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Friday, December 5, 2025

Spencer officials debating generator options for Senior Center

BY JASON BLEAU
NEW LEADER CORRESPONDENT

SPENCER — As Spencer town officials deliberate options for a new generator at the senior center, the exact type of equipment remains in debate.

The Board of Selectmen discussed options for a generator on Nov. 10, although a final decision was not officially recorded. Town Administrator Jeffrey Bridges revealed two current options for the generator, a less powerful \$58,000 option and one for \$214,000 that includes a generator and replacement of the transfer switch and panel.

Bridges explained the difference in power between the two.

“One powers the lights and some of the rooms, the other one the entire building and the outlets,” Bridges said. “One is 130 KW, and that’s the \$214,000 one. The other one was a 21 KW. You’re talking about a magnitude difference between the two.”

Bridges further explained that the pending purchase would replace the current outdated generator which was originally meant to power the refrigerators in the building when it was utilized as a school. The existing generator is now unable to manage much of the load of the building and is undersized. The Fiscal Year 2026 capital process involved pricing for a new generator.

Selectmen didn’t argue outright in favor or one or the other but rather weighed the cost difference versus the return on investment. The larger, more expensive option would be fitting if the town wanted to invest more in the senior center to make it a usable emergency shelter, otherwise the less expensive option which would satisfy the current needs of the center might be the more favorable choice.

Selectman John Howard was the first to note that if the town wants to proceed with the \$214,000 option, it might as well explore other renovations to the center.

“If we ever decide to use that as a shelter, we’d probably have to go with the larger generator and put showers in, bathrooms in, for overnight guests. That’s a thing you’ve got to think about. It’s not just the cost of the generator. It’s also the cost of rehabbing the buildings and bringing it up to speed,” said Howard, who made it clear he wasn’t necessarily advocating for or against the more expensive option, just adding context to the options at hand.

Selectman Ralph Hicks questioned the need for the more expensive generator or prioritizing a larger renovation of the senior center as a shelter considering that Knox Trail Middle School has already proven to be an effective shelter in recent years.

“I think if we didn’t have the schools to rely on for those, if they weren’t willing to let those be used for a shelter, which they are, we’d have no choice, but the difference in

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DPHS musicians soar at Central Districts



SPENCER — On Saturday, Nov. 15, four amazing music students auditioned for Central Districts, an opportunity for students to continue their music journey outside the school with other Central District schools. They have been practicing and working hard with me and fellow music teachers for months. The following musicians of David Prouty auditioned:

Paige Fritze, Alto Saxophone
Jackson Rutkiewicz, Vocal
Bradyn LaFountain, Vocal
James Liam Hanlan, Percussion

Bradyn LaFountain and Jackson Rutkiewicz both made Central Districts and will be performing in a concert in January 2026. Jackson received an All-State recommendation, which means he will audition again and have the opportunity to perform at the All-State Music Festival Concert in Boston in March 2026.

David Prouty High School Music Department Lead, Kelsey Forfa, stated, “I am beyond proud of all four of these musicians for their dedication and love of the program at David Prouty. They

always perform their hearts out, and as a director, I couldn’t ask for more!”

Superintendent of Schools Paul Haughey added, “Thanks to the continued investment by our local community, parents, families and business leaders as well as the School Committee, Mrs. Forfa and her team of professionals have been able to grow the music program up and down the district to be a source of great pride for everyone who has a deep and heartfelt appreciation for music and the arts... I could not be prouder of our music pro-

gram district-wide, and these high school musicians have earned the opportunity to perform at Central Districts! Many congratulations to Paige, Jackson, Brayden, James, and everyone who helped them achieve these exceptional levels of performance.”

“On behalf of all of us in the Spencer, East Brookfield Regional School District, let me be one of the first to say job well done! We are so very proud of you - one and all!” Haughey added.

Brookfields Lions Club announces 37th Annual Ice Fishing Derby

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The Brookfields Lions Club will host its 37th Annual Ice Fishing Derby on Saturday, Jan. 31 at Quaboag Pond in Brookfield. The event remains the largest single-day ice fishing derby in

Massachusetts, attracting anglers and families from across the region.

A \$20 entry ticket qualifies participants for more than \$15,000 in cash prizes, including the \$5,000 Grand Prize, \$5,640

in “every five minutes” cash drawings, and \$4,375 in fish categories. Every ticket holder is automatically entered into the major cash drawings whether they choose to fish or not.

“This derby is one of the Lions’

most important fundraisers - a major undertaking that requires hundreds of volunteer hours and a significant financial commitment each year - and every dollar raised directly supports the

Turn To DERBY page A11

Wolverine Grill opens at Leicester High School



LEICESTER — A new lunch spot, Wolverine Grill, has officially opened its doors at 70 Winslow Ave. It is located just next door to the Leicester Senior Center. The restaurant, which officially opened on Thursday, Nov. 20, hosted 48 senior center members for a full-course turkey dinner.

Guests were treated to a beautifully prepared Thanksgiving meal crafted and served by Chef Andy Aucoin, Chef Steven Dahlgren and LHS Culinary students, who delivered both outstanding cuisine and warm hospitality. Meals were paid for by a grant.

Dr. Brett Kustigian, Superintendent of Schools in Leicester, made a brief welcoming speech to group. He was excited to announce that this

was just the beginning of a very exciting journey for the town of Leicester. William May, Career & Technical Vocational Director, reported that the students in these programs have been working hard to get ready, and they were very excited to get started. Chef Andy Aucoin and the students prepared, and served, a delicious turkey dinner with rolls and butter, mashed potatoes, butternut squash, cranberry sauce and gravy. For dessert, the guests were treated to freshly baked apple pie with vanilla ice cream. Stephen Dahlgren, the Vocational Monitor was also in attendance to help oversee the dining area. The guests from the senior center all commented on how well the students did as they served the meal.

After the meal, the group was

invited next door to the auditorium for a performance by the high school’s chorus and band, under the direction of Alexis Phillips. It was a great way to finish off a very enjoyable afternoon. Art teacher Jack Yarrows and his students enhanced the atmosphere with a vibrant art display throughout the restaurant, while Drew Lauer contributed welcoming signage to greet our senior guests as they arrived. Assistant Superintendent, Rich Lind had a yearbook set up dating from present day to the 50’s for all to enjoy.

Additional behind-the-scenes support helped make the event seamless. BPM student Albie Cruz Almonte ensured the facility’s entrances were clean and inviting, alongside staff member Mark Burdett. To assist

with accessibility, student Tayte Drake provided golf cart transportation from the parking area to the restaurant, ensuring all seniors arrived comfortably and safely.

Senior Citizen Director, Rachelle Cloutier, said the feedback has been incredibly positive and our seniors want to continue the strong partnership with the schools. Finance Committee Chair Mike Zalansky said, “On a scale of 1-10, the meal was an 12!”

The interior of the grill has been renovated to seat 48 guests in a bright and modern environment. Future days and hours of operation will be announced as soon as they become available.

The grill is the latest addition to the growing number of trades at the high school in Leicester, contributing to the school’s ongoing mission to expand their programming.

This wonderful day was made possible through a nutrition grant written by Director of Elder Affairs, Rachelle Cyr. With this grant, the senior center and the Leicester Public schools are going to work together to promote and provide healthy meals for the older adults that are members of the senior center. The senior center will continue to provide programs and information that senior can use to stay healthy.


Correction

NORTH BROOKFIELD — It has been brought to our attention that errors in reporting in previous editions resulted in the publication of incorrect information regarding activities at the North Brookfield Senior Center.

The weekly Community Calendar published in our Nov. 21 edition incorrectly reported that there was to be a meeting of the knitting group that following Sunday, but the center is in fact closed Sundays.

An incorrect time was also given for the senior center’s daily lunch service. Lunch is served at noon, and not 11:30 a.m., as mentioned, and prior registration is required by contacting the center at (508) 867-0220.

The New Leader deeply regrets any confusion that may have resulted from these unfortunate but unintentional errors.

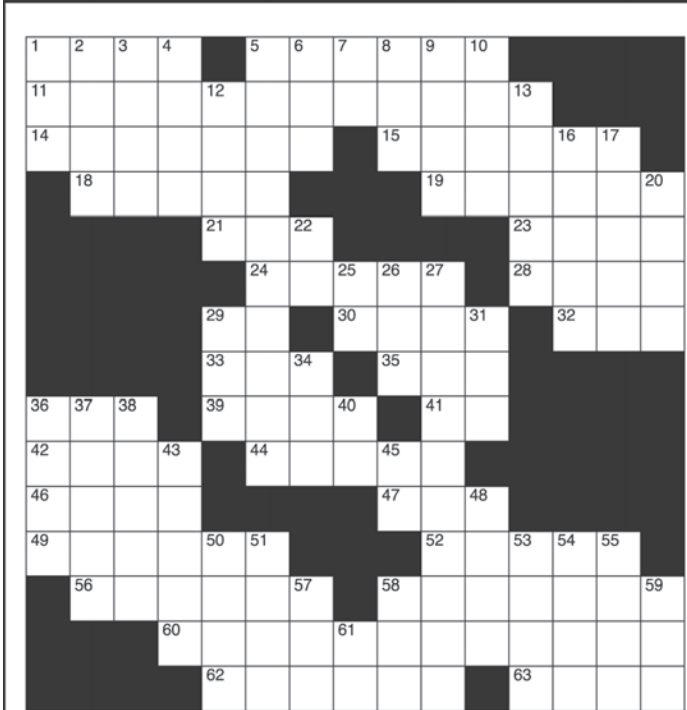


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CLUES ACROSS

1. Dough made from corn flour

5. Rise

11. Gratitude

14. A low wall

15. Kidnap

18. A cup golfers want to win

19. Outgoing

21. “Partner” to flow

23. Former Michigan coach Brady

24. Proverb

28. Gasteyer and de Armas are two

29. Helps a body recover

30. Baseball Cy Young winner

32. Very fast airplane

33. Offensive baseball stat
35. Body of water

36. Record of one’s heartbeat

39. Signs a contract

41. Atomic #24

42. Bind securely

44. French Jesuit theologian

46. Fragrant brown balsam

47. Post office box

49. Sells tickets at inflated prices

52. Places to hang coats

56. Jewish salutation

58. Yellow fruits

60. Poorly educated

62. Microorganism

63. Talk show host Barrymore

CLUES DOWN

1. A way to plan

2. Three-banded armadillo

3. Mobile

4. Romanian city

5. Making sour

6. Take a seat

7. “The Golden State”

8. When you hope to arrive

9. Pointed ends of pens

10. Extinct flightless bird

12. Sharp-pointed dueling sword

13. Nape of neck

16. Problems (Spanish slang)

17. Narrow carpet

20. To avoid the risk of

22. Spiritual academic degree (abbr.)

25. Equally

26. Traditional cars still need it

27. Eligible voters
29. Greek alphabet letter

31. Body part

34. Referee-declared outcome

36. Means to moving money

37. Popular footwear brand

38. Cockatoo

40. NFL’s big game

43. Botswana currencies

45. News-reporting organization

48. Batman villain

50. Urgent request

51. Not all

53. Hallmark’s specialty

54. Knot in a tree

55. Satisfy

57. Notable space station

58. Baby’s dining accessory

59. Stitch clothing

61. ___ and behold



Cornerstone Bank sponsors EcoTarium’s ‘Legacy of the Stars Gala’ to celebrate opening of Stoddard Exhibition Hall

SPENCER — Cornerstone Bank is proud to support the EcoTarium with a \$5,000 sponsorship of the Legacy of the Stars Gala, celebrating the grand opening of the Stoddard Exhibition Hall. The new hall marks a milestone moment for the EcoTarium, enabling Worcester to host major national exhibitions for the first time in its history.

This sponsorship builds on Cornerstone Bank’s ongoing support of the EcoTarium through its multi-year commitment to the museum’s Capital Campaign, to which Cornerstone contributed a total of \$12,500 in 2023 and 2024.

“The EcoTarium has enriched generations of children and families by making science and nature accessible and inspiring,” said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. “We are honored to support the opening of the Stoddard Exhibition Hall and help bring world-class educational experiences to Worcester.”

Founded in 1825 as the Worcester Lyceum of Natural History, the Ecotarium is one of the oldest natural history museums in the United States. The Legacy of the Stars Gala honors the individuals and community partners who have strengthened the EcoTarium over its 200-year history. Proceeds from the event will support “The Secret World of Elephants,” the first major exhibition to be featured in the new Stoddard Exhibition Hall when it opens in March 2026.

Cornerstone Bank remains committed to investing in organizations that inspire curiosity, support life-long learning and broaden access to educational opportunities for local families.

About Cornerstone Bank
Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts,

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

Sheriff’s Office partners with Emerge Career to deliver free, high-demand diesel and HVAC training

WORCESTER — The Worcester County Sheriff’s Office and Emerge Career [www.emerge-career.com], a national leader in workforce development for individuals directly or indirectly involved in the criminal justice system, are proud to announce a new partnership to provide Free, High-Demand Training in Diesel Technician and HVAC Technician Careers to qualifying residents across the county. These fast-growing vocations offer starting salaries averaging \$75,000, creating direct pathways to economic mobility for participants and their families. Student eligibility includes individuals who have experienced arrest, probation, parole, or incarceration, as well as those with an immediate family member who has gone through these experiences.

This initiative expands on a successful multi-year collaboration between the Sheriff’s Office and Emerge Career through their Free CDL Training Program, which has become one of the most effective reentry workforce pipelines in the region. Over the past year alone, Emerge Career graduates in Worcester County have earned an average of \$83,000, all while maintaining an extraordinary 0%

recidivism rate among program graduates.

“Emerge Career is bringing real solutions to an often-overlooked population,” said Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis. “This partnership is about dignity, opportunity, and second chances. When individuals leave our facilities with job-ready skills and employers ready to hire them, our communities become safer and stronger.”

Through this expanded partnership, individuals in the county will now have access to:

- Free Diesel Technician Training (new)
- Free HVAC Technician Training (new)
- Free CDL Training (continuing program)

Each program includes employer-aligned curriculum, nationally recognized certifications, and job placement support to ensure graduates seamlessly transition into high-wage, high-growth careers.

How to Enroll
Apply for Free CDL Training Here [https://www.app.emergecareer.com/register?utm_source=sheriffs_office-out-of-custody&utm_medium=press-release&utm_campaign=don-

https://www.app.emergecareer.com/register?utm_source=sheriffs_office-out-of-custody&utm_medium=press-release&utm_campaign=don-

Apply for Free Diesel Tech & HVAC Tech Training Here [https://form.jotform.com/253055956415158?utm_source=sheriffs_office-out-of-custody&utm_medium=press-release&utm_campaign=ma-new-vocations-launch-2025&utm_term=nov2025&utm_content=no-incentive]

“Our goal has always been simple,” said Tyler Brewer from Emerge Career. “Provide training that leads directly to real jobs with real wages. Worcester County continues to show what’s possible when reentry is focused on evidence-based opportunity.”

This partnership underscores both organizations’ shared commitment to reducing recidivism, strengthening families, and empowering individuals with the skills needed to build stable, successful futures.

Community Calendar December 5–12

In cheerful rhyme, your weekly guide, To happenings ’round the countryside.

Saturday, Dec. 6
At Mary Queen of the Rosary, come wander and roam,
A Christmas Faire close to home.
From 8 to 2 on Maple Street,
Spencer’s parish hosts a treat.

The Leicester Recycling Center too
Opens its gates for folks like you.
From 8 to 1 on Manville Road,
A tidy stop along your load.

Nearby, a Farmstead Christmas plays,
With wagon rides and holiday days.
Families head to Whittier Farm,
For seasonal cheer and country charm.

And when the stars shine overhead,
Spencer’s Parade of Lights is led.
At 7 p.m. the floats roll through,
A hometown glow for all to view.

Sunday, Dec. 7
A quiet day in local towns—
No major listings, ups or downs.
A moment’s rest, a slower pace,
Warm lights waiting at every place.
Tuesday, Dec. 9
At the Richard Sugden Library, from six until eight,
Silvery stories captivate.
A winter-reading kickoff night
Invites all ages to delight.

Thursday, Dec. 11
The Leicester Council on Aging meets;
Their weekday lunch brings friendly seats.
At noon they dine at 40 Winslow Ave.,
With simple fare and town-hall salve.

Friday, Dec. 12
The week winds down, the lanterns glow,
As December lines the streets with snow.
No special listings crowd the day—
Just hometown calm in holiday array.

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Leicester school officials move toward permanent solution to LES oil leak

BY JASON BLEAU
NEW LEADER
CORRESPONDENT

LEICESTER — The Leicester School District may finally be heading towards a long-term solution to a controversial oil leak dating back to the COVID-19 pandemic.

An oil leak in 2021 at Leicester Elementary School has proven costly to the district for years, but recent correspondence from Hydro-Environmental Technologies, Inc (HTEI), a third-party company working with the town on remediation efforts, has provided good news to the district in terms of permanently resolving the issue. Superintendent Dr. Brett Kustigian provided the update to the School Committee on Nov. 3 confirming the results of

HETI's latest assessment.

"A risk assessment was performed that concluded that the release presents no significant risk and a permanent solution with no conditions is therefore warranted," said Kustigian.

The news paves the way for the district to finally resolve the longstanding issue which resulted from a tent spike puncturing a fuel line in April of 2021. Temporary tents were erected to host students as the school prepared to return to in-person learning following the COVID-19 shutdown, resulting in the leak and leading to the temporary closure of the school resulting in students moving to the old Becker College campus.

The cost of the leak was reported at more than \$1 million in 2022, with only around \$500,000 covered

by insurance. The balance was to be paid by the school department and has continued to impact the education budget over multiple years.

Kustigian said the road to a final resolution has been a long one, but he is happy the district can finally proceed.

"It's definitely been a while, but there's light at the end of the tunnel. The next step is, we just have to get the system decommissioned and we're good to go," Kustigian explained. "That is very good news not only for the environment, but also for our budget because that's been an unexpected cost that has just been going on and on."

The next steps and any costs of decommissioning were not unveiled or discussed in detail during the school committee's Nov. 3 meeting.

WEEKLY POLICE BLOTTER

Spencer

The Spencer Police Department reported the following arrests from Nov. 5-25.

Keith P. Rexford, Jr., age 37, of Spencer was arrested on Nov. 10 in connection with a warrant.

Tiajah Monet Hudson, age 30, of Spencer was arrested on Nov. 10 in connection with a warrant.

Chelsea L. Johnson, age 37, of Spencer was arrested on Nov. 16 for Possession of a Class A Drug (subsequent offense), Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license, and Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

Dolores Marrero, age 57, of Holyoke was arrested on Nov. 17 in connection with a warrant.

Leicester

The Leicester Police Department reported the following arrests from Nov. 6-26.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Nov. 7 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license and operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Nov. 8 for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle and a Marked Lanes Violation.

Donald E. Cross, age 65, of Worcester was arrested on Nov. 9 in connection with a warrant.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Nov. 10 for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle and Use of an Electronic Device While Operating a Motor Vehicle (first offense).

Normari Adalis Lopez Torres, age 29, of Chicopee was arrested on Nov. 14 for Misdemeanor Failure to Appear Upon Recognizance.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Nov. 14 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license, a Crosswalk Violation, and oper-

ating a motor vehicle with No Inspection Sticker.

Torr Peter Lajeunesse, age 53, of Worcester was arrested on Nov. 14 for Trespassing and Indecent Exposure.

Luke Anthony Pascale, age 31, of Barre was arrested on Nov. 16 for Operating Under the Influence (Liquor) and Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Nov. 16 for Possession of a Class B Drug (subsequent offense).

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Nov. 20 for operating an Unregistered and Uninsured Motor Vehicle.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Nov. 21 for Disorderly Conduct and Threatening to Commit a Crime.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Nov. 21 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Nov. 21 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license (subsequent offense), operating a motor vehicle with No Inspection or Registration Sticker, and driving at a rate of speed exceeding the posted limit.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Nov. 22 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license and Failure to Stop or Yield.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Nov. 24 for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle and driving at a rate of speed exceeding the posted limit.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Nov. 25 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license.

Donations as of 11/28/2025

11/24/2025	Fred & Dale Cormier	\$1,500.00
11/24/2025	Joseph & Ellen Lowkes	\$50.00
11/24/2025	Guaranty Glass & Mirror	\$1,000.00
11/24/2025	American Legion Post 138	\$100.00
11/25/2025	William & Annette Welch	\$200.00
11/25/2025	Mary & Stanley Kulesza	\$50.00

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

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

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EAST BROOKFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNOUNCES WINTER EVENTS

Library Closed: Dec 25th, Jan 1st, Jan 19th and Feb 16th The library is also closed if the school is closed

Teen Volunteer Program
Interested in volunteering with us? We'd love to have you! Let us know when you are available. For ages 12 and up.

Sponsor An Author
Do you have a favorite author? Hate being on the waitlist to check out their newest book? Our "Sponsor an Author" program is for you! Sponsoring the newest book guarantees that you will receive the book first as soon as we get it in. Your price is what the library pays. See Carolann for details!

Friends of the Library
Want to help the library but don't know how? Join the Friend's Group!

Maker Space and Library of Things
Come visit our Maker Space area and Library Things. There you will find cake pans, charcuterie boards, platters, small specialty appliances, tools, button maker and so much more. We are looking for items to add to our Library of Things and Maker Space, tools, small kitchen appliances, gardening supplies, baby monitor, DVD player, let us know what you have and we will let you know if we can use it.

Story-time
Children ages 6 months to 6 years play games,listen to stories,and create art projects to take home. Thursday at 10:30, caregivers are required to stay with the child. One adult caregiver is required for every 2 children. Santa Claus will visit us at 10:45, on December 18th!

Fiber Art Group
This group welcomes anyone who is interested in fiber arts which includes but is not limited to knitting, crocheting, embroidery, hand sewing and cross stitching. Stop by if you would like to spend the morning with a group of people who also love to stitch. We meet on Tuesday at 9:30

Knitting Group
Adult Knitting Group meets on Thursdays at 1:00 All skill levels are welcome! Bring a current project or check out our many pattern books for inspiration.

Library Book Talk Group
Meets the first Tuesday of every month, at 11:00. Stop by the library and pick up the book in advance. Patrons are welcome to pick up the book even if they are not attending the discussion.

Food Shelf
Please bring new, unexpired food items to the library during our regular hours. Personal items can include items such as shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, laundry detergent, toilet paper, diapers, wipes, deodorant, barrettes, hair ties, socks, reusable plastic containers for food, aluminum foil, plastic wrap, trash bags, dish soap, and more. Food items suggestions: canned meat, canned vegetables, spaghetti sauce, mac and cheese that can be made without milk, baking supplies. The collected items will be distributed to local families and individuals in need; our food shelf is always available during normal library hours.

Pokémon Go Club
Meets every Monday, at 3:30pm, players must have their own device to play on. All children and adults are welcome. Children under 12 years old must be accompanied by an adult.

Drop in Craft
Every Monday in the children's room there is a self-directed craft project. Craft projects may have small parts. Children under 12 years old must be accompanied by an adult, with one adult for every 2 children. This project is available as long as the supplies are available.

Technology Tuesday!
Need help with technology? We're here for you! We can teach you how to do things like

use the library catalog to look for books and materials, place holds, add Libby to your e-reader or phone, and generally make the most out of the online resources we have available for you! We can also help with non-library related things like setting up an e-mail account. Note: If you would like help specific to your device, please bring it along.

Movie Time
Stop by the library with your lunch and enjoy a block buster movie, meet new friends. Tuesday Dec. 23rd, Monday Dec. 29th Tuesday Feb. 17th. All shows start at 1:00

Homework Help
Staff members will be available to assist children with homework questions. This is NOT a tutoring session; this program is designed for children to ask for help on a specific question. Mondays, at 3:00-6:00, children under the age of 12 must have a parent or guardian remain with them.

Morning Mend
Do you have a favorite piece of clothing that needs a little TLC? Do you need help mending something you know has a little more life left in it? If yes, this is the workshop for you. On Tuesdays at 9:30, stop by the library and we will help you mend your special item. We have all the tools you will need (sewing machines, needles, threads, fabrics and more). With a little bit of handy work, the life of your clothing can be extended. Clothes are worth saving and keeping out of the landfill! Please call the library if you plan on attending.

Puzzle Making / Adult Board Games
Join us in the library for an afternoon of games and snacks. If you like to build puzzles or play board games maybe meet new people from the community, this program is for you! Program is for adults 18 years or older. Walk-ins are welcome but registration is preferred so we can plan accordingly for the snacks and number of games. First and Third Tuesday every month at 1:00

Saturday Board Games
All ages are welcome to come to the library and play a few board games. Starting at 10:00

Baking Decorating Class
Come learn how to decorate cookies, cupcakes and cakes. We are looking for supplies for this program which include the following. Cupcake wrappers, Cake decorating supplies such as decorating tips, bags, jimmies, cake mixes, cookie mixes, confection sugar, food coloring. This program will be held on the last Tuesday of the month at 1:30 starting in February. Donations for this program are greatly appreciated. Registration is required one week prior to the program. Please speak to Carolann for more details.

Mitten Tree
We have our Mitten Tree up! We collect hats, mittens, scarves, gloves, socks for adults and children, ChapStick, new sweaters for all ages and sizes. If you or anyone you know needs any of these items, please come to the library and visit our Mitten Tree.

The library Wish List!
Cheap paper plates (the kind that you must use more than one or your food will spill off.) Playdough Bubbles Large crayons Ribbon Cardstock all colors Purple glue sticks Craypaper Small bags of chips Sandwich bags Large zip lock bags Cookies Juice Coloring books Construction paper Googly eyes Feathers

Special Holiday Raffle!
Hand stitched Holiday tree skirt or a hand crochet blanket Tickets 2 for \$5 Proceeds go to our adult programs



Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20.
The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right.
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

	4		13
9	0		17
	10	2	18
21	14	13	

2	10	9
8	0	9
3	4	9

Solution

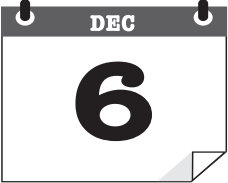
Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

REPCEFT NVOIIS

Answer: Perfect vision

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1884: The Washington Monument in Washington, D.C., is completed.

1897: London becomes the world's first city to host licensed taxicabs.

1967: Adrian Kantrowitz performs the first human heart transplant in the United States.

NEW WORD

FOCUS

pay particular attention to

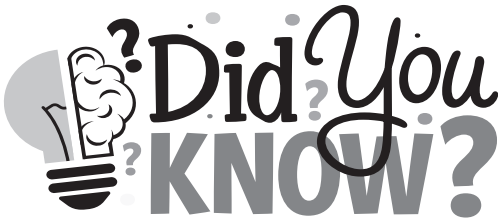
Health FACT:

What is the name of the chart that eye doctors use to measure vision?

Answer: Snellen scale

How they say that in...

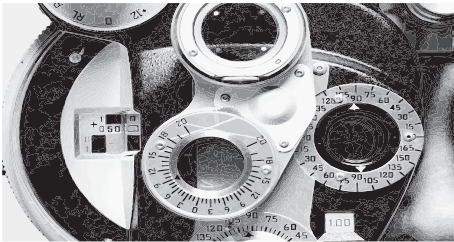
English: Sight
Spanish: Vista
Italian: Vista
French: Vue
German: Sicht



Bifocal or multifocal lenses help people who have different visual impairments see clearly with one pair of eyeglasses.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Eye exam equipment

Spencer selectmen consider road sign request policy

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

SPENCER — The Spencer Board of Selectmen has begun consideration of a new policy in regard to road sign requests, which has put a small delay on inquiries about the installation of all-way stop signs are several intersections in town.

The Board of Selectmen addressed to items back-to-back on Nov. 24, the first being a request for new all-way stop signs at Greenville Road and Chickering Road and Wilson Road and Hastings Road respectively

and the second being a proposed Road Sign Request Policy. After some deliberation selectmen chose to table the stop sign requests to properly review and potentially implement the new policy.

The Road Sign Request Policy was brought forward by Peter Boria, the town's Utilities and Facilities Superintendent, who said his goal was to create a simple but efficient set of rules and processes for requests any type of road sign in town, whether it's speed limit signs, driveway signs, or stop signs. The Nov. 24 discussion served

as the first reading of the document, which will be reviewed again on Dec. 8.

Boria said requests for road signs have become commonplace in town, and he saw fit to create a policy that lays out the path of approval for these items.

"I tried to create a policy that gives myself and my department, some direction along with taking input from the police chief and fire chief and giving the Board of Selectmen the chance to review and have input and approval on them," said Boria.

He said the goal was to create a "straight forward"

policy that essentially allows his office and the chiefs to review requests and, if they see fit, bring it to selectmen. The policy does include more stringent requirements, including the potential need for a traffic engineer survey, for requests of new stop signs due to their likely impact on traffic patterns.

"I think that's key here, because it takes it out of my hands, it takes it out of [the selectmen's] hands, it gets us an independent review and evaluation of the request on whether or not to move forward with it," said Boria.

The discussion came right after the latest request for a pair of all-way stop signs, which was inevitably tabled until the policy sees its full review. Members of the public have requests changes to the Greenville Road and Chickering Road and Wilson Road and Hastings Road intersections which Boria initially proposed that Selectmen approve for submission to Mass Department of Transportation for consideration in their Always Stop Program which would potentially include Mass DOT doing an evaluation and recommendation at no

cost to Spencer. However, if Mass DOT deemed there a need for the signs, the town would be essentially obligated to install them.

Selectmen said they wished the two items to be flipped on the meeting's agenda, as they felt discussing the stop signs requests after the policy would have been more appropriate. Regardless, they tabled the stop sign issue for a later discussion with the hopes that the policy might be in place before the end of the year, still giving them time to recommend the all way stop signs to Mass DOT

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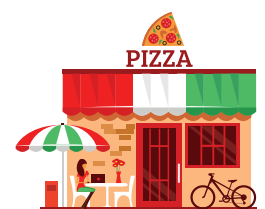
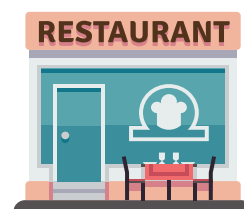
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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Why
December
sounds
different in
small towns

There is a particular quiet that settles over our towns this time of year — not silence, but a kind of gentler soundscape that belongs to small communities in early winter. It is noticeable if you listen closely. The pace shifts. The noise changes. And in that shift, there is something worth appreciating.

December mornings arrive here with a subdued calm. The hum of Route 9 is softer at dawn. The fields along Route 31 sit still under a thin frost. Even the neighborhoods feel different: fewer lawnmowers, fewer construction crews, fewer deliveries making their summer rounds. What rises in place of all that activity is a quieter set of sounds that tell their own story.

You hear shop doors opening on Main Street, one at a time. You hear car engines warming slowly in the driveway. You hear the muffled thud of boots on a porch. In the afternoons, you hear children tumbling out of school buildings, their voices carrying across parking lots before fading into the early dusk. In the evenings, you hear the faint shift of wind through bare branches — something you rarely notice in the full greenery of July.

This quieter season has a value of its own. It slows a town down just enough for residents to notice the place they live in. Slower roads mean more time to look at familiar buildings. Quieter sidewalks mean a chance to greet the person approaching from the other direction. Even the shorter days draw people inward, toward living rooms, workshops and kitchen tables where families settle into winter routines.

For local government, this quieter stretch before deep winter is a chance to take stock: budgets take shape, long-term capital needs get attention, and departments assess what worked well over the past year — and what did not. For households, it becomes a period for reflection of a different kind: a time to reorganize, prepare for storms, reset routines, and reconnect with the things that tend to fade into the background in busier months.

The quieter sound of December is not inactivity. It is the sound of a community recalibrating. These slower notes highlight what is constant — neighbors, institutions, long-used roads, familiar hillsides — and they remind us that small-town life has a cadence distinct from anywhere else.

As the season unfolds, it may be worth noticing the quieter details that surround us. They shape a sense of belonging as surely as any large event. In the hush of an early-winter morning, or the muted calm of an early evening, you can hear what makes these towns unique. And that, in its own way, is something worth listening to.

Letter submission
policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author’s name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author’s name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rediculous, irresponsible, and definitely “TDS”

To the Editor:

My wife and I are amazed at the number of accusations, twists, spins, word salads, and pathetic comments that constantly barrage the New Leader “Viewpoint” section by a handful of TDS victims who espouse on fake claims regarding President Trump.

Democrats did shut down our government. Only one Republican voted to shut it down. Do the math. The CR was passed 13 times in a row prior to this record-breaking 43-day shutdown. What changed? Trump is President. They were holding out for healthcare benefits and other various programs for mostly illegal aliens to the tune of \$1.5 trillion. Do the research. It’s unfortunate that these democrats chose to hurt the very people who they claim to defend in order to get their wishes.

Democrats do not call the 20 million unvetted people who crossed our borders “Illegal Aliens and Felons.” They refer to these people as immigrants! This is an insult to the immigrants who legally came to our country for a better life and to assimilate into our culture and to follow our constitution.

Gov. Healey did hire an ex-girlfriend to the Massachusetts State Supreme Judicial Court for \$185,000/year. She did eliminate 24,800 private sector jobs while adding 10,000 state jobs. She did offer \$10,000-\$20,000 buyouts to state union workers to leave their jobs and “save money.” Why did Gov. Healey hire a transgender person, Giselle Byrd, to the state Commission on the Status of Women? This is completely bizarre, and clearly part of Healey’s personal and Democratic agenda. Gov. Healey did shut down or block pipelines in Massachusetts, which resulted in increased fuel costs. This was part of her “Green New Scam,” which was/is part of the Democratic plan, as well.

There is no accountability or transparency in our state government. Why won’t Attorney General Andrea Campbell

allow an audit of our state legislature? Seventy-two percent of the voters voted for the audit! Why don’t we have term limits in our state legislature? Voters voted in favor of term limits and the legislature “buried” it in the study committee.

State funding could be so much better for our veterans, but Democrats obviously have other plans. As of 2020, it was reported that 150,000 illegal aliens were living in our state on the taxpayer’s dime. I am sure that these statistics have increased dramatically in 2025 as it is now estimated to cost taxpayers \$425 million! Veterans are budgeted an estimated \$194 million. Do the math.

Our state government bends the rules as democrats see fit. The numbers don’t lie. In the Senate, there are 34 Democrats, five Republicans, and one vacant. In the House of Representatives, there are 135 Democrats and 25 Republicans. We clearly are a “blue” state. We certainly understand gerrymandering in the state of Massachusetts.

I am not sure if our state economy is in crisis (no audit), and I do believe that President Trump and his administration have been doing “one helluva” job over the past 11 months attempting to fix what Biden and his administration systematically destroyed. Maybe if Joe “knew” what was going on, it wouldn’t have gotten so bad.

With President Trump, who was resoundingly elected, the borders are closed, the economy is improving, the world is safer, the Fentanyl crisis is calming down, etc., etc. I am looking forward to our country moving forward over the next three years as well! Our viewpoints are all based on facts; not twists, spins, word salads, and made up accusations to fit one’s narrative. We encourage all writers to do the same thing. God Bless America, and Thank you, President Trump!

THOMAS E. BUCKLEY
LEICESTER

How did America get its name?

To the Editor:

For those of you who don’t remember this from school, this year, America celebrates its 249th year of independence.

Our Founding Fathers drafted and adopted the Declaration of Independence, declaring America’s freedom from Great Britain and setting in motion universal human rights. While the colonies may have established it, America was given a name long before. America is named after Amerigo Vespucci, the Italian explorer who set forth the then revolutionary concept that the lands that Christopher Columbus sailed to in 1492 were part of a separate continent. A map created in 1507 by Martin Waldsee Muller was first to depict this new continent with the name “America,” a Latinized version of “Amerigo.”

What does, or did, America stand for?

Freedom: emphasis on individual liberty and personal rights.

Democracy: Commitment to a government elected by the people.

Equality: Belief in equal rights and opportunity for all citizens. Be careful of socialism that has started in New York.

Socialism is a form of Communism!

This country’s republic belief is equal rights for citizens and opportunity for all who take an oath to become citizens. Again, be careful of socialism.

Diversity: A multicultural society and a varied background are welcome, providing they pursue citizenship.

Opportunity: Pursuit of the American dream through hard work and innovation. Again, be careful of socialism.

Justice: Uploading the rule of law ensuring fairness for all. Again, be careful of those who avoid citizenship and welcome socialism.

Let me remind you of what our, this, country has been experiencing, allowed to practice anti-Semitism against Jews or anyone who does not want to live according to this country’s republic citizenship way of life.

God instituted the law: a republic democracy, equality, diversity, opportunity and justice for all (Romans 13:1).

Dwell in peace!

ROLAND BLAIS
BROOKFIELD

Giving thanks

To the Editor:

Now, as much as ever, our 250-year-old democratic way of governing, our Constitution and many of our best in the world institutions face threat after threat.

So a heartfelt thank you to the following who so much assist in binding and pushing forward:

Conservatives like judges J. Michael Luttig and Mark Wolf; writers and commentators like George Will, Tom Nichols, Brett Stevens, David French and those at Conservative “Think Tanks” such as the Cato Institute and politicians here and now like Vice presidents Pence and Chaney (and daughter Liz), American hero John McCain, Jeff Flake and Tom Massie.

(Never mind former presidents Ronald Regan, HW Bush, Dwight Eisenhower and Harry Truman, who must be rolling over in their graves from our current obeisance to Putin’s Russia.)

Moderates like James Baker, Warren Buffet, Michael Bloomberg, Rex Tillerson:, Generals like Powell Kelly, Mattis, and Miley, and Esper; commentators like Frum, Friedman and Rogan, and politicians like Murkowski, Bacon, Christi, Governor Scott, Moulton, Carter, Obama, Pelosi, Warnok, Padilla, Slotkin and Shapiro;

And liberals like Soros, Darren Walker, Ketanji Brown, commentators like Bouie, Krugman and Cox Ricardson and politicians like Sanders, Ocasio -Cortez, Warren, Wu, Cosar, Frost and Khanna; and

Finally, locally and nationally, those large and small whose words and actions work to bind, preserve and promote, with faults, our wonderful and democratic United States of America.

KEVIN KANE
SPENCER

Is this a
good year
for tax-loss
harvesting?



FINANCIAL
FOCUS

TREVOR
NIELSEN

Thanks to market swings, evolving tax laws and new technology, it may be a good year to consider tax-loss harvesting — a strategy that can help reduce taxes and improve long-term returns.

What is tax-loss harvesting? When you sell an investment for less than you paid, you may be able to use that loss to offset gains from other investments, potentially reducing your overall tax bill.

If your total capital losses exceed your gains, you can use up to \$3,000 of those losses to reduce ordinary income each year. You can carry any remaining losses forward to future tax years. The strategy doesn’t eliminate taxes altogether; it simply defers them, which can free up money to reinvest elsewhere.

How it works. Imagine an investor who sold one stock for a \$10,000 gain and another for a \$10,000 loss. The two transactions cancel each other out, meaning no capital gains tax is owed for that year. The investor can then reinvest the proceeds while following the IRS’s “wash-sale rule.” This rule prevents you from claiming a loss if you, or your spouse or a related party, repurchase the same or a “substantially identical” investment within 30 days before or after the sale.

Because of this rule, you should consider how tax-loss harvesting will affect your investment strategy, as the benefit of holding on to that investment (and letting it grow over time) may outweigh the benefit of lowering your capital gains tax bill for a given year.

Good candidates for tax-loss harvesting include investments that no longer fit your strategy (when rebalancing your portfolio, for example), have poor investment potential or can be easily substituted with other investments.

Why 2025 may be favorable. Several factors suggest 2025 may be a good time to consider tax-loss harvesting.

First, market volatility has created more opportunities to realize losses. The first half of the year saw sharp market swings that left some portfolios uneven. Many large asset managers have already harvested billions in losses, using them to help lower clients’ tax liability while keeping investment strategies on track.

Second, tax law changes are on the horizon. With major tax reform provisions scheduled to expire in the coming years, many investors are motivated to manage their gains and losses proactively. Those in higher tax brackets stand to benefit most, as the savings increase with your tax rate.

Finally, technology has made the process more efficient. In the past, investors typically harvested losses near year-end. Today, automation and direct indexing allow for continuous monitoring and harvesting throughout the year, capturing losses as they appear.

Putting it into practice. Tax-loss harvesting isn’t right for everyone, and it’s not a reason to overhaul your investment strategy. The approach works best for investors with taxable accounts, current or expected capital gains and a long-term perspective.

Consult your financial advisor and a tax professional before making decisions. When used thoughtfully, tax-loss harvesting can help you navigate a volatile market, reduce taxes, and keep more of your money working toward your future goals.

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you, America!

To the Editor:
Good news!
I am absolutely thrilled to report that America has shown us all that communities are alive and well and can still work together! Yes, it is true!
On Nov. 1, when SNAP benefits ended for families and children, there was an immediate nationwide outpouring of help not based on anything but kindness and an

understanding that help was needed. The food banks and food pantries have been overwhelmed with donations, and this wonderful effort continues every day.
I am so proud of you, America! You even added food for pets! Thank you for remembering we really are all in this together!

ANN TOOMEY-DOANE
WEST BROOKFIELD

Our Christmas message for 2025

To the Editor:
Oh come, all ye faithful — having you as our friend makes us very grateful.
Let it snow, let it snow — think of you often, we want you to know.
On the first day of Christmas — stop in our home, the food and drinks are so delicious.
Dashing through the snow — we plan on celebrating with a lot of gusto.
Silent night, holy night — our Christmas season looks so very bright.

Do you hear what I hear? Good times are now here. Let's give a loud cheer!
Jingle Bell Rock — soon we will hang our Christmas socks.
City sidewalks, busy sidewalks — we plan on singing around the clock.
The first Noel, the angels did say, "It's time for all of us to reflect and pray."
Have a Merry Christmas!

BARBARA AND DON GAUDETTE
SOUTH HADLEY (FORMERLY OF
BROOKFIELD)

Why do beavers take precedence over us?

To the Editor:
As we have open season for deer, geese, ducks, bear (not here) and others that overpopulate, why not allow the same on beaver, who not only overpopulate, but cause so much damage? They cause flooding, fell trees on wires, and blocking roads. Why can't something be done to keep them at a safe level? These creatures cause more damage to property — I know we are affected now, big time, with flooding.
As an 80-year-old, I think it's up to "knowledgeable" people to rid them...not us. They are supposed to know the proper actions to take in making this possible, and do it.

Why can't something be done to keep them in check? Is transferring them to other places really solving the problem? Then why are so many people having issues? We could all be living without this added hindrance to our lives. We pay taxes and flood insurance...why? We try to keep our homes looking decent. Beavers do not care. Why do beavers take precedence over us?
Come on, really?
P.S.: I commend Donna and Don Berthiaume for helping us, but their hands are tied — they can only do so much.

LINDA CIEJKA
EAST BROOKFIELD

Proud to uphold a tradition of connecting people

To the Editor:

I'm honored to introduce myself to the community as your new Postmaster. My name is Devashree Shah, and I'm excited to begin this journey serving the residents and businesses of Brookfield.

To this role, I bring a commitment to operational excellence and genuine community engagement. I want the post office to be more than just a place to mail a letter- I want to be a trusted, reliable hub that directly supports the quality of life for every person and business in this community.

I encourage you to stop by the Post Office, say hello, and share any questions or ideas you may have. Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I'm proud to be here, and look forward to working together to keep our community connected.

Sincerely,

DEVASHREE SHAH
POSTMASTER
BROOKFIELD POST OFFICE

Never a dull moment

To the Editor:

The Keystone Cops of this administration , are at it again/still. It was sad to hear of the National Guard soldiers shot on the streets of D.C. Particularly so as they should have been home for Thanksgiving, not walking the streets of the capital as peacekeepers. Being untrained in law enforcement, it is a total mystery why the response is adding 500 more of them. Since we have the unusual circumstance of being able to question a shooter who one presumes expected to be shot dead, the logic of adding more of them is lost on me. Since I expect this shooting was not personal, but against the US and a statement on our interaction with Afghanistan, what do we hope 500 more will accomplish? This is not a battle zone. Do we hope to make it one, as was done on Jan. 6?

It is a well known fact that Trump has 5 kids by three women, all of whom he cheated on. Despite the substantial financial award to E. Jean Carroll, none of the other women he groped have come forward after seeing that she lives in seclusion in high security, making enjoying the win impossible. The Cheeto has now asked his Supreme Court to overturn that loss. His relationship with Epstein is supposed to have included multiple rapes of a 13-year-old. This does not lower my opinion of him. It was already at rock bottom. Stand back and stand by for another distraction.

KEN KIMBALL
BROOKFIELD

Trump embracing Putin's wish list for Ukraine to give up a claim to third of its territory, cut down its military and guarantee no NATO membership, is about as outlandish as him warning Venezuela to stay out of its own airspace. Would someone please explain to him that immunity from prosecution, does not mean complete immunity to violate or ignore our laws, unless you embrace his press secretary's comment, that checks and balances by co-equal government branches inhibits him doing his job. Nothing better describes why the co-equal branches were designed to have those checks and balances. Clearly, none of them are working because a feckless court and congressional majority, simply are not doing their job and reigning him in from piracy and graft. Nobody has ever made the case better for ending pardon powers.

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Latest auction news

I hope that you had a Happy Thanksgiving! While most of us were out grocery shopping and cleaning up after the big meal, some major auctions were in the headlines.

Famous puppets made news when Jim Henson's puppets and memorabilia auction took place late last month. Henson was the beloved creator of the "Muppets." Henson's "Crystal of Truth" from "The Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance" sold for \$89,600, according to the UPI, while Miss Piggy's high heels went for \$22,400. The auction brought in \$2.6 million total, which will be used to preserve Henson's archives.

A major piece of art that saved a woman during the Holocaust broke a modern art record last month. Gustav Klimt's "Portrait of Elisabeth Lederer" was painted over three years from 1916 to 1918. It depicts the daughter of one of Vienna's wealthiest families wearing an Asian Emperor's cloak. When Nazi Germany annexed Austria in 1938, they raided the Lederer's art collection. "Elisabeth Lederer made up a story that Klimt, who was not Jewish and died in 1918, was her father," according to AP News. She convinced the Nazis to give her a document stating that she was Klimt's daughter, which spared her life. Some of Klimt's works burned in a fire in an Austrian castle, making the existing works more valuable. The painting is one of two full length portraits in private hands. The sale surpassed the previous record for 20th century art held by an Andy Warhol portrait of Marilyn Monroe, which brought



\$195 million in 2022. "Portrait of Elisabeth Lederer" sold for a record \$236.4 million.

A different type of art also made news recently, with a rare Fabergé egg coming to auction. "Peter Carl Fabergé and his company created more than 50 of



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the eggs for Russia's imperial family between 1885 and 1917, each elaborately unique and containing a hidden surprise," according to CBS News. Czar Alexander III gifted an egg to his wife every Easter. Nicholas II continued the tradition by presenting eggs to his wife and mother. A four-inch-tall "Winter egg" was carved from carved rock crystal, featuring platinum snowflake decorations and 4,500 rose-cut diamonds. When open, it reveals bejeweled quartz flowers symbolizing spring. There are currently 43 known Fabergé eggs, and most are in museums. The "Winter egg" was originally sold when Russia

was struggling in the 1920s and selling off artifacts. A London antique dealer purchased the egg for £400, which is a little under \$700 at current exchange rates. It exchanged hands several times and was once thought to be lost for decades until being sold in 1994 for 7 million Swiss francs (\$5.6 million at exchange rates then). It was resold for \$9.6 million in 2002. The current auction record for a Fabergé egg is \$18.5 million from a 2007 sale. This egg is expected to crack that record with a \$26 million estimate.

Our single-collector Civil War auction will be taking place this month. Following that, we'll have a major auction with fine jewelry, sterling silver, art, and other antiques and collectibles. Please visit our website <https://centralmass-auctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

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

TRINITY CATHOLIC ACADEMY
ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

SOUTHBRIDGE — Trinity Catholic Academy has released its honor roll for the first trimester of the 2025-2026 school year.

Grade 4
Honors: Emelia Franco, John Nadeua, Elizabeth Nellenback, Owen Quigley, Vincent VLK
High Honors: Lucius Batih, Victoria LaBonte, Joseph Nellenback

Grade 5
Honors: Vera Abud Fuentes, Jaime Cruz, Mason Gonzalez, Connor Kreidemaker, Matthew Olson, Jeziah Suarez
High Honors: Charlotte Heckendorf, Jameson Howard-Donlin, Emma LaBarge, Elinor Matzelle

Grade 6
Honors: Emiliana Boswell, Tesslynn

Cahill, Cameron Clifford, Karieliz Colon-Martinez, Juliana Dintino, Theodore Frazier, Elizabeth Gordon, Carson Lazo, Sachi Swadia, Jaydin Wales, Benjamin Zuziak
High Honors: Alerix Gonzalez, Kaleigh Haglund, Jake Simanski

Grade 7
High Honors: Aurora Brother, Evelyn Howard-Donlin, Olivia Latour, Michael Poulin, Mia Yanez Velasquez
High Honors: Angel Delgado, Ainsley Heckendorf, Jayden Zarzycki-Kotarba

Grade 8
Honors: Nicolas Gauvin, Carilynne Norris, Caius Ovalles, Zyon Stockley, Alexio Yacavace
High Honors: Abigail Frazier, Celia Ladd, Heer Swadia



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Left to right: Jarrett Morin, Al Morin, and Melissa Morin-Bernard.

Courtesy

Massachusetts Funeral Directors Association honors J. Henri Morin & Son Funeral Homes for 125 years in business

NEWTON — The J. Henri Morin & Son Funeral Home was recently honored for 125 years of continuous operation by the Massachusetts Funeral Directors Association at its annual Funeral Service Appreciation Night held in Newton.

Also, honored individually were Alfred Morin, Jr. for more than 50 years of Professional Licensure and his son, Jarrett Morin for over 25 years of professional Licensure.

Founded by J. Henri Morin in 1900, the funeral home has provided quality and caring service to the area communities for four generations. They strive to provide comfort, guidance and a sense of togetherness for families and individuals at the most difficult time in their lives. With a commitment to integrity and respect, their experienced team including Melissa Morin-Bernard & Virginia Torti, ensures that your loved one is honored with the utmost care and attention to detail through the funeral process.

The Massachusetts Funeral Directors Association is the funeral directors' professional community. It is the recognized voice and resource for information of issues impacting the funeral service profession and the bereaved communities in the many cities and towns throughout the Commonwealth.



Left to right: Bryce Bernard, LouAnn Morin, Al Morin, Melissa Morin-Bernard, Jill Morin, Jarrett Morin, Renee & Sydney Morin.

Girls on the Run Worcester County celebrates coach for 10 seasons of impactful service



Jennifer Bolt

WORCESTER — Girls on the Run Worcester County, a nonprofit that empowers young girls, is proud to recognize volunteer coach Jennifer Bolt for achieving the incredible milestone of 10 seasons of service with the organization. Jennifer Bolt has made a long-term impact on the lives of more than 232 girls through her consistent dedication, compassion, and belief in the power of positive mentorship. Girls on the Run inspires girls in grades 3 to 8 to be joyful, healthy, and confident using a fun, experi-

ence-based curriculum that creatively integrates running. In addition to preparing participants for a celebratory 5K at the end of each season, the program equips them with life skills that last. Local volunteer coaches, like Jennifer, are at the heart of this work, leading teams through lessons that combine fun physical activity with vital social-emotional development. Bolt first became involved with Girls on the Run in 2018. In her words, "I love GOTR so much, and I'm so happy to be part of such an important program that helps girls shine!" She is consistently bringing energy, compassion, and a commitment to every participant's growth. Combined with the organization's evidence-based curriculum, Girls on the Run coaches help meet today's girls' mental and physical needs. With an increase in girls reporting greater levels of sadness and depression, encouraging role models who consistently show up like Jennifer are critical in preparing girls for adolescence and beyond. Program Director Katie Esposito praised Bolt for her enduring contributions, saying, "Her dedication has become a shining example of what it looks like to live out the GOTR mission every

single day. Jen embodies the heart of this program. Through her dedication, she has created a space where girls feel supported, empowered, and inspired to reach their full potential. She is an Adjustment Counselor who understands the importance of girl only programming. By showing up consistently, Jen not only encourages girls to believe in themselves, but also helps shape a culture of empowerment and community at the school. Leaders like her embody the very essence of programs that aim to inspire and support young women." As the organization expands, remarkable role models like Jennifer are essential to ensuring the program reaches girls when they need it most. Girls on the Run Worcester County is always looking for caring and enthusiastic individuals to join its roster of coaches and help the next generation pursue their dreams. In a recent post-season experience survey of coaches, 97 percent felt Girls on the Run had been a valuable experience for them, 98 percent formed positive relationships with the participants on their team, and 95 percent felt that they were making a difference in participants' lives. In a separate research study, coaches reported that coaching a Girls on the Run team helped them build community connections, enhance their own social-emotional skills, strengthen their professional skills, and gain more confidence. Visit www.gotr-worc.org for more information about Girls on the Run Worcester County and how to get involved. About Girls on the Run

Worcester County Girls on the Run (GOTR) Worcester County offers after-school empowerment programs designed for girls in grades 3 through 8. The nonprofit helps girls in Worcester County build confidence, increase their level of physical activity, and learn essential life skills. Facilitated by trained

volunteer coaches, the research-based curriculum explores core topics relevant to 8- to 13-year-olds, including managing emotions, expressing empathy, and standing up for ourselves and others. The program includes a Community Impact Project and culminates with a 5K Celebration. GOTR Worcester County is

one of more than 160 councils a part of Girls on the Run International (GOTRI). Since GOTR was founded in 1996, this national movement has served more than 2.5 million girls in all 50 states and Canada. Visit www.gotr-worc.org to learn more.

All Saints students join in World Diabetes Day



WEBSTER — In honor of All Saints Academy students living with Type 1 diabetes, the entire school community joined together on World Diabetes Day to learn more about the condition and show their support. Through engaging videos, food comparisons, and hands-on lessons, students explored how the body uses energy from food to play, learn, and grow. During the lessons, students discovered that people with Type 1 diabetes are unable to fuel their bodies properly because their pancreas does not produce

insulin. Insulin acts like a key, unlocking the door that allows energy from food to enter the body's cells. Without it, sugar remains in the bloodstream instead of reaching the places where it is needed, which can make a person with diabetes very sick. These activities gave students a clearer understanding of why individuals with diabetes check their blood sugar, take insulin, and use medical devices. Most importantly, they learned that kids with diabetes can do everything their peers can do. To cap off the day, stu-

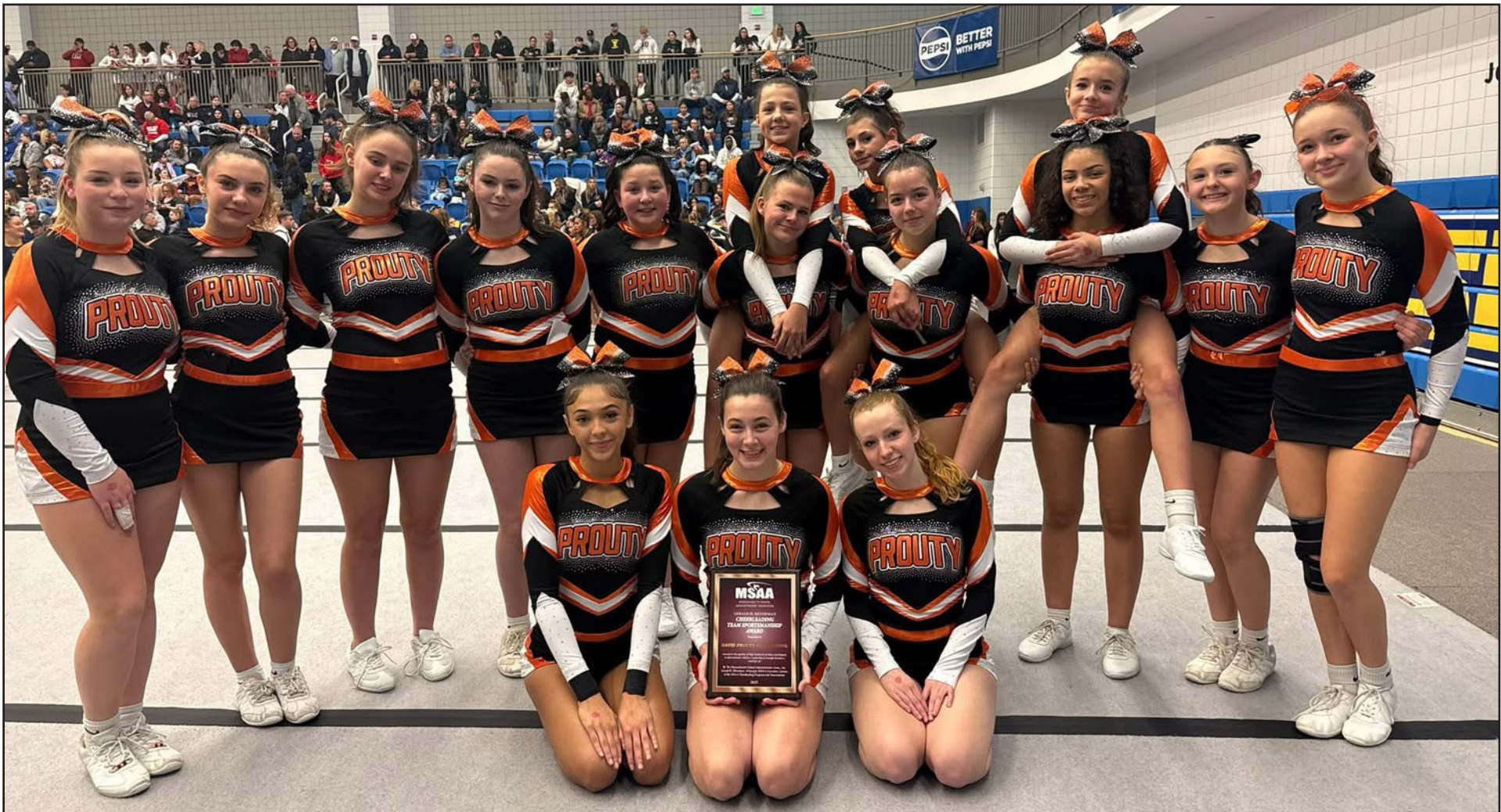
dents created blue backpack rings to hang on their backpacks as a symbol of solidarity with everyone living with diabetes—especially their fellow ASA classmates. The circular shape represents life, health, and unity, while the blue mirrors both the sky that connects all people and the color of the United Nations flag. The event aimed to raise awareness and foster a supportive, informed, and inclusive school environment—one where every student feels understood and empowered.

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Prouty Cheer earns General H. Sherman Sportsmanship Award at States

WORCESTER — On Saturday, Nov. 22, Prouty Cheer went to States not to win, but to represent our school to showcase just how far David Prouty Cheerleading has come. The team was honored with the MSAA Sportsmanship Award. “This team has grown tremendously since the beginning of the season. Every competition, we step on the mat to improve, not to

win—because while winning is great, showing up and getting better week after week is what truly matters. Always believe in yourself, give 100 percent in everything you do, and recognize the incredible potential you have. We are proud—today and every day,” stated Prouty Cheer Coach Melissa Huard immediately following the competition. “What impresses me most is that the General H.

Sherman Sportsmanship Award represents high ethics and integrity in interscholastic athletics and places great importance on discipline, respect, and sportsmanship, valuing participation and integrity over simply winning,” said Superintendent Paul Haughey. “So, it was bittersweet to see our Prouty Cheer squad out there competing at such a high level, representing our district and David Prouty High School

not only at States, but throughout the fall season this year so well.” “On behalf of everyone within the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District, congratulations to Coach Melissa Huard and the Prouty Cheer squad on not only winning many awards throughout the season, but also topping the fall 2025 season off in this manner, with the H. Sherman

Sportsmanship Award,” Haughey added. “We are so very proud of each and every one of you. Many congratulations, Prouty Cheer!”

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LEGALS

**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. WO25P3864EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
**Nancy Lee Finney
Date of Death:01/29/2022**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Richard D. Finney, Jr. of West Brookfield 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:
Richard D. Finney, Jr. of West Brookfield MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/10/2025.**

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: November 12, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
December 5, 2025

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
**10 Meadow Road
Spencer, Massachusetts 01562**
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by **LATOUR REALTY LLC** to the **Webster First Federal Credit Union** dated **April 23, 2020** and recorded with the **Worcester County** Registry of Deeds in **Book 62289, Page 112** of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder for breaching conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction, on the premises described in said mortgage on the **18th** day of **December 2025 at 11:00 A.M.** at the mortgaged premises of **10 Meadow Road, Spencer, Massachusetts**, all and singular, the premises conveyed by said mortgage, and therein described as follows:
The land with buildings thereon known and designated as Meadow Road, Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts owned by Reginald Gobi dated December 27, 1967, Theodore P. Drazek R.L.S. bounded and described as follows:
Beginning at a point in the Easterly line of Meadow Road at a wall situated 144.27 feet Northerly of a Worcester County Highway Bound, said point also being the Southwest corner of land of Lester D. Walker and the Northwest corner of the tract herein described as shown on said plan;
Thence S. 15° 38' E., 35.3 feet to a point;
Thence S. 6° 12' E. 245.57 feet to a point;
Thence S. 24° 50' E., 200.23 feet to a point; the last three courses being by a wall and said Walker land;
Thence S. 36° 42' E., 78.20 feet still along said Walker land to a point;
Thence S. 69° 06' W., 42.60 feet crossing a brook, as shown on said plan, to a point at a wall and land of Raoul Chalifoux;
Thence S. 30° 11' W., 100.0 feet along said wall and Chalifoux land to a point;
Thence N. 68° 42' W., 199.68 feet

along other land of the grantors to a point;
Thence N. 53° 34' W., 183.42 feet still along said grantors' other land to a point in the Easterly line of said Meadow Road;
Thence Northeasterly, 203.95 feet along a curve to the left in the Easterly line of Meadow Road to a point at a Worcester County Highway Bound, Station 6 + 93.07, 1959 County Alteration; said curve having a radius of 1030 feet;
Thence N. 29° 35' 41" E., 165.36 feet still along the Easterly line of Meadow Road to a point at a Worcester County Highway Bound;
Thence Northwesterly along a curve to the left along the Easterly line of Meadow Road, 144.27 feet to the point of beginning, said curve having a radius of 1030 feet.
Containing 2.56 acres of land. Said plan is recorded in Plan Book 319, Plan 118.

For title deed, see deed recorded herewith at Book 60681, Page 398
The said premises will be sold subject to and with the benefit of all restrictions, easements, improvements, outstanding tax titles, mortgages, liens, rights of tenants and parties in possession, unpaid taxes, municipal liens and other public taxes, assessments, liens or condominium fees, having priority over the mortgage described herein, if any. The above described lot is sold subject to the requirements of the Title V standards for subsurface sewerage disposal system 310 CMR 15.00 et al., if applicable.
The Mortgagee reserves the right to postpone the sale to a later date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone at any adjourned sale date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date.

In the event that the successful bidder at the foreclosure sale shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of the Notice of Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale agreement executed at the time of the foreclosure, the Mortgagee reserves the right, but not the obligation, to sell the property by Foreclosure Deed to the second highest bidder (or other successive bidders, in the order of their bid) provided that the said highest bidder shall deposit with the Mortgagee's attorney, James M. O'Brien, Esquire, the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within three (3) working days after written notice of default of the previous highest bidder, and the balance of the sale price shall be paid by certified or bank check by the purchaser, and the deed shall be delivered to said highest bidder, within thirty (30) days of such notice.

TERMS OF SALE: Cash, cashier's or certified check in the sum of Ten Thousand **(\$10,000.00)** Dollars as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee are exempt from this requirement); high bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid and tender deposit of **\$10,000.00** in cash or by certified or bank treasurer's check. The balance is to be paid in cash or by certified or bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days thereafter to be deposited with James M. O'Brien, Esquire, 271 Greenwood Street, Worcester, MA 01607. A foreclosure deed will be delivered upon payment of the balance due. The description of the premises in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
WEBSTER FIRST FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
Present Holder of Said Mortgage
By its Attorney,
James M. O'Brien
271 Greenwood Street
P.O. Box 70505
Worcester, MA 01607
November 21, 2025
November 28, 2025
December 5, 2025

**Town of Spencer
Conservation Commission
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**
In accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, MGL c. 131, s. 40 and the Spencer Wetlands By-Law:
Cheryl Wood has filed an **RDA** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to repair a stone wall located at **19 Sherwood Drive**, Spencer, MA.

Jay Gallant has filed an **NOI** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to demolish an addition and rebuild and renovate the deck located at **35 Pine Acres**, Spencer, MA.
Richard Gaffney has filed an **RDA** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to replace the retaining wall located at **21 Sherman Grove**, Spencer, MA.
Applications can be reviewed at the Office of Development and Inspectional Services, Town Hall. A public hearing regarding these filings will be held by the Spencer Conservation Commission in McCourt Social Hall at Town Hall, 157 Main Street, on Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at which time all persons having an interest may be present or call in remotely to participate. Conservation Commission meetings open at 6:15 p.m.
Mary McLaughlin, Chairwoman
December 5, 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. WO234P3880EA
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR ORDER OF
COMPLETE SETTLEMENT**
Estate Of:
**Doreen M Angers
Date of Death: 08/15/2023**

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/30/2025** . 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.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 28, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
December 5, 2025

Please be aware that the Burncoat Pond Watershed District will hold a meeting on December 16 2025 at Leicester Town Hall, meeting room 2, 3 Washburn Square, Leicester, MA 01524, at 6 PM in order to set the tax rate for fiscal year 2026. All proprietors are welcome.
December 5, 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. WO25P3934EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
**Ann Margaret Loftus
Also known as: Ann M Loftus
Date of Death:08/23/2025**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Timothy Loftus of North Oxford 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:
Timothy Loftus of North Oxford MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/16/2025.**

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: November 21, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
December 28, 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. WO25C0569CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME**

In the matter of:
Nash Aaliyah Sterndale
A **Petition to Change Name of Minor** has been filed by **Nash Aaliyah Sterndale of North Brookfield MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Nash Paul Paradis
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10 a.m. on the return day of 12/16/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 14, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
December 5, 2025

**Town of Spencer, MA
Tree Public Hearing**
In accordance with MGL Ch 87 §3, The Town of Spencer, MA Tree Warden will hold a public hearing in-person or remote on **Monday, December 15, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.** at 3 Old Meadow Road, Spencer, MA. (Water Dept.) to consider National Grids proposed removal of two trees: Spring Street.
The Remote meeting may be accessed by:
Dialing in from your phone: 1 (224) 501-3412
Enter Access Code: **928-904-381**
Or join from your computer: <https://meet.goto.com/TownofSpencerUF/meeting-room>
Information pertaining to these particular trees may be viewed at spencerma.gov.
Ray Holmes
Tree Warden
December 5, 2025
December 12, 2025

**Notice of Public Hearing–
Planning Board**
The Spencer Planning Board will be holding a **Public Hearing on Tuesday December 16, 2025 in McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, , 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA,** and the hearing will be conducted in person and remotely on the following items starting at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:
Stormwater Permit Amendment–Applicant/Owner: Graziele De Souza/ JR Siding, Inc, Location: 4 & 6 Eagleton St, Spencer Assessor's Map R38-19 & 19-2. The applicant is looking for a Stormwater Permit Amendment under the Spencer Stormwater Management Bylaw (Article 14 of the Spencer General Bylaws) to amend an approved Stormwater Permit that was issued on March 21, 2023. The property is located within the Suburban Residential (SR) zoning district.
November 28, 2025
December 5, 2025

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

Christmas tree alternatives that provide year-round beauty



Lemon cypress trees surrounded by poinsettias create a festive holiday display.

Melinda Myers

When looking for a unique holiday tree this season consider adding a plant you can enjoy now and throughout the year. Select a larger specimen to use as a floor plant, adding dramatic scale to your indoor

décor. Smaller plants can be placed on tabletops throughout the house to add a bit of extra cheer in any room.

Transform a weeping fig, rubber tree or fiddle-leaf fig into a holiday tree

with a few lights, garland and ornaments. All three of these make great additions to an indoor garden and their tree-like appearance makes them a perfect substitute for more traditional Christmas trees.

Grow them in bright, indirect light with evenly moist but not soggy wet soil. Water thoroughly and pour off any excess water that collects in the saucer. Or place pebbles in the saucer to elevate the pot above the water, creating a gravel tray. The excess water will evaporate, increasing humidity around the plant. Avoid drafts of hot and cold air and be prepared for some leaf drop on the weeping fig with a change in the seasons or growing conditions. It will survive and eventually send out new leaves.

Consider a Norfolk Island pine when looking for something that looks more like a pine tree. You will often find them decorated and sold for the holidays in garden centers and floral shops. Or add your own decorations for the festive look you prefer.

Grow Norfolk Island pine in a cool, well-lit location that's free of drafts of hot and cold air. Regularly turn the plant to encourage even growth. Avoid dry air and keep the soil evenly moist to retain green, flexible and healthy needles and branches. Boost the humidity around this and other plants



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

while reducing maintenance by using a gravel tray.

Purchase Rosemary wreaths and tree topiaries for a festive as well as fragrant and edible addition to the holidays. Just give the leaves a pet to enjoy the fragrance as it boosts your spirits. Pluck a sprig or two to add flavor to your winter meals and beverages.

Growing Rosemary indoors can be challenging so don't let past failures stop you from trying. Experiment until you find the location and maintenance routine that keeps your plant thriving. Grow it in a sunny window or under artificial lights and water thoroughly as the soil begins to dry. If the plant turns brown, move it out of sight to the back of your indoor garden. It still smells good when you give it a pet and only you will know.

Lemon Cypress makes a great miniature holiday

tree, centerpiece or gift for a friend. The fragrant chartreuse foliage of this dwarf evergreen continues to brighten your winter décor long after the holidays are over. Grow it in a sunny window and turn it occasionally to encourage even growth. You'll have the best results if you keep it in a cool location free from cold and hot air drafts.

Investing in one of these plants is sure to brighten your spirits and holiday décor. With proper care you can continue to enjoy them year-round and for next year's holiday celebrations.

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" streaming courses and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Lanterns Along Main Street

There's a small ritual I've noticed in a lot of Massachusetts towns—something so ordinary you could miss it unless you're paying attention. It happens in the morning, long before the school buses growl to life or the commuter rush begins. Shopkeepers unlock their doors, sweep a few stray leaves from their thresholds, and prop the door open for a minute to "let the day in," as one fellow once told me.

I've always liked that expression. You don't open the door; you let the day in. As if the day were something polite, waiting on the step with its hat in hand.

That morning moment reveals something about these towns. You learn who gets up early, who doesn't mind the cold bite of a December morning, who chats across the street as naturally as breathing. You learn that the fellow who runs the hardware store has the same whistle every day, and that the woman who works the bakery counter taps her knuckles on the window before she flips the sign to Open, like a quiet promise that she means it.

What strikes me isn't the routine itself, but the way people seem to take comfort in it. In a world with so many moving parts—so much technology, so many shortcuts, so many alerts and reminders buzzing for our attention—there's something steadying about a place where the first order of business is sweeping off the stoop. You don't

LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET

By CHIPPY

need an app for it, and nobody's angling for recognition. They just do it because it makes the day feel like it's beginning on the right foot.

I drove through a handful of towns in the area last week and found myself stopping for coffee in one of those little places where the tables wobble and the mugs are mismatched. The man behind the counter asked if I wanted a refill before I had even taken my first sip. It wasn't pushy—just habit, the way some people press a hand against your shoulder before they walk by. A courtesy without any expectation attached.

At the table next to mine, two men were talking about the high school basketball team. One of them still called the gym the new gym, even though it was built sometime in the mid-1990s. You hear that kind of thing a lot around here. Old labels have a long half-life. A building can be new for decades if the one before it was older still.

That's the quiet charm of these towns: time doesn't hurry. Not in a stubborn way, but in a comfortable one. Something might change—a new family moves in, a business closes, a bridge gets repaired—but life doesn't shove ahead. It ambles. And in that ambling, people notice things that would go unremarked elsewhere.

They notice if the library lights are on a little later than usual. They notice when a regular stops showing up for morning coffee and someone goes to check in. They

notice when the town hall flag flaps oddly because the rope has caught, and someone climbs up to fix it without calling attention to the effort.

You don't need to romanticize small towns to appreciate this. They have their problems, just like anywhere else. But they also have a certain sturdiness—a belief that life is best lived with a bit of care and a steady gait.

I watched an older couple walking down Main Street in a town I won't name because it could be almost any of them. They weren't in a rush. They weren't talking. They were simply keeping pace with each other, stopping once to look at a storefront display of knitted hats and again to check whether the barber's pole was spinning that day. They walked as though the sidewalk belonged to them in the best way—not possession, but familiarity.

There's something reassuring in that. We spend so much time thinking about what's urgent that we sometimes forget what's simply there. And in these Massachusetts towns, there's an impressive amount of there—small kindnesses, unspoken habits, a rhythm you can find only if you slow down enough to fall into step with it.

The next time you're up early, drive through town before the day has fully stretched awake. Watch the shop doors open, the lights flicker on, the first few conversations hover above the sidewalk like breath on cold air. You'll see what I

mean.

You'll see that a community isn't built on grand gestures. It's built on the quiet act of letting the day in.

LEGALS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Worcester Probate & Family Court, Docket No. W025E0029PP. To Gary A. McComas and all other persons interested: A petition has been presented to said Court by Cynthia S. Roberts and Laura Lee Shortt of North Brookfield and Dover in the County of Worcester and Kent, representing that the petitioner holds an undivided part of certain land in said County, described in the petition, and requesting that such land be sold at private sale for not less than \$50,677.47 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 third day of December, 2025, the return day of this citation. Witness, Leilah A. Kearny, Esq., First Judge of said Court, this twenty eighth day of October, 2025. It is ordered that notice of said proceeding be given by delivering or mailing by registered mail or certified mail as a copy of the foregoing citation to all persons interested whose addresses are known fourteen days at least before said return day, and if any person is not so served, by mailing a copy thereof to the last known address of such person fourteen days at least before said return day; and by publishing a copy thereof once in each week for three successive weeks in the New Leader, a newspaper published in North Brookfield, the last publication to be seven days at least before said return day. Witness, Leilah A. Kearny, Esq., First Judge of said Court, this twenty eighth day of October, 2025. The land in North Brookfield, Worcester County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, being a certain parcel of land with buildings thereon situated on the westerly side of Lake Lashaway bounded and described as follows: Lots #1 & #2 of Block 4 on a plan of Pinecroft Lots owned by Howard S. Hill made by E.A. Chamberlain, Engineer, dated September 22, 1923 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 40, Plan 81. Being the same premises conveyed to Richard S. McComas and Wilma P. McComas by deed of William J. Vahey and Alma S. Vahey, husband and wife, recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 4050, Page 577. Kent Boyle November 28, 2025

DERBY

continued from page A1

Brookfields Lions Club's charitable work and community initiatives throughout the region," according to club president Bill Cass.

Derby headquarters will be located at the Quaboag Pond boat ramp in Brookfield. Weigh-ins will take place from 7 a.m. until the derby closes at 3:30 p.m., with the children's division ending at 2 p.m. and youth prizes awarded at 2:30 p.m. The \$5,000 cash drawing for all ticket holders will take

place at 4 p.m., and a complete announcement of all derby winners will air on CLASSIC HITS 97.7 FM and 1250 AM (WARE Radio) at 5 p.m.

In the event that no safe ice exists by Thursday, Jan. 29, the derby itself will be cancelled, and all drawings will be held at the North Brookfield Legion Post 41, located below Subway in North Brookfield. No fish prizes will be awarded, but all tickets will still be valid for the five-minute cash drawings and the \$5,000 Grand Prize drawing.

As is customary for this derby, there is a "one fish per

category per ticket" rule that helps ensure broader distribution of prizes and encourages a fair, community-minded competition. All qualifying fish must be caught within the Central Wildlife District. Children up to age 12 compete separately using state minimum lengths, while young anglers who meet the adult minimum lengths may also qualify for the main leaderboard.

Tickets for the derby are available from any Brookfields Lions Club member, and at many longtime partner locations including: K&S Bait Shop (Barre), Central Package (Brookfield), R&R Sport Shop (Belchertown), 308 Lakeside Restaurant (East Brookfield), Fred's Variety & Package Store (Fiskdale), Granby Bait Shop (Granby), Ben's Bait (Leicester), Red Ridge Bait & Tackle (Ludlow), Still Hart's (North Brookfield), Nick's Sport Shop (Palmer), Glenda's and River Town Bait Shop

(Warren), Mathieson Bait Shop (West Brookfield).

Following the derby, all winners will be posted at www.brookfieldslionsclub.org, and at all ticket vendor locations. For additional information, please contact the Brookfields Lions Club at brookfieldslionsclub@gmail.com, or visit the Club's Facebook page at facebook.com/BrookfieldsLionsClub.

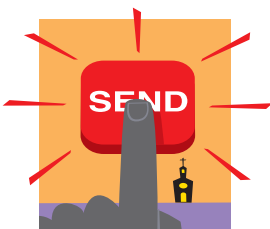
As the world's largest, youngest and most active service organization, the mission of Lions Clubs International is to empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace, and promote international understanding. Members of the Brookfields Lions Club are dedicated to service and support in the communities of Brookfield, East Brookfield, North Brookfield, West Brookfield, and New Braintree.

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OBITUARY

Michael Thomas McIntyre



West Brookfield / Mashpee — Michael T. McIntyre, formally of Newton, West Brookfield and most recently, Mashpee, Massachusetts, passed away surrounded by his family on October 31st, 2025, at the age of 85.

Mike was born on May 3rd, 1940, to the late Stephen and Agnes McIntyre of Newton. He grew up as one of five children while he attended catholic primary school before going on to Newton High School and later serving in the United States Army as a paratrooper in the 101st Airborne Division. After his time in the military, he went on to be a successful business owner in the auto industry with multiple dealerships across the state. As a business owner he was heavily involved in town, serving as selectman, on the business council and multiple other organizations; but before all else he was a family man who always worked hard and took pride in supporting his family in any way that he could.

He leaves behind many people that he loved including Leslie Kelley-McIntyre; his children Maura Chandler, and her husband, Tony, Brent McIntyre, and his wife, Bettie, Kaylee Courtney, and her husband, Tyler, and Shay McIntyre, as well as his grandchildren Ryan, and his wife, Shaila Chandler, Christy Chandler and Riley Courtney, and his great-granddaughter McKenna Chandler. He also leaves

behind his brother Peter McIntyre and his wife, Kathy Coe, and many nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews that he loved. He was predeceased by his sister Jean McIntyre, and brothers, Stephen McIntyre and John McIntyre. He brought love, life and happiness to his family, whether it be on trips to Florida, days spent on the Cape or driving around listening to stories on all topics-including things he learned watching the history channel, stories from his youth growing up outside of Boston, or random facts he picked up along the way. Mike was larger than life and he will be greatly missed by his family, friends and all the people he had an impact on throughout his life.

Michael McIntyre's life will be celebrated this spring by his family and close friends in a private service. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial donations be made in his name to either the Mashpee Fire & Rescue Squad, 20 Frank E. Hicks Drive, Mashpee, MA 02649 or the Greater Boston YMCA at Donate to 2025 YMCA of Greater Boston Annual Fund, where he spent a lot of time in his youth.

Varum Funeral Home, 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield is honored to be assisting his family with his arrangements. An online tribute page is available at varumfuneralhome.com



HACE gala marks 40 years of empowering Hispanic youth

WORCESTER — The Hispanics Achieving and Celebrating Excellence (HACE) Awards celebrated its 40th anniversary yesterday, honoring decades of work uplifting Hispanic and Latino youth across Worcester, Southbridge and surrounding communities.

Founded in 1985, the program has awarded more than \$240,000 in scholarships to over 850 students in Central Massachusetts. The annual event recognizes Hispanic and Latine students for achievements in academics, arts, athletics, community service, leadership and civic engagement.

"This is more than an anniversary. It's a celebration of Latino culture of excellence, service to the community and the incredible power of perseverance," said keynote speaker Eladia Romero-Rodriguez, regional manager for the Office of

U.S. Congressman James P. McGovern. "For 40 years, HACE has not simply spoken about empowerment, they have embodied it."

Speakers at the event highlighted the program's role in creating pathways to higher education and leadership for Latine youth, especially amid systemic challenges such as financial barriers, underfunded schools and cultural isolation.

State Sen. Robyn Kennedy praised the organization's impact, calling it "a lifeline and a launching pad" for generations of students.

"When Latino students succeed, our entire community succeeds," Kennedy said.

"I stand on the shoulders of people who created the path for me to be here today," said Worcester City Manager Eric Batista,

a former HACE recipient. "It's my job to continue that legacy and give back to the young people of the city."

The celebration also honored founders and long-standing committee members, such as Maria Addison, Olga Lopez Hill and former State Senate President Harriette Chandler, who have sustained the program for four decades. Leaders urged continued support through mentorship, volunteerism and financial contributions to ensure future success for Latino youth.

"Your support for this organization is saying to each one of those students, 'We believe in you.' Higher education changes lives and you are changing lives by being here," said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja.

For more information or to contribute, visit QCC.edu/hace.

QCC's food pantry supporting students through record demand

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College's HomePlate Food Pantry & Resource Center is experiencing unprecedented demand, serving more students and families than ever before as economic pressures and food and housing insecurity impact the local community. The college is focusing its Giving Tuesday campaign on raising funds for the food pantry to meet this demand.

Since the beginning of July, the pantry has registered more than 750 students, supporting close to 1,700 household members. This marks a significant increase from the same period last year, when close to 450 students and 890 household members were served.

"We have adjusted our system so that we don't

have to turn anyone away, but the need goes up every week," said Manager of the Home Plate Food Pantry and Resource Center Charlotte Operach.

On the busiest days, HomePlate serves up to 100 students. The pantry provides food items as well as personal hygiene items such as toothpaste and diapers. Additionally, students experiencing housing issues are connected to resources.

"If I think about my kids going hungry, I would rather miss a day at school, just to go to work to save my kids," said a nursing student using the food pantry. "As a mother, it's worrying. You cannot concentrate in school."

About 75 percent of the pantry's food supply comes from the Worcester County Food Bank, with the remainder purchased

through donations and grants. Popular items include fresh fruits and vegetables, frozen meats, oatmeal, pasta and diapers.

Operach noted that community support is critical, especially as the demand continues to increase. The pantry accepts product donations at the main campus as well as monetary donations through the QCC Foundation. Grocery store gift cards, now accepted up to \$50, are also highly valued, allowing students to meet specific dietary needs.

"With everything going on with SNAP benefits and the cost of living so high, there's a lot of anxiety," Operach said. "But our students are so resilient."

For more information or to donate, visit QCC.edu/foodpantry and QCC.edu/giving-tuesday.

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Friday's Child



Christopher
Age 16
Registration #8213

Christopher ("Chris") is an energetic, sweet, and lovable young person with a big personality and a heart to match. He's known for his quick wit, sense of humor, and perfectly timed one-liners that always make the people around him laugh. Chris has a playful, sassy side and brings lighthearted energy wherever he goes. Chris loves being active and outdoors—whether it's swimming, shooting hoops, or tossing a football, he's always ready for a game. He enjoys trying new activities and thrives when he's part of a team. When it's time to relax, Chris can often be found playing video games or diving into a good book. He especially enjoys sports-themed stories and graphic novels, which combine his love for adventure and creativity. Those who know Chris describe him as kind, thoughtful, and full of life. He's a caring friend who enjoys connecting with others, sharing laughs, and showing his genuine personality. With his curiosity, humor, and warm spirit, Chris brightens any room he walks into and brings a smile to everyone he meets
<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21179006879>
If you're at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ+ singles and couples. As an adoptive parent, you won't have to pay any fees, adoption from foster care is completely free in Massachusetts.
The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with. To learn more about adoption from foster care visit www.mareinc.org. Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster care.



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SENIORS NAMED TO BAY PATH HONOR ROLL

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School congratulates the following students in Grade 12 on being named to the honor roll for the first quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

High Honors
Helena Rowan Adkins, Addison Emily Aho, Adriana Nataly Alicea, Jacob John Archambault, Alexander Tyr Audunsson, Vincent Paul Bedard, Isabella Aria Bitar, Edward Stephen Blash, Dominic Dewayne Boyd, Aleah Claire Brink, Brianna Livia Brink, Samuel Elia Ceppetelli, Frederick James Cierpich, Emily Ann Corey, Jacob William Creeron, Valentina Ashley Culberson, Brody Lawrence Cunningham, Myiah Kiara DeLaRosa, Basil Doud, Jocelyn Elizabeth Evans, Yandel Feliciano, Jordan Mariah Ferreira, Jayla Marie Fowler, Luke Robert Heller, Liam Wayne Hesselton, Nicholas Edward Jalbert, Tabian Marschall Keegan, Zackery Collin Kelleher, Phoebe Alyson Lawendowski, Nicholas Sebastian Londono, Cullen Gregory MacLeod, Ava Rose Mastrototaro, Alexis McGee Messina, Liam Macrae Nicoll, Sebastian Alexander Nieuwenhoff, Benjamin Francis Nocchi, Mariah Lynn Pereira, Jacob Paul Pratt, Kayleigh Jean Ramm, Nathan Alexander Rouille Montoya, Luke William Smolski, Ashley Mikayla Tingle, Anne Louise Turcotte, Esmerelda Velez, Ava Quiyn Wall, Hunter Earl White

Honors
Bayleigh Alexis Abdella, Sarah Rebecca Appiah Kubi, Violet Renee Aucella, Victoria Rose Bachand, Rhianna Anne Balliet, Arianna Rose Belanger, Nathan Paul Bernard, David Betancur, Roger Joseph Bishop, Dominic Raymond Brodeur, Lucien Stephen Brodeur, Alissa Lynn Burlingame, Dimitri

Anthony Burt, Liam Michael Carlson, Lily Sabina Chartier, Charles Michael Congdon, Lorelie May Curboy, Connor Anthony Czechowski, Joseph Michael Daige, Smauel Richard Davis, Treyton Joseph Dery, Cody Daniel Dombroski, Christopher Michael Dufresne, Zenovi Irene Dupont, Heidi Lynne Ebbeling, Matthew Aaron Falcigno, Leia Marie Foster, Rylee Rose Fulmine, Bridgette Anne Gaudreau, Aiden Mark Giroux-Provencher, Aliyah Marie Gonyea, Jocelynn Rose Gordon, Molly Elizabeth Grant, Anna Rosa Guay, Isaiah Terrence Harris-Harrington, Sadie Lynn Hawley, Kolton Trevor Hemenway, Lillian Elaine Horner, Hannah Jean Ingalls, Natalie Rose Ingles, Joshua William Irons, Amara Kimberly Johnson, Christian Michael Johnson, Ayden Matthew Kennedy, Samuel Arjun Kittredge, Allison Hemenway Klar, Cassie Lee Kotomski, Kirstine Marie Laflash, Marshall Thomas Lafond, Nia Mya Laforest, Callie Mae Lambert, Joel Carlos Landor, Jomar De Jesus Landor, Zachary Raymond Landry, Gabrielle Ruth LaPan, Michael Wayne Lapointe, Nathan Ryan Legendre, Miranda Kate Linde, Matthew James Lopez, Julianna Rose Lovejoy, Michael Anthony Lulu, Philipos Anastasio Makrodimitras, Mystic Leigh Marion, Bradley Anthony McCarthy, Emily Jean McDonald, Madeline Beverly McDonald-Trimby, Avery Lynn McLaughlin, Felix Casey Menard, Sebastian Luke Moniz, Angelo Michael Montiverdi, Alexis Paige Moody, Jackson Ryan Mullins, Chaser Patrick Newman, Connor James O'Brien, Matthew Thomas Obrycki, Kelsey Lynn Olson, Cole Henry Paradis, Adam Jason Phaneuf, Samuel Joseph Prefontaine, Jae Mia Prochnow,

Samantha Jeanne Reseigh, Grace Elizabeth Retallic, Taylor Lynn Richard, Vincent Timothy Rose, Jordan Joyce Russell, Brianne Marie Sentence, Jaxon Russell Sitko, Alexxis Lynne Spenard, Keagan Robert Stranding, Nathan Adam Steen, Gaige Charles Thompson, Josiah Felix Torres, Yandel Omar Torres, Ezekiel Velazquez, Harley Ann Wilson Wadden, Londyn Nancy Walker, Marcanthony Justin Weld, Katherine Marie Widebeck, Trey Stephen Wilkin, Noah Williamson, Harrison Riley Wilson, Adrianna Marie Young, Haylee Marie Zurowski

Principal's List
Gianna Marie Albano, Emma Theresa Baldyga, Logan Amanda Barriere, Megan Lucy Bell, William Stephen Blash, Mecheanise Monic Calo Resto, Emily Rose Casault, Hunter Matthew Coombs, Abigail Taylor DeJong, Savannah Jane Dubois, Caden Joseph Edwards, Mya Reese Federico, Ethan Alexander Ford, Tristan Alexander Garcia-Cruz, Anthony Mark Gonya, Kylie Dorothy Greska, Isaias D'Jesus Henriquez Baez, Elyse Louise Laramie, Alyssa Ivellisse Lopez, Lucas Scott Lyons, Emmanuel McDaddie, Izaiah Timothy Monette, Gianna Marie Morelli, Tyson Joseph Moriarty, Jeremiah Betsaleel Noel, Kamryn Leigh Nourse, Niti Nilesh Patel, Amari Audrey Pereira, Aiden Charles Perzanoski, Angelina Marie Petro, Marcus Joseph Rodriguez, Sawyer Luke Schultz, Jared Robert Senosk, Alexander Chares Skladzien, Damion Robert Taylor, Thadaeus Boadi Tweneboa, Sebastian Paul Vargas, Aynara Shirel Vazquez, Kyle Evan Velez, Natalie Helen Vigeant, Zaylie Elaine Whiteman, Brook Michelle Worthington

LEICESTER HIGH SCHOOL RELEASES HONOR ROLL

LEICESTER — Leicester High School has released a revised honor roll for the first quarter of the 2025-2026 school year, noting that the version initially submitted for publication in last week's edition inadvertently omitted some students' names.

12th Grade
High Honors: Kate Barbato, Kyle Bates, Eryn Berkstresser, Avery Bullock, Sophia Comeau, Brandon Escobar, John Gahagan, Shane Garrahe, Bueno Guzman Bueno, Emily Hunt, Natalia Kallio, Gabriel Key-Wallace, Hannah Martin, Christopher Moffat, Zoe Morales, Nola Perry, Kassidy Poce, Nicole Tuson, Tyler Williams
Honors: Lenny Angua-Mante, Abigail Baker, Landon Beveridge, Isabella Beyers, Collin Connor, Jacob Cospoer, Jasmine Fuller, Jason Fuller, Jordan Giggey, Brody Grant, Rowen Hennessy, Savannah Kulig, Ava Lane, Elyssia Leboeuf, Isabella LePoer, Savannah Lumb, Crislary Martinez Castillo, Augustine Marubu, Bethany Parke, Lucas Sampaio, Jack Skoglund, Nathan Wilder, Dakota Zinkevich

11th Grade
High Honors: Jacob Beaulac, Joshua McCormick, Sabrina Wright
Honors: Destiny Barshell, Inal Bouzid, Jenna Bush, Kelsey Cole, Alexander Fournier, Taylor Gallant, Kenneth Lane, Jahnisha Layne, Jeremy Ledbetter, Valerie Maynard, Kaidyn McDowell, Nayeli Merino Canas, Robert O'Neil, Gianna Panepinto, Laila Paquin, Ava Petruzzi,

Jillian Rodrique, Taylor Rodrique, Mary Van Hazinga, Casey Waterman

10th Grade
High Honors: Matthew Alves, Brady Bouchard, Andrew Boucher, Haylee Kularski, Brock Lopez, Alena Martinkova, Julianna McCormick, Trinity Medeiros, Charlotte Mercer, Katherine Ozarowski, Paula Roberts, Ryan Sweeney, Jayke Williams
Honors: Jack Albro, Anthony Andino, Muhammad Arslan, Russell Baker, Rory Barrett, Kennedy Bates, Emma Bernabei, Jude Campbell, Zachary Couture, Allison Gagne, Annalise Guzman, Hailey Knott, Joseph Kulla, Michael Lupien, Matthew Magoun, Joyce Marubu, Josiah McDonald, Max Milonis, Maia Mitchell, Trevor Moorghen, Nikolai Ngo, Brandon Nguyen, Alivia Perry, Desmond Strom, Shane Stuart, Jameson Wood

9th Grade
High Honors: Jordan Argyriadis, Camden Beaudry, Nick Nguyen, Hunter Wright
Honors: Elijah Belisle, Sarah Clark, Lucas Cruz, John Derrick, Brody Dufries, Javier Flores, Liam Gentile, Benjamin Hagglund, Braydon Herbert, Mya Jones, James Karas, Diana Kitchen, Callie Ladner, Papayaw Larbi, Rocco Lauder, Tighe Lauder, Brody Mateiko, Lila McDonald, Kingston Nguyen, David Pacheco, Jaedyn Perry, Thinh Pham, John Poppalardo, Ella Rowden, Zenah Stagg, William Toomey, Robert Zinkevich

LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES

BROOKFIELD
Brookfield Ecumenical Food Pantry
St. Mary's Church
4 Howard Street, Brookfield, MA 01506
Distribution: Wednesday 9:30 AM-11 AM:
Saturday 9:30 AM-11AM

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

St. Joseph's Church, Charlton
Tuesday 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Wednesday 9-11 a.m.
Everyone is welcome.

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

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

OXFORD
Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf
Oxford Community Center
4 Maple Road
Oxford, MA 01540
Distribution: Thursday 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

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

SOUTHBRIDGE
St. John Paul II Parish Food Pantry
279 Hamilton St., Southbridge
Tuesday 3-5 p.m., Wednesday 9-11 a.m.
(508) 765-0245

Southbridge Food Share
Located at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, lower level
446 Hamilton St,
Southbridge, MA 01550
Email:
Southbridgefoodshare.org@gmail.com
Phone: 508-764-6583
Open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 10:00 am to 11:15 am.

SPENCER- EAST BROOKFIELD - RESIDENTS ONLY
Mary Queen of the Rosary Food Pantry
60 Maple St, Spencer, MA 01562
Distribution: Thursday 10 AM-12 Noon

STURBRIDGE
Saint Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry,
Located in the St. Anne Church basement,
16 Church Street, Fiskdale, MA 01518
Stocked by donations
Contact: 508-347-6398

WEBSTER
Webster-Dudley Food Share
4 Church St #2
Webster, MA 0570
Distribution: Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 -11:00 am. Open to Webster and Dudley residents.
Please call ahead: 508-943-9171

WEST BROOKFIELD
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W.Bookfield, MA 01585
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Featured Listing

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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 \$399,900.

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

Webster Lake -
302 Killdeer Island
PANORAMIC VIEWS!



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

Featured New Listing!!!
WEBSTER - 19 FIRST STREET



ON DEPOSIT

Bring an open mind to this unique property & let your creative design ideas flow! This one level 1,040 sf, 3 BR home is reminiscent of an English Country Cottage! It evokes a cozy, rustic, lived-in vibe. The overall aesthetic is one of practical comfort, collected charm and a relaxed, slightly whimsical atmosphere. Key characteristics include spacious rooms, hardwood floors, a primary BR with sliders to a very private deck, retractable awnings, replacement windows, etc. Move right in! \$304,900



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.

WATERFORD CT - 20 AVERY LN.



SORRY, SOLD!

Beautifully updated farmhouse - 5 min. to the ocean. Nothing to do just to move in!! 2 bed, 2 bath New Heating System, Central Air! Huge shed & deck! Oversized garage. 3/4+ acre. assisted sale **\$365,000**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg



SORRY, SOLD!

Ready for your year round enjoyment. 4 bedroom, 2 bath home. Open floor plan. Garage w/ enclosed entry to mudroom. Open living room with spectacular view! 2 bedrooms - 3/4 bath, on main level. Central air. Lower level, additional 2 bedrooms, bath, bonus family room, summer kitchen! Beachhouse! 51' of sandy beachfront! \$799,000

Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!



SORRY, SOLD!

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



SORRY, SOLD!

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

Beautifully Updated Circa 1890s Classic Antique Island Cottage, with Rare Boat House Included! Extremely Unique, Clean & Well Maintained, Modern Conveniences w/the Charm of Yesteryear! 1,240 SF, 6 Rms, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, Hardwood Floors! Fireplace w/Wood Pellet Stove, Wrap-Around Screened Porch, Lg Outbuilding w/Full Bath/Shower/Laundry & Workshop. Patio! Town Wtr/Swr + Private Well for Outdoor &/or Off-Season Water Use! 14,300 SF+/- Level Lot w/100'+ of Shoreline. \$995,000

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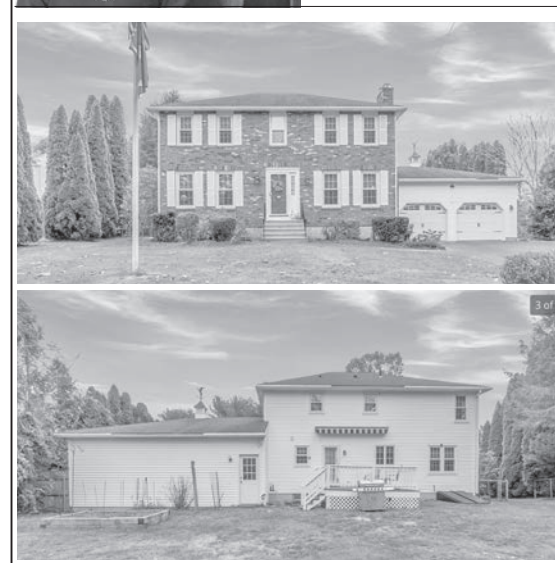
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SAINT JOSEPH STUDENTS TAKE FIELD TRIP TO BATTLESHIP COVE

FALL RIVER — Students in Grades 5–8 from Saint Joseph School recently traveled to Battleship Cove in Fall River for a memorable field trip on the eve of Veterans Day.

At Saint Joseph School, field trips are carefully chosen to correlate with teaching units and serve as extensions of the curriculum. This year’s visit to Battleship Cove was planned to honor the service and sacrifice of our nation’s veterans, deepen students’ understanding of U.S. military history, and connect classroom learning in social studies, science, and STEM with real-world experiences aboard historic naval vessels.

Battleship Cove is a nonprofit maritime museum and war memorial that houses the world’s largest

collection of World War II-era naval vessels. Located along the waterfront in Fall River, the museum is home to several National Historic Landmarks, including the battleship USS Massachusetts, the destroyer USS Joseph P. Kennedy Jr., and the World War II submarine USS Lionfish, as well as historic patrol torpedo boats and other craft. Together, these ships preserve the stories of American sailors and commemorate the sacrifices of veterans from World War II through the Vietnam era.

For many Saint Joseph School students, the highlight of the trip was stepping aboard the USS Lionfish, a World War II submarine preserved much as it appeared during its service in the Pacific. Students were struck by the submarine’s cramped quarters,

narrow passageways, and stacked bunks, all of which offered a powerful visual of what daily life was like for submariners at sea. They were especially fascinated by the size of the torpedoes and the complexity of the equipment needed to operate the vessel beneath the ocean’s surface. The experience brought to life the courage, precision, and teamwork required of the sailors who

Saint Joseph School seventh grade students stand on the deck of the USS Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. at Battleship Cove during a recent field trip. Behind them is the mighty battleship USS Massachusetts, a powerful reminder of the courage and sacrifice of the sailors who served on these historic ships.

served on submarines like the Lionfish.

Adding a very special dimension to the day was the students’ tour guide, Chloe Johnson, daughter of Saint Joseph School’s middle school math instructor, David Johnson. Chloe is a senior at Massachusetts Maritime Academy, where she is majoring in Marine Engineering. Earlier this year, she completed an immersive internship with the Military Sealift Command, sailing on the USS Mount Whitney (LCC 20) in Gaeta, Italy. During her internship, Chloe gained hands-on experience in the world of marine engineering by performing daily maintenance, troubleshooting mechanical systems, and contributing to the overall operation of the ship.

Johnson shared stories from her time aboard the Mount Whitney and

explained how systems like those the students were seeing on the historic vessels continue to function—albeit in more modern forms—on today’s ships. Her firsthand perspective helped students connect what they were observing at Battleship Cove with real career paths in engineering, maritime service, and the military. Hearing from a young adult who is now working toward a future at sea made the experience especially inspiring.

Throughout the visit, stu-

dents were encouraged to reflect on the bravery and dedication of the men and women who served aboard these ships, as well as the responsibilities we share as citizens to remember their sacrifices. By walking the decks, climbing the ladders, and peering into the living and working spaces of sailors from another era, students gained a deeper appreciation for the history they study in class and the freedoms they enjoy today.

The Grade 5–8 field trip to Battleship Cove exempli-

fied Saint Joseph School’s commitment to meaningful, experience-based learning. It blended history, STEM, and career exploration while fostering respect for veterans and gratitude for those who serve. As students returned to Webster, they carried with them not only facts and photographs, but also a renewed sense of appreciation for our nation’s military history and the people whose stories are preserved within the steel hulls at Battleship Cove.



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