huntsville AL** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:  
**Emily J. Ziemann of Huntsville AL** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/28/2025**. 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.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
**WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: December 30, 2024  
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate  
January 10, 2025

**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:  
**Joyce Mulherin** has filed an **RDA** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to build a single-family home located at **9 GH Wilson 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, January 22, 2025 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  
January 10, 2025

**Eric Couture**, owner of a **2005, Harley Davidson, 883 Custom Plate# XH9195** Vin# **1HD4CJM105K407084**, has abandoned vehicle on **09/10/24** at **Deer Pond Auto/ JR'S Towing LLC**. Deer pond will seek ownership of vehicle after 21 days of first ad placement if vehicle is not reclaimed and all charges fully paid for.  
**Rebecca Ortiz**, owner of a **2016, Honda, HRV Plate# 4DNY86** Vin# **3CZR06H3XGM747815**, has abandoned vehicle on **10/26/24** at **Deer Pond Auto/ JR'S Towing LLC**. Deer pond will seek ownership of vehicle after 21 days of first ad placement if vehicle is not reclaimed and all charges fully paid for.  
January 3, 2025  
January 10, 2025  
January 17, 2025

**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. WO24P4384EA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Estate Of:  
**Karen Coakley**  
**Date of Death: 10/260/2024**  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Brian T Coakley of Spencer MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that:  
**Brian T Coakley of Spencer MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/28/2025**. 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.  
**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
**WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: December 27, 2024  
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate  
January 10, 2025



# Leicester Senior Center offers cribbage

LEICESTER — If you're looking for a new favorite activity, check out cribbage at the Senior Center.

Sessions are held on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to noon. The group welcomes experienced players, as well as those who have never played before. Members are happy to teach those new to the game.

The Senior Center is located at 40 Winslow Ave.

To learn more about the program, or to sign up for other activities, please call the Senior Center.

# Leicester Senior Citizens Club announces Foxwoods trip

LEICESTER — Guests are invited to take part in a bus trip organized by the Leicester Senior Citizens Club.

A Foxwoods Bingo and casino trip will take place on Feb. 13.

The bus will depart the Senior Center at 7:45 a.m. Passengers will arrive at the casino in time for Bingo; guests can also opt to enjoy the rest of the casino on their own.

The bus will depart the casino for home at 4:15 p.m., with an expected 5:30 p.m. arrival at the Senior Center (40 Winslow Ave.).

The cost of the trip is \$40.

Departure times are strictly enforced, so please arrive early.

Payment must be in the form of a check, made payable to: Leicester Senior Citizens Club.

For more information about the trip, or to make a reservation, please call trip coordinator David Wood at 508-330-1118.

# Police seek information in vehicular property damage incident

SPENCER — The Spencer Police Department is seeking public assistance in identifying a vehicle involved in a property damage incident last month.

The incident occurred on Dec. 20 around 6:30 p.m. on Bacon Hill Road.

If you have information regarding the incident, please contact SPD Officer Brandon Fullam at 508-885-6333. You may also send an email to: BFullam@spencer-police.org.

"Your help is greatly appreciated in resolving this matter. Thank you for your cooperation," read a statement released by the department.

# Candlelight vigil planned in honor of Brittany Tee

BROOKFIELD — There will be a Candlelight Vigil for Brittany Tee on Friday, Jan. 10 at 6 p.m. at the Brookfield Common.

Please join Brittany's family as they work to keep the search for Brittany alive and to support them as they grieve the passage of a second year without her.

Brittany Tee went missing on Jan. 10, 2023 from the town of Brookfield. Despite extensive investigation and searching (and exhaustive efforts on the part of Brittany's family and friends), Brittany's whereabouts remain unknown.

Brittany has brown hair, blue eyes and a distinctive voice and laugh. If you have any information regarding her disappearance, please call the tip lines at (508) 453-7589 (MA State Police) or (866)331-6660 (Private Investigator).

# Sponsor an author at East Brookfield Library

EAST BROOKFIELD — Do you have a favorite author? Hate being on the waitlist to check out their newest book? The East Brookfield Public Library's "Sponsor an Author" program is for you!

Sponsoring the newest book guarantees that you will receive the book first as soon as we get it in. Your price is what the library pays. See Carolann for details!

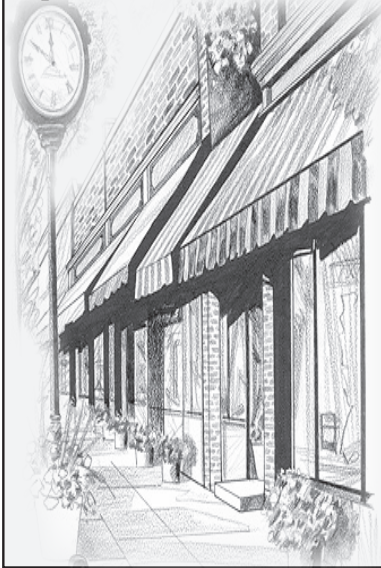
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FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE  
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Leave the phone ‘til last in the morning

Most weeks, our Editorial space is typically some- thing our staff is curious about. While the subject of cell phone and screen addiction comes up often, this week, there was a noticeable shift in our view on the topic after receiving a wise tip.

That tip was to ignore your phone, don’t even look at it, until 30 minutes after you wake up. In that time, sit down, have your morning coffee and read a book. When you start to scroll on your phone just after waking up, you put yourself into what’s called a passive scrolling phase, which can derail your entire day and ward off productivity.

A few days into following this new advice, and there is a noticeable sense of comfort and relaxation that can carry you throughout your day. It’s like taking 30 minutes every morning to get back to the basics and recall simpler times.

Most people feel like they are in control of their phone use, but are you? How can you determine if you have a phone addiction, or are just part of the modern era grind? We’ve said it before, and we’ll say it again, nothing beats the days of watching Jeopardy uninterrupted, without the pressure of responding to a ding from your phone.

In 2011, only 35 percent of the population owned smartphones, now 81 percent do. It is our main form of communication, so much so that now there is a term called nomophobia, or the fear of going without your phone.

Excessive cell phone use is a huge problem for many. As far as addiction goes, some experts say the dopamine connection the phone offers can be linked to something akin to a drug addiction. The triggering of that chemical in your brain, reinforces compulsive behavior. When we can’t predict when we will receive a text or a “like” on social media, we check our phones more often.

Adolescents are more vulnerable to this problem than any other age group. Excessive use in that age group is such an issue that most teenagers never turn off their phones. Experts say that the younger a child has access to a phone, the sooner the problems begin. Problematic cell phone use is linked to low self esteem, low impulse control, depression and anxiety.

Signs you may have a phone addiction could be that you reach for your phone if you’re bored, you feel anxious or upset if you can’t get to your phone, you wake throughout the night to check it, or your phone has caused you to get into an accident. Other signs could be that you spend most of your waking hours on your phone, and that it interferes with personal relationships or work.

When trying to focus on work, or any task, you are significantly disrupted and your concentration is thrown off.

Ways to break the addiction in order to fix your relationships, your health and other responsibilities include figuring out if there is a larger issue as to why you’re using your phone so much. Are you avoiding something else bigger? Resolving the larger issue at hand, could cause a decrease in phone use.

Change your settings to remove notifications and other alerts, set your screen to dark mode at night, keep your phone out of sight and never charge it in your bedroom. After a certain time, set your phone up so that only emergency contacts can get through to you, everyone else can wait. Try replacing games on your phone with real in person games, or develop a hobby you’ve been wanting to try. Too much cell phone use can develop into a loss of control.

There have been some experiments where people have gone two days without their phones. Some people choose to give up their phones all together, while others make significant changes to reduce use.

The potential risk of depression, insomnia and lack of productivity just isn’t worth it. Think back to pre cell phone times. While there are safety benefits to having a phone, we don’t need to be connected 24/7, and we don’t need to respond or answer our phones just because they ding.

Your responsibility is to yourself and it’s wild how much you can get done if you just unplug. Take a breather, shut your phone completely off for 15 minutes and see how you feel. If you do try this trick, send us an email and let us know what you find.

# VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Possible resolutions for 2025

To the Editor:

To say what you mean and mean what you say, always being direct and clear with remarks.

To stop ruminating about past negative events they are over, serve no purpose, waste time.

To read a literary classic, which improves thinking skills, offers a lifetime of positive memories.

To make a plan of realistic goals for the purpose of attaining a better quality of life.

To appreciate and embrace all that is good in life, enjoy the journey and results achieved.

To reflect on positive ideas and actions. They build confidence and improve your well being.

To select friends you can trust. People who are loyal, honest and sup-

portive.

To write to a friend from the past and reconnect the lines of communication.

To give moral and financial support to those in need, performing acts of positive service.

To pray for good health and harmony in families, asking for a permanent world peace.

Developing your own 2025 resolutions could be a challenge, but also a rewarding experience. The name of the game is to stay healthy, serve others, laugh a lot and have fun. Meet the new year with passion and gusto.

DONALD L. GAUDETTE, SR.  
SOUTH HADLEY (FORMERLY OF BROOKFIELD)

### The word of life church

To the Editor:

The church is made up of people who want to know God and inherit Heaven. God’s Word, the Bible, teaches us the way to God’s heart is through His Son Jesus. We must welcome, receive Jesus Christ into our hearts as the Savior, anointed one, the Lord of our life, lives. It is through Jesus we are reborn spiritually and through Jesus, God gives the right, privilege, to become children of God (John 1:12).

The church mission is to stay, remain faithful to Jesus, searching the truth from the Gospel of Jesus and remaining focused on our Triune God to help us share with the many who are in need of spiritual help and to help inspire, to serve the one true God through Jesus the second person of the Trinity, Triune God, the only true God, self existent.

The Bible is the inspiring Word, divinely delivered to us by the Holy Spirit through Jesus to confirm we need to conform to the rule of faith and conduct.

There is only one true God; God is self-existent, revealing Himself through His Son Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit.

The deity of the Lord Jesus Christ the scriptures (Bible) declares the eternal Son of God, Jesus.

Come on, church, let us be realistic; we have all sinned, and we all need a savior and he is Jesus, who is our only hope.

I welcome you, I invite you; our congregation welcomes you if you do not attend a church. You are committed to come and share with us and meet our Pastor, Jack Moore. We are a small church family and inviting you, if you are not committed to another family, to come and grow with us. We are worshipping at the American Legion #138, 175 Main St., corner of Grove Street, Spencer, at 9 a.m. God bless your endeavor.

DWELL IN PACE!  
ROLAND BLAIS  
BROOKFIELD

### Your support of Toys for Joy is appreciated

To the Editor:

The following is a summary of the donations to date for the East Brookfield/Brookfield Toys for Joy program.

The committee wishes to thank all of the businesses and citizens for their continued commitment to this program. Without you, we would not be able to make this happen.

Jean Ledoux	\$ 25
Judith/Ronald Gagnon	\$ 25
Cecil/Elizabeth Flory	\$ 25
Donna Neylon	\$ 50
Laurel Chesson	\$ 50
Lex T. Varney	\$ 50
Ann Auger	\$ 75
Spencer Garden Club	\$100
Lisa/Herbert Chaffee	\$100
The Morin Family	\$100
Maryellen/Stephen Brunelle	\$100
Robert/Jean Bain	\$100
Thomas Cooper	\$100
Lee Ann Hamm	\$100
Montessori Academies of New England	\$100
North Brookfield Savings Bank	\$100
East Brookfield/Spencer Railroad	\$250
Brookfield’s Lions Club (For Brookfield Children)	\$250

Brookfield’s Lions Club (For East Brookfield Children)	\$250
Anonymous	\$250
North Brookfield Savings Bank – Toy Drive	\$686.31
Lamoureux Ford	\$750
Donations	
Oakhlm Brewing, North Brookfield Savings and the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts for their successful toy drives	
To all those who so kindly dropped off toys at one of our locations.	

For those who adopted families (who wish to remain Anonymous) and:  
Jill Pietro, Deidre Cadieux, Martha Carroll

To our shopping superheroes and Toy Room Organizers:  
Peter & Patti O’Neil

To our distribution day helpers:  
Tammy & Tim Josti/ Peter & Patti O’Neil

DONNA & ROGER LAFLEUR  
DEBBIE MORGAN  
TOYS FOR JOY COMMITTEE OF EAST BROOKFIELD/BROOKFIELD

### A big thank you from Operation Undercover

To the Editor:

Thanks to all of you, this is going to be the year to beat.

Thanks to you and some help from the Exchange club, this was a record breaking year. The car was very full.

Special thanks to Marcus Torti and his brother for delivering the 12 plus bags of underwear. I would also like to thank the New Leader and Spencer Cable Access for the articles and post-

ings Laura Torti and I would not get as far without them. I am already looking forward to next year.

Thank you so much. Happy New Year, and God Bless.

LAURA TORTI AND BETH  
MCIPHERSON  
SPENCER

### Thanks to all who decorated the Mitten Trees

To the Editor:

Thanks to the generous residents of Spencer, this year’s mitten trees were able to provide nearly 50 hats, mittens and scarves to the children of Wire Village and Knox Trail schools.

Each year, a mitten tree is placed in the rotunda of the Town Hall, and beginning in 2024-- in the Richard Sugden Library as well, for residents to “decorate” with hats, gloves, mit-

tens and scarves for the children of the Spencer East Brookfield Regional School District. After the school holiday in December, the items are brought to Wire Village School and Knox Trail Middle School for distribution.

Thank you to all who supported the mitten tree this year!

LAURA TORTI  
SPENCER

## Time for New Year’s financial resolutions



FINANCIAL  
FOCUS

TREVOR  
NIELSEN

Now that the calendar has flipped, it’s time for some New Year’s resolutions. You could decide you’re going to exercise more, lose weight, learn a new skill, reconnect with old friends — the possibilities are almost limitless. This year, why not add a few financial resolutions to your list?

Here are a few to consider:

Reduce your debts. It may be easier said than done, but if you can cut down on your debt load, you’ll increase your cash flow and have more money available to invest for your future. So, look for ways to lower your expenses and spending. You might find it helpful to use one of the budgeting apps available online.

Boost your retirement savings. Try to put in as much as you can afford to your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. If your salary goes up this year, you’ve got a good opportunity to increase your contributions to these retirement accounts. And once you turn 50, you can make pre-tax catch-up contributions for your 401(k) and traditional IRA. You might also want to review the investment mix within your 401(k) or similar plan to determine whether it’s still providing the growth potential you need, given your risk tolerance and time horizon.

Build an emergency fund. It’s generally a good idea to maintain an emergency fund containing up to six months’ worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. Without such a fund, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments to pay for short-term needs, such as an expensive auto or home repair.

Keep funding your non-retirement goals. Your traditional IRA and 401(k) are good ways to save for retirement — but you likely have other goals, too, and you’ll need to save and invest for them. So, for example, if you want your children to go to college or receive some other type of post-secondary training, you might want to invest in a tax-advantaged 529 education savings plan. And if you have short-term goals, such as saving for a wedding or taking an overseas vacation, you might want to put some money away in a liquid account. For a short-term goal, you don’t necessarily need to invest aggressively for growth — you just want the money to be there for you when you need it.

Review your estate plans. If you haven’t already created your estate plans, you may want to do so in 2025. Of course, if you’re relatively young, you might not think you need to have estate plans in place just yet, but life is unpredictable, and the future is not ours to see. If you have already drawn up estate plans, you may want to review them, especially if you’ve recently experienced changes in your life and family situation, such as marriage, remarriage or the addition of a new child. Because estate planning can be complex, you’ll want to work with a qualified legal professional.

You may not be able to tackle all these resolutions in 2025. But by addressing as many of them as you can, you may find that, by the end of the year, you have made progress toward your goals and set yourself on a positive course for all the years to come.

*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.*



# Random Tips and Tricks

From boosting your hearing to cutting cleaning tasks down to size, the following random tips and tricks are easy ways to make everyday life a little easier.

And remember readers send in your best hints and you could win a three course Dinner for Two at the Publick House in Sturbridge. Drawing will take place next week!

**\*\* Hydrogen Peroxide Hint:** Hydrogen peroxide. It does much more than soothe a sore throat or clean a cut. Did you know one cup of H2O2 to one quart water creates a safe bleach substitute for fine washables? Pouring a couple of ounces of hydrogen peroxide in a full dishpan can prevent the spread of germs when had washing. Even your plants can benefit from H2O2. Just water or mist plants with an ounce of hydrogen peroxide in one quart water.

**\*\* Boost your fitness training with these tips!:**



TAKE THE HINT  
**KAREN TRAINOR**

Experts advise doing cardio and weights in the same workout, rather than switching off days to boost your fat burning. They claim you can get most out of your weight lifting workout if you do just five minutes of cardio warmup followed by your weight training sets, rather than doing your entire cardio session first.

**\* Want to make a fabulous first impression? Try these tips:** Be positive and make others feel comfortable. Lean into a greeting with a firm handshake and a smile. Avoid these red flags of anxiety: Frequently touching your mouth, a tight or forced smile, swinging

your foot or leg, folding or crossing your arms, slouching and avoiding eye contact.

**\*\* The virtues of a cup of tea go way beyond taste!** A study conducted by Harvard University found that those who drank one or more cups of black tea per day had more than a 40 percent lower risk of having a heart attack compared to non-tea drinkers. Need another reason to take a tea time break? Tea contains 1/3 less caffeine than coffee or cola!

**\*\* Resolving to walk more? These tips are for you!** Walking to “digest your meal” is more than an after dinner pastime. Studies show when you walk within 30 minutes after eating you can increase the amount of calories you burn by as much as 30 per cent! But be sure to avoid caffeinated beverages before you walk. They cause thirst and a loss of bodily fluids.

**\*\* Cut cleaning time in half with these tips!:** After cleaning grout and tile, rub liquid turtle wax car wax on, and polish when dry. It makes the tiles twice as easy to clean next time. When you clean your refrigerator or freezer, wipe the inside down with straight white vinegar and allow it to air dry. It will discourage future growth of mold and mildew and instantly deodorize your refrigerator.

**\*\* Attention Baby Boomers, if your night sight isn't what it used to be - improving night vision can be as close as your refrigerator!** Did you know foods containing beta-carotene help you to see better in dim light? Cantaloupe, carrots, collard greens, kale and chicken all help deliver vision boosting Vitamin A!

**\* Do you suffer from frequent backaches? Try drinking lots of water!**

It helps prevent dehydration that can contribute to muscle aches. By drinking eight 8-ounces of water daily, you'll also flush out acidic wastes that can build up in the tissues & muscles - another contributor to back pain.

**\* Have a headache? Try these unconventional remedies:** Mix two tablespoons of apple cider vinegar with two teaspoons of honey in a glass of water, drink it slowly, and get results within a half-hour! Or eat ten to twelve almonds. Experts say the almonds are equal to taking two aspirins but won't irritate your stomach.

**\*\* Win a Three Course Dinner for Two at the Publick House**

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

(or whenever I receive enough tips for a column) will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

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

# Transportation memorabilia

Happy New Year! Thank you to those of you who reached out after my latest top 10 auction items column. As I mentioned in that column, there are many other categories of antiques and collectibles that are selling well in addition to those I listed, but we've had good results recently for the 10 items I mentioned.

We'll start in reverse order with number 10 on my list: transportation memorabilia. Before European settlers arrived, Native Americans traveled by foot, canoe, and some by horseback.

The colonists used many of those same methods to travel. Many of the trails used by Native Americans were widened to accommodate wagons. By 1735, stagecoaches were running between Boston and New York. Sailing ships were used in Egypt prior to 3000 BC. Steamship development started in the 1700s and Robert Fulton made the first commercial steamboat trip from New York to Albany in 1807. In 1830, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad ran the first train service for passengers and freight. As for aviation, the Wright Brothers made the first heavier than air powered aircraft flight in 1903.

Whether by plane, train, automobile, or ship, many collectors have an attachment to some form of transportation memorabilia. I'll start by discussing nautical memorabilia and trains. I'll cover additional methods of transportation in my next column.

Ship paintings by good artists are always popular. We sold a ship painting by Canadian artist John O'Brien for over \$20,000 in 2016. Over a



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES  
**WAYNE TUISKULA**

decade ago, we auctioned a book of trade cards, many related to the 19th century shipping trade, which brought a figure in the mid-thousands. Some of our more recent sales were for a brass ship's telegraph for \$1,250, a model of the U.S.S. Constitution by Lannan Ship Galleries in Boston that brought \$1,300, and a Chelsea Ship's clock for \$550.

Some rarer pieces can bring even stronger auction results. A 1907 moonlight image of Cunard Lines Lusitania sold for over \$15,000 in 2015. George Henry Hunt was planning his return to the United States on White Star Line's "Oceanic" in 1912. The Oceanic developed mechanical problems and he was transferred to the Titanic before its ill-fated journey. Hunt was lost at sea when the ship sank. The letter he wrote to his parents explaining the change in his travel plans sold for \$275,000 at auction in 2022.

Railroad memorabilia collectors often like to collect items from their area. Others specialize in certain categories like railroad signs or lanterns. Railroad pocket watches are also popular with collectors. In 1895, railroads

required that pocket watches contain 17 or more jewels so that they would be precise enough for workers in the industry. In 2020, we sold a Ball Official Railroad Standard 23 jewel gold filled pocket watch for \$425. In 2023, an Elgin 10-karat gold railroad pocket watch brought \$600. In 2011, we sold an Illinois Watch Co. "Railroader" 14-karat gold pocket watch for \$1,300. Other collectible railroad memorabilia we've sold includes a group of brass and nickel cap badges that went for \$190 in 2011. Signs and broadsides are also popular with collectors. An enamel Newmarket, New Hampshire, railroad station sign fetched \$400 last year. A sign with a map of stations along the Boston and Albany Railroad sold for even more. A Norwich and Worcester Railroad excursion broadside (sizeable sheet of paper printed on one side) to see the Worcester professional baseball team play in 1881 brought \$1,300 in 2022.

Railroad memorabilia



has brought strong prices in other auction houses as well. A 1935 poster advertising trips to Atlantic City sold for \$7,500 in 2023. A rare Kansas Pacific railway lantern from 1869 reached \$41,900 in 2022. For those who like larger memorabilia, a New York Central System caboose that had been restored and described as a tiny house sold for \$37,500 in

2018. That's some steep train fare.

We are still cataloging the Civil War memorabilia auction, an online auction of antiques in a Beacon Hill estate, and a comic book, sports memorabilia, and collectibles auction. We are also accepting consignments of items in my top 10 list for future auctions. Please visit our website

<https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

Contact us to consign items or for auction information at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services [info@centralmassauctions.com](mailto:info@centralmassauctions.com) or (508-612-6111).



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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.

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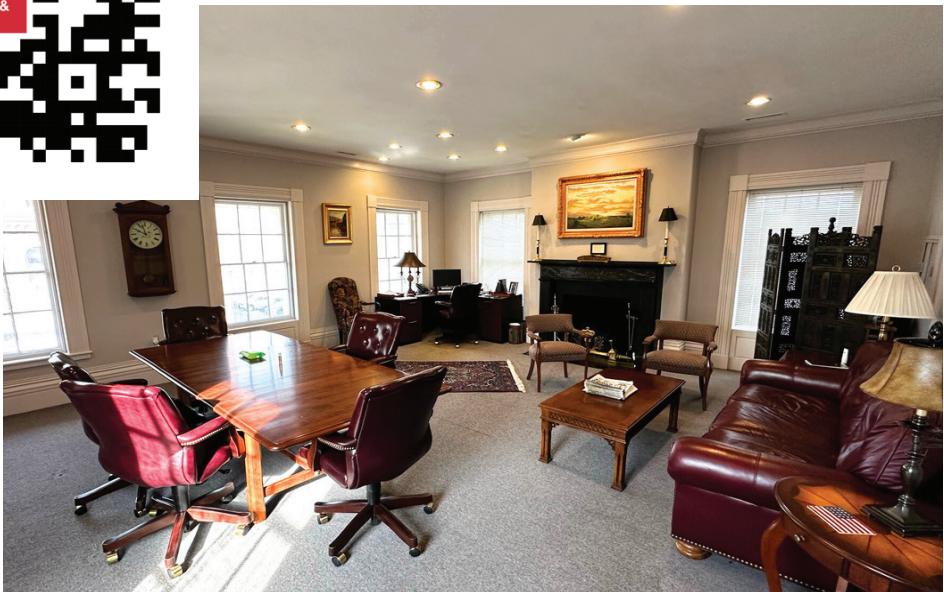
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# Wreaths Across America program honors those who served



Courtesy

Local veterans, residents, officials, and volunteers came together in West Brookfield to honor those who served.



BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

WEST BROOKFIELD — Community members came together last month to honor those who served by supporting the Wreaths Across America program.

On Dec. 14, West Brookfield saw its first ever full wreath-laying initiative, a community mission that falls under the national Wreaths Across America organization.

Prior to the event, wreaths were delivered to town by Foster Hill Transport. The truck was driven by Roger Gagnon, an Army veteran, and his father, a Marine veteran.

"They were beyond proud of being able to haul for Wreaths Across America deliveries. Next year, they are hoping they will be able to haul wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery," said event coordinator Nadine Morin.

The Dec. 14 proceedings began with a ceremony at the Veterans Monuments on the Town Common. Several active duty servicemembers, veterans, organizations, and groups took part in the event, including the Quabbin NJROTC Color Guard led by Joshua Bibek; the Westover Civil Air Patrol Honor Guard under the leadership of Major Stephen Edelman; Civil Air Patrol Commander and Captain Karen Chevalier; the Color Guard from Adams-Coney-Frew American Legion Post 244; and local eighth-grader Jillian Rigney, who played "Taps" during the ceremony.

James Waz, an Army Vietnam Veteran who received several Medals of Honor, placed a veterans' wreath in memory of those who served. The event also included several other decorated local veterans, Gold Star Families, and area officials and volunteers eager to offer their thanks.

"The mission of Wreaths Across America is to remember the fallen, honor those who serve, and teach the next generation the value of freedom," Morin said.

Guests were honored to learn about the lives of several veterans, some who were lost during conflict and made the ultimate sacrifice defending freedom.

Following the initial program, volunteers representing several local organizations took part in wreath-laying exercises at Pine Grove Cemetery and Old Indian Cemetery in town.

The services honored more than 400 of West Brookfield's veterans. At Pine Grove Cemetery, wreaths were placed on every veteran's grave. Approximately 50 volunteers honored each veteran by saying the veteran's name aloud and taking a moment to thank them for their service to our country.

"It's a small act that goes a long way toward keeping the memory of our veterans alive. Volunteers could take the tag on the back of each wreath to remember the veteran they honored," Morin said.

Once the wreaths were placed at Pine Grove Cemetery, a smaller group of volunteers headed to Indian Cemetery on Cottage Street, where 14 Revolutionary War veterans are laid to rest.

"Although we couldn't identify each veteran's grave due to stone deterioration, we left wreaths at the gravestones

we could identify. The remaining wreaths were left at the Indian Cemetery entrance to honor those stones we could not find," Morin said.

In total, 434 wreaths were placed across town, all of which were donated by local businesses, residents, and organizations. A grand total of 538 wreaths were sponsored; the excess wreaths will be used in West Brookfield's Wreaths Across America event on Dec. 13.

Organizers thank all area residents, volunteers, business owners, and contributors for supporting the program.

Special thanks goes to West Brookfield Police Chief Nathan Hagglund and State Trooper Scott Shea, who coordinated an escort for the wreath delivery truck through Spencer and the Brookfields. The escort team included officers from the State Police, West Brookfield Police Department, West Brookfield Fire Department, West Brookfield Rescue Squad, Brookfield Police Department, and several other departments.

West Brookfield began its partnership with Wreaths Across America in 2023. Nationally, more than two million volunteers and supporters gathered at participating Wreaths Across America locations in all 50 states.

"We are forever grateful for the supporters who dedicate their time, energy, and resources to fulfilling our mission all year long," said Karen Worcester, the Executive Director of Wreaths Across America.

Looking ahead, West Brookfield residents are excited to once again honor those who served at next year's program.

"Because of this year's success, my goal is to have additional co-coordinators who can help with this endeavor so that we can also include the veterans in



Sacred Heart Cemetery as well," Morin said.

To make an online donation supporting the cause, visit [www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org](http://www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org).

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# 2025 is the year of the Monstera

Kick-off 2025 with the addition of a monstera plant to your indoor garden. You'll join other gardeners observing 2025 as the Year of the Monstera. Each year, the National Garden Bureau (NGB) selects and celebrates one plant in each of the following categories: annual, perennial, bulb, edible, and shrub. The plants are chosen for their popularity, easy-care nature, adaptability, diversity, and versatility. Monstera certainly meets the criteria and as NGB declared it is "the world's most iconic indoor plant." The large, glossy heart-shaped leaves have distinct perforations called fenestrations. Scientists speculate these holes allow tropical downpours to pass through, minimizing plant damage. There are several different monstera, ranging in size and leaf shape including some with variegated leaves. Some are easy to grow while others are a bit fussier. Always check the plant label for specifics on caring for the



GARDEN  
MOMENTS  
.....  
MELINDA  
MYERS

monstera you select. One of the most popular and readily available is the Monstera deliciosa, commonly called split-leaf philodendron, even though it is not a philodendron. It's known for its large heart-shaped perforated leaves on thick stems. In its native habitat, it can grow 66 feet tall but typically grows up to 7 or 8 feet indoors. The flowers that seldom appear indoors are like a peace lily with a cone-shaped structure (spadix) surrounded by a cupped white sheath (spathe). The flowers may be followed by an edible fruit that tastes like a combination of pineapple, banana, and mango. This flavorful combination inspired its nickname, fruit salad plant, and the botanical name that

translates to delicious monstrosity. In general, these tropical beauties prefer growing conditions like that of their native habitat. They prefer bright, filtered indirect sunlight. Avoid direct sunlight that can scorch or cause leaves to turn yellow. Grow monstera in a quality well-drained potting mix in a container with drainage holes. Water them thoroughly when the top two inches of soil are dry. Pour off excess water or place the pot on pebbles in a saucer. The pebbles elevate the pot above any water that collects in the saucer to avoid root rot. As this water evaporates, humidity increases around the plant. Further boost the humidity by placing your monstera with other plants. As one plant loses moisture or transpires, the neighboring plants will benefit. Only apply houseplant fertilizer when the plants are actively growing, usually March through October. Let the plant and your garden goals be

your fertilization guide. Fertilizers provide needed nutrients to plants in need of a nutrient boost or when you want to stimulate more growth. Support the plant with a moss pole or trellis as it starts to climb. The large aerial roots attach to nearby surfaces to help them climb. In nature, these roots help monstera to climb trees and have been used to make rope in Peru and baskets in Mexico. Use these beauties to create an indoor tropical paradise or to provide some green relief. No matter your indoor décor, this unique plant will make a welcome addition. Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including Midwest Gardener's Handbook, Revised Edition, and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist



Melinda Myers

The National Garden Bureau has declared 2025 as the Year of the Monstera, calling it "the world's most iconic indoor plant."

and contributing editor is www.MelindaMyers.com. for Birds & Blooms magazine. Myers' Web site



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# POLICE REPORTS

## Leicester

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19  
1:46 a.m.: ambulance (Watch Street), transported; 2:21 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:16 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:04 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:57 a.m.: arrest warrant service (Town Beach Road), Fred Giovaninni, 40, 5 Town Beach Road, Leicester, home invasion, arrest; 7:15 a.m.: accident (Rawson Street), mv towed; 8:54 a.m.: accident (Paxton Street), report taken; 9:48 a.m.: debris in road (Pleasant Street), removed; 9:48 a.m.: debris in road (Huntoon Memorial Highway), removed; 10:26 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 10:33 a.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), services rendered; 12:38 p.m.: illegal dumping (Second Street), report taken; 1:52 p.m.: arrest warrant service (South Main Street), Fredlief Eustac Rasch, 36, 3 Harvard Street, Natick, straight warrant, arrest; 2:26 p.m.: summons service (South Main Street), served; 2:30 p.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), assisted; 2:54 p.m.: investigation (Second Street), report taken; 3:21 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 3:28 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 3:41 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:00 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:09 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:18 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:30 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:41 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 4:47 p.m.: commercial alarm (Stafford Street), false alarm; 4:48 p.m.: mv stop (Soojians Drive), spoken to; 4:54 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 5:03 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 5:11 p.m.: threats (Huntoon Memorial Highway), report taken; 5:46 p.m.: lobby service (South Main Street), report taken; 6:17 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, lights violation, criminal application issued; 8:26 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), resolved;

10:55 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street), spoken to.  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20  
1:08 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 1:16 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 2:04 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 2:07 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 2:24 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:16 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 7:25 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 7:51 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, speeding, citation issued; 8:31 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 8:45 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 8:58 a.m.: ambulance (Baldwin Street), transported; 10:03 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 10:04 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 10:11 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:23 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford street), written warning; 10:31 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 10:41 a.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), gone on arrival; 10:45 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:45 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:13 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 1:16 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:20 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 1:26 p.m.: assist other PD (Hastings Road, Spencer), unfounded; 1:41 p.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), citation issued; 1:45 p.m.: slippery roadways (Main Street), services rendered; 2:40 p.m.: disabled mv (Mille Street), services rendered; 2:47 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), transported; 4:04 p.m.: gunshots heard (Cricklewood Drive), unfounded; 5:37 p.m.: ambulance (Colonial Drive), transported; 7:16 p.m.: plowing/sanding requested (South Main Street), referred; 7:27 p.m.: assist other PD (Marshall Street), services rendered; 8:27 p.m.: ambulance (Marshall Street), transported; 9:28 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21  
1:09 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 2:00 a.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 6:34 a.m.: suspicious mv (Watson Street), spoken to; 7:27 a.m.: animal complaint (Marshall Street), referred; 11:13 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 12:38 p.m.: keep the peace (Craig Street), peace restored; 3:39 p.m.: family problem (Charlton Street), resolved; 3:42 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), report taken; 7:59 p.m.: ambulance (Hemlock Street), transported.  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22  
12:11 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 1:18 a.m.: mv stop (Mannville Street), written warning; 10:57 a.m.: ambulance (Sherri Lane), transported; 12:07 p.m.: ambulance (Auburn Street), transported; 2:24 p.m.: welfare check (Parker Street), assisted; 5:44 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street, Paxton), services ren-

dered; 6:07 p.m.: debris in road (Chaple Street), resolved; 6:20 p.m.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, child 8-12 or over 57 inches w/o seat belt, marked lanes violation, citation issued; 7:41 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 7:44 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), resolved; 7:54 p.m.: ambulance (Clark Street), transported; 9:38 p.m.: welfare check (Mannville Street), assisted.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23  
12:54 a.m.: disturbance (Moose Hill Road), spoken to; 8:18 a.m.: animal complaint (Laurelwood Avenue), referred; 8:49 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:55 a.m.: investigation (Laurelwood Avenue), report taken; 9:03 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:06 a.m.: summons service (South Main Street), served; 9:58 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:17 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:42 a.m.: summons service (Craig Street), served; 10:50 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 11:11 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 11:28 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 12:10 p.m.: ambulance (Esther Street, Worcester), transported; 12:46 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 2:41 p.m.: fraud (Huntoon Memorial Highway), report taken; 4:12 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Willow Hill Road), unable to serve; 6:25 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), name and address redacted from police log, larceny under \$1200, criminal application issued; 6:31 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 7:08 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 8:53 p.m.: assist other PD (Stafford Street), gone on arrival; 9:32 p.m.: ambulance (South Main Street), transported; 10:29 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24  
8:04 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:59 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:27 a.m.: mv off road (Whittemore Street), services rendered; 10:27 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 11:01 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:14 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 12:28 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), transported; 12:40 p.m.: ambulance (Virginia Drive), services rendered; 1:07 p.m.: welfare check (Cemetery Road), services rendered; 1:24 p.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), no action required; 1:33 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 1:51 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 4:42 p.m.: ambulance (Baldwin Street), transported; 7:31 p.m.: residential alarm (Stafford street), false alarm; 7:49 p.m.: assist citizen (Hemlock Street), spoken to; 8:01 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), transported; 11:04 p.m.: disturbance (Pleasant Street), resolved; 11:45 p.m.: residential alarm (Leela Lane), call canceled; 11:48 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25  
12:45 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 1:28 a.m.: hit/run accident (Warren Street), report taken; 4:52 a.m.: suspicious activity (Pine Street), spoken to; 9:34 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), report taken; 10:57 a.m.: welfare check (Auburn Street), assisted; 11:01 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 11:19 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, uninsured mv, citation issued; 12:05 p.m.: ambulance (Prouty Street, Spencer), transported; 12:17 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 12:19 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 12:29 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 12:47 p.m.: mv stop (Chaple Street), verbal warning; 1:21 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:28 p.m.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), gone on arrival; 1:55 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 5:44 p.m.: assist other agency (Main Street), resolved; 9:31 p.m.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), resolved.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26  
1:42 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 4:31 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), spoken to; 8:29 a.m.: ambulance (Tanglewood Road), transported; 9:12 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:42 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, no inspection sticker; 10:43 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 11:51 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 11:57 a.m.: fraud (Huntoon Memorial Highway), report taken; 12:14 p.m.: ambulance (Auburn Street), transported; 12:48 p.m.: welfare check (Sargent Street), resolved; 3:28 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 3:30 p.m.: animal complaint (Stafford Street), referred; 3:53 p.m.: fraud (Sargent Street), report taken; 4:46 p.m.: parking complaint (Stafford Street), unfounded; 6:01 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 9:04 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 9:17 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 9:25 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 9:29 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway),

name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, unregistered mv, op w/suspended registration, criminal application issued; 10:00 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:03 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:09 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:17 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 10:33 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 10:50 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 11:16 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 11:32 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27  
12:08 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 12:11 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:44 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 1:05 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 2:00 a.m.: ambulance (Marlboro Drive), transported; 2:58 a.m.: ambulance (Knollwood Road), transported; 9:19 a.m.: ambulance (Flint Way), transported; 9:37 a.m.: ambulance (Monterey Drive), transported; 11:00 a.m.: ambulance (South Main Street), transported; 12:26 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), services rendered; 12:45 p.m.: welfare check (McCarthy Avenue), services rendered; 1:18 p.m.: debris in road (King Street Extension), referred; 1:55 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street, Worcester), transported; 2:03 p.m.: welfare check (Spring Street), services rendered; 2:39 p.m.: animal complaint (Sargent Street), referred; 3:14 p.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), spoken to; 8:34 p.m.: ambulance (Parent Street, Spencer), call canceled.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28  
12:35 a.m.: welfare check (Pine Street), assisted; 8:25 a.m.: ambulance (Siani Road), transported; 9:13 a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), resolved; 9:27 a.m.: debris in road (Paxton Street), resolved; 9:41 a.m.: welfare check (Chapel Street), services rendered; 10:12 a.m.: summons service (Dale Street), served; 10:50 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 10:54 a.m.: ambulance (Craig Street), transported; 11:04 a.m.: arrest warrant service (Brantwood Road, Worcester), Richard Raymond Brigham, 28, 16 Woodland Street, West Boylston, straight warrant, arrest; 11:58 a.m.: fraud (Ingram Road), services rendered; 12:51 p.m.: assist other PD (Marshall Street, Paxton), call canceled; 3:37 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Newfield Street), unable to serve; 4:17 p.m.: ambulance (Camp Street, Worcester), call canceled; 9:17 p.m.: suspicious activity (Huntoon Memorial Highway), report taken; 11:24 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:56 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), mv towed.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29  
5:48 a.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 7:34 a.m.: ambulance (Elmwood Avenue), transported; 9:03 a.m.: assist citizen (Mill Street); 9:26 a.m.: suspicious mv (Oak Bluff Lane), investigated; 10:07 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 11:16 a.m.: keep the peace (Mill Street), services rendered; 12:07 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 12:26 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), unfounded; 12:31 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 12:49 p.m.: ambulance (Soojians Drive), transported; 3:45 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:55 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 4:59 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, lights violation, criminal application issued; 6:09 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), spoken to; 6:37 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 9:32 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 9:41 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:45 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30  
12:36 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 8:23 a.m.: accident (Salminen Drive), report taken; 8:24 a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), resolved; 9:07 a.m.: suspicious activity (South Main Street), report taken; 9:41 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 10:24 a.m.: ambulance (Parent Street, Spencer), transported; 10:34 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:54 a.m.: investigation (North Lake Avenue, Worcester), report taken; 1:59 p.m.: ambulance (Little Mugget Road, Charlton), transported; 2:02 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 2:17 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:27 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), no action required; 2:33 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 2:57 p.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), referred; 3:24 p.m.: ambulance (Washington Square, Worcester), call canceled; 3:37 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 3:43 p.m.: welfare check (Peter Salem Road), resolved; 4:29 p.m.: ambulance (Lillian Avenue), transported; 5:25 p.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), unable to locate; 6:18 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), name and address redacted from police log, shoplifting by asportation, criminal application issued; 8:56 p.m.: erratic operator (Baldwin Street), unable to locate.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31  
12:58 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:23 a.m.: mv stop (Soojians Drive), citation issued; 6:09

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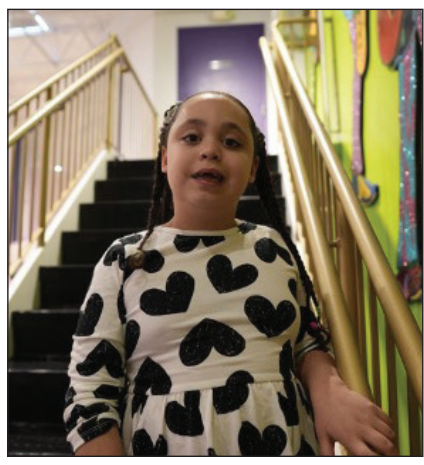
Spencer

508-885-4499



Friday's Child





Aliyana

Age 10

Registration # 7858

Hi! My name is Aliyana and I love to play in the water!

Aliyana, also known as Ali, is an active and curious girl who is described as “adorable, sweet, affectionate and highly intelligent.” She loves to explore, and would be happy to spend all day outside looking at bugs and plants. Her very favorite thing to do is play with water, whether in a pool, water table or even a puddle! Aliyana also enjoys pretend play like feeding stuffed animals and putting them to bed. She will put Little People toys in the bus and drive it around while singing “Wheels on the Bus,” and can also be heard singing other songs such as “Baby Shark” throughout the day.


<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/7858>

Can I Adopt?

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

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

To learn more about adoption from foster care visit [www.mareinc.org](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.





# POLICE REPORTS

a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:31 a.m.: search warrant service (Mill Street), resolved; 9:21 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:26 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 9:43 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 10:41 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 11:23 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:23 p.m.: ambulance (Shelter Ridge Road), transported; 12:42 p.m.: investigation (Derby Street, Worcester), report taken; 12:48 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:50 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 1:00 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), assisted; 1:30 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:40 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), resolved; 3:21 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), transported; 3:29 p.m.: summons service (Brown Street), served; 4:09 p.m.: gunshots heard (Charlton Street), unable to locate; 4:17 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, unregistered mv, uninsured mv, criminal application issued; 4:36 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), referred; 5:21 p.m.: ambulance (Breezy Green Road), assisted; 5:31 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 7:15 p.m.: residential alarm (Pleasant Street), resolved; 8:24 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), verbal warning; 8:51 p.m.: mv stop (Henshaw Street), citation issued; 8:53 p.m.: disabled mv (Stafford Street), services rendered; 9:58 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:51 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 11:54 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1  
1:01 a.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), services rendered; 5:22 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 7:16 a.m.: ambulance (Lake Drive), transported; 7:23 a.m.: ambulance (Elmwood Avenue), transported; 7:43 a.m.: drug violation (South Main Street), investigated; 11:05 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 11:20 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 11:39 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:40 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 11:51 a.m.: ambulance (Whittemore Street), transported; 11:59 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 12:21 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:14 p.m.: ambulance (May Street, Worcester), transported; 2:04 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:25 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 4:56 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), services rendered; 5:16 p.m.: suspicious mv (Reservoir Street), services rendered; 11:03 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), call canceled; 11:22 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), call canceled.

###  
**Spencer**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18  
12:01-1:40 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:05 a.m.: medical/general (Sherwood Drive); 1:34 a.m.: parking violation (Grove Street), ticket issued; 1:51 a.m.: parking violation (Church Street), ticket issued; 1:56 a.m.: disturbance (Wilson Street), rep. yelling/banging outside; 1:56-2:28 a.m.: parking violations/3 (Church, Elm, Main streets), tickets issued; 2:34 a.m.: DPW call (Meadow Road), dead raccoon in road; 2:42 a.m.: medical/general (Thompson Pond Road); 5:41 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), assist Leicester PD w/warrant; 7:36 a.m.: officer wanted (Prospect Street), re: mv sale; 8:04 a.m.: DPW call (South Spencer Road), rep. icy bridge deck; 8:17 a.m.: DPW call (Lake Street), c/o broken window; 8:28 a.m.: animal complaint (Chestnut Street), loose dog; 8:38 a.m.: medical/general (Crestview Drive); 10:41 a.m.: restraining order service (Browning Pond Road); 12:31 p.m.: mv lockout (Howe Village), assisted; 1:24 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 1:45 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street), lift assist; 1:56 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 2:26 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 3:01 p.m.: animal complaint (Wilson Street), rep. dog attack; 3:08 p.m.: officer wanted (Duggan Street), apt. lockout; 3:31 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 3:42 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 4:16 p.m.: medical/general (Jones Street); 4:58 p.m.: animal complaint (Cooney Road), loose dog; 5:50 p.m.: officer wanted (Lambs Grove), rep. open door/vacant home; 10:55 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street), 11:52 p.m.: commercial alarm (Mechanic Street), services rendered; (total daily mv stops – 0).

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19  
12:12-2:08 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:55 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; 4:25 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Clark Road), hang-up; 6:07 a.m.: 911 call (Westland Drive), open line; 6:34 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Road); 7:38 a.m.: DPW call (Hastings Road), icy conditions; 7:59 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:11 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 8:16 a.m.: accident (Marble Road), report taken; 8:37 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), issue w/landlord; 9:43 a.m.: DPW call (Clark Road), icy conditions; 10:17 a.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), per-

son knocking over benches; 10:56 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), rep. sale/transfer of firearms; 10:57 a.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 12:46 p.m.: mv lockout (High Street), assisted; 1:15 p.m.: officer wanted (Laliberte Lane), assist citizen; 1:33 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 1:49 p.m.: juvenile matter (West Main Street), DA referral; 2:22 p.m.: animal complaint (Powers Street), concerned about dog; 2:45 p.m.: officer wanted (Wilson Street), spoken to; 3:00 p.m.: animal complaint (Shore Drive), loose dog; 3:14 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), resolved; 3:27 p.m.: animal complaint (Wilson Street), re: dog issue; 4:11 p.m.: mv complaint (Paxton Road), erratic operator; 4:23 p.m.: medical/general (Wilson Street), dog attack; 4:58 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: children left in mv; 5:57 p.m.: hit/run accident (Main Street), report taken; 8:23 p.m.: disturbance (Wall Street), family issue; 9:16 p.m.: medical/general (Pearl Street); 10:47 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); (total daily mv stops – 0).

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20  
12:19-1:43 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:36 a.m.: parking violation (Chestnut Street), ticket issued; 1:28 a.m.: parking violation (Main Street), ticket issued; 3:39 a.m.: medical/general (Thompson Pond Road); 8:05 a.m.: officer wanted (Meadow Road), rep. sale of multiple pistols/revolvers; 8:44 a.m.: citizen complaint (Ash Street), re: flyer left on mv; 9:59 a.m.: larceny (Smithville Road), re: missing chain-saw; 10:08 a.m.: officer wanted (Church Street), rep. theft of cabinet; 10:46 a.m.: officer wanted (Paxton Road), c/o calls rec'd; 11:39 a.m.: restraining order service (Elm Street); 1:11 p.m.: intelligence/criminal (Wilson Street), Celina Pearl Descoteaux, 38, 104 Wilson Street, Spencer, reckless endangerment of a child, resisting arrest, arrest; 1:51 p.m.: restraining order service (Wilson Street); 2:17 p.m.: disturbance (Wall Street), c/o fem. in laundry room; 3:14 p.m.: juvenile matter (West Main Street), c/o harassment; 4:50 p.m.: missing person/juvenile (West Main Street), report taken; 6:01 p.m.: medical/general (Thompson Pond Road); 6:16 p.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), barking dog; 6:46 p.m.: vandalism (Bacon Hill Road), report taken; 6:56 p.m.: medical/general (Old East Charlton Road); 6:58 p.m.: accident (Hastings Road), report taken; 10:04 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; (total daily mv stops – 1).

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21  
1:00 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Charlton PD bolo/welfare check; 1:36-1:46 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:25 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 5:29 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village), lift assist; 5:41 a.m.: DPW call (Meadow Road), road snow-covered; 7:07 a.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 9:33 a.m.: medical/general (Washburn Terrace); 9:50 a.m.: lost/found (Main Street), wallet found; 10:48 a.m.: officer wanted (G.H. Wilson Road), spoken to; 11:24 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), rep. poss. scam call; 1:25 p.m.: officer wanted (Wire Village Road), tree across road; 2:19 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), domestic issue; 3:43 p.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), c/o barking dog; 4:03 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 4:05 p.m.: 911 call (Elm Street), misdial; 4:34 p.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 5:38 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Marble Road), referred; 6:59 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), services rendered; 7:24 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 8:07 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), assist Worcester PD; 8:36 p.m.: medical/general (Ash Street), 11:37 p.m.: building checked, secure; (total daily mv stops – 0).

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22  
3:14-3:29 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:17 a.m.: suspicious persons (West Main Street), investigated; 8:48 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), rep. theft; 9:36 a.m.: officer wanted (Route 49), erratic operator; 10:14 a.m.: fire alarm (Crestview Drive), referred; 10:27 a.m.: lost/found (Bixby Road), referred; 2:03 p.m.: officer wanted (Dustin Street), parked mv obstructing traffic; 2:41 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 3:16 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 3:56 p.m.: residential fire (East Avenue), referred; 4:36 p.m.: residential alarm (Hastings Road), services rendered; 4:40 p.m.: hit/run accident (Main Street), report taken; 5:59 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Lincoln Street), referred; 6:48 p.m.: 911 call (Clark Road), accidental; 6:50 p.m.: commercial alarm (Mechanic Street), services rendered; 7:01 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), resolved; 7:19 p.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), c/o texts rec'd; 7:30 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 9:15 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; (total daily mv stops – 0).

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23  
12:53 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), hang-up; 1:18-2:00 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:39 a.m.: residential alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 8:17 a.m.: residential fire (East Avenue), referred; 8:21 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:26 a.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 10:43 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), concerned about niece;

10:51 a.m.: accident (North Spencer Road), report taken; 11:09 a.m.: suspicious persons (East Avenue), investigated; 11:39 a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), services rendered; 11:45 a.m.: trespassing (Hastings Road), hunter on property; 11:47 a.m.: officer wanted (G.H. Wilson Road), services rendered; 12:31 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 1:36 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 1:44 p.m.: medical/general (Pleasant Street), lift assist; 1:50 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 2:01 p.m.: citizen complaint (West Main Street), vape sold to underage son; 3:06 p.m.: DFPW call (Point Eastalee Drive), limb on wires; 3:37 p.m.: medical/general (Sherwood Drive); 4:16 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 5:59 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 6:55 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 8:24 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), rep. smoke/orange light; (total daily mv stops – 1).

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24  
12:45 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 12:59-2:49 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:42 a.m.: suspicious persons (Cherry Street), investigated; 7:57 a.m.: sex offender registration (Wire Village Road), info taken; 8:08 a.m.: medical/sudden death (Main Street); 8:09 a.m.: commercial alarm (Maple Street), services rendered; 8:29 a.m.: 911 call (Cherry Street), child w/phone; 8:59 a.m.: officer wanted (Route 49), unwanted party; 9:40 a.m.: medical/general (Temple Street); 10:19 a.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 10:28 a.m.: restraining order service (Paxton Road); 10:48 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 11:15 a.m.: officer wanted (South Spencer Road), re: texts rec'd; 11:55 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 1:57 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 4:46 p.m.: officer wanted (Prospect Street), c/o no place to park/parking ban; 5:27 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 5:42 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Charlton PD bolo; 6:05 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 8:20 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), c/o dangerous operation; 8:24 p.m.: officer wanted (Paston Road), c/o kids doing donuts in lot; 9:41 p.m.: medical/general (Whittemore Court); 11:48 p.m.: medical/general (Grant Street); (total daily mv stops – 0).

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25  
12:53-1:20 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:37 a.m.: disturbance (Cherry Street), noise complaint; 3:45 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 10:21 a.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 11:27 a.m.: medical/general (Pleasant Street); 11:34 a.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), custody/Christmas visitation issue; 11:57 a.m.: medical/general (Prouty Street); 2:08 p.m.: accident (Clark Road), mv vs deer; 2:53 p.m.: disturbance (Smithville Road), rep. shooting in area; 4:51 p.m.: medical/general (McCormick Road); 6:06 p.m.: mv stop (Charlton Road), Joseph Aaron Tremblay, 27, 40 Raymond Street, Holden, OUI liquor, negligent operation, arrest; 7:52 p.m.: mv complaint (Paxton Road), erratic operator; 8:25 p.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), barking dog; 8:52 p.m.: accident (Bacon Hill Road), mv vs deer; 9:03 p.m.: officer wanted (Wall Street), req. welfare check; 9:16 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 9:43 p.m.: hit/run accident (Charlton Road), report taken; 11:02 p.m.: disturbance (School Street), unwanted party; (total daily mv stops – 2).

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26  
5:48 a.m.: intelligence/parole (West Main Street), info rec'd; 7:16 a.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), wallet found; 8:20 a.m.: 911 call (Pleasant Street), child w/phone; 8:21 a.m.: officer wanted (Borkum Road), req. welfare check; 9:01 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 9:17 a.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 9:21 a.m.: officer wanted (Paxton Road), needs to retrieve belongings; 11:17 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 11:49 a.m.: medical/general (Brooks Pond Road); 1:44 p.m.: juvenile matter (West Main Street), spoken to; 1:44 p.m.: restraining order service (Greenville Street); 1:50 p.m.: mv repossessed (Grove Street), info rec'd; 3:07 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 3:42 p.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 3:56 p.m.: fire alarm (Maple Street), referred; 4:43 p.m.: officer wanted (Lake Street), wants to retrieve dog/belongings; 5:46 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 8:31 p.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 9:55 p.m.: animal complaint (Charlton Road), loose dog; (total daily mv stops – 2).

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27  
2:30-2:59 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:11 a.m.: disabled mv (North Spencer Road), assisted; 9:04 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 10:01 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), turtle found; 10:34 a.m.: officer wanted (Dale Street), re: loss of power; 10:49 a.m.: accident (Chestnut Street), report taken; 11:55 a.m.: citizen complaint (Main Street), siding/nails blowing onto Wall Street; 12:00 p.m.: illegal dumping (Maple Street), rep. dumped on property; 12:26 p.m.: lost/found (Mechanic Street), c/c found; 1:32

p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 2:03 p.m.: fraud (Charlton Road), report taken; 4:07 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 5:28 p.m.: 911 call (Northwest Road), services rendered; 5:38 p.m.: medical/general (Cranberry Lane); 7:03 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), hang-up; 7:46 p.m.: animal complaint (Paxton Road), dead deer in road; 7:58 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 8:31 p.m.: medical/general (Parent Street); 8:38 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); (total daily mv stops – 0).

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28  
12:52-1:45 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:23 a.m.: disturbance (Mechanic Street), people arguing/fight possible; 9:28 a.m.: medical/general (Pearl Street); 11:37 a.m.: residential fire (Wall Street), referred; 12:02 p.m.: hit/run accident (West Main Street), report taken; 3:02 p.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 3:10 p.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), barking dog; 4:29 p.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 4:39 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 4:50 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 6:04 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 8:18 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 9:45 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), State Police bolo/re: bomb threat; (total daily mv stops – 0).

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29  
12:12-2:16 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:25 a.m.: parking violation (School Street), ticket issued; 2:44 a.m.: fire alarm (Sampson Street), referred; 4:46 a.m.: medical/general (Condon Drive); 7:14 a.m.: animal complaint (Ash Street), rep. injured owl; 8:29 a.m.: officer wanted (Valley Street), re: previous assault; 10:38 a.m.: officer wanted (Oakland Drive), unwanted party; 12:06 p.m.: fire alarm (Mechanic Street), referred; 1:26 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Church Street), resolved; 2:25 p.m.: 911 call (Lake Street), no contact; 4:21 p.m.: animal complaint (Kingsbury Road), loose dog/killed chickens; 4:34 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 5:52 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 8:04 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); (total daily mv stops – 0).

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30  
12:19-2:27 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:11 a.m.: parking violation (Mechanic Street), ticket issued; 1:17 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 2:05-2:43 a.m.: parking violations/3 (Elm, Main, Grove streets), tickets issued; 6:17 a.m.: animal complaint (Greenville Street), loose dog; 7:43 a.m.: medical/general (Borkum Road); 8:36 a.m.: DPW call (Chestnut Street), tarp blown onto power lines; 9:05 a.m.: officer wanted (Highland Street), re: trailer purchase; 9:15 a.m.: burglary (Sampson Street), report taken; 9:55 a.m.: medical/general (G.H. Wilson Road); 10:09 a.m.: accident (Mechanic Street), report taken; 10:21 a.m.: medical/general (Parent Street); 1:44 p.m.: citizen complaint (Mechanic Street), c/o messy yard; 2:35 p.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), wallet found; 3:00 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), re: RMV/immediate threat; 3:36 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), rep. items being taken from mv; 3:40 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), req. welfare check; 4:32 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 6:28 p.m.: medical/general (Browning Pond Road); 6:59 p.m.: fire alarm (Howe Village), referred; 8:59 p.m.: mv complaint (Buteau Road), erratic operator; (total daily mv stops – 4).

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31  
12:02-2:31 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:14-2:23 a.m.: parking violations/2 (Main, Cherry streets), tickets issued; 3:33 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 3:34 a.m.: FID card issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:34 a.m.: officer wanted (Ash Street), spoken to; 10:08 a.m.: lost/found (Paxton Road), debit card found; 10:27 a.m.: DPW call (Pleasant Street), stop sign should be replaced; 11:11 a.m.: officer wanted (Franklin Street), garage window shot w/bb gun; 12:42 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 1:42 p.m.: RV complaint (Ash Street), re: kids on dirt bikes; 5:10 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 5:36 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 5:39 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 6:53 p.m.: medical/general (Temple Street); 6:57 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 7:06 p.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), assisted; 8:13 p.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), barking dog; 8:45 p.m.: officer wanted (Valley Street), unwanted party; 9:54 p.m.: hit/run accident (West Main Street), report taken; 10:17 p.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; 10:38 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; (total daily mv stops – 4).

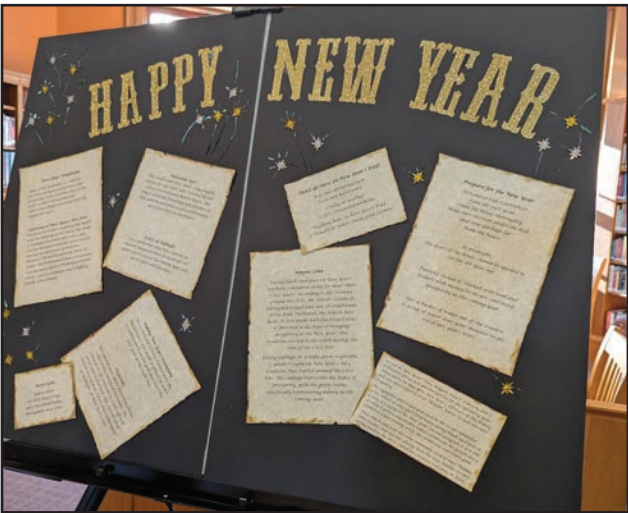
ARRESTS, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

Craig Robert Little-Ricard, 42, 52 Chestnut Street, Spencer, possession Class B drug; Katelynn Jeanne Beer, 31, 330 Sunderland Road, Worcester, trafficking cocaine/100 gm or more, possession Class B drug w/intent to distribute, possession Class A drug; Dylan G. Shaw, 28, 2 Dustin Street, Spencer, trafficking cocaine/100 gm or more, possession Class B drug w/intent to distribute, possession Class A drug.



NEW YEAR

continued from page A1



Library guests celebrate the new year with creative activities.

name generator that kept guests entertained.

Additional party offerings included holiday crackers, noise makers, and a free raffle to win one of the library's anniversary shirts (new sizes and colors are available; contact the library if you're interested in obtaining a shirt).

"Diane Buzzell also put together mini gift bags of black eyed peas, as one of the old traditions was to make a dish with them called Hoppin John, which was said to bring good luck in the new year," Lamb added. "We had a wonderful turnout with people of all ages. Kids had a blast, and so did the adults."

In yet another First

Night celebration in town, the Herard Lane team offered snacks and games at their common room.

North Brookfield's New Year's Eve festivities concluded with a bonfire held at the Town Common, featuring music and a hot dog truck.

Officials thank everyone who came together to make the celebration enjoyable for local families.

"Many volunteers made this evening a success, and community members of all ages enjoyed a local event to usher in the new year," Waldron added.



The festivities conclude with a bonfire on the Town Common.

REGIONALIZATION

continued from page A1

lic safety answering points) is challenging and expensive," Bridges said. "Some of the challenges include staffing. Towns compete for a fewer number of people who want to do this type of work—it is a 24/7 operation. Also, the radio systems, dispatching consoles, and software are

very costly. Upgrading an entire system can cost millions."

Added Bridges, "As older systems are no longer supported, the only available systems are much more expensive to purchase."

Technological innovations over the past two decades have also addressed many regionalization concerns that existed in previous years, officials said.

"The concern has always been that, if there was regionalization, the emergency telecommunicator will not know the community. The advent many years ago of E911, where the calls are geo-located, made that issue moot," Bridges added.

Expanded grant opportunities are also a major benefit cited by public safety leaders.

"State 911 Department grants will cover costs

for purchasing necessary equipment, renovating or constructing the facility, and funding a portion of operational costs for five years, easing financial burdens on local communities," Befford added. "These initiatives help strengthen emergency services, improve public safety, and create long-term sustainability for the regional dispatch center."

Looking ahead, Spencer

officials will work with a consulting firm, Mission Critical Partners, LLC (MCP), which will assess the town's current system and help identify the feasibility of regionalization.

"The model we are looking at is that all the participating communities have joint ownership of the regional center," Bridges explained. "There will be a governing board made

up of representatives of all the communities, looking out for the best interests of the communities."

All survey responses are anonymous and will go directly to the MCP team.

If you would like to access the survey, visit [www.spencerma.gov](http://www.spencerma.gov). The survey link is posted on the homepage.

AMBASSADORS

continued from page A1

In addition to the Project 351 day of service, ambassadors also spend a year leading community projects in their respective towns.

"Project 351 is determined to meet the demand for high quality, enriching service opportunities that reflect the unique gifts and world-changing aspirations of young people," read the statement issued by the leadership team.

Additional service opportunities for ambassadors include alumni mentorship, enrichment programs, and participation in Project 351's Service Leadership Academy.

To date, Project 351 has featured more than 5,000 youth ambassadors who combined to assist more than 1.3 million people.

"Ambassadors build unity, cultivate kindness, and transform lives and communities through service," read the statement released by the organization. "As they serve, they develop the courage, compassion, and capabilities to lead awe-inspiring change."

To learn more about how Project 351 is helping the community while bringing together the next generation of leaders, visit [www.project351.org](http://www.project351.org).

Upcoming editions of the New Leader will include features highlighting the experiences of local Project 351 ambassadors.

FIRE

continued from page A1

that no one was inside the house.

Several units from the Leicester Fire Department assisted at the scene, including Car 2, Engine 1, Engine 2, and

Tower 53.

"I can't say enough for the hard work and dedication that my guys continue to show at tough calls like these—always proud," said Leicester Fire Chief Michael Dupuis.

Firefighters from North Brookfield, Oakham,

East Brookfield, and several other towns also responded.

The primary structure at 2 East Ave. was destroyed, while a home at 4 East Avenue endured extensive damage.

Parsons told the New Leader the lack of wind during the response was

a major benefit amid several challenges. If windy conditions had been in place, additional structures might have been lost, officials said.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation by local and state agencies.



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St. Mary's Church  
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Distribution: Wednesday 9 AM-11 AM; Saturday 9AM-11AM

**CHARLTON**  
Chip - In Food Pantry  
McKinstry Building  
37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507  
Distribution: 3rd Saturday 9 AM-12 Noon

**LEICESTER**  
Leicester Food Pantry  
St. Joseph-St. Pius X Parish  
759 Main Street, Leicester, MA 01524  
Distribution: Tuesday 5 PM-7 PM

**NORTH BROOKFIELD**  
St. Joseph's Food Pantry  
Located in the church hall at 296 North Main St. North Brookfield  
Distribution is the 1st Thursday of the month from 5:00-6:30PM  
the 3rd Thursday of the month from 12 Noon-1:15PM  
Any questions should be directed to the Rectory office 508 867-6469.  
St. Joseph's Food Pantry is a community partner affiliated with the Worcester County Food Bank.

**ROCHDALE**  
The Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry  
Greenville Baptist Church  
674 Pleasant St.  
Rochdale, MA  
Distribution: Every Monday from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Open to everyone.

**SOUTHBRIDGE**  
Saint John Paul II Food Pantry  
Saint Vincent de Paul  
279 Hamilton St, Southbridge, MA 01550  
Distribution: Tuesday 3 PM-5 PM, Wednesday 9 AM -11 AM

Southbridge Food Share Pantry 79 Elm St., Southridge, Ma. 01550.  
Distribution:  
MWF from 10:00AM - 11:15AM

**SPENCER- EAST BROOKFIELD - RESIDENTS ONLY**  
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60 Maple St, Spencer, MA 01562  
Distribution: Thursday 10 AM-12 Noon

**STURBRIDGE**  
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16 Church St.  
Fiskdale, MA 01518  
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**WEST BROOKFIELD**  
Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry  
First Congregational Church  
36 North Main Street,  
W.Bookfield, MA 01585  
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Courtesy  
Police recovered several items during a drug bust in Spencer.

## Police search leads to multiple drug-related arrests

SPENCER — A search of a residence last month led to multiple arrests on drug charges.

On Dec. 28, the Western Worcester County Major Crime and Narcotics Task Force, which includes officers from the Spencer and Leicester Police Departments, executed a search warrant in Spencer.

The search led to the seizure of about 138 grams of crack cocaine, police said. Two men and one woman were arrested on trafficking charges under Massachusetts law.

“The Spencer Police Department is dedicated to combating illegal drug activity in our community. If you suspect drug activity in your area, please contact us directly or submit an anonymous tip through our department website,” read a statement released by the SPD.

The Western Worcester County Major Crime and Narcotics Task Force was established to combine the resources and manpower of the Spencer and Leicester Police Departments.

“By working together, we can more effectively target illegal activity and protect the residents of both towns,” read a statement released by the task force.

Community members in both towns are thanked for their ongoing assistance and support of law enforcement.

“The task force relies on the support and vigilance of our community members. If you believe illegal drug activity is occurring in your neighborhood, please don’t hesitate to contact us,” read the statement issued by the task force.

You can reach the task force by contacting the Spencer or Leicester Police Departments, or by sending a message on their Facebook pages.



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