

SPENCER NEW LEADER

©2025, Issue #38 Free by request to residents of
East Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield, Brookfield, Leicester and Spencer
SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS Friday, September 19, 2025

Ceremony marks anniversary of Sept. 11 attacks



Courtesy
Leicester first responders and school community members honored the 24th anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER
LEICESTER — The school community joined first responders and town officials in remembering those lost during the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. To mark the 24th anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks, Leicester Middle School students and staff welcomed guests to a

remembrance ceremony. The school's symphonic band, under the guidance of teacher Kristina Looney, honored victims and first responders with special performances. The ceremony was attended by several members of the town's police and fire departments. "Our first responders are always there when

we need them. While we appreciate them every day, 9/11 is a reminder to say thank you to our first responders," said

Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Brett Kustigian. "I will never forget September 11, and I will always remember

the way that our country came together after it happened." Following the event, first responders met with

students and school leaders to thank them for putting on the program.

Turn To 9/11 page A10

Residents, officials air frustrations with Spencer Fair traffic

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER
SPENCER — Traffic snarls at the Labor Day weekend Spencer Fair led to frustrations aired during last week's Select Board meeting. Prior to the four-day fair, a new traffic and safety plan was approved by the Spencer Police Department, the Select Board, and the Spencer Fair Association. The goal was to help reduce traffic congestion during peak activity hours, but record-shattering weekend attendances led to gridlock that left many guests stuck for over an hour. During the Sept. 8 Select Board meeting, Spencer Police Chief Michael Befford and Lt. Norman Hodgerney addressed the traffic nightmare that quickly collapsed the plan. "On Saturday, we tried to implement our traffic plan, and we found within an hour and a half that it wasn't going to work. We called it off," Befford told the selectmen. "We didn't take into account technology. People were being directed to the new traffic route; there were signboards out there, but they relied on their GPS. We had multiple cars trying to U-turn on Pleasant Street. We had cars going into the Meadowbrook area to turn around, and circling around to come down Wire Village Road. It was at a standstill." Selectmen also expressed concerns over the lack of staffing on traffic details, especially on Sunday. Befford explained that requests were sent to departments throughout the area, but officers declined due to several reasons. "A lot of officers have done the work for us in the past, and they say it's not worth it because of the traffic," Befford said. The fair drew approximately 15,000 guests on Saturday, with another 17,000 guests attending the Sunday show ahead of Labor Day. "Our infrastructure of the roads is just not built for that level of traffic. The fair continues to grow," Befford added. Selectmen said the lack of parking attendants on scene exacerbated problems, causing town officials to be inundated with complaints from angry guests over the past week. "For someone to be in traffic for over an hour, then get told the parking lot is full and they have to leave, that isn't good for this town," said Selectman Gary Woodbury. "It's not about pointing fingers. We have to find a solution. People who got turned away were

Turn To TRAFFIC page A11

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER
LEICESTER — For local crafters and festival enthusiasts alike, the annual Harvest Fair is always a highlight of their autumn lineup. The beloved tradition returns to the Town Common on Saturday, Sept. 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dozens of artisans, food vendors, performers, and growers from throughout the area will make the day memorable for guests of all ages at the 25th annual event, held rain or shine. Local organizations, agencies, and officials will also stop in to say hello to families, including first responders, library leaders, and representatives of other town departments. Area legislators have also been known to greet families.

"The Harvest Fair Committee works long and hard all year to put on a fun-filled, educational event. Their dedication and focus to detail is obvious throughout the fair," said Select Board Chairman Doug Belanger. After enduring two straight years of rainy, windy weather, guests are hopeful for more favorable conditions on the Common this year. The event will once again feature special displays and exhibits, as well as local students and Scouting groups getting involved. Officials thank festival organizers and volunteers for their hard work in making the event a success each year. Local students also enjoy the opportunity to volunteer, help crafters unload, greet guests, and showcase programs at their schools. "I always look forward

to the Harvest Fair. This year, our students will be promoting our five Career Technical Education programs: nursing, culinary, electrical, building and property maintenance, and early education and care," said Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Brett Kustigian. Additionally, local guests are thanked for their strong support of crafters each year, not only at Harvest Fair but events throughout the region. "I am consistently impressed with the number of volunteers and the community spirit generated by the fair," Kustigian added. "It's a great day for Leicester and our neighboring communities. My favorite part is judging all the scrumptious baked goods in the morning. I wish every day could start

like this." Guests are reminded to follow all parking regulations and restrictions around the Common, as the event typically draws a large crowd. Also, if the weather forecast shows a possibility of rain, please dress accordingly. Financial support for the festival is provided by grants offered from the Massachusetts Cultural Council; the Leicester Arts Council; the Leicester Savings Bank Fund; Country Bank; and Cornerstone Bank. Private donations also help augment the event each year. All participating first responders are thanked for providing traffic control guidance and guest assistance at the event. To learn more about the festival, check out the town's Web site, www.leicesterma.org.

Family Fun Fest supports restoration of North Brookfield Town House



Courtesy

Photographer Bruce Arnold, of North Brookfield, looks forward to displaying his work at an upcoming event.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER
NORTH BROOKFIELD — Local families are invited to support the Town House restoration project by attending the upcoming Family Fun Fest. Organized by the Friends of the North Brookfield Town House, the festival is set for Sept. 28. The event will run from noon to 4 p.m. at Bike House Brewery (formerly Common Ground Ciderworks). In addition to vendors, music, raffles, food, and fun activities for guests of all ages, the festival will include several special attendees. Local trainer Mary Jo Lavin is encouraging Fun Fest guests to bring their dogs for a Homestead Farm Nosework dog training "try it" opportunity. One leashed dog at a time will have the chance to sniff out dog treats in boxes or other containers. Helpers will be available to supervise the dogs as they search. Lavin has been involved in dog training for more than 30 years. Her business guides dogs and their owners through the stages of K9 nosework. She is currently in the process of becoming certified as a

Turn To FEST page A10

Healey administration expands behavioral health services for children

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION —The Healey-Driscoll Administration recently announced expanded community-based behavioral health services for children.

Last week, state leaders announced that 36 agencies across the Commonwealth have been selected to provide home-based and community-based services for children who are MassHealth members and are experiencing behavioral, emotional, or mental health struggles.

“This expansion will strengthen the behav-

ioral health system of support for hundreds of thousands of children and their families here in Massachusetts,” said Gov. Maura Healey. “Through this important work, we are making sure that our young people get the care that they need.”

Since the pandemic, officials across the state have seen increases in youth behavioral health and mental health incidents. Experts attribute the rises to several factors, including the extended time students spent away from school and extracurricular activities during COVID

lockdowns. Stress at home caused by lost jobs, high prices, and other challenges have also played a role, officials said.

The state’s expanded network will offer more options for families, ensuring geographic coverage across the entire state.

“These agencies will help us provide coordinated, innovative services that are essential to the behavioral and mental health of children here in Massachusetts,” said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. “We are thrilled to work with our partners to increase access to these services.”

MassHealth provides health-care coverage for nearly half of all Massachusetts children. As part of the Children’s Behavioral Health

Initiative, the selected agencies will provide intensive care coordination, family engagement services, and new intensive team-based treatment services for children with particularly complex needs.

“Meeting the behavioral health needs of our young people – and supporting their families – is foundational to our commitment to a healthy society and is crucial to our work,” said Massachusetts Health and Human Services Secretary Kiame Mahaniah. “This expanded network offers families of children enrolled in MassHealth the assurance that their child will get the care they need to thrive.”

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 20 percent of children ages 3-17 are diagnosed with a mental, emotion-

al, or behavioral health condition.

“MassHealth is dedicated to offering integrated behavioral health services and a comprehensive, community-based system of care for our members,” said Undersecretary for MassHealth Mike Levine. “This expanded network will help us strengthen those efforts to reach more kids who need help.”

Community service agencies were selected through a rigorous review process led by the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP), with review teams comprised of community members

will now conduct a detailed readiness process with the selected agencies prior to contracting.

“We are excited to announce the selection of new community service agencies – key partners in providing every child and family with access to coordinated care,” said Sharon Hanson, the CEO of the MBHP. “With innovations like family-based intensive treatment, we aim to transform behavioral health services and create lasting positive change in our communities.”

To learn more about the process by which agencies are selected, visit www.mass.gov.

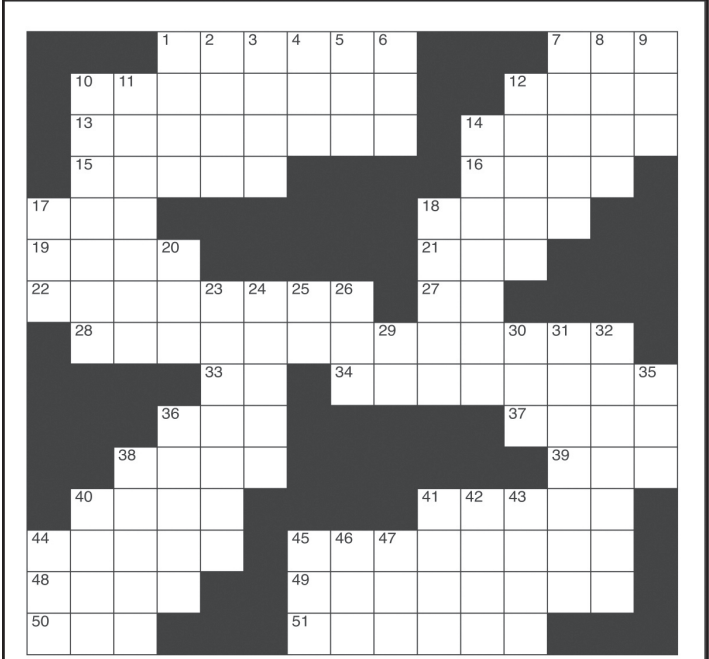


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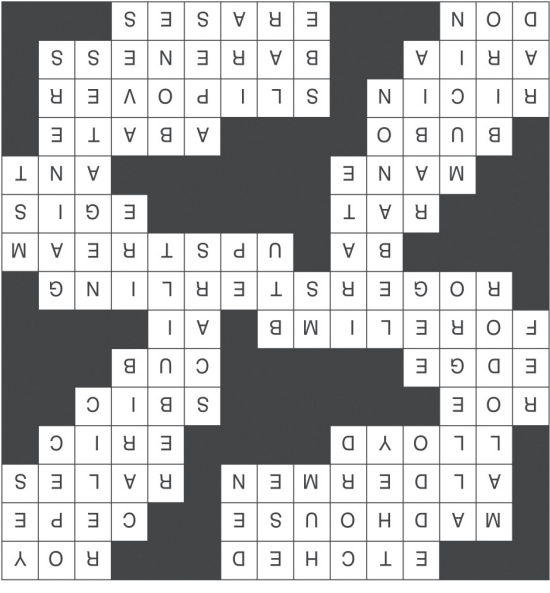
CLUES ACROSS

1. Carved into
7. ___ Rogers, cowboy
10. Unruly locale
12. Edible mushroom
13. Influential noblemen
14. Rattling breaths
15. David ___ George, Brit. P.M.
16. Musician Clapton
17. Small Eurasian deer
18. Invests in little enterprises
19. Perimeter
21. Chicago ballplayer
22. Animal body part
27. It's everywhere these days
28. Fictional ad exec
33. Mr. T character Baracus
34. Against the current
36. Subway rodent
37. Armor plate
38. Hair on the head
39. Strong insect
40. Swollen lymph node
41. A way to lessen
44. Walter White poison
45. Sleeveless garment
48. Long accompanied song
49. Without features
50. Yankee great Mattingly
51. Removes from record

CLUES DOWN

1. Root of taro plant
2. Those ones
3. Appliances have one
4. A way to sing
5. Midway between east and southeast
6. Animal dwelling
7. An object that as survived from the past
8. Oil cartel
9. Affirmative
10. Foul smell
11. Brisk tempo
12. S. American indigenous person
14. Restored
17. Official
18. Skin lesions
20. Electroencephalograph
23. Middle Eastern country
24. Extremely angry
25. Title used before a woman's name
26. British thermal unit
29. By the way (abbr.)
30. Anger
31. Nullifies
32. Ones who acquire
35. Time zone
36. Arabic name
38. Protein in mucus
40. Ballpoint pen
41. Mimics
42. Humans have a lot of it
43. Expressions of good wishes
44. Cool!
45. One point east of due south
46. City of Angels football team (abbr.)
47. A way to save for retirement

PUZZLE SOLUTION




Allison Hingston elected to membership in Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, La. — Allison Hingston of East Brookfield was recently elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation’s oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at MCPHS University.

Hingston is among approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 300 campuses in the United States and its territories. Its mission is to “cultivate a community that celebrates and advances the love of learning.”

About Phi Kappa Phi
Founded in 1897, Phi Kappa Phi is the nation’s oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Phi Kappa Phi inducts approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni annually. The Society has chapters on more than 300 select colleges and universities in the United States and its territories. Membership is by invitation only to the top 10 percent of seniors and graduate students and 7.5 percent of juniors. Faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction also qualify. The Society’s mission is to “cultivate a community that celebrates and advances the love of learning.” For more information, visit www.PhiKappaPhi.org.



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PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
FRANK G. CHILINSKI
860-928-1818 EXT. 103
frank@salmonpress.news
BUSINESS MANAGER
RYAN CORNEAU
860-928-1818 EXT. 102
ryan@salmonpress.news
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
JIM DI NICOLA
508-764-6102
jim@stonebridgepress.news
EDITOR
BRENDAN BERUBE
508-909-4101
news@stonebridgepress.news
PRODUCTION MANAGER
JULIE CLARKE
508-909-4105
julie@villagenewspapers.com

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BROOKFIELD

None

EAST BROOKFIELD

\$555,999, 121 Adams Rd, Courtney, Kevin A, to Herring, Brittany M, and Poirier, Zachary A.

LEICESTER

\$591,000, 11 Sanfred Rd, Kelley, Dana R, and Kelley, Rene T, to Donovan, Joshua, and Donovan, Katelyn.
\$500,000, 201 Baldwin St, Blonder, David, and Rigby, Roxcell, to Simonovitch, Samantha, and Simonovitch, Alec.
\$400,000, 6 King Ter, Saari, Matthew R, and Saari, Jennifer A, to Amarat, Edilberto, and Lopez, Iliana.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

\$350,000, 30 W Brookfield Rd, Balboni Asset Protection, and Ciccone, Veronica W, to Tibbetts, Brandon L, and Tibbetts, Catherine E.

SPENCER

\$935,000, 415 Main St, 415 Spencer LLC, to 415 East Main LLC.
\$430,000, 232 Greenville St, Hammond, Benjamin W, and Hammond, Shannon A, to Kimball, George, and Kimball, Jennifer.

WARREN

\$310,000, 56 Moore Ave, Beaudry Elroy Timothy Est, and Beaudry, Sandra L, to Timons, Joseph, and Valeri, Olivia.

WEST BROOKFIELD

\$310,000, 16 Woodside Rd, Bailey, Jason R, and Bailey, Erin, to Leehy, Jamie, and Finlay, Ryan.

Fundraiser to benefit officers struck by drunk driver

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER
LEICESTER — At every stage of their long road to recovery following a motorcycle accident over the summer, two Leicester police officers have received support from throughout the community.

Next month, members of the LPD will once again team up with local residents, officials, and community leaders to rally around Officers Edward Santiago and Stephen Kustigian.

On Saturday, Oct. 4, a fundraising event will be held at the Cherry Valley American Legion.

The event will take place from 4-10 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person, available at the door or through the Police Alliance.

“This event is truly an act of love and respect to the injured officers and their families from the entire community,” said Leicester Select Board Chairman Doug Belanger.

The Leicester Police Association is requesting items or financial donations to benefit the cause. Donated items for the event can be brought to the Office of the Treasurer (3 Washburn Sq., Leicester). All funds raised at the event will benefit Officers Santiago and Kustigian, who were enjoying an off-duty motorcycle ride on July 10 when they were struck by a drunk driver in Worcester.

Over the past two months, residents and business owners have supported the injured officers in several ways. Community members look forward to the fundraiser on Oct. 4, which may feature appearances from the officers.

Town officials thank everyone who continues

to show their support for the injured officers, who have made countless sacrifices of holidays and family time to protect and serve their community. Now, as the officers continue their recoveries, community members are embracing their next opportunity to provide assistance.

The Oct. 4 fundraising event is expected to include several raffle items.

“The Legion has donated their hall. Town businesses have been offer-

ing raffle prizes, with the WooSox offering autographed shirts, a 2004 signed World Series ball, and the grand prize of ten tickets to the WooSox President’s suite with all amenities included,” Belanger added.

If you would like to offer a financial donation supporting the officers, please make checks payable to: Leicester Police Officer Assistance Fund, 90 South Main St., Leicester, MA, 01524.



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SNHU announces Summer President’s List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Summer 2025 Presidents List. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Chanlyn Basham of West Brookfield
Patricia McCall of West Brookfield
Melody Serrano-Rodriguez of Spencer
Tyler Carter of Spencer
Richard BUDNEY of Spencer
Krysta Tarves of North Brookfield
Margaret Lacaire of North Brookfield

Claire Kuchinski of Leicester
Krysta Tarves of East Brookfield
Jennifer Sutton of Brookfield
Katelynn McCrohan of Brookfield
Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 92-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, New Hampshire. Recognized as one of the “Most Innovative” regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

Berthiaume announces office hours

REGION — State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume and Chief of Staff, Donna, invites Constituents and town officials to meet them to express any concerns, ideas, or issues that they may need assistance with. Please feel free to contact Donna if you would like a private meeting. 774-402-4742

Tuesday, Oct. 7 – In the Town of Ware at the Town Hall 9 – 9:45 a.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 7 – In the Town of West Brookfield, at the Senior Center 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 7 – In the Town of Brookfield at the Town Hall, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 14 – Town of North Brookfield – Town Hall 11 a.m.-noon

Wednesday, Oct. 15, in the Town of Leicester at the Town Hall, 9 – 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 15 – In the Town of Spencer, at Howe Village, 10-11 a.m., with Tammy Ruda from Rep. Marsi’s office.

Wednesday, Oct. 15 – In the Town of East Brookfield at the Senior Center, 11:15 a.m. – noon



Mary and Martha Sodality invites you to Musical Bingo Fundraiser!

WEST BROOKFIELD — The Mary and Martha Sodality from Saint Carlo Acutis Parish at Sacred Heart Church, West Brookfield, invites you to an evening of fellowship and fun! We are sponsoring this musical bingo event to raise funds to support our various parish and faith based events including donations to community programs throughout the year.

Your \$20 ticket includes:
• Pizza
• Two tickets for wine or soft drinks
• Dessert
• Musical Bingo (with songs from the 40’s 50’s and 60’s)

This over 21 event is geared to an older (but still young at heart) crowd at Sacred Heart Church - Dugan Hall, 22 West Main St., West Brookfield, Saturday, Sept. 27 from 6 - 8 p.m.

For tickets, please call the parish office at (508) 867-6469. Questions? Email maryandmartha11@gmail.com.



Wesley
Age 11
Registration #8475


Wesley is a healthy, sweet, and caring boy with a bright curiosity about the world around him. Though he may seem shy and reserved at first, he quickly opens up through play and interaction. Creative and imaginative, Wesley is a natural builder who loves working with Legos, crafting intricate origami art, and even inventing his own games. He enjoys reading and has a particular love for math, which he excels in. With his vivid imagination and problem-solving skills, it’s no surprise that Wesley dreams of becoming an engineer when he grows up.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21180805788>

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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.





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QCC enrollment hits historic high

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College has announced that fall 2025 enrollment has reached approximately 9,000 students, marking the highest enrollment in 13 years.

The enrollment surge reflects several ongoing factors, including state programs like MassEducate and Mass Reconnect, which provide free tuition and fees to qualifying Massachusetts residents.

“This record-breaking enrollment has brought thousands of students on our campus, filled with hopes and dreams. They have come prepared to embrace new beginnings, experience many firsts and pursue a brighter future for themselves and their families,” said QCC President Luis Pedraja, Ph.D.

QCC has continued to enhance its student support services, including tutoring, mentoring and services for parenting students. Expanding on previous services, QCC has opened a First-Generation Student Support Center for individuals who are the first in their families to attend college. The center will offer academic coaching, information workshops and guidance navigating the college experience. QCC serves approximately 4,400 first-generation students.

QCC has also streamlined operations by integrating the First-Generation Student Support Center into one comprehensive area, along with testing services and career and transfer services. The newly reorganized area will guide students from their initial engagement with QCC, all the way through to career placement or transfer to a four-year institution.

“We are working to ensure students have the resources, guidance, and encouragement they need to overcome challenges and reach their full potential,” Pedraja added.

Rosanna Lopez named to SNHU Dean’s List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — Rosanna Lopez of West Brookfield has been named to Southern New Hampshire University’s Summer 2025 Dean’s List. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, non-profit, accredited institution with a 92-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, New Hampshire. Recognized as one of the “Most Innovative” regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

Local students named to Holy Cross 2025 Dean’s List

WORCESTER — College of the Holy Cross congratulates the students named to the Spring 2025 Dean’s List for outstanding academic achievement during the spring semester of the 2024-25 academic year.

To qualify, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

The following local students made the list: Tatiana Coolbaugh, of Spencer, Class of 2026 Timothy St. John, of Leicester, Class of 2026 About Holy Cross

The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, is among the nation’s leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,100 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.

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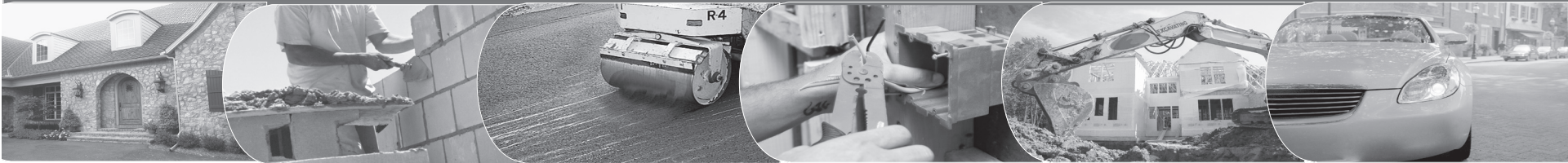
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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Balancing growth
and tradition

In our local communities, change has always been part of the story. Sometimes, it comes in the form of new businesses arriving on Main Street. At others, it shows up as a debate over a new housing development, or whether budgets can stretch to cover both emergency services and school needs. Each generation has wrestled with how to preserve what makes these communities special while also making them places where families and businesses want to plant roots. We are in the middle of another such turning point now.

Recent discussions around overrides, special elections, and budget priorities show how every decision carries weight for taxpayers and town employees alike. These are not abstract debates. They determine whether rescue squads remain locally controlled, whether our fire stations are staffed adequately, and whether our children learn in classrooms that prepare them for the future. In towns where resources are tight and needs are many, it is impossible to separate numbers on a spreadsheet from the human impact behind them.

At the same time, growth can be a source of strength. Investments in Main Streets can breathe life into downtowns that struggle with vacancies. When a local shop opens or a restaurant expands, it is more than a private business decision; it's a signal that a town is worth betting on. Public-private partnerships around schools, libraries, and recreation show that culture and education are not luxuries, but cornerstones of healthy communities. And as residents participate in discussions around land use, renewable energy siting, and long-term planning, they show that local democracy is alive and resilient.

The tension is in finding balance. Growth without care risks eroding the very character that draws families here in the first place. A community that overbuilds, or welcomes development without limits, quickly loses the rural charm, open space, and neighborly feel that make it unique. But refusing all change risks stagnation, leaving younger generations with fewer reasons to stay and fewer opportunities to build lives here. Standing still is rarely the safe option it appears to be.

Balance requires compromise. It means acknowledging that tax dollars are limited, and priorities must be set. It means residents showing up to public hearings and town meetings not only to voice objections, but to share ideas. It means remembering that small-town government works best when neighbors take time to understand one another, even when opinions differ. Every override vote, every bylaw revision, every zoning decision is ultimately about the same thing: how to ensure the future of the community without losing sight of its identity.

There are encouraging examples all around us. Some towns have protected farmland while also welcoming new housing on underused lots. Others have revitalized their downtowns while preserving historic character. Local schools, facing enrollment shifts, have adapted with creative programs that keep students engaged and prepare them for both higher education and the workforce. None of this has been simple, but it shows that tradition and progress are not enemies. With careful planning and genuine collaboration, they can reinforce one another.

As these conversations continue, let's remember that the strength of a community lies not in avoiding disagreement, but in how it handles it. Disputes over taxes, growth, or services can be heated. Yet if we approach them with respect for one another's hopes and concerns, the outcome will be better for everyone. No single decision will satisfy every resident, but decisions made in the open, with broad participation, are the ones most likely to hold up over time.

The work of balancing growth and tradition will never be finished. That is the reality of living in small towns that are both proud of their past and hopeful for their future. The challenge is ongoing, but so is the opportunity. By budgeting wisely, planning carefully, and listening to one another with patience, we can ensure that our towns remain the kinds of places where both heritage and progress find a home.

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Override petitions are available

To the Editor:

Prop 2 1/2 passed many years ago in Massachusetts, and, in general, says that the town may not spend over two and a half percent more than the previous year. From time to time, municipalities have voted for an override for certain requests that are over the 2 1/2 limit.

Last May, Spencer asked for an override that would cover several of these requests and they were grouped into two ballot questions. They failed at the annual town election. About two months ago, a group of people decided to ask the selectmen to allow another "bite at the apple" for two of the requests. They felt that the fulltime fire fighters and the Spencer Rescue Squad were important to the life of the town, and should come before the

voters again. It was agreed that the two should each be separate questions.

Petitions are being circulated for signatures to ask the Board of Selectmen to schedule a special election in late fall to allow a vote on these two issues. We do not want to wait until next May because the present employees may be leaving because of the uncertainty of their positions. We recognize that the petition cannot force the selectmen to schedule a special election. We hope that we will get enough signatures to let them know that the town wishes to have this election.

Petitions will be available every day at my home, 125 Pleasant St., Spencer, until Sept. 22 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Thank you,

CAROL MCPHERSON
SPENCER

It's time

To the Editor:

To think, plan, create, write, let go of, taking positive action on projects and events that will allow you to relax and enjoy life's journey.

To reflect on your accomplishments, including creating goodwill to others. To develop and action plan for achieving future goals.

To locate, review, update all financial and insurance policies and documents.

To select items of clothing, furniture, other personal possessions for donation.

To continue or create a realistic exercise program.

To stop ruminating — serves no useful purpose; forget it, it's over.

To volunteer your services and expertise to a community program.

To visit our war memorial in Washington, D.C., built in 1931 to honor our war veterans.

To take time and implement positive activities in your life that could pave the way to a great, exciting, enjoyable journey.

Please, take the time. It's time for action. Enjoy.

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

A Medley of Seasonal Tips

Summer is winding down and as we're trading in long summer nights for brisk autumn mornings, the focus shifts to the simple pleasures of the season. Read on for a potpourri of tips and tricks to make life a little easier during autumn and beyond.

**

Just because the bugs are waning doesn't mean you have to ditch your stash of citronella. Before you toss or pack away this season's supply of citronella oil, consider keeping it in the medicine cabinet. Citronella soothes aches and pains because it produces a subtle sensation of warmth when diluted in a massage oil and applied to the skin.

Why not repurpose your skin grade citronella oil? You can dilute citronella in unscented lotion or cream (up to 15 drops per ounce for normal skin; or up to six drops per ounce for sensitive skin, according to National Association for Holistic Aromatherapy)

**

Or try this tip for relieving arthritis pain: Try adding three drops of skin grade citronella essential oil per teaspoon of massage oil. Using this natural mixture in a friction massage can help bring relief to painful joints.

Note: Always dilute citronella before applying to skin. Clear its usage with your physician.

**

Has your indoor plants taken a back seat to the garden? Now's the time to give them some TLC. To make your lackluster indoor plants glow try this trick: When watering your plants, simply mix tablespoon of castor oil to the water to rejuvenate them.

Also, did you know dusty leaves can be stunting your plant's



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

growth? Simply dusting the leaves exposes them to more beneficial light!

**

Want to pick a perfect apple this season? Make sure it's firm and bruise free with a smooth skin. If you're buying apples, keep in mind a green stem means it's been freshly picked and not stored.

**

Every fall, I repeat this mind boggling fact, and here it is again: Apples stored at room temperature becomes soft ten times faster than if its refrigerated! So while it's tempting to pile red apples in a bowl to display, keep in mind the fruit will only last about a week out of the refrigerator.

**

Herbs are still producing in the garden — when cooking with them, try these tips: When chopping fresh herbs such as basil and tarragon, sprinkle the leaves with a few drops of olive oil. This effectively slows the darkening of the chopped leaves.

If your dried herbs aren't passing muster, simply chop up parsley with them to freshen up the flavor.

**

Cleaning out your spice cabinet prior to the holidays? Here is a recipe for a proven fish bait enhancer that recycles old spices:

Mix together four ounces ground fennel seed and one ounce ground allspice in a covered jar. Sprinkle in two drops oil of cloves

and let it marinate for a day or two. To use, just put a drop on fish bait.

**

Stop overwatering your lawn this season. Proper watering can be the key to a fantastic fall lawn. Lawn experts claim a healthy lawn with a good root system doesn't require watering more than one to three times per week. The bottom line? Your lawn needs about an inch of water once every seven to ten days to grow strong roots.

**

Win a Three Course Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month (or whenever I receive enough tips for a column) will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

**

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

When investing,
one of the best
abilities is
durability



FINANCIAL
FOCUS

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You've probably heard about "genius" investors or those who got in on the "ground floor" of a company that grew to be a huge success. These stories may be interesting, but they are also rare — and sometimes not even true.

The truth is that successful investing isn't glamorous, and it isn't necessarily quick. Instead, a well-founded investing strategy is a durable one — one that can withstand the test of time.

Here are some actions that can help you build durability.

Take your time: Most individual investors make their money over time, not overnight. Despite stories about fortunes made on one or two trades, you're more likely to be successful making money over time. You'll want to own a well-diversified portfolio of quality investments — and plan to own those investments for the long term.

A long-term perspective can help you ignore the constant noise in the markets and stay invested. When you hear about the latest "hot" investment tip, especially if it's already performed well, the best advice is this: Ignore it. Although it may be tempting to buy a popular investment, it may not fit with the rest of your portfolio, it may have already peaked and it may be riskier than you expect. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Invest in quality: When building your investment portfolio, quality should be a top priority. For stocks, quality is frequently measured by the steadiness of earnings and dividend growth over time. For bonds, one measure of quality is an investment-grade credit rating, which indicates that the borrower has a good track record of making its promised interest and principal payments and the bond has a relatively low risk of default.

Quality investments are more likely to overcome temporary challenges, which is why a good track record can be an indication of quality. Don't reach for yield by looking for investments offering the highest dividend or interest rate without considering the risk. Remember, there is no perfect investment — a higher rate generally means higher risk.

Stick to your strategy: Building a long-term strategy can anchor your decisions and provide a roadmap for your investment choices. Your strategy should consider your goals, tolerance for risk and the time needed to save toward each goal.

Within that strategy, you can be flexible. Buy and hold, for example, doesn't mean buy and forget. Over time, your goals may change, or you may choose to hold more conservative investments. But it's important to make changes for the right reasons, not simply because stocks or your other investments may have dropped in price.

Perhaps one of the biggest mistakes you can make is trying to time the markets, moving in and out in response to short-term declines or the latest prediction. This often results in getting into and out of the market at the wrong times, costing time and money — and resulting in lower returns over time.

Remember that investments don't all move up or down at the same time but portfolio diversification can help smooth the ups and downs of the market. A long-term perspective can help you see past short-term fluctuations in some investments.

Successful investing isn't about making dramatic moves or chasing the latest trends. It's about developing a durable strategy personalized for your life, then sticking with it through market ups and downs. In investing, as in life, slow and steady could help win the race.

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.

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Track your progress!

Motivation. We all want it, but half the time it feels like it walked right out of the front door. It has a way of slipping through your fingers. One minute you're fired up, ready to conquer the world. Next, you're sprawled on the couch, scrolling through your phone, telling yourself you'll "start tomorrow."

What is it? Testosterone? Purpose? Willpower? Is it in the food we eat, or is it some mystical force that appears from time to time?

Here's the truth: motivation isn't magic, and it isn't a mood. It's not some lightning bolt from the gods. Motivation is a pattern your brain runs, a rhythm you can learn to catch. The real question isn't "Where did it go?"—it's "How do you make it show up tomorrow, the next day, and the

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

day after that?" We've all started the project with lots of motivation, but it often disappears before the finish line.

Scientists recently discovered something fascinating about motivation. In September 2024, researchers hooked participants up to brain monitors while they worked on learning tasks. What they found was striking: the instant someone realized they were making progress, their brain lit up like a switchboard. Focus sharpened. Distractions faded. Engagement skyrocketed.

Think about that for a second, it isn't about standing at the finish line—it's about noticing that you're moving forward. Each time you recognize progress—no matter how small—your brain tosses you a

reward—effort feels lighter. Momentum builds.

But here's where some of us get stuck. We're so focused on how far we have to go, we forget how far we've come.

I'm not a mountain climber, but I have hiked some challenging trails. It's easy to start at the trailhead with determination, but when you're only halfway and passing out on a boulder from exhaustion, complacency can take over fast. Perhaps you didn't want to reach the top. Still, maybe you did, and you just lost motivation. Why?

It's called finish line fixation. When you only measure yourself against the summit, your brain feels incompetent. When you've been hiking for 14 hours, night is approaching, and you still have another 14 to go, it's easy to feel inept, to think, "I thought I'd be at the peak

by now!"

It's no good to beat yourself up, especially when you're giving it your all.

A 2018 study found that people do best when they keep two things in mind: big, meaningful goals and the small victories along the way.

So when you're only part of the way towards your goal, and frustration sets in, look back at the ground you've already covered. That perspective shift turns discouragement into momentum.

There have been many studies on motivation, and the science is clear: People are far more successful when they regularly track progress. Recognize how far you've come.

The summit matters, but so does the trail. Looking back at the challenges you've overcome

thus far and recognizing your progress produces the dopamine your brain needs to gather more steam.

The brain doesn't hand out dopamine for nothing—it's a survival mechanism. Progress signals that you're learning, adapting, and moving closer to a reward, which is exactly what kept our ancestors alive. That same wiring still runs the show today: every step forward tells your brain, "This path is working—keep going."

Your brain doesn't reward perfection—it rewards progress. That's why some people quit inches from the breakthrough—not because they weren't moving, but because their brain couldn't recognize how far they've come. No receipts equals no motivation.

Of course, there will still be days when even

focusing on your progress feels like it's not helping. That's when you pitch a tent, take a break, and start climbing again the next day.

So, here's my challenge. Don't wait for a spark. Don't wait for the mood to hit. Today, write down one thing you've already done that proves you're moving. Then take another step forward. Track it. Tomorrow, repeat it.

Do this long enough, and you'll stop wondering where motivation went.

Because motivation doesn't reward the dreamers. It rewards the doers.

Toby Moore is a columnist, the star of Emmy - Nominated A Separate Peace, and the CEO of Cubestream Inc.

Plant this fall for beautiful spring bouquets



Courtesy — Longfield-Gardens.com

A bouquet consisting of unique daffodil varieties found in one of Longfield Gardens' daffodil bulb collections.

This fall plant an array of spring flowering bulbs to brighten your garden and bouquets. There are plenty of daffodils, tulips, hyacinths and alliums that will delight with an assortment of flower colors and sizes that will bloom throughout the spring.

Include animal resistant double, bicolor, and split cup daffodils that provide unique beauty and impact in floral arrangements. Create a simple bouquet with just a few stems of daffodils or an elegant arrangement of single and double flowered varieties.

Harvest daffodils when the buds show color and are perpendicular to the stem like a goose's neck. Don't worry about the sap daffodils exude, shortening the life of the other cut flowers in the arrangement. Properly conditioning the daffodils will eliminate the risk to your other spring favorites

Consider wearing gloves as some people report itching or rashes when handling these plants. Use your hands to harvest daffodils for the longest stems possible and to reduce sap released from the stem. Reach into the base of the flower stem, thumb pointed down and pull up. Cut the stems of freshly picked daffodils to the desired length for conditioning. Place them in a clean container of cool water and floral preservative. Leave them in the water for three to six hours when the sap stops flowing. Do not recut the stems before adding them to mixed flower arrangements.

Tulips have long been a favorite of gardeners and floral arrangers. Grow some taller varieties like Finola, Fox-trot, Silver Parrot Tulips and Negrita Double (longfield-gardens.com).

Gardeners growing tulips strictly for cutting will plant the bulbs in trenches and treat them as annuals. The first-year bloom is always the biggest, but you can enjoy them cut and try for a second and

third year of flowers. Just cut the stems short and leave at least two to three leaves on the plant to create and store energy for next year's bloom.

Harvest tulips when the buds are just starting to show color for the longest vase life. Wait for double and parrot type tulip buds to be fully colored but not yet open. Remove the whole plant, bulb and all, if you do not plan on saving the plants for the following year. Store the tulips upright with the bulbs attached. Cut and rehydrate the stems in water just before arranging.

Wrap the stems in brown paper if they are cut in the garden or when you rehydrate the stems and set them in several inches of cool water for 12 to 18 hours. Keep in mind tulips continue to grow after cut so plan for this when creating your arrangements.

Harvest hyacinths for cutting as you did tulips. Pull the whole plant, bulb and all, out of the ground if you are growing them as annuals for cutting. Otherwise, cut only the stem and leave all the leaves behind if you want the bulbs to bloom again next year.

Include a variety of alliums in your



GARDEN
MOMENTS

MELINDA
MYERS

planting plans this fall. Alliums' long and sturdy stems make them easy to harvest and arrange. Purple Sensation, Mount Everest, drumstick allium and Allium atropurpureum make excellent

additions for floral bouquets.

Cutting and arranging flowers is a wonderful way to bring the beauty of your garden indoors. The more you do it, the easier it gets, and you'll soon be sharing your flowers with friends, neighbors, family, coworkers, and everyone who stops by to admire your gardens.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Longfield Gardens for her expertise to write this article. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



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“We want to measure our customer relationships in decades”

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

Tucked into a small strip mall off James Street, Worcester, is a bookstore with an unassuming name and unassuming storefront – Annie’s Bookshop.

Inside, though, it’s fairly unique, and that’s what’s kept it going for decades. That uniqueness is not in appearance – densely packed bookshelves look the same pretty much everywhere – but what’s around and atop those shelves. A lot of them are Doctor Who related, with toys, models, video series, tons of off-shoot books and various related things all over the place.

Annie’s also highlights book series for other sci-fi, horror, and fantasy universes, including Star Wars. Pern and Dragonlance, and shelves lots of older sci-fi, going back into the early 20th century “pulp” material. Behind the register, they display just some of their collection of comics, and, of course, have a wide range of other genres of fiction and non-fiction to select from.

Most of the time, the person at that register is owner Patty Cryan, sometimes her partner Michael Salvo or employee Joshua Young.

“I make a joke that if you ever want to cure you’re reading addiction, buy a bookstore,” Cryan said. Of course, when she said that, she’d just looked up from a book, and notes she particularly likes talking to customers about books “I should be bringing in.”



Patty Cryan and Michael Salvo handle some of the copious paperwork that goes into running Annie’s Bookshop.

Gus Steeves

She’s owned it since 2007, and it’s been in this site since 2009, but started in Auburn’s Drury Square. While Cryan came to bookselling by way of editing and bookstores in New York and Worcester, Salvo came to it by running a mail order



READER’S
JOURNEY

GUS
STEEVES

business he began in 1976. Over that time, Cryan and Salvo have come to know what their clientele wants, and the publisher representatives they’re in touch with know it too. That can be quirky.

While I was there, one man came in seeking a rather specific thing – maps of fantasy worlds. They didn’t have one at the moment, but led him right to the far corner where it’d be if they did. (I have seen them there before.)

Given how tight her space is, Cryan notes she has “to pick and choose” what goes on her shelves, especially for nonfiction. Although the stock is mostly fiction (lots of his-

torical fic and mystery besides sci-fi), the nonfiction (history, politics, self-help etc) is literally right in the center of the store. There’s also a room for kids’ books.

Space plays a role in the fact she used to host many events (writing groups and book readings among them), but has had to scale them back to fit more books. Salvo also pointed to the city’s recent establishment of a 25 mph limit city-wide as

suppressing traffic to the store and other nearby businesses.

Despite those things, Cryan doesn’t want to move. She’s seen that hurt bookstores, citing one that had a “cute little funky space and was booming,” then moved into a “sterile mall across the street” and died.

Nor does Salvo, who said many of their customers come to Annie’s “as a destination” anyway.

“We want to measure our customer relationships in decades, not 30 seconds on a website,” he said. “... We learn what they want.”

Young likes that view, saying the store “feels more like a community service” than retail to him. Part of that comes from the fact it’s mostly used books. With new ones being “so expensive,” he noted people on Social Security and disability can afford used ones, and he’s seen some buy a month’s worth of books and return them the next month for store credit to get more.

Cryan notes the internet plays a fairly big role in how she connects to her customers. It also played a key role in keeping Annie’s “afloat during the pandemic, when many stores had to learn it from scratch.”

“I’m a bit more internet-involved than many of my compatriots my age, with a lot of social media communication,” she said.

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

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Longtime tradition returns with annual church flea market

WEST BROOKFIELD — A longtime tradition returned to the Town Common last weekend, with the First Congregational Church hosting its annual flea market. The event has been held for more than 50 years, enabling guests to enjoy plenty of bargains and a tasty lunch. This year's flea market, held on Sept. 13, drew a large crowd to the Common. Newly introduced at this year's program, a tag sale took place inside the church, adding to a festive environment of antique sellers, crafters, product vendors, and several other guests. The church also sponsored a food tent with refreshments.



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FEST
continued from page A1

NACSW instructor.
To learn more about Lavin, visit her Web site at www.homestead-farmnosework.com.
Meanwhile, photographer Bruce Arnold, of North Brookfield, looks forward to displaying his work at the event.
Arnold recently exhibited his infrared photography work at ArtWorks Gallery in Ware. Recognized for his innovative approach to photography, his career as a professional photographer spans more than 55 years.

Arnold was chosen to be the featured artist for September 2025 by the Friends of the North Brookfield Town House. At the Fun Fest, he will display a few of his infrared prints of scenes from around town.
“I strive to create and share unique images of the natural world with infrared photography,” Arnold said.
A collection of local landscape, architectural, and panoramic infrared images will be displayed.
Finally, local artist Nadia Sukharev continues to use her talents to support community projects.
A 2024 graduate of North Brookfield High School, Sukharev

raffled off her painting of the Town House last year to raise \$800 for the historic building’s restoration.
“It felt really good knowing something I created could actually help the community,” said Sukharev, who is now studying fine art at Wachusett Community College.
Looking ahead to the Fun Fest, Sukharev will once again display her work to guests, offering a new painting to be raffled.
“I’ve loved art since I was little, but it wasn’t until high school that I started to take it more seriously. Just before my senior year, I began trying some commission work, and I also painted the North Brookfield Town House,” Sukharev said.
“During my senior year, I got to do an internship painting murals at North Brookfield Junior-Senior High School, which was a great experience.”
Added Sukharev, “I’ve recently been working on another painting for the Town House project—this time of Brookfield Orchards.”
The painting will be raffled off during the Sept. 28 event.
Bike House Brewery is located at 31 East Brookfield Rd. in North Brookfield.
Established in 2006, the Friends of the North Brookfield Town House is a nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring the beloved landmark.
“At the heart of North Brookfield, Massachusetts, stands the iconic Town House—a symbol of our rich history and a beacon of our community’s future,” read a statement posted to the Friends’ website.
To learn more about how you can support the effort, visit www.nbtownhouse.com.

9/11
continued from page A1

“The tribute to first responders was heartwarming and much appreciated,” said Leicester Police Chief Kenneth Antanavica. “This is a very somber day in everyone’s life. The many thanks from the students is very uplifting.”
School officials thank all first responders who put on a uniform each shift and protect the community, never knowing what dangers they might encounter. Leicester students and staff alike embrace opportunities throughout the year to show their appreciation for responders.
“Leicester Public Schools are privileged to work with – and be supported by – dedicated first responders in the Town of Leicester,” said LMS Principal Douglas Daponde, Jr. “We want to thank Chief Antanavica, [Leicester Fire Department] Chief Dupuis, and the men and women who serve with them for their unwavering support.”
The 9/11 remembrance event has become a school tradition at LMS. School leaders and students look forward to honoring first responders at future events.

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Vendors needed for
East Brookfield
Library craft fair

EAST BROOKFIELD — Vendors are still needed for next month’s craft fair at East Brookfield Public Library.
Set for Saturday, Oct. 18, the fair will run from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
“We are all set with knitters, unless you make mittens and hats. It is \$5 for one library table,” read a statement released by the library.
If you are interested in attending the fair as a vendor, please contact the library at 508-867-7928. You may also stop by in person to sign up.

LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
Premises: 40 School Street, Spencer, MA 01562
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Ralph Kirouac and Amy Kirouac to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, and now held by **Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC**, said mortgage dated September 11, 2019 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 61031, Page 66, as affected by a Loan Modification dated September 28, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 66545, Page 176; as affected by a Loan Modification dated June 28, 2023 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69482, Page 364; as affected by a Loan Modification dated May 16, 2024 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 70649, Page 3; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC by assignment dated February 18, 2020 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 61991, Page 369; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on October 9, 2025 at 12:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:
Certain tracts or parcels of land with the buildings thereon, situated in Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts, and with exception hereinafter mentioned, bounded and described as follows: The land in said Spencer, with the buildings thereon, situated on the east side of School Street, being a lot about one hundred and ten (110) feet wide on said street and one hundred and fifty-six and two-thirds (156 & 2/3) feet deep, and is the same premises that were conveyed to Treffle Lareau, Jr., by Clovis Duverger by Deed dated March 30, 1909, and recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 1903, Page 157. Also another tract of land, situated on the east side of said School Street, northerly of and adjoining the first described tract, being a lot about one hundred and sixty-five (165) feet wide on said street and one hundred and fifty-six and two-thirds (156 & 2/3) feet deep and is the same tract that was conveyed to Treffle Lareau, Jr. by Deed from Moses Nolan, dated August 18, 1910, and recorded with said Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 3074, Page 135, with conditions to maintain fences as therein mentioned. Excepting and reserving, however, from said above descriptions a part of said described lands heretofore sold

and conveyed by Granters to Francis John Madelle, sometimes called Francis J. Madelle, Jr. and Irene B. Madelle by Deed dated February 17, 1951, recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 3319, Page 163 and described as follows, to wit: The land in said Spencer on the easterly side of School Street and further described as follows: BEGINNING at the northwest corner of land now or formerly of Grantors at said School Street; THENCE Southeasterly one hundred and fifty-six and six tenths (156.6) feet by land of other owners to a point; THENCE Southerly, parallel or about parallel to said School Street, one hundred and nineteen and seven-tenths (119.7) feet by land of other owners to land now or formerly of Grantors; THENCE Westerly one hundred and forty-eight and five tenths (148.5) feet by a line at right angles to said School Street and by other land now or formerly of Grantors to said School Street; THENCE Northerly one hundred and sixty-nine and eight -tenths (169.8) feet by said School Street 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 September 11, 2019 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 61031, Page 63.
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 Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701
September 5, 2025
September 12, 2025
September 19, 2025

Albert Siforo, owner of a 2015, Toyota Corolla Plate# 8BY227 Vin# 2T1BURHEXFC394638, has abandoned vehicle on 04/25/25 at Deer Pond Auto/ JR’S Towing LLC. Deer pond will seek ownership of vehicle after 21 days of first ad placement if vehicle is not reclaimed and all charges fully paid for.
September 19, 2025

September 26, 2025
October 3, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P3057EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Alan W Coolidge
Date of Death: 05/11/2020
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Dana Losaw of Worcester 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:
Dana Losaw of Worcester MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Personal 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 09/30/2025.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 02, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
September 19, 2025

Docket No. WO25E0040PP
Petition to Partition Citation (A.C.92A)
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Worcester Probate & Family Court
To April Carlson and to all other interested persons.
A petition has been presented to said Court by Andrew Edmund Wall of

Spencer in the County of Worcester representing that he hold as tenant in common undivided part or share of certain land lying in Spencer in said County Worcester and briefly described as follows:
See Attached setting forth that he/she desire that all the aforesaid described part of said land may be sold at private sale for not less than seven hundred and fifty thousand (750,000) dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof.
If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Worcester before ten o’clock in the forenoon on the twenty-first day of October the return date of this citation.
Witness, LEILAH A. KEAMY, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this fourth day of September 2025.
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
September 12, 2025
September 19, 2025
September 26, 2025

NOTICE TO PLANNING VENDORS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PLANNING VENDORS FOR THE TOWN OF SPENCER MUNICIPAL VULNERABILITY 2.0 PLAN
The Town of Spencer will be taking proposals from planning vendors for the preparation of the Town of Spencer’s Municipal Vulnerability 2.0 Plan. The deadline for response is Thursday, October 9, 2025, at 10:00 A.M. Interested parties must access the full Request for Proposal by visiting the Town’s website at www.SpencerMA.gov/bids. Questions can be sent to Vivian Poplowski, Town Planner, at VPoplowski@SpencerMA.Gov.
September 19, 2025

NOTICE TO LICENSED AMBULANCE SERVICE PROVIDERS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE PROVISION OF AMBULANCE SERVICES FOR THE TOWN OF SPENCER
The Town of Spencer is soliciting proposals from licensed ambulance service providers for the provision of ambulance services for the Town of Spencer. The deadline for response is Wednesday, November 20th, 2025, at 10:00 A.M. Interested parties must access the full Request for Proposal by visiting the Town’s website at www.SpencerMA.gov/bids. Questions can be sent to Jeff Bridges, Town Administrator, JBridges@SpencerMA.Gov.
September 19, 2025

TRAFFIC

continued from page A1

devastated.”

Selectman Jonathan Viner, who was also stuck in traffic during the fair, echoed frustrations about staffing levels on traffic details.

“Obviously, it was a situation that we haven’t dealt with before, with the volume of people, but I think myself, and everyone else who was sitting there in traffic, would like to see something more than someone standing at the side of the road with his hands in his pockets,” Viner said.

In addition to traffic control duties around the fairgrounds, police also conduct overtime patrols each year to handle the surge of calls involving the fair. Many officers from surrounding towns, after being ridiculed by drivers in previous years, now elect to avoid Spencer Fair traffic details, officials said. This caused shifts on Sunday to

be left vacant, with firefighters stepping up to fill some shifts.

Officials are also concerned about the risks presented to neighbors by gridlock that could delay or prevent ambulances and other emergency vehicles from accessing roads around the fairgrounds. With drivers making illegal U-turns, parking in the streets, blocking driveways, and clogging surrounding streets, many residents were unable to leave their properties.

Hodgerney, now in his 27th year in Spencer, said the oversaturation of traffic has necessitated major changes to ensure safety. Simply focusing on staffing levels for traffic details won’t solve the root problem, police warn.

“The fair has way outgrown its venue. The roads and parking simply cannot handle the volume,” Hodgerney told selectmen. “Once the parking lots fill — and this happens every year — there is nowhere to put thousands more cars

still trying to enter. Frustrated drivers begin to park wherever they can, legally or not. When volume exceeds roadway capacity — and the parking is gone — there is no traffic officer on earth who can direct cars into spaces that do not exist.”

Looking ahead, officials will discuss several opportunities to alleviate traffic volume during the fair, including the possibility of shuttling guests in from other locations.

Hodgerney also conveyed his frustrations over selectmen’s social media posts regarding the situation.

“Two of you chose to go on social media and criticize employees’ performances, with no acknowledgement of the circumstances those employees were placed in,” Hodgerney said. “This speaks volumes about the critical state of public safety in Spencer and the direction you intend to take it.”

Hodgerney warned that negative social media posts made by town leaders regarding

municipal departments can detrimentally impact retention, recruitment, and morale.

“I am livid, as a leader of this department, that I have to come before this board to address the damage you’ve caused to the morale of our officers on social media posts,” Hodgerney told selectmen.

Longtime Select Board member Ralph Hicks said he understands officers’ frustration over the situation.

“If we can’t at least give you guys respect, then something is wrong here,” Hicks said.

Moving forward, selectmen and police leaders agree that significant changes are needed to handle sharply rising attendance numbers.

“At the end of the day, I think we would all like to have the reassurance that we have a plan in place for those circumstances, and making sure we have the people in place to be able to do it,” Viner said.

Town Administrator Jeffrey Bridges said he will add an

agenda item to the Select Board’s May calendar, which will allow for plans to be finalized well in advance of the next fair. Meanwhile, members of the fair’s leadership team will be invited to participate in upcoming discussions.

“We have 51 weeks to gather as a team to make the Spencer Fair an event that people want to come to — and not get frustrated about being stuck in traffic,” Befford added. “We still think that, with a little more work, we can make the traffic flow a little better. But we won’t know until we do more planning and try again next year.”

Select Board Chairman Jared Grigg concluded the discussion by expressing his appreciation for first responders.

“To all the police officers and firefighters in here, thank you for what you do. I know it’s hard and you’re continuously being asked to do more with less, and the job is only getting more complicated,” Grigg said.



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JAMES GLICKMAN
Principal

508-769-5007
jglickman@glickmankovago.com



JONAH D. GLICKMAN
Vice President

508-868-3765
jdglickman@glickmankovago.com

POLICE REPORTS

Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
8:32 a.m.: trespassing (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 8:42 a.m.: accident (Paxton Street), assisted; 8:59 a.m.: lobby service (South Main Street), report taken; 10:35 a.m.: fraud (South Main Street), report taken; 11:16 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 12:27 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 1:44 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 2:55 p.m.: ambulance (Homestead Lane), transported; 3:21 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), unfounded; 3:50 p.m.: assist other agency (Paxton Street), report taken; 3:55 p.m.: disturbance (Washburn Square), services rendered; 4:47 p.m.: ambulance (Salisbury Street, Worcester), call canceled; 5:24 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 5:35 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:45 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), citation issued; 5:56 p.m.: disabled mv (Huntoon Memorial Highway), assisted; 5:59 p.m.: ambulance (River Street), transported; 6:20 p.m.: welfare check (Mill Street), services rendered; 6:27 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 7:06 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 7:16 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 7:31 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:46 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 7:58 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 8:12 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), citation issued; 8:37 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:51 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:58 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:09 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:15 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:04 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 10:25 p.m.: mv stop (Cross Street), verbal warning; 11:04 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
9:30 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 11:12 p.m.: lobby service (South Main Street), report taken; 1:32 p.m.: ambulance (Winslow Avenue), transported; 1:38 p.m.: disturbance (Soojians Drive), Raymond Golden, 53, 131 Cambridge Street, Worcester, inhaling glue/toxic substance, shoplifting by asportation, trespassing, default warrant, arrest; 1:40 p.m.: mv stop (Soojians Drive), verbal warning; 1:45 p.m.: ambulance (Soojians Drive), transported; 3:00 p.m. accident (Main Street), report taken; 3:52 p.m.: lobby service (South Main Street), report taken; 4:47 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 4:51 p.m.: summons service (Bond Street), unable to serve; 4:54 p.m.: summons service (Bond Street), served; 5:12 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 5:16 p.m.: ambulance (Winslow Avenue), transported; 5:19 p.m.: restraining order service (Stafford Street), unable to serve; 6:07 p.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), citation issued; 8:35 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 11:52 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:58 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
12:20 a.m.: mv stop (Lake Avenue), verbal warning; 12:39 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 1:02 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 1:53 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 3:02 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 5:15 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 10:21 a.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 11:15 a.m.: animal complaint (Sabina Circle), referred; 11:39 a.m.: summons service (Bond Street), unable to serve; 12:38 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 1:26 p.m.: animal complaint (Charlton Street), referred; 2:23 p.m.: larceny (Soojians Drive), name and address redacted from police log, shoplifting by asportation, larceny under \$1200, criminal application issued; 3:22 p.m.: escort (South Main Street), transported; 4:17 p.m.: suspicious mv (Deer Pond Road), gone on arrival; 4:58 p.m.: debris in road (Stafford Street), referred; 5:21 p.m.: open door/window (Pleasant Street), resolved; 7:42 p.m.: accident (Stafford Street), report taken; 8:05 p.m.: disturbance (Collier Avenue), report taken; 10:00 p.m.: ambulance (Dale Street, Worcester), call canceled; 10:40 p.m.: ambulance (Charlton Street), transported.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
1:32 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 3:20 a.m.: ambulance (Peter Salem Road), transported; 4:06 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 4:38 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 11:46 a.m.: family problem (South Main Street), peace restored; 12:29 p.m.: ambulance (Lexington Avenue), transported; 12:48 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken

to; 3:26 p.m.: disturbance (Overlook Drive), resolved; 3:40 p.m.: summons service (Bond Street), unable to serve; 3:50 p.m.: restraining order service (Stafford Street), unable to serve; 4:07 p.m.: suspicious mv (Virginia Drive), resolved; 4:10 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 6:09 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:10 p.m.: suspicious person (Water Street), assisted; 6:36 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 8:40 p.m.: ambulance (Quincy Street, Worcester), transported.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
1:58 a.m.: welfare check (South Main Street), assisted; 2:42 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:53 a.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), services rendered; 8:29 a.m.: confiscated plates (Watch Street), resolved; 8:49 a.m.: confiscated plates (Laurelwood Avenue), resolved; 8:59 a.m.: hit/run accident (Mannville Street), report taken; 9:36 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 9:49 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), name and address redacted from police log, unregistered mv, number plate violation to conceal ID, criminal application issued; 10:49 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 10:57 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 1:18 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:21 p.m.: assault/battery (Paxton Street), report taken; 1:30 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), citation issued; 1:42 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:49 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:06 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 2:11 p.m.: keep the peace (Main Street), peace restored; 4:57 p.m.: suspicious mv (Collier Avenue), resolved; 5:13 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Stafford Street), unable to serve; 5:15 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Stafford Street), unable to serve; 5:23 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 5:30 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Wells Street, Oxford), unable to serve; 6:57 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 9:09 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:20 p.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), services rendered; 9:42 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:00 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
1:00 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 1:56 a.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), services rendered; 2:07 a.m.: ambulance (Boyd Street), investigated; 6:54 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 11:23 a.m.: mv stop (Dale Street), verbal warning; 12:36 p.m.: ambulance (Carleton Road), transported; 1:05 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 1:44 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 1:48 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 3:03 p.m.: suspicious activity (Homestead Lane), unfounded; 3:51 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 4:00 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), violations not noted on police log, criminal application issued; 4:19 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 4:24 p.m.: erratic operator (Henshaw Street), unfounded; 5:00 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 5:51 p.m.: suspicious activity (Mannville Street), spoken to; 8:36 p.m.: family problem (Waite Street), services rendered; 9:26 p.m.: assist citizen (Sanfred Road).

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
12:13 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, speeding, criminal application issued; 12:54 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:09 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 1:15 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:01 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), referred; 2:54 a.m.: family problem (Stafford Street), services rendered; 7:37 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), citation issued; 7:49 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended registration, unregistered mv, criminal application issued; 8:49 a.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), services rendered; 8:58 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 10:08 a.m.: summons service (South Main Street), served; 10:36 a.m.: summons service (Henshaw Street), served; 10:36 a.m.: mv stop (Auburn Street), spoken to; 10:45 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 11:01 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 11:10 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), spoken to; 11:26 a.m.: investigation (Gerald Court), report taken; 12:11 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:15 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 12:27 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 12:32 p.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), verbal warning; 12:38 p.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), spoken to; 1:22 p.m.: ambulance (Clark Street), transported; 1:23 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:32 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon

Memorial Highway), transported; 1:45 p.m.: welfare check (Lake Avenue), services rendered; 1:51 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 2:17 p.m.: welfare check (Mayflower Circle), unable to locate; 3:08 p.m.: ambulance (West Street, Worcester), call canceled; 3:30 p.m.: summons service (South Main Street), served; 7:03 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), message delivered; 8:37 p.m.: disturbance (Peter Salem Road), report taken; 9:25 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 10:01 p.m.: ambulance (Pine Street), assisted; 10:30 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), resolved.

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Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3
12:54-3:11 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:38 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 7:13 a.m.: accident (Greenville Street), report taken; 7:42 a.m.: animal complaint (Paxton Road), rep. coyote/fox; 7:59 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Southbridge PD bolo; 9:09 a.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), re: refusing eviction; 9:34 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 9:41 a.m.: animal complaint (Wall Street), rep. gasping cat; 12:29 p.m.: restraining order service (Gold Nugget Road); 2:51 p.m.: accident (North Brookfield Road), report taken; 4:31 p.m.: illegal dumping (Oakland Drive), rep. sealcoating disposed of; 5:24 p.m.: officer wanted (School Street), req. welfare check; 5:55 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), rep. dead cats; 6:06 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), rep. verbal altercation; 6:28 p.m.: officer wanted (Paxton Road), req. welfare check; 6:57 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 8:03 p.m.: fire alarm (Wildwood Lane), referred; 8:37 p.m.: suspicious persons (Cherry Street), info taken; 10:39 p.m.: mv repossessed (Chestnut Street), info rec'd; 11:40 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (total daily mv stops – 0).

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
12:33-2:01 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:21 a.m.: suspicious mv (Cherry Street), car alarm; 5:11 a.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), assisted; 5:28 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Southbridge PD bolo; 5:51 a.m.: lost/found (Smithville Road), cc/wallets; 6:44 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:20 a.m.: suspicious persons (Buteau Road), investigated; 10:21 a.m.: parking complaint (Duggan Street), trailer blocking d/way; 11:19 a.m.: odor of gas (Donnelly Road), referred; 3:01 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), unwanted party; 3:14 p.m.: lost/found (Casey Street), knife/sheath found; 6:07 p.m.: mv complaint (Northwest Road), erratic operator; 6:13 p.m.: medical/general (Hastings Road); 6:47 p.m.: hit/run accident (Main Street), report taken; 7:10 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 7:16 p.m.: DPW call (Bay Path Road), poss. water leak; 7:42 p.m.: medical/general (Jones Street); 9:09 p.m.: mv complaint (Maple Street), rep. school bus speeding; 11:00 p.m.: commercial alarm (Mechanic Street), services rendered; (total daily mv stops – 2).

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
12:07-2:32 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:46 a.m.: burglary (Howe Village), report taken; 8:01 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), assist Plainville PD; 9:06 a.m.: medical/sudden death (Condon Drive); 9:36 a.m.: accident (Water Street), report taken; 10:45 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 12:01 p.m.: medical/sudden death (North Spencer Road); 1:41 p.m.: animal complaint (Maple Street), c/o groundhogs; 2:09 p.m.: 911 call (Maple Street), accidental; 3:02 p.m.: 911 call (Willow Lane), accidental; 3:02 p.m.: DPW call (South Spencer Road), req. sewer dept.; 3:03 p.m.: hit/run accident (Main Street), report taken; 3:16 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), TT/excavator causing road damage; 5:01 p.m.: fraud (Ash Street), report taken; 5:30 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 5:32 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 7:43 p.m.: 911 call (R. Jones Road), services rendered; 8:18 p.m.: 911 call (Howe Village), rep. of threats; 8:35 p.m.: information/criminal (West Main Street), info taken; 9:14 p.m.: commercial alarm (Mechanic Street), services rendered; 11:23 p.m.: juvenile matter (Chestnut Street), rep. kids harassing people; (total daily mv stops – 0).

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
12:42-1:14 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:17 a.m.: animal complaint (North Spencer Road), mv vs porcupine; 3:04 a.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 4:12 a.m.: building checked, secure; 4:57 a.m.: medical/general (Chickering Road); 8:51 a.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 10:35 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 11:36 a.m.: mv complaint

(Main Street), erratic operator; 12:03 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 12:47 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 1:06 p.m.: accident (North Spencer Road), report taken; 1:13 p.m.: building checked, secure; 2:07 p.m.: 911 call (Wilson Avenue), hang-up; 2:27 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 3:34 p.m.: hit/run accident (West Main Street), report taken; 4:04 p.m.: DPW call (West Main Street), rep. flooding; 4:29 p.m.: DPW call (Hastings Road), trees/wires across road; 4:36 p.m.: medical/general (R. Jones Road); 4:39 p.m.: disabled mv (South Spencer Road), services rendered; 4:47 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), manhole cover off; 4:53 p.m.: DPW call (Gale Drive), low-hanging wire; 4:54 p.m.: DPW call (Route 49), rep. flooding; 4:58 p.m.: DPW call (Whittemore Court), trees down/multiple streets; 5:33 p.m.: DPW call (South Spencer Road), trees on wires; 7:58 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village), lift assist; 8:42 p.m.: officer wanted (Fairview Drive), rep. son took mv; 8:45 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Greenville Street), leaning pole/wires sparking; 9:19 p.m.: medical/general (Woodside Road); 9:49 p.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), req. welfare check; 10:13 p.m.: mv lockout (North Spencer Road), assisted; 10:44 p.m.: juvenile matter (Brooks Pond Road), noise complaint; 11:59 p.m.: building checked, secure; (total daily mv stops – 2).

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
12:40-2:18 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 9:04 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 9:41 a.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 10:01 a.m.: officer wanted (Wall Street), req. welfare check; 11:34 a.m.: animal complaint (Hastings Road), c/o bats in attic; 1:02 p.m.: medical/general (Northwest Road); 1:06 p.m.: fire (Terkanian Drive), referred; 3:45 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Auburn PD bolo; 4:45 p.m.: domestic (Pleasant Street), poss. restraining order violation; 6:22 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), West Brookfield PD bolo; 6:56 p.m.: officer wanted (Deer Run Road), req. welfare check; 7:20 p.m.: medical/general (Ash Street); 8:11 p.m.: suspicious mv (Old East Charlton Road), investigated; 8:17 p.m.: officer wanted (Smithville Roads), rep. keys taken; 8:26 p.m.: officer wanted (McDonald Street), rep. harassment; 9:43 p.m.: disturbance (Bixby Road), noise complaint; 10:53 p.m.: medical/general (South Spencer Road); (total daily mv stops – 3).

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
12:10-2:32 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:26 a.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; 2:42 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Framingham PD bolo; 3:23 a.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 5:16 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 9:15 a.m.: fraud (Main Street), report taken; 10:05 a.m.: 911 call (Old Meadow Road), accidental; 10:18 a.m.: accident (Browning Pond Road), report taken; 10:46 a.m.: disturbance (Wall Street), parking dispute; 12:05 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street); 12:16 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), issues w/tenant; 12:57 p.m.: hit/run accident (West Main Street); 1:09 p.m.: parking complaint (Grove Street), mv on sidewalk; 1:37 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Mill Street), illegal burn; 1:55 p.m.: FID card issued (West Main Street), assisted; 1:57 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 2:43 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 3:00 p.m.: medical/general (Browning Pond Road); 3:10 p.m.: 911 call (Salem Street), open line; 3:44 p.m.: restraining order service (Mechanic Street); 4:50 p.m.: officer wanted (Town House Court), req. welfare check; 6:38 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 9:20 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), details omitted from police log; (total daily mv stops – 4).

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
1:27 a.m.: fire alarm (Cherry Street), referred; 2:02 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:20 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 7:22 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 7:29 a.m.: firearms dealer license issued (West Main Street), assisted; 7:40 a.m.: fire/woods/grass (Northwest Road), referred; 11:46 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 12:02 p.m.: mv complaint (Ash Street), req. tx enforcement; 12:49 p.m.: citizen complaint (West Main Street), re: comments about dog; 1:43 p.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), services rendered; 3:00 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 3:26 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 6:38 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 7:23 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. info on restraining order; 7:32 p.m.: disturbance (Chestnut Street), verbal altercation; 10:12 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; (total daily mv stops – 2).

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For Advertising Information
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Nature

FACT:

Leaves change color in the fall due to the breakdown of this substance.

Answer: Chlorophyll

Crossword Puzzle

1				2				3
4								
				5		6		
7						8		
9								

ACROSS

- 1. California city (abbr.)
- 2. Sudden fear
- 4. Dull pain
- 5. Rest on knees
- 7. One who feels superior to others
- 8. We breathe it
- 9. Place for learning

DOWN

- 1. They grow on trees
- 2. Game played with a baby
- 3. Not as hot
- 6. Digital message

Answers:

Across: 1. LA 2. Panic 4. Ache 5. Kneel 7. Snob 8. Air

Down: 1. Leaves 2. Peekaboo 3. Cooler 6. Email

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

SEP 17

1778: The Treaty of Fort Pitt is signed between the United States and a Native American tribe.

1961: The world's first retractable roof stadium, the Civic Arena, opens in Pittsburgh.

1983: Vanessa Williams becomes the first Black Miss America.

NEW WORD

HIBERNATE

remain in an inactive state, typically during winter

How they say that in...

English: Cool
Spanish: Fresco
Italian: Fresco
French: Frais
German: Kalt

Did You Know?

Raking leaves by hand is a great form of exercise that enables people to enjoy the fresh air and does not contribute to noise pollution caused by leaf blowers.

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Pumpkin

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to fall. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 13 = L)

A. 22 18 2 9 8 19
Clue: Cleaning up leaves

B. 3 4 9 13 13 15
Clue: Slightly cold

C. 1 23 24 21 23 26 14 23 22
Clue: Falls starts here

D. 17 18 13 13
Clue: Autumn

Answers: A. raking B. chilly C. September D. fall

SUDOKU

	5					9	1	
	7					3		
1			4				7	
2			1					
4				7				
9						1	6	
5			8	3				
	9				7		8	
		6		9				2

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

7	8	6	5	9	1	4	3	2
3	9	2	6	4	7	5	8	1
5	4	1	8	3	2	6	9	7
9	3	7	2	5	4	1	6	8
4	1	8	3	7	6	2	5	9
2	6	5	1	8	9	7	4	3
1	2	9	4	6	3	8	7	5
8	7	4	9	1	5	3	2	6
6	5	3	7	2	8	9	1	4

ANSWER:



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Your Listings!**



Featured New Listing
DUDLEY - 13 OXFORD AVE

2 -FAMILY offers 2,354 SF of living area! 2 Large Apartments, 5 Spacious Rms, 2 BRs, 1 Bath each. Beautiful grand front entry foyer with the charm of yesteryear! double French doors & other unique features. Plenty of Natural light that flows into these apartments! 2nd flr apt has a private enclosed rear entry with it's own outside covered porch. Updates were done to electric & roof to accommodate Solar Panels. Property was family occupied **\$415,000.**

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

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634 OXFORD ST S**



CHARMING 1930s Era Farm House w/Farmer's Porch, Offering all the Upgrades & Amenities of a Newer Home! Features: 1573 SF+-, 8 Rooms, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, a Main BR Suite w/Private Bath & walk-in closet, Updated Harvey Replacement Windows, Roof, Vinyl Siding, Plumbing, Electric, FHA Furnace by Propane Heating, Central AC, Well & More! 11'x12' Rear Deck & 12'x50' Paver Block Patio. 1 car garage under. All on an Acre of Land with 158' Frontage **\$499,000**

Snug Harbor Villa!
**WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT
OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY 11-1**



WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT LIVING AT IT'S FINEST! ** THE VILLA'S at SNUG HARBOR! ** END UNIT IS TRULY A RARE FIND! ONE OF ONLY 6 UNITS > Custom Built THIS 4000+- SF w/Special Features & Upgrades. Offers 4 BRs - 3 are Primary BR Suites w/private baths, 4-1/2 Baths Total!! The Outstanding direct lakefront location provides exceptional Southern panoramic views across Middle Pond, a boat dock, & full recreation activities like swimming, fishing, kayaking, paddle boarding - - whatever Floats Your Boat :-) ! Perfect setup for entertaining family, friends & guests! Enjoy All 4 Spectacular Seasons!! It's more than a home - it's a Life Style! **NEW PRICE \$1,050,000****



WEBSTER - 24 COOPER RD
NEW CONSTRUCTION Craftsman Style Home! Tucked away on Cooper Rd. Webster Lake w/Access at Lakeside Beach/ Boat Ramp. 3rd of 4 Homes being built at this Site. Offers 2,155 SF+- of Living Area, 7 Rms, 4 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 9' Ceilings. Wood Flooring Throughout w/Ceramic Tile Floors in the Baths. Spacious Main BR Suite w/Walk-in Closet & Private Full Bath, Double-Sink Vanity! Lower level walkout w/Slider. Basement-rough plumbed Central AC! Garage. **\$649,900.**

WEBSTER- 4 PERRYVILLE RD



Hip Roof ranch! Move In Ready. Updated Kitchen. Formal Dining Rm, Living Rm.(18x13) Great Rm. 3+ BRs & full updated Bath w/Tub. Hardwood floors. Fireplace.Quality Owens-Corning finished basement system. 3 large LL rooms & 2nd Full Bath, kitchen area w/cabinets & refrigerator. Morton Barn Style Garage .39 acre **\$435,000**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

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 - 53 Colonial Rd



WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT! JUST SIMPLY AN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY! OVER 31,000 SQ FT OF LAND! Summer Cottage on 9482 SF of land.. assisted sale **\$1,199,900**

**Webster Lake Waterfront
8 Long Island**



SORRY, SOLD!

**SORRY, SOLD!
WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT!
15 CEDAR POINT RD**



100+/- feet of Pristine, Sandy Shoreline! Boasting 6 Large rooms, 2 Baths, 3 Bedrooms, Garage. All on a Private road **\$1,000,000**

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From patient to provider

BAY PATH NURSE TRIUMPHS OVER CANCER TO FULFILL LIFELONG DREAM



Tina Parent

CHARLTON — For Tina Parent, RN, the journey to becoming a nurse was paved with more than just rigorous coursework and clinical rotations; it was a path forged through a life-altering battle with cancer. Today, as a motivated nursing professional at Berkshire Medical Center and a student pursuing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Parent’s story is one of profound resilience and unwavering determination.

Her journey took an unexpected turn in the summer of 2013. Having already worked as

a medical assistant and ED Tech, Parent was accepted into the Bay Path Practical Nursing program, set to begin in August. But just one month before she was to start, her life was put on hold. On July 2, 2013, a follow-up to a routine mammogram confirmed a devastating diagnosis: Stage 3 breast cancer with metastasis involving two lymph nodes.

“Needless to say, I had to withdraw my 8/2013 start,” Parent recalled. Instead of classrooms and textbooks, her life became a grueling schedule of treatments. She underwent a lumpectomy, followed by five intense sessions of chemotherapy and 33 sessions of radiation. The physical toll was immense, resulting in the loss of her hair, eyebrows, and eyelashes.

But Parent refused to be defined by her diagnosis. Fueled by a deep-seated desire to care for others, she reapplied to the PN program and successfully began her studies in August 2014, one year after her original plan.

A particularly poignant moment from that time still brings tears to her eyes. After months of treatment, her “mousy brown” hair began to grow back. The day she came to class after having it styled and highlighted for the first time, she was met with an outpouring of support from her classmates. “The compliments to this day still make me tear up,” Parent shared. “That part of my life will forever change me. The cancer diagnosis, the support, and most of all, the completion of my PN program. My good fortune started with being a student at Bay Path with the great instructors who taught me to be a prudent nurse.”

That completion was just the beginning. Since earning her license, Parent has built an impressive career. She has served as an LPN and now a Progressive Care Unit RN at Berkshire Medical Center and as a travel nurse with IntelyCare. Her resume reflects a deep skill set, including experience in post-acute care, IV therapies, and

wound care.

Her ambition never waned. After earning her Associate in Science in Nursing from Berkshire Community College, Parent enrolled at Grand Canyon University, where she is on track to receive her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in

December 2025.

“My actual journey started years before all this, in the ups and downs of life experiences,” Parent reflected. “But I did not let that define me. I want others to know, against all odds one can succeed if one works hard enough. Bay

Path and all the professors are a big part of it.” Today, Tina Parent, RN, soon to be BSN, stands not just as a survivor but as a dedicated, compassionate nurse whose personal battle has given her a unique and profound understanding of the patient experience.

Bay Path LPN passes nursing boards, embarks on new chapter in patient care



nursing license.

A foundation of skill and compassion

Throughout her training at the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Pokuaa completed rigorous clinical rotations at esteemed facilities including Quaboag Rehabilitation, Overlook Masonic Home, and the Vibra Hospital of Western Massachusetts, the Meadows. It was there she honed a wide array of nursing skills, from complex wound and tracheostomy care to medication administration and vital signs monitoring. Her resume reflects a professional who is calm under pressure and adept at building strong, trusting relationships with patients and their families.

Described as a “compassionate and reliable” professional, Pokuaa has proven her ability to collaborate with multidisciplinary teams to provide the highest quality of patient-centered care.

CHARLTON — The local healthcare community is celebrating one of its own this week. Grace Pokuaa, a 2025 graduate of the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, has successfully passed the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN) on her very first attempt. This significant accomplishment marks the official start of her career as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and is a testament to her dedication and hard work.

For Pokuaa, this achievement is not the beginning of her journey in healthcare, but rather a pivotal next step. For years, she has been a familiar, compassionate face to many in the Worcester area. She has built a strong foundation of hands-on experience, serving the community as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) at Saint Mary’s Health Care and West Side House, and as a dedicated Home Health Aide (HHA) with Visiting Angels since December 2020. Her commitment to patient well-being was evident long before she earned her

A heart full of gratitude

When asked about her journey, Pokuaa was quick to share her appreciation for those who supported her.

“My nursing journey has been full of growth, learning, compassion, and dedication,” she said. “I want to thank my mentor, Regina Njuguna, LPN, colleagues, family, my advisor, Professor Shannen Sherman, BSN, RN, and instructors for their constant support, encouragement, and guidance throughout this path. Lastly, I want to thank Dr. Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, for giving me the opportunity and for believing in me.”

Grace Pokuaa, LPN, is already putting her new credentials to work, continuing her service to patients at Vibra, the Meadows. With a solid foundation of experience and a passion for care, her future in the nursing profession looks incredibly bright. The community congratulates Grace Pokuaa on this well-deserved success.

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