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

SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO News@StoneBridgePress.news Friday, February 20, 2026

LMS musician accepted into Central District Festival

LEICESTER — Leicester Middle School eighth grade student Benjamin Marjault recently auditioned for the Central District Massachusetts Music Educators Association Junior Festival. He will be playing this Spring with the CDMMEA Junior Orchestra. Marjault plays



the clarinet in the LMS Symphonic Band. This year, he was also selected for the Quabbin Valley Music Educator Association's Junior Concert Band along with his classmates Larissa LaFlamme (seventh grade, flute) and Tylor Moorghen (sixth grade, clarinet). LMS Assistant Principal Christine Barbato notes that, "Participating in the Central District auditions requires an extraordinary level of commitment, discipline, and courage, especially for students at this age." For the audition, students are required to learn two solo pieces in contrasting styles, showcasing musicianship and advanced technique on the clarinet. All auditionees were also required to learn and memorize several scales. Finally, students were challenged to sight-read a passage of music they had never seen before. Barbato adds, "We are incredibly proud of all of our musicians, and Ben's selection for the Central District Orchestra is a testament to his hard work and dedication."

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Leicester seeks to fill out police force

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

LEICESTER — The Leicester Police Department is looking to fill out its ranks over the next year, including beginning the process for selecting a new chief with a pending retirement expected for next year. The Leicester Select Board held a brief discussion with Town Administrator David Genereux on Feb. 3 where details on the remaining and upcoming vacancies at the police department were discussed including plans on how those gaps will be filled over the next year. Genereux said they had been in touch with the police chief, and a plan is in place to bring the department to full staffing levels. "We have two vacant positions. One being the sergeant position due to a retirement and the vacant lieutenant position which we've been carrying for a long period of time. The chief is looking to use the hiring policy that was applied by the union and start looking at that," the Town Administrator said. Once these hires are complete, the Police Department will be staffed by four sergeants and a lieutenant. This sparked some added discussion led by Select Board member Peter Cusolito who explained the town is also expecting a vacancy for police chief. Cusolito wanted to ensure the town was thinking ahead for that hiring process after Chief Kenneth Antanavica informed the board of his intention to retire in 2027. Antanavica was hired as the permanent chief in late 2019 after filling the position as an interim in 2018. He has spent most, if not all his career with the department, joining in 1979 as a part-time dispatcher while in college and working his way up to officer, then sergeant, and finally chief. He also served as a firefighter during the first decade-plus of his career with the force. Genereux said plans are in motion to begin the search for Antanavica's eventual successor, adding, "We've been talking to the Chief about how we're going to put that together and that's going to be upcoming in the next month or so to start that process." The Town Administrator insinuated that the town would work with an outside search firm to help find the new chief. As of 2025, the police chief position was exempt from civil service rules allowing for more flexibility in the hiring process.

Friends of North Brookfield Town House plan basement renovation

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The Friends of the North Brookfield Town House are preparing to embark on the first phase of a renovation of the historic Town House which serves as the community's town hall. Since 2006, the Friends of the North Brookfield Town House has dedicated its time to restoring and maintaining the build-

ing, and on Feb. 10, they received the blessing of the Board of Selectmen to proceed with early portions of a renovation, starting with the basement floor accessible from Summer Street. Jim Buzzell, President of the Friends, said the organization has spent years preparing for construction on some portions of the building, and after meeting with consultants they determined a strategy that might help ensure better opportunities

for grant funding. "We get the same recommendation from almost every one of those people we talk to, and that's when we're ready for construction to try to do it so that we can open a portion of the building to the public. It's a great first step," said Buzzell. "It demonstrates the viability of the project. It tends to gather a lot of support from the community and, most importantly, impresses both large- and small-scale funders. It makes it much more likely you're going to get grants for the success of your project."

They determined their first focus will be on the basement which would include floor repairs, wall and ceiling upgrades, probable ADA compliance updates, the possibility of adding a new bathroom, and work on a stone wall on the eastern section. Once completed the basement would serve to host meetings and small community events. The basement section would be blocked off to visitors during construction. Buzzell said the Friends were seeking the blessing of the selectmen to explore the feasibility of the project, allowing them to talk with local inspectors and the Massachusetts Historical Society before proceeding with the work. He made it clear that the project would not require any funding on the town's part. "We're not going to ask the town for any money for this project. The money will come from grants or other fundraising efforts,"

Buzzell explained. "We have a grant that we're targeting that we feel like we have a good opportunity to be awarded that would probably pay for most if not

the entirety this particular project." Selectmen gave them the go ahead to proceed with the process. Once the Friends of the North Brookfield

Town House have consulted with appropriate parties, they will need to go back before selectmen to receive approval to pursue outside funds for the project.

Leicester Middle School students bring history to life



LEICESTER — Leicester Middle School held its Sixth Annual History Day on Thursday, Feb. 12. Approximately 200 fifth and seventh grade students presented research projects based around the theme of "Revolution, Reaction, and Reform." Our 11th and 12th grade LHS students came to LMS and served as judges. In this role, they interviewed and evaluated student projects. All of our judges were high school students who had qualified for the State History Day fair as middle school students. Several adult guests attended the event as well. After the

history day fair, 45 students were selected to move onto a regional competition with students from across Central Massachusetts. Special guests who attended this year's event included Superintendent Brett Kustigian, School Committee member John Higgins, state Sen. Peter Durant, State Rep. Paul Frost, retired teachers Deb Campanale and Diane Leveillee, and Elyssa Tardiff from the state Historical Society. National History Day is a program where students compete at the state and national level. The complete projects are based on

a central theme and can create a project as an exhibit, Web site, documentary, or performance. Local students will compete against their peers from throughout Central Massachusetts at regionals on Feb. 28, and students selected from the regional competition will compete in the state competition at Winchester High School on April 11. From there, students who qualify will travel to Washington, D.C. to compete against students from all 50 states. Over the past two years, LMS has sent nine students to the national competition.



Friends of the North Brookfield Town House — Courtesy
The Summer Steet side of the North Brookfield Town House where a basement will be the focus of a planned renovation project.

School District accepting applications for Kindergarten & Preschool

SPENCER — The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District is now accepting Kindergarten & Preschool applications for the 2026-2027 school year.

Kindergarten (for children who will reach the age of five years old by Aug. 31) Letters were mailed out last week to all families that listed their eligible child(ren) on the 2025 town census and emails were sent to all resident families that have a child currently enrolled in our Cub’s Corner Preschool program that will be of age by the cut-off date.

Kindergarten is offered at

both Wire Village School in Spencer and East Brookfield Elementary School in East Brookfield. Students are enrolled at the school in their town of residence, in accordance with District policy. School hours are 8:25 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., Monday through Friday. There is no registration deadline.

Medical forms must be completed by a physician and must detail that your child has been given the following immunizations (including the dates the immunizations were given):

- 5 doses Diphtheria, Pertussis, and Tetanus (DTaP)
- 4 doses Polio
- 3 doses Hepatitis B
- 2 doses Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)
- 2 doses of Varicella Vaccine or Chicken Pox disease
- Proof of Lead Screening
- Vision and Hearing Screenings

Cub’s Corner Preschool The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District’s Cub’s Corner Preschool will be relocated to the all-new preschool wing at David Prouty High School starting with the 2026-2027 school year. Our program is an integrated preschool with tuition-paying students, as well as special needs students. The resident rate is \$20/day for half days and \$40/day for full days. The non-resident rate is \$22.50/day for half days and \$45/day for full-days.

Sessions will be

filled on a first come, first served basis. The following sessions are offered:

Monday/Wednesday/Friday: AM, PM or Full Day

Tuesday/Thursday: AM, PM or Full Day

Monday-Friday: AM, PM or Full Day

Preschool Eligibility Requirements

Age requirement: Those attending a tuition-based preschool slot must be three (3) years old by the Aug. 31 cut-off date to be eligible to attend the current school year. District residents that qualify for Special Education services may attend once they turn three, regardless of the birth date cut-off.

Toilet Training: All tuition-based preschool students must be reliably toilet trained (no diapers or pull-ups) at the start of school. Children who do not evidence signs of reliable toilet training while in school will be found ineligible for enrollment.

Registration process All student registrations are done online. If you would like to register your child to attend, please complete the Pre-Registration Form to begin the registration process and select the 2026-2027 school year. Once your form has been approved, you will receive an email with further instructions to create your PowerSchool online parent portal account where you will complete all of the required enrollment forms and upload required documentation. Families must provide a birth certificate (original or copy with a seal), most recent physical/immunization records/lead test (dated within one year of school start date), and two forms of proof of residency from the accepted documents listed on the address form. Tuition-based preschool families must submit a deposit equal to one week’s tuition to secure their child’s spot.

If you do not have access

to the internet to complete the forms, we have a kiosk set up inside the Student Services office at David Prouty High School for families to use. An appointment is required to ensure that the kiosk will be available and a staff member is present to assist. The office is open for appointments Monday through Thursday, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Please call 508-885-8515 (opt. 0) with any questions, to schedule an appointment or to provide supporting documentation.

For more information about the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District and to stay up-to-date on the latest happenings across the district, please visit the website at www.sebrsd.org, follow us on Twitter and Facebook, and download the SEBRSD mobile app.



ARTHRITIS?

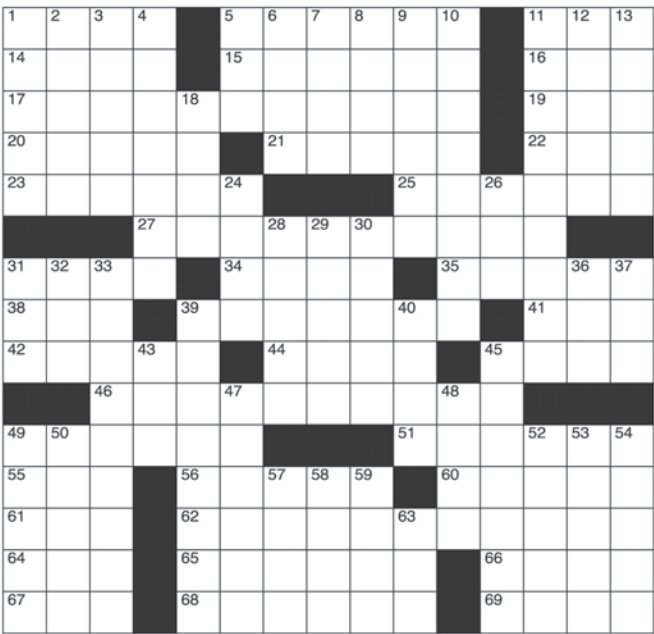
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Cut quickly

5. A way to state clearly

11. River in NE Scotland

14. Expansive

15. Lacking social polish

16. Amount of time

17. Frame

19. Automobile

20. Toadstools

21. High school dances

22. Utilize

23. Experimented with

25. One-sided

27. Acquisitive

31. Potted plants

34. Everyone has one

35. Kalahari Desert lake

38. Unidentified flying object

39. People 65 and over
41. Small amount

42. Daughter of Acrisius

44. Ornamental box

45. Government agents

46. Uncertain

49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish

51. Treeless plains

55. One's sense of self-importance

56. Consumer advocate

60. Type of lounge

61. Body part

62. Can be persuaded

64. Woman (French)

65. Ready and willing to be taught

66. Arab ruler title

67. Unhappy

68. Gradually went away

69. Able to think clearly

CLUES DOWN

1. Brushed

2. Small water spirit (Germ.)

3. Heroes

4. Monetary units

5. Some don't want to share theirs

6. Free-swimming invertebrate

7. Litigates

8. Outer

9. Parallelograms

10. Uneasy feelings

11. Cross

12. A way to remove

13. Pages can be dog-__

18. Ukrainian city

24. A citizen of Denmark

26. Month

28. Hindu queens

29. Group of chemicals

30. Rider of Rohan

31. Wet dirt
32. Southwestern Russia city

33. Observed

36. Angry

37. Drivers' licenses

39. Musical composition

40. Auction

43. They __

45. Women

47. Be filled with love for

48. Thick-soled sock

49. Appears

50. Old World lizard

52. The leading performer

53. Protein

54. "Gunga Din" script writer

57. Art __, around 1920

58. __ Blyton, children's author

59. Abnormal breathing

63. A place to rest



Leicester Democratic Town Committee to hold 2026 Democratic Caucus

LEICESTER — The Leicester Democratic Town Committee (LDTTC) will hold its 2026 Democratic Caucus on Monday, March 9, at the Leicester Public Library, located at 1136 Main St., Leicester.

The caucus will begin promptly at 6 p.m., with doors opening at 5 p.m. Registration will open at 5:30 p.m. and close at 6:15 p.m. All eligible Democrats are encouraged to arrive early to ensure timely registration and participation.

Democratic caucuses are an important part of the party’s grassroots process, allowing registered Democrats to participate in the selection of delegates and alternates to Democratic conventions and to engage directly in party governance at the local level.

Participants must be registered Democrats in the Town of Leicester and meet all eligibility requirements as outlined by the Massachusetts Democratic Party. Same-day party registration may be available in accordance with party rules.

The caucus location is ADA accessible. Individuals requiring other aids are encouraged to contact the Leicester Democratic Town Committee in advance at ldtcmass@gmail.com so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

The Leicester Democratic Town Committee welcomes community members who are interested in civic engagement, democratic participation, and helping shape the future of the Democratic Party in Leicester and across the Commonwealth.

For additional information or questions regarding the caucus, please contact the Leicester Democratic Town Committee at ldtcmass@gmail.com, or other auxiliary aids, are encouraged to contact the Leicester Democratic Town Committee in advance at ldtcmass@gmail.com so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

The Leicester Democratic Town Committee welcomes community members who are interested in civic engagement, democratic participation, and helping shape the future of the Democratic Party in Leicester and across the Commonwealth.

For additional information or questions regarding the caucus, please contact the Leicester Democratic Town Committee at ldtcmass@gmail.com.

West Brookfield Democrats to elect delegates to State Convention

WEST BROOKFIELD — A caucus, open to any Democratic voter registered in West Brookfield, will be held at the West Brookfield Town Hall on Tuesday, March 10 at 6 p.m. to choose delegates to attend the Democratic State Nominating Convention on May 29 and 30 at the DCU Center in Worcester.

Any member of the community may attend, but only registered Democrats may vote. Youth (age 16 to 35), people with disabilities, people of color and members of the LGBTQ+ community not elected as delegates or alternates, are encouraged to apply to be add-on delegates at the caucus or by visiting www.massdems.org/massdems-convention. Registered but unenrolled town voters are welcome to change registration ahead of the caucus and fully participate upon enrollment verification.

Voter registration information will be provided.

If you would like to attend the Democratic Caucus for West Brookfield and/or need further information, please feel free to send an email to wbdtc01585@gmail.com, or call Eric von Bleicken at 212-316-5349.

SPENCER ALMANAC REAL ESTATE

BROOKFIELD

None.

EAST BROOKFIELD

None

LEICESTER

\$605,000, 23 South St, Modern Structures Inc, to Agyakwa, Samuel.
\$233,000, 75 Huntoon Memorial Hwy #1-3, Kangas, Magnalie H, to Finlay, Kayla J.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

\$925,000, 4 Point Rd, Malley Jr, John F, and Malley, Tina M, to Central Ma Properties LLC.
\$300,000, 6 Hillside Ave, Geraway, David J, and Pierce, Cynthia L, to Yager 2nd, William J, and Yager, Katelynn.
\$287,000, 39 Forest St, Koblich-Hehir, Laura A, to Francis, Bryan R.
\$480,000, 38 Mount Pleasant St, Yahya, Rami E, to Mendoza, Juan C.

SPENCER

\$400,000, 3 Hebert Rd, Gadbois Jr, Paul E, and Gadbois, Katelyn, to Filho, Losival M.
\$125,000, 25 Northwest Rd, Goodrow, Jackson J, to Goodrow, Maureen L.
\$560,000, 6 Eagleton St, Jr Siding Inc, to Boucher, Monique, and Gassett, Will.

WARREN

\$575,000, 26 Old West Brookfield Rd, For My Littles LLC, to 26 Old West LLC.
\$285,000, 82 Comins Pond Rd, Warner, James M, to Dion, Linda A.

WEST BROOKFIELD

\$97,906, 50 Boston Post Rd, Fountain, Eric D, to Renewa I LLC.
\$97,906, Boston Post Rd, Fountain Clifford G Est, and Peters, Donald J, to Renewa I LLC.



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Knox Trail Middle School announces honor roll

SPENCER — The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District is a community committed to providing next-generation education. To this end, we wanted to celebrate our Knox Trail Middle School scholars who earned honor roll for the first trimester of the 2024-2025 academic year.

The honor roll for Knox Trail Middle School will be calculated after each marking period for Grades 5 - 6. All courses in which students earn credit and receive a numerical grade will be used in determining the honor roll. The honor roll is based on the average a student achieves each marking period. The following averages will be used to calculate the honor roll:

High Honors - an average of 90 percent or greater
Honors - an average of 85

percent or greater

High Honor Roll
Grade 5: Wesley Kristopher Threlkeld
Grade 6: Harleigh Rae Bartkus, Max William Berthiaume, Silas Eric Michael Boivin, Daxon Kade Cadarette, Daniella Laurimar Estrella-Morales, Annabelle Grace Hanbury, Chloe Elise Keenan, Ashtin Rose masterson, Emmaline Allison Milgate, Emma Nokeo, Grace Hathaway Olivo, Anthony Francis Rigiero, Benjamin James St. Cyr, Londyn Hope Tatro, Alayna Marie Theurer, Barbara Catalina Vasquez Guacaran, Ayden Edward Viens, Hunter Howard Wilder, Jack Francis Wilson
Grade 7: Londyn Skye-Elizabeth Agyeman, Patrick Joseph Bauce, Lara Braga Ramos, Emmett Alexander Edwards, Allison Paige Granger, Jackson Hunter

Green Cayer, Carleigh Angel Huard, Jaxson Brady Huard, Logan Patrick Pelchat, Stella Irene Racicot, Katherine Annabelle St. Laurent, Bridget Avery Wilson
Grade 8: Karissa Lynne Cormier, Zuzanna Gladek, Cole Dennis Milgate, Ella Marie Monette, Shelby Anne Parsons, Brayden Roy Roldan, Jonah Roan Schold, Lilly Rose Walker, Allyson Dianne Wilder

Honor Roll
Grade 5: Aaliyah Athena Aguayo, Marwa Ali Alqurayni, Elsie Ana Bilz, Quintin Victor Burnett, Lily Ann Dulmaine, Michael Wyatt Gallagher, Madalynn Denise Goparian, Arianna Holivia Hultquist, Sophie Esmerelda Rodriguez Sanchez, Gabriella Jailee Velazquez
Grade 6: Madison Marie Anderson, Hadiya Sana

Azimi, Tia Jayde Barry, Cameron Asher Bartone, Hudson Jack Belton, Andrew George Blanchard, Lornezo Wilfred-William Carofaniello, Arya Natalie Chhem, Javian Noah Colon Winters, Mariah Ann Hackett, Contessa Laralyn Hathaway, Luke Olguera Hickey, Cooper Matthew Keenan, Abigail Rose Leary, Amelia Lyn Lusignan, Haeden Elizabeth Maio, Arianah Mya Martinez, Lavinia Josephine Mayou, Ryder Joseph McGill, Nataly Marie Melendez, Dante Richard Morales LaVallee, Alexander Christian Naji, Xadrian Ace Papp, Anya Margarita Sarita, Ezekiel Dagba Jonah Saydee, Tanner James Simonovitch, Isaac James St. Louis, Luciano Gabriel Tamez, Ayden

Edward Viens
Grade 7: Trenton Arnold Alston, Eli John Bjork, Trente Jeffree Bulak, Rylee Cole Cusson, Brodie Lucas Davis, Julien Michael Desrosiers, Aidan Nikos Doyle, Mason James Gariepy, Annabel Elise Gillespie, Griffin Michael Grenier, Caiden Lee Hathaway, Hezekiah James Ballah Kabbah, Chace Winthrop Kennen, Caleb Louis Kozak, Brayden Michael Laliberte, Ana Maria Medina, Jodene May Palmer, Brian Everett Parker, Roddiel Pena Carrion, Gavin Leo Prater, Emma Lee Reilly, Blake Joseph Roy, Isaiah Joseph

Vega
Grade 8: Blessed Assurance Nana Adwa Asensoh, Michael Quentin Bailey, Taya Jhae Barry, Sophia Blondell Bennett, Madelyn Faith Bjork, Lydia Avery Clark, Emma Sophia Graves, Landon David Hoyt, Tamia Alma Kodiko, Lillian Melissa Lavallee, Emery Richard Leveillee, Victoria Anne Mulrain, Emmarose Wanjiru Njenga, McKenna Riley Padden, Aleena Marie Patchen, Brayden Armand Theurer, Javieliz Debora Torres Santos, Ayla Rose Touchette, Leo Christopher Wilson, Colton Joseph Zwirko

Nominations wanted for Educator & Hero of the Year

PALMER — The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce, the area non-profit that promotes business, development and tourism within surrounding communities of Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties, is seeking nominations for its 2026 Choice Awards. Nominations are needed in the categories of Community Hero and Educator of the Year.

Nominations can be submitted on the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce official website, QHMA.com through Feb. 13. Online voting for this year's finalists will be open to the public and conducted from Feb. 15 through March 15, also at QHMA.com.

Finalist voting will also include a number of Chamber-member specific categories honoring local non-profits, manufacturing and service businesses. All finalists will be honored and the announced at the Choice Awards Dinner on Wednesday, May 6 taking place at the Steaming Tender Restaurant, located at the former historic Palmer Railroad Station site.

"The annual Choice Awards is one of the most distinguished programs the Chamber conducts. It is an honor each year to celebrate a new class of extraordinary individuals who make our region so special. Last year, we received more than 22,000 finalist votes, which is a testament to how deeply our communities appreciate those who make a difference in our lives every day," said James Przypek, Chief Executive Officer of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce.

The criteria to nominate are:

Community Hero of the Year
An individual (citizen, resident, veteran, first responder) who has gone above and beyond via a single outstanding act within the last 12 months, or a series of contributions over an extended period for the betterment of their community. The individual must reside or have performed their act or work within the Quaboag Hills 15 member communities.

Educator of the Year
An individual who has positively impacted the school (public, regional, private or independent) and the students for which they work. The individual must reside, or the school for which they work must be located within the Quaboag Hills 15 member communities.

About the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce
Established in 1978 and headquartered in Palmer, the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce's purpose is to advance economic growth, interests and tourism for our members through policies, programs and development in the Quaboag Hills region, including the fifteen towns of Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren, and West Brookfield.

TOWN OF EAST BROOKFIELD HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT INVITATION TO BID

The Town of East Brookfield Highway Department requests sealed bids for Full Depth Pavement Reclamation, Bituminous Concrete, Milling 1.5" and more. Contact for the full work scope. The work is located in East Brookfield, Massachusetts. Specifications and bid documents may be obtained from the East Brookfield Highway Department during regular business hours.

Sealed bids shall be clearly marked "Full Depth Pavement Reclamation and Related Work" and delivered to the East Brookfield Highway Department, Attn: Michael Olson, Highway Superintendent, 424 East Main Street, East Brookfield, MA 01515, until March 3, 2026, at 9:00AM at which time they will be publicly opened and read.

MassDOT prequalification of contractors with the class of work as Paving Surfacing for the project with an estimated value of \$884,588.00.

The Town of East Brookfield reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive informalities, and to award the contract in the best interest of the Town.

For further information, contact:
Michael Olson
East Brookfield Highway Superintendent
Phone:508-867-6575
Email: ebhighway@eastbrookfieldma.us

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Friday's Child

Yaidalis
Age 14
Registration #8705


Yaidalis is a creative and artistic teen who loves expressing herself through making and creating new things. She enjoys exploring her creativity in many ways and takes pride in her personal style. Yaidalis especially likes having her hair and nails done, which allows her to express herself and feel confident. In her free time, Yaidalis enjoys going to the movies and listening to music, often finding comfort and inspiration in her favorite songs. She appreciates opportunities to relax, have fun, and connect through shared experiences. Yaidalis would thrive in a supportive, nurturing family who values creativity, self-expression, and quality time together. With encouragement and consistency, she has the potential to continue growing into her interests and developing her talents, while building meaningful connections with those around her.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21196090768>

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

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

1 8 7 2 - 2 0 0 7



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

The value of knowing who you’re talking to

There is something quietly powerful about living in a place where you recognize the person on the other side of the counter.

In Spencer, Leicester, and the Brookfields, that still happens every day. You step into the hardware store and the clerk may ask how your mother is doing. You pick up a prescription and the pharmacist knows which doctor you saw last week. You call Town Hall and the voice that answers might belong to someone you’ve known since high school.

In larger communities, anonymity can feel efficient. In small towns, familiarity is an asset.

That familiarity builds accountability. When a select board member votes on a budget line or a zoning amendment, it is not for an abstract group of taxpayers. It is for neighbors whose children attend the same schools, whose driveways share the same snowstorms, whose local roads require the same patching each spring. Decisions are not made in a vacuum. They ripple across kitchen tables and coffee counters.

The same holds true in our schools. Teachers in Spencer or Leicester are not teaching to a faceless system. They are teaching children whose grandparents they may know, whose older siblings they taught years earlier. That continuity strengthens expectations. It also strengthens care.

There are practical benefits to this closeness. Problems get noticed sooner. If a streetlight is out in North Brookfield, someone calls because they know exactly who to call. If a senior in West Brookfield needs help after a storm, a neighbor checks in. The scale of our towns allows small issues to be addressed before they become larger ones.

But familiarity also demands something from us.

It requires patience. In a small community, you cannot reduce people to headlines or labels. The person you disagree with at a public hearing is the same person you might see in line at the grocery store. That reality forces a certain civility. It encourages measured words. It reminds us that tomorrow we will likely cross paths again.

That is not always easy. Disagreements over school budgets, development proposals or public safety policies can be sharp. They should be thoughtful and vigorous. But the closeness of our communities is a safeguard against the kind of casual contempt that can take root elsewhere.

It also means participation matters more. In towns like ours, a handful of votes can determine the outcome of a warrant article. A few residents attending a planning board meeting can shape a proposal before it ever reaches Town Meeting. The margin between involvement and indifference is thin.

Small towns are not immune to the pressures facing communities everywhere. Rising costs challenge municipal budgets. Local businesses compete with national chains and online retailers. Infrastructure ages. Volunteer boards strain to fill seats.

What we retain, however, is the ability to look one another in the eye.

That ability should not be underestimated. It builds trust in ways that policies alone cannot. It keeps local journalism relevant. It makes school concerts, library programs and high school games feel personal rather than distant.

There is value in knowing who you are talking to. There is value in being known in return.

As another season of Town Meeting approaches and budgets are debated across our coverage area, that sense of connection will matter. The conversations may not always be comfortable, but they will be grounded in shared sidewalks, shared classrooms and shared roads.

In a time when much of the world feels remote and impersonal, that is no small thing.

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Money and morality

To the Editor:

I get it. You backed Trump from the beginning and would be embarrassed to admit bad judgment, and to stop defending the indefensible conduct he now exhibits. I have often mentioned that it is easier to con someone than to convince them they were conned. If the deterioration in his mental acuity that causes him to keep proving he does not have dementia, then announcing the results to the world, does not alarm you, I would certainly hope that his declining behavior should.

He has been living in fear that the Supreme Court that he packed will actually be forced to acknowledge that the rules we wrote into our Constitution in order to prohibit a ruler to arbitrarily levy taxes on in demand items like tea should apply to any arbitrary attempts to levy tariffs without vetting by the designated house of Congress. I do suffer from ‘TDS’ (Trump Disgust Syndrome), but most of that stems from him ignoring laws, traditions and morals, that are actually what made America great.

Our Constitution charges Congress with the responsibility to raise and spend money. They pass bills to appropriate and fund construction projects, support countries being invaded, fund worthwhile social and medical programs, including research and treatment. As with all bills, they are passed by congress and signed into law. If those laws were not vetoed, why would a president think he has the authority to stop, revoke or reassign that

funding? I do not think I have ever heard anything as ludicrous as raising a tariff rate because our POTUS felt disrespected. Using the moron in chiefs own math, I am sure my tariff would be 1500 percent.

Like DOJ (Department of justification), SCOTUS is failing to deliver the mandate that defines their existence Trumps arbitrary tariffs, that punish us for doing business with countries he hates at various degrees, is illegal under the constitution. Say so, Trump, even holding federal office, under section #3 of the Fourteenth Amendment, after inciting and pardoning insurrection, is also illegal.

This gifter created DOGE with no Congressional approval. It defunded monies approved by Congress and dissolved agencies illegally. In the meantime, we funded his crypto scheme, his carrier group playing bumper cars in the Caribbean, his band of untrained masked thugs, convinced they share immunity from prosecution and following our laws, just like he does.

We have already seen that pardons are available at a price. I hope the tariffs are going to the treasury and not his slush funds, or Argentina. I would bet any attempt to get GBO to give you the actual figures on his golfing, side hustles and what monies goes where, would be as fruitful as seeing the names in the Epstein files. Elect more Dem senators, so that his third impeachment does not have him claiming exoneration.

KEN KIMBALL
BROOKFIELD

Defending our wonderful American free & fair Eelections against Trump & MAGAs

To the Editor:

It has become very well known that Donald Trump and his MAGA administration’s chaos, destruction, corruption, cruelty, favoring billionaires over we common people etc. has made them unpopular In fact, poll after poll shows that at least six of 10 Americans do not approve of how the Trump MAGAs run the country. That is, only about one in three approve how the MAGAs govern.

Trump and his advisers know this. Likewise, they know that if this year’s elections for Congress follow our democratic tradition of almost 100 percent fraud free and fair elections, they will almost certainly lose control of Congress.

As a result, the MAGAs have begun work to “fix” the elections so only they can win, or so that that they can deny they lost and severely punish those who disagree.

The Trump MAGA efforts include:

- Pushing state legislators to redraw Congressional districts to favor Republicans
- Demanding an end to mail in voting
- Attacking voting machines
- Seeking voter’s personal information
- Staffing government voting administrations with election skeptics and deniers
- Calling out troops to oversee election centers
- Seeking a new census that doesn’t

count undocumented immigrants as part of a Congressional district’s population

Using Presidential executive orders to rewrite election rules and interfere with election administration

Imposing a “Show your papers” requirement on voters

Targeting election officials and civil society organizations

Weaponizing national government agencies

Penalizing law firms that defend free and fair elections

Supporting people who undermine elections

Weakening CISA, the national government agency that protects election operating structures

Weakening the Department of Justice’s protection of voting rights

The list could go on and on. But perhaps Trumps own words spoken at a rally in 2024 best sums up what MAGAs want to do: “get out and vote, just this time, (then) you won’t have to do it anymore. Four more years it’ll be fixed, it’ll be fine. You won’t have to vote anymore.”

Never mind having to mount an insurrection again.

Another time, a note on what we can to do about this situation.

KEVIN KANE
SPENCER

When

To the Editor:

When will some people learn to frown less and smile more frequently during each day?

When will we enjoy a radio station or TV channel that is filled with upbeat, positive good news?

When will Wolf Blitzer from CNN get out of the “Situation Room” and enter the “Solution Room?”

When will Congress learn and understand their only job is to serve the people they represent?

When will people learn that giving good eye contact to all members in a group discussion is the right thing to do?

When will we understand practicing good health habits allows each of us to perform one of our purposes in life?

When will we learn to stop ruminating? It serves no useful purpose, and it could prevent us from doing good deeds.

When will we begin treating all people we meet daily with the respect and dignity they deserve?

When will we keep an upbeat, positive and constructive attitude when working with people?

When will we take the time to say “The Serenity Prayer” during times when seeking peace, clarity and strength?

When will we learn to limit our time watching TV? It can cause health problems. Replace it with healthy, beneficial activities.

When will each of us focus each day on gratitude, reframe from negative thoughts and engage in enjoyable projects?

When will each of us develop a daily “joy list” like visiting a friend, taking a walk, exercising, focus on personal health?

When we vote for a president to lead our nation every four years, we should not tolerate a male to become a king, czar or dictator to lead our country.


When will Congress take positive action to impeach a President that wants to invade another country that is not a threat to our nation?

When will we understand that inflation, health care, the federal budget deficit, immigration, gun control, moral values, violent crimes are the major challenges facing our nation today, including the inability of the Democrats and Republicans to work together?

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter today. Hope you enjoyed, including my attempt at humor. Then put a smile on your face. Also hope it helped in making your day. May God bless you, your family, and our great nation.

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

What should you do with your tax refund?



FINANCIAL FOCUS

TREVOR NIELSEN

It’s almost time for people to begin receiving their tax refunds. If you get one, what will you do with it?

The answer will depend somewhat on the size of your refund. Last year, the average was \$3,167, according to the Internal Revenue Service’s Filing Season Statistics report.

Whatever the size of your refund, you’ll want to maximize its benefit. Here are some suggestions:

Contribute to your IRA. If you receive \$3,167, it could go a long way toward funding your IRA for the year, but any amount would help. You have until April 15 to contribute for the 2025 tax year, but if you’ve already “maxed out” contributions, you could use your refund for 2026, when the annual contribution limit for an IRA is \$7,500, or \$8,600 if you’re 50 or older. Beginning early toward fully funding your IRA can help reduce the pressure of coming up with large amounts later.

Build an emergency fund. Your tax refund could help you start or expand an emergency fund. It’s a good idea to keep three to six months’ worth of living expenses in such a fund, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account, separate from the funds you use for your daily expenses. You might need to draw on this fund for unexpected expenses, such as a major home or car repair or a large medical bill. Without an emergency fund in place, you might be tempted to dip into your IRA or other retirement accounts to pay for these types of costs, and that could be expensive, resulting in taxes, penalties and lost opportunities for growth.

Contribute to a 529 plan. If you have children or grandchildren and want to support their education, you might consider investing in a 529 education savings plan. Earnings and withdrawals are federally tax free, provided the money is used for qualified education expenses. Your 529 plan may provide state tax benefits, too. (It’s possible, though, that 529 withdrawals could affect financial aid packages, depending on who owns the account.) A 529 plan can be used to help pay for college, accredited trade school programs, some K-12 expenses and even some student loans.

Pay down debts. You may wish you could reduce your debt load. Your tax refund could offer you that chance. But which debts should you tackle first? You could follow the “snowball” method by paying off the smallest of your loans or debts as quickly as possible. Or you could choose the “avalanche” route by making minimum payments on all debts and using extra funds – such as your tax refund – to pay off those with the highest interest rates. Either method could help you save money in the long term.

Prepare for other tax obligations. Your refund can also be set aside in a separate savings account to pay estimated quarterly taxes or personal property or real estate taxes.

It’s not often that you receive a financial windfall such as a tax refund — so think carefully about how you can maximize its benefits.

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

Spencer Democratic Town Committee to hold 2026 caucus

SPENCER — The Spencer Democratic Town Committee (SDTC), will hold its 2026 Democratic Caucus on Thursday, March 5 at the Spencer McDonalds at 7 p.m. Caucus will welcome attendees with registration beginning at 6:30 to 7 p.m. Caucus will begin promptly at 7 PM. All eligible Spencer Democrats are encouraged to attend and participate in this important part of the party’s grassroots process, which allows all registered Spencer Democrats to participate in the selection of delegates and alternates to the Massachusetts State Convention, which will be held in Worcester on May 29 & 30.

Participants must be registered Democrats in the town of Spencer and meet all eligibility requirements as outlined by the Massachusetts Democratic Party. Same day Party registration may be available in accordance with party rules, or voters may check with the Town Clerk’s office to make sure they are currently registered as Democrats or change

their registration to become a registered Democrat if they desire to do so. The Caucus location is ADA accessible. Individuals requiring other aids are encouraged to contact the Spencer Democratic Town Committee in advance at spencerdemsma@gmail.com so that appropriate arrangements can be made. There is a virtual option for attendees and guests to attend via Google Meet at <https://meet.google.com/kpu-eqrs-dqu>

If you are a concerned voter, we welcome you to join us as a registered Spencer Democrat and help with the work needed to empower Democrats and contribute to positive, progressive action in Massachusetts and across the country. For any additional information regarding our committee or this caucus, please contact the Spencer DTC at spencerdemsma@gmail.com.

The quiet confidence of knowing your way

There is a certain kind of confidence that does not announce itself.

It does not come with raised voices or bold claims. It does not rush to prove anything. You notice it most often in people who know exactly where they are, even if they could not explain how they got there.

I think about this whenever I see someone navigate a place they have known for years without hesitation. They take the right turn without thinking. They park instinctively in the same spot they always have. They greet someone by name, even if they have not seen them in a while.

None of it is flashy. All of it is earned. In small towns, this kind of confidence used to be common. You learned it slowly. You figured out which roads flooded after a hard rain, which shortcuts were worth taking, and which were not. You knew where the sun hit the sidewalk in winter and which side of the street stayed cooler in summer.

That knowledge lived quietly in the body. It did not require a screen or an update. It came from repetition, observation, and time.

Now, many of us rely on directions for even familiar trips. We check schedules we already know. We second-guess routes we have taken for years. There is nothing wrong with that, but something subtle changes when we stop trusting our own sense of place. I do not miss getting lost. I do miss the confidence that came from not needing constant confirmation.

There was a time when knowing your way meant more than geography. It meant knowing when to speak and when to wait. Knowing which questions mattered and which ones could sit unanswered. Knowing that not every problem required immediate action.

You still see this kind of assurance in certain people. Often, they are older, but not always. They move through a room without urgency. They listen more than they talk. When they do speak, it is usually measured, and often helpful.

They are not slow. They are steady. That steadiness is something our towns quietly depend on. It shows up in long-serving clerks, familiar faces at local counters, and neighbors who seem to understand how things work without needing to explain themselves.

They remind us that experience does not need to shout to be valuable.

I catch myself trying to relearn some of that confidence. Leaving the phone in my pocket. Trusting memory instead of prompts. Letting familiarity do its work without checking to see if it is still correct.

Sometimes it is. Sometimes it is not. But the act of trusting it again feels important.

In a world that constantly asks us to verify, update, and refresh, there is something grounding about knowing your way well enough to move forward without asking permission.

That quiet confidence does not draw attention. It does not need to.

Like so many good things along Main Street, it is simply there, doing its work, steady as ever.

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author’s name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author’s name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted. It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

WEEKLY POLICE BLOTTER

Spencer
The Spencer Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Feb. 4-10.

Melissa Lee Barrett-Thomas, age 47, of Spencer was arrested on Feb. 7 for Possession of a Class B Drug and a Motor Vehicle Lights Violation.

Travis James Patchen, age 37, of Spencer was arrested on Feb. 7 for Possession of a Class B Drug.

Leicester
The Leicester Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Feb. 5-11.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Feb. 6 for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

Matthew Evan Cogswell, age 37, of Leicester was arrested on Feb. 7 for a

Marked Lanes Violation, Operating Under the Influence (Liquor), and operating a motor vehicle with No Inspection Sticker.

Angeline Baron, age 32, of Leicester was arrested on Feb. 7 for Threatening to Commit a Crime.

Luis Angel Martinez, Jr., age 33, of Leicester was arrested on Feb. 8 for Operating Under the Influence (Liquor), Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and a Marked Lanes Violation.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Feb. 10 for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle and driving at a rate of speed exceeding the posted limit.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Feb. 10 for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

North Brookfield Cultural Council awards grants

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The North Brookfield Cultural Council is pleased to announce the approved grants for FY25:

- Deborah Kirk Roberts - Introduction to Watercolor Workshop
- Laura Nelson - Making Space: Conversations on Life, Death & What Matters
- Most, Death Literacy
- Programming
- Timothy Van Egmond - Intergenerational Concert at the Senior Center
- Quaboag Regional Middle/High School - QRMHS Performing Arts Programming: Legally Blonde, Jr.
- Haston Free Public Library - Mystic Aquarium - Traveling Touch Tank, MA
- Horticultural Society Plantmobile Sessions, Wingmasters - New England Birds of Prey, Fused Glass Workshop, Sourdough Starter Workshop
- Worcester Winds / Pakachoag Music School-Worcester Winds Concert
- The Athol Historical Society, Inc. - Uniquely Quabbin magazine
- Coalition for a Healthy North Brookfield - Christmas in North Brookfield
- Apple Country Radio, Inc.- WACF-LP 98.1 FM
- East Quabbin Land Trust, Inc.- EQLT Story Walk at Wendemuth Meadow

Friends of the Stone Church, Inc. - Spring 2026 Concerts

Music Dance-Rondae Drafts - Hip Hop SQUARE Dance for Seniors!

Follow us on FaceBook for additional information.

West Brookfield Historical Commission announces 2026 scholarship

WEST BROOKFIELD — The West Brookfield Historical Commission is pleased to announce its 2026, 15th annual scholarship in the amount of \$2000. Qualified students must reside in West Brookfield and may attend Quaboag Regional High School, or be school- choice students, home schooled students, and independent school students.

This award is made possible through the J. Irving and Jane L. England Charitable Trust. Application criteria:

The students must be planning to attend either a four-year college/university program or a two-year college with the intent to transfer to a four-year college. The Commission will show preference to study plans with concentration on History and History-related areas. Major or minors may include Political Science, Social Studies, Anthropology, Archaeology, Historical Preservation, Museum Studies, and Education in any of these related fields.

Applicants must submit a brief essay based on one of the Notable Persons or Significant Places listed on the application. All necessary information will be found on the West Brookfield Historical Commission website. <http://westbrookfield.org>

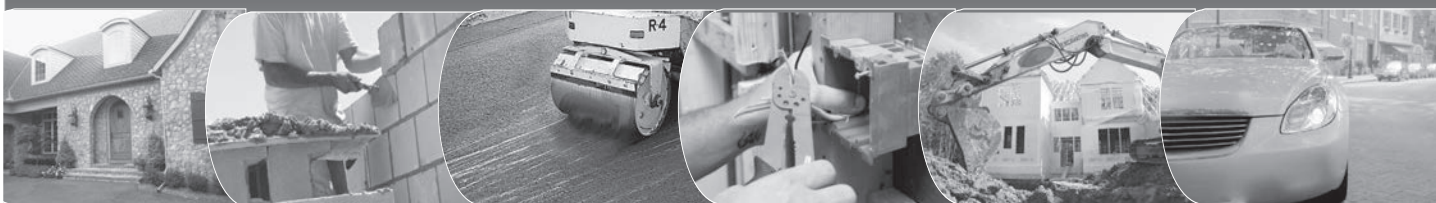
Essays are due no later than April 6. E-mail- info@westbrookfield.org

Mail: West Brookfield Historical Commission, PO Box 372, W. Brookfield, MA 01585.

The application and details can be found on the Historical Commission Web site, <http://westbrookfield.org>.

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Worcester Regional Chamber joins Massachusetts Apprenticeship Network to expand workforce opportunities



Jim Rooney and Tim Murray.

WORCESTER — The Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce announced Wednesday morning that it is the newest member of the Massachusetts Apprenticeship Network, an initiative of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce Foundation dedicated to helping employers develop and implement apprenticeship programs that create new pipelines for skilled talent.

Active across the Commonwealth, the Network works with employers, training and education providers, and community leaders to build structured apprenticeship programs that respond directly to industry needs and strengthen Massachusetts’ 21st-century workforce.

The announcement was made at a standing-room-only event at Quinsigamond Community College, where business leaders, educators, Chapter 74 vocational schools, and workforce partners gathered to recognize the growing role of apprenticeships in building a more inclusive and competitive regional economy.

Speakers included Tim Murray, President & CEO of the Worcester Regional Chamber, James E. Rooney, President & CEO of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, and Mike Holland, Director of Workforce Development Strategy for the Greater Boston Chamber Foundation. State Senator Michael Moore, himself a graduate of Quinsigamond Community College, also addressed attendees, highlighting key legislation supporting workforce development and apprenticeship expansion.

“The Massachusetts Apprentice Network is proud to welcome the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce as an important business organization strengthening apprenticeship programs in Central Massachusetts. Strategic collaborations and partnerships like this are how we sharpen our competitive edge,” said James E. Rooney, President & CEO of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce. “Thank you, Tim Murray and the Worcester County business community, for helping the Massachusetts Apprentice Network continue to build momentum, strengthening apprenticeships in every industry throughout the Commonwealth. Every day, we hear from apprentices who are building meaningful skills and wealth building careers that unlock economic mobility for their families and communities while employers share how they are able

expand their workforce, investing in talented workers who will take their companies to new heights.”

“Apprenticeships are one of the most powerful economic development tools we have. When we invest in building talent locally, we strengthen our businesses, create opportunities for residents, and make our region more competitive. Workforce development isn’t separate from economic development, it is economic development,” said Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce President Timothy P. Murray. “By expanding apprenticeship pathways, we’re ensuring that Worcester County has the skilled workforce necessary to attract, retain, and grow businesses in today’s economy.”

Throughout the program, leaders emphasized that the word network is intentional and essential. Building a sustainable workforce system requires collaboration beyond any single institution.

“That word ‘network’ is important,” Rooney noted during the event. “It can’t just be community colleges. It’s about making sure employers have access to talent and that we’re creating a workforce for the 21st century.”

A proven and expanding model

In 2022, the Massachusetts Apprenticeship Network expanded a transformative apprenticeship model long established in the construction industry into high-growth sectors such as healthcare, engineering, and advanced manufacturing. To date, the initiative has supported more than 800 apprentices statewide, with a goal of reaching 1,000 apprentices by 2027.

Apprenticeship programs offer participants paid, structured, on-the-job training combined with related instruction. The model delivers strong results: 91% of apprentices are hired by their employers after completing their training.

“It’s good business,” Rooney said. “If you’re an employer looking for talent, you can go look for one, or you can make an employee.”

Real-world impact

Attendees heard firsthand from current apprentices about the transformative impact of these programs. Richard Gill of Tetra Medical, part of a medical manufacturing operation in Framingham, began his machining apprenticeship in June 2025 with

no prior manufacturing experience. “I was really green and really new,” Gill shared.

Now training as a CNC Swiss Machinist Level 3, Gill described how the opportunity to earn while learning initially seemed too good to be true but quickly proved to be a life-changing pathway. While pursuing engineering and science coursework, he has been able to build a long-term relationship with his employer and gain valuable hands-on skills. Apprenticeships, speakers emphasized, are not only about filling jobs, they are about creating opportunity, strengthening businesses, and aligning education with industry needs.

“We’re excited to welcome the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce as the newest member of the Massachusetts Apprenticeship Network,” said Mike Holland, Director of Workforce Development Strategy at the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce Foundation. “The Network implements apprentice programs across industries, from banking and finance to healthcare and cyber security, that create new pipelines for skilled talent and strengthen our competitive workforce. These apprenticeships provide meaningful on-the-job learning and mentorship designed to help workers build in-demand skills, access wealth-building careers, and support our regional competitiveness.”

Strengthening the regional economy

By joining the Massachusetts Apprenticeship Network, the Worcester Regional Chamber will help connect local employers with the tools, best practices, and statewide partnerships needed to design and implement apprenticeship programs. Through engagement with current Network members, organizations can experience the benefits of participation and learn how to join.

The event underscored a shared commitment among business leaders, educators, and policymakers: expanding apprenticeship pathways is essential to ensuring that Worcester and the broader Massachusetts economy remain competitive, innovative, and inclusive.

For more information about the Massachusetts Apprenticeship Network and how to participate, contact the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Team Mass Boys & Girls AAU Basketball Tryouts

Serving Central & Western MA for over 25 years!

Cost: \$30 Covers both tryouts (players get t-shirt)
AAU membership needed \$28
(purchase on our website, we'll pull them)

Tryout # 1: Saturday, February 21, 2026

Location: Tantasqua Jr High School
(320 Brookfield Rd., Fiskdale, MA)

- Boys Grades 4th-6th 8:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.
- Boys Grades 7th & 8th 9:45 a.m. - 11 a.m.
- Boys Grades 9th-12th 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
- Varsity players sign up if still playing with school**

- Girls Grades 4th-6th 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- Girls Grades 7th-9th 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- Girls Grades 10th-12th 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Tryout # 2: Sunday March 1, 2026

Location: Oxford High School (100 Carbundle Dr., Oxford, MA)

- Girls Grades 4th-6th 3:30-4:30pm
- Girls Grades 7th-9th 5:45-7:00pm
- Girls Grades 10th-12th 7:15-8:30pm
- Boys Grades 4th-6th 4:30-5:30pm
- Boys Grades 7th-8th 5:45-7:00pm
- Boys Grades 9th-12th 7:15-8:30 pm
- Varsity players sign up if still playing with school**

Pre Register/pay on website: teammassbasketball.com
Questions Email: teammassbasketball@gmail.com or call 413-539-1548
AAU affiliated club for over 25 years!

Varsity players cannot tryout until school season has concluded, still sign up. Will announce another March tryout (grades 9-12)

NEW PROGRAMS
Spring 2026

Select Teams
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Little Ballers
Grades K-3
Please email
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- 2020 Ram 1500 Laramie
- 2020 Ford Mustang GT Coupe
- 2021 Hyundai Tucson "Ultimate"
- 2022 Hyundai Sante Cruz "SEL"
- 2024 Chevrolet Tahoe "LT"
- 2023 Volkswagen Tiguan "4-Motion"
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QCC makes good on bicoastal Super Bowl bet

WORCESTER — After a spirited Super Bowl rivalry with North Seattle College, Quinsigamond Community College President Dr. Luis Pedraja is living up to his end of a friendly wager.

Ahead of this year's matchup, President Pedraja and President of North Seattle College Dr. Rachel Solemsaas agreed to a collegial bet. Whichever president's hometown NFL team lost the Super Bowl would wear the winning football team's apparel and share the moment on social media.

Since the New England Patriots fell short this year, President Pedraja donned Seattle football gear for a celebratory photo to be posted across QCC's social media channels.

"Our Patriots may not have made it this time, but at QCC we celebrate excellence in all its forms. Today, that means celebrating the Seattle Seahawks and having a little fun with it," said Pedraja. "Sharing moments like this with our community college colleagues reminds us that collaboration is about more than just the work, it's about connection. Our partnership with North Seattle and President Solemsaas even came with a bit of levity."

The presidents created the wager as a way to bring students, faculty, staff, alumni and supporters together during the excitement of the Super Bowl season. The good-natured competition generated engagement from both campuses, with community members cheering on not just their NFL teams, but their colleges as well.

"My good friend Dr. Pedraja's new Seahawks outfit is a real winner! Congratulations to the team at QCC and the New England Patriots on a fantastic season," said Solemsaas. "We've had a lot of fun with this friendly Super Bowl wager and appreciate the sportsmanship shared between the North Seattle College Tree Frogs and the awesome Wyverns. All of us here in the upper lefthand corner of the country are in celebration mode, and the party isn't about to end any time soon. Go Seattle. Go Seahawks!"

St. Mary's Parish hosting annual Fish Fry March 6

SHREWSBURY — St. Mary's Parish in Shrewsbury invites you to join us at our annual Lenten Fish Fry. This year's event will be held on Friday, March 6 in the St. Mary's Parish Hall (16 Summer St., Shrewsbury) from 4-8 p.m.

Nearly four dozen people volunteer to prepare, cook and serve dinner. Thanks to the sponsors, dinners are offered at a reasonable price. This year, the Fish & Chips dinner with coleslaw, a soft drink, dessert, and coffee is still just \$10 in advance/\$15 at the door - same great price we've had for several years! Kids can enjoy pizza or macaroni & cheese, plus a soft drink and dessert, for \$5 in advance/\$8 at the door. Clam Chowder, beer, and wine are available for an additional charge.

According to Msgr. Mike Rose, the parish was "not looking for another fundraiser, but rather a break-even community event. The Fish Fry is an opportunity for members of the parish and others in the community to gather and socialize, to get to know new people, to have fun, and to eat a great meal. The Fish Fry is intended to be a FUN-raiser!" It has been quite successful, and attendance has certainly grown through the years. Last year, more than 800 meals were served.

For more information on how to purchase tickets, go to stmarysparish.org/fish-fry.

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Elizabeth Latour graduates from Elms College

CHICOPEE — Elizabeth Latour of Brookfield received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Elms College following the conclusion of the Fall 2025 semester. Latour was among 60 students who received their degrees in December. Elms College is a co-educational Catholic college offering a liberal arts curriculum that prepares students holistically for a purposeful life in a diverse and interconnected world. Founded in 1928 by the Sisters of St. Joseph, Elms College has a tradition of educating reflective, principled and creative learners, who are rooted in faith, educated in mind, compassionate in heart, responsive to civic and social obligations, and capable of adjusting to change without compromising principle.

More than 7,500 University of Rhode Island students named to Fall Dean’s List

KINGSTON, R.I. — The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce that several area students have been named to its Fall 2025 Dean’s List. Among them are: Derek Mahoney of Leicester Elizabeth Czaja of West Brookfield To be included on the Dean’s List, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 quality point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable earning at least a 3.30 quality point average. Students named to the Dean’s List represent nearly all of Rhode Island’s cities and towns, all six New England states, New York and New Jersey, and many other states and countries. About the University of Rhode Island The University of Rhode Island is a diverse and dynamic community whose members are connected by a common quest for knowledge. As a global education leader and the state of Rhode Island’s flagship public research institution, URI offers distinctive opportunities designed to meet the global challenges of today’s world and the rapidly evolving needs of tomorrow. Founded in 1892, URI now enrolls more than 18,000 students and offers more than 200 degree programs across nine schools and colleges. As a land- and sea-grant institution, URI is a key driver of economic development in Rhode Island and contributes significantly to the health and vitality of the state, the New England region, and the nation. To learn more, visit: uri.edu.

Leicester Women’s Club serves community, welcomes new members

LEICESTER — The Leicester Women’s Club, founded in 1962, is proud to announce that funds raised at their 2025 Holiday Auction have been disbursed to McAuley Nazareth, Inc., the Leicester Food Pantry, Hearts for Heat, the Leicester Historical Society (May House and Swan Tavern), and the Greenville Baptist Church Food Pantry. The Club also holds a basket raffle at the Harvest Fair in September, with funds raised used for scholarships for graduating seniors who are Leicester residents. At their next event, Wednesday, March 18, members and guests will enjoy a lunch at Pine Ridge Golf club. The lunch is \$28, payable at the door, and includes salad, entrée, dessert, rolls and coffee or tea. A cash bar is available. Guest speakers will be Stephanie K. Fattman, Worcester County Register of Probate, and Kathryn A. Toomey, Worcester County Register of Deeds. Mrs. Fattman and Mrs. Toomey will give a short presentation about the services their offices provide and answer questions from the audience. Reservations required before Monday, March 9, to Linda Monahan at 508-330-9250.

Music & Movement at the Merrick Public Library in Brookfield

BROOKFIELD — Every Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., join Julie at the Merrick Public Library in Brookfield for songs kids know and love! Stretch, move, sing, and dance, all while developing early literacy skills through music and rhythm! Recommended for ages five and under, but all ages are welcome. Drop in--no registration necessary. This program is sponsored by the Jeppson Memorial Grant and the Friends of the Merrick Public Library.

Brookfield Council on Aging presents informational program on Tri-Valley Inc. services

BROOKFIELD — Area residents are invited to attend an in-person presentation with Tri-Valley, Inc. on Tuesday, March 10 at 10 a.m. at the Brookfield Council on Aging (located at the Brookfield Congregational Church). This informational session will provide an overview of Tri-Valley’s programs and services available to older adults, caregivers, veterans, and individuals with disabilities, including nutrition services, caregiver support, health insurance assistance, and more. Attendees can expect a brief presentation, discussion, and free giveaways. All are welcome, and questions are encouraged.

Brookfield Council on Aging hosting estate planning & trust seminar

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The Brookfield Council on Aging invites the community to a seminar on estate planning and trusts Thursday, March 5 at the Brookfield Council on Aging, located at the Congregational Church, 8 Common St., beginning at 10:30 a.m. For more information, please e-mail seniors@brookfield-ma.us.



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“Spring” into something new this March with Bay Path Continuing Education

CHARLTON — Bay Path Continuing Education is excited to highlight some offerings from the Winter/Spring Term. Our talented instructors are offering an inspiring lineup of classes, including some new ones not in the catalog. Whether you're looking to learn a new skill, meet new friends, create lasting memories, or simply relax and reconnect your mind and body, there's something waiting for you. Explore the offerings and register today—we can't wait to welcome you up to Bay Path.

A sampling of upcoming classes:

Auto Damage Appraising
Tuesdays & Thursdays,
Feb. 24-April 7, 6-9 p.m.,
\$499 (Class ID: 42886)

Cultivating Resilience for
Parents & Children Thru
Self-Compassion
Wednesdays, Feb.
25-Mar 13, 6:30-8 p.m.,
\$129 (Class ID: 42832)

Yoga For All (Drop In
Class)
Thursday, Feb. 26, 7-8
p.m., \$15 per class (no
registration required)

MA Real Estate Person's
Course - Prelicense required
education
Monday & Thursday,
March 2-April 30, 6-9 p.m.,

\$459 (Class ID: 42861)

Beginner's Country Line
Dancing
Monday, March 2-April
17, 6-7:15 p.m., \$79 (Class
ID: 42818)

Introduction to Beekeeping
Mondays, March
2-March 9, 6-8 p.m., \$69
(Class ID: 42795)

Ballroom for Beginners
Dance Package
Tuesday, March 3- May
12, 6:30-8:45 p.m., \$169/
Couple, \$85 Single (Class
ID: 42811)

How to Plan, Start, and
Operate a Small Business
Tuesdays, March 3-April
7, 5-7:30 p.m., \$159 (Class
ID: 42896)

Stronger Together: An
Introductory Guide to
Understanding Special
Education
Tuesday, March 3, 6-7:30
p.m., \$39 (Class ID: 42870)

Exam Prep: MA
Construction Supervisors
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Wednesdays, March
4-April 8, 6-8 p.m., \$899
(Class ID: 43361)

Introduction to Bracelet
Making Using Stone, Glass
& Crystal Beads
Wednesdays, March
4-April 8, 6-8:30 p.m., \$79
(Class ID: 42840)

Introduction to Welding
Wednesdays, March
4-April 29, 5-8 p.m., \$539
(Class ID: 42897)

Yoga For All (Drop In
Class)
Thursday, March 5th &
March 12, 7-8 p.m., \$15
per class (no registration
required)

Introduction to
Songwriting
Monday, March 9-May 4,
6:30-8:30 p.m., \$129 (Class
ID: 42882)

Newly Added The
Beauty of Ikebana: An
Introduction to Japanese
Floral Art Design (43357)
Tuesday, March 10,
6:30-8 p.m., \$59 (Class ID:
43357)

Learn About Elder Law
& Estate Planning
Tuesday, March
10, 6-8 p.m., Couples
\$59, Individuals \$39
(Class ID: 42792)

Bob Ross Painting
Session: Mountain
Rhapsody
Tuesday, March 10, 5-8
p.m., \$69 (Class ID: 42848)

Learn how to Paint with
Acrylics
Wednesdays, March
11-April 15, 7-9 p.m.,
\$179 (Class ID: 42837)

Date Night! Shamrock

Ravioli: Decorative Pasta
Mastery
Thursday, March 12,
5:30-8:30 p.m., \$145 per
couple (Class ID: 42878)

Investing: Rules of the
Road
Tuesday, March 17, 6-7
p.m., \$39 (Class ID: 42887)

Considering Real Estate
Sales as a Career?
Wednesday, March 18,
6-9 p.m., \$39 (Class ID
42899)

Introduction to
Computers II
Wednesdays, March
18-April 1, 6-8 p.m., \$69
(Class ID: 42917)

Newly Added The
Beauty of Ikebana: An
Introduction to Japanese
Floral Art Design (43357)
Wednesday, March 18,
6:30-8 p.m., \$59 (Class ID:
43358)

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Cornerstone Bank opens applications for 2026 scholarship program

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank is now accepting applications for its 2026 scholarship program, awarding 18 scholarships of \$2,500 each to local high school seniors planning to study business or finance. Applications are due April 13.

“We are proud to support students who are thinking seriously about their future and taking meaningful steps toward it,” said Cornerstone CEO Todd Tallman. “These scholarships help remove barriers and encourage young people who want to make a positive impact through business and financial leadership.”

Applicants must be graduating from high school in 2026 and plan to attend an accredited, degree-granting institution full time beginning in fall 2026. Students must demonstrate academic achievement, community involvement and interest in a business or financial career.

Required materials include an official transcript and GPA along with a completed application and a one-page essay describing career goals, steps toward achieving them and how the scholarship will support their path to success.

The application and more information can be found on the bank's Web site.

Scholarship recipients will receive funds after successful completion of their first college semester and upon submission of

an official first-semester transcript and second-semester bill.

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



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LEGALS

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Oxford Rochdale Sewer District will receive Priced Proposals at 28 Comins Road North Oxford, MA 01542 until 10 A.M. Tuesday April 7, 2026 at which time Priced Proposals documents will be publicly opened and read. Priced Proposals for Solids Dewatering Equipment will be opened and recorded for each bidder.
The Board of Sewer Commissioners reserves the right to reject any and all Priced Proposals deemed not in the best interest of the Oxford Rochdale Sewer District.
Board of Sewer Commissioners
Oxford Rochdale Sewer District
February 20, 2026
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Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26P0478EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
Estelle Stanek
Date of Death: 09/25/2006
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy** has been filed by **Edward Stanek of Warren 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:
Edward Stanek of Warren MA
be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve 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 03/10/2026**.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
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. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 12, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
February 20, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 131, Section 40 of the Wetlands Protection Act, the North Brookfield Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday March 10, 2026, at 7:00p.m. at the North Brookfield Board of Health office, 215 North Main Street, North Brookfield for a Notice of Intent filing for the construction of a single-family dwelling and associated activities at 56 Old East Brookfield Road. Any person interested in this matter is invited to attend the hearing.
February 20, 2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO22P3106EA
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR ORDER OF
COMPLETE SETTLEMENT**
Estate of:
Daniel M Faulkner, III
Date of Death: 06/13/2014
A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **David Clapham of Phillipston MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account such relief as may be requested in the Petition.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/10/2026**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 05 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
February 20, 2026

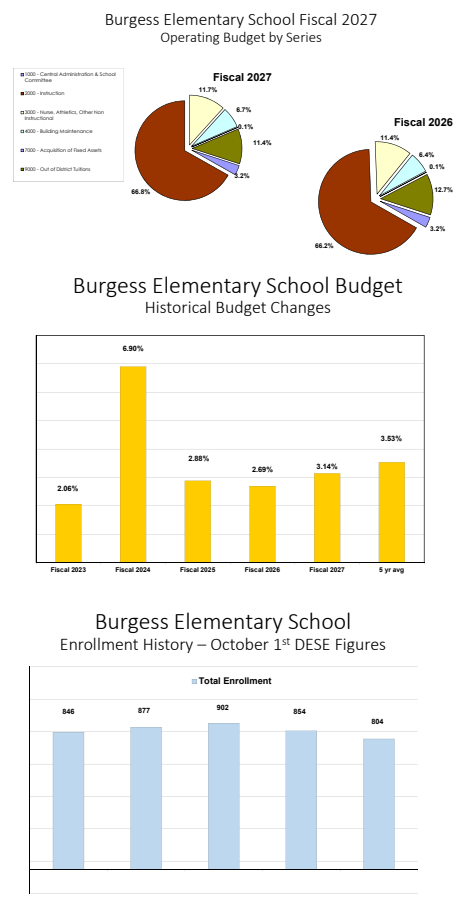
(SEAL)
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT**
**26 SM 000459
ORDER OF NOTICE**
TO:
Heirs, Devisees, and Legal Representatives of the Estate of Larry M. McPartland; Michael McPartland, Individually and as Proposed Fiduciary of the Estate of Larry M. McPartland; Jamie Daniels
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (*et seq*): Finance of America Reverse LLC claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in East Brookfield, numbered 123 Park Street, given by Larry M. McPartland to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Finance of America Reverse LLC, dated January 9, 2021, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 64224, Page 185, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before March 23, 2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.
Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on February 6, 2026.
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
February 20, 2026

(SEAL)
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT**
**26 SM 000494
ORDER OF NOTICE**
TO:
Joseph Cariglia
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (*et seq*): JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Spencer, numbered 16 Olde Main Street, given by Joseph Cariglia to Silver Hill Funding, LLC, dated April 30, 2024, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 70459, Page 80, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then

as mortgagee, as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, and now held by **Village Capital & Investment LLC**, said mortgage dated June 30, 2023 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69339, Page 132, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as mortgagee, as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation to Village Capital & Investment LLC by assignment dated October 27, 2025 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 72741, Page 349; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on March 26, 2026 at 01:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:
A certain parcel of land and buildings situated in Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts, being shown as "Lot 43" on a plan of land entitled "Plan of Land of Assessor's Map U04, Lots 41 & 43 Owners: Carl A. & Constance Leinonen & George N. Gouin, 19 McDonald Street & 65 Maple Street, Town of Spencer, Worcester County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, dated September 21, 2021, Scale 1" = 40'. By Levesque Geomatics, Inc., 43 Glendale Road, Sturbridge, MA 01518 which plan is recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 961, Plan 104 and which plan reference can be made for more particular description. Said Lot contains 12,564 square feet of land +/- according to said plan. For title reference See Deed recorded herewith.
The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.
For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated June 30, 2023 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69339, Page 130.
TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.
FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale. Other terms to be announced at the sale.
Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for Village Capital & Investment LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701
February 20, 2026
February 27, 2026
March 6, 2026

you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before March 30, 2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.
Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on February 11, 2026.
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
February 20, 2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26P0421 EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
Beatrice A Martin
Date of Death: 11/25/2025
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Kyle M Martin of Peyton CO** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that:
Kyle M Martin of Peyton CO 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 03/10/2026**.
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
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WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 09, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
February 20, 2026



February 19, 2026

For Legal Advertising Information, Call 508-909-4127
email: legals@stonebridgepress.news

MARJAUULT

continued from page A1

When it comes to musician-ship, Marjault's band director, Kristina Looney, says he is a shining example.

"On top of being an excellent clarinet player, Ben is a hard worker, a wonderful mentor to younger students, and always pushes our band members to be the best they can be," Looney said.

Marjault is also a member of the LMS National Junior Honor Society, LMS E-Sports, and Game Club.

Regarding the audition process, Marjault says, "It feels a little surreal to have been accepted to the Central District Orchestra. This is my second year of auditioning and all I really wanted was to have done better than last year. I am so proud to represent Leicester this year, and could not have done this without Ms. Samantha Raillo of Hedera

School of Music and Ms. Looney from Leicester Middle."

Raillo says, "I am so happy for Ben! He began piano lessons with me when he was in Kindergarten, then added clarinet lessons so he could join the school band when he started middle school. It has been my pleasure to work with him and watch him grow as a musician over the years. He first auditioned for Central Districts last year and was just 5 points away from being accepted. Instead of getting discouraged, he used that experience as motivation to do better this year."

Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Brett Kustigian sends his congratulations, commenting, "I am so very proud of our students' musical talents. Once again, Leicester students distinguish themselves from others."

Leicester Senior Citizens Club launches membership drive

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

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

The Leicester Senior Citizens Club is linking older adults with each other, and to opportunities that improve their health, well-being, and sense of community. It is the club's way of reducing the effects of isolation. We want to offer special programs beyond normal hours, and we need input and ideas from new members to help get us there. Membership is open to all individuals aged 60 and older. The cost to join is \$10 for an annual membership.

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

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

Impressive view!



Impressive view! 1/2 acre overlooking Cranberry Meadow Pond! Nicely appointed Colonial, better than new! 3 bedrooms, 2-1/2 Bath! Master Bedroom Suite. 2 car garage Howe State Park close by. Deeded Beach Rights! a Must See! assisted sale **\$545,000**



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Webster - 24 Cooper Rd New Construction - Craftsman Style home

Tucked away on Cooper Rd. Webster Lake with access at Lakeside beach/boat ramp. 3rd of 4 homes being built at this site. Offers 2,155 sq. ft +/- of living area, 7 rms, 4 bds, 2 1/2 baths, 9ft ceiling, wood flooring throughout with ceramic tile baths. Spacious main BR Suite w/ walk-in closet, and private full bath, double sink vanity, finished lower level walk-out w/ slider. Central AC, garage **\$649,900.00**



Condominium - 78 Athol Street Killingly, Ct.

End Unit! Nice floor plan! 2 Bedroom, 1-1/2 Bath, Sliding Door to Deck. Basement w/Bulkhead. Priced to Sell! assisted sale **\$205,000**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagogmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!



Panoramic View, from this absolutely lovely home. 2600 +/- SF, 3+ Beds, 2 full baths, 2 car detached garage! 63' +/- waterfront. .37 Acres! Sandy Waterfront! **\$1,100,000**

Webster Lake - 302 Killdeer Island



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

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



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

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Head over wheels

WRTA PUTS ITS HEART ON THE ROAD THIS VALENTINE’S DAY

WORCESTER — This Valentine’s Day, the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) is debuting a brand-new look—and putting its heart on the road. WRTA will roll out its first newly branded bus featuring a new logo and heart-themed design that celebrates Worcester’s role as the Heart of the Commonwealth.

At the center of the new brand are two conjoined hearts forming a subtle “W” pattern, symbolizing connection at every level: from origin to destination, community to community, person to person, and operator to passenger. The design reflects both Worcester’s central location within Massachusetts and

WRTA’s mission to deliver convenient, comfortable, safe, and reliable transportation throughout the region.

“This project was truly a labor of love,” said Josh Rickman, Administrator of WRTA. “Worcester sits at the heart of the Commonwealth, and our transit system plays a vital role in keeping that heart beating—connecting neighborhoods, businesses, schools, and communities across the region.”

To ensure the new brand authentically represents the community it serves, WRTA partnered with one of the nation’s leading transit design firms and conducted extensive public and internal outreach. More than 376 com-

munity members completed surveys, and WRTA staff were engaged throughout the process. Feedback showed strong support for retaining a blue color palette, widespread enthusiasm for the heart symbol, and a range of preferences across modern, timeless, and progressive design styles—insights that directly informed the final design.

The heart motif represents the people onboard and establishes a consistent, recognizable visual identity across the fleet. The new branding also standardizes the placement of contact information on the exterior of buses, improving clarity and system-wide recognition.



Safety and visibility were key considerations in the design. The new WRTA logo appears on all sides of each bus in retro-reflective white to enhance visibility, while high-contrast elements support rider and roadway safety. Forward diagonal lines add a sense of movement and energy, reflecting WRTA’s role in keeping the region moving forward.

The new brand is anchored by WRTA’s updated slogan: “moving the Worcester region forward with heart.” The message captures the Authority’s commitment to service, connection, and pride in a city that truly sits at the heart of the Commonwealth.

This Valentine’s Day, riders will see more than a new look on the road—they’ll see a symbol of connection, community, and care traveling through the Worcester region.

Share the Love. See our new bus on the road? Share a photo or video and tag us on social media:

Facebook: @theWRTA
X (formerly Twitter): @therta
Use #iHeartWRTA so we can see and share your posts.

The Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) is a regional transit system that services the City of Worcester and the surrounding 36 communities in the Central Massachusetts area with a bus fleet that includes diesel-electric hybrid buses, and clean-diesel buses. The second largest regional transit authority in Massachusetts, the WRTA offers reliable,

comfortable, and safe transportation for traveling to work, shopping, school, medical appointments, and leisure activities. The WRTA also provides paratransit service for the elderly and disabled, as well as a variety of special services for those groups in the entire service area. In 2025, WRTA provided five million passenger trips throughout its system. All fixed routes and paratransit services are free through June 2026.

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