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Friday, May 8, 2026

## Leicester High School receives \$3 million grant for HVAC and plumbing programs



LEICESTER — On April 30, Gov. Maura Healey, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll, Education Secretary Stephen Zrike, and Department of Elementary & Secondary Education Commissioner Pedro Martinez announced a three million dollar grant for LHS to start HVACR and Plumbing programs.

Superintendent Brett Kustigian said, “I am surrounded by a strong team who created an outstanding grant application and this will benefit our students for years to come.”

Leicester is one of only 28 schools in the Commonwealth to receive grant funding.

Healy said, “Across Massachusetts, we’re hearing from students and families who want access to career technical education (CTE). This investment will expand capacity, create new opportunities and ensure more students can gain the skills they need to succeed, while strengthening our workforce and supporting employers across the state.”

Leicester High School has expanded offerings over the past three years to include five approved Chapter 74 programs and two Innovation Pathways. Only four years ago, there were no CTE offerings. This exponential growth is being noticed across the state with Massachusetts

Courtesy

From left to right: Assistant Superintendent Lind, MA DESE Commissioner Martinez, Gov. Healey, Secretary of Education Zrike, Superintendent Kustigian, LHS Principal Zawada.

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## School District featured in Business View Magazine for innovation and “purpose-driven education”

SPENCER — The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District (SEBRSD) is proud to announce its selection as a featured cover story in the April 2026 issue of Business View Magazine. The in-depth article, titled “Purpose-Driven Education for a Changing World,” highlights the district’s commitment to academic excellence, sustainable facilities, and innovative career pathways.

The feature emphasizes the district’s role as an “innovative school district” that is preparing students for

life beyond the classroom through community partnerships, fiscal discipline, and specialized STEAM, Early College, and CTE (Career Technical Education) programs.

Key highlights from the feature include:

**Infrastructure Excellence:** Recognition of the major renovation and expansion of David Prouty High School, which includes state-of-the-art facilities like glulam timber beams and energy-efficient insulated concrete form (ICF) wall systems.

**Award-Winning**

**Sustainability:** Celebration of SEBRSD’s status as a Green Ribbon Award nominee for its achievements in reducing environmental impact and improving health and wellness.

**Comprehensive Student Support:** A focus on the district’s “Cubs Corner” preschool program—a 2025 Resiliency Award recipient—and the elementary schools’ Purple Star Awards for supporting military-connected families.

**AI and Future Literacy:** Mention of the district’s inclusion in Digital

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## Mad Brook Road Bridge closing early

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The Mad Brook Road bridge in North Brookfield is closing effective immediately, following an April 21 vote by the Board of Selectmen.

The bridge was already slated for replacement but was not expected to close until later this year. Selectmen read a letter from Barry Lorion, District 3 Highway Director for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, during their April 21 meeting requesting the bridge’s immediate closure due to

continued structural issues.

“The good news is that design and funding are now in place so the town can move forward with the project and begin constructions expected in summer of 2026, however a recent inspection shows the bridge is continuing to deteriorate,” Lorion said in his letter. “The steel supporting the deck has weakened, raising safety concerns about keeping the bridge open.”

In March, the Board of Selectmen confirmed that state funding had been secured through the DOT’s Small Bridge Program to replace the structure. Mass DOT helped design

a replacement, and it was expected the current bridge would remain open to traffic until construction began.

Those plans have changed following the DOT’s continued monitoring of the bridge’s condition necessitating and early closure as the department works with local highway officials and the town’s project consultant on approving the bridge plans.

Selectmen had no issues with the early closure, with Selectman Jamie Gilman acknowledging the bridge’s condition is getting worse.

“After looking at the trusses underneath the

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## North Brookfield Fire Department celebrates 175 years

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The North Brookfield Fire Department has always been a treasured part of its local community. Founded in 1851, the department houses the legacies of friends, families, neighbors, and community leaders who all played a role in making the department an ever-growing part of North Brookfield’s history. Even 175 years after its founding, the department is still growing and continues to be one of the town’s most resilient and important assets to this day.

Housed in a building constructed in 1878, albeit with a few new renovations, the North Brookfield

Fire Department takes its history to heart and that it even more apparent thanks to new additions to the building’s main entryway which were finally presented to the public during an annual open house during the town’s May Festival on May 2.

The department celebrated its 175th anniversary by welcoming guests to see the renovated facility which now includes a tribute to the department’s long history through an authentic uniform sweater and pieces of a cart that served as remnants of its early days. The cart is the only remaining piece of history from the department’s beginnings in 1843 before it became an official entity in 1851.

The day included tours

of the building where visitors could learn about the department’s past and present and provided an opportunity for members both current and former to reminisce on a long history of service that has kept the fire department going strong for all this time.

The importance of the day was not lost on Chief Keith Marshall, who is well versed in the department’s long connection to the community at-large.

“We’ve had members that have generations involved in this department. One of my predecessors was the second chief in his family. His father was the chief for a number of years before him. Just seeing the leg-

Turn To 175 YEARS page A9

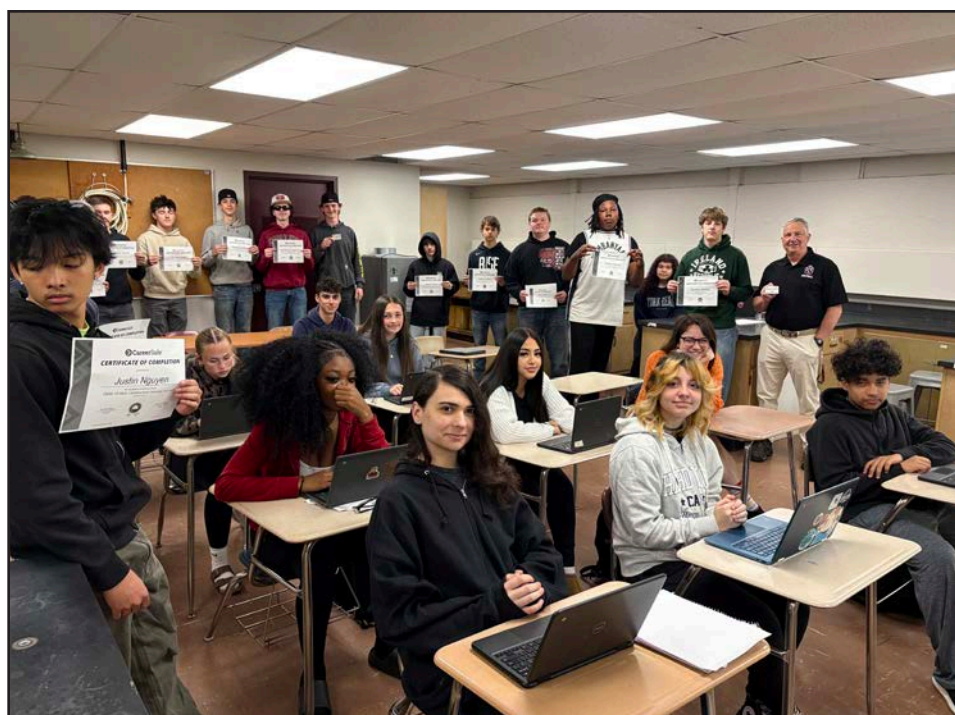


Jason Bleau

North Brookfield’s current facilities blend the new and the old, maintaining a renovated building from the 1870s along with a newer garage for its apparatus.



# LHS students work toward OSHA-10 certification



LEICESTER — At Leicester High School, students in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) division are taking a meaningful step toward their future careers by working to earn their OSHA-10 certification. Through a blend of self-paced modules and instructor-led training, students are gaining essential knowledge about workplace safety which is an area that is critical across all industries.

Under the direction of electrical instructor Jeffrey Romano, the program emphasizes both practical understanding and real-world application. Romano highlighted the value of the certification, noting, “Students understand the importance of safety in the workplace. They are aware that employers are more likely to hire someone with OSHA-10 certification. To date, 55 CTE students have successfully completed the course.”

The OSHA-10 program is a requirement set by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, ensuring that all CTE students build a strong foundation in workplace safety

practices. According to Career Technical Vocational Program Director William May, this training plays a vital role in student preparation. “The OSHA-10 program is required by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and ensures that all CTE students develop a strong foundation in workplace safety practices,” he said.

Beyond meeting state requirements, the certification offers students a valuable credential that signals to prospective employers their readiness to maintain safe and compliant work environments. This advantage can make a significant difference as students enter the workforce or pursue further training.

The CTE programs involved in the OSHA training include Culinary, Health Assisting, Building Property Maintenance, Electrical, and Early Education Care. Their achievement reflects both their commitment and the support of dedicated CTE educators, including Mr Romano as well as Nina Ryan, Joe Richardson, Melissa Ledbetter, Andrew Aucoin, James Burgess,

Stephen Dahlgren, Meghan Grant, and Kathleen Bryan who have guided students throughout the certification process.

By prioritizing safety education and certification, Leicester High School’s CTE program continues to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and credentials needed to succeed in today’s workforce, while ensuring they meet and exceed statewide educational standards.

## P.E.T. of the Week

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Lola is an absolutely beautiful girl with a big personality and a loyal heart. She can be a little nervous when meeting new people, but with a little patience and a few tasty treats she slowly begins to warm up.



Lola would do best in an adults-only home where she can feel safe and comfortable. She is very protective of her home and the people she loves, which makes her a loyal companion but also means she needs experienced owners who understand her boundaries.

On walks, Lola can be reactive to people, other dogs, and distractions, so she needs to be walked with a muzzle for safety. She also requires a muzzle during vet visits.

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## West Brookfield Farmers Market returns for 16th season

WEST BROOKFIELD — The West Brookfield Farmers Market returns on Wednesday, June 3 on the beautiful West Brookfield Common for its 16th consecutive season!

The 2026 Season market will feature 15 vendors with a wide array of locally grown and made goods including 3 NEW vendors sure to please our customers.

The West Brookfield Farmers Market is held every Wednesday afternoon from 3 to 6 p.m. on the West Brookfield Common starting on June 3 through Oct. 7, rain or shine.

2026 featured vendors:

Autumn Leaf Mushrooms all sorts, eggs, microgreens, Roundtable cheese  
Bucha Bros. Kombucha  
\*Dragonfly Flower Farm  
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Organic vegetable and herb plants, microgreens, turmeric and ginger root, figs in season  
Grime’s Apiary  
Honey, honey sticks, Bee pollen, hand cream, whipped honey  
\*Hoffman Breads  
Artisanal breads,

pastries

JARS Savory pastries, premade foods, baking and soup mixes

Joy of Beans Fresh roasted coffee, whole bean or ground, specialty teas

Kate Bakes Sweet baked goods  
Naultaug Farm Maple syrup

\*Nonna’s Kitchen Granola, granola bars, herb blends for the kitchen

\*Stillman Farm Fresh produce, vegetable and fruits

Thompson’s Maple Farm Ice Cream, roasted maple pecans, bourbon aged maple syrup

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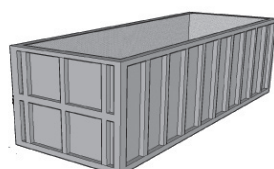


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## Friday’s Child



**Cristian**  
Age 12

Registration #9325

Cristian, who goes by CJ, is a cheerful and affectionate young boy who brings joy to those around him with his frequent smiles and laughter. He is polite, respectful, and enjoys connecting with others. CJ thrives during community outings—whether it’s going to the movies, visiting local parks, or spending time outdoors when the weather is nice. CJ has a special love for animals and enjoys sharing his drawings, proudly naming different animals and mimicking the sounds they

make. He is creative and expressive, with interests in coloring, drawing, and practicing his writing skills. CJ’s favorite color is red, and he especially loves Spiderman. If he could choose, he’d happily eat chicken and rice every day. CJ shows and receives affection through high-fives and hugs, making him a warm and engaging child who enjoys meaningful connections with others.

https://www.mareinc.org/child/34301707102

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



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**FRANK G. CHILINSKI**  
 PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

**BRENDAN BERUBE**  
 EDITOR

## EDITORIAL

### Leicester's investment in skilled trades is an investment in its future

There are moments in a community when progress is not only visible, but measurable. The recent announcement of a \$3 million state grant to support new HVACR and plumbing programs at Leicester High School is one of those moments.

In just a few short years, Leicester Public Schools have moved from having no career technical education offerings to building a program that is now being recognized at the state level. Being one of only 28 schools in Massachusetts selected for this grant is not an accident. It reflects careful planning, persistent leadership, and a willingness to rethink what a high school education can and should include.

For many families, the conversation around education has shifted. College remains an important path, but it is no longer the only one. Students are looking for options that lead directly to stable, well-paying careers. Employers across the region are looking for skilled workers. Programs like HVACR and plumbing sit squarely at the intersection of those needs.

This is where Leicester's approach stands out. Rather than treating career technical education as an alternative, it is being treated as an equal and essential part of the school's mission. That distinction matters. It sends a message to students that pursuing a trade is not a fallback, but a forward-looking choice.

State leaders have made it clear that demand for these programs continues to grow. The challenge has been capacity. Too often, students interested in trades are placed on waiting lists or must leave their home districts to access training. By expanding its own offerings, Leicester is not only serving its students, but also strengthening the local workforce pipeline.

That has real implications beyond the classroom. Skilled trades are the backbone of any community. From maintaining homes and businesses to supporting infrastructure, these professions are always in demand. Investing in training at the high school level helps ensure that those needs can be met locally.

There is also something to be said for the pace of progress. Just four years ago, Leicester High School had no career technical programs. Today, it has multiple Chapter 74 programs, Innovation Pathways, and now the funding to expand even further. That kind of growth does not happen without a clear vision and a team willing to follow through.

At the same time, the message from school leaders has been grounded and realistic. The grant is not the finish line. It is the starting point. New programs require facilities, equipment, curriculum development, and, most importantly, strong partnerships with industry professionals.

The call for volunteers to serve on Professional Advisory Councils is an important step. These programs work best when they are closely aligned with real-world expectations. Local tradespeople have an opportunity to shape the next generation of workers, ensuring that students graduate with skills that are both relevant and in demand.

There is also a broader lesson here about what can be accomplished when a community supports its schools. Grants like this are competitive. They require strong applications, collaboration, and a track record of commitment. Leicester has demonstrated all three.

As these programs take shape, the benefits will extend well beyond the students who enroll in them. Families will see new opportunities. Local businesses will gain access to a skilled workforce. The town itself will be better positioned for long-term economic stability.

It is easy to talk about preparing students for the future. It is harder to take concrete steps to make that preparation meaningful. Leicester has done that, and the results are beginning to show.

The real work, as school leaders have said, is still ahead. But for now, this is a moment worth recognizing. Not as a conclusion, but as a sign that the right foundation is being built for the years to come.

# VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Help us support those in need

To the Editor:

The annual Spencer Post Office food drive is Saturday, May 9. All the food collected is donated to Mary Queen of the Rosary Parish Food Pantry, feeding residents in need in the Spencer and East Brookfield area. Last year, the pantry fed over 11,000 local residents.

The Post Office is a huge help, and all donations are greatly appreciated. Last year the post office collected over two thousand pounds of food. Unfortunately, we had to

dispose of almost four hundred pounds of outdated food.

Please consider donating to the Post Office food drive, but please, if you are going through your cabinets, check the dates. We are always in need of cereals and snacks for children. Canned soups are always a good choice as well. Thank you in advance for supporting folks in need.

BRUCE TERRY  
SPENCER

### My two cents once more

To the Editor:

Again, I state opinions are not facts or truths. New Leader K+K, same two believe that Democratic equality are fair laws, but God's laws are fair and just. Loyal and true law abiding citizens are an asset to our nation and adhering to God's laws brings blessings, not curses. Bigoted - People with hatred and intolerance toward Christians and Jews. We are not second class citizens.

Kevin, my patriotic citizen, research this list and see the truths:

1. Who made a burden to our agents who protect our borders?
2. What president gave away the Panama Canal for \$1?

3. What president gave billions of dollars to Iranians and opened borders?
4. Who took the Ten Commandments out of our courthouses?

5. What president opened the border after Obama?

6. Pope Francis, on Feb. 6, 2023, stated officially in the Telegram & Gazette denouncing anti-gay laws (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Ephesians 5:1-7).

In closing, we must get ready to meet our maker. Repent and live blameless to enter his kingdom (Revelations 18:4-5).  
A Brother in Christ,

DENIS LEO  
SPENCER

## Grifting

To the Editor:

Is anyone else tired of hearing that the President does not take his half million dollar salary, while the GBO would never release the actual figures of the over \$200 million his golf trips alone cost us? His "free" plane is undergoing a half billion dollar refurbishment of a 12 year old flying palace for his personal use as a "library" item. They are now asking us to pay for the "free" ballroom, that would be near the untouched White House. He is proposing building an Arch de Trump, because putting his name and picture of everything federal, including the Kennedy Center, DOJ, and even on our passports, while signing our currency. This legend in his own mind, is a total embarrassment to our entire country.

He is monetizing his office, by using Marine #1 and a presidential podium to put on a dinner for foreign investors in his \$1.5 billion crypto grift. Contracts for military and ICE detention centers are being awarded to family or largest donors. Even the 150 billion he seeks for the military, is largely to replace the massive and highly expensive aircraft and equipment destroyed in the middle eastern war we claim to have already won. If the press still had pentagon access, they would tell you that two thirds of Iran's air force and navy is intact, and we are nowhere near a win or an end.

Having "transferred women to elsewhere on our payroll," his personal lawyer is jumping right int using our funding to attack his political enemies. Since they never win these frivolous cases, the object is getting enemies to rack up massive legal expenses, while we pay his.

The whataboutism birds are still pushing

## I would appreciate your vote for Moderator

To the Editor:

I am writing to inform the Spencer voters that I am not seeking re-election to the Board of Selectmen at the May 12 Annual Town Election. However, I am a candidate for Spencer Town Moderator. If elected, this will allow me more time to spend with my family. Being Town Moderator would utilize my many years of experience in town government to the benefit of the town.

I have served 15 years as both a Selectman and a member of the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District Committee, as well as many years on numerous appointed town committees. In addition to running the Annual and any Special Town Meetings, the Town Moderator appoints the members of the Finance Committee. As a seasoned central office school administrator, I hired or supervised the hiring of hundreds of employees including teachers and administrators. This experience will serve the town well in choosing well-qualified Finance Committee members. I am a proud graduate of DPHS.

I also have a B.A. from North Adams State College, now the Massachusetts College of

that Obama and Biden caused our problems, and that the guy who is in the Whitehouse, controls the supreme court and both houses of congress, is actually the victim. The "Art of the Deal" is making deals, then not keeping them. Tired of winning? Justifying the lies and excuses he keeps pitching? Accepting the lengths he will go to in order to avoid you hearing the details of the FBI interview of a 13 year old Trump/Epstein survivor?

The pictures of the Hilton shooter in the Israeli uniform, came down quickly, but Trump did not enjoy having the man's reasons read back to him on 60 minutes, so, as usual, he attacked the reader. As an aside, his ballroom would be a quarter of the size the event requires. If his thought was to expand to the size required, it would make the Whitehouse its garden shed.

We are being visited by the King of England. His address to congress was roundly cheered both sides of the aisle, despite containing references to checks and balances, NATO and Ukraine support and environmental concerns and holding to ethical behavior. After Trump lost the hand squeeze competition, made crazy comments about his mom having a crush on Charles (two years younger than him), he then held private conversations which, as usual, he revealed.

We are already at a spending level that my great grandchildren will be paying, but letting a guy whose penchant for overspending has caused so many bankruptcies, have access to deficit spending, is just foolish.

KEN KIMBALL  
BROOKFIELD

Liberal Arts, a M.Ed. from Worcester State University, and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. I attended well over a hundred town meetings, including Spencer Town Meetings, which I have rarely missed since I was old enough to vote. As a central office administrator, Director of Special Education or Superintendent of Schools, I attended town meetings in Ashburnham, Athol, Auburn, East Brookfield, Spencer and Westminster. I understand the workings of a town meeting and the importance of impartiality as being a mandatory requirement for the Town Moderator.

On a personal note, I am a homeowner with my wife Christine "Tina" Hicks. Residing in Spencer, we raised our two children and two grandchildren, following the death of our son from cancer. We are taxpaying homeowners who enjoy living in Spencer during our retirement.

I would appreciate your consideration and your vote on Tuesday, May 12.

RALPH E. HICKS  
SPENCER

## Say no to overrides

To the Editor:

Remember to vote Tuesday, May 12 at the local Annual Town Election in Spencer, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Local Elections allow for budget control, and only you can be a steward of your budget!

Funding of emergency responders and education should be funded as annual budget items, not as overrides!

Proposition 2 ½ limits municipal governments to a 2.5% increase in assessed prop-

erty taxes each year! Tax overrides limit your freedom by limiting your income!

Energy costs, housing costs and fuel costs are out of control in Massachusetts!

Don't be bullied by scare tactics and shame tactics! Say no to overrides now!

Question #1--Vote No.  
Question #2--Vote No.

JEN GAUCHER  
SPENCER

## Four estate planning myths that could cost your family



FINANCIAL  
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Consider this scenario: A teacher of 30 years and mother of three passes away at age 58. She leaves behind a modest home, a retirement account and cherished family heirlooms – but no estate plan. Her children, still grieving, find themselves navigating a confusing probate process, disagreeing about when to sell the house, and considering who gets their grandmother's ring.

This mom wasn't wealthy by most measures, but her lack of planning created confusion, conflict, and uncertainty at a time when her family needed clarity. Her story reminds us of an important truth: estate planning is about easing conflict and making sure what you have goes where you want it to go.

As you think about your own legacy, consider these myths that can lead to costly mistakes and unintended outcomes.

Myth 1: Estate planning is only for wealthy people. The desire to make things easier for loved ones has nothing to do with net worth. Formally documenting your wishes reduces the burden on family members and gives you control. Without a plan, your state's laws will decide how your estate is handled, and you may not like what those laws say.

Myth 2: Having a will is all you need. While a will is important, it only takes effect after death. That means it offers no protection if you become incapacitated and cannot make decisions for yourself. It does, however, allow you to name legal guardians for dependent children.

The foundation of most estate plans includes a will (which directs asset distribution), a financial power of attorney (for financial decisions), a health care power of attorney (for medical decisions), and a medical directive (to share your end of life wishes). While not everyone needs a trust, there are several that allow you to make special provisions, such as for minor children, a special needs family member or even a cherished pet. Consulting with a financial advisor and an estate planning attorney can help determine the right combination based on your situation.

Myth 3: Equal distribution is always fair. It's likely that the individuals in your estate plan, especially if they are adult children, have different family and financial situations. You may have one child who's extremely successful financially while another is struggling. Or you may have assets, such as a house or ownership of a family business, that are more suitable for one beneficiary than another. It's important to consider any unique circumstances as you develop your estate plan.

Myth 4: I can set it and forget it. You'll want to review your estate plan every few years or when a major life event occurs. Life is full of changes, such as marriages, divorces, new children and relocations, and they will likely impact your goals. Reviewing your plan helps keep everything aligned with your wishes and serves as a reminder to keep your beneficiaries on all your assets up to date.

Ultimately, estate planning is about helping ensure your voice is heard and your loved ones cared for, no matter what the future holds.

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

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# The quiet way our mothers shape us

There's a certain quiet to a Sunday morning in May that feels different from the rest of the year. Maybe it's the way the light comes in softer, or the way people seem to move a little slower, a little more thoughtfully. Or maybe it's just that we all know what the day is, even before we say it out loud.

Mother's Day has a way of doing that. It doesn't need much announcement. It settles in gently, like a familiar song you haven't heard in a while but still remember every word to.

I was thinking the other day about how we tend to mark time in our lives. We remember the big things, of course, the graduations, the weddings, the first jobs. But when you really sit with it, it's often the smaller,

## LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET

By CHARLES

quieter moments that come back the clearest. And more often than not, there's a mother somewhere in the middle of those memories.

Not always in the foreground, mind you. Sometimes she's just off to the side, making sure everything is running the way it should. Packing lunches, folding laundry, reminding someone about an appointment, or standing in a doorway watching the whole thing unfold.

It's funny how much of that work goes unnoticed at the time. Not unappreciated, exactly, just... assumed. Like the sun coming up in the morning. You don't always stop to think about it because it's always been there.

I can remember, years

ago, coming home after a long day, the kind where nothing seems to go quite right. You're tired, maybe a little irritated with the world, and not particularly good company. And there she is, asking how your day went, as if she's got all the time in the world to listen to the answer.

And she means it. That's the part that sticks with you.

There's a steadiness to mothers that's hard to put into words. Not all of them are the same, of course. Some are quiet, some are talkative, some are firm, some are gentle. But there's usually a thread that runs through all of them, a kind of quiet determination to make things better for the people they care about.

You don't always see it when you're young. In fact, I'd say most of us miss it entirely at the time. We're too busy growing up, fig-

uring things out, making our own mistakes. It's only later, when life has had a chance to knock a few corners off us, that we start to understand what was really going on.

I've come to believe that a lot of what we carry with us into adulthood, the good habits, the sense of right and wrong, the way we treat other people, has roots that go back to those early days. To kitchens and living rooms and car rides where lessons were taught without ever feeling like lessons.

And if you're lucky, those roots hold firm.

Mother's Day, for all the cards and flowers and phone calls, isn't really about any of that, at least not entirely. Those things are nice, and they matter, but they're more like symbols than anything else. What the day really does is give us a reason to pause.

To notice.

To think about the people who shaped us in ways we didn't always recognize at the time. To pick up the phone if we can. To say thank you, even if it feels a little overdue.

And for those who can't make that call anymore, it's a day to remember. To sit with those memories and let them come as they are, sometimes warm, sometimes a little bittersweet.

I don't think there's a right way to spend the day. Some folks gather with big family dinners, full tables and loud conversations. Others keep it quiet, maybe a visit, maybe a walk, maybe just a moment to themselves.

But however it's spent, there's something steady about it. Something that reminds us that no matter how much the world changes, some things remain constant.

The care. The patience. The way someone showed up, day after day, whether we noticed or not.

You don't need a grand gesture to recognize that. Sometimes it's enough just to stop, look around, and understand, maybe a little better than we did before, what was given to us along the way.

And if you happen to find yourself on Main Street this weekend, passing by the shops and the familiar faces, you might notice something else too. A few more people carrying flowers. A few more smiles exchanged. A few more quiet moments tucked into an otherwise ordinary day.

That's Mother's Day, I suppose. Not loud, not showy. Just present, the way it's always been.

And if you ask me, that feels about right.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Common courtesy

To the Editor:

Every week, I read the "Viewpoint" section of the Spencer New Leader, and every week, I wonder why there aren't more people writing with differences of opinion. I've finally figured it out.

Although I give credit to the New Leader for including all opinions, you can be sure that if you dare to give an opinion remotely different from left leaning, you will be called out and probably insulted. The venom is real. I will give a case in point.

A few weeks ago, someone wrote an article, "My Two Cents." Whether she was right or wrong, she was entitled to her opinion. Everyone is entitled to an opinion or a rebuttal, but not to following comments... "Your two cents are worth 00" or "It is only good

for the round file." This is only one case but the lack of courtesy towards others'

opinions has become unnecessary and rude.

To those of you that have alternate opinions, don't be discouraged. Yes, the country is a mess, and there's plenty to complain about. However, the weekly tirades and hate fail to offer any help to fix the situation. But then, again, fact or fiction, it's their "opinion." Truthfully, I doubt that there's not more than a handful of people who get through

the first few lines of hate weekly.

If you have something to say, say it. It's "your opinion." There are plenty of folks that will respect that opinion, right or wrong, and won't throw you under a bus.

So yes, next week, you'll probably see an article complaining about me. Save it. I don't care!

SYLVIA LITTLE  
SPENCER

### It "happens" here

To the Editor:

Last Thursday morning, to spend time with friends in Portland, Maine, I was out on the road early. First, from Spencer, I drove through Rochdale and onto Auburn. All along the way, I saw yellow school buses and people on their way to work. Then on interstate highways, I smoothly travelled through busy Worcester and around dynamic Boston, arriving in bustling Portland about two hours later.

What struck me is how well the school buses, the cities and towns "worked," and America "works." We are not without problems and challenges, but over long, long years, our government and public servants, our economy and workers and most of all, our rules based 250 year old democracy have moved us in a good direction.

I have also had the privilege of working and travelling on the ground in North and South America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Australasia. So I can tell you that by and large, we were, until recently, mostly admired and respected. This admiration came not just from not just our power and achievements. It also came because of our messy but largely successful respected rules, constitutional democracy and free and fair elections.

Many of the countries I got to know had rulers and small groups that held power, and did whatever they wanted to do - without the Constitution and democratic checks and balances we Americans have so long enjoyed.

That kind of rule, to a significant degree now seems to happen in our United States.

In 2018, Two American students of democracy Ziblatt and Levitsky, after a year of our country under Trump and his MAGA allies, wrote a book "How Democracies Die."

In it, they described how Trump and his allies had already begun to break our democracy, by, for instance:

Ignoring court rulings and packing the

courts with judges loyal not to the Constitution but to Trump

Pushing out Republican politicians not personally loyal to Trump ignoring or worse the rules of democracy like respecting election results and personally attacking other politicians and government officials.

Ziblatt and Levitsky then, in 2018, went on to show how Trump violated our democracy's ways of good governance by, for example, by running businesses and for profit schemes while president, saying free and fair elections were "rigged," personally and viciously attacking rivals and the media and constantly lying, lying and lying some more.

So since then, has anything changed? The answer is that in his second term Trump has become far, far worse. Not only has he gutted our public service and government departments, he has used government to provide billions to himself, friends and family, severely damaged our economy and institutions, made global warming worse and affordability more and more difficult - the list goes on and on.

Now we have with Iran, Trump's personal "War of Choice" that our country cannot win. Not only that but a massively expensive one that damages the economy, turns allies into enemies, (while making Russia and China far stronger). It loses our most important resource - the admiration of and willingness - with consultation - of most of the world to follow.

Turning America around from the Trumps ongoing chaos, disaster and destruction will not come easy. However, we can begin by making every effort to have the 2026 election results be free and fair and take away the the Trump majority in both the Senate and House of Representatives.

If nothing else, we owe it not only to our friends, but our children and grandchildren.

KEVIN KANE  
SPENCER

### A stable school system is an investment in our community

To the Editor:

Many of our neighbors are feeling the strain of inflation right now, and we understand how difficult these rising costs have been for families across Spencer. Unfortunately, our school district is facing similar pressures. Insurance, utilities, and basic operational expenses have all increased in ways we simply cannot avoid.

In response, the district has spent months working through these challenges in a thoughtful and collaborative way. Multiple workshops were held, and the decisions that followed were not easy ones. To date, the district has already reduced 12 positions and cut over \$1 million from the budget. These reductions are not projections, unfortunately, they have already happened.

At this point,

the contribution requested from the town is what allows us to preserve the resources that remain. These are tough times for everyone, but maintaining a stable school system is an investment in our students, our community, and our home values.

We encourage residents to participate in the Annual Town Election on May 12. Voters will also see a question related to supporting the Fire Department and preserving public safety. These requests are not made lightly, and each reflects real needs within our community.

Thank you for taking the time to stay informed and engaged. Decisions like these shape the future of Spencer, and every voice matters.

JASON AND AMANDA MONETTE  
SPENCER

### Vote Tuesday on the overrides!

To the Editor:

On Nov. 7 of 2025, the citizens of Spencer voted at the polls with a resounding "No" vote to the overrides due to the added burden being placed upon the people. Six months later, they have reshuffled the language and are trying to push them through again. On this Tuesday, you need to get up and let your voices be heard again.

'Taxachusetts' is a name well earned. In a state that has been so heavily Gerrymandered to effectively render it a one-party state. Hardworking citizens are taxed to the hilt. We have a State Income Tax, Paid Family Leave Tax, Paid Medical Leave Tax, Excise Tax, Sales Tax, Meals Tax, Energy Taxes on your Electric Bill, and Local Property Taxes.

So, what do you, as a citizen, get for these taxes? Well, we tried to see where the money is being spent, but Queen Healy and her Democrat cabal refuse to implement the voters approved audit. They effectively just give citizens the middle finger with impunity. They view taxpaying citizens as serfs and peasants. The Democrats, which many of our selectmen and administrators are, refuse to challenge Queen Healy and her court. They are afraid to upset their pensions and scraps given to them. It's much easier to tax the peasants and if they give to much trouble throw them off their land.

We work hard to buy our homes to improve ours and our children's lives. These are our banks for retirements and our nests for our children. Those who tax you would have no sympathy if you lose your family homes due to their property tax levies. The state has taken in record tax revenues. Enough to increase local aid. In fact, so much has been taken in they could build new schools in all our towns. We all know where this money is going. It is being

funneled by Healy and the Dems to fund freebies for the illegals. Free housing, free medical, free college tuitions. It's obvious why they won't let the audit be done! They cannot expose the fraud. Healy and the Dems are force feeding the illegals into our towns under the MBTA housing law. Requiring towns to build low-income housing projects under the guise of affordability. This added population puts immense strain on our schools, fire depts, and police depts. Do Healy and the Dems in Boston send more local aid into out towns to pay for these? Of course not. It is their plan to have the locals politicians push 2 1/2 tax overrides as the source. So in effect taking money out of your home budgets to fund their changes in our towns. You see overrides being done in all towns around us.

So, citizens of Spencer, here are your two choices.

If you feel that you have been taxed enough and expect fiscal restraint and accountability, then vote no on the overrides. Show the politicians we will not pay one cent more until the state audit we voted for is done. I suggest you also vote for Gaucher for selectwoman as she seems to want to limit further taxation.

If you feel that you want additional taxation and are willing to pay for 2 1/2 overrides every year, then vote yes. No doubt, you will vote for Hicks, who is a former school employee. His pension and health care benefit increases are more important than fiscal restraint.

Voting is Tuesday, May 12 from 7 a.m. to 7 pm. You can also vote early at town hall. Get out the vote and let your voices be heard.

MARK ROBILLARD  
SPENCER

### 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.

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# Richard Sugden Library announces upcoming events

SPENCER — David Prouty High School's Annual Art Show Opening Reception will be held on Wednesday, May 6 from 4:00-6:30 p.m. at the Richard Sugden Library, Spencer. The show will be up from May 6 to May 21. All ages are invited to join us and celebrate our talented teens.

Share Your Tattoo Story at the Richard Sugden Library, Spencer, on Monday, May 11 from 6:00-7:00 pm. Every tattoo has a story and we'd love to hear yours. Come share your tattoo story, or just come and listen at this informal gathering.

Book Discussion with the author, Mary Anne Kalonas Slack will be held Tuesday, May 12 from 11 a.m.-noon. The discussion will be held at the Richard Sugden Library, Spencer, and via Zoom. Sign up for the Zoom link at [www.spencer-publiclibrary.org/adults](http://www.spencer-publiclibrary.org/adults).

Henna Party for all ages will be held Monday, May 18 from 5 - 7 p.m. Join us at the Richard Sugden Library, Spencer, and get your tattoos! Sponsor: Friends of the Library.

Mel Allen, Retired Yankee Magazine Editor, speaks about New England stories and pictures that connect us all. Adults and

Teens are invited to the Richard Sugden Library Monday, June 1 to join us for this inspiring program. The presentation will be held from 6-7:30 p.m. "Mel Allen brought New England to life in a way that made us all proud to call it home. His stories connected us to each other — and to the spirit

of this place we love. Our Duxbury audience of 80+ people responded with a standing ovation." (Brooke McDonough, Media Manager, Duxbury (MA) Senior Center) Sponsor: Friends of the Library.

Crafting with Diane: Witch Hats. Design fancy witch hats for next week's visit of the Southern New

England Dancing Witches. Space is limited. Call (508) 885-7513, ext. 1 or visit the library to sign up. This fun craft is for all ages and free. This program is funded in part by a grant from the Spencer Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Dancing Witches at Powder Mill Park on Saturday, June 6 (rain date Sunday, June 7) from 1 -2 p.m. The Southern New England Dancing Witches is a dance troupe from CT. They are entertaining for all ages. Bring witch hats made at Crafting with Diane, or one from your

own collection. Costumes are encouraged! All ages are invited. This program is funded in part by a grant from the Spencer Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Richard Sugden Library Ongoing Adult Programs Monday Group: Spencer History Chats from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Tuesday: Pause Meditation from 9-10 a.m. Tuesday: Crochet from 10:30-11:30 a.m. All levels. Wednesday: Knit with Us from 3-4 pm.

## LEICESTER HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

LEICESTER — Leicester High School has released its honor roll for the third quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

### High Honors

12th Grade: Kate Barbato, Eryn Berkstresser, Jacob Cosper, Brandon Escobar, John Gahagan, Natalia Kallio, Christopher Moffat, Zoe Morales, Bethany Parke, Nola Perry, Alicea Santos

11th Grade: Mary Van Hazinga, Sabrina Wright

10th Grade: Muhammad Arslan, Kennedy Bates, Emma Bernabei, Brady Bouchard, Haylee Kularski, Brock Lopez, Alena Martinkova, Julianna McCormick, Trinity Medeiros, Charlotte Mercer, Ryan Sweeney, Jayke Williams

9th Grade: Diana Kitchen, Rocco Lauder, Tighe Lauder, Nick Nguyen, William Toomey, Hunter Wright

### Honors

12th Grade: Tomas Acero, Lenny Angua-Mante, Isabella Beyers, Avery Bullock, Sophia Comeau, Albion Cruz Almonte, Devonique Edwards, Jasmine Fuller, Shane Garrahie, Jordan Giggey, Eliannie Guzman Bueno, Emily Hunt, Savannah Lumb, Hannah Martin, Alexis Mercier, Cassidy Poce, Connor Reynolds, Lucas Souza Sampaio, Bailey Schneider, Johanna Torres, Justin Trainor, Nicole Tuson

11th Grade: Jacob Beaulac, Inal Bouzid, Jenna Bush, Taylor Gallant, Ty Gully, Jeremy Ledbetter, Arianna Lemerise, Valerie Maynard, Joshua McCormick, Kaidyn McDowell, Nayeli Merino Canas, Arunas Orloff, Gianna Panepinto, Jillian Rodrigue, Phuc Hoai Truong, Camron Wells, Samphina Zinnah

10th Grade: Matthew Alves, Rory Barrett, Andrew Boucher, Jude Campbell, Zachary Couture, Allison Gagne, Hailey Knott, Joseph Kulla, Kaylee Luby, Michael Lupien, Matthew Magoun, Josiah McDonald, Max Milionis, Maia Mitchell, Trevor Moorghen, Brandon Nguyen, Katherine Ozarowski, Alivia Perry, Maryangelie Rivas, Paula Roberts, Muhammad Saqlain, Desmond Strom, Shane Stuart, Jameson Wood

9th Grade: Camden Beaudry, Elijah Belisle, Ella Cassidy, John Derrick, Brody Dufries, Javier Flores, Liam Gentile, Matthew Gudiel Archila, Benjamin Hagglund, James Karas, Callie Ladner, Papayaw Larbi, Brody Mateiko, Kingston Nguyen, Jaedyn Perry, Thinh Pham, Ella Rowden, Zenah Stagg, Aidan Thebodo, Robert Zinkevich

## LEICESTER MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

LEICESTER — Leicester Middle School has released its honor roll for the third quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

### High Honors

8th Grade: Dianexiz Acevedo-Ortiz, Beverly Ampaw, Maxwell Belizaire, Justin Cai, Olivia Cardona, Avery Cole, Mila Cortes, Adalynn Grant, Shelby Grant, Haidi Hadi, Christopher Harrington, Fiona Liebman, Ayla Lis, Cadence Medeiros, Emma Mercier, Nana Obeng, Hailey Rooney, Lily Schrader, Joseph Ukoh

7th Grade: Juliette Bellisario, Aubrey Bullock, Brooklyn Bullock, Victoria Cardona, Sophia Collins, Anna Derrick, Larissa LaFlamme, Olivia Maki, Jackson McKenzie, Shaylie Moore, Lucas Tang

6th Grade: Vivienne Belizaire, Leah Cunningham, Kathryn Kerrissey, Noah Loosemore, Benjamin Machado, Tylor Moorghen, Layla Mullins, Anna Nguyen, Richard Spratt, Tristan Walsh, Finian Wood

5th Grade: Ava Cunningham, Gabriella Dillon, Madeline Jiang, Victor Garcia, Phuc Khang Tran Ly

### Honors

8th Grade: Shayla Benson, Trey Blais, James Boudreau, Landon Bullock, Gavin Ford, Isabella Jasgur, Ava Johnson, Tyler Kularski, Aaliyah Layne, Sadie Lenahan, Reagan Lyon, Hunter Martin, Owen Murphy, Sophia Muzzy, Grace Ngima, Sonya Potvin, David Sanborn, Jacob Soucie, Anthony Sullivan, Jackson Trainor, Aiden Valinski, Amy Van Hazinga, Gianna Wooden

7th Grade: Mackenzie Beaulac, Daniel Ciciliane, Logan Curren, Arizona Fleming, Rylee Garrahie, Jayden Gleason, Raegan Higgins, Damon Kobel, Alivia Larson, Camille LeBlanc, Andrew Lemerise, Stacy Morrobel Dominguez, Illaen Narcisse, Dominic Oldham, Ian Pennycook, Isabella Rivera, Hugo Salas, Isabella Sirianni, Kason Ward

6th Grade: Maxwell Alade, Cole Azier, Skylar Backstrom, Kaydence Beamenderfer, Nolan Beaudry, Summer Blais, Ohemaa Boamah, Giuliana Escobar, Draven Fernandes, Calvin Fryer, Owen Giddix, Hunter Hayes, Sophia Heguys, Adhuresa Latifi, Luke LeBlanc, Olivia Mason, Jackson McCauley, Benjamin Miller, Addison Murphy, Chris Njoroge, Hafsa Oubih, Ved Patel, Blake Potvin, Kaylin Roberson, Emilianna Rodriguez, Autumn Schimke, Helena Senko, Rayden Singharaj, Keira Soucie, Brandon Ukpong, Enzo Valente Senna, Madison Westberg, Dylan Williams, Julian Wooden

5th Grade: Mallory Brunell, Han Bui, Aubrielle Camacho, Kinsley Champagne, Danielys Ciciliane, Ainslee Colby, Aubrey Colby, Myles Derrick, Jurell Evans, Declan Friend, Cristian Guzman, Madison Hoekstra, Avery Jackson, Panjri Joshi, Olivia Jyringi, Liam Le, Jacob Lovejoy, Olivia Lynch, Colin McGowan, Lila Meloche, Jada Moore, Allison Muzzy, Brock Patterson, Emmett Plante, Aksel Raymond, Audrey Sanborn, Mason Settle, Michael Siwale, Myla Snow, Joshua Soucie, Ryan Soucy, Jacob Varney, Alexander Walsh, Brynn Wayman, Emmett Younger, Arham Zahid, Wyatt Zwirbilia

## Leicester Garden Club hosting program on soil health and no-till gardening

LEICESTER — The Leicester Garden Club will meet on Wednesday, May 13, at 7 p.m. at the Leicester Senior Center. The featured speaker will be Ruben Parrilla, Education and Technical Assistance Director for the Massachusetts chapter of the Northeast Organic Farmers Association, who will present a program on Soil Health and No-Till Gardening. All interested gardeners and farmers are welcome to attend.

Healthy soil is the foundation of productive gardens and resilient farms. In this one-hour talk, Ruben will explore how to grow healthier plants by working with the soil rather than disturbing it. He will begin with the three pillars of soil health—physical, chemical, and biological—and how they interact to support plant growth. From there, he will introduce the concept of no-till gardening and farming, a management approach that minimizes soil disturbance to protect soil structure, retain moisture, and support beneficial soil life. Participants will gain a balanced understanding of the benefits and limitations of no-till systems, including when it works well and where challenges may arise in real-world settings.

The session will also cover simple, field-friendly tools and observations you can use to evaluate your soil, including: soil structure and aggregation, compaction and root penetration, water infiltration and drainage, and biological indicators like earthworms and visible organic matter.

Whether you're managing a backyard garden or a working farm, this talk will provide practical strategies and decision-making tools to help you improve soil health over time—without relying on intensive tillage.

Ruben Parrilla is the Education Director and Soil Technical Coordinator at NOFA/Mass and founder of Microbe Quest LLC. With more than 15 years of experience in environmental laboratory work and soil analysis, Ruben specializes in helping farmers and gardeners understand and manage soil as a living system. He provides hands-on training in soil health, microscopy, and practical field and low-disturbance practices. Ruben is known for translating complex soil science into clear, actionable strategies that can be applied in both backyard gardens and working farms.

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# Brookfield-based painter and photographer's work on display at Ruth Wells Center

SOUTHBRIDGE — A new spring exhibit celebrating color, renewal, and creative expression will open this month at the Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, featuring recent work by local painter and photographer Laura Cenedella.

Titled "April Showers Bring May Flowers," the show will run from May 9 through May 24, with an opening reception scheduled for Saturday, May 9, from noon to 4 p.m. Admission to both the reception and the exhibit is free.

Cenedella, a Brookfield-based artist, brings a wide-ranging body of work that reflects her background in both painting and photography. Working across oil, acrylic, watercolor, and pastel, she has built a reputation for vibrant, expressive pieces as well as commissioned works including murals and pet portraits. Her photography has also gained recognition, most recently appearing in the Small Stones 2026 Art Catalog.

Her artistic path began in high school and has evolved into a largely self-directed practice. Over the years, her work has earned awards from organizations such as the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Blackstone Valley Art Association, and the Massasoit Art Guild. She remains active in the regional arts community, serving as a board member of the Blackstone Valley Art Association and maintaining memberships with several arts organizations.

Cenedella's work has been displayed in venues across Massachusetts, including libraries and the Worcester Art Museum, and she continues to expand her reach through both in-person exhibitions and an online following built through videos documenting her creative process.

In addition to her studio work, Cenedella has been involved in community outreach, leading art workshops in partnership with Open Sky Community Services in Whitinsville and teaching through adult education programs, including at Bay Path Technical High School. She has also participated in recent local exhibits at the Jacob Edwards Library in Southbridge and the Charlton Public Library.

The upcoming show marks her latest solo exhibition and continues her focus on making art accessible within the community.

The opening reception will also feature live music by George Hamilton Smith, who will perform jazz standards on the gallery's grand piano.

The gallery will be open weekends from noon to 4 p.m., with weekday and evening visits available by appointment. To schedule a viewing, visitors may contact ruthwellsart@gmail.com or call 508-764-3341.

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# LEGALS

## THE TOWN OF EAST BROOKFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
A public hearing will be held in the Memorial Town Complex, 122 Connie Mack Drive, East Brookfield on Monday, May 11, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. on the application made by Robert Pellegrino for a change of Officers/Directors/LLC Managers, Issuance and Change of Stock Interest, Change of Manager for 308 Lakeside, Inc., All Alcohol Beverage License

All interested parties are invited to attend.

Andrew Lynch, Chairman  
Andrew Levasseur, Clerk  
Robert Button, Member

cc: Town Clerk  
May 1, 2026  
May 8, 2026

(SEAL)  
**COMMONWEALTH OF  
MASSACHUSETTS  
LAND COURT  
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL  
COURT**  
26 SM 001385  
**ORDER OF NOTICE**

TO:

Zachary Luce; Alyssa Crowe and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (*et seq.*): PennyMac Loan Services, LLC

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in East Brookfield, numbered 148 North Street, Unit A a/k/a 148A North Street, given by Zachary Luce and Alyssa Crowe to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for PennyMac Loan Services, LLC, dated June 16, 2021, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 65401, Page 202, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before June 15, 2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on April 28, 2026.

Attest:  
Deborah J. Patterson  
Recorder  
May 8, 2026

### ADVERTISEMENT

The West Brookfield Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the **Olde Village Place Elderly 667-01** Development for the **West Brookfield** Housing Authority in **West Brookfield** Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by **Hill Engineers, Architects, Planners, Inc.**

The Project consists of: **Replacing select concrete sidewalk sections, and hot mix asphalt driveways**  
The work is estimated to cost **\$68,422.00**

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.30 §39M & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive. General Bids will be received until **2:00 p.m., Friday May 22, 2026** and publicly opened, forthwith. This project is being Electronically Bid (E-Bid). All bids shall be prepared and submitted online at [Projectdog.com](http://Projectdog.com) and received no later than the date & time specified above. Hard copy bids will not be accepted by the Awarding Authority. For assistance, contact Projectdog, Inc. at 978.499.9014.

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates) and made payable to the **West Brookfield** Housing Authority.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available in electronic form and without cost or charge at [Projectdog.com](http://Projectdog.com), project code **873973**, beginning **April 22, 2026**. Persons desiring hard copies of the documents shall be solely responsible for all printing costs.

The Contractor and all subcon-

tractors (collectively referred to as "the Contractor") agree to strive to achieve minority and women workforce participation. The Workforce Participation benchmark is set at 6.9% for women and 15.3% for minorities. The Workforce benchmark percentages are a statutory requirement under MGL c. 149 §44A(2)(G).

The job site and/or existing building will be available for inspection between **1:00 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. on Wednesday May 13, 2026.**

For an appointment call **Matthew Blanchard at 978-394-9009.**

May 8, 2026

**At the Zoning Board of Appeals special meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2026, in the McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, a public hearing will be held on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:**  
**Notice of Public Hearing – Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals**

**Variance Finding– Applicant/ Owner: Jason Ferreira: Location: 8 I. Capen Road, Spencer Assessor's Map R13-01. The applicant is seeking a Variance under Sections 4.9.2.A.3 (non-conforming structure /Single-Family/increase in nonconformity) and 7.3 (Variance Requirements) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to build a 16' x 34' addition to an existing single-family home in the side setback. The property is located in the Rural Residential (RR) district.**

**Variance Finding– Applicant/ Owner: Chestnut OP LLC/ Kurt Cawley: Location: 53 Chestnut Street, Spencer Assessor's Map U07-235. The applicant is seeking a Variance under Sections 6.1 (Off Street Parking/ Loading Requirements) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to allow off-street parking, parking location will be at 46-48 Chestnut Street, and an easement has been recorded. The property is located in the Town Center (TC) district.**

**Variance Finding– Applicant/ Owner: Gerald & Dian Ferguson: Location: 103 Clark Road, Spencer Assessor's Map U27-17. The applicant is seeking a Variance under Sections 5.1 (Table of Area Requirements) and 4.9.1.D (Nonconforming lots) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw adjust lot lines between three nonconforming lots (103, 105, and 109 Clark Road), this adjustment will reduce the area of 103 Clark Rd and the nonconformity in the setback for 105 Clark Rd. The property is located in the Lake Residential (LR) district.**

**Variance Finding– Applicant/ Owner: Bryan & Joy Coleman: Location: 105 Clark Road, Spencer Assessor's Map U27-18. The applicant is seeking a Variance under Sections 5.1 (Table of Area Requirements) and 4.9.1.D (Nonconforming lots) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw adjust lot lines between three nonconforming lots (103, 105, and 109 Clark Road), this adjustment will reduce the area of 103 Clark Rd and the nonconformity in the setback for 105 Clark Rd. The property is located in the Lake Residential (LR) district.**

**Variance Finding– Applicant/ Owner: Cody Berman: Location: 41-43 Point Eastalee Drive, Spencer Assessor's Map U34-22. The applicant is seeking a Variance under Sections 5.1 (Table of Area Requirements) and 7.3 (Variance Requirements) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to increase the footprint in a previously approved Variance from 2024 to build a Single-Family Home, the proposed change is to request relief from the minimum lot size. The property is located in the Lake Residential (LR) district.**

May 1, 2026

May 8, 2026

### NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 123 Park Street, East Brookfield, MA 01515

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Larry M. McPartland to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Finance of America Reverse LLC, and now held by **Finance of America Reverse LLC**, said mortgage dated January 9, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 64224, Page 185, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Finance of America Reverse LLC to Finance of America Reverse LLC by assignment dated August 1, 2025 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book

72367, Page 11; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction on June 4, 2026 at 01:00 PM Local Time** upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

*The land in the Easterly part of East Brookfield, Massachusetts, Easterly of and adjoining Lake Lashaway.*

*Being Lot #1 as shown on Plan of land entitled Division of Property in East Brookfield, Massachusetts, John J. McPartland Lot #1; Lionel A. Aucoin Lot #2; Herve G. Aucoin Lot 03 dated August 4, 1961 recorded in Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 258, Plan 14, bounded and described as follows;*

*Beginning at an iron pipe at the Northeasterly corner thereof; Thence N. 59° 16' W., 202.70 feet by land of Paul Huard to the Lake Shore; Thence Southwesterly along the Lake Shore, 45.0 feet to a drill hole in a concrete wall. Thence S. 61° 06' E., 131.02 feet to an iron pipe; Thence S. 12°08'W., 23.10feettoapoint; Thence N. 77° 31' E., 91.83 feet to the place of beginning. Being that parcel of land conveyed to Larry M. McPartland from John J. McPartland and Lillian O. McPartland, husband and wife by that deed dated 3/28/1977 and recorded 3/31/1977 in deed book 6149, at page 287 of the Worcester County, MA public registry.*

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated March 28, 1977 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 6149, Page 287.

**TERMS OF SALE:** Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

**FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00)** Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser.

The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC  
23 Messenger Street  
2nd Floor

Plainville, MA 02762

Attorney for Finance of America Reverse LLC

Present Holder of the Mortgage

(401) 217-8701

May 1, 2026

May 8, 2026

May 15, 2026

### COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS CHERRY VALLEY AND ROCHDALE WATER DISTRICT WARRANT ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING

To: Cheryl Balkus, District Clerk  
Cherry Valley and Rochdale Water District Greetings:

You are hereby directed to notify the VOTERS of the Cherry Valley and Rochdale Water District to meet in the Town Hall Auditorium, 3 Washburn Square, Leicester, Massachusetts twenty-first of May, two thousand and twenty-six (May 21, 2026) at seven-thirty P.M. (7:30 P.M.), then and there to act on the following articles:

#### ONE: MODERATOR

To elect a Moderator to preside at said meeting and for a period of one (1) year thereafter.

#### TWO: REPORTS

To act on the reports of the district.

#### THREE: COMMISSIONER

To elect the following officer by ballot: A resident from the Rochdale service area to hold the office of District Commissioner for a period of three (3) years.

#### FOUR: BUDGET

To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or free cash, or otherwise provide a sum of money, or any other sum, from any available funding source or other available means, for the operating budget for fiscal year 2027, to provide for the district's annual operating requirements.

#### FIVE: REVOLVING FUND FOR CONSTRUCTION

To see if the District will vote to authorize the Board of Water Commissioners to establish a fund to receive and deposit fees from which expendi-

tures may be made for legal services, administrative services and engineering services (including but not limited to, design, plan review, and inspection of the project being constructed) in connection with any water system design, review, and construction, or to take any action thereon.

#### SIX: REVOLVING ACCOUNT FOR METERS

To see if the district will vote to authorize District to establish a fund to receive and deposit fees from which expenditures may be made for the purchase and installation of water meters or take any action thereon.

#### SEVEN: REVOLVING ACCOUNT FOR TERMINATION AND REPAIR EXPENDITURES

To see if the District will vote to authorize the Board of commissioners establish a fund to receive and deposit from which expenditures may be made by the district for the purchase and rental of supplies and equipment associated with the District's Service Termination Process as well as service repairs due to leaking services, including but not limited to construction and excavation equipment rental, police details, backfill materials such as processed gravel and sand, asphalt, pipe, fittings and appurtenances or take any action thereon.

#### EIGHT: FUNDING STABILIZATION ACCOUNT

To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or free cash, or otherwise provide a sum of money, or any other sum, from any available funding source or by available means to fund the Grindstone Well Stabilization account.

#### NINE: USE OF STABILIZATION ACCOUNT

To see if the district will allow the use of the Grindstone Well Stabilization account if any issues arise including but not limited to the changing out of the arsenic media, uranium media, pumps, electric parts, etc.. As well as maintenance on the well.

#### TEN: CLOSE OUT OF PRIOR PROJECTS

To see if the district will vote to close-out the projects that were previously approved at prior annual Water District Meetings.

#### ELEVEN: METER CHANGE OUT

To see if the district will vote to allow the district to purchase the remaining meters.

#### TWELVE: OPEB FUNDING

To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or free cash, or otherwise provide a sum of money, or any other sum, from any available funding source or by available means to authorize the Board of Water Commissioners to transfer funds to deposit into the Other Post-Employment Benefit (OPEB) Trust, or take any action thereon.

#### THIRTEEN: DENNY PLACE WATER MAIN UPGRADE

To see if the district will vote to appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000), or any other sum, from available Free Cash to fund the replacement of an existing failing 2-inch water main, including all related labor, materials, equipment, and incidental costs; or take any other action relative thereto.

#### FOURTEEN: UPDATE TO WATER SYSTEM EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

To see if the District will vote to appropriate the sum of Eleven Thousand Dollars (\$11,000) from available Free Cash, or any other source of funds, for the purpose of updating the District's Emergency Response Plan; said plan to include review, revision, and compliance with current state and federal guidelines to ensure preparedness for natural disasters, contamination events, infrastructure failure, and other emergencies affecting the public water supply; or take any other action relative thereto.

You are hereby directed to serve this WARRANT by posting an attested copy at the Leicester Fire Department, Company No. 2, 226 Main Street, Cherry Valley, MA; Rochdale Post Office, 1138 Stafford Street, Rochdale, MA; at the Church Building, 672 Pleasant Street, Rochdale, MA; at the Leicester Town Hall and the Oxford Town Hall seven (7) days at least before said meeting.

Given under our hands, this 28th day of April, two thousand twenty-six (April 28, 2026). Respectfully submitted,

*John Shocik, Chairman Robert Jones,*

*Commissioner*

*Michael McCormick, Commissioner*

A TRUE COPY, ATTEST:

Cheryl Balkus, District Clerk (SEAL)

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May 8, 2026

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**GRANT**

continued from page A1

Zrike said, "What Leicester is doing is impressive and they are quickly establishing a reputation for innovation serving as a model for others."

On a local level, Donna McCance, Chair of the Leicester School Committee, said, "Investing in CTE not only prepares our students for higher earning potential in high-demand jobs, it provides a resource of skilled workers in our community. I am very excited about the boost this will bring to our students and the economy. Dr. Kustigian's passion and leadership keep the momentum going for growth in Leicester and I'm proud to be a part of it."

LHS Principal Ted Zawada, Assistant Superintendent Rich Lind and Grant Writer Neile Connery are all business, and collectively said, "The real work starts now and this is no time to celebrate as we have so much more to do!"

They are seeking volunteers to serve on the Professional Advisory Councils for HVACR and Plumbing. If you have expertise in either field and you are willing to help, please reach out to the Leicester Public Schools. Principal Zawada also mentioned that he will be seeking teachers in both fields. Zawada can be reached at [zawadat@lpsma.net](mailto:zawadat@lpsma.net).

One thing is for sure, there is much more to come and the Leicester Public Schools promise to keep the school community informed.

**BUSINESS**

continued from page A1

Promise's League Learning Collaboratives to elevate AI literacy.

"This recognition by Business View Magazine is a testament to the hard work

**BRIDGE**

continued from page A1

bridge I understand their concern," he said.

Selectmen voted unanimously to grant the DOT's request and confirmed that the town already had the signage on hand to initiate the closure. The bridge is now

**175 YEARS**

continued from page A1

acies go on through the town and how intertwined the town is, it's great," said the Chief.

Peter Orsi, a retired firefighter and the current EMS Director for North Brookfield, also spoke about the many families whose histories are rooted in service with the fire department.

"How many people in town have been a part of the fire department, how many families? There's a lot of history, a lot of neighbors who have been a part of this, so it is pretty cool," said Orsi.

During tours of the building, representatives of the department showcased the history still preserved within the walls of the existing structure that once housed

of our educators, students, and community," said Superintendent Paul S. Haughey, Ed.D. "It showcases our strategic priorities of policy management, financial planning, and effective communication as we shape the future for our students."

The full digital edition featuring the dis-

trict is now available to the public on the Business View Magazine Web site.

For further information regarding the revised academic calendar, please visit the district Web site.

confirmed closed until the replacement is complete.

In March, the board confirmed they would be working with BSC Group as the engineering firm and that the bidding process had yet to begin with highway officials calling the big package "complex". The April 21 meeting did not provide any major updates on that process.

Note: In the New Leader's March 27 edition, a story announcing the grant funding for the bridge erroneously referred to the structure as "Mud Brook Road" instead of "Mad Brook Road." We would like to apologize for this error and any confusion it may have caused.



A display in the renovated entryway of the North Brookfield Fire Department showcases pieces of the department's history.

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# Brookfield Agricultural Commission highlights spring planting opportunities

BROOKFIELD — The Brookfield Agricultural Commission is pleased to share upcoming spring planting activities taking place on the Brookfield Common on Saturday, May 23. The day will begin with the long-standing tradition of the Brookfield Garden Club's annual plant sale.

As in previous years, the Garden Club has invited the Agricultural Commission to participate. The Commission will once again offer free seed giveaways for young people interested in starting their own gardens. This initiative is made possible through a grant from the Brookfield Community Club, along with addition-

al donations. Free starter fertilizer kits will also be available. While composting and fertilizer use are familiar practices, they've become especially important topics as fertilizer costs continue to rise.

Beginning at 11 a.m., Oakholm Farm Estate will host hayrides around the Common to celebrate the

start of the planting season.

This year will also feature "Big Boy" tomato plants, grown by the youth group from Brookfield Congregational Church. Proceeds will help support their upcoming mission trip to a small town in New Jersey, where they will join other groups in

assisting residents with needed home and community projects.

For the first time, the Brookfield Cultural Council will join the event, offering starter plants and berry bushes.

As always, experienced growers will be on hand throughout the day to answer questions and pro-

vide gardening advice. The timing of this event coincides with the typical end of the frost season. There is also a bit of local folklore suggesting that more delicate plants should not be placed outdoors until the "Blue Moon," which this year falls on May 31.

## Local land trust celebrates 20 years of land conservation

LEICESTER — Do you recognize the name Common Ground Land Trust? As an all-volunteer, private, non-profit (501c3) organization, we dedicate our time and energy to open space protection in Spencer

and Leicester. With support from individuals, students, families, organizations, and businesses, our membership has grown over the years since inception in 2006. This year, Common Ground Land Trust is cel-

ebrating its 20th anniversary. Help us celebrate and become a member!

Do you enjoy outdoor recreation? If you engage in activities such as birding, hiking, hunting, fishing, or simply listening to the tranquil sounds of nature around you, Common Ground Land Trust may be

a good partner for you.

Do you believe in the preservation of land, water, and open space? Join our land trust, become more informed, and share your thoughts and talents.

Are you curious or interested in partnering with us? To learn more about our goals and accomplishments

you can find us at:

Website: CommonGroundLT.org  
Email: info@commongroundlt.org  
Phone: 774-371-0156  
Common Ground Land Trust, PO Box 400, Leicester, MA 01524  
As stewards of multiple properties in Spencer

and Leicester, our work is on-going and involves time, energy, and community camaraderie. Whether you are a resident of Spencer, Leicester, or any other community, Common Ground Land Trust welcomes you! Join today, get involved, and protect the integrity of our rural towns.

## Memorial Day parade route announced

SPENCER — The Memorial Day Parade sponsored by Gaudette-Kirk American Legion Post #138 will take place on Monday, May 25 at 9 a.m. The parade route will start at the American Legion and proceed down Main Street, a left onto Elm Street, a left on to Chestnut, left on to Maple Street back to Main Street and end at Issac L. Prouty Memorial Park. Memorial Day services will take place on Monday, May 25 at the Isaac L. Prouty Memorial Park immediately following the parade.

We welcome all groups, youth groups and organizations to participate in the parade and attend this year's services.

## WEEKLY POLICE BLOTTER

### Spencer

The Spencer Police Department reported just one arrest during the week of April 22-28.

Celeste C. Nichols, age 49, of Spencer was arrested on April 26 for Operating Under the Influence (Liquor), Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and Failure to Stop or Yield.

### Leicester

The Leicester Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of APRIL 23-29.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on April 24 for Possession of a Class B Drug, Intimidation of a Witness, Juror, Police Officer, or Court Official, operating a motor vehicle after suspension of license, refusal by the operator of a motor vehicle to identify themselves, and driving at a rate of speed exceeding the posted limit.

Bryan William Dean, age 29, of Monson was arrested on April 27 for Operating to Endanger, a Passing Violation, and multiple counts of drug possession.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on April 29 for operating a motor vehicle after suspension of registration and operating an Uninsured Motor Vehicle.

WORCESTER — Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance, Inc. (CMHA) is thrilled to announce the groundbreaking of a transformative project in collaboration with the City of Worcester and SV Design on Friday, May 1. The renovation of the existing 20,000 square foot mill building at 134 Gold St. will revitalize the historic structure, creating a drop-in style day center, complete with essential resources and programs for the local community. This project aims to provide a safe and welcoming environment for the homeless population in Worcester, addressing an urgent need for supportive services.

"As we break ground on this vital project, we are reminded of the power of collaboration. Together with the Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance, we are not just renovating a building; we are transforming lives and affirming our dedication to community well-being and inclusivity," said Thad Siemasko, Founding Principal of SV Design.

Allegrone has been selected as the contractor for this project, bringing their expertise to ensure the renovation meets the highest standards of quality and efficiency. The first floor of the new facility will house a Day Resource Center, equipped with essential amenities including warmth, showers, laundry facilities, and a commercial kitchen. This center will serve as a welcoming space for clients to access technology for telehealth, resume building, and skill development, with case managers available to assist in securing housing and employment. The first floor will

## Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance, SV Design unveil new resource center for homeless individuals

also feature two consultation rooms, designed to facilitate local partnerships that provide mental and physical wellness services to clients. This comprehensive renovation will enhance the facilities for those in need, creating a supportive environment where individuals can access essential services and resources.

The project is committed to a community-centric design that addresses safety concerns regarding site access and includes extensive community engagement to ensure that it meets local needs effectively.

"This groundbreaking wouldn't be possible without dedicated community partnerships," said City Manager Eric D. Batista. "The city is successful when public and private partners work together for the betterment of our community. I want to thank Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance for its leadership not only on this project, but for all its work to uplift vulnerable populations in our community. This Day Resource Center is a major step forward in the municipality's work to address homelessness and connect individuals with secure housing, services, and employment. We look forward to working with CMHA to bring this vision to life."

"We are excited to break ground on this much-needed Resource Center and grateful to the City of Worcester for their partnership," said Leah Bradley, CEO of Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance, Inc. "Together, we are taking a significant step toward providing hope and tangible help for our neighbors experiencing homelessness."

This groundbreaking marks a significant step forward in addressing homelessness in Worcester and highlights SV Design's dedication to creating spaces that foster community well-being.

About SV Design SV Design specializes in beautiful and functional architecture and interiors that transform lives through exceptional design. For more than three decades, SV Design has built a reputation from Boston's North Shore to the Cape and beyond for residential, institutional, multi-family, commercial, and community spaces of character and integrity. SV Design's multidisciplinary team engages closely with clients to identify opportunities, anticipate challenges, and steward projects from site planning to the details of décor.

For more information about SV Design, please visit [www.svdesign.com](http://www.svdesign.com) or email [annemarie@svdesign.com](mailto:annemarie@svdesign.com).

About Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance The Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance (CMHA: The Housing Alliance) is dedicated to addressing homelessness and promoting long-term housing stability. Founded in 1984, CMHA combines advocacy, education, and direct services to support individuals and families in need. Recognizing the dignity of all, the organization mobilizes a comprehensive regional response to ensure that everyone has access to a safe, stable, and healthy place to call home. Through its various programs and initiatives, CMHA strives to create lasting change in the community by fostering awareness and providing essential resources for those affected by housing insecurity.

For more information about CMHA, please visit [www.cmhaonline.org](http://www.cmhaonline.org) or email [lbradley@cmhaonline.org](mailto:lbradley@cmhaonline.org).

## New Bocce League open to community

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

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

Tuesdays: May 12 – June 30 (eight weeks)

Teams of four to eight players  
\$240 per team  
One game per week at either 6 or 7 p.m.  
Maximum of eight teams – don't wait!  
Only team captains need to register for their team.

A brief informational captain meeting will be held before the season starts.

Gather your friends (18 and older), form a team, and come join us for a fantastic time on the court!

Games will be held at:  
Italian American Club  
20 North St., Southbridge

To register your team, call Bay Path Continuing Education at 508-248-5971, ext. 1715. Spots for teams are limited, so don't hesitate—call today!

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**Southbridge - 14 Servant Way  
Featured Listing!**

Gently used, well maintained RANCH on a cul-de-sac! 1,300 sf +/-, 3 BRs, 2 full baths, gas fireplace, central AC. A comfortable open space w/lots of natural light, private main BR w/California closets, a remodeled Bath w/handicap accessible wide-door roll-in shower. Offers a half acre of land Close to I-84 & Sturbridge. List Price: \$459,000

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

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**Webster - 106 East Main St (Rte 12)  
Commercial Opportunity!**

Corner Lot, 275' +/- Road Frontage, Extremely High Traffic Count, 6,200 SF (75x80) Commercial Building, Currently 2 Units -> Potential for More. Economical, Efficient Natural Gas FHA Heat & Cooling. Its close proximity to Successful National Franchised Businesses generates Significant Commerce at this Location. Convenient Access. List Price: \$615,000

**Featured New Listing  
Webster - 34 Eastern Ave Condos  
~ Unit M ~ Move In Ready!**

Original Owner, 1st Time Offered, Well-Kept, 2-BRs, 1-1/2 Baths, 1,500+ SF, LL Living Potential, Private Deck, 20-Unit Complex, Desirable Setting, 1395 in mins. List Price: \$310,000

**Featured Listing ~ New To Market!  
Webster ~ 33 Slater Street**

Sprawling fieldstone faced 1 Level Ranch, located on a +/- 0.5-acre level, w/24'x24' 2 car att'd garage. Offers: 1,860 sf main level plus 1,000 sf +/- finished lower level, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 2 stone fireplaces w/pellet stove inserts, FHW BB heat by oil. Open floor plan kitchen, living rm, dining rm, breezeway w/sliders to rear deck, and 3 season sunroom, hardwood & c-tile floors. \$525,000

**Webster - 24 Cooper Rd  
New Construction - Craftsman Style home**

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

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



Astounding Panoramic Views across mid-section of Webster Lake! View the lake from all windows. Located on a peninsula providing 2 Shorelines. Fireplaced Living Room! 2 Baths. FHW Oil Heat! Central Air. Garage. \$ 900,000.

**Webster Lake -  
302 Killdeer Island**




Lakefront home w/1,700+/- sq ft. Open kitchen/dining/living w/cathedral ceilings + wall of windows. Full baths. Lower level family room w/ walkout to water. \$775,000


**Webster Lake Waterfront -  
31 Bayview!!**



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



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# Musician Sujoy Spencer named Artist of the Month by Friends of the Town House

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** — The Friends of the Town House have named Sujoy Spencer as their Artist for the Month of May, recognizing a musician whose career spans international performance, education, and community involvement.

Spencer, a North Brookfield business owner and longtime performer on

both viola and violin, has built a reputation that reaches far beyond the region. A singer, music teacher, and active Rotarian, she also owns JARS Café & Bakery on Summer Street, balancing her artistic pursuits with a strong local presence.

For Spencer, music is more than performance. It is a form of communication that often speaks more

clearly than words.

“Music is an art form,” she said. “It expresses emotions, conveys stories, and expresses human experiences in ways that words cannot.”

That perspective has shaped both her personal and professional life. Spencer describes herself as someone who has always preferred time to reflect

before speaking, finding in music a space where preparation and expression come naturally.

“I say, ‘Music teaches me,’” she explained. “I do not like people hearing me practice. It is the same as having to verbally respond before I have time to think about my response.”

Her approach to music has influenced her teaching style as well. Spencer emphasizes that private lessons go beyond learning notes and technique, helping students build confidence and develop cognitive, emotional, and social skills that last a lifetime.



a train station in Germany who had attended one of her performances the night before.

continues to run her North Brookfield business. Despite her wide-ranging accomplishments, Spencer remains grounded in her belief that music is ultimately about connection and expression.

While her performance career continues, Spencer remains deeply committed to community work. In 2016, she helped found the Women’s Orchestra of Arizona, one of the few all-women orchestras in the United States, created to expand opportunities for female musicians and foster community engagement.

She currently performs with multiple symphonies in Arizona while teaching violin, viola, and piano in both Massachusetts and Arizona. Closer to home, she remains active in the Sturbridge Rotary and

“I worry more about how I respond to questions from people than I do when I respond to printed music,” she said. “That frees me up to focus on how to express the notes.”

For the Friends of the Town House, Spencer’s selection as Artist of the Month highlights not only her talent, but also her dedication to sharing music in ways that strengthen both individuals and communities.

## Concerts on the Common return May 30

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** — North Brookfield Parks and Recreation, in conjunction with the North Brookfield Cultural Council, will be hosting Concerts on the Common this summer season.

An MCC grant is making these concerts possible for all residents to enjoy. We have a lineup of five dates and bands:

May 30 - North Brookfield High School band will play, followed by DJ Tabby Leblanc.

June 20, we will enjoy the sounds of Ravenwood, an easy listening blue grass band.

On July 25, we will host Sue Lyons, an acoustical guitar player and vocalist.

Aug. 15 will bring us Stan Matthews, who will entertain us with country music with some exceptional Johnny Cash tunes.

The season will end with the Superchargers, a fun rock and roll band.

All concerts are free. They are held on Saturdays and start at 6 p.m. and end around 8 pm. Food will be available for purchase but folks are welcome to bring their own! Feel free to bring chairs, blankets, bug spray and sun screen - whatever makes you comfortable. The playground is right on the common, located on Grove Street in town. We will have games for families to enjoy and some \*surprise\* craft tables during some concerts!

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