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Friday, June 26, 2026

Troop 238's Noah Clark earns Eagle Scout rank

BROOKFIELD — East Brookfield Scouts BSA Troop 238 celebrated Noah Clark's achievement of earning the rank of Eagle Scout during his Eagle Scout Court of Honor on Sunday, June 14. He officially earned the rank of Eagle Scout on December 9, 2025, becoming Troop 238's 43rd Eagle Scout and earning Scouting America's highest rank.

For his Eagle Scout Service Project, Clark led the installation of a large, two-panel trail kiosk at Flynt Park in Monson. The kiosk provides trail information for visitors and highlights the American Chestnut Foundation Restoration Project taking place at the park. Clark's interest in chestnut trees began through his participation in the Tantasqua Junior High School Chestnut Club, which is working to develop a blight-tolerant American chestnut.

Clark began his Scouting journey as a Tiger with East Brookfield Cub Scout Pack 148 before crossing over into Troop 238 in April 2019. During his time in the troop, he served in several youth leadership positions, including Quartermaster and Patrol Leader, and currently serves as an Assistant Scoutmaster. He attended National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) and was inducted into the Catamount Chapter of the Order of the Arrow, Scouting America's national honor society. One of his favorite Scouting



experiences was attending summer camp with Troop 238 each year at Treasure Valley Scout Reservation, where he developed outdoor skills, formed lasting friendships, and earned many of the 32 merit badges he completed during his Scouting career. In August 2024, he joined fellow Scouts on a week-long high-ad-

venture trek at Sea Base in the Florida Keys.

Outside of Scouting, Clark graduated from Tantasqua Regional High School in May 2026. During his four years at Tantasqua, he earned Honor Roll recognition, was named Student of the Quarter multiple times, was a member of

the National Honor Society, received the MAVA Outstanding Vocational Student of the Year Award for 2026, and was recognized as Class Valedictorian for Technology. As a senior, he competed in SkillsUSA at the district, state, and national levels, earning gold medals at both the district and state competitions. Noah was active in the Tantasqua Ski Club, the Chestnut Club, and the school's Jazz Band, where he played percussion. He also volunteered for several years with the Brookfield Elementary School Jazz Band. An avid water skier, Noah is a member of the Aqua Riders Water Ski Club in Holland and the New England Water Ski Collective, where he assists individuals with disabilities using adaptive water-skiing equipment. This fall, Noah will attend Rochester Institute of Technology, where he plans to study cybersecurity.

Noah is the son of Jessica and Nicholas Clark of Brookfield. His younger brother, Jack Clark, is also a member of Troop 238.

Founded in 1982, East Brookfield Scouts BSA Troop 238 part of the Heart of New England Council of Scouting America serves youth ages 11 to 17 and focuses on character development, citizenship, leadership, and personal fitness through outdoor adventure and community service. For more information about Troop 238, contact the troop at t238eb@gmail.com.

David Prouty High School prepares for new furniture, gym logo

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

SPENCER — The David Prouty High School Building Committee approved the latest series of change orders on June 11 as the project marches forward toward its targeted August completion.

Among the change orders were a replacement door, raising the baseball field, pre-K tackboard and baby gate, and more totaling \$55,342 with another pair of potential change orders also discussed including roof changes and a floor sink in the kitchen. It was the 31st list of change orders presented for the project.

More exciting, however, were the updates from project representatives involving furniture move-in and the logo on the gym floor. Nick Pimentel of Colliers, the Owner's Project Manager, explained that they are still targeting an Aug. 14 completion for the overall project, just in time for the new school year, and with summer now rolling in with no students in the hallways the replacement of furniture and equipment is slated to begin.

"We've lined up a mover to come help out and bring the folks over from East Brookfield on the 15th of July. Around that same time is

Turn To **PROUTY** page **A10**

Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District names Jason Webster next Principal of Knox Trail Middle School

SPENCER — The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District and Superintendent Paul Haughey are pleased to announce the selection of veteran educator Jason Webster as the next Principal of Knox Trail Middle School. Webster will officially assume his new leadership role beginning this summer, succeeding Sean McNiff.

Webster brings a wealth of administrative and instructional experience within Massachusetts public schools, establishing a proven track record of student-centered leadership and collaborative team building. He previously served as the Principal of Quinn Middle School in Hudson, Massachusetts. After Quinn MS, he was Principal at Hawthorne Brook MS in Townsend, before three years at Athol-Royalston Middle School.

"We are thrilled to welcome Mr. Webster to the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District," said Superintendent Paul Haughey. "His deep familiarity with middle school dynamics and passion for elementary education, paired with his strong foundation as an instructional leader, makes him the ideal choice to guide Knox Trail Middle School forward and build upon its proud traditions of academic and extracurricular excellence."

Webster began his career in education as a mathematics teacher at Notre Dame Preparatory School in Fitchburg and later taught math at both the middle and high school levels in Marlborough. He also served students as a long-term substitute teacher at Framingham High School. Known for his dedicated and collaborative approach, Webster prioritizes building strong partnerships among staff, students, and families to foster high expectations and a positive school culture.

"I look forward to starting meaningful conversations with the faculty, staff, and families of Knox Trail Middle School this summer," said Webster. "My goal is to ensure every student feels known, supported, and challenged as we work together to prepare them for lifelong success".

The community will have several opportunities to meet and welcome Principal Webster during upcoming district orientation events ahead of the new school year.

Leicester Elementary School fourth graders meet senior pen pals



LEICESTER — Leicester Elementary School fourth graders experienced a memorable and meaningful event last week as they met their senior pen pals in person for the first time.

Students in Mrs. Meloche's fourth-grade class have been exchanging letters with members of the Leicester Senior Center throughout the school year, building connections through thoughtful writing and shared stories. Last week, those connections came to life during a special luncheon hosted at Leicester Elementary

School.

The room was filled with smiles, laughter, and lively conversation as students and their pen pals finally met face-to-face. The event provided a unique opportunity for students to strengthen relationships they had developed over months of correspondence, while also fostering a sense of community across generations.

Making the day even more special, the luncheon was prepared and served by the Wolverine Grill, a student-run restaurant operated through the Culinary Arts program at Leicester

High School. High school students took pride in creating and serving a delicious meal that included fresh vegetables, pizza, and chocolate brownies for dessert.

Ann Marie Walsh Pierozzi, Senior Pen Pal Liaison, expressed her gratitude for the many individuals who helped make the event possible.

"I am so thankful to everyone who made this opportunity possible," she shared. "To Principal Steiger and Assistant Principal Ford for supporting and continuing this endeavor, to Mrs. Meloche

for participating in this program, to Mrs. Rachel Cyr, Director of Elder Affairs, for fostering this effort, and to Superintendent Kustigian for investing in the future of our Leicester youth. Thank you to the Wolverine Grill staff and students, and most importantly, our senior pen pals and fourth grade students."

This special event highlighted the power of connection, collaboration, and community, leaving a lasting impression on both students and their senior partners.

Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club taking part in A.R.R.L. Field Day

WEST BROOKFIELD — The Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club (QVARC) will be participating in the 2026 A.R.R.L. Field Day on Saturday, June 27, and Sunday, June 28, operating from 2 p.m. Saturday through 2 p.m. Sunday on the West Brookfield Town Common. The public is warmly invited to visit between 2–6 p.m. on Saturday and between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday to explore the world of amateur radio firsthand.

Field Day is the largest on-air amateur radio exercise in the United States, bringing together tens of thousands of licensed operators to demonstrate the reliability, resilience, and public-service value of amateur radio. For QVARC, it's also a chance to welcome neighbors, families, students, and anyone curious about radio, electronics, or STEM activities.

Visitors will be able to watch live radio contacts being made across the country and around the world, explore the equipment and antennas used for emergency and off-grid communication, and even sit behind a radio to make a con-

tact themselves. Club members will be on hand to explain how amateur radio supports communities during storms, power outages, and public-service events, and why these skills remain relevant in today's interconnected world.

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, recently reflected on the long tradition behind Field Day, noting that "Amateur radio has been part of the American story since the earliest days of wireless communication... For more than a century, the Amateur Radio Service has advanced the nation's communications capabilities by fostering technical innovation, developing a pool of trained and skilled operators, strengthening emergency and public service communications, and promoting international goodwill."

He emphasized that these contributions show why amateur radio remains "a uniquely resilient and volunteer-

driven national resource."

QVARC is proud to carry that tradition forward here in the Quaboag Valley. Our members include hobbyists, engineers, emergency volunteers, and newcomers who simply enjoy learning something hands-on and practical. The club meets on the last Tuesday of each month, except for July and August, and welcomes anyone interested in getting involved or learning more about the hobby.

Whether you're interested in emergency preparedness, electronics, shortwave communication, or just want to see what amateur radio is all about, Field Day is the perfect time to stop by. Everyone is welcome, and no experience is required.

For more information about the Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club, please visit www.qvarc.com.

Workshop13 invites community to participate in Lady Liberty Project

WARE — Workshop13 invites community members of all ages and abilities to help create a large-scale modern Lady Liberty puppet to delight the crowds at Ware's celebration parade for the 250th anniversary of the US Revolution. Your artwork will be incorporated into Lady Liberty's flowing robes, bringing together public art, storytelling, and community participation. The deadline to participate is July 1.

Use eight and a half by 11 inch paper or fabric to draw, paint, write

a message, poem, pattern, or artwork of inspiration and hope for the future. Your artwork will become part of Lady Liberty's robe — a colorful quilt of hopes, dreams, and community stories. Artwork can be dropped off in person in the drop-box outside Workshop13's main building at 13 Church St., Ware. You can include your name, age, and email on the back of your piece or submit anonymously. You can also submit your work by emailing info@workshop13.org with the subject line: Lady Liberty.

Workshop13 is also offering several free workshops related to this project. For adults, there will be a special community art gathering on June 24th from 6-8pm facilitated by Megan McDonough. For all ages, Elizabeth Buck will be leading three family-friendly workshops on June 23, 24, and 25 from 10am-12pm. On the 23rd, people can drop in to dye, paint, print, or draw on a fabric patch for Lady Liberty's robes. On the 24th, participants will craft a unique crown that reflects their personality, creativity, and community pride. They will be invited to join Workshop13 in the parade as one of the shining stars on our celebratory flags. And on the 25th, participants can craft a personalized percussion instrument to be invited to march with Workshop13 in the parade as part of the vibrant drum circle that will lead the way for the Lady Liberty puppet.

About Workshop13
Workshop13 is a dynamic center where arts, culture, and community converge—expanding access to the arts and nurturing creativity and self-expression in our rural region. For more information visit workshop13.org, or call 413-277-6072.

Leicester Senior Center to host flea market and craft fair June 27

LEICESTER — Bargain hunters, craft enthusiasts and community supporters are invited to the Leicester Senior Center on Saturday, June 27, for a Flea Market and Craft Fair that will benefit the historic May House.

The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Leicester Senior Center and will feature a variety of vendors offering handmade crafts, collectibles, household items, gifts and other treasures. Organizers hope the event will provide an opportunity for residents to shop locally while supporting an important community resource.

Vendor space is limited to 30 spots, and applications must be submitted by June 20. Organizers encourage interested crafters, artisans and sellers to reserve their space as soon as possible.

The fundraiser is being organized to support funding for the May House, a valued local facility that serves area seniors through programs, activities and community gatherings.

Events such as the Flea Market and Craft Fair help generate financial support while also bringing residents together for a day of shopping, socializing and community engagement.

Those interested in reserving vendor space may contact Diane Calvano at 508-335-9706 or by email at diane_calvano@yahoo.com.

Organizers expect a variety of vendors and welcome community members to attend, browse the booths and support the fundraising effort.

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- Egyptian bull god
- Romanian monetary unit
- Santa's helper
- Fictional Pink Floyd corporal
- Sea eagle genus
- Broad volcanic crater
- Minneapolis suburb
- Actual commercial worth (abbr.)
- Exchange rate
- Ethnic peoples in Guinea
- Men's fashion accessory
- Craft material
- Offerings
- Early
- Large room
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- One who hauls
- Shorthand for accepting
- Promotional materials
- Loss of memory
- One who beheads
- Photographers
- Small, rich sponge cake
- White clerical vestment
- Partner to "ooled"
- Abba __, Israeli politician
- Zero
- Owl monkey genus
- Lace bug genus
- Mild expression of surprise
- Storage devices
- Keyboard key
- Make a mistake
- One-time Korean president

CLUES DOWN

- Bridge building degree
- Expression of sorrow or pity
- Large, stocky, lizard
- Rumanian river
- Missive
- Stout-bodied moths
- Brings out
- Bird of prey
- King of Thebes
- Cleaving tool
- African antelope
- Three are particularly famous
- Satisfy
- C. European river
- Dictator
- Portion of (abbr.)
- The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
- Consume food
- Woman (French)
- Scrape or wear away by friction
- Popular vegetable
- Pacific Standard Time
- Brazilian state capital
- Paddle
- Cause to become insane
- Drier and flakier
- Mimic
- ESPN host Kimes
- One who mooses
- Secret political clique
- Behind the stern of a ship
- Supernatural force
- Sanctuary in Orthodox churches
- Swiss river
- Grayish white
- Engrave
- UNC's chief rival
- Midway between south and southeast

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The Spencer New Leader (USPS#024-927) (ISSN 1945-6603) is published weekly by Stonebridge Press, Inc., 25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550. Periodical postage paid at Southbridge, MA and additional mailing office(s). POSTMASTER: Send address changesto Spencer New Leader, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

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REAL ESTATE

BROOKFIELD
None

EAST BROOKFIELD
\$575,000, 126 Howe St, Lowe, Brad, and Lowe, Chelsea, to Ikenberry, Kerri L. \$300,000, 123 Park St, Mcpartland Larry M Est, and Mcpartland, Michael, to Cep Real Estate LLC.

LEICESTER
\$350,000, 112 Mannville St, Goyette Clifford P Est, and Maki, Cindy, to Steele, Brad, and Aldrich, Nicole. \$230,000, 75 Huntoon Memorial Hwy #1-2, Regina Szarycz Irt, and Malkowski, Karolina G, to Tessier, Nicole. \$55,000, 103 Brooks St, Pyne, Nancy A, and Lamothe, Carolyn, to Braco Properties LLC. \$55,000, Towtaid St, Mandella, Joseph, to Berthiaume, Debra, and Berthiaume, Lionel. \$10,000, 174 White Birch St, Allard-Madaus, Michael G, to Ayres, Alisa M, and Ayres, Kyle M.

NORTH BROOKFIELD
None

SPENCER
\$1,375,000, 405-407 E Main St, Jad Rt, and Davis, Jennifer A, to Maple Ridge Holdings LLC. \$734,000, 21 Thompson Pond Rd, Barter, Alfred W, and Barter, Lydia, to Darling, Gabrielle, and Flynn 3rd, Joseph. \$560,000, 30 Grant St, J C Kady Realty LLC, to Victor Contracting Inc. \$35,000, 11 Cherry St, Town Of Spencer, to 11 Cherry Street LLC.

WARREN
\$515,100, 170 Bridge St, Sausville, Donald D, and Sausville, Carol, to Sandville Ft, and Schiavi, Emily P. \$128,000, 1017 Southbridge Rd, Tiberii, Heather E, to Tiberii, Todd R.

WEST BROOKFIELD
\$380,000, 62 Cottage St #7, Wilcox, Christopher T, and Wilcox, Wendy J, to Mardirosian, Glenn A, and Mardirosian, Christine A. \$300,000, 24 Pierce Rd, Broman, Laurie A, to Broman, Nicholas J.

Alexia Pagnoni of Brookfield receives degree from American International College

SPRINGFIELD — Alexia Pagnoni of Brookfield has graduated from American International College (AIC) with a Master of Science in Nursing.

On Saturday, May 9, the College conferred degrees to graduates in the Class of 2026, receiving bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees from its School of Health Sciences, School of Education, and School of Business, Arts, and Sciences.

The ceremony featured a keynote address by Femita Ayanboku Bradley '14, a world-class Paralympian, advocate, nonprofit founder, and AIC alumna. Bradley also received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree in recognition of her achievements as an elite athlete and advocate for individuals with disabilities.

Devonte Dillion '17, MBA '19, CEO and co-founder of Dilligence Training and vice president and co-founder of DT Cares,

delivered the alumni address, welcoming graduates into the AIC alumni community and marking their transition into the next stage of their academic and professional journeys.

In her keynote address, Bradley reflected on her experience as an AIC student and the foundation it provided for her career as a Paralympian and advocate.

"Standing here today in front of you all feels surreal, because I remember sitting exactly where you are," she said. "I remember I was full of ambition, full of uncertainty, full of pressure, but best of all I was full of possibility."

A three-time Paralympian and the fastest female amputee in the United States, Bradley emphasized the importance of resilience and discipline developed during college and carried into life after graduation.

"We often celebrate graduation like it's the finish line, but the truth is, it's only the starting point," she said. "The real success of college is not simply getting your degree; it's the things you do after you get your degree."

She encouraged graduates to focus on their own paths rather than comparisons with others.

"Your life is not a race against the person sitting next to you," Bradley said. "Some of you will move fast. Some of you will take a little more time, and some of you will change directions completely. Whatever your path is, you are not behind."

AIC congratulates the Class of 2026 and looks forward to seeing all that its newest alumni will accomplish in the years ahead.

Founded in 1885, American International College (AIC) is a private, co-educational, doctoral granting institution located in

Springfield, Massachusetts, comprising the School of Business, Arts and Sciences, the School of Education, and the School of Health Sciences. AIC supports and advances education, diversity, and opportunity for its students and the community.

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Local towns receive Winter Recovery Assistance Program funding

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

REGION — Gov. Maura Healey's administration has released the disbursements for each town in the commonwealth as part of the Winter Recovery Assistance Program, also known as WRAP.

The program, administered by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, is part of the Fiscal year 2026 Fair Share Supplemental Bill, a \$1.35 billion investment in education and transportation that includes

\$100 million for municipal winter relief, including \$80 million to support communities based on their road mileage. Each town in the Spencer area received a share of the funds.

Locally, Spencer is receiving the most money at \$262,428.94 thanks to its nearly 100 miles of roadway. Leicester received the second most with 83.94 miles totaling \$222,221.32.

Brookfield is receiving \$96,143.41, East Brookfield will get \$50,747.15, and North Brookfield receives

\$182,448.14.

According to a funds description release by the state, the money can be used "to provide financial relief for extraordinary snow, ice and winter recovery costs incurred during the winter of 2026."

Acceptable expenditures include snow clearing and plowing, roadway preparation including salting, icebreaking, flooding response, reconstruction and resurfacing due to winter damage, repairs due to downed trees, and more.

The Winter Recovery Assistance Program also includes \$20 million to help towns that experience additional extraordinary hardships due to winter weather.

Those funds will be distributed at the discretion of the secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation for costs incurred by the municipalities prior to the distribution of the Winter Weather Recovery Assistance Program funding.

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East Brookfield Library offers summer activities, crafts for children and families

EAST BROOKFIELD — The East Brookfield Public Library is inviting children and families to take part in a variety of summer activities designed to encourage creativity, learning and fun.

The library's weekly Activity and Play program will be held Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. as an extension of the library's story time program. Caregivers are required to remain with participating children, with one adult required for every two children.

A series of special afternoon activities will begin at 2 p.m. throughout the summer. The schedule includes paper airplane making on June 30, cornhole on July 7, sidewalk chalk drawing on July 14, bubbles on July 21, origami on July 28, bracelet making on Aug. 4, and a guided tour of the library pond on Aug. 11.

The library will also host a summer Arts and Crafts program beginning June 23. Additional sessions are scheduled for July 7, July 21, Aug. 4 and Aug. 18, with all programs starting at 11 a.m.

Registration is required for the Arts and Crafts program. Adult

caregivers must attend with children under age 12, with one adult required for every two children. Some projects may continue into the following week's session.

Library officials encourage families to register early and participate

in the wide range of educational and recreational activities planned throughout the summer.

For more information or to register, contact the East Brookfield Public Library.

WEEKLY POLICE BLOTTER

Spencer
The Spencer Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of June 10-16.

Jason M. Jarmulowicz, age 47, of Spencer was arrested on June 10 for Possession of a Class B Drug and in connection with a warrant.

Joey Andrew Hancock, age 32, of Spencer was arrested on June 11 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license (subsequent) and in connection with multiple warrants.

Leslie A. Babineau, age 55, of Spencer was arrested on June 12 for OUI (Liquor), Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and Leaving the Scene of Property Damage.

Leicester
The Leicester Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of June 11-17.

Drew Theodore Stupski, age 21, of Worcester was arrested on June 11 for Failure to Appear Upon Recognizance.

Troy Raymond Turpin, age 38, of Cherry Valley was arrested on June 14 for Disorderly Conduct.

William A. Deming, age 69, of Leicester was arrested on June 15 in connection with a warrant.

What should you do in the new year? Get your "estate needs in order". No one likes to talk about death, that is why you should have everything done in advance. Make sure your hard-earned money and investments are left to those you want. Call me for a free consultation. Also, handling all types of real estate matters.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
 PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
 EDITOR

EDITORIAL

The Eagle rank still matters

In an era when young people are often criticized for spending too much time online, disconnected from their communities, stories like Noah Clark's remind us that leadership, service and personal achievement remain alive and well.

The recent Eagle Scout Court of Honor recognizing Clark as Troop 238's 43rd Eagle Scout was more than a celebration of one young man's accomplishments. It was a celebration of the values that continue to strengthen communities across generations.

Earning the rank of Eagle Scout is not easy. It requires years of commitment, perseverance and growth. Scouts must develop leadership skills, complete challenging requirements, earn merit badges and demonstrate a dedication to serving others. Only a small percentage of Scouts ever reach this highest rank, making the achievement particularly meaningful.

What stands out about Clark's journey is how closely it reflects the purpose of Scouting itself. His Eagle Scout Service Project at Flynt Park in Monson was not simply a construction project. The trail kiosk he helped install provides useful information for visitors while also highlighting an important environmental restoration effort focused on the American chestnut tree. By combining community service, environmental stewardship and public education, the project leaves a lasting benefit for countless visitors.

His work also demonstrates something increasingly valuable in today's world: the ability to take an idea, organize people, solve problems and see a project through to completion. Those skills are not learned overnight. They are developed through years of experience, mentorship and responsibility.

Clark's accomplishments extend well beyond Scouting. His academic achievements at Tantasqua Regional High School, his involvement in SkillsUSA, music, athletics and volunteer service paint the picture of a young man who consistently seeks opportunities to learn and contribute. Particularly noteworthy is his work assisting individuals with disabilities through adaptive water-skiing programs, an example of service that requires patience, compassion and a willingness to help others experience something many might otherwise never have the chance to enjoy.

Yet while this recognition rightly focuses on one individual, it also highlights the importance of the organizations and volunteers who help make such achievements possible. Troop 238, its leaders, parents and supporters have spent more than four decades helping young people develop confidence, character and leadership. Communities benefit when organizations provide structured opportunities for youth to challenge themselves, serve others and discover their potential.

The Eagle Scout rank remains respected not because of the badge itself, but because of what it represents. It signifies dedication, responsibility, integrity and service. Those qualities never go out of style.

As Clark prepares to attend Rochester Institute of Technology and pursue a career in cybersecurity, he carries with him lessons learned through years of Scouting and community involvement. The specific challenges ahead may be different from those he faced on camping trips, leadership assignments or service projects, but the foundation remains the same.

Communities often speak about the importance of preparing the next generation for leadership. One of the best ways to accomplish that goal is to recognize and encourage young people who have already demonstrated those qualities. Noah Clark's achievement serves as an example not only of personal success but also of what can happen when families, volunteers and community organizations invest their time and energy in helping young people grow.

That is something worth celebrating, and something worth preserving for generations to come.

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Guess who pays?

To the Editor:

The answer is clear that we, the taxpayers, are receiving a master class in the art of grifting.

The President thinks we will go along with making his personal lawyer AG, even after hearing that Blanche was assigned the task of enforcing the release of the Epstein files, under law, which was to be completed by last December, it appears that moving Maxwell to a country club, is all he has completed of note.

He dismissed the charges in a ludicrous lawsuit (never filed) for billions in damages to Trump for unauthorized leak of his taxes. (Didn't he promise to release them when the audit ended?) Even though this is a case he had little hope of winning, his DOJ (Department of Justification), elected to settle for \$1.776 billion and create a slush fund to reward victims of injustice. Guess who pays and who receives? After pardoning those who committed insurrection on Jan. 6, 2021, he thinks he should also pay them for beating police and smearing feces on capital walls,

It has been announced that the Iran war

Pray for our democracy, not Donald Trump!

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to another written by Nancy Nowak on June 5 titled "Maybe we should try praying for our enemy." In that letter, the writer asks "Is Donald Trump our enemy?" The obvious answer to that truly rhetorical question is yes!

I pray for people who are ill, people in distress or suffering a loss. I ask God to guide and protect family and friends but I will never pray for Donald Trump. He is a man who is evil to the core, selfish and self-centered. The only person he truly cares about is himself.

Let's not forget that he is a convicted felon, rapist, liar and the person responsible for the death of thousands of American

is now over (no doubt, within two weeks). Now we can concentrate on replacing the billions in weapons used equipment needed to restore readiness, and excavate the nuclear material we blew up last summer, before they were weeks from having a weapon and pay billions restitution to replace what we spent billions to destroy. As an aside, I know we disrupted the world oil supply, but Trump said we have plenty. My question is, are we still paying subsidies while being raped at the pump?

After seeing Trump pushing Teslas at the Whitehouse, I guess it is natural progression to set up a commercial fight venue, ads and all, and a full circus, on the grounds. Seeing another profit source, Eric and Don Jr. sold 12 thousand dollar charms at the event. Also, in the vanity for fun and profit, while people are maxing out their credit cards to eat and drive, over priced sweet heart contracts are going to contributors to those monuments. PT Barnum was wrong. If we keep paying a putting up wit this, more than one are born a minute.

KEN KIMBALL
 BROOKFIELD

due to COVID by him spreading false information during the pandemic. He encouraged and condoned the actions of the Jan. 6 insurrectionists and then went on to pardon them all! Now he wants to reward them with money (our money!) after they have killed and maimed the police officers who were protecting our Capital.

Now he has us in a war (which he publicly promised he would never do), a war which has killed innocent civilians and bombed a school killing more than 100 children. What is next?

I will pray for our democracy, but never for Donald Trump.

NOREEN FERNANDES
 WEST BROOKFIELD

"Pops," the "Spurs" and "Pounding Stone"

To the Editor:

Born to parents who had immigrated from the Balkans, Greg Popovich has always loved basketball, the United States and its people. He graduated from the US Airforce Academy, indicating that he learned much about the "Culture of Caring." After serving five years in the military, he returned to his first love – basketball – this time as a coach.

Working and learning on his way up, step by step, he became coach in the 1990s of the National Basketball Association's San Antonio Spurs. His teams, with players from all over the world, won five NBA championships.

A few years ago, "Pops" retired from coaching, but stayed on with the Spurs as a manager. This year with a young star whose mother is French and father African, the Spurs made it to the NBA finals.

When asked about the secrets to his success, "Pops" points to two, the "Caring Culture" he put into practice at the Spurs and "Pounding Stone" approach to building championship teams.

At the time "Pops" took over coaching the Spurs they were losing 75% of their games. Rather than make flashy trades or

just signing a star, Pops "pounded stone," making a relatively small improvement here and one there until a tradition of success and championships became established.

Why do I write about Pops and his Culture of Caring and his Pounding Stone as keys to success? Because those things have also been keys to our country's success, both in good times and bad. To borrow a term from our Constitution-- we and our government have almost always tried to make our country a "More Perfect Union."

Until now. Instead, we now have a corrupt, uncaring and violent government that day in and day out preaches hatred and tries not the break down stone walls, but build them both between we Americans and our democracy friends around the world.

Now, more than ever, we need to "pound stone." Each of our pounds may not matter much, but together, beginning with pounding for free and fair 2026 elections we can, like Americans before us, "break the stone."

KEVIN KANE
 SPENCER

Thank you, Charles!

To the Editor:

I don't know who this mysterious "Charles" is who writes the "Lanterns Along Main Street" columns, but thank you for printing them. They bring to mind some pieces I've read in a national newspaper, The Epoch Times.

I especially enjoyed some of his recent columns: the Father's Day one, yes, fathers can impart so much by example, by being there, and offering their quiet love. Also, the June 5 Empty Spaces one, yes, doing nothing is rejuvenating! It's

good for us. And the May 29 column about connecting with other people in a waiting room. Yes! There should be more of that, people interacting with other people. Loved it. Sometimes a chance meeting with a stranger can result in a lasting friendship. You never know. And besides, it just brightens up a day.

I enjoyed Charles's quiet thoughtful takes on these experiences. Thank you, Charles!

NANCY J. NOWAK
 SPENCER

The mystery of the empty front porch

A few evenings ago, I was taking a walk through a neighborhood not far from home when I noticed something I couldn't stop thinking about. The porches were beautiful.

Fresh paint. Hanging flower baskets. Rocking chairs. Porch swings. Flags fluttering in the breeze. Everything looked exactly the way a New England front porch is supposed to look in June. There was just one thing missing.

People.

Not a single person sat on any of them.

Years ago, front porches were practically community centers. On a warm summer evening, families would gather outside after supper. Neighbors would stop and chat while walking by. Children played

LANTERN

ALONG

MAIN

STREET

By CHARLES

in the yard while adults exchanged news, complaints, weather observations, and the occasional town rumor. You didn't need a formal invitation.

You simply happened to be outside at the same time. Some of my strongest memories involve

those kinds of evenings. Not because anything important happened, but because nothing important happened. Someone waved from across the street. A neighbor wandered over with a question about their lawn mower. A passing dog stopped to make friends. You sat for an hour and somehow learned everything that had happened in town during the previous week.

Today, most of those conversations occur elsewhere. Some happen online. Some happen by text message. Some never happen at all. The porch itself hasn't disappeared. The purpose of the porch seems to have changed. Many of them have become decorative spaces instead of gathering places.

Now, before someone points out that people are busier than they used to be, I understand that. Summer schedules are packed. Youth sports seem to occupy every available hour. Many people work longer days than previous generations. But I don't think busyness tells the whole story. I suspect we've become remarkably good at retreating indoors.

Air conditioning certainly deserves some of the credit. Once temperatures climb into the 80s, a comfortable living room can be difficult to resist. Streaming television, smartphones, laptops, and every other form of entertainment are waiting inside.

The front porch, meanwhile, offers only fresh air and the possibility of an unexpected conversation. Maybe that's exactly why it mattered. Porches created opportunities for small connections that weren't planned or scheduled. They allowed neighbors to become familiar with one another without making a special effort. You learned who always walked their dog at sunset. You knew which neighbor grew the best tomatoes. You recognized the sound of someone's laugh before you ever saw them coming down the sidewalk.

Communities are built from those small interactions. Not grand events. Not official meetings. Not carefully organized programs. Just people seeing each other regularly.

The funny thing is that I don't believe we've stopped wanting those connections. Every time a power outage knocks out the Internet for a few hours, people seem to emerge from their houses. Suddenly, neighbors are talking again. Children appear in driveways. The street feels alive. It's as though the desire was there all along, waiting for a reason to come outside.

This summer, I may try an experiment. Instead of heading indoors after dinner, I might spend an evening on the front steps with a cold drink and no agenda. Maybe nobody will walk by. Maybe the whole neighborhood will remain tucked away behind screens and air conditioners. Or maybe someone will stop and say hello. If they do, I suspect we'll find plenty to talk about.

After all, the porch is still there. Perhaps all that's missing is us.

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.

Local residents inducted into National Scholastic Honor Society

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — Local Saint Anselm College students, including Abigail Bernabei of Leicester, have been accepted into the Tau chapter of the Delta Epsilon Sigma National Scholastic Honor Society for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Students are considered for membership if they have completed at least 50% of the credit requirements for their degree and are ranked in the top 20% of their class. Candidates also must have demonstrated dedication to intellectual activity and service to their community.

Founded in 1939, Delta Epsilon Sigma (DES) is the national scholastic honor society for students, faculty, and alumni of colleges and universities with a Catholic tradition. Their purpose is to recognize academic accomplishments, foster scholarly activities, and encourage a sense of intellectual community among its members. The Tau chapter at Saint Anselm College is one of 119 DES chapters nationwide and has inducted 763 members to date.

Founded in 1889, Saint Anselm College is a nationally-ranked four-year liberal arts college providing a 21st century education in the Catholic, Benedictine tradition. Located in the greater Boston region in southern New Hampshire, Saint Anselm is well known for its strong liberal arts curriculum, the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, commitment to inclusiveness, a highly successful nursing program, and a legacy of community service.

Hofstra University congratulates Dean's List students

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Hofstra University congratulates the students named to the spring 2026 Dean's List for their outstanding academic achievements. Students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 during the semester to make the Dean's List. Students include:

- Jessica McCarthy of Spencer
- Jenna Oberg of N. Brookfield
- Jordan Cox of Spencer

Hofstra University's primary mission is to provide a quality education to its students in an environment that encourages, nurtures, and supports learning. At Hofstra, new ideas take shape through collaboration, engagement, and interaction. Hofstra students create their success with small classes and dedicated faculty, alongside a beautiful campus, plus all the opportunities of New York City within easy reach.

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Lake Wickaboag "Lights Up" for our nation's 250th

WEST BROOKFIELD — To celebrate our nation's 250th birthday, the Lake Wickaboag Preservation Association ("LWPA") is sponsoring a 4th of July weekend spectacular in the theme of "The Spirit of America - Light Up Lake Wickaboag." Cash prizes will be earned by several, bragging rights will be claimed by many, and lots of fun will be had by all!

Starting on Friday, July 3, the weekend will include displays of patriotic and themed docks, boats and decorated cottages. On Saturday, July 4, at approximately 6:30 p.m., a massive boat tie up center lake is planned to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and sing the Star Spangled Banner. Following at 7 p.m., a full "Light Up Lake Wickaboag" parade will start at the Boat Club and continue cruising into the night.

If you can't get out on the lake in a boat, kayak or canoe, no worries. Pack your beach chairs and picnic baskets or relax on a floatie within the town beach area. Whether an active participant or spectator, you won't want to miss it.

For more details, check the LWPA Facebook page, visit lakewickaboag.com, or email LWPA01585@gmail.com.

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The David Prouty High School Class of 1966 recently held their 60th Class Reunion at Timberyard Brewery. The class was the last graduating class from the "old" high school that is now senior housing and next to the Spencer Congregational Church. Members enjoyed reminiscing about their school years and visiting with old friends. Courtesy

Cornerstone Bank donates \$4,500 to Golf Fights Cancer Golf Marathon

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank donated \$4,500 to support the successful 2026 Golf Fights Cancer 100-Hole Golf Marathon benefiting DetecTogether and its mission to promote early cancer detection education.

Held June 4 & 5 at Juniper Hill Golf Course, the annual fundraiser brought together golfers of all skill levels who played 100 holes to raise funds for cancer-related organizations and programs focused on awareness and early detection.

ing people better understand the importance of early cancer detection and encouraging them to take an active role in their healthcare," said Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank. "We are proud to support Golf Fights Cancer and the organization's efforts to educate communities and help save lives."

Cornerstone Bank has supported the event for several years, contributing \$21,000 over the last three years.

family, DetecTogether works with healthcare professionals, workplaces, schools and fire departments to provide education focused on recognizing cancer warning signs earlier and improving outcomes through early detection. According to DetecTogether, nearly 40 percent of people will receive a cancer diagnosis in their lifetime, and approximately half of cancers are diagnosed at a late stage.

The Golf Fights Cancer Golf Marathon challenged participants to complete

approximately 100 holes of golf while raising funds to support cancer education and advocacy initiatives. The event once again brought together supporters from across the region to advance the fight against cancer through education, awareness and early detection.

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 commu-

nity organizations. With the addition of Athol Savings Bank, a Division of Cornerstone Bank, in 2026, Cornerstone offers customers access to 17 branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts, the most in Worcester County. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. To learn about Cornerstone Bank's personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstone-bank.com or call 800-939-9103.

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Jim Sandagato, Cornerstone Bank SVP Commercial Lender; Jim Coghlin Sr., Founder of DetecTogether and Chairman of Coghlin Cos., Inc.; Brady Coghlin, Supply Chain Analyst at Coghlin Companies; and Tricia Scannell Laursen, President of DetecTogether. Courtesy

Leicester Elementary students participate In Field Day

LEICESTER — Leicester Elementary School students in grades K-4 recently enjoyed a day full of fun, movement, and community spirit during the school's annual Field Day.

Held on a warm, sunny day, Field Day brought students outside to participate in a variety of engaging activity stations designed to challenge their skills while encouraging teamwork and enjoyment. From active games to a crowd-favorite bubble party, the day was filled with laughter, energy, and smiles.

Field Day serves as a celebratory end-of-year tradition, giving students the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, stay active, and spend meaningful time with their classmates.

The event was organized by Leicester Elementary School Physical Education teacher Sandy Woods, who expressed appreciation for the many individuals who contributed to its success.

"Thank you to the LES PTO for funding the event and to the dozens of PTO members and parent volunteers who spent the long, hot day working on the field for our students," Woods shared. "Thank you as well to our amazing LES staff for supporting students throughout the day."

Woods also recognized the contributions of Leicester High School students from the Early Education and Care Program, who played an integral role in running activity stations and assisting with setup.

"These high school students demonstrated true leadership as patient mentors, adaptable problem-solvers, and energetic role models," she said.

Additional thanks were extended to PTO President Jenn Nichols for coordinating the



large group of parent volunteers, and to LHS Early Education and Care Director Nina Ryan for preparing her students to successfully lead the day's activities.

"Thank you again to the Leicester community for coming together to make Field Day a success and for helping to create such a fun

and memorable experience for our students," Woods added.

The day reflected the strong sense of community within Leicester, highlighting the collaboration between students, staff, families, and community partners in creating meaningful experiences for all.

QCC sergeant completes FBI LEEDA leadership training

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College Campus Police Sergeant Daniel Litchfield has upheld the college's commitment to excellence in training by recently completing the FBI-

Law Enforcement Executive Development Association (FBI-LEEDA) Trilogy series.

"FBI-LEEDA offers some of the top training in the country. This ensures that we are consistent, make the best pos-

sible decisions in the field and set the example for new officers," QCC Chief of Police Stephen DiGiovanni said. "Sergeant Litchfield has shown great leadership and effort in his 20 years at QCC."

The Trilogy series is comprised of three trainings, the Supervisor Leadership Institute, the Command Leadership Institute and the Executive Leadership Institute. Topics include accountability, organizational effectiveness and implicit bias awareness.

"Completing the FBI-LEEDA Trilogy is more than earning a certificate; it's a commitment to leadership, service, and the continual pursuit of excellence," Litchfield said.

Litchfield is the third officer at QCC to complete the Trilogy series, after DiGiovanni and Deputy Chief of Police Operations Mike Vigeant. All of QCC's patrol sergeants have completed the Supervisor Leadership Institute.

FBI-LEEDA is a non-profit organization that provides leadership training and education for law enforcement professionals.



Courtesy

Sgt. Daniel Litchfield (left) with Chief of Police Stephen DiGiovanni.

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New Bocce League open to community

SOUTHBRIDGE — Bay Path Continuing Education & the Southbridge Italian Club have teamed up to launch an exciting new bocce league on Tuesday nights throughout May and June.

Bocce is a game that all can enjoy—no special skills or talents are required! If you can roll a ball, you can play! These two community organizations are thrilled to bring this sport to a wider audience. Both Bay Path Continuing Education and the Southbridge Italian Club are dedicated to offering various events for people to engage, socialize, and have fun. This new league is a perfect fit. Here are the details:

- Tuesdays: May 12 – June 30 (eight weeks)
- Teams of four to eight players
- \$240 per team
- One game per week at either 6 or 7 p.m.
- Maximum of eight teams – don't wait!
- Only team captains need to register for their team.
- A brief informational captain meeting will be held before the season starts.
- Gather your friends (18 and older), form a team, and come join us for a fantastic time on the court!
- Games will be held at:
 - Italian American Club
 - 20 North St., Southbridge
- To register your team, call Bay Path Continuing Education at 508-248-5971, ext. 1715. Spots for teams are limited, so don't hesitate—call today!

REGION — May marks the semi-official beginning to farmers market season, with many of the seasonal farmers' markets in our region starting their regular schedules, with more starting in June. Central Mass Grown is proud to support more than two dozen farmers markets across the Worcester County area.

Just in the city of Worcester, residents can choose from no less than six different markets, including the markets run by the Regional Environmental Council, both the Beaver Brook Market (306 Chandler St.) Friday mornings starting June 12 and the University Park Market (965 Main St.) Saturday mornings starting June 13, plus the Out To Lunch Market on the Worcester Common Oval behind City Hall every Wednesday from June 24 to Aug. 26. On Sundays,

Central Mass. farmers' market season starts now!

there's both the Market on Exchange Street starting May 17th and the Brussels Street Market starting June 7. And on Thursdays, check out the Burncoat Center for Arts and Wellness at 78 Burncoat St. for their new farmers market starting May 14th. Some of these markets feel like festivals, while others are farmers markets in the truest sense, focused on offering fresh food and agricultural products directly from local farms.

Throughout the region, there's a market nearly every day of the week: for example, the

Sturbridge Farmers Market on Sunday, Holden on Tuesday, Grafton on Wednesday,

Westborough on Thursday, and Westminster on Friday. And so many, many more markets featuring a wide variety of items you won't find anywhere

in supermarkets, including purple cauliflower, celeriac, husk cherries, goat cheese, duck eggs, or alpaca wool socks!

Every farmers' market is important to the farmers and other vendors that are there.

According to Central Mass Grown Executive Director David Reed, "Farmers markets are a vital source of revenue for farmers, because every dollar goes right back to them. And they are an important way for consumers to see where their food, flowers, wool, and soap all come from. If you usually shop in a big box store or online, you've never had a real chance to know anything about what you are buying."

Most farmers markets in our region have one or more farms that participate in the Healthy Incentives Programs, a benefit connected to the Supplemental

Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). SNAP recipients can use their EBT card to purchase fresh produce from participating farms and receive an immediate refund to their card, up to a monthly limit that is based on household size. The end result? Free farm-fresh fruits and vegetables, and the reward of knowing you supported your local farm!

So this summer season, visit a farmers' market and take a second to say hi to your local farmers. The farmers want to meet you. They want to say hi. Because farming is hard work, and they do it because they love it and they want you to love it, too.

Find out more about local farmers markets at central-massgrown.org.

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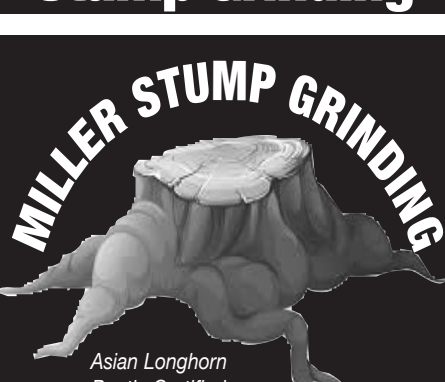
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Greater Worcester Community Foundation awards \$1.14 million to strengthen local grassroots nonprofits

WORCESTER — Greater Worcester Community Foundation has awarded \$1,140,000 in Facing Change: Sustainable Pathways grants to 15 community-based organizations in Worcester and surrounding areas, providing multi-year support to strengthen operational infrastructure, build long-term sustainability and position organizations to meet growing demand.

The three-year grants, ranging from \$35,000 to \$120,000, are tailored to each organization's annual budget and stage of development. Most of the grantees are founder-led and volunteer-driven, and many have experienced rapid growth in recent years. These investments will help organizations align their internal capacity with that momentum, often by hiring staff, improving systems and developing diversified funding strategies.

"Facing Change: Sustainable Pathways is about meeting organizations at a pivotal moment," said Pete Dunn, President & CEO of Greater Worcester Community Foundation. "These groups are doing vital work in our community, and many have outgrown their current infrastructure. This support gives them the tools and time to build a stronger foundation so they can sustain and expand their impact at a time of significant funding uncertainty."

In addition to financial

support, grantees will participate in a cohort experience offering peer learning, mentorship and opportunities to share best practices. The cohort model is designed to reduce isolation often experienced by small, founder-led organizations and to foster collaboration across the region.

Grantees are advancing a wide range of community-rooted work across Worcester and the region. For example, Project New Hope will receive \$100,000 to support its work with veterans and their families; Community Health Awareness Network Grows Equity (CHANGE) will receive \$90,000 to support its work with African immigrant communities; and Adaptive Recovery Teaching Incorporated (A.R.T. Inc.) will receive \$60,000 to support individuals and families affected by substance use, mental health challenges and trauma.

"This investment will help us stabilize our operations and strengthen our infrastructure to meet demand," said Lovo Koliego, President & Founder of CHANGE. "Through the Facing Change: Sustainable Pathways program, we hope to develop a diversified funding roadmap and vetted governance structure, ensuring CHANGE remains a resilient pillar of health equity in Worcester."

A full list of grantees is available below.

The Sustainable Pathways grants are part of the Foundation's Facing Change initiative, a \$3 million investment announced last year in response to growing financial pressures and shifting federal priorities impacting Worcester County's nonprofit sector.

The \$3 million commitment includes \$2.5 million from the City of Worcester and \$500,000 in additional support from the Foundation's Community Leadership Fund and other sources. These supplemental resources enabled three nonprofits outside Worcester to receive funding: Our Bright Future and The Wellstorm, Inc. in Southbridge and Centro Celeste in Fitchburg.

To learn more about the Facing Change initiative program, visit greaterworcester.org.

About Greater Worcester Community Foundation

Greater Worcester Community Foundation is central Massachusetts' leading community foundation, employing its expertise and resources to address the region's most urgent needs. Since 1975, it has worked in partnership with donors to build a \$270 million endowment composed of more than 650 named charitable funds and award over \$186 million in grants that have helped transform communities and build a strong and vibrant region. For more information on

the Foundation's programs and how to give, please visit www.greaterworcester.org.

Full List of grantees

The Village — \$120,000 — Founded in 2020, The Village is an Afrocentric cultural center in Worcester's Main South neighborhood advancing racial and social justice through learning, creativity, community and healing.

Love Your Labels — \$120,000 — Founded in 2018, Love Your Labels fosters social connection and identity development for LGBTQIA+ youth and community through programs like Threads, a multi-month sewing and fashion design initiative for youth.

Project New Hope — \$100,000 — Founded in 2010, Project New Hope is a military-affiliated resource hub that connects Veterans, service members and their families to wellness resources.

UHAI for Health — \$90,000 — Founded in 2010, UHAI for Health serves African immigrants and refugees with culturally and linguistically appropriate prevention, intervention, education, advocacy and support services.

Community Health Awareness Network Grows Equity (CHANGE) — \$90,000 — Founded in 2018, CHANGE supports African immigrant communities in Greater Worcester by

addressing complex integration challenges and empowering individuals to navigate the healthcare system.

508 C.H.E.E.R.S. — \$80,000 — Founded in 2022, 508 C.H.E.E.R.S. is a youth-led Worcester organization providing leadership workshops, advocacy training, community service initiatives and civic engagement opportunities.

Refugees and Immigrants Cultural Empowerment Massachusetts (RICEMA) — \$80,000 — Founded in 2023, RICEMA is a performance arts and education organization that builds community and preserves culture among immigrants and refugees through cultural arts and learning.

Her Way Home — \$80,000 — Founded in 2025, Her Way Home is a survivor-led Worcester nonprofit supporting women healing from the violence of the sex trade, homelessness and substance use disorder.

Adaptive Recovery Teaching Incorporated (A.R.T. Inc.) — \$60,000 — Founded in 2020, A.R.T. Inc. is a Worcester-based grassroots nonprofit supporting individuals and families affected by substance use, mental health challenges and trauma through creative, peer-centered programming.

Guardians of Tradition — \$60,000 — Founded in 2019, Guardians of Tradition is a nonprofit dedicated to preserving cultural heritage and

empowering underrepresented communities through arts, education and inclusive programming.

El Salón — \$60,000 — Founded in 2019, El Salón is a nonprofit artist collective creating inclusive spaces that empower BIPOC artists to share skills, build community and create opportunities.

Casita Cultural Latina — \$60,000 — Founded in 2021, Casita Cultural Latina is a collective that hosts cultural and creative activities in inclusive, intergenerational spaces while elevating issues affecting Latino communities.

Our Bright Future — \$60,000 — Founded in 2016, Our Bright Future empowers youth through STEAM-based programming that builds skills, resilience and leadership through hands-on learning opportunities.

The Wellstorm, Inc. — \$45,000 — Founded in 2021, The Wellstorm provides community-rooted support across Worcester County by increasing access to essential resources while centering dignity, equity and lived experience leadership.

Centro Celeste — \$35,000 — Founded in 2021, Centro Celeste is a Fitchburg-based grassroots nonprofit serving Latino families by fostering cultural connection, inclusion and access to community resources across Worcester County.

Metacomet Land Trust looks to host TerraCorps service member

REGION — Metacomet Land Trust, a regional non-profit land protection organization, is pleased to announce that it has been chosen to host a TerraCorps Service Member in the upcoming 2026-2027 service year. TerraCorps is an AmeriCorps program.

"We are excited to hire and host a Community Engagement Coordinator (CEC) who will help share our mission and goals for land protection throughout our 15 communities," said President Lisa Mosczynski. "Metacomet's mission is to help private landowners, municipalities and other local organizations to protect their unique natural spaces. Working alongside a TerraCorps service member will enable Metacomet Land Trust to broaden our audience so that those concerned about the environment and our local landscape hear our message."

"Our Community Engagement Coordinator will be working out of our new Northbridge office beginning in September. Among other things, they will be planning and organizing events, growing our social media presence, and creating programs that can bring young and old together around land protection themes."

TerraCorps Service Members must be 17 or older and interested applicants can read the position description and apply online at <https://terra Corps.org/apply-to-serve-with-terra Corps/>

Service members receive compensation as well as medical benefits, school loan deferrals, access to training and reimburse-

ment for mileage.

"In this relationship we are hoping that our Community Engagement Coordinator gets the opportunity to learn as much as possible from us so that we can proudly say that we helped foster a young person who will become a leader for our future," Mosczynski said.

TerraCorps is a nonprofit organization working at the intersection of land conservation, sustainable farming, and local food systems to build local nonprofit capacity while growing the next generation of emerging leaders committed to making a difference at the community level. We value the power of local nonprofits to best understand and serve their communities. Our goal is to help them succeed by providing them access to the AmeriCorps national service model to build organizational capacity. The program is funded in part by a grant provided by AmeriCorps, a federal agency, and administered in Massachusetts by the Massachusetts Service Alliance.

Metcomet Land Trust was founded in 1988 by local conservationists and now

protects more than 1,300 acres of conservation land in south central Massachusetts. Metacomet Land Trust owns 672 acres of protected lands which are open to the public at no charge. The trust also holds conservation restrictions on 656 acres of privately owned or town-owned landscapes. Our preserves are open to the public at no charge. We frequently assist property owners who wish to preserve the natural landscape as well as partner with communities to protect open space.

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Friday's Child



**Trendiva
Age 9
Registration #9437**

Trendiva is a bright, kind, and curious young girl with a warm and engaging personality. She enjoys learning, sharing her thoughts with others, and exploring the world around her. Trendiva makes connections easily when she feels comfortable and supported, and she takes pride in her accomplishments. She is thoughtful, creative, and self-aware, showing maturity as she works on positive habits and personal growth. Her resilience, kindness, and eagerness to try new things make her a joy to be around. Trendiva is a creative learner who especially enjoys math and reading. She loves hands-on activities and projects, such as planting a chia seed fairy garden, and enjoys opportunities to express her creativity. She also takes pride in helping around the home and demonstrates responsibility in her daily routines. Trendiva responds well to encouragement, consistency, and structure, and she thrives when given opportunities to learn, create, and connect with others. With continued support and guidance, Trendiva will continue to grow and shine. She would benefit from a nurturing and encouraging family that can support her academic interests, creativity, and social development while helping her build confidence and explore new experiences.

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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.

PROUTY
continued from page A1

when we'll scoot out the excess furniture that we're trying to give out to people in town. Shortly right after that, the last week of July, is when all of the brand new furniture for not only the phase of construction we're building now but all of the pre-K furniture for the little ones comes," said Pimentel.

The project's technology consultant is also preparing to bring new smart boards and projectors into the school. Overall, Pimentel said there's "light at the end of the tunnel."

With regard to costs, Pimentel also talked about where the budget stands going into the final months.

"Fontaine Brothers, myself, and Jones & Whitsett still have a significant amount of costs we know we need to work

through. That estimate value is \$757,000. So, there's some estimates in there, some 'nice to have' aesthetics in there. We spent a lot of time looking ahead trying to think of every single thing that might come our way these next few weeks," Pimentel said. "Even after that, we have just about exactly \$400,000 estimated remaining to get through the job just in our contingency budget item."

Nicole Ferreira, the project manager with Fontaine Brothers, also provided an update regarding the gym floor logo. The company has worked with the wood flooring installer, and the plan is to reproduce the current Panthers logo and attempt to give it a more aged look.

The Building Committee meets next on July 16, a little less than one month before the planned completion of the project.

Grace Bujak named to Elms College Dean's List

CHICOPEE — Grace Bujak, of Leicester, was named to Elms College's Spring 2026 Dean's List.

Bujak was among 406 students named to the Spring 2026 Dean's List.

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.

Elizabeth Manfield of Spencer named to Provost's List at Hofstra University

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Elizabeth Manfield of Spencer achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA during the spring 2026 semester, earning a spot on the Provost's List at Hofstra University. Elizabeth's major is Psychology.

Hofstra University's primary mission is to provide a quality education to its students in an environment that encourages, nurtures, and supports learning. At Hofstra, new ideas take shape through collaboration, engagement, and interaction. Hofstra students create their success with small classes and dedicated faculty, alongside a beautiful campus, plus all the opportunities of New York City within easy reach.

Lasell University's Alexandra Garrand receives Collaboration Recognition Award

NEWTON — Alexandra Garrand of West Brookfield was selected to receive the Collaboration Recognition Award at Lasell University for the Spring 2026 semester. This peer-nominated award recognizes students who demonstrate excellence in collaboration through effective communication, idea-sharing, and teamwork. The award reflects Lasell's emphasis on collaboration as a core learning outcome and a key career readiness competency identified by the National Association of Colleges & Employers.

Transfer Station stickers available for 2026-27

SPENCER — Residents are reminded that current Spencer Transfer Station stickers will expire on June 30.

The Town of Spencer will hold a special sale for 2026-27 Transfer Station stickers on Saturday, June 27, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Spencer Highway Garage, 7 Meadow Rd.

The cost of a transfer station sticker is \$75 per household. Residents who need a second sticker for the same household may purchase one for an additional \$30.

Town officials encourage residents to obtain their new stickers before the current permits expire at the end of the month.

For additional information, contact the Town of Spencer.

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LEGALS

Town of West Brookfield Public Hearing on Water Rates for Fiscal Year 2027

The West Brookfield Board of Water Commissioners will hold a public hearing on Monday June 29, 2026, at 6:30 PM at the West Brookfield Senior Center, 73 Central Street, West Brookfield, to hear public testimony and comments on proposed water rates for Fiscal Year 2027. The rates will apply to all water bills issued after July 1, 2026. The proposed water rate schedule is as follows:

Base Charge: \$85 for up to 500 cubic feet quarterly (no increase)
\$7.50 per hundred cubic feet for 501 cubic feet or more quarterly (increase of \$1.50/hundred cubic feet)

West Brookfield residents and businesses that are connected to the Town's water system are urged to attend.

For more information, please call the West Brookfield Water Department at 508-867-1421 x8.

West Brookfield Board of Water Commissioners.
June 26, 2026

At the Zoning Board of Appeals special meeting to be held on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, in the McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, a public hearing will be held on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:

Notice of Public Hearing –
Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals Variance Finding– Applicant/ Owner: Kenneth MacDonald: Location 11 & 15 Wilson Ave, Spencer Assessor's Map U29-31 & 32. The applicant is seeking a Variance under Sections 5.1 (Table of area requirements), 5.4 (Table of Height and Bulk Requirements), and 7.3 (Variance Requirements) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to demolish two existing seasonal camps and rebuild one year-round single-family homes. The property is located in the Lake Residential (LR) district.
Variance Finding– Applicant: Paula Miller, Esq. Owner: Albert and Donna Starr: Location: 1 Washburn Drive, Spencer Assessor's Map R60-03. The applicant is seeking a Variance under Sections 5.2.6 (Detached Accessory Structures) and 7.3 (Variances) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to allow an Accessory Dwelling Unit in the front setback. The property is located in the Lake Residential (LR) district.
June 26, 2026
July 3, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Eva M. Adjoian to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for HarborOne Mortgage LLC, dated November 26, 2019 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 61494, Page 1, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nom-

inee for HarborOne Mortgage LLC, its successors and assigns to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., recorded on December 1, 2023, in Book No. 69952, at Page 104 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. to NewRez LLC DBA Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, recorded on February 7, 2024, in Book No. 70172, at Page 364 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 2:00 PM on July 6, 2026, on the mortgaged premises located at 132 North Brookfield Road, East Brookfield, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,
TO WIT:

The land in East Brookfield, Worcester County, Massachusetts, with the buildings thereon, situated on the easterly side of the State Highway leading to North Brookfield and bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point in the easterly line of said State Highway at land now or formerly of one Snay;

THENCE northeasterly by said Snay land 162.25 feet to land of the North Brookfield Railroad Company;

THENCE northwesterly by said railroad land 77.35 feet to land now or formerly of one Balchunas;

THENCE southwesterly by said Balchunas land 181.25 feet to said highway;

THENCE southeasterly by said highway 75 feet to the place of beginning. Containing about 12,881 square feet of land, and being the premises shown as Lot No. 5 on a plan of House Lots in East Brookfield, owned by Arthur Ledoux", which said plan is recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 41 Plan 54.

For mortgagor's(s)' title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 61493, Page 394.

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

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

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

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By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.

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June 12, 2026

June 19, 2026

June 26, 2206

Oxford Rochdale Sewer District Invitation for Priced Proposals

The Board of Sewer Commissioners is requesting Priced Proposals for the purchase of Pre-Engineered Metal Building.

Priced Proposal documents may be obtained at the Oxford Rochdale Sewer District offices, 28 Comins Road, North Oxford, MA 01542, online by emailing garystine6641@yahoo.com or by calling 413-896-7797 between 9 A.M. and 2 P.M. after **Thursday June 18, 2026**.

Oxford Rochdale Sewer District will receive Priced Proposals at 28 Comins Road North Oxford, MA 01542 until **10 A.M. Thursday July 16, 2026** at which time Priced Proposal documents will be publicly opened and read. Priced Proposals for Pre-Engineered Metal Building 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

June 19, 2026

June 26, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 10 Jones Street, Spencer, MA 01562

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Amanda M Davin to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Guild Mortgage Company LLC, and now held by **Guild Mortgage Company LLC**, said mortgage dated July 11, 2022 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 67888, Page 298, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Mortgagee, as nominee for Guild Mortgage Company LLC to Guild Mortgage Company by assignment dated April 9, 2024 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 70394, Page 273 as affected by a confirmatory assignment dated June 4, 2024 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 70607, Page 115; said mortgage was assigned from Guild Mortgage Company LLC to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Mortgagee, as nominee for Guild Mortgage Company LLC by assignment dated August 13, 2024 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 70903, Page 62; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Mortgagee, as nominee for Guild Mortgage Company LLC to Guild Mortgage Company LLC by assignment dated December 19, 2024 and

recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 71491, Page 134; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on July 23, 2026 at 12:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

T R A C T 1 :

The land in Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts, situated in the south side of Starr Street, viz, BEGINNING at the northeast corner of the south line of said street by land formerly of H.P. Starr; THENCE by said Starr land, S. 9° W., 99 feet; THENCE by land formerly of Joseph Pope, N. 86 1/2° W., 66 feet; THENCE still by said Pope land, N. 9° E., 99 feet to the south line of Starr Street; THENCE by said street line, S. 86 1/2° E., 66 feet to the point of beginning..

T R A C T 2 :

The land in Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts, situated on the south side of Starr Street, viz., BEGINNING at the northwesterly corner of the south line of said street, at a point 165 feet easterly of the easterly line of Grove Street; THENCE S. 86 1/2° E., by the southerly line of Starr Street, about 82 1/2 feet to land formerly of Eli Jacobs; THENCE S. 9° W., by said Jacobs land, 99 feet; THENCE N. 86 1/2° W., by land formerly of Joseph Pope, about 74 1/2 feet to a point on the easterly side of a two rod private street, now called Jones Street, and 165 feet easterly of the easterly line of Grove Street; THENCE N. 3 1/2° E., by the easterly line of Jones Street, 99 feet to the point of beginning.

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 July 7, 2022 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 67888, Page 294.

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 Guild Mortgage Company
LLC

Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701

June 26, 2026

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Courtesy

QCC's Cybersecurity Apprenticeship Degree Program helps employers reduce onboarding and training gaps.

QCC invites employers to partner on Cybersecurity Apprenticeship degree program

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College is calling on regional employers to partner in its Cybersecurity Apprenticeship Degree Program, a workforce-driven initiative designed to address the growing demand for skilled cybersecurity professionals. In addition to classroom instruction, QCC also handles most administrative responsibilities, making it easy for employers to participate.

The program combines paid, on-the-job training with college-level coursework, enabling participants to earn a degree while gaining practical experience, without disrupting daily work schedules. Through MassEducate and MassReconnect, many participants qualify for a free degree, significantly reducing or eliminating education costs for employers supporting their workforce.

Designed for both incumbent employees seeking to upskill and new hires entering entry-level roles, the program offers employers a flexible and cost-effective approach to workforce development.

"What sets QCC's Cybersecurity Apprenticeship apart is its adaptability," said Project Manager of Apprenticeship Degree Initiatives Krista Piazza. "Many participants bring prior education, certifications or professional experience. Through prior learning assessment and competency alignment, we can often accelerate their path to graduation without compromising academic standards."

This tailored approach delivers measurable benefits for employers, including faster time to fully credential cybersecurity professionals, reduced onboarding and training gaps and debt-free or low-cost degree pathways for employees.

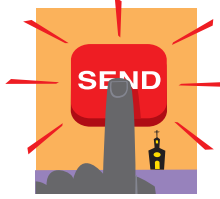
"This talent strategy results in a stronger, more loyal workforce pipeline developed in direct alignment with organizational needs," Piazza said.

QCC collaborates closely with employer partners, while managing program coordination, academic instruction and apprentice support, allowing employers to focus on mentoring and integrating apprentices into their operations.

Employers can obtain more information by contacting Krista Piazza at kpiazza@qcc.mass.edu.

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