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Free by request to residents of

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Friday, May 1, 2026

Cherry Valley Legion post supports Leicester girls' softball field cleanup



Courtesy

Volunteers from Leicester Girls Softball and Cherry Valley American Legion Post 443 work together during the annual field clean-up.

L E I C E S T E R — Leicester Girls Softball's annual field clean-up turned into one of its biggest and most productive days in years thanks to a strong showing from the community, including a full crew from Cherry Valley American Legion Post 443.

Families, players, and local high school athletes all came out to help get the field ready. That

included players from the Cherry Valley American Legion Softball team and Leicester High School athletes, many of whom share this field.

This field is the field in town used by Leicester Girls Softball, the Cherry Valley American Legion Softball team, and as the home field for Leicester High School varsity softball. It supports female athletes at every level.

Leicester Girls Softball is a volunteer-run program and solely maintains the softball field. The work doesn't just happen on days like this; it takes ongoing time, effort, and a lot of hard work throughout the year to keep it in playable condition.

Cherry Valley Post 443 is proud to have a Legion softball team and values its partnership with

Leicester Girls Softball. The Post sponsors a team each spring, and Leicester Girls Softball co-sponsors the Legion team in the summer, which was the first American Legion Softball team created in Massachusetts. Post members showed up to support the field their players use and take pride in.

Volunteers got a lot done, including thatch-

ing the entire outfield, cleaning up the softball area of the complex, pressure-washing and rehang- ing sponsor banners, and building a ramp and shelving for a new storage trailer.

The turnout, especially from Post 443, showed what can happen when a community comes together to support its athletes and the field they play on.

Overrides, selectman's race top Spencer ballot

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

SPENCER — The town of Spencer is set to have an active municipal election on May 12 with two major contested races complimented by two Proposition 2 ½ override questions pertaining to firefighter and school funding, respectively.

The questions propose a combined \$632,846 in additional taxation split between two independent items that each require a majority vote to pass.

Question 1 presents an extra \$368,390 to pay for four career firefighters. The hope is that the new personnel will help decrease response time in town. Currently the department is staffed by the Chief and eight other fill-time firefighters who operate the department 24/7 with 21 additional on-call personnel.

Question 2 pertains to the Spencer East Brookfield Regional School District. The proposal seeks an additional \$264,456 for the district's operating budget. While Spencer and East Brookfield share the district, Spencer manages a larger portion of the budget and overrides are specific to a town's own individual spending plan. East Brookfield has not placed its own override on their May 12 election ballot, and there is no indication from the town that an override will need to be pursued.

The actual election of positions on the ballot will primarily focus on three specific seats up for grabs: the town moderator and two selectmen. Elections for Treasurer/Collector, Assessor, Spencer East Brookfield Regional School District Committee, Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational School District Committee, Sewer Commissioner, Water Commissioner, Tree Warden, Housing Authority, Board of Health, Park Commissioner, and Library Trustee are all uncontested elections with enough candidates on the ballot to fill each vacancy except for one position on the Spencer East Brookfield Regional School District Committee which has no candidate.

The Town Moderator and Selectmen positions are the only truly contested battles with the Selectmen being a four-person race for the two open spots being vacated by Ralph Hicks and John Howard, whose terms are expiring. Gina Beford, Jennifer Jean Gaucher, Norman Letendre, Jr., and Christopher Lee Woodbury are all seeking three-year terms on the town's highest elected board.

While Hicks won't run for re-election as a selectman, he will seek the Moderator position with competition from Jason Michael Brewster. Both candidates are seeking to fill a vacancy for a two-year term.

Spencer's annual town election takes place on May 12. Information on voting locations can be found on the Town Clerk page of the town website. An official copy of the ballot is also available on the Web site's homepage.

North Brookfield seeking internal candidates for Town Administrator position

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

NORTH BROOKFIELD — North Brookfield will seek an internal candidate to serve as Town Administrator after an external search yielded no notable candidates to fill the vacancy.

The board made the decision to repost the position on April 21. The motion yielded little discussion, but Selectman Jason Petraitis confirmed "unsuccessful external recruitment attempts" for the job.

The new approach will turn to seeking interested existing employees of the town as the primary pool of candidates. The selectmen did not indicate if they received any applications from the most recent posting, only that the search was unsuccessful.

In his brief comments on the matter, Petraitis said he believes North Brookfield has plenty of talent that can sufficiently fill the role.

"We have people that are qualified to do the job, so I think we should try posting internally and

see what happens," he said.

His fellow selectman Jamie Gilman added that by hiring someone internally "they know what they're getting themselves into."

North Brookfield found itself without a Town Administrator several months ago when the board announced the sudden resignation of Ron Aponte effective Feb. 1. Meeting minutes from Feb. 10, the date of the announcement, did not indicate any recorded motivation for Aponte's departure.

This is the town's second administrator search in as many years after the resignation of Mike Slosick last April. The town previously struggled to produce a larger pool of candidates last spring when the board had initially interviewed only a single applicant in August of 2025. Selectmen chose to re-post the job hoping for a better outcome but once again only publicly interviewing one individual, Aponte, for the post. Aponte was officially hired in October.

ArtWorks Gallery celebrates the figure



Courtesy

Artists and art-lovers conversing at the opening reception.

WARE — Workshop13's ArtWorks Gallery presents its 5th annual Celebrating the Figure exhibition. This exhibition embraces the diverse ways in which artists approach representing the human form, showcasing pieces that utilize both the

clothed and unclothed figure, and uplifting the works of local and regional visual artists.

ArtWorks Gallery is located at 69 Main St. in Ware. The fifth annual "Celebrating the Figure" exhibition opened with a reception on April 11, and is on

display through May 9. Gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. For those who cannot attend the show in person, a virtual gallery is available for viewing at workshop13.org.

Fine artist SK Sullivan served as the juror for "Celebrating the

Figure." Liz Popolo was awarded Best in Show for her atmospheric charcoal study, "Susie." Lee Hutt's sculptural piece "Torso in Bronze" received an Honorable Mention, as did Jordan Hayslip's painting Distant Gaze. Each of these artists and their works will be spotlighted on Workshop13's social media pages as well as in their weekly newsletter.

About ArtWorks Gallery and Workshop13

ArtWorks Gallery is Workshop13's gallery on Main Street. This space features numerous art exhibitions each year and is also available to rent for individual or group shows. 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.

Paxton Friends of Council on Aging plans May 26 trip to historic Deerfield Village

PAXTON — The Paxton Friends of the Council on Aging will host a day trip to Historic Deerfield Village on Tuesday, May 26, offering participants an opportunity to explore one of New England's best-preserved colonial-era streetscapes followed by a traditional tavern-style lunch at Champney's Restaurant in Deerfield.

The excursion will depart from the Paxton Council on Aging at 8:30 a.m. and return at approximately 3:45 p.m. Transportation will be provided by Wilson Bus Motor Coach.

The centerpiece of the

trip is a guided walking tour through the mile-long Old Deerfield Historic District, where visitors will step inside several preserved homes dating back to the colonial period and the 18th century. The district is maintained by Historic Deerfield, a museum and preservation organization that cares for historic houses, landscapes and collections that interpret daily life in early America.

Settled in 1673, Deerfield became a key frontier community during the colonial period. The town played a role in several early conflicts, including the 1704

Deerfield Raid, one of the most widely remembered episodes of King William's War in New England. Today, many of the original structures along the village's main street remain intact, providing visitors with a rare opportunity to experience an authentic historic landscape rather than a reconstructed setting.

During the guided tour, participants will learn how architecture evolved over time as the region developed from a frontier settlement into a more established agricultural community. Interiors are furnished with period objects that reflect the lives of residents who once occupied the homes, offering insight into family life, craftsmanship and changing social customs across generations.

Following the walking tour, the group will travel a short distance to Champney's Restaurant and Tavern, located inside the Deerfield Inn in the center of the historic district. The inn dates to the 19th century and retains many traditional New England features, including fireplaces, paneled dining rooms and a classic tavern-style atmosphere.

Lunch selections will include a choice between herb-crusted haddock or sliced roast beef with an herb and Dijon crust. The meal also includes rolls, a local green salad, market vegetables, mashed potatoes, seasonal fruit crisp and coffee or tea.

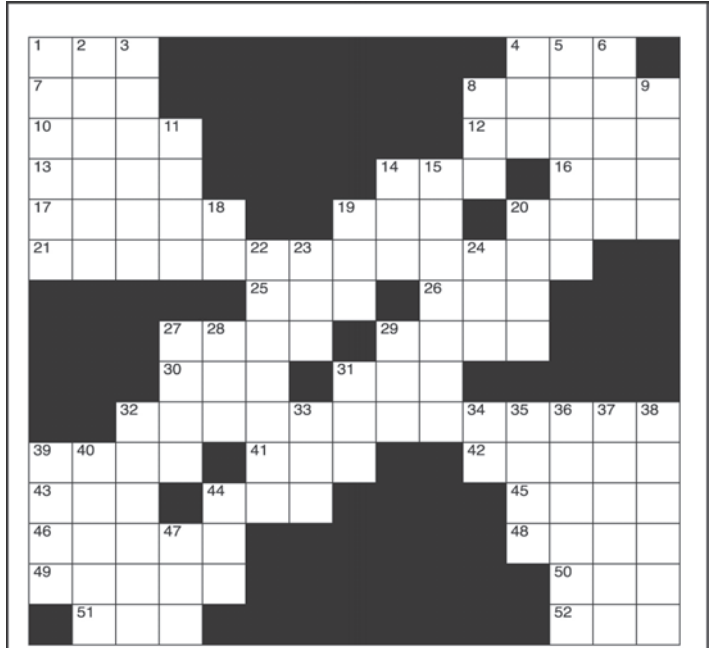
The \$126 tour fee covers motor coach transportation, the guided village tour and lunch. Payment is due by May 5. Organizers note that payments are nonrefundable unless the ticket can be resold.

Reservations are being handled by Deb Grensavitch. Checks should be made payable to Paxton FOCO and mailed to 88 Laurel St., Paxton, MA 01612. She can also be reached at 508-245-4952 or by email at grensavitch@aol.com.

Trips such as this are a regular part of the Paxton Friends of the Council on Aging's programming, which aims to provide educational and social opportunities for older residents while highlighting regional history and cultural destinations across Massachusetts.

Join HighMark Provisions for our annual workshop!

HighMark Provisions is a father/son cannabis cultivation operation based in Holliston MA. We want to share our experience, best practices, tips and techniques. Please join us via zoom to hear our story, learn about the essential elements of building a cannabis cultivation business in MA and walk away with a few nuggets of knowledge. Email info@highmarkprovisions.com if you're interested in attending! 21+ Only.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Purchase
- 4. British news organization
- 7. Midway between northeast and east
- 8. Language specialist group
- 10. Fancy automobile
- 12. Small loop or series of loops
- 13. Exploiter
- 14. Don't know when yet
- 16. Group of languages
- 17. One who's finished
- 19. After B
- 20. Angled
- 21. A place to adopt pets
- 25. Swiss river
- 26. Young boy
- 27. Unexciting
- 29. American comedian Vidale
- 30. Peyton's little brother
- 31. Corporate higher-up
- 32. "All in the Family" star
- 39. Strike something forcefully
- 41. Up in the air (abbr.)
- 42. Clay earth pigments
- 43. Means to record brain activity
- 44. Small constellation
- 45. Embraces
- 46. Brief description
- 48. Exclude
- 49. White (French)
- 50. Insect
- 51. A major division of geological time
- 52. Soviet Socialist Republic

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Type of whale
- 2. In tune
- 3. A citizen of Yemen
- 4. Actress Ling
- 5. One who supports
- 6. Circus performer
- 8. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- 9. Quantitative fact
- 11. Utah city
- 14. Where a golfer begins
- 15. Attendant
- 18. The ancient Egyptian sun god
- 19. Book of Chronicles (abbr.)
- 20. Benedictine monk
- 22. Not turbulent
- 23. Car mechanics group
- 24. Buffer used in chemistry
- 27. Fall heavily
- 28. Pie ___ mode
- 29. The Brits love it
- 31. Children's TV channel (abbr.)
- 32. Jacksonville footballer
- 33. Helps little firms
- 34. ___ and behold
- 35. A way to resemble
- 36. Fingers
- 37. Excessive indulgences
- 38. You might be an "empty" one
- 39. "How the West Was Won" writer
- 40. European river
- 44. They begin the alphabet
- 47. The body's messenger

PUZZLE SOLUTION

B	U	Y				B	B	C									
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JOY (Just Older Youth) Adventurers offers journey through Canadian Rockies & Pacific Northwest

PAXTON — This journey traces an unforgettable path from Canada's Pacific Coast deep into the heart of the Rockies, blending vibrant cities with some of North America's most awe-inspiring wilderness. Beginning in Vancouver, the adventure opens amid coastal mountains, historic neighborhoods, and lush green spaces before drifting across the Gulf Islands to the charming capital of Victoria. Here, manicured gardens, waterfront views, and rich heritage set an elegant pace.

The landscape soon transforms as the route climbs inland through British Columbia's dramatic highways toward alpine terrain. Highlights include the soaring presence of Mount Robson and the pristine beauty of Jasper National Park, where glacier-fed lakes, rugged

peaks, and serene wildlife encounters define each moment. A cruise on Maligne Lake and time along the iconic Icefields Parkway lead to the immense Columbia Icefield, offering rare access to ancient glaciers and sweeping mountain vistas.

Further south, the turquoise waters of Lake Louise and the storybook charm of Banff National Park deliver classic Rocky Mountain magic, balancing outdoor exploration with relaxed town life. Crossing into the United States, the journey continues through the untamed grandeur of Glacier National Park, where alpine passes, historic lodges, and cultural storytelling reveal the soul of the "Crown of the Continent."

The experience concludes as forests and mountains give way to vineyards, lakes, and the energetic waterfront of Seattle. From coastal elegance to icy glaciers and iconic skylines, this trip weaves together nature, culture, and comfort into a richly layered exploration of western North America.

Pricing: \$7,625 per person (double) - includes 14 days with 20 meals, hotels, and all transfers within tour; but does not include airfare and transportation to airport. Pricing for airfare and ground transportation to airport will be finalized soon, but plan for under \$1,000 per person. For more information, contact Bill Murwin at whmurwin@gmail.com or by phone 508-756-3193.

Christ Memorial Church hosting Tag Sale May 9

NORTH BROOKFIELD — A Tag Sale will be held at Christ Memorial Episcopal Church, 133 North Main St., Saturday, May 9 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., rain or shine! Plants (indoor and outdoor), puzzles, books, clothes, kids' stuff, kitchen and household items, treasures, and more. Name your own price. Use the Spring Street door should the weather force us inside.

WEEKLY POLICE BLOTTER

Spencer
The Spencer Police Department's weekly arrest log was not available as of our press deadline for this week's edition.

Leicester
The Leicester Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of April 16-22.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on April 16 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license and operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on April 16 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license and operating a vehicle with No Inspection Sticker.

Jared C. Depatsy, age 45, of West Boylston was arrested on April 22 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license, operating a motor vehicle after suspension of registration, operating an Uninsured Motor Vehicle, and Possession of a Class E Drug. Michael E. Garrity, age 37, of Cherry Valley was arrested during the same incident for Possession of a Class E Drug.



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SPENCER ALMANAC
REAL ESTATE

BROOKFIELD
None

EAST BROOKFIELD
None

LEICESTER
\$425,000, 6 Sabina Cir, Mercier, James R, and Mercier, Jennifer L, to Mercier, Michael R, and Casey, Makendra A.
\$360,000, 10 Park Ln, Woodbury, Mary, to Stewart, Brenda R, and Roof, Debra A.
\$339,000, 10 Edward St #10, Fortin Richard A Est, and Aubin, Michele T, to Cote, Christine M.

NORTH BROOKFIELD
\$510,000, 16 Mill Rd, Demos, George S, to Passmore, Abraham Thomas, and Sejdi, Anxhela.

SPENCER
\$975,000, 140 Paxton Rd, Swihart Ft, and Swihart, Susan, to Pierce, David J, and Baduini, Lauren Nicole.
\$533,500, 256 Main St, Russo, Daniel P, and Avitable, Gina C, to Seck, Benjamin, and Seck, Hope.

WARREN
\$975,000, 13 Crescent St, Phillips, Glenn K, to Crescent Corner LLC.
\$975,000, 47 Crescent St, Phillips, Glenn K, to Crescent Corner LLC.
\$975,000, 64 Southbridge St, Phillips, Glenn K, to Crescent Corner LLC.
\$365,000, 8 Otis St, B & B Realty Partners LLC, to Higgins, David Logan.
\$300,000, 2240 Main St, Ag & J LLC, to New Colony Homes LLC.
\$105,000, 583 Main St, Stupski, Ronald, and Stupski, William, to Fumi Realty Inc.
\$100,000, Bragg Rd, Christian Intl Outreach C, to Inangelo, Robert J.

WEST BROOKFIELD
None

[www.Stonebridge Press.com](http://www.StonebridgePress.com)

Throwdown! Food Truck Festival returns to Spencer Fairgrounds May 16

SPENCER — The Throwdown! 2026 Food Truck Festival will be held Saturday, May 16 from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the Spencer Fairgrounds, 49 Smithville Rd. Admission is \$5 at the gate (children under 12 free).

Throwdown! 2026 is Worcester County's longest running and largest annual Food Truck Festival and Craft Fair. A panel of judges and event attendees cast votes for their favorite food truck to be honored with the prestigious "Best of Worcester County Food Trucks" and the ever coveted "People's Choice" awards. Along with great food from dozens of food trucks, customers may browse among the

over 50 artisanal craft vendors, enjoy carnival style games, listen to music or participate in an array of yard games such as corn hole, giant blocks, ladder toss and other fun activities just for the kids. Enjoy craft beer and wines at this year's event from "The Stein & Vine", Central Massachusetts' favorite mobile bar service. It's a fantastic way to spend a Spring afternoon with family and friends in a beautiful outdoor setting.

WooTrucks has been the most trusted name in reliable food truck booking for over a decade. Our commissary, commercial kitchen, and base of operations for food trucks, caterers, bakers, and

food entrepreneurs is located at 67 Main St., Boylston. Our fully permitted and approved facility to prepare food was established to foster a transparent, self-policing community of food trucks and food entrepreneurs practicing only the highest standards of customer service while maintaining strict adherence to health, sanitation and food codes. WooTrucks operates food truck festivals throughout the region and supplies food trucks to corporate clients, private businesses, breweries, academic institutions, and local municipalities.

Leicester Senior Citizens Club launches membership drive

LEICESTER — The Leicester Senior Citizens Club is a group of older adults that meets at the Leicester Senior Center twice a month. The club is looking to attract new members from all the area towns and cities.

The group meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Meetings begin at 10 a.m. At the conclusion of each meeting, there is a scheduled form of entertainment or informational presentation.

The Leicester Senior Citizens Club is linking older adults with each other, and to opportunities that improve their health, well-being, and sense of community. It is the club's way of reducing the effects of isolation. We want to offer special programs beyond normal hours, and we need input and ideas from new members to help get us there. Membership is open to all individuals aged 60 and older. The cost to join is \$10 for an annual membership.

To learn more about the membership drive or to sign up, please visit the Leicester Senior Center at 40 Winslow Ave., Leicester, during operating hours (Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.), or call

David Wood, Program Director at the senior center, at (508)-892-7016.

Applications welcome for Quaboag Historical Society scholarship

REGION — The Quaboag Historical Society is proud to announce its annual scholarship program, designed to support high school seniors with a passion for history and a commitment to preserving the past. This \$1,000 scholarship aims to assist students planning to pursue higher education in any historical related field.

The scholarship is only offered to a student who resides in one of the Quaboag Plantation towns of Brookfield, East Brookfield, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Warren, or West Brookfield. It is offered to a current high school senior planning to enroll in a college or university for the upcoming academic year who will pursue a degree in one of the following fields: Education, History, Museum Studies, Anthropology, Women's Studies, American Studies, or Archaeology. Students wishing to study closely related fields are encouraged to apply.

The application deadline is May 15. For applications or more information, please contact Jeff Robbins at jeffrobbins@charter.net or 508-579-4786.

North Brookfield Senior Center announces May activities calendar

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The North Brookfield Senior Center has released its schedule of programs for May, offering a mix of creative classes, informational sessions, games and health services for local residents.

Two free drawing classes will be held Thursday, May 7 and Thursday, May 21 at 11 a.m. Additional free art classes are scheduled for Thursday, May 14 and Thursday, May 28, also at 11 a.m., providing opportunities for participants to explore new techniques and enjoy time with fellow artists.

Ed Spater will be available for Medicare assistance by appointment on Thursday, May 7 and Thursday, May 28 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The sessions are designed to help seniors review coverage options and address questions about benefits.

A Coffee and Games gathering is planned for Monday, May 11 at 11 a.m., offering a relaxed setting for socializing and friendly competition.

On Tuesday, May 12 at 11 a.m., Christy Mylott will present a Lunch and Learn program focused on Senior Options and Solutions. The session includes a catered lunch and information about resources available to older adults.

Music Bingo returns Monday, May 18 at 10 a.m., combining familiar tunes with a classic game format.

The month's schedule concludes with a free hearing clinic on Tuesday, May 19 from 10 a.m. to noon. Appointments are required.

For additional details or to register for programs requiring reservations, residents are encouraged to contact the North Brookfield Senior Center.

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EDITORIAL

A field worth caring for, and a community that proves it

In a town like Leicester, there are certain places that quietly carry more meaning than their fences and baselines suggest. The softball field maintained by Leicester Girls Softball is one of them.

On paper, it is simply a shared athletic facility. In practice, it is something closer to common ground across generations.

That reality was on full display during this year's annual field clean-up day, when families, student athletes, volunteers and members of Cherry Valley American Legion Post 443 turned out in impressive numbers to prepare the field for the season ahead. The work accomplished was substantial. Volunteers thatched the outfield, cleaned the surrounding complex, pressure-washed sponsor banners and even built a ramp and shelving for a storage trailer. But what mattered most was not only what got done. It was who showed up.

This is the primary softball field in town used by Leicester Girls Softball, the Cherry Valley American Legion Softball team and Leicester High School's varsity softball program. That makes it more than a recreational space. It is a pipeline for opportunity, confidence and teamwork for female athletes at every stage of development.

And yet, like so many youth sports facilities across small communities, it does not maintain itself.

Leicester Girls Softball is a volunteer-run organization. The routine care required to keep a field playable rarely makes headlines. It happens through steady effort, donated time and a willingness to step forward without being asked twice. Days like the recent clean-up effort are visible reminders of that commitment, but the real work continues week after week through the season.

The participation of Cherry Valley American Legion Post 443 added another meaningful layer to the day. The Post sponsors a Legion softball team each spring, while Leicester Girls Softball co-sponsors the Legion program during the summer months. That partnership is not symbolic. It reflects a shared investment in the athletes who depend on this field and the tradition they are helping build.

There is also something especially fitting about the Legion's involvement given that this program helped launch the first American Legion Softball team in Massachusetts. That kind of legacy deserves attention and support, not only as a historical milestone but as a living example of what local organizations can accomplish together.

What stood out most from the day was the sense of ownership people clearly feel toward the space. High school athletes returned to improve the same field where they learned the game as younger players. Families contributed labor that benefits teams they may never directly watch play. Legion members worked on a field tied to both community identity and service tradition.

That is how strong programs endure.

Facilities matter. Safe, well-maintained playing surfaces tell young athletes that their effort is valued. They tell families their time is respected. They tell the next generation that their participation belongs here.

The clean-up day in Leicester was not only about preparing for the coming season. It was a reminder that when a community treats a shared space as something worth protecting, it becomes exactly that.

Letter submission policy

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

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

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fact checking

To the Editor:

Any reputable news agency conducts fact checks on whatever stories they report on. As a result of that, I felt it was important to fact check a recent letter to the Editor that was entitled "My Two Cents." Here are my findings:

- Claim: "The Pledge of Allegiance... cites that we are a Republic, not a Democracy."

Fact: The Merriam Webster Dictionary states "Is the United States a democracy or is it actually a republic? The short answer is that the US is both. Democracy and republic both refer to government in which supreme power resides in its citizens" (and in this case not with the King Wanna-Be Donald Trump). So, the "My Two Cents" claim that we are not a Democracy is simply incorrect.

- Claim: "We are a Christian nation"

Fact: Wikipedia information states that Christianity is the most widely practiced faith in the US, being about 65 to 70 percent of the US population. Protestants make up about 40 percent of that number and white Catholics make up another approximate 20 percent. Judaism is second at 2 percent, Islam is approximately 1 percent, Buddhism and Hinduism are about 1 percent.

So, the "My Two Cents" claim that we are a Christian nation is overly simplistic and clearly ignores about another 30 percent of US citizens who worship other faiths. Is the US primarily Christian? Yes, but there are many other faiths that deserve to be recognized.

- Claim: "the Pledge of Allegiance is not being said in some schools. Either you are a patriot and law abiding or you are not. Sounds like an indoctrination of the youngsters to be violent protestors."

Fact: The writer makes this broad and bold assertion without providing any verified facts to support his claims. What schools do not recite the pledge alle-

giance? How many? Where? What about the implications of the first amendment? What indoctrination is he talking about? Violent protestors? Come on...At best this is simply typical MAGA propaganda; claims made with zero proof or evidence.

- Claim: "Men have three years active and three years inactive obligation to serve their country."

Fact: Where did this claim come from? This is 100 percent false. Research finds no historical evidence that the US ever had such an active/inactive obligation. Today's US military has relied exclusively upon voluntary enlistment since 1973. So, this claim is clearly false.

- Claim: "Did Obama serve, did Biden or Clinton, Shame Shame."

Fact: Obama, Biden and Clinton were each exempt from military service due to their attendance at schools of higher education. Obama did register for the draft but was not called because the draft was inactive at the time. Biden was classified by the draft physical as a 1-Y deferment due to a history of asthma. Clinton's draft number was a very high number, 311 out of 366. He was ordered to report for induction but was never called to serve.

Another fact: The writer failed to mention Donald Trump's military service, or lack thereof. Trump avoided military service five separate times. Four due to higher education deferments and then the final, fifth time was due to the now-famous, alleged "bone spurs" excuse." This claim was supported by a medical diagnosis from a doctor who rented office space from Donald Trump's father...nothing fishy about that, right?

In my opinion, the entire "My Two Cents" letter is woefully devoid of any truth and veracity...it is only good for the round file.

ANTHONY FERNANDES
 WEST BROOKFIELD

Who pays who?

To the Editor:

The presidency pays half million dollars a year. While that is likely an outdated rate, and I did not find fault with George W. Bush receiving an \$8 million honorarium for a speech in Japan, or Obama getting millions for writing a book, I have to say that something smells wrong about a sitting president increasing his net worth one and a half billion dollars in his first year.

The ripoffs being perpetrated on our citizens that used to be from sleazy back room deals are now so commonly done in the open, and ethics prosecutions no longer being done, that it is the new normal. The BBC monitoring the markets noted investments being made immediately prior to announcements from the White House. One \$2 million investment made \$20 million in 10 hours. Don Jr. invested in a company that sells drones and replacement parts, a couple days before we attacked Iran. We are now discussing payment of restitution to UAE, one of the richest countries in the world, because Iran damaged their infrastructure. We handle negotiations with Iran by sending real estate managers and hedge fund handler. Jared Kushner is soliciting investments from the countries of one side of Hormuz, while negotiating with the nation on the other.

Does the term "Still Can't Fix Stupid" ring a bell? When you respond to an oil shortage you caused, by removing the sanctions on Russia and Iran selling oil. What comes to mind is cosmetic surgery on the bullet hole in your head. Despite being told that the conflict to free the Iranian people, is ether almost over, or we will kill everyone, the current Ayatollah, whose father, wife and child we killed, has now made it clear, that, until the president, who promised no more never end-

ing wars, is removed from office and we pay restitution to rebuild the infrastructure that billions of dollars in munitions destroyed, there will be no peace.

On the domestic side, the companies in dire straits because the tariff refunds are not getting out in a timely fashion, are getting loans from Trump insiders for amounts the paid, with those investors reaping the repayments that include the interest we the people pay. The Secretary of War Crimes in now requesting an additional \$1.7 trillion for military funding, which is more than the entirety of the DOGE savings. Who thought it a good idea to elect a guy who loves overspending into bankruptcy and give him the ability to exceed the already record deficit spending of his first term? We are spending a billion dollars on a "gift" (grifted) plane, no sitting president will use.

This "Christian" nation, that used to send its surpluses to feed the starving, support family farms, and doctors without borders, UNICEF, and meds to control disease before it comes here, is now watching those people die while actively killing others elsewhere on our dime

I have previously mentioned this administration is an iceberg. I can easily find more disgusting examples of what we pay for. This is what complete Republican control is delivering. Turn it Blue, but do not stop watching. Demand term limits. Pay officials better (get better help, these overspend in trillions). Demand action and legislation to end grifting. Demand revisions or enforcement of the intended safeguards. Make sure offenders are rewarded or punished, just as you or I would be. Resignation is not punishment, it is bullet dodging.'

KEN KIMBALL
 BROOKFIELD

Our Father knows best

To the Editor:

In response to the letter by Pat Sweet — how refreshing to hear her words, and how true they are!

No one can receive love unless they give it away, so I cannot imagine the naysayers are very loveable people — not all, anyway (Pat nailed this right on the head!).

Everyone ought to remind themselves that only our Creator is in charge, and He will do things His way, regardless.

You may remember the TV series "Father Knows Best." Well, in real life, our Father-Creator knows best.

LINDA CIEJKA
 EAST BROOKFIELD

Which retirement plan is right for your business?



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If you're a local business owner, a workplace retirement plan can be a powerful tool — helping you manage taxes, strengthen employee retention and build personal financial security.

Many in your situation, however, assume retirement plans are complicated or only suitable for large companies. The reality is quite different. Today's retirement plan options encompass businesses of every size, from solo entrepreneurs to companies with dozens of employees.

The key is understanding which plans work best for different kinds of businesses:

Self-employed individuals or businesses without employees. Three commonly used retirement plans:

Simplified employee pension (SEP) plans are relatively straightforward, low-maintenance, lower-cost and flexible on how much you contribute each year.

Owner-only 401(k) plans are ideal if you're willing to accept additional cost and complexity in exchange for benefits like higher contribution limits and borrowing options.

Owneronly defined benefit plans work best for owners with high, steady income who want to maximize their retirement contributions and guaranteed retirement income. These plans come with required annual funding and greater administrative complexity.

Businesses with employees can also consider an SEP plan, although it only allows for employer contributions. Other plan options include:

The SIMPLE IRA (savings incentive match plan for employees) can work well for companies with 100 or fewer employees seeking a low-maintenance option. Employer contributions are required, and it has lower contribution limits compared to other plan types.

Traditional 401(k) plans offer maximum flexibility by allowing both employee salary deferrals and employer contributions that can be adjusted based on business performance. These plans have added costs and administrative responsibilities.

Safe harbor 401(k) plans are ideal if you want to maximize your own retirement contributions without complex testing requirements and you're willing to make required employer contributions.

A cash balance plan is often paired with another plan type, such as a 401(k), to allow greater retirement savings. It works well when you have a smaller company with high-earning employees and consistent cash flow, and you're comfortable making required contributions.

Each plan type involves different eligibility requirements, establishment deadlines, contribution limits, complexity and costs. In determining a workplace retirement plan that's right for your business, you'll want to consider your number of employees, desired contribution levels, comfort with required employer contributions and willingness to handle administrative responsibilities. And, of course, the goals for your business and your own retirement are important criteria.

Fortunately, you don't have to navigate this decision alone. A financial advisor can help you evaluate the trade-offs among different plan types and select the option that best fits your situation. They can explain how various plans work and guide you through the setup process.

Starting a workplace retirement plan is an investment in your future, your business and your employees. With professional guidance, you can find a plan that helps everyone build financial security while positioning your business for continued success. 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

When the porch chairs come back

There is a certain day every year when you realize the town has put its chairs back outside.

LANTERNS
ALONG
MAIN
STREET
By CHARLES

Not folding chairs for a parade or a cookout. I mean the ordinary chairs. The ones that live on front porches, at the edge of driveways, beside garage doors, or near the front walk where the afternoon sun lingers the longest.

One week they are not there. The next week they are everywhere.

You do not see them arrive. They simply reappear, as if they had been waiting all winter for permission.

I noticed the first one this year outside a house on a side street I drive through often. A plain wooden chair, nothing special about it, set just far enough from the front door that someone could sit comfortably and watch the street without feeling like they were blocking the entrance. Two days later there were three more on the same block. By the end of the week it felt as though the whole neighborhood had quietly decided it was time again.

Porch chairs change the pace of a town.

When people sit outside, they notice things. They see who walks by with a dog that is getting older. They notice which kid has suddenly outgrown last year's bicycle. They wave to someone who has lived three houses down for 20 years, but whose schedule never quite lined up with theirs until now.

You cannot do that from inside.

Winter encourages us to keep moving. We arrive home and go straight indoors. We close the door and settle into the evening. Spring invites us to pause again. Not for long stretches, necessarily. Sometimes just five minutes before supper. Sometimes long enough to finish the last of a cup of coffee. Sometimes long enough to watch the sky change color without quite meaning to.

Those chairs make that possible.

When I was younger, it seemed as though there was always someone sitting outside somewhere along the street. Not every house. But enough that you never felt alone walking past. There was usually someone who would nod, or raise a hand, or ask how things were going even if they did not expect a long answer.

That kind of presence is easy to overlook until it returns.

I passed one house the other evening where two chairs had been placed side by side near the front steps. No one was sitting in them at the time, but they faced the road in a way that made it clear they would be used soon. A little farther along, someone had set a single chair near the edge of a driveway where the late sun reached just before disappearing behind the trees. Down the block, another chair rested beside a small table that looked as though it had held a glass of iced tea not long before.

None of these things were remarkable on their own. Taken together, they made the street feel open again.

A porch chair is a small declaration. It says someone plans to be outside for a while. It says the day has stretched enough to make room for sitting instead of hurrying. It says the neighborhood is not only a place we pass through, but a place we share.

I always like the week when the chairs come back. It means the season has turned in a quiet but dependable way. And it means that before long, someone will be sitting in one of them, watching the evening settle over the street the same way people here always have.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Insidious government creep sounds contagious because it is!

To the Editor:

Evading responsibility and enabling bad behavior is not leadership; it is politics at the expense of Massachusetts residents!

Gov. Healy has filed new legislation that allows municipalities to raise new taxes at the local level to fund city and town budgets that taxpayers have already been paying through state taxes!

Government never recognizes a spending problem! Instead, they define a lack of funds as a budget deficit and they designate the taxpayer the target...to be surreptitiously attacked as they are the only revenue source available! There is no bigger target than a Massachusetts Taxpayer!

Healy's plan will allow municipalities to tax meals, hotels and vehicles again!

Municipalities currently tax motor vehicles by using a formula based on the vehicle's valuation, which depreciates with age. The Governor's plan proposes that municipalities can opt into an additional 5 percent surcharge atop the excise tax bill. The vehicle excise tax reduction was part of the original Proposition 2 1/2 ballot measure passed in 1980. Prior to Proposition 2 1/2, the vehicle excise tax was 6 percent; it was reduced to 2 1/2 percent by the measure. This bill would override Proposition 2 1/2 on this point.

The legislation will also increase the maximum local option lodging tax on hotels, motels, and other rentals to 7 percent from 6 percent of the price of a room. For Boston, that would go up to 7.5 percent from 6.5 percent.

The maximum local option meals tax would rise by over 30 percent, to 1 percent from three quarters of a percent of the sales price of a meal at a restaurant or local store.

Inflated and out-of-control spending at the state level does not justify a taxpayer attack at the local level! The Mission Statement on Beacon Hill: Always strive to pilfer pocketbooks and remember, it's "for the children."

Insidious government creep happens because not enough taxpayers pay attention nor do they vote! Stop insidious government creep...vote!

Jennifer Gaucher
Spencer

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OBITUARIES

Thomas L. Furgal, 75

CHESHIRE, CT — Thomas L. Furgal, 75, of Cheshire, Connecticut, passed away peacefully on Monday, April 13, 2026.

Born on December 30, 1950, in Ware, Massachusetts, he was a son of the late Leon C. Furgal and Thelma A. (Dougdale) Furgal. Thomas was raised and educated in Ware and went on to build a lifelong career as a skilled tradesman, specializing in masonry and commercial construction.

Thomas was known for his strong work ethic and craftsmanship, earning the respect of colleagues and clients throughout his career. Outside of work, he had a passion for auto racing and could often be found at local racetracks, including Stafford Speedway, Thompson Speedway, and Riverside Park Speedway, where he

enjoyed both racing and the camaraderie of the racing community.

He will be remembered for his dedication to his craft, his love of racing, and the time he shared with family and friends.

Thomas is survived by his friend James A. Cremo. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his brother Charles A. Furgal.

Calling hours will be held at Varnum Funeral Home, 43 East Main Street, West Brookfield, MA 01585. On Wednesday, April 29, 2026, from 10 to 12 Noon. Followed by burial at Oak Knoll Cemetery in Palmer, MA. Please visit his memorial page for expressions of condolences. www.varnumfuneralhome.com

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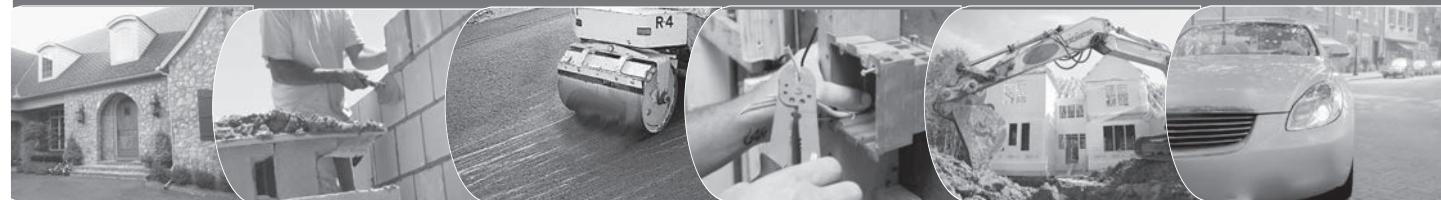
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Thomas J. Bartholomew recognized on Forbes BestInState Wealth Advisors list for ninth consecutive year

WORCESTER — Bartholomew & Company, a provider of financial planning and wealth management services headquartered in Worcester, Massachusetts announced that President & CEO, Thomas J. Bartholomew, AIF® has been named to the Forbes “BestInState Wealth Advisors” list for 2026, marking the ninth consecutive year he has received this recognition. The 2026 rankings were released on April 7.

Wealth Advisors list recognizes financial advisors nationwide based on research and analysis conducted by SHOOK Research. According to Forbes, the evaluation process incorporates both qualitative and quantitative criteria, including industry experience, assets under management, compliance history, and professional credentials.

“I am honored to be included on this list for the ninth year in a row,” said Tom Bartholomew. “I



Thomas J. Bartholomew

am thankful for the continued trust of my clients and remain focused on providing thoughtful guidance

tailored to their individual financial needs.”

About Bartholomew & Company
Bartholomew & Company has been providing individuals and organizations with financial guidance since 1994. Located at 370 Main St., Suite 1000, Worcester, MA and 405 Cochituate Rd., Suite 305, Framingham, Bartholomew & Company’s advisors pride themselves on crafting unique strategies for each client—whether serving individuals, families, municipalities, or institutional clients. For more information, please visit www.bartandco.com.

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For more information, please visit: <https://www.forbes.com/lists/best-in-state-wealth-advisors/>.

Massasoit Art Guild announces Spring Small Works show at Leicester Public Library

LEICESTER — The Massasoit Art Guild will present its Spring Small Works Art and Photography Show from April 30 through May 27 at the Leicester Public Library, offering visitors a chance to view a wide range of compact-format artwork created by guild members from across the region.

The members-only exhibition will feature original pieces limited to a maximum size of 12 by 14 inches, measured by outside frame dimensions. Artists may submit up to two entries each. Organizers said the smaller format encourages experimentation and accessibility while allowing a broad range of styles and media to be displayed in a shared community setting.

The show will be judged as a single category rather than divided by medium. Awards will be presented for first, second and third place, along with an honorary mention. A People’s Choice selection will also be recognized. Ribbon prizes will be awarded to winners.

Artwork drop-off and check-in is scheduled for Thursday, April 30, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in the library’s ground-floor Community Room. Later that day, the guild will host a public meet-and-greet reception with participating artists from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the same location. Organizers encourage all participating artists to attend the reception to connect with visitors and fellow exhibitors.

The exhibition will remain on display during regular library hours through May 27. Pick-up for submitted artwork is scheduled for Thursday, May 28, from 9:30 to 11 a.m., again in the Community Room.

Registration for the show opened Feb. 22 and continues through April 15, or until available space is filled. Advance registration is required, and artists must complete the entry process through the guild’s website.

Guild representatives said the annual small works exhibition provides an opportunity for artists to present new material while also introducing local audiences to the range of talent within the organization. The show is designed to be approachable for both established artists and newer members interested in exhibiting their work publicly.

Support for the exhibition is provided in part through a grant from the Spencer Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council.

Additional information about show rules and registration is available through the Massasoit Art Guild website. Questions may also be directed to the organization by email at massasoitartguild@gmail.com.

Safe Boating certificate courses scheduled at Milford and Webster locations

REGION — The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla, Massachusetts will be instructing two upcoming boating safety classes that meet current state mandated educational requirements.

The Boat America Course is offered in a one-day format developed to provide the skills and confidence needed to explore the coast and inland waters by boat. Basic knowledge and skills are needed to have safe and enjoyable boating experiences. This course is perfect for families that have just purchased any type of boat or are planning to in the future, and for the boater keeping up with changes to boating regulations and laws. Basic marline-spike seamanship (knots etc.) will also be included. Successful completion of the course will certify any minor, from 12 to 16 years of age, to operate a powerboat, including a Personal Water Craft / Jet Ski (for 16 & 17-year-old operators), on all Massachusetts

waters; in conjunction with the Mass. Environmental Police. Approved by National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) it will also cover the requirements to operate a vessel in most other states & many countries where boating safety education is mandatory including RI and CT.

The Hanson-Milone Boater Safety Act, signed into Mass. Law, will now requires ALL Mass. motorboat operators to complete an approved Safe Boating Certificate course before April 1, 2026, for anyone born after 1/1/1998, and by April 1, 2028, for boaters born before 1/1/1998. Enforcement of the new law will begin on September 1, 2026. This course meets the new Mass. requirement. Most boating insurance companies offer a discount on premiums for successful completion of this course. Participants 16 years old and under must be accompanied, in person, by

a registered parent/guardian. SPACE IS LIMITED so register soon:

Milford High School – Saturday, May 2, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Milford High School courses offered at 31 West Fountain St., Milford. Registration is managed through the Milford Community School Use Program,

https://milfordcommunityprogram.activityreg.com/selectactivity_t2.wcs#Adult-Spring-2026 –

Education - Boat America Certificate Class or call Laura Farrell (508) 478-1119, email lfarrell@milfordma.com.

The registration deadline is April 26.

For additional USCGAux. information: phil.uscgaux@verizon.net or (508) 478-3778.

Webster Fire Department – Saturday, May 16, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Webster Fire Department Classroom, 55 Thompson Rd., Webster

The registration deadline is May 10.

Contact our Public Education Officer Phil Kubat for registration or additional

information: email phil.uscgaux@verizon.net or call (508) 478-3778.

To locate the BA meeting certification requirements, and other USCG Auxiliary courses offered go to: https://www.cgaux.org/boatinged/class_finder/index.php

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard and supports the Coast Guard in nearly all mission areas. The Auxiliary was created by Congress in 1939. For more information, please visit www.cgaux.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 com-

munity 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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Asparagus chowder is back!

WEST BROOKFIELD — On Saturday, May 16 during the town of West Brookfield's Asparagus, Heritage and Flower Festival on the town common (10 a.m. - 3 p.m.), the First Congregational Church, UCC (36 N. Main St.) will offer their famous Asparagus Chowder from their Chowder Tent located on the church lawn.

Hot chowder by the cup, cold chowder by the quart to take home, yummy brownies and cold drinks will be available from 10 am until it runs out. Inside and outside dining is available. Cold quarts of chowder as well as a handmade quilt raffle will also be available on the town common near the food court.

Call the church for more information at 508-867-7078.

Applications welcome for Quaboag Historical Society scholarship

REGION — The Quaboag Historical Society is proud to announce its annual scholarship program, designed to support high school seniors with a passion for history and a commitment to preserving the past. This \$1,000 scholarship aims to assist students planning to pursue higher education in any historical related field.

The scholarship is only offered to a student who resides in one of the Quaboag Plantation towns of Brookfield, East Brookfield, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Warren, or West Brookfield. It is offered to a current high school senior planning to enroll in a college or university for the upcoming academic year who will pursue a degree in one of the following fields: Education, History, Museum Studies, Anthropology, Women's Studies, American Studies, or Archaeology. Students wishing to study closely related fields are encouraged to apply.

The application deadline is May 15. For applications or more information, please contact Jeff Robbins at jeffrobins@charter.net or 508-579-4786.

Donations needed for Community Baby Shower

LEICESTER — Organizers are seeking donations for the Leicester Regional Public Health Coalition's Community Baby Shower for expectant parents coming up May 7 from 1-4 p.m. at the Leicester Town Hall Gym, sponsored by Walmart, Hannaford, Deja New, and C.A.R.E. Leicester.

Items needed include diapers (newborn to size three), baby wipes, rash cream, clothing (onesies), sleepers, sleep sacks, hats, socks, and newborn outfits), hygiene & health items such as baby wash, shampoo, lotion, manicure sets, thermometers, and hand sanitizers), feeding equipment (bottles), formula, burping cloths, bibs, nursing pads, and pacifiers), gear & bedding (swaddle blankets, crib sheets, pack 'n plays, strollers, and car seats), and safety items such as outlet covers and cabinet locks.

Donation drop-off bins are located at the Leicester Public Library, Town Hall, Senior Center, and Deja New.

Cornerstone Bank again sponsors Spencer Summer Concert Series

SPENCER — The Spencer Parks & Recreation Commission will again be presenting a Summer Concert Series at Powder Mill Park, corner Smithville and Meadow Roads, Spencer. Shows are on Sunday afternoons from 2 to 5 p.m. This year's lineup includes the following dates and acts.

- | | |
|---------|-------------------------|
| July 5 | The Chain |
| July 12 | The Deloreans |
| July 19 | The Love Dogs |
| July 26 | Vivi and Da Funk |
| Aug. 2 | Blind Tiger Swing Posse |
| Aug. 9 | Gold Dust Refugees |
| Aug. 16 | The Silverbacks |
| Aug. 23 | Miss Fairchild |

The concert series is proudly sponsored by Cornerstone Bank. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts.

DPHS Booster Club to hold Annual Meeting

SPENCER — The David Prouty High School Athletic Booster Club will hold its Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, June 25 at 6 p.m. at Yamato Asian Bistro, located at 62 W Main St., Spencer. New members are welcome, please join us!

Christ Memorial Church hosting Tag Sale May 9

NORTH BROOKFIELD — A Tag Sale will be held at Christ Memorial Episcopal Church, 133 North Main St., Saturday, May 9 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., rain or shine! Plants (indoor and outdoor), puzzles, books, clothes, kids' stuff, kitchen and household items, treasures, and more. Name your own price. Use the Spring Street door should the weather force us inside.

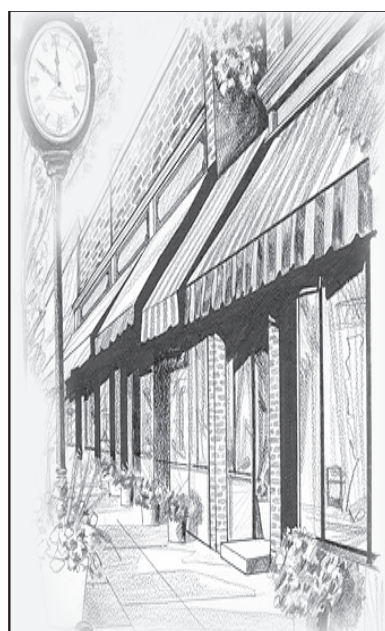
Transfer Station stickers on sale starting April 13

SPENCER — Town of Spencer 2026-2027 Transfer Station stickers will be on sale at the Water Department beginning April 13 during regular business hours: Monday to Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sticker fee is \$75.

Second stickers for same household cost an additional \$30.

Renewals can be paid online at www.spencerma.gov or by mailing your completed form with check/money order.

Please include a stamped self addressed envelope to:
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Sophomores named to Bay Path honor roll

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School congratulates the following students in grade 10 on being named to the honor roll for the third quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

High Honors

Madeline Candice Adugyamfi, Davian Alexander Alicea Aponte, Matheus Holanda Antonelli, Nyahlise Lillian Aviles, Isabella Elizabeth Barrell, Caterina Beverlianna Boon, Emerson Hagen Borgeson, Benjamin Robert Brooks, Morgan Lynn Brooks, Julia Rose Bukowski, Claire Elizabeth Calnan, Derek Alexander Campos, Keegan Jack Champlin, Sydney Faustina Chisholm, Noah James Cole, Alyssa Marie Cuevas, Esmee Elizabeth Cyr, Ayla Rose Drisco, Alice Marie Dufault, Christopher Jeremy Feliciano, Brian Thomas Finnegan, Madelyn Helena Frost, Melody Starr Fuentes, Alivia Rose Gauvin, Vanessa Diane Gordon, Yadiel Enrique Hernandez Navarro, Shaylan Rose Hesselton, Emma Mae Jalbert, Veronica Mae Jensrud, Jordyn Kate Labrecque, Isabella Grace Leatham-Wright, Ginelly Shantel Molina, Carly Jane Moody, Shea Alfred Mulligan, Teagan Patrice O'Halloran, Michael Thomas Payson, Ava Sophia Reed, Ethan Vance Rodriguez, Alexia Grace Rondeau, Esmerelda Rosario Tirado, Brianna

Jingchen Shi, Paul Joseph Skarzenski, Victor Manuel Sobinski, Nelson Tobias Sorto, Victoria Marie Sullivan, Spencer Thomas Wisniewski

Honors

Arlind Aliu, Chase Michael Anthony, Yaniel Aviles, Gianna Rae Bedard, Elizabeth Susan Bennington Lynch, Addam James Bergeron, Cody James Blair, Brian Bui, Andrew Mason Carter, Julie Elizabeth Chenier, Sadie Ann Cleary, Elijah Gabriel Cornier, Brody James Coughlin, Jackson Murray Coughlin, Addyson Kaeleigh Coutu, Blake Nicholas Curboy, Holly Marie Dailey, Tavis McKinley Davis, Norah Abigail Dean, Arielle Grace Deauseault, Oliver Gage DeLorge, Aaron Justin Desautels, Ava Marie Dufault, Fable Dufresne, Rylie Anne Dwyer, Dominik John Duziubasik, Madysin Riley Fitzgerald, Kylee Marie Fournier, Nikolas William Foustoukos, Anthony Joseph Fredette, Charlotte Susan May Fredette, Ryan James Fuller, Jayden Robert Afolabi Giwa-Bello, Colton Philip Hall, Marcus Roy Hamilton, Addison Katie Harrington, Fatima Edilene Herrera, Chloe Rose Hosley, Colin Henry Joyce, Victoria Rose Kaiser, Brooke Marie Kasprzak, Brayden Albert Kraus, Brianna Ashleigh Laforest, Olivia Corinne LaMountain, Andrew

Arthur Lashua, Wesley Patrick Lawless, Valentina Medeiros Lima, Juliano Ligeniale Lopez, Kaitlin Angela Lulu, Emily Ann Macko, Cynthia Kagan Marc, Julia Danielle Marini, Aydan Michael Marsh, Sherlyn Mazariegos Hernandez, Madison Grace McKinstry, John Steven McMahon, Logan James Mondino, Ashlyne Emily Monsen, Derek Omar Morales, Raider Keith Newton, Adalynn Jane Nietsche, Nathaniel Leif Noyes, Landen Spencer Olszta, Giavanna Bella Orsi, Gabriel Armando Ortiz, Julian Thomas Papeirski, Matilda Cecile Paradis, Jocelyn Rose Peck, AJ Jesse Perron, Kurtwood Russell Pettiford, Parke rJonathan Piehl, Joseph Lewis Pretty, Blake Leonard Richard, Christopher Jeffrey Richardson, Shaye Patricia Riley, Danna Paola Rodriguez Lopez, Emilyanis Joan Rodriguez, Ava Victoria Rondeau, Keomar Arnaldo Rosario Sanchez, Isabella Roszkowski, Aiden Lee Rubito, Liliana Morgan Rubito, Rianna Gathoni Ruo, Jayden Jose Santos, Thomas Francis Shivick, Grace Autumn Shoblom, Alejandro Javier Sierra Varas, Tatiana Maria Smolynsky, Heather Holiday Starr, Owen Miles Stewart, Jade Antonia Stien, Angela Sofia Suarez Pineros, Nayelis Nahir Torres Godineaux, Olivia Ruth Torres, Haidynn Anne Tuttle, Shafick Yamal Vasquez-Grande, Gina Grace Vautour, Castiel Lee

Vazquez, Colin Anthony Vega, Sadie Mckenna Villegas, Sione Flynn Villegas, Ella Violette Wall, Thomas Earl Welch, Colby Deary Wells, Madison Elizabeth Wells, Riley John West, Sydney Alexandra Winer, Benjamin Richard Wolanski, Chloe Olivia Young, Isabella Anne Zorena

Principal's List

Zachary Barry Barsalou, Abel Pax Burdick, Collin Edward Burr, Jowell Alberto Cedeno, Paul Matthew Ceppetelli, Ayva Marie Coffey, Aiden Michael Collins, John Michel Rousseau Daniel, Tristan Nichole Defazio, Nadya Anita Delgado, Nicolas James DiGioia, Ian Joseph Fantasia, Emanuel Jesus Feliciano Rodriguez, Adrie James Ford, Tyler Blake Friend, Matthew Donald Graves, Jannie Mahoney Kabba, Ryan Khai Lima, Amelia Layne Magorian, Amelia Layne Magorian, Isabella Adeline Monahan, Marieliz Magdalena Morel, Bryton Favor Mosong, Anthony Jadon Ribeiro Ortiz, Saverio James Palaia, Mason D. Michael Parker, Jacob Louis Pecore, Treva Mae Plank, Tianyu Qi, Bo Carl Riley, Kayla Elizabeth Shepard, Gavin Joseph Thompson, Jamison Douglas Trevallion, Angelina Marie Vazquez, Joniel Leonardo Velez Diaz, Noah Joel Waterhouse, Julianis Paola Zayas Rivera



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BHS Class of 1986 seeks community's help locating classmates for 40th reunion

REGION — As the Bartlett High School Class of 1986 prepares to celebrate its 40th reunion on Sept. 26, organizers are asking the community for assistance in locating classmates who have not yet been reached through social media or via text.

To make the process simple, the reunion committee has created a short contact-information form and is encouraging residents, friends, and former classmates to help spread the word. If you know someone on the "missing classmates" list, organizers ask that you

text them the link to the form so they can update their information.

Contact Info Form: <https://tinyurl.com/BHS1986-40Years>

If it's easier, you may also complete the form on a classmate's behalf—so long as you have their current contact details. Organizers emphasize that any help tracking them down is truly appreciated, as personal connections often succeed where digital outreach falls short.

A list of classmates the committee is hoping to locate appears below. With the community's support,

they hope every member of the Class of '86 will have the opportunity to join this milestone celebration.

Peter Allain
Beth Antonopoulos
Marie Aperges
Andrew Baca
Austin Bailey
David Beardley
Frank Belanger
Carolyn Bembenek
Richard Bernier
Sheila Bialoncik
Beth Bialy
Jason Borski
Doreen Bourget
Eric Brisbois
Kathleen Brown

Paul Browning
Paul Bugan
Cindy Bullens
Sandra Butt
Mont Canterbury
Stephen Carlson
Daniel Chapdelaine
Kelly Cobb
Ken Cournoyer
Timothy Decker
Tammy Deschenes
Aaron Dorcas
Daniel Doyle
Dorothy DusoSelina Fife
James Gardner
Jeffrey Gatto
Tina Giakoumis
Alicia Goudreau
Richard Guerin
Robert Hamm

Scott Horanzy
Jane Houle
Todd Hufault
Joseph Hughes
Melissa Jankowski
Thor Johnson
Nena Johnston
Lisa Kozlowski
Robert Krasnecky
Jill Krause
Michael Kryger
Rick Lawson
Deborah Leite
Linda Lifer
Patricia Majewski
Renee Marchand
Jennifer Marsh
Jennifer Mason
John Meagher
Fumiyo Mochizuki

Deborah Munsch
Brett Napierata
Wayne Parmentier
Brian Poplawski
Gary Poplawski
Edward Powers
William Radcliffe
James Remy
Debra Ross
Collin Salmon
Dale Schleis
Theresa Sergel
Henry Skiba
Alan Standrowicz
Jeffrey Surozenski
Karen Toukonen
Joseph Veronick
Douglas Waldron
Robert Wheeler
Edward Zdrok

LEGALS

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 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 Northeastly 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., 23.10 feet to a point; 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 Mortgageor'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

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 10 Jones Street, Spencer, MA 01562

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

by assignment dated June 4, 2024 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 70607, Page 115; said mortgage was assigned from Guild Mortgage Company LLC to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Mortgagee, as nominee for Guild Mortgage Company LLC by assignment dated August 13, 2024 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 70903, Page 62; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Mortgagee, as nominee for Guild Mortgage Company LLC to Guild Mortgage Company LLC by assignment dated December 19, 2024 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 71491, Page 134; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on May 14, 2026 at 02:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

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

T R A C T 2 :
The land in Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts, situated on the south side of Starr Street, viz., BEGINNING at the northwesterly corner of the south line of said street, at a point 165 feet easterly of the easterly line of Grove Street; THENCE S. 86 1/2° E., by the southerly line of Starr Street, about 82 1/2 feet to land formerly of Eli Jacobs; THENCE S. 9° W., by said Jacobs land, 99 feet; THENCE N. 86 1/2° W., by land formerly of Joseph Pope, about 74 1/2 feet to a point on the easterly side of a two rod private street, now called Jones Street, and 165 feet easterly of the easterly line of Grove Street; THENCE N. 3 1/2° E., by the easterly line of Jones Street, 99 feet to the point of beginning.. Being the same premises as granted to Mortgageor(s) by virtue of a Deed from Sidney Cardona recorded in the Worcester County Registry of Deed Herewith.

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

For Mortgageor's Title see deed dated July 7, 2022 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 67888, Page 294.

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

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for Guild Mortgage Company LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701

April 17, 2026
April 24, 2026
April 31, 2026

Notice of Public Hearing

The North Brookfield Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at 6:15PM at the Senior Center, 29 Forest St., North Brookfield, MA. Public opinion will be received for 89 South Main St., regarding a special permit request for Sadie Saint for an accessory use (Section IV.A.2.o.) per the North Brookfield Zoning Bylaws. The property is in the Downtown Overlay District. Any person interested in being heard or seeking information should appear at the above stated time and place. A copy of the proposed permit application is on file in the office of the Town Clerk, 215 North Main St., No. Brookfield, MA. William King, Chair
April 24, 2026
May 1, 2026

Notice of Public Hearing

The North Brookfield Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at 6:35PM at the Senior Center, 29 Forest St., North Brookfield, MA. Public opinion will be received for 60 Gilbert St., regarding a special permit request by Robert Anderson for a tri-plex residential unit (Section IV.A.2.1.) per the North Brookfield Zoning Bylaws. The property is in the R-11 District and Downtown Overlay District. Any person interested in being heard or seeking information should appear at the above stated time and place. A copy of the proposed permit application is on file in the office of the Town Clerk, 215 North Main St., No. Brookfield, MA. William King, Chair
April 24, 2026
May 1, 2026

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

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:

Jimmy Georges has filed an **Amended Order of Conditions** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to Install a perimeter drain around the foundation located at **20 Whittemore Cove**, 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, May 13, 2026 at which time all persons having an interest may be present or call in remotely to participate. Conservation Commission meetings open at 6:15 p.m. Mary McLaughlin, Chairwoman
May 1, 2026

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Camp Invention's fun, action-packed summer STEM program coming to area

REGION — Camp Invention®, a nationally recognized, nonprofit summer enrichment program, is coming to the following locations.

Auburn: Auburn Middle School the week of July 6 - July 10.

Uxbridge: Our Lady of the Valley Regional School the week of June 22 - June 26.

Regional program sponsors include Johnson Controls Foundation and Overdeck Family Foundation.

A program of the National

Inventors Hall of Fame® in partnership with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Camp Invention challenges children in grades K-6 to tap into their natural curiosity and use their creativity to solve problems. Through hands-on activities, Camp Invention promotes STEM learning; builds confidence, leadership, perseverance and resourcefulness; and encourages entrepreneurship - all in a fun and engaging environment.

Each year, the program features new curricula inspired by some of our nation's

most world-changing inventors - the National Inventors Hall of Fame Inductees. This year's Spark program encourages children to be confident in their ideas and explore their innovativeness through hands-on activities including:

Space Morphers™: Kids build a DIY rocket and launch an epic mission to transform a new planet's atmosphere, terrain and ecosystem. After a high-energy Rover Race to collect samples and data, they grow dazzling crystal trees and hatch a mysterious ani-



Courtesy

In Camp Invention's Make Waves experience, children ride the waves of entrepreneurship and invention by creating prototypes, pitching their products and building a billboard boat.

mal egg in a Space Lab.

Make Waves™: Campers ride the waves of entrepreneurship and invention! Inspired by a surfer's journey, they create prototypes, pitch their innovative products to hook investors and build a billboard boat to set sail and "make waves" in the market.

Fur-ensics™: Kids sharpen their animal detective skills with Cap E. Bara and a fleet of robotic capybaras. They investigate a trail of footprints, collect bits of fluffy fur and examine suspicious splatters before forensically analyzing evidence that has a surprising twist.

The Infringers™: Campers use their invention superpowers to solve challenges in their community and around the world.

They miniaturize top-secret innovations, safeguard their designs using cryptography and protect their intellectual property from the Infringers.

"I love that this camp lets my kids step out of the usual roles that they have at home and in school, and explore different parts of themselves," said the parent of 2025 Camp Invention campers. "At camp my son learns to be more creative and my daughter learns to be more independent."

All local Camp Invention programs are facilitated and taught by qualified educators who reside and teach in the community. Camp Invention serves 147,000 students every year and partners with more than 2,600 schools and districts across the nation. For more

information or to register, visit invent.org/camp.

About Camp Invention
Camp Invention is the only nationally recognized summer program focused on creativity, innovation, real-world problem solving and the spirit of invention. Through hands-on programming, Camp Invention encourages children entering kindergarten through sixth grade to explore science, technology, engineering and mathematics curricula inspired by some of the world's greatest inventors. Since 1990, our education programs have served more than 3.3 million children, and 297,000 teachers and Leadership Interns. Regional program sponsors include the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Summit campus, QCC announce three-week summer college readiness program

WORCESTER — Summit Campus and Quinsigamond Community College's Student Accessibility Services today announced the Summer College Prep Program, a new collaborative summer program designed to help rising high school juniors and seniors develop self-advocacy, strengthen academic skills and prepare for meaningful post-secondary options.

The three-week summer self-exploration and college readiness program will provide diverse learners with an immersive college experience on QCC's campus that includes writing workshops and personal development sessions. The program also offers an optional dormitory living experience at Summit Campus, called Summit Summer Launch.

"I have always believed that students with learning differences need an experience to show them what they may not be able to envision on their own. This program can impact a student's vision of their future immeasurably and create a pathway to higher education that may not have seemed possible," said Nikki Koppel, director of Summit Campus. "This partnership creates a supportive environment where students can grow academically and personally while gaining real insight into college life."

"Quinsigamond Community College is proud to partner with Summit Campus to support students in our community as they prepare for their educational futures," said Kristen Proctor, director of Student Accessibility Services & Assistive Technology. "This program reflects our commitment to expanding access to college readiness opportunities and helping students see themselves as future college scholars."

All accepted students will attend sessions on study strategies, time management, college expectations, self-care and stress management. The program will also offer a variety of social events and excursions.

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mikaela@stonebridgepress.news**

Friday's Child

Luis
Age 14
Registration #8311

Luis is an active, outgoing, and inquisitive young boy who brings energy and enthusiasm to everything he does. He loves spending time outdoors, whether he's riding his bike around the neighborhood or showing off his competitive spirit while playing soccer or basketball. Luis enjoys staying active and thrives in environments where he can move, play, and challenge himself. When he's not outside, Luis likes to unwind by playing video games, giving him a chance to relax while still engaging his curiosity and problem-solving skills. He is also a thoughtful and caring child who values his relationships—on his birthday, Luis chose to use his own money to buy presents for his sister, showing just how much he cares about the people in his life. With his lively personality, strong sense of curiosity, and kind heart, Luis is a joyful and engaging child who brings both fun and warmth wherever he goes.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21175660323>
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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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**Southbridge - 14 Servant Way
Featured Listing!**

Gently used, well maintained RANCH on a cul-de-sac! 1,300 sq +/-, 3 BRs, 2 full baths, gas fireplace, central AC & efficient propane heat. 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 w/a great lawn, composite deck & shed, a backup generator, recent siding, & a basement w/loads of potential. Convenient location, close to I-84 & Sturbridge. List Price: \$459,000

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

**Webster Lake Waterfront
22 Union Pt
Snug Harbor Villa Open House**



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&
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ience! Nothing quite compares! Priced to Sell.
List Price: \$1,050,000.

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



Spawning fieldstone faced 1 Level Ranch, located on a +/- 0.5-acre level, w/24'x24' 2 car att'd garage. Offers: 1,860 sq ft main level plus 1,000 sq +/- 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

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagogmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

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


Astounding Panoramic Views across mid-section of Webster Lake! Sun drenched from early morning sunrise till sunset! View the lake from all windows. Located on a peninsula providing 2 Shorelines. Fireplaced Living Room! Recent Kitchen & Bath! Primary Bedroom w/walk-in closet. Hardwood Floors. 2 Baths. FHW Oil Heat! Central Air. Garage. \$ 900,000.

Webster Lake - 302 Killdeer Island


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

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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Workshop13 welcomes renowned tribute artists back to Grand Hall

WARE — Workshop13 is excited to welcome The Super Group back to their Grand Hall for another unforgettable performance. This event takes place at 13 Church St., Ware, on Saturday, May 2. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the performance begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25 online at www.workshop13.org and \$30 at the door.

Moose, Michael, Scotty, Billy, and CJ of the heralded Eagles tribute band 7 Bridges Rd. join forces with the acclaimed Neil Diamond tribute artist Charlie Lask to form The Super Group. 7 Bridges Rd. is known for their four-part harmony and Charlie Lask has entertained thousands over a 15-year career. The evening will feature the music of the Eagles and Neil Diamond along with songs from Crosby Stills Nash and Young, Dire Straits, Gordon Lightfoot, and many more for a night to remember.

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.



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P.E.O. Chapters R and AA join forces to revive beloved "Chocolate Sunday" fundraiser

CHARLTON — After a hiatus of several years, a cherished local tradition is making a decadent return. Sheila Ansley of P.E.O. Chapter R recently announced that the organization's signature "Chocolate Sunday" is officially back on the calendar, thanks to a dynamic new partnership with Chapter AA.

The fundraiser—an afternoon dedicated to sampling gourmet chocolate treats, coffee, and tea—was previously sidelined due to the intensive labor required for a single small group to manage. However, after Chapter R reached out to their sisters in Chapter AA, the two groups agreed to a joint venture. By splitting the workload, the chapters have found a sustainable way to bring the sweetness back to Charlton.

Event details

Date: Sunday, May 17
Time: 2 p.m.

Location: The Performing Arts Center at The Overlook, Charlton

Mission: All proceeds support the P.E.O. Sisterhood's mission of providing life-changing educational opportunities and scholarships for women.

Contacts: Sheila Ansley 508-434-2649 or Elizabeth Pacey 508-829-4504

A season of sisterhood: Chapter R's Active Winter

The revival of Chocolate Sunday comes on the heels of a busy winter for Chapter R. Despite a string of "historically biting" temperatures, members remained dedicated to their cultural and social calendar.

In December, members braved one of the coldest nights of the year to tour the "Winter Reimagined" display at Tower Hill Botanic Garden. While the air was frigid, the spectacular light installations proved well worth the chill.

The momentum continued into January with two standout events:

Musical excellence: Members attended a moving organ concert performed by Amanda Mole, daughter of Jackie Mole. The performance offered a warm, soaring reprieve from the January frost.

Founders Day: The group honored the P.E.O. Sisterhood's 1869 roots at the Founders Day Program. Members «toughed out» the New England cold to enjoy a commemorative meal and program honoring the seven women who started the organization over 150 years ago.

Looking ahead to spring

As the frost thaws, Chapter R is looking forward to milder weather and continued community engagement.

For over a century and a half, the P.E.O. Sisterhood has focused on the intersection of friendship and philanthropy. Through various grants and STAR scholarships, they continue to help women reach their educational goals, one "Chocolate Sunday" at a time.

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