



©2026, Issue #37 Free by request to residents of
East Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield, Brookfield, Leicester and Spencer

SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS Friday, September 11, 2026



This week marked the beginning of a new semester and a new direction for the Wolverine Fire Academy, a partnership between Leicester High School and the Leicester Fire Department. Over the coming months, our students will step outside the traditional classroom and get hands-on experience in firefighting, EMS, rescue, public fire education, emergency management, and many of the career paths available throughout the emergency services. Photo courtesy of the Leicester School District's Facebook page.

Spencer seeks ban on cannabis deliveries

BY JASON BLEAU CORRESPONDENT

SPENCER — The Spencer Board of Selectmen voted to pursue a waiver that would ban marijuana deliveries into the town, which would expand their existing ban on retail marijuana establishments.

According to the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission's Web site, Spencer has a ban in place on retail establishments dealing in cannabis and related products but currently has delivery permitted within the town, allowing the substance to be transported to consumers from outside communities. Towns are required to seek a waiver to have delivery banned for up to two years at a time.

During the Board of Selectmen's Aug. 31 meeting, members voted to seek that waiver which, if approved, would not only ban the sale of marijuana, but the delivery from outside retailers as well.

The board unanimously approved seeking the waiver, although Selectman Christopher Woodbury acknowledged that the Spencer voters haven't had their say since the legalization, and it might be time to bring the issue back to the public to see if their sentiments are the same as a decade prior.

"I know the voters voted this down ten years ago, roughly, when marijuana recreational was just in its infancy. There was a lot of stigma back then. I'm indifferent to it. It doesn't matter to me either way, however I think it was some time since the voters voted, and I think they should have a voice again going forward," said Woodbury.

The vote came at an interesting time of uncertainty for marijuana use and sale in the Commonwealth. A ballot question during the November midterms will seek to overturn the legalization of recreational cannabis ten years after it was legalized. If approved, the measure would delegalize the substance and effectively end any retail establishments that sell the

Turn To DELIVERIES page A10

Leicester Women's Club serves community, welcomes new members

LEICESTER — At their next event, Wednesday, Sept. 16, members and guests will enjoy a dinner at Pine Ridge Golf club. The dinner is \$28, payable at the door, and includes salad, entrée, dessert, rolls and coffee or tea. A cash bar is available.

Guest speakers will be members of CARE Leicester (Community Advocates for Resource Engagement), who will give a short presentation about the Community Heart and Soul program here and in other places, share updates on the Littering Sign Project, and lead a conversation about potential next steps. Reservations required before Thursday, Sept. 9, to Linda Monahan at 508-330-9250.

Spencer hires CommunityScale to lead zoning bylaw changes

BY JASON BLEAU CORRESPONDANT

SPENCER — The Town of Spencer has hired a third-party company to help assess its zoning bylaws.

On Aug. 11, the Board of Selectmen approved entering a contract with CommunityScale to update the town's zoning regulations. The company was one of four who bid for the job, according to Town Planner Vivian Poplawski. She said the Zoning and Planning Boards had previously recommended working with CommunityScale.

"This project is funded by a \$50,000 grant from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, and the Planning Board has agreed to do a 25 percent match from the Planning Board Revolving Account," Poplawski told the Select Board. "So, we have a total of \$62,500 for this and that is what CommunityScale is asking for."

Town Manager Jeff Bridges revealed that this was the second request for proposals (RFP) they had submitted for the project.

"The first time around we didn't really get any quality proposals. This time we got four substantive ones and in a pretty much better position," said Bridges.

Initially, the project timeline was set for spring 2027, but delays in the review process have pushed the proposed changes to likely fall of 2027. A steering group will be formed to assist in the process and coordinate public outreach. That will include representation from the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Planning Board, and a liaison from the Board of Selectmen. Poplawski said public engagement will be a large focus of the process.



The Leicester Police Department had a great turnout for its Public Safety Day event on Aug. 18. Photo courtesy of the department's Facebook page.

Adventure tours of Warren
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November 7	Great Gatsby at PPAC	\$165
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Share the Adventure with us soon!

For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357 or email adventuretours@att.net or visit www.adventuretoursforwarren.com for details

Ware Comedy Show returns to Workshop13

WARE — Workshop13 is excited to announce the return of Ware Comedy Show, a Colorblindguy comedy event. This 21+ show takes place at 13 Church St., Ware, on Saturday, Sept. 26. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the performance begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are available for \$20 thanks to the support of the Ware Cultural Council and can be purchased in advance at www.workshop13.org. Comedy fans can expect a night filled with original material, quick wit, and memorable performances.

Returning as host is Boston Comedy Festival winner Dan Boulger. Dan headlined last year's Ware Comedy Show and left audiences thoroughly impressed with his relaxed delivery, sharp observations, and polished stage presence. His ability to make comedy look effortless is a testament to his skill and experience.

Headlining this year's show is Jake Silberman, a nationally touring

comedian whose sharp wit, unique perspective, and exceptional crowd work have made him a favorite with audiences across the country. Jake's ability to find humor in everyday life and connect with a crowd ensures a performance that is both intelligent and hilarious.

The opening acts are equally impressive. Avery Quinn has headlined venues throughout New England and regularly performs at the Comix stage at Mohegan Sun. His animated style and commanding presence immediately capture an audience's attention. Joining him is Hilary Price, known for her offbeat sense of humor, originality, and relatable storytelling. Her thoughtful, clever material consistently earns big laughs while giving audiences something to think about.

Together, these performers create a lineup loaded with

talent, originality, and the creative material that defines great stand-up comedy.

About Workshop13

Workshop13 is a dynamic center where arts, culture, and community converge—expanding access to the arts and nurturing creativity and self-expression in

our rural region. For more information visit workshop13.org, or call 413-277-6072.

Plan ahead for 26th Annual Leicester Harvest Fair

LEICESTER — The Leicester Harvest Fair committee welcomes exhibits from residents of Leicester and surrounding towns to enrich the Harvest Fair and display local handiwork. Entries will be exhibited and judged in two departments: Adults older than 18, and Youth — boys and girls under 18 as of Jan. 1, 2026.

Plan now to enter vegetables and flowers from your gardens and eggs laid by your backyard hens. Food artisans are invited to bring your home-baked pies, breads, muffins and cookies, as well as canned pickles, jams and jellies. Adults 21 and older can enter home-brewed beer, wine, cider/peppery or mead. Artists and crafters are encouraged to display their photography and their fiber arts

including quilting, sewing, knitting and crocheting, spinning and weaving, rug hooking, embroidery and tatting work.

More information with class lists, exhibit entry rules and helpful hints for a skilled display can be found on the Leicester Harvest Fair Facebook page and in Premium booklets available at the Leicester Town Hall, Senior Center, Public Library and at local businesses. Exhibitors should plan to bring their entries to the Town Hall on Friday, Sept. 18, from 4 to 7 p.m. Ribbons will be awarded the best three entries in each class.

The Massachusetts Master Gardeners will offer garden advice and free soil tests. Plan to gather a soil sample from your garden in

advance and bring it to the Fair for pH analysis and recommendations. Instructions for collecting a soil sample can be found on the Harvest Fair Facebook page, or by clicking "gather your soil sample" at <https://massmastergardeners.org/educational-resources/soil-testing>.

Fair activities on and around the Town Common will entertain Fair-goers of all ages, rain or shine. Skilled artisans will demonstrate historic crafts, and local crafters will sell their wares. Food booths will offer a tasty selection of lunch choices, beverages and sweets. The Leicester High School CTE students will host booths, the Tri-M school band will perform, and there will be games and activities for children. Traditional folk music performances at the band stand will feature Yankee Notions, The Doolin Lads, and Slo-Grass. There will be a guided tour of historic buildings, and the Swan Tavern will be open to visitors.

Mark your calendar now and plan to join the festivities on the Leicester Common, in the Town Hall and nearby buildings!

North Brookfield Cultural Council seeks funding proposals

NORTH BROOKFIELD — Proposals for community-oriented arts, humanities, and science programs are due Oct. 15.

The North Brookfield Cultural Council has set an Oct. 15 deadline for organizations, schools, and individuals to apply for grants supporting community cultural activities.

According to LCC spokesperson Nancy Waldron these grants can support a variety of artistic projects and activities in or around North Brookfield, including exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies, performances in schools, workshops, and lectures.

The North Brookfield Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils (LCCs) serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the nation's largest grassroots cultural funding network, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, humanities, and sciences every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to Mass Cultural Council, a state agency that allocates funds to each community.

This year, the North Brookfield Cultural Council will distribute about \$7,200 in grants. Previously funded projects include: production of "Legally Blonde 2," "programs "Birds of Prey," "Watercolor Painting" at the Haston Library; Hip Hop Square Dance at the Senior Center.

For local guidelines and complete information on the North Brookfield Cultural Council, contact Nancy Waldron at nancy.rachel@comcast.net. Application forms and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available online at www.massculturalcouncil.org.

Visit MA Master Gardeners at Leicester's Harvest Fair

LEICESTER — The 26th Annual Leicester Harvest Fair will be held Sept. 19 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Leicester Town Common and adjacent buildings. It's free and open to the public. Come check out the exhibits and fair entries. Visit local crafters and artisans. Enjoy the food and music at this family friendly event.

MA Master Gardeners will be there to answer your gardening questions and to offer free soil pH testing. Bring in a half cup of soil from the areas you want tested. Soil can be collected from top to six-inch depth in several spots for each location and mixed together. It can be put in a Ziploc bag or other container. The Master Gardener table will be in the town hall. See you there!

North Brookfield Senior Center announces September programs

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The North Brookfield Senior Center will offer a full schedule of activities, health services, informational programs and entertainment throughout September.

The month will include opportunities ranging from technology assistance and health clinics to exercise, arts and crafts, bingo and live musical entertainment.

Tech Help with Alex will be offered Tuesday, Sept. 8, at 10 a.m., providing an opportunity for seniors to get assistance with technology questions.

Health-related offerings begin Wednesday, Sept. 9, when a SHINE counselor will be available by appointment from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. A blood pressure clinic will follow from 11 a.m. to noon.

Strength and Flexibility sessions are scheduled for Monday, Sept. 14, and Monday, Sept. 28, from 10 to 11 a.m.

On Wednesday, Sept. 16, the center will host two programs. The veterans agent will be available from 10 to 11 a.m., followed by an Accessible Home Health information session at 11 a.m.

Bingo Night is planned for Friday, Sept. 18, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., while Music Bingo will be held Monday, Sept. 21, at 11 a.m.

Musical entertainment will continue Wednesday, Sept. 23, when the Greendale Friends Retiree Chorus performs at 1 p.m.

Medicare counselor Ed Spater will be available by appointment Thursday, Sept. 24, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. An art class will also be held at 11 a.m. that day. Another art class is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 3, at 11 a.m.

Coffee and Craft will be held Saturday, Sept. 26, at 11 a.m. Advance signup is required.

Representatives from the Registry of Deeds will visit the center Tuesday, Sept. 29, at 1 p.m. A blood pressure and glucose clinic will round out the month's special programs Wednesday, Sept. 30, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Interactive Games are also offered every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

Residents interested in programs requiring appointments or advance registration should contact the North Brookfield Senior Center for availability and additional information.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Egyptian bull god

5. A young canine

8. North Carolina university

11. "Oddbod" actor Tom

13. Midway between northeast and east

14. A place to shop

15. Mysterious "Severance" family

16. Single Lens Reflex

17. Malaria

18. Informal loan organizations

20. Twitching

21. Holm oak

22. Willing to consent

25. In an early way

30. Stuck it out

31. Language in Ghana

32. Obtain

33. Ancient Greek currency

38. One point east (clockwise) of due north

41. Popular baseball movie

43. Group of islands

45. Church building

47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea

49. Late AC/DC frontman Scott

50. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation

55. Thick piece of something

56. Breakfast food

57. One mole of solute per kilogram of solvent

59. Ancient Greek City

60. Bitterly regret

61. Don't forget it

62. Dishonorable man

63. Affirmative

64. "___ and flows"

CLUES DOWN

1. Bridge-building decree

2. Expression of sorrow or pity

3. Lizard species

4. Turkish leader title

5. A way to bother

6. Blank

7. A fine, closely woven cotton fabric

8. Sports broadcaster Ian

9. Popular whodunit board game

10. Alkali flats mineral

12. Large African antelope

14. It's delivered most days

19. Satisfy

23. Water soaked soil

24. Of a past era

25. Chest muscle (slang)

26. Ribonucleic acid

27. Doctor of Education

28. Coffee receptacle

29. Where rockstars work

34. International airport in Connecticut

35. Russian river

36. It's used to make cabins

37. OJ trial judge Lance

39. A means to persuade

40. Short poem

41. A way to begin hostilities with

42. Multi-function radar (abbr.)

44. Joints

45. Blatted

46. Swedish rock group

47. Millisecond

48. ___ podrida: Spanish stew

51. Doctors' group

52. Trunk of a tree

53. Tattle

54. Metrical foot

58. ___ Angeles

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Spencer American Legion Charity Golf Tournament set for Sept. 26

SPENCER — The Gaudette Kirk Post 138 American Legion Spencer invites golfers, sponsors, and community members to participate in its Annual Charity Golf Tournament on Saturday, Sept. 26, at Heritage Country Club. This annual event combines a day of golf, fellowship, and giving back, with all proceeds supporting veterans in need.

The mission of the Gaudette Kirk Post 138 Charity Golf Tournament is to help veterans by preventing hunger, homelessness, and the lack of

life's basic necessities. Funds raised through the tournament provide direct assistance to local veterans and their families, ensuring those who have served our country receive support during difficult times.

Golfers of all skill levels are welcome to participate in the 18-hole scramble. The tournament fee is \$115 per golfer, which includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, a light lunch at Heritage Country Club, and dinner at the Gaudette Kirk Post 138 American Legion following the tournament. The

day will also feature on-course contests, raffles, prizes, and awards.

Businesses and organizations are encouraged to become sponsors, while individuals and foursomes are invited to register early and help make a difference in the lives of local veterans.

For registration, sponsorship opportunities, or additional information, please contact Carol by phone at 774-454-0366 or e-mail post138spencerma@gmail.com.

About Gaudette Kirk Post

138 American Legion

Gaudette Kirk Post 138 American Legion is committed to serving veterans, supporting military families, promoting patriotism, and strengthening the local community. Through its annual charity golf tournament and other fundraising efforts, the Post provides direct assistance to veterans by helping prevent hunger, homelessness, and the lack of basic necessities, honoring the service and sacrifice of those who have served our nation.

Richard Sugden Library offers support group for widows

SPENCER — The Richard Sugden Library invites widows to an informal conversational group.

"Every ending has a beginning." "He's in a better place." We've heard it all. But, we have experienced a loss that was unique, equal to no other. We've also experienced love like no other. The Widows Group (WG) intends to build a community of love, support, patience, and understanding.

Please join us Wednesdays (the first and third of each month) beginning Sept. 2 from 1 - 2 p.m. Lifting hearts, one-at-a-time. September get-togethers will be Sept. 2 and 16 at the Richard Sugden

Library, Spencer.

A Haunted Story Swap will be held at the Richard Sugden Library on Sept. 10 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Share your eerie experience. We're gathering a record of otherworldly experiences that have occurred in Spencer and want to hear from you! Our main goal is to collect cemetery-based accounts, but other stories will also be noted afterwards. Please join us for this exchange of tales of trepidation and haunted happenings! Sponsor: Spencer Historical Commission and hosted by Prof. Garret D. Langlois, Ph.D.

Grow Happiness with Wendy O'Leary at the Richard Sugden Library, Spencer. Adult

Happiness Club kicks off Sept. 17 from 1-2 p.m. Monthly schedule: Oct. 29, Nov. 19, Dec. 17, Jan. 21, Feb. 18, March 18, April 15, May 13, and June 17. The in-person group will have an optional activity following the session from 2-2:30 p.m. Sign up with Wendy O'Leary at woleary25@gmail.com. Sponsor: Friends of the Library.

Traditional Folk Music in the 21st Century will be held at the Richard Sugden Library on Thursday, Sept. 17 from 6 - 7 p.m. Music is an essential part of connection. Derek Piotr, folklorist, performer, and composer shares his Fieldwork Archive, featuring more than

2,000 recordings of "non-singers" poems, hymns & songs. Sponsor: Friends of the Library.

Sound Healing experience at the Richard Sugden Library, Spencer. Immerse yourself in therapeutic sounds that calm the mind, heal the body, and uplift the spirit. Adults are invited to join us as Allison, from Friendly Ass Farm, leads this time of relaxation. Join us on Sept. 23 from 6-7 p.m. Tune into wellness. Vibrate with Harmony. Sponsor: Friends of the Library.

Open poetry reading series coming to Merriam-Gilbert Library

WEST BROOKFIELD — Local poets, readers and lovers of the written word will have a new opportunity to share their favorites when the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library hosts "One Poem," an open poetry reading series beginning in September.

The program is designed to provide a welcoming venue for writers to share their own poetry while introducing participants to the work of other published poets.

For each original poem a participant reads, organizers ask that the reader complement it with a poem by an established, published writer. Selections can

East Brookfield seeks public input for Open Space and Recreation Plan update

EAST BROOKFIELD — The Town of East Brookfield, with assistance from the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), is updating its 2006 Open Space and Recreation Plan and is seeking input from residents.

Community members are encouraged to participate in a survey to share their thoughts on open space, recreational opportunities, and priorities for the future. Public feedback will help guide the development of the updated plan, which is required to maintain the Town's eligibility for State grant funding for conservation and recreation projects.

Residents can complete the survey online at <https://tinyurl.com/yv7b23fy>. Hard copies are also available at Town Hall, the East Brookfield Public Library, and the Senior Center.

The Town encourages all residents to take part and help shape the future of East Brookfield's parks, recreation resources, and open spaces.

P.E.T. of the Week

Sponsored by Leicester Veterinary Clinic, LLC

Meet Stripes!

This handsome young guy came to Second Chance needing several medical needs addressed, but he is now feeling great! He has lived with friendly cats and dogs previously so may be OK with fur siblings in his future forever home. Stripes is on a prescription diet and oral medication for his skin allergies (they are working very well, no more itching!) and does have a mid-grade heart murmur that does not require any treatment at this time but does require yearly monitoring. Come by the shelter to meet him or call the adoption center at 508-867-5525 for more info!



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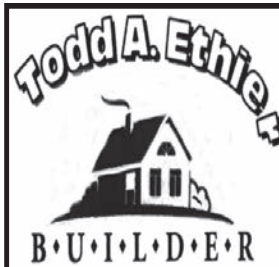
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Friday's Child



Elijah
Age 10
Registration #9241

park. He especially enjoys opportunities to get outside, explore, and stay busy.

When it's time to slow down, Eli enjoys reading and getting creative through arts and crafts. He appreciates spending time with others and is naturally social, making connections with the people around him. Eli has a wonderful ability to bring people together and enjoys participating in activities where he can interact, laugh, and share experiences with others. He approaches new experiences with a positive attitude and continues to show resilience when faced with challenges. Eli's kindness, warmth, and infectious positivity make him a joy to be around, and his caring personality shines through in the way he interacts with others.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/27712856128>

Can I Adopt?

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

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



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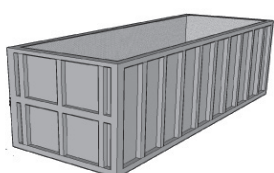
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PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

After a decade,
Spencer voters
deserve
another say

Nearly a decade can change a great deal. Attitudes change. Communities change. Industries change. And sometimes decisions made under one set of circumstances deserve to be reconsidered under another.

That is the larger issue raised by the Spencer Board of Selectmen’s recent decision to pursue a waiver prohibiting recreational marijuana deliveries into town.

Spencer already prohibits recreational marijuana retailers from operating within its borders. The proposed waiver would go a step further by preventing licensed businesses in other communities from delivering recreational cannabis products to customers in Spencer.

Whether that is the right policy for the town is a legitimate question. But Selectman Christopher Woodbury raised another question during the Aug. 31 meeting that may ultimately be more important: Should Spencer voters have another opportunity to decide what they want?

They probably should.

Massachusetts voters legalized recreational marijuana in 2016, and the cannabis industry that exists today bears little resemblance to the uncertain landscape communities were considering in the immediate aftermath of legalization.

At the time, municipal officials and residents across the state were wrestling with questions about dispensaries, zoning, public safety, taxation and enforcement. There were plenty of unknowns because there was no established recreational marijuana industry in Massachusetts to examine. Ten years later, there is.

That does not mean Spencer residents would necessarily reach a different conclusion today. They may still strongly prefer keeping recreational marijuana businesses out of town. They may also support extending that prohibition to deliveries.

But there is a meaningful distinction between assuming public opinion has remained unchanged and actually asking the public.

Local democracy works best when residents periodically have an opportunity to reconsider important policies, particularly when circumstances have changed substantially since those policies were adopted.

The delivery issue also illustrates how technology and changing business practices can complicate decisions made years earlier. Prohibiting a storefront within Spencer is one thing. Preventing a licensed retailer elsewhere in Massachusetts from delivering a legal product to an adult resident’s home raises a somewhat different policy question.

Residents may view those two activities exactly the same way. They may not.

The pending statewide ballot question concerning recreational marijuana adds another layer of uncertainty. Massachusetts voters could once again significantly alter the legal landscape surrounding cannabis, potentially making some municipal decisions moot depending upon the outcome. That is a reason for Spencer officials to proceed carefully, but it should not prevent a broader local conversation.

The selectmen were within their authority to pursue the delivery waiver, and their unanimous vote provides a clear indication of where the current board stands. But Woodbury’s suggestion deserves further consideration.

A decade is a long time to leave an important community policy unquestioned. Putting the issue before residents again would not amount to an endorsement of marijuana businesses, nor would it guarantee any change in Spencer’s existing rules. It would simply recognize that today’s voters deserve an opportunity to decide whether a policy established during the earliest days of legalization still represents the community’s wishes.

If Spencer voters reaffirm the prohibition, town officials would have a fresh mandate. If they choose another direction, that decision should also be respected.

Either way, after 10 years, there is little harm in asking.

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Do you like Trumpism?

To the Editor:
Do you like Trumpism? I don’t!
What is Trumpism? It’s a new style of federal government being run by a President that is 50 percent dictator, 40 percent revenger, 10 percent President.

If you don’t agree with what he wants to do, then you get called names, a damn tariff put on goods you sell the U.S., or lied about.

If he did everything as good as he lies, wow! He could really solve real problems.

He does some frivolous things:
Rename Lake Ontario ‘Lake America’ because he is mad at Canada.
Rename the Gulf of Mexico ‘Gulf of America’ because he hates Mexico.

These stupid, childish stunts only make us look like a dummy for electing him.

He has absolutely no respect for anyone and/or any organization.

I’m probably not the only one that

thinks the toilet paper in the White House has ‘Democrat’ printed on each sheet because that’s what he wants to do with them.

I don’t want to offend any Democrats, but he shouldn’t be a Republican, but a Democrat. Why? Because he acts more like a jackass than an elephant.

He may have an excuse for all this bad behavior. I wonder, did he ever get hit in the head with a hard hit, fast flying golf ball? Maybe it gave him a brain injury!

One of the biggest lies he has told: All immigrants are rapists, murderers, drug-gies, robbers. Their countries sent them here when they cleaned out.

I may not be around in 2028; after all, I’m already an old geezer. If I am, I hope the next president has a brain. In ‘brain’ is spelled a woman’s article of clothing. I hope our next president will need one.

FRED HOLMES
BROOKFIELD

The windows are open again

There is a particular day every September when I realize the windows are open. Nobody announces it.

There is no family meeting where we agree that summer humidity has officially ended and authorize the reopening of the house. One day, the air conditioner is humming away, doing its best to keep the living room from feeling like the inside of a baked potato, and a few days later there is a breeze coming through the kitchen window. That first open-window day is one of my favorite days of the year.

I noticed it the other morning when I came downstairs. The house was quiet, and somewhere outside I could hear a truck backing up. Farther away, somebody was running a lawn mower. There were birds making whatever announcements birds feel compelled to make at 6:30 in the morning. And I could hear all of it because the windows were open.

Summer tends to seal us inside. When it gets hot enough, we close the windows, turn on the air conditioning and create our own little climate-controlled worlds. The houses along the street might be only 30 feet apart, but everybody is tucked inside behind closed windows.

September changes that. Suddenly, the neighborhood comes back. You hear someone calling the dog. You hear a screen door slam. You hear a kid bouncing a basketball in a driveway.

Somebody is doing something involving a power tool that apparently needs to begin before breakfast. You smell somebody’s coffee in the morning and somebody else’s dinner at night. And every once in a while, you hear a conversation you weren’t supposed to hear.

That is when you quietly move away from the window and remind yourself that good neighbors occasionally need to pretend they are deaf.

Open windows were simply part of life when I was growing up. We didn’t think of fresh air as an amenity. It was the cooling system.

You opened every window you could, and if the house was still hot, you found a fan. The fan was usually about 40 years old, weighed as much as a lawn mower and had metal blades capable of propelling a small aircraft.

Safety standards were apparently more of a suggestion back then.

At night, an open bedroom window brought in all the sounds of the neighborhood. Cars passing. Crickets. A dog barking three streets over. Sometimes, you could hear a radio playing somewhere. Eventually, those sounds faded into the background and you fell asleep. I hadn’t thought much about that until recently.

Modern life has become remarkably good at separating us from our surroundings. Cars have climate control. Houses have climate control. Offices have climate control. We put earbuds in when we walk. We can travel from our garage to a parking lot to a building and barely experience the outdoors at all.

Then September arrives in Massachusetts and gives us a brief stretch when the best temperature-control system is a wooden frame, a screen and a little cooperation from Mother Nature. It doesn’t last long.

Soon enough, one of those chilly mornings will arrive when somebody says, “Why is it freezing in here?” The windows will come down. Then the heat will go on.

And before long we’ll be standing beside the thermostat having the annual household debate over what temperature constitutes “perfectly comfortable” and what temperature constitutes “Do you think we’re made of money?”

For now, though, the windows are open. The curtains move a little when the breeze comes through. The house smells different. The neighborhood sounds closer. It is a small thing, certainly. But the older I get, the more convinced I become that the calendar doesn’t really tell us when the seasons change.

The little things do. The first morning, you need a sweatshirt. The first leaf you notice in the driveway. The first time you see apples stacked outside a farm stand.

And that September morning when you walk into the kitchen, hear the neighborhood outside and realize somebody has opened the windows again.

That is when you know fall is on its way.

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of cyber-
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Your financial security is only as strong as your digital security. A single stolen password, convincing scam or fraudulent investment offer can lead to lost savings, damaged credit or hours spent recovering compromised accounts. As our financial lives move increasingly online, protecting your personal information is part of protecting your financial future.

Cybercriminals are getting smarter, and technology like AI is making their job easier. But fortunately, some consistent habits can help protect you from many of today’s common threats.

Watch out for phishing. Phishing is a common way criminals break into accounts and steal money. These attacks often arrive as emails, texts or phone calls that appear to come from your bank, employer, or another trusted organization. Fake websites can trick you into typing in your password or financial details.

To protect yourself, verify unexpected requests through a separate channel, such as calling a company directly using a number from its official website rather than one provided in a suspicious message. Avoid clicking unexpected links and consider using a password manager which auto-fills your login information only on legitimate websites.

Strengthen your accounts. Stolen passwords give criminals easy access to your email, banking, and social media accounts. Try using a unique password for every account and enable multifactor authentication whenever it’s offered. When possible, choose phishing-resistant options like passkeys or security keys; they’re harder for scammers to bypass than basic text message codes.

Be skeptical of urgency. Scammers increasingly use deepfakes, which leverage AI-generated voices, videos, and images to convincingly impersonate trusted people, including company executives, advisors and even family members. These messages often create pressure to send money or share sensitive information immediately.

If you receive an urgent request that feels off, slow down. Hang up and try calling back to the person or organization using a known phone number. Many successful scams rely on emotional pressure rather than technical tricks, so a moment of skepticism can go a long way.

Protect your money and identity. Fraudulent investment platforms and cryptocurrency schemes continue to cost Americans billions of dollars each year. Be cautious of investment opportunities promoted through unsolicited messages or social media contacts and always verify a platform independently before sending money. If you’re unsure whether an opportunity is legitimate, a financial advisor can help evaluate it before you invest.

Data breaches can also put your information at risk, even when you’ve done everything right. It’s smart to check your bank and credit card statements regularly for unfamiliar charges, and to freeze your credit if you suspect your information has been compromised. You may also choose to freeze your credit preemptively.

Keep your devices updated. Software updates often fix security weaknesses that criminals could otherwise exploit. Backing up important files, whether to the cloud or an external drive, also protects you if ransomware ever locks you out of your own data.

Small habits matter. Unique passwords, multifactor authentication, and skepticism help stop many scams before they start. Take steps to help safeguard your money, identity, and long-term financial goals. *This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Trevor Nielsen, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or trevor.nielsen@edwardjones.com. Edward Jones, Member SIPC*

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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Alex Cordy Memorial Golf Tournament set for Sept. 12

OAKHAM — St. Carlo Acutis Parish, Brookfield/West Brookfield/Warren, is having their Ninth Annual Alex Cordy Memorial Charity Golf Tournament at Quail Hollow Golf and Country Club, 1822 Old Turnpike Road, Oakham, Massachusetts on Saturday, Sept. 12. Registration begins at 7:15 a.m., with a Shotgun Start at 8 a.m.

As many of you are aware, Alex Cordy was an integral part of our West Brookfield Community for many years. In memory of his outstanding service to his community, his parish, and being a founding member of our Knights of Columbus Council 11080, this tournament will once again benefit our Youth Activities Fund to support the youth in our local community, a cause that was very important to Alex. We were able to award two \$1,000.00 scholarships this past year from the proceeds of this event to two local high school seniors, as well as fund many other youth activities. We ask that you please consider supporting our event by sponsoring or participating in the tournament individually or with a foursome. Tournament Raffle Items and General Donations to this event are always welcomed and appreciated!

Registration and sponsorships are now available for this tournament. To register, and for more information, please call (413) 813-8100 or email wallyconnor122@gmail.com.

Annual Family Fall Fest open to all!

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The First Congregational Church of North Brookfield will be holding its annual Family Fall Festival Saturday, Oct. 3 from noon to 2:30 p.m., with activities for all members of your family.

The many activities include free hamburgers/cheeseburgers, chips, lemonade, and apple cider (hot and cold) for all. There will be a silent auction and cake/pie sale. A bouncy house, cotton candy machine, popcorn and games galore for the whole family, including the infamous {or famous} tug of war between the adults and the children. Other activities include horse rides, corn hole, Zumba with Melanie, and the North Brookfield Fire Department Fire Prevention team.

Come have fun with us! This event is free to all who attend! Call the church office with any questions at 508-867-8428.

Girl Scout Troop welcomes new members

SPENCER — Girls entering grades Kindergarten and 1 in the fall are invited to join Troop 65501. The troop meets in Spencer every other Sunday, 4:30-5:45 p.m. Girl membership registration fee is \$111, and is active until September 30, 2027. Financial Assistance is available.

Girl Scouts is the premier organization for girls to learn about leadership, financial literacy, life skills, the outdoors, community service, science and technology. Girl Scout programming is customizable for all types of learners! Previous Girl Scout experience is not necessary.

You can register for a spot in the troop at <https://go.gscwm.org/troop65501>. Questions? E-mail info@gscwm.org or call 508-365-0115.

About Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts
Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts serves nearly 6,000 girls in grades K through 12 with the strong support of over 2,500 adult volunteers in 186 towns and cities in central and western Massachusetts. The Girl Scout program allows girls to discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls together while building their personal leadership qualities. GSCWM supports girls by giving them extraordinary opportunities to explore, experience, and learn about their world and helps girls recognize that they are vital members of their communities.

Vendors wanted for flea market on W. Brookfield Common

WEST BROOKFIELD — The First Congregational Church 36 N. Main St., W. Brookfield, UCC has been hosting their Flea Market on the town Common for more than 50 years. This year the Flea Market will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12 from 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (vendor check-in 6:30 - 8:30 a.m.).

Sellers of all kinds are welcome - flea folk, antique dealers, crafters, product vendors, and those emptying out basements and attics! No food vendors, please. Spaces are available for \$40 for a 20-by-20-foot grassy spot. Vendors must bring their own tables and tents. The church will sponsor a food tent with grilled food, cold drinks and sweet treats. Email to fcfwbflmarket@gmail.com for an application or call Karen at 508-801-7692.

Mark your calendars; the tradition continues!

Leicester Women's Club meets Sept. 16

LEICESTER — The Leicester Women's Club's September Dinner & Meeting will be Pine Ridge Country Club on Wednesday, Sept. 16 at 6 p.m. The event is both a social gathering for members, prospective members and guests. The dinner, which includes salad, entrée, bread, dessert, coffee and tea, is \$28, payable at the door. A cash bar is available. For reservations, contact Linda Monahan at 508-330-9250 before Wednesday, Sept. 9.

The Leicester Women's Club, founded in 1962, is both a community service organization and a social club. It is open to women who are residents of Leicester and surrounding towns. Annual dues are \$20, and meetings are monthly from September through April. Members hold a basket raffle at the Leicester Harvest Fair in September to raise money for local scholarships, and a holiday auction in November to raise money for local charities. For information about membership, please call Renee McCue-Hall at 508-892-0186.

Brookfield Council on Aging to host vaccine clinic Sept. 14

BROOKFIELD — The Brookfield Council on Aging will host a community vaccine clinic Monday, Sept. 14, at the Brookfield Congregational Church, 8 Common St.

A variety of vaccines will be available during the clinic, including COVID-19, influenza, RSV, pneumococcal, shingles, Tdap, MMR and hepatitis vaccines. Both regular and stronger-dose influenza vaccines will be available.

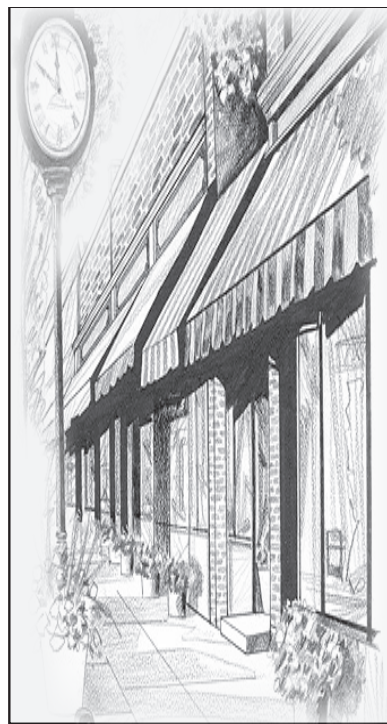
Other vaccines may also be made available upon request.

Advance registration is required for anyone wishing to receive a vaccine. Those interested should email seniors@brookfieldma.us and provide their name, telephone number and the vaccine or vaccines they would like to receive.

Residents may also register by calling Darlene Dean at 774-200-0778.

The clinic is being sponsored by the Leicester Regional Public Health Coalition.

Residents interested in receiving one or more vaccinations are encouraged to sign up in advance and specify each vaccine they are requesting so organizers can prepare for the clinic.



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Auxilium Center for Entrepreneurship at QCC celebrates successful first year



Courtesy
Director Rocky Knight (standing) during a presentation at the Auxilium Center for Entrepreneurship at QCC.

WORCESTER — The Auxilium Center for Entrepreneurship at Quinsigamond Community College is concluding its first year dedicated to fostering student success and strengthening QCC’s role in the region’s entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Since opening in the fall of 2025, the Center has delivered four entrepreneurship workshops, provided more than 60 one-on-one consultations and created new opportunities for students to develop business ideas, connect with mentors and gain hands-on experience pitching their ventures.

QCC hosted its first WooTank Qualifying Pitch Competition, where nine student entrepreneurs competed for funding and the chance to represent the College on a regional stage. QCC student entrepreneur Mallory Callahan, founder of Float Lab Worcester, went on to earn a \$1,500 investment at the WooTank Intercollegiate Pitch Competition during Worcester Startup Week.

“Through mentorship, experiential learning, strategic partnerships and direct student support, the Auxilium Center has quickly become a valuable resource for aspiring entrepreneurs,”

said Director of the Auxilium Center for Entrepreneurship Rocky Knight. “As it enters its second year, the Center is well-positioned to expand its impact, helping even more students transform ambition and creativity into opportunity.”

The Center also aims to elevate student entrepreneurs beyond campus. Four QCC students showcased their ventures at WPI Demo Day, another collegiate pitch competition, gaining public-facing experience while representing the College in Worcester’s innovation community.

“The Auxilium Center at QCC gave me the tools, mentorship and support I needed to succeed as an entrepreneur while also pursuing my education and providing for my family,” said Jamie Miece, QCC student and founder of Hair by Jamie. “Starting a business feels scary and overwhelming, but with the right support, you can achieve your goals and overcome obstacles you once thought were impossible.”

The Auxilium Center at QCC was made possible through the vision of its founding supporters, the Cliff & Susan Rucker Foundation, whose early

investment provided seed funding to hire the center director and help turn the vision into reality.

An Inspiring Generosity Grant from the Esler Family Foundation has provided a \$10,000 matching grant to support Auxilium Center programming. Support from Cornerstone Bank, ITServe Alliance, UniBank, and the Webster Five Foundation is helping realize the full impact of this opportunity, which must be matched dollar-for-dollar.

Every gift made through Dec. 31 brings QCC closer to securing the full \$10,000 match, helping provide students with the mentorship, guidance and resources needed to turn ideas into ventures. These gifts will also support QCC’s inaugural Entrepreneurship Week, help launch the Center’s Business Incubator and strengthen the WooTank Qualifying Pitch Competition.

More information on how to support the Inspiring Generosity Matching Grant Program can be found at www.givecampus.com/schools/quinsigamond-communitycollege/auxilium-center-for-entrepreneurship-at-qcc.

Award-winning Puerto Rican film “Esta Isla” coming to Worcester



WORCESTER — “Esta Isla” (This Island), the award-winning feature film by Puerto Rican filmmakers Lorraine Jones Molina and Cristian Carretero, will screen in Worcester on Sept. 26, bringing the acclaimed Puerto Rican film to audiences across Central Massachusetts.

follows Bebo, a teenager trying to survive amid economic hardship. After a violent incident alters his life, he flees with Lola, a young woman determined to escape her circumstances. Their journey explores identity, belonging, and redemption in a Puerto Rico that is as beautiful as it is complex.

the kind of stories that BoriCorridor seeks to bring to our communities: deeply Puerto Rican, honest, and contemporary narratives that invite us to reflect on who we are and how we relate to our country, our history, and our diaspora,” said Elsa Mosquera, founder of BoriCorridor.

BoriCorridor, in collaboration with Experimento Lúdico and Vejigantes Restaurant, presents the screening as part of the BoriCorridor Screening Tour, an initiative that brings Puerto Rican artists and cultural productions to communities across the United States.

More than a chase thriller, “Esta Isla” offers a deeply human and contemporary portrait of Puerto Rican life, exploring inequality, resilience, and the island’s historical legacy.

The Worcester screening is part of a broader nine-city BoriCorridor Screening Tour that will bring “Esta Isla” to communities in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Colorado, and Texas, as well as New York City.

“Esta Isla” premiered at the 2025 Tribeca Film Festival, where it won Best New Director and Best Cinematography and received a Special Jury Mention for Best U.S. Narrative Feature. In 2026, the film received the John Cassavetes Award at the Film Independent Spirit Awards, further establishing “Esta Isla” as one of the most recognized Puerto Rican films in recent years.

“This film was born in Puerto Rico—from its landscapes, its contradictions, and its people. Being able to share it now with Puerto Rican communities across the United States is a very special opportunity for us,” said Lorraine Jones Molina, who, along with Cristian Carretero, directed and produced the film. The screening in Worcester will include a post-screening discussion, giving audiences an opportunity to engage directly with the filmmakers and explore the film’s themes and creative process.

The tour marks the first time BoriCorridor has incorporated film into its programming, expanding the range of Puerto Rican artistic and cultural productions it brings to the diaspora. Supported by the Mellon Foundation, the BoriCorridor Tour has spent the past three years connecting Puerto Rican artists and cultural productions with communities throughout the United States.

Tickets and additional information are available at boricorridor.com.

“‘Esta Isla’ represents



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Ecumenical service to be held on West Brookfield Common

WEST BROOKFIELD — The First Congregational Church of W. Brookfield, UCC, and the George Whitefield United Methodist Church will hold an ecumenical Sunday morning worship service on the West Brookfield town common on Sunday, Sept. 20 at 10 a.m. The public is warmly invited to attend. Extra chairs will be available but bringing your own is encouraged. Instead of a collection, it is asked that items for the Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry be brought for donation.

In case of rain, the service will be inside the church at 36 N. Main St. Please call the Congregational Church for more information at 508-867-7078.

Spencer Town Moderator launches new community television show, “The Brewster Call”

SPENCER — Jason Brewster, the newly elected Town Moderator of Spencer, is announcing the launch of “The Brewster Call,” a new community television show on Spencer Cable Access, Channel 192.

The show airs Fridays from 6 to 6:30 p.m. and focuses on informed civic participation and respectful dialogue.

Special thanks to Spencer Cable Access for making this program possible and for its continued commitment to local programming and community engagement.

“The Brewster Call” is produced by Jason Brewster in his capacity as a private citizen. The views expressed are his own and should not be construed as official statements or positions of the Spencer Town Moderator or the Town of Spencer.

For questions or episode suggestions, email thebrewstercall@gmail.com.

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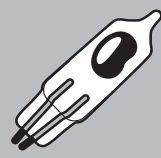
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CASA Project Worcester County hosts eighth annual signature fundraising event and awards ceremony

WORCESTER — Champions for Children is an evening to celebrate CASA’s work, honor supporters, and raise vital funds to safeguard the continuing advocacy efforts for foster-involved youth throughout Worcester County.

CASA Project Worcester County is a nonprofit organization which serves youth in the child welfare system, amplifies their voices in court, and supports them on their path to permanency. Appointed by the local Juvenile Court judges to the most nuanced cases, CASA advocates for the best interests of these youth during this period of instability and uncertainty. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) are carefully screened and trained community volunteers who support hundreds of foster-involved children in the county each year. CASA Project Worcester County is a member of the National CASA Association and the oldest and largest of six programs of its kind in the state.

- Champions for Children will feature several local multicultural restaurants and food vendors serving their unique cuisine, a cash bar, live entertainment, a Mystery Reveal, and a Live Auction.
- This celebration will honor select members of the CASA

community, thanking them for their important role in advancing the work of the organization and supporting vulnerable youth in the community.

- The event’s speaker is Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell.
- The event raises critical funds for CASA to recruit, screen, and train volunteers from the community to be appointed advocates for children who have been abused or neglected in Worcester County.
- Tickets are \$150 (VIP) or \$100 and can be purchased at <https://www.thecasaproject.org/events/2026>
- The Online Auction is open and accepting bids from supporters everywhere from Friday, Aug. 28 at noon through Friday, Sept. 11 at noon.

When: Thursday, Sept. 10, 6:00 p.m. (exclusive MVP cocktail hour 5-6 p.m.)
Where: Polar Park, 100 Madison St., Worcester
Who: champions-for-children-celebration/. Ticket bundles are also available. Tickets will not be sold at the door.
• Event Co-Chairs: Matthew Foster and Stefanie Silva

- Lead Sponsors: UniBank, Central MA Productions, Wednesday’s Child, Munq, Carr Financial Group, Cinch I.T., Cumulus Media, The Hanover Insurance Group Foundation, Infinity Events, Phil Smith Photography, Plumb House, Webster First Credit Union, Webster Five Savings Bank, The WooSox Foundation, Wright Photo Studios, American Flatbread Worcester, Sachs Jewelers, The Flynn Family, and The Wyman Family
- Dining Donors: Bri’s Sweet Treats, Calabria Ristorante, Caribbean Press, Chartwells Catering, Hoppy Pop, Jax Seafood, Little Havana, Oak View Group, Pastry Chef Medina, Simply Delicious Catering and Management Service, SouLao’d Kitchen, Unique Cafe, Voltumo, and Work of Art Cookies
- Honorees include: The Honorable Jennifer Currie; Lindsey English; Liz Estabrooks; Greater Worcester Community Foundation, Peter Dunn; Frances Lubin; and Webster Five Savings Bank, Monica Thomas-Bonnick
- Guests include: State and city representatives, business and community leaders in the region, CASA’s Board of Directors and staff, supporters of the mission, and Worcester County residents

LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26P2879EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
Kevin J Quinn
Also known as: Kevin John Quinn
Date of Death: 07/25/2026

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Jason H. Quinn of Rutland MA and Joshua K. Quinn of Holland MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: .
Jason H. Quinn of Rutland MA and Joshua K. Quinn of Holland MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/06/2026**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 02, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
September 11, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Emmanuel G. Matias to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, dated February 22, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 64608, Page 299, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, its successors and assigns to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, recorded on February 5, 2026, in Book No. 73164, at Page 297
for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 PM on September 23, 2026, on the mortgaged premises located at 26 Donnelly Cross Road, Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT:
The land in Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts, on the east side of Donnelly Cross Road, being shown as Lot 1 on a plan of land

entitled “Plan of Valley View Lots in Spencer, Massachusetts. Harvey Goldstein, owner”, October 12, 1967, Theodore P. Drazek, R.L.S. bounded and described as follows: See Plan Book 539, Plan No. 111, Beginning at a point in the Easterly line of Donnelly Cross Road, said point being the southwest corner of the lot herein described, as shown on said plan;
Thence S. 63 degrees 23’ E., 448.30 feet to a point at land of Charles Zablow;
Thence N. 8 degrees 56’ E., 148.25 feet along said Zablow land to a point at Lot 2;
Thence N. 62 degrees 19’ 20” W., 465.85 feet along said Lot 2 to a point in the Easterly line of Donnelly Cross Road;
Thence S. 41 degrees 19’ 30” W. 49.26 feet to a point; and S. 25 degrees 24’ W. 103.84 feet to the point of beginning; the last courses being along the Easterly line of Donnelly Cross Road. Containing 68,400 square feet of land, more or less.

The exact quantity of land or number of acres and/or square feet contained within the property described herein is not guaranteed by this company.

For mortgagor’s(s’) title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 61259, Page 12.

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

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

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
29037
August 28, 2026
September 4, 2026
September 11, 2026

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket No. 26 SM 002790
ORDER OF NOTICE
TO: Emmanuel Gomez Matias a/k/a Emmanuel G. Matias
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):
Digital Federal Credit Union
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Spencer, numbered 26 Donnelly Cross Road, given by Emmanuel Gomez Matias a/k/a Emmanuel G. Matias to Digital Federal Credit Union,

dated October 5, 2022, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68338, Page 166, 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 10/12/2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.
Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 8/28/2026.
Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder
September 11, 2026

**Town of Brookfield
6 Central Street
Brookfield, MA. 01506**

The Town of Brookfield, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids for Brookfield Public Water System Operations. The work includes but is not limited to the daily operations, maintenance, sampling, report preparation, repair services and oversight of the Brookfield Public Water System from October 15, 2026, through October 14, 2027 as required by Department of Environmental Protection. Two optional one-year contract extensions will be considered by the Town.
Sealed Bids for the **Brookfield Public Water System Operations, Brookfield, MA** project will be received until **11AM on October 1, 2026** at Brookfield Town Hall, 6 Central Street, Brookfield, MA 01506. No bids will be accepted after this date/time.

Bid documents will be made available beginning **September 8, 2026**. By emailing rebecca@roughleymc.com . A site visit will take place on **September 21, 2026 @ 11AM** at the Brookfield Town Hall.

The Town reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive any informality contained therein, and to award the contract as decided to be in the best interest of the Town of Brookfield. All proposals for this project are subject to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30B as amended.
The Town of Brookfield fully complies with federal, state, and local laws and directives governing equal opportunity, affirmative action and nondiscrimination in all Town activities and actively solicits bids/proposals from MBE/WBE businesses in accordance with Town policy.
September 11, 2026
September 18, 2026

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Department of Environmental
Protection Wetlands Program
Notice of 401 WQC Application and Variance**

Notice is hereby given that New England Power Company (NEP), 170 Data Drive, Waltham, MA 02451, seeks a 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) and Variance for the Central to Western Massachusetts Energy Improvement Project/E5/F6 Asset Condition Refurbishment Project located within Millbury, Auburn, Leicester, Spencer, East Brookfield, North Brookfield, West Brookfield, Ware, Belchertown, Pelham, Shutesbury, Leverett, Sunderland, Deerfield, Conway, Shelburne, and Buckland, MA.
NEP plans to replace existing structures, improve access to structures, reconductor the lines, replace existing shieldwires with optical groundwire, and perform vegetation management activities within the existing transmission corridor. A Variance is requested for temporary construction matting and permanent structure foundations with-

in wetlands located within 400 feet of the high water mark of the Quabbin Reservoir.
Additional information may be obtained from Theresa Portante, BSC Group, Inc., 1 Mercantile Street, Suite 610, Worcester, MA 01608, (617) 896-4509, tportante@bscgroup.com.
Written comments on the 401 WQC and Variance should be sent within twenty-one (21) days of this notice to: **MassDEP Wetlands Program – Major Projects and Policy Unit** 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900 Boston, MA 02114 christina.y.wu@mass.gov
Any group of ten persons, any aggrieved person, or any governmental body or private organization with a mandate to protect the environment who submits written comments may appeal the Department’s Certification. Failure to submit written comments before the end of the public comment period may result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing.
September 11, 2026

**Town of Spencer
Conservation Commission
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

In accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, MGL c. 131, s. 40 and the Spencer Wetlands By-Law:
Robert F. Rivers has filed an **RDA** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to rebuild home on existing foundation and replace foundation and garage located at **2 East Avenue**, Spencer, MA. Applications can be reviewed at the Office of Development and Inspectional Services, Town Hall. A public hearing regarding these filings will be held by the Spencer Conservation Commission in McCourt Social Hall at Town Hall, 157 Main Street, on Wednesday, September 23, 2023 at which time all persons having an interest may be present or call in remotely to participate. Conservation Commission meetings open at 6:15 p.m.
Mary McLaughlin
Mary McLaughlin, Chairwoman
TOWN OF SPENCER
Office of Development & Inspectional Services
September 11, 2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01876
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26P201 0EA
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**
Estate Of:
Mark Wytas
Date of Death: May 15, 2026

To All persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Lori A. Granat of Worcester MA**
a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Lori A. Granat of Worcester MA has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve without surety on the bond.
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
September 11, 2026

Ten adults, 200 hours, one new career path

Bay Path's Career Technical initiative graduates third Building Maintenance cohort



Courtesy

Seated, left to right: R. Zhou (Grafton), L. Pena (Southbridge), D.Raczka (Spencer), A. Vasquez (Worcester). From left to right, standing: Y. Mao (Grafton), W. Vega (Worcester), J. Wickens (Worcester), S. Shankara (Shrewsbury), J. Sweet (Worcester), and J. Watler (Worcester).

CHARLTON — Bay Path's Career Technical Initiative (CTI) celebrated its third graduating class of adult learners on Aug. 12, honoring 10 students who completed the 200-hour Building Maintenance certificate program. The graduation luncheon, held on Bay Path's campus, brings the program's total number of graduates to 30 since its launch in September 2024.

This cohort traveled to Charlton from Worcester, Spencer, South Grafton, Southbridge, Oxford, Shrewsbury and ranged from 22 to 50 years old. Each will leave the program with supports

that can lead to job placement, OSHA 10, Bloodborne Pathogens, Asbestos Awareness, Ladder Safety, Scaffolding Safety and Fall Protection certifications; a year of access to Interplay's virtual reality trades training simulations and a fully stocked toolbox of the trade, presented at the ceremony in front of family and friends.

"The goal of this program is really to help people get into good-paying, in-demand careers by removing the barriers that often keep adults from going back to school or getting the training they need," said Jibrael Younis, Operations Manager for Mass Hire,

the state agency working with Bay Path to facilitate the CTI program. "We partner with vocational schools like Bay Path to provide industry-focused training that leads directly to employment in fields where employers are actively hiring for jobs that provide sustainable, livable wages."

Demand for the program continues to grow. Bay Path has scheduled cohorts through 2028, and applications for the next Building Maintenance cohort are open now, closing once the program receives 24 applications or by Aug. 26, whichever comes first. The program is open to all Massachusetts residents 18 and older who qualify.

Among this cohort's graduates are adult students charting distinct paths into the trades. One graduate is using the certificate as a springboard toward a career in building inspection.

"I was previously working in the IT field and that field is shrinking because of AI technology. I needed to develop a different skill set," said Jeff from Worcester. "I feel good, I feel like I accomplished something, taking a first step down a path for a new skill set. Job hunting is my next step; I'm not sure if I'll go back to the IT field or if I'm going to commit to switching over to facilities maintenance. Regardless, having the skillset will be valuable and even if I don't do it for a job, I'll save me thousands if not tens of thousands in the future with home repair and maintenance."

"I wanted to further my education and knowledge," said Anne from Worcester. "I liked being in the program; it helped me learn more things. I do renovations. I'm proud. It doesn't hurt to do it; you get the knowledge, the experience, and you can go out and further your job opportunities and your resume. My plans after this are to find a job, find a house, and try to find something in this career field. Ultimately, I want to join the military but the things I've learned here I can take with me."

Bay Path's CTI Building Maintenance program prepares adult learners for entry-level careers in building and property maintenance through hands-on and classroom instruction. Since launching in September 2024, the program has graduated 30 adult learners and built a growing pipeline of skilled tradespeople for the state. In addition to Building Maintenance, Bay Path's CTI offers additional programs in Diesel Technology, HVAC, Electrical, Welding, Automotive Collision Repair, Automotive Technology, Culinary, and Manufacturing.

"Bay Path has been such a great partner because they provide excellent hands-on training that's aligned with what local employers are looking for, giving graduates in-demand skills and credentials that make them immediately employable for local jobs that offer great wages," Younis said. "Beyond the classroom, participants also receive support throughout the process including job readiness, career coaching and connecting directly to employers. Through Bay Path and MassHire, we can often help with supportive services, providing free tools and equipment, and funding for transportation and even childcare, so people can focus on completing their training instead of worrying about those barriers."

About Bay Path Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School prepares students for both college and careers through a rigorous blend of academic coursework and hands-on technical training. Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Bay Path serves ten Southern Worcester County communities: Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, North Brookfield, Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Southbridge, Spencer, and Webster. Opening in 1972 atop Muggett Hill, the school has spent more than five decades offering 23 career areas alongside its academic program.



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OBITUARY

Oscar “Skip” Carlson, 85

NORTH BROOKFIELD: Oscar “Skip” Carlson, 85, passed away peacefully on Saturday, August 29, 2026. He is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Jill (Dilling) Carlson; many nieces and nephews and grand nieces and nephews.

Skip was born in Worcester the son of the late Oscar and Jeannette (Harrington) Carlson. He was raised in Holden most of his life before moving to North Brookfield.

He worked several years as a truck driver for New England Power Company, Massachusetts Turnpike Authority and Dekalb Chicken Farm until his retirement.

Funeral services will be private. Memorial donations in Oscar’s memory may be made to: Second Chance Animal Shelter, P.O. Box 136, East Brookfield, MA 01515 or at: Second Chance Animal Services

Massasoit Art Guild

to hold 23rd annual Art Show and Sale

SPENCER — The Massasoit Art Guild will showcase the work of area artists when its 23rd annual Art Show and Sale returns to Spencer Town Hall in October.

The show will be held Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 10 and 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Spencer Town Hall, 157 Main St. Admission is open to the public.

In addition to giving visitors an opportunity to view original artwork, the event will feature works available for purchase, including original pieces, fine art prints and cards.

A public reception and awards ceremony will be held Saturday, Oct. 10, from 1 to 3 p.m. Cash prizes will be presented in each category.

This year’s special challenge category is “Fantasy,” with organizers specifying

that entries in the category must be family friendly.

Massasoit Art Guild members interested in participating may submit up to three pieces of original artwork. The entry fee is \$8 per piece, and the deadline to submit entries is Sunday, Sept. 27.

Artwork entered in the show should be dropped off at Spencer Town Hall on Friday, Oct. 9, from 5 to 7 p.m. Following the conclusion of the show, artwork may be picked up Sunday, Oct. 11, from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m.

The event will also include a raffle table, with donations encouraged. Raffle winners will be announced Sunday afternoon.

The guild’s 2025 Best in Show honor went to artist Doug Caves for his oil painting “Intersection No. 1.”

Complete show guidelines, registration information and other details are available at the Massasoit Art Guild’s website. Questions may also be directed to massasoitartguild@gmail.com.

The 23rd annual Art Show and Sale is supported in part by a grant from the Spencer Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

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Blackstone Headwaters Coalition settles landmark Clean Water Act Ccse

BLACKSTONE — The Blackstone Headwaters Coalition, Inc. (Blackstone) has announced that it has reached a settlement of its longstanding Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) lawsuit against a construction developer in Worcester, Massachusetts.

In the case, titled The Blackstone Headwaters Coalition, Inc. v. Gallo Builders, Inc., et al., Blackstone alleged that the defendant developer group had violated the CWA at their residential construction site in Worcester, “Arboretum Village Estates,” by failing to take numerous measures to prevent the sediment pollution of a tributary system of the Blackstone River.

Under the terms of the settlement, as set forth in a Consent Decree entered by the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, the defendants were required to make payments totaling 2.2 million dollars, including inter alia (a) a payment of \$500,000 to the Massachusetts Audubon Society to fund two projects with Worcester Public Schools students focused on Blackstone River watershed health and stormwater pollution prevention, and (b) a payment of \$50,000 to Worcester State University to enable the purchase of water quality monitoring equipment for the university’s Tatnuck Brook water monitoring initiative. Additionally, the Consent Decree requires that the defendants comply with the CWA permit that they were found to have violated, and enables representatives of Blackstone to monitor the site for such compliance for a period of three years.

The settlement concludes a decade of extraordinarily complex and impactful litigation. Blackstone, a non-profit organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of water quality and wildlife habitat in the Blackstone River, filed its lawsuit in 2016 under the CWA’s “citizen suit” provision, 33 U.S.C. § 1365. That provision enables a person or organization aggrieved by a violation of the CWA to sue the violator, both to stop the violation and to impose monetary penalties. Blackstone alleged that the defendants’ numerous violations of the CWA permit for construction activities, the Construction General Permit (CGP), were resulting in the chronic discharge of sediment-laden stormwater from the Arboretum Village Estates site.

At the outset of the case, the defendants filed a motion to dismiss, arguing that because the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection already had an open administrative enforcement action against them, Blackstone’s lawsuit was barred by a CWA provision under which a citizen may not bring a civil penalty action against a CWA violator when a state is “diligently prosecuting” an action for the same violations under a comparable state law. The trial court judge agreed with the defendants and dismissed the case. Blackstone appealed to the First Circuit Court of Appeals, which ultimately—six years after the case began—agreed with Blackstone that, insofar as its lawsuit sought injunctive relief, the CWA’s diligent prosecution bar did not apply. See The Blackstone Headwaters Coalition, Inc. v. Gallo Builders, Inc., 32 F.4th 99 (1st Cir. 2022). In so holding, the First Circuit took the extraordinary step of overturning its own 31-year precedent. This was a landmark decision and a major victory for the environment, as CWA citizen plaintiffs are often far more aggressive in litigation, and thus far more effective in curbing pollution, than state regulators. The implications of the First Circuit’s ruling will be felt throughout the country, as federal courts elsewhere look for guidance in deciding the same issue.

After the appeal, in 2022, litigation resumed in the trial court. Two years later, the defendants filed another motion to dismiss, arguing that the stream into which their

site discharged stormwater was not a “water of the United States” (WOTUS) within the meaning of the CWA as interpreted by the United States Supreme Court in Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency, 598 U.S. 651 (2023)—and thus, that the CWA did not apply to the site. The Court in Sackett held that, to be a WOTUS, a tributary to a river such as the Blackstone River had to be at least “relatively permanent.” According to the defendants, the stream into which the site discharged stormwater was not relatively permanent. The trial court judge denied the defendants’ motion to dismiss, saving the issue of the stream’s permanence for a jury to decide at trial.

A three-week jury trial as to the defendants’ liability was held in December of 2025. This was one of only several CWA construction pollution cases ever to be tried to a jury. The defendants’ case rested largely on their contention that the stream in question was not relatively permanent. Blackstone, however, had amassed overwhelming video and eyewitness evidence that the stream was not only relatively permanent, but that it flowed perennially, even in times of drought; and relatedly, that the waters downstream of the development constituted a cold-water fishery, as evidenced by the presence of native brook trout. The jury found that the stream was indeed a WOTUS, and that the defendants had committed each of the sixteen types of CGP violations with which they had been charged. A second phase of trial, on the issue of remedies for the defendants’ violations, was then scheduled. In the interim, the parties reached the settlement described above.

Sediment pollution has been identified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as the most significant cause of water quality degradation in the United States. It has a wide range of adverse effects on the ecology of wetlands and water systems, including habitat destruction, disruption of animal feeding patterns, inhibition of animal reproduction, reduction of dissolved oxygen, and increased turbidity. Through these effects, it decreases the density, diversity, and biomass of aquatic organisms of all kinds. Sediment pollution also facilitates other types of water pollution. Harmful metals, organic compounds, and fertilizing nutrients bind themselves to sediment and are thus more readily mobilized during storms. The CWA is a critical tool for combating this pollution, and for holding polluters accountable. The result in this landmark case will send a message to the construction industry that there can be a high price to pay for polluting the nation’s waters.

Blackstone was represented in the case by James P. Vander Salm of the Law Office of James P. Vander Salm and Benjamin C. Rudolf, Maureen Carroll, and Sarah Varney of the law firm of Rudolf, Griffis, Ruggieri & Murray, LLP.

United Way of South Central Massachusetts needs your help to meet fundraising goal

REGION — With just one month remaining in its annual fundraising campaign, the United Way of South Central MA (UWSCM) has reached 80 percent of its fundraising goal and is asking supporters to help close the remaining gap.

The organization has raised \$460,000 of its \$575,000 target, providing critical support for the twenty-two agencies that receive funding through UWSCM. While reaching 80 percent marks an important milestone, UWSCM still needs to raise the final 20 percent before the campaign ends on Sept. 30.

“This campaign allows us to continue working to improve the lives of children, families, and individuals of all ages through our four impact areas: healthy community, financial security, youth opportunity, and community resiliency” said Kristin McCarthy, Executive Director. “We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has contributed so far. With one month left, every donation can help us reach the finish line.”

Supporters can make a difference by donating today. Contributions of any amount will help provide meals, support families, fund educational programs, and provide other services for residents of Charlton, Dudley, Southbridge, Sturbridge, and Webster and ensure the organization can continue serving the community in the coming year.

The campaign’s final month represents a crucial opportunity for new and returning donors to get involved. Whether it is a first-time gift or an additional contribution, every donation brings UWSCM closer to its goal.

United Way of South Central Massachusetts is encouraging community members to help reach 100 percent before the campaign ends. To donate, visit www.uwscm.org or contact director@uwscm.org.



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Quaboag Quacumquasit Lake Association announces 14th Annual Paddle Poker Run

BROOKFIELD — The Quaboag Quacumquasit Lake Association (QQLA) will hold its 14th Annual Paddle Poker Run on Saturday, Sept. 12, at the Lake Quaboag (North Pond) boat ramp on Quaboag Street in Brookfield. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m., with paddling from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The registration fee is \$20 per hand. Participants may play more than one hand, and more than one person may play from the same watercraft, with each participant registering and playing a separate hand. The event will be held rain or shine.

“Most folks know about poker runs. Usually done on motorcycles, they involve cruising to various points on a map and picking up a poker card at stations along the route. The best hands win prizes,” said event chair Randy Weiss. “We do the same thing, only we do it in kayaks, canoes, rowboats, paddleboards - any watercraft powered by one or more persons with a



paddle.” After registering and signing a release form, paddlers will receive event information, including the rules, player sheet and course map. Participants paddle the three-and-a-half-mile course and visit four designated stops, which may be completed in any order. At each stop, they receive a

playing card. Upon returning to the North Pond boat ramp, paddlers receive a fifth card to complete their poker hand. Players who want to improve their hand may purchase up to two replacement cards for \$5 each. Winning hands will be announced after the last registered player returns to the North Pond boat ramp and all hands have been ranked.

A \$250 cash grand prize will be awarded for the best poker hand, with more than \$600 in additional prizes donated by area businesses.

“With these odds, we expect nearly one in three participants to win a prize,” says Weiss. “In addition, every paddler will receive a buy-one-get-one-free ice cream coupon from The Clam Box Restaurant in East Brookfield.”

A special prize of four Worcester Red Sox (WooSox) tickets for a game of the winner’s choice will also be awarded to the participant with the worst poker hand.

Prizes have been donated by area merchants including 308 Lakeside Restaurant, A-1 Parts, Inc., Bogey Lanes, Central Package Store, The Clam Box, Howe Lumber, Ken’s Pit Stop at Country Corner, Klem’s, Oakholm Brewing Company, Parsons Auto, Teddy G’s Pub & Grille, TipTop Country Store, Tree House Brewing Company, Uncle Sam’s Pizza and the Worcester Red Sox (WooSox).

Proceeds from the 2026 Paddle Poker Run benefit the Quaboag Quacumquasit Lake Association’s mission to preserve and protect the quality of Quaboag and Quacumquasit lakes - better known as North and South ponds - and the surrounding watershed through the promotion of responsible and effective environmental policies.

For additional information, visit qqla.org, email QQLakeAssociation@gmail.com, or email event chair Randy Weiss at RanWiz@aol.com.

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