

SPENCER NEW LEADER

©2025, Issue #26

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Friday, June 27, 2025



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EBES students celebrate milestone



Kevin Flanders

EBES students congratulate sixth graders.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER
EAST BROOKFIELD — Sixth graders at East Brookfield Elementary School were congratulated last week by school officials and community leaders on reaching the first major milestone in their educational journey.

At the June 16 EBES Sixth Grade Sendoff, students were honored by school officials, district leaders, family members, and friends. Featuring 14 students, the tight-knit EBES Class of 2025 made countless memories together. The

Sendoff ceremony provided an opportunity for classmates to reflect, celebrate, and look ahead to future successes.

“Each of you has brought something unique to EBES, filling this school with enthusiasm,” said Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District Superintendent Paul Haughey. “You will always have a home here, and we will always be rooting for you. The future is bright, and it’s waiting for you to shine.”

Former EBES sixth grade teacher Christine Lavin, now in her first year as the school’s principal, enjoyed leading the ceremony in her new role and bringing the community together to congratulate students.

“It may be hard to imagine now, but our world will change because of your ideas, your actions, and your dreams,” Lavin told students. “While we celebrate everything you’ve accomplished so far, I challenge you to keep taking risks, to set ambitious goals, and to find your own unique ways to make a difference. Give back to your family and your community, which have given you so much already.”

Local parents, family members, teachers, coaches, volunteers, and community leaders are also thanked for their roles in helping students achieve success.

“Your steadfast encouragement and active involvement in your

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Busy summer of construction ahead at DPHS

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — With students and staff expected to move into the newly built facilities at David Prouty High School in a few short months, the construction team has a busy summer ahead.

The school community has watched with great excitement and anticipation as the DPHS addition-renovation project continues to progress. The new gymnasium, classroom wing, and other facilities are on schedule to open in time for the upcoming school year. “We are less than seven and a half weeks from seeing the new construction complete its work and earn an occupancy permit for school opening,” Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District Superintendent Paul Haughey told the New Leader earlier this month. “Our target for an occupancy permit is Aug. 8, 2025, and we will then move in all of the furnishings and needed items to open the school year at David Prouty HS during the week of Aug. 25.”

Nick Pimentel, a construction representative for Colliers Engineering and Design (the project’s OPM), detailed several final projects that will be completed throughout the summer. These include the installation

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North Brookfield voters pass all articles at Town Meeting

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD — All warrant articles passed at the Annual Town Meeting held earlier this month.

The warrant for the June 13 meeting, held at North Brookfield Elementary School, featured 17 articles.

With the passage of Article 3, voters approved \$15,463,478.99 for the general operating budget. School-related expenses for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, totaled \$7,779,991.04. This includes the North Brookfield Public Schools budget, plus the NB School Medicaid expense and the Bay Path Assessment.

Police and animal control salaries and expenses totaled \$740,350.05 for the upcoming fiscal year.

Highway-related expenses, plus snow and ice removal costs, amounted to \$637,451.20.

In the weeks leading up to the meeting, school officials held public sessions to outline several budget reductions slated for the upcoming fiscal year. Staff

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Higgins joins Leicester School Committee



Courtesy

John Higgins was recently elected to the Leicester School Committee.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER
LEICESTER — Newly elected School Committee member John Higgins is looking forward to working with fellow officials to continue the district’s momentum.

Running unopposed at the June 10 election, Higgins replaced former committee member Dylan Lambert, who did not seek re-election after completing his first term.

As a father of three adults who received strong educations when

they were children, Higgins is committed to giving back to his community by supporting youngsters and families across the school district.

“My wife and I have always been interested in education and encouraged our children to pursue their goals from an educational, professional, and personal perspective,” Higgins said. “As our children are all grown, I thought now is a good time to try to contribute more to the community.”

Having moved to Leicester six years ago, Higgins has seen the school district’s many achievements since Superintendent Brett Kustigian and his team took over. He looks forward to joining a leadership team that continues to attract students to the district with strong programs.

“I believe that the most important thing a town

Turn To **HIGGINS** page **A14**



Courtesy

Nine Leicester officers participated in the Tarentino 5K on June 8, with seven of them in the “uniformed” run division. These seven officers took on the course in full duty gear (uniform, vest and full duty belt) Sgt Bulman also ran the course in plain clothes (undercover) Det. Noone escorted with the motor unit.

Transforming opportunities offered for DPHS students through early college

Empowering Southern Worcester County and Central Massachusetts

SPENCER — Earlier today, the Early College Joint Committee fomally voted to approve David Prouty High School and Worcester State University for the Early College Designation as a result of our efforts to redesign and transform the high school experience for the students of the Spencer-East Brookfield Regionla School District.

“David Prouty High School has worked diligently with key stake-

holders over the years to redesign the high school experience for Southern Worcester County students and today earned Early College Designation with Worcester State University!” said Superintendent of Schools, Paul Haughey. “On behalf of all of us with-in the district, we are honored and thrilled to announce our participation in the transformative Early College initiative, a program championed by the Healey-Driscoll Administration to expand access to higher education across Massachusetts. This initiative brings 18 new Early College partnerships statewide, offering unparalleled opportunities for our students studying within the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District and the broader Southern Worcester County and Central Massachusetts region.”

Prouty High School is proud to be part of this movement. By 2030, the goal is to provide Early College access to as many as 20,000 students across the state, with our region poised to make significant contributions to this milestone.

Expanding educational equity in Southern Worcester County and Central Massachusetts

Southern Worcester County and Central Massachusetts have long sought innovative solutions to bridge opportunity gaps for students from underserved communities. Early College programs align perfectly with our district mission to ensure every student is prepared for the college and career challenges of the future. For David Prouty High School families, this means students will gain confidence, college experience, and academic tools without the financial strain often associated with higher education.

Unlocking potential for David Prouty High School students

Early College programs are a game-changer for our students. By enabling them to earn college credits at no cost while still in high school, this initiative removes significant financial and accessibility barriers to higher education. The newly approved partnerships will allow an additional 1,400 Massachusetts high school students to enroll in Early College programs, and David

Building a pathway to success

Through Early College, our students are not only earning credits but are also exploring college majors and career pathways early. This head start provides clarity on their aspirations and saves both time and money as they progress toward their degrees. These programs are particularly impactful for low-income students, significantly increasing their likelihood of persisting through college and successfully graduating.

Strengthening our communities

The expansion of Early College also has broader implications for the Southern Worcester County region. By accelerating the time to degree and enhancing college affordability, this initiative benefits not only students but also families, local communities, and the state economy. As Superintendent, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative impact of these programs. They equip our students with the tools,

confidence, and experience they need to thrive in higher education and the workforce, ensuring a brighter future for all.

Looking ahead

With the support of the Healey-Driscoll Administration, we are committed to making Early College the “new normal” for students in the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District, Southern Worcester County and Central Massachusetts. From David Prouty High School to the surrounding areas, we are eager to embrace this exceptional opportunity to reimagine education and create innovative pathways to success for our students. Together, we can ensure that higher education becomes accessible and equitable for every young person in our region.

For more information on Early College programs and how they are transforming education, please visit DESE’s website.

New early college partnerships:

Argosy Collegiate Charter School in Fall River and UMass Dartmouth

Attleboro High School and Bristol Community College

Avon High School and Quincy College

Beverly High School and North Shore Community College

Billerica High School and UMass Lowell

B.M.C. Durfee High School (Fall River) and UMass Dartmouth

Brockton High School and Bridgewater State University

Brockton High School and Massasoit Community College

Clinton High School, Mt. Wachusett Community College and Fitchburg State University

David Prouty High Schol (Spencer) and Worcester State University

Duggan Academy (Springfield) and American International College

Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers (Boston) and Bunker Hill Community College

Martha’s Vineyard High School and Middlesex Community College


Methuen High School and UMass Lowell

New Bedford High School and UMass Dartmouth

Pittsfield High School and Berkshire Community College

Tech Boston Academy and UMass Boston

Margarita Muniz Academy (Boston) and UMass Boston

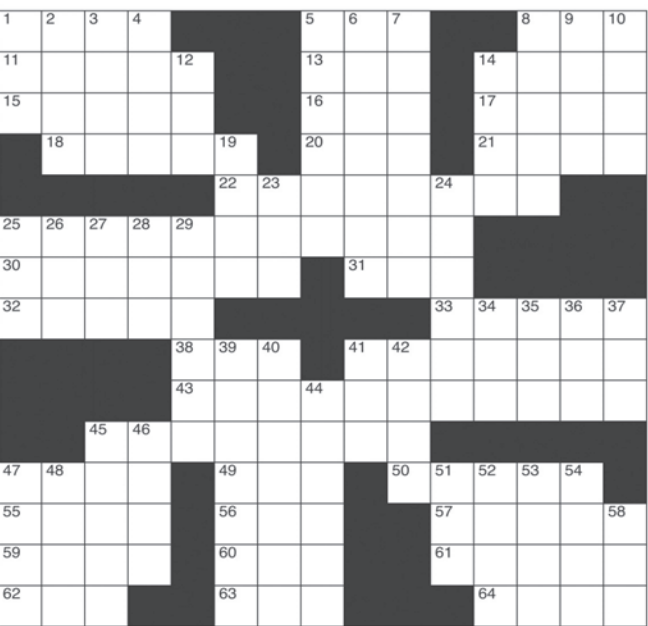


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CLUES ACROSS

1. Computer manufacturer
5. Noted space station
8. Kurt Russell film “Captain”
11. Automaton
13. Everyone has one
14. Incline from the vertical
15. Fights
16. Dunn & Bradstreet (abbr.)
17. Finishes off
18. Places to store things
20. Dutch painter Gerard ____
21. Smaller quantity
22. There’s a North, South and Central of these
25. In an early way
30. More spacious
31. Short-term memory
32. One who possesses
33. Sesame
38. Forbid
41. A way to explain
43. Not around
45. Evoke or suggest
47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
49. Dekameter
50. Fencing sword
55. “Luther” actor Idris
56. Affirmative (slang)
57. Afflicted
59. One point north of northeast
60. Born of
61. Arabic name
62. Hong Kong food stall: ____ pai dong
63. Not the start
64. Post

CLUES DOWN

1. Creative expression
2. Fiber from the outer husk of a coconut
3. City in ancient Syria
4. College army
5. More disturbed
6. Pays no attention to
7. Restored
8. Competitions
9. Lyric poems
10. Famed American lawman
12. Expression of disappointment
14. Scars
19. Satisfy
23. Central European river
24. Brass instrument
25. One who gets paid to perform
26. Propel with oars
27. Long period of time
28. Woman (French)
29. Type of plane
34. Pitching stat
35. Pointed end of a pen
36. Pro sports league
37. Body part
39. Inoffensive
40. Yellowish cotton cloth
41. Feline
42. Does not tell the truth
44. Set out to attract
45. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
46. Abba __, Israeli politician
47. Repair
48. Genus of flowering plants
51. Tributary of the High Rhine
52. Prejudice
53. C. European river
54. Restrain
58. Father

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Enjoy an afternoon of movies at East Brookfield Library

EAST BROOKFIELD — An afternoon at the movies in the children’s room at the East Brookfield Public Library starts Monday, June 30, at 1 p.m. Parents and caregivers must remain with children under the age of 12; one adult caregiver for every three children.

Enjoy a story of a bee, a street-smart cat, a story of the last dragon, a big trip, a wonderful spider saving a friend, a movie to cool you down in the summer, and a story of the king of the jungle.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS IT SUPPORT SERVICES

The Town of Brookfield, in accordance with M.G.L. c 30B, which governs the procurement of supplies and services, hereby invites sealed proposals from qualified firms for “IT SUPPORT SERVICES.” The requested IT support services for the Town is required for up to three years commencing upon award of Contract.

Qualification and bid proposal forms are available from June 16, 2025 through July 7, 2025 and may be obtained at: www.Brookfieldma.us or during regular business hours at:

Town Hall
6 Central Street
Brookfield, MA 01506

Sealed proposals, clearly marked “IT SUPPORT SERVICES” must be received at the Town Administrator Office, Brookfield Town Hall, 6 Central Street, Brookfield, MA 01506 by July 7, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. All bids submitted must be in conformity with all pertinent statutes and regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Town Administrator will make a recommendation to the Select Board for the award of the contract. The Town reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to waive any defects, informalities, and minor irregularities; and to award contracts or cancel this RFP if it is in the Town’s best interest to do so.

Ronald E. Aponte
Town Administrator



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PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
FRANK G. CHILINSKI
860-928-1818 EXT. 103
frank@salmonpress.news

BUSINESS MANAGER
RYAN CORNEAU
860-928-1818 EXT. 102
ryan@salmonpress.news

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
JIM DiNICOLA
508-764-6102
jim@stonebridgepress.news

EDITOR
BRENDAN BERUBE
508-909-4106
news@stonebridgepress.news

PRODUCTION MANAGER
JULIE CLARKE
860-928-1818, EXT. 305
julie@villagenewspapers.com

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Spencer resident named to SUNY Dean’s List

ALBANY, N.Y. — Alex Peter Pinkowski of Spencer has been named to the Dean’s List for the spring semester of 2025 at the State University of New York.

SPENCER ALMANAC — REAL ESTATE —

BROOKFIELD
\$525,000, 51 Molasses Hill Rd, Brindel, Denise Y, to Jennifer, Colpitts, and Colpitts, Michael.

EAST BROOKFIELD
\$1,000,000, 115 W Main St, Lacroix, Joseph W, and Lacroix, Susan M, to Patriot Storage LLC.

LEICESTER
\$450,000, 4 Foster St, Lamkin-Nielson, Cheryl A, to Rivera-Collazo, Katiria.

\$385,000, 76 Grove St, Meinsma-Avigne, Marcia A, to Rane, Matthew V, and Smith, Emily L.

NORTH BROOKFIELD
None

WARREN
\$445,000, 2177 Main St, Nexus Apartments LLC, to Howell, Damian.

\$315,000, 19 Keyes St, Thomas, Kyle J, to Ceja Jr, Francisco, and Ceja, Apple J.

\$295,856, 352 Reed St, Richarson, Sidney R, and Amerihome Mortgage Co LLC, to Amerihome Mortgage Co LLC.

\$263,115, 102 Coy Hill Rd, Nichols Sandra Est, and Bartlett-Odonald, Alison, to Alexandria TLLC.

\$130,000, 74 North St, Roman Catholic Bishop Of, to Palace Church Boston.

WEST BROOKFIELD
\$225,000, 201 Pierce Rd, Lennox, Janet H, to Leblanc Oil LLC.



Courtesy

Local seniors recently enjoyed playing several games with Leicester High School students.

LHS students share fun and games with local seniors

LEICESTER — Local seniors joined Leicester High School students earlier this month for an afternoon of fun and games at the Senior Center.

Sponsored by the Leicester High School National Honor Society, the June 2 event featured 25 high school students

playing games with older adults who attend the Senior Center.

Games included Monopoly, Uno, Clue, checkers, dominoes, and card games.

“Thank you to Kassidy Poce and her committee for putting this event together. This inter-generational event continues

to support the Leicester Senior Center’s mission to promote a community of inclusion for all,” read a statement released by the Senior Center’s leadership team. “Everyone in attendance agreed that more of these events should continue in the future.”

American Legion baseball season kicks off



Courtesy

The American Legion baseball season kicked off with a ceremony honoring a special anniversary.

LEICESTER — This year’s American Legion baseball season kicked off with a special ceremony honoring the 100th anniversary of Legion baseball, followed by a game between Main South Post #341 and Cherry Valley Post #443 at Rochdale Park.

The proceedings began with the Post #443 Honor Guard leading representatives from The Legion Auxiliary, Sons of American Legion, and the Legion Riders onto the field as the players from both teams stood in front of their dugouts.

National Executive Committeeman and Post #443 Baseball Committee member Mark McCue served as the Master of Ceremony.

“Since 1925, American Legion Baseball has instilled the values of citizenship through sportsmanship, teaching integrity, respect, and teamwork through the great sport of baseball,” he said.

“From hometown fields to major league stadiums, this program has been a steppingstone for countless players, on the diamond and in life,” he concluded.

Special guest Scott Connors, State Commander, praised the players, coaches, and both Posts for their continued support of the program. He concluded with the reading of the American Legion Baseball Code of Sportsmanship.

McCue then invited past Post #443 Commander and Vietnam Veteran, George Vanditti, to throw out the first pitch.

The program concluded with the playing of the National Anthem, followed by shouts of “Play Ball.”

Public Service Announcement
Time to Renew your Spencer Transfer Station Sticker
Current stickers expire on June 30th 2025.
Town of Spencer
2025-2026
Transfer Station Stickers will be on sale at the Spencer Highway Garage, 7 Meadow Road, on Saturday, June 28, 2025 from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon
Sticker fee is \$75.00
Second stickers for same household cost an additional \$30.00.

Town of West Brookfield Public Hearing on Water Rates for Fiscal Year 2026

The West Brookfield Board of Water Commissioners will hold a public hearing on Monday June 30, 2025 at 6:30 PM in the 1st Floor Conference Room at the West Brookfield Town Hall, 2 East Main Street, West Brookfield, to hear public testimony and comments on proposed water rates for Fiscal Year 2026. The rates will apply to all water bills issued after July 1, 2025. The proposed water rate schedule is as follows:
Base Charge: \$85 for up to 500 cubic feet quarterly (increase of \$10 per quarter)
\$6.00 per hundred cubic feet for 501 cubic feet or more quarterly (increase of \$1.00/hundred cubic feet)
West Brookfield residents and businesses that are connected to the Town’s water system are urged to attend.
For more information, please call the West Brookfield Water Department at 508-867-1421 x8.
West Brookfield Board of Water Commissioners

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UNIVERSAL

Summer programs at Richard Sugden Library

ADULTS
Wednesday July 9th Walk with Mary. Meet at TBD. Rain date: July 16th.
Monday, July 14th *Comedian, A.J. Hapenny will perform at the Spencer, American Legion at 6:30! This program as free. Ages 21+ are invited. Cash bar. This program iss sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.
Wednesday, July 16th *Outside Interactive Games will be held at O’Gara Park (155 Mechanic Street, Spencer) from 3:00-4:00. All Ages are invited. (No Sign up) This program is sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.
Thursday, July 17th *Delvena Theater returns: Bon Voyage Forever will be held at the Spencer, American Legion from 6:00-7:30. This program as free. Ages 21+ are invited. Cash bar. This program is sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.
Wednesday, July 23rd Walk with Mary. Meet at TBD. Rain date: July 30th
Thursday, July 24th *Silent Movie: Charlie Chaplain & the Circus with live piano accompaniment from 6:30-8:00 @ the Richard Sugen Library, Spencer. Adults (High School students+) are invited. This program is sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.
Saturday, August 2nd *Fresh Flower Arrangements from 10:00-11:00 to be held at

Bemis Farms Nursery. Tina Bemis will take us out the flower fields to cut fresh flowers. Then we'll design fresh flower bouquets in the nursery. Sign up required. Sign up for ‘Bemis flowers’ by calling the library at (508) 885-7513 x1 or on the library website: www.spencerpubliclibrary.org/adults. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Richard Sugden Library.
Wednesday, August 6th Walk with Mary. Meet at TBD. Rain date: August 13th.
Thursday, August 7th *Humor Me: Comedy & Music on Growing Old(er) with David Maloof will be held from 6:30-7:30 at the Richard Sugden Library, Spencer. This program is sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.
Monday, August 11th *Glow in the Dark Mini-Golf will be held from 3:00-6:00 at the Richard Sugden Library, Spencer. All ages are invited to come golf in the Library! This program is sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.
Weekly programs:
Mondays: Monday Group Spencer History Chats from 10:30-11:30
Tuesdays: Pause Meditation 9:00-10:00 and Crochet 10:30-11:30
Wednesdays: Knit with Us 3:00-4:00
CHILDRENS
July 7: Community Gaming Coalition comes to the library to lead grades 6-12 in a variety of table top games. Meets

5:00-7:00 at the Richard Sugden Library, Spencer.
July 8: Big Truck Day at the Spencer Highway Garage. All ages are invited to see the trucks and meet the people who drive them! Meets 3:00-4:00 at the Spencer Highway Garage, 7 Meadow Road, Spencer.
July 9: Improv with Paul Gleason! Grades 6-12 are invited to watch and participate in improvisation scenes with actor, Paul Gleason from 3:00-4:00 at the Richard Sugden Library, Spencer.
July 14: *Hands on Nature will be at the Spencer Fish and Game Club from 6:00-7:00 at 155 Mechanic Street, Spencer to share their Beginning Birding program. Learn about local birds and how to identify them and end with a craft. All ages are invited to this program sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.
July 15: Toddlers, Pre-K and their families are invited to a music and movement program with Deb Hudgins held at the Richard Sugden Library, Spencer from 10:00-10:45. This Program was sponsored by the Friends of the Richard Sugden Library.
Grades K-5 can participate in an interactive science and stories program, Adventure of the Missing Color with Science Heroes from 3:00-4:00 at the Richard Sugden Library. This program was made possible by donations made in memory of Judy Lamoureux.
July 16: All ages

are welcome to join *Knucklebones at O’Gara park, located at 99 Valley Street, Spencer from 3:00-4:00 as they lead us in a variety of outdoor games. This program was sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.
July 21: *Reptile Nook will be at the Spencer Fish and Game Club at 155 Mechanic Street, Spencer from 6:00-7:00. They will bring several reptiles for everyone to see and learn about and some we can even touch! All ages are invited to this program sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.
July 22: *Through Me To You Puppetry will be at the Richard Sugden Library from 10:00-11:00 for a puppet story time. Toddlers, Pre-K, and their families are invited to meet the puppets and share the stories!
July 23: Toddlers, Pre-K and their families are invited to a music and movement program with Julie Stepanek Murray held at the Richard Sugden Library from 10:00-10:45. This Program was sponsored by the Friends of the Richard Sugden Library and by Community Connections. Community Connections is a Coordinated Family & Community Engagement Grant program funded by the Department of Early Education and Care.
July 28: Grades 6-12 can learn how to play Magic the Gathering at the Richard Sugden Library from 5:00-6:00.

July 29: Bubble Party for toddlers, Pre-K, and their families from 10:00-11:00 at Powder Mill Park, located at 43 Smithville Road, Spencer. Sponsored by Community Connections. Community Connections is a Coordinated Family & Community Engagement Grant program funded by the Department of Early Education and Care.
July 30: Face painting for Grades K-12 with face painter, The Birthday Girl from 3:30-4:30. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Richard Sugden Library.
August 4: Grades 6-12 can learn how to play Magic the Gathering at the Richard Sugden Library from 5:00-6:00. Grades 6-12 can participate in the annual quiz “Are You Smarter Than A Librarian” where you can pit your wits against the librarians and answer ridiculous and zany questions! Who will win the coveted quack-tastic award this year?
August 5: *Talking Hands Theater brings their rapping puppet show “Big Daddy Z and the Greeks” to the Richard Sugden Library from 10:00-11:00. This show is geared for ages 7-14 and is sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.
August 6: Toddlers, Pre-K and their families are invited to a music and movement program with Music at the Blissful held at the Richard Sugden Library from 10:00-10:45. This Program

was sponsored by the Friends of the Richard Sugden Library and by Community Connections. Community Connections is a Coordinated Family & Community Engagement Grant program funded by the Department of Early Education and Care.
August 11: *One up Games is back and bringing their glow in the dark mini-golf to all 3 floors of the Richard Sugden Library from 3:00-6:00. This all ages program is sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.
August 12: The Children’s Summer Reading Finale will be held at Powder Mill park. Juniper Farms Ice Cream Truck will be there at 2:30 (sponsored by the Friends of the Richard Sugden Library) and followed by *Awesome Robb’s Magic Show at 3:00. This program is sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.
*These programs are supported in part by a grant from the Spencer Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.
The Massachusetts Statewide Summer Library Program is funded by the Massachusetts Library System, the Boston Bruins, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.
Check out the Richard Sugden Library, Spencer; website: www.spencer-publiclibrary.org

Leicester Library offers wide array of summer programs

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER
LEICESTER — An array of programs and activities will keep local guests busy this summer at Leicester Public Library.
“This summer, from June 24 through Aug. 15, the Leicester Public Library has a variety of programs and events for adults,” read a statement released by Director Suzanne Hall. “All visitors to the library get a ticket to win fabulous prizes, most of which were donated by local businesses and library patrons.”
Prizes include Amazon gift cards; lottery scratch tickets donated by P&H Property Consulting; horseback riding lessons; and a Leicester-themed basket donated by the Leicester PTO.
Participants can receive one ticket per day, simply by visiting the library.
In another exciting program, adults can challenge a library staff member of their choice to a summer reading contest. If you read more books than your librarian this summer, you can win both bragging rights and a small prize.
Several programs for teens are also available at the library this summer.
“Teens can check out their school summer reading books in a variety of formats, and enter to win prizes in our summer drawing,” read a statement released by library officials. “Teens can pick up one entry ticket per day at the library, and choose between teen and adult prizes.”
Additional information

on programs for teens, including craft and game nights, can be found at the library’s Web site.
Meanwhile, children’s librarian Kae Hart has a variety of programs planned for kids at the library.
“Check out your books for summer reading, earn beads and other weekly prizes,” the library-issued statement read.
Children’s programs include a Reading Dragons Book Club, craft activities, story-time sessions, a Puzzle Club, STEAM activities, and much more.
Further details and a full schedule are available in the calendar section of the library’s website.
In other library news, the Friends of the Leicester Public Library recently announced the receipt of a \$1,550 grant from the Leicester Savings Bank Foundation, through Greater Worcester Community Foundation.
The grant will allow the library to host a summer art series of programs for teens and adults.
On Tuesday, July 29, from 6-7:30 p.m., the library will host glass artist Deenie Pacik. Participants will make a fused glass coaster. No experience is necessary to attend this program, and all materials will be provided.
The program is suitable for guests ages 13 and above. The program is free, but registration is required.
On Thursday, July 31, from 6-9 p.m., Connecticut photographer Peter Glass will present a program

titled “Take Great Photos with your Smartphone.”
Glass will share tips and tricks to maximize your camera settings, frame subjects for maximum effect, and share free editing tools.
Attendees should bring their charged cell phones, a charging cord, and any accessories.
This free program is intended for guests ages 13 and above. Seating is limited, so registration is recommended.
Local watercolor artist Deborah Kirk will teach a watercolor workshop for beginners in August. The class will run for three nights: Thursday, Aug. 21, Tuesday, Aug. 26, and Thursday, Aug. 28 (all sessions will run from 6-8 p.m.).
Attendees will learn basic watercolor techniques. The final class will provide an opportunity to apply those techniques to your own original watercolor landscape painting.
All materials will be provided, and no experience is necessary to attend. The programs are free, but registration is required.
The series is suitable for guests ages 16 and above. Registration for Leicester residents begins July 31. Open registration begins Aug. 7.
“This event will take place over three evenings. Register for the first event only, and please only register if you can attend all three events,” the library-issued statement read.
To learn more about upcoming events at the library, visit www.leicesterlibrary.org. You may also call 508-892-7020.



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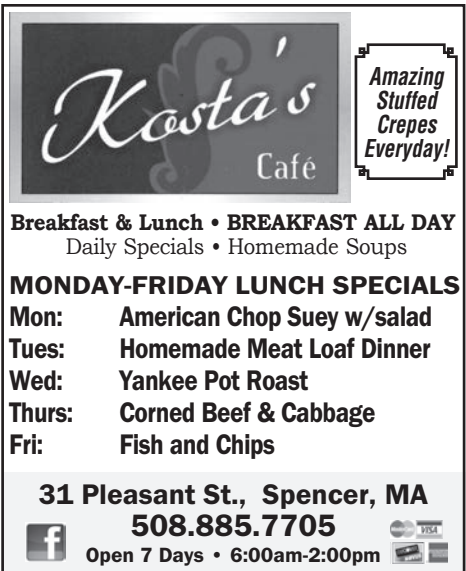
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Brookfields Lions Club awards local scholarships

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The Brookfields Lions Club has awarded ten scholarships totaling \$2,500 to local high school graduates, according to club president, William Cass.

Each year, the Lions award scholarships of up to \$500 to students who live within the club's service area, and attend one of five local high schools: David Prouty High School, Spencer; North Brookfield High School, North Brookfield; Quabbin Regional High School, Barre; Quaboag Regional High School, Warren, and Tantasqua Regional High School, Sturbridge.

“This year, the club's scholarship committee awarded scholarships of \$250 each to ten area students,” said Cass.

Alicia Sauvageau and Makenzie Morin, both of East Brookfield, are the recipients from David Prouty High School. Alicia is the daughter of Kayleen and Jason Sauvageau. She will be attending the University of Connecticut, Storrs, Conn., with a major in nursing with an emphasis on neonatal or pediatric intensive care. Makenzie is the daughter of Sarah and Eric Moring. She will be attending Collectiv Academy, Worcester, with a focus on cosmetology and esthetics.

Scholarship recipients from North Brookfield High School are Dayton Ford and Anthony Polanco. Dayton is the son of Jade and Channing Ford. He will be attending Assumption University, Worcester, where he will study biotechnology and engineering. Anthony is the son of Mandy Tetreault and Mario Polanco. He will be attending Russell Sage College, in Albany, N.Y., where he will study criminal justice and forensic science.

Two scholarships were awarded to graduates of Quabbin Regional High School from New Braintree. Samantha Carlson, daughter of Darcy and John Carlson, will be attending the UMass Amherst, where she will study biology. Nathan Pride, son of Jason Pride and Stacie Pride, will attend Renssalaer

Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y., where he will study business.

Both scholarship recipients from Quaboag High School live in West Brookfield. Falon (Jordan) Rice, daughter of Kelly Rice, will attend the University of Maine at Orono, Maine, where she plans to major in English with the goal of becoming a high school English teacher. Joshua Learning, son of Lindsay Yeager, will also attend the University of Maine and plans to major in psychology and theatre.

Jackson Landine and Anthony R. Fazzuoli are the scholarship recipients from Tantasqua Regional High School. A resident of Brookfield, Jackson is the son of Kelly and Jeff Landine. He will be pursuing a degree in finance and accounting, with a minor in computer science, at the University of Rhode Island, Kingston, R.I. Fazzuoli is the son of Despina and John Fazzuoli of West Brookfield. He will be attending UMass Amherst with a major in biology and a minor in psychology on a pre-med track.

To be eligible for a Brookfields Lions Club scholarship, applicants must be a resident of one of the Brookfields or New Braintree. The student's high school guidance director must include the student's class rank and sign the application, and the completed application must be submitted before the high school's spring break. To receive the scholarship, recipients must demonstrate that they are enrolled as a full-time college student and have earned passing grades.

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

Richard Sugden Library announces summer programming

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER
SPENCER — Guests are invited to enjoy a busy summer schedule of adult programs at Richard Sugden Library and other area venues.

On Monday, July 14, comedian A.J. Hapenny will perform at the Spencer American Legion at 6:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, this free program is for adults ages 21 and above. A cash bar will be offered.

On Wednesday, July 16, outdoor interactive games will be held at O'Gara Park (155 Mechanic Street, Spencer) from 3-4 p.m. Guests of all ages are invited to attend, with no registration required. This program is sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

On Thursday, July 17, Delvena Theater returns with a “Bon Voyage Forever” program held at the Spencer American Legion from 6-7:30 p.m. This free program is intended for guests ages 21 and above. A cash bar will be offered.

On Wednesday, July 23,

a Walk with Mary event will take place at a time to be determined. The rain date is July 30.

On Thursday, July 24, the following program will be offered: “Silent Movie: Charlie Chaplain & the Circus with live piano accompaniment.” This program will run from 6:30-8 p.m. at the library. High school students and adults are invited to attend this program sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

On Saturday, Aug. 2, fresh flower arrangements will be offered from 10-11 a.m. This program will take place at Bemis Farms Nursery.

“Tina Bemis will take us out to the flower fields to cut fresh flowers. Then we'll design fresh flower bouquets in the nursery,” read a statement released by library officials.

Registration is required to attend this event. Guests can sign up by calling the library at 508-885-7513 (ext. 1), or by visiting the library website: www.spencerpubliclibrary.org/adults.

This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Richard Sugden

Library.

On Wednesday, August 6, a Walk with Mary program will take place at a time to be determined. The rain date is Aug. 13.

The following program will be offered on Thursday, Aug. 7: “Humor Me: Comedy and Music on Growing Old(er) with David Maloof.”

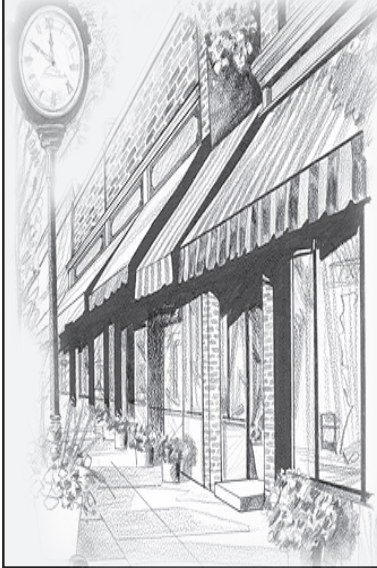
This program will be held from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Richard Sugden Library.

On Monday, Aug. 11, glow-in-the-dark mini-golf will be held from 3-6 p.m. at the library. Guests of all ages are invited to golf in the library. This program is sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

The library is also offering the following weekly adult programs: Monday group chats on Spencer history (10:30-11:30 a.m.); Tuesday meditation programs (9-10 a.m.) and crochet activities (10:30-11:30 a.m.); and Wednesday Knit with Us programming (3-4 p.m.).

To learn more about upcoming library programs, or to register for a program, visit www.spencerpubliclibrary.org/adults.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

The power of a local reset: Why time off doesn't always mean getting away

In a world that is go, go, go, taking time off is often seen as a luxury. But it's not; rather, it's a necessity. And it doesn't require a plane ticket or an elaborate itinerary: sometimes, the best kind of break is the one you take without ever leaving town.

Stepping away from your daily grind, even for a few days, allows your mind to unclench and your shoulders to drop. Whether you're walking a familiar trail with no notifications pinging in your pocket or sipping coffee on your porch without a single obligation, local rest is still rest.

In small towns and rural places, we often think we have to "go somewhere" to recharge. But a reset can happen in your own zip code. Turn off the emails, skip a meeting and leave your to-do list for another day. Give yourself permission to be unavailable. That's not laziness, it's healthy.

We tell each other to check in on neighbors, to care for our communities, but how often do we check in on ourselves? Time off isn't selfish; it's how we stay grounded, how we avoid burnout, and how we keep showing up for others.

So, if you need a break, take one. Walk the back roads. Sit by the river. Read a book you already own. Say no to things that drain you, and yes to stillness. Even ten miles from home, you can still find the space to reset.

You don't owe the world constant productivity. You do, however, owe yourself a little breathing room every once in a while.

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

Trump's homophobic cult show their true colors

To the Editor:
Trump and his cult followers are truly homophobic.

Trump's sycophant Pete Hegseth (remember him, the SignalGate guy?) has ordered the name of a US Navy ship, a fleet oiler named 10 years ago for Harvey Milk, the US Navy veteran who was the openly gay San Francisco Board of Supervisors elected member who was murdered in 1978, along with Mayor Mascone, to be renamed.

A Pentagon spokesman said in a written statement, "Secretary Hegseth is committed to ensuring that the names attached to all DOD installations and assets are reflective of the Commander-in-Chief's [remember him? President Bone Spurs?] priorities, our nation's history, and the warrior ethos"...as if Trump knows what

that is...

In response, Speaker Nancy Pelosi said in a written statement, "Our military is the most powerful in the world – but this spiteful move does not strengthen our national security or the 'warrior' ethos. Instead, it is a surrender of a fundamental American value; to honor the legacy of those who worked to build a better country."

Even the MAGA cult has to admit that Trump dodged the draft by claiming that he had "bone spurs." A claim that was supported by a doctor who, oh by the way, was a tenant in one of Trump's father's properties. Hmmm... does that sound fishy to you?

ANTHONY FERNANDES
WEST BROOKFIELD

Let's MASA (Make America Safe Again)

To the Editor:
Last week's letter, "Nightmare on Your Street," was made possible by the four previous years of the corrupt President Joe "Autopen" Biden, who opened our borders to allow illegal aliens to flood into our country unvetted! There was No "due process" for the more than 18 million illegals to come into America but now are demanding "due process" before being deported! Amazing! This is why we need the brave and courageous men and women of ICE to capture jail and help deport criminal illegal aliens!

Remember, anyone coming into our country illegally is breaking the law. Stop listening to Fake News that says they are going to "disappear" you! If you are a legal American citizen or have an unexpired VISA, you have nothing to fear! I support ICE 100 percent!

Now, here is the real definition of ICE: Immigration and Customs Enforcement – Now let them do their job!

LINDA BUCKLEY
LEICESTER

Readers Share Favorite Hacks and Hints

Summer is gearing up, and thanks to readers who took time out from their busy summer activities to share tips and tricks they've discovered to make life a little easier. From whipping up a foot detox to halting hiccups, the following ideas from readers, are sure to be helpful!

And remember readers, send in your favorite, hints for a chance to win a three course dinner for two at the Publick House in Sturbridge! **

A reader sent in an informative tip that's out of this world!:

If you consume Dill, it improves digestion, and reduces gas.

Russian astronauts consumed dill before boarding the international space station.
Helen Krispien
Sturbridge, MA
**

This reader shares how to turn pantry staples into a soothing soak:

Here is a recipe for a foot bath to detox: Mix together ½ cup Epsom salts and ½ cup Bragg's Apple Cider Vinegar (with the Mother). Add to a basin of warm water. If needed, rinse and dry.
Rose Angelo
Webster, MA
**

The following trio of assorted tips and tricks tackle life's little hassles:

1. When you have a recipe that calls for chopped onions, you should put the onions in the freezer for 15 minutes. This will reduce eye irritation.

2. The best way to get rid of hiccups is to



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

breathe into a bag. Study say that carbon dioxide in your bloodstream is the key to hiccup relief. When you blow into the bag, you blow in carbon dioxide. Then you breathe it in and this eliminates the hiccups.

3. If you want ice cubes to be clear and less cloudy, you should use boiled water. Boiling water removes impurities that make ice cloudy.
Donna Lewandowski
Charlton, MA
**

This reader is basically the McGyver of eating on the cheap while traveling!:

Last month I made it to our Kentucky Derby family reunion. Airport food is expensive with Logan and elsewhere charging over \$15.00 for a salad. Eating more healthy food is my goal, so I improvised:

I used an XL-plastic soda cup with lid; my brother had, added bagged salad from the local grocery (used a coupon and it was reduced as the next day was the shelf life- \$2.00 bag made four salads). I added some celery, baby carrots, cucumbers and 2 tablespoons of dressing. Shook the cup, put in a plastic fork, sealed it all in a Ziplock bag. I ate one for lunch before boarding and one with my healthy vegetarian sandwich for dinner, after landing (which due

to a New England rain storm was a four hour delay). I was able to eat healthy and well within my budget!

Viola Bramel
Northbridge, MA
**

Prize Winner
Congratulations to Helen Krispien of Sturbridge, whose name was drawn for Dinner for Two at the Publick House. She shared the dill tip above.
**

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

Work toward your own financial independence day



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We're getting close to the Fourth of July, our national Independence Day. This celebration may get you thinking of the many freedoms you enjoy. But have you thought of what you might need to do to attain financial freedom?

Your first step is to define what financial independence signifies to you. For many people, it means being able to retire when they want to, and to enjoy a comfortable retirement lifestyle. So, if this is your vision as well, consider taking these steps:

Pay yourself first. If you wait until you have some extra money "lying around" before you invest for retirement, you may never get around to doing it. Instead, pay yourself first. This actually is not that hard to do, especially if you have a 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan, because your contributions are taken directly from your paycheck, before you even have the chance to spend the money. You can set up a similar arrangement with an IRA by having automatic contributions taken directly from your checking or savings account.

Invest appropriately. Your investment decisions should be guided by your retirement goals, along with how long you have before you need the money and how comfortable you are with different levels of investment risk. If you deviate from these guideposts — for instance, by taking on either too much or too little risk — you may end up making decisions that aren't right for you and that may set you back as you pursue your financial independence.

Avoid financial "potholes." The road to financial liberty will always be marked with potholes you should avoid. One such pothole is debt — the higher your debt burden, the less you can invest for your retirement. It's not always easy to lower your debt load, but do the best you can to live within your means. A second pothole comes in the form of large, unexpected short-term costs, such as a major home or auto repair or a medical bill not fully covered by insurance. To avoid dipping into your long-term investments to pay for these short-term costs, try to build an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account.

Give yourself some wiggle room. If you decide that to achieve financial independence, you must retire at 62 or you must buy a vacation home by the beach, you may feel disappointed if you fall short of these goals. But if you're prepared to accept some flexibility in your plans — perhaps you can work until 65 or just rent a vacation home for the summer — you may be able to earn a different, but still acceptable, financial freedom. And by working a couple of extra years or paying less for your vacation home expenses, you may also improve your overall financial picture.

Putting these and other moves to work can help you keep moving toward your important goals. When you eventually reach your own "Financial Independence Day," it may not warrant a fireworks display — but it should certainly add some sparkle to your life.

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.

Gold and silver coins and sterling silver

Today, I'll discuss number 3 on my top 10 list of antiques and collectibles, which is gold and silver coins and sterling silver. There are many non-silver or non-gold coins that can be valuable, but I will discuss these examples in a future column. Silver and gold coins made my top 10 list because they are all worth at least their melt value.

We typically handle between five and ten coin collections a year. If you have coins that you saved or inherited, you can do some research to learn more about them. Dimes, quarters, half dollars, and dollar coins made in 1964 or earlier are made with 90 percent



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WAYNE TUISKULA

silver. Coins may also have numismatic value, aka the value to collectors. As with other collectibles, age and condition are important factors. Where the coins were made is another important factor. Silver coins were made in many countries throughout the world. Within the United States, coins were minted in different cities including Philadelphia, Denver, and San Francisco. There can also be variations of certain coins, for example seven versus eight tail feathers on the eagle on a silver dollar. These factors all play a part in the value.

Gold coins have some similarities to silver coins, such as the condition and age being

important factors. Gold coins were also made in other countries and minted in different cities in the United States. Sterling silver serving pieces are like coins in that some may be worth just the silver value, while others are worth much more than their melt value. Sterling silver is 92.5 percent pure, so it has a little more silver content than coins. Pieces crafted by important silversmiths or well-regarded manufacturers, or those that are well-designed can increase value well above the silver content.

For example, a silver set by silversmith Ephraim Brasher, a neighbor of George Washington, sold for \$4,250, well above the silver price at the time we sold it. A Tiffany sterling silver Olympian flatware set brought \$3,500, which was close to twice what it would have brought in

melt value. An 1889-CC Morgan silver dollar sold for over \$800 when the silver value was around \$20 or \$25 at the time, likely because not many silver dollars were minted at the Carson City mint that year. We sold a 1924 St. Gauden's \$20 gold Double Eagle coin for \$2,400 in 2022. The condition of that coin increased its value by about 50%.

The price of gold and silver fluctuates over time, and prices regularly rise and drop. Silver was selling for \$29.09 per ounce in late June 2024 and it's at \$35.95 as I write this column. In late June last year, gold was \$2,324.98 per ounce and now it's reached \$3,384 per ounce. If you have a coin that's worth its weight in gold, you can be thankful it's at this year's price.

We just had a sale with coins end this week and are accepting more con-



signments. We will have many sets of sterling silver in an upcoming fall/winter sale. We continue to work on a Civil War auction, Laurel and Hardy memorabilia auction, and major auction with gold, sterling, art, and antiques. We also continue to accept consignments for future sales. Please visit our website [https://central-](https://central-massauctions.com)

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

Imagine your alarm blaring at 6:30 a.m. You hit snooze, sit up, and feel your chest tighten as your mind floods with errands—grocery run, project meeting at ten, soccer pickup at five. Maybe you spill coffee on your shirt, making things worse. Thoughts rush like rapids: “Did I send that report? Where are my keys? Ugh, traffic.”

But you don't have to jump into every rapid. You

can sit on the riverbank of your awareness and simply watch each swell of thought roll past like a leaf on water.

Later, you're stuck in traffic, brake lights glowing ahead, and a car horn blares behind you. Your mind churns: “I'll be late. My boss will be furious. I'm failing.”

Don't drown yourself in worry. At that moment, I shifted roles from panicked swimmer

to calm spectator. Name the feeling—“That's anxiety”—then take a slow, deep breath, picturing the worry as a single leaf drifting downstream.

As Eckhart Tolle teaches, “You are the observer of your thoughts, not the thoughts themselves.” From your spot on the bank, the swirling water can't reach you.

Back at your desk, you open a harsh email from a coworker—“They must

think I'm terrible at my job.” Your gut tightens, and your first urge is to fire off a reply as you press your coffee to your lips.

Take a pause and imagine that sharp feeling as just another small wave on the river. Push your feet onto the floor and let your shoulders relax.

Marcus Aurelius wrote, “You have power over your mind—not outside events.” Allow yourself to stand on solid ground at the river's edge, not in the rushing current.

At lunch, you scroll through social media and feel that familiar tug of comparison—“Everyone else's life looks perfect.” Your soup grows cold as images of smiling faces and highlight reels wash over you.

Instead of diving in, stop and ask, “What am I feeling?” Maybe it's envy, stress, or boredom. Then, take a full, slow breath, feeling your shoulders drop. Picture that thought as a stray twig on a river, carried away around a bend until the surface smooths out again.

In the afternoon, a friend or family member offers criticism, and your

stomach flips like a turbulent whirlpool. Your eyes may narrow, and your heart might race. You might want to snap back or explain yourself.

Instead, mark the thought—label it “hurt” or “defensiveness”—and step back on the bank. Picture the idea as a swirl in the water. Breathe in, breathe out, and feel the pull of that mental current weaken as it drifts away. Let yourself remain dry and solid at the river's edge and choose how—or whether—to respond.

That night, lying in bed, your mind replays every awkward comment or mistake on a nonstop loop, turning your thoughts into a rushing river.

Your mind is shining a spotlight on your errors. With practice, you can whisper, “I'm just getting caught up in the stream of worry again,” and step back, then let it float away until it disappears. You stay on the bank—fully awake and free. If new worries arrive—about work, money, or relationships—you do the same: name it, breathe, and release.

Why does this help? The instant you step off the

mental treadmill and onto the riverbank of awareness, you carve out a tiny gap between stimulus and reaction. That gap may feel small—just a breath—but it's enormous in what it gives you: choice.

In that space, you decide whether to wade into the current or stay dry. Over time, as you observe and label each mental flow, your responses soften. Your brain calms, and you make smarter moves instead of getting swept away.

You can practice this anywhere — walking to class, waiting in line, or sitting at home. When a thought pops up—nerves about a test, panic over a project, or judgment about a friend—stop, name it, breathe, and picture it drifting away.

This habit takes just seconds but changes everything. You are the riverbank, not the torrents. Notice the current, label it, breathe, and let it pass. In that simple act of observation lies true freedom—and a calmer, more joyful life.

POSITIVELY
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Maximize your harvest with succession planting



Melinda Myers

A second planting after harvesting your first crop is possible if there is enough time for it to mature and be harvested before the end of the growing season.

Make the most of every square inch of garden space and containers with succession planting. As you harvest your first crop of the season, consider replanting the space with a vegetable that will mature and can be harvested before the end of the growing season.

Start by calculating the number of frost-free days remaining in your growing season. Next review the plant tags and seed packets for the number of days from planting to harvest. Compare these two to see if you have time to replant one or maybe even two more quick-maturing vegetables in that space.

Keep in mind that cool season crops like lettuce, spinach and radishes perform and taste best when grown and harvested during the cooler months of spring and fall. Consider using these quick-maturing vegetables as your last planting of the season.

Others, like broccoli, collards and kale, taste even better after a light frost. Planting these so they mature in fall is another way to extend the harvest for maximum flavor and nutrition.

Warm season vegetables, like beans and cucumbers, are perfect for a summer planting. They prefer warm air and soil for the best growth and productivity.

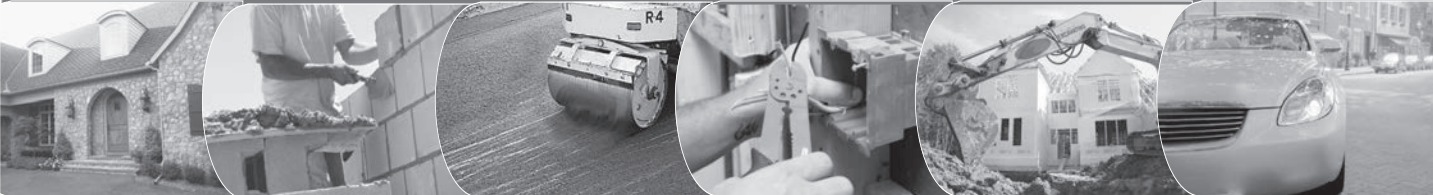
Here are a few vegetables you may want to include in your succession planting this summer. Leaf lettuce and spinach prefer cooler temperatures and depending on the variety are ready to harvest in 30 to 60 days. If you can't wait for cooler weather, try growing more heat-tolerant greens, like Sandy and Red Sails lettuce, and although they are not true spinaches New Zealand and Malabar are more heat tolerant and provide a similar flavor.

End the season with a harvest of peas. Short varieties, like Patio Pride and Sugar Ann sugar snap peas and Maestro and Laxton's Progress #9 shelling peas, are perfect for containers and small spac-

es. Root crops make great additions to succession plantings. Salad radishes are ready to harvest in 25 to 30 days, beets in 50 to 60 days, and carrots in 60 to 70 days. Bush beans prefer warm temperatures and are ready to begin picking in 50 to 80 days. Mascotte compact snap beans are productive compact plants perfect for containers and window boxes. You'll start harvesting these in as few as 50 days. Cucumbers and summer squash are another option for summer plantings. Vining varieties can be trained onto a

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Leicester Middle School announces honor roll

LEICESTER — Leicester Middle School has released its honor roll for the fourth quarter of the 2024-2025 school year.

High Honors

8th Grade: Camden Beaudry, Elijah Belisle, John Derrick, Javier Flores, Liam Gentile, Benjamin Hagglund, Papayaw Larbi, Rocco Lauder, Tighe Lauder, Kingston Nguyen, Nick Nguyen, Thinh Pham, Hunter Wright

7th Grade: Beverly Ampaw, Maxwell Belizaire, Justin Cai, Olivia Cardona, Avery Cole, Mila Cortes, Gavin Ford, Adalynn Grant, Shelby Grant, Haidi Hadi, Christopher Harrington, Tyler Kularski, Fiona Liebman, Chloe Mayotte, Cadence Medeiros, Emma Mercier, Cole Milgate, Owen Murphy, Sonya Potvin, Hailey Rooney, Lily Schrader, Joseph Ukoh, Leah Varney

6th Grade: Juliette Bellisario, Edmund Besse, Aubrey Bullock, Brooklyn Bullock, Anna Derrick, Raegan Higgins, Sophia Kennedy, Larissa LaFlamme, Nanakwasi Larbi, Kason Ward

5th Grade: Skylar Backstrom, Vivienne Belizaire, Giuliana Escobar, Aoife Kane, Emmaline Milgate, Tylor Moorghen, Layla Mullins, Taymiyyah Sullivan, Madison Westberg, Dylan Williams

Honors

8th Grade: Camryn Adams, Godfrey Angua-Mante, Ethan Ayite, Jansen Benton, Sophia Coghlan, George Cornell, Alexis Dould, Brody Dufries, Braydon Herbert, Liana LaFlamme, Lincoln Meloche, Jaedyn Perry, Lily Schimke, Malin Stimson, Marielee Valentin, Robert Zinkevich

7th Grade: Dianexiz Acevedo-Ortiz, Elisa Aguirre, Griffin Bayer, Trey Blais, Jolene Boudreau, Annika Bowen, Landon Bullock, Bridget Dillon, Athena Flanders, Ava Johnston, Aaliyah Layne, Ayla Lis, Reagan Lyon, Benjamin Marjault, Charlie Marttila, Francis Marubu, Gianna Munoz, Sophia Muzzy, Isabella Nugent, Nana Obeng, Devin Robert, Owen Saari, David Sanborn, Kayzen Santana-Ernestburg, Rayman Singharaj, Diego Suarez Ramirez, Anthony Sullivan, Jackson Trainor, Aiden Valinski, Amy Van Hazinga, Brody Weber

6th Grade: Phillip Armstrong, Mackenzie Beaulac, Victoria Cardona, Daniel Ciciliane, Matthew Cormier, Celeste Couture, Ava Cruz, Logan Curren, Rylee Garrahe, Siobhan Kane, Damon Kobel, Kris Lapi, Nora MacDonnell, Olivia Maki, Jackson

McKenzie, Jayden Moore, Stacy Morrobel Dominguez, Benjamin Murphy, Ilaan Narcisse, Dominic Oldham, Logan Perry, Theresa Reynolds, Hugo Salas, Leonel Sanchez Orellana

5th Grade: Maxwell Alade, Gannon Arnberg, Kaydence Beamenderfer, Nolan Beaudry, Summer Blais, Stratton Bombard, Huy Bui, Addyson Conway, Leah Cunningham, Calvin Fryer, Hunter Hayes, Rosalie Hayes, Sophia Heguys, Adhuresa Latifi, Luke LeBlanc, Jonathan Letourneau, Noah Loosemore, Benjamin Machado, Jackson McCauley, Santy Melendez Vasquez, Dylan Mercier, Anna Nguyen, Hafsa Oubih, Blake Potvin, Emilianna Rodriguez, Dominic Salas, Helena Senko, Julianna Trainor, Brandon Ukpong, Enzo Valente Senna, Tristan Walsh, Finian Wood, Julian Wooden

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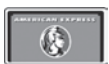
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World FACT:

Burj Khalifa is the tallest skyscraper in the world. It is 2,722 feet tall and can be found in this country.

Answer: United Arab Emirates

How they say that in...

- English: Elevator
- Spanish: Ascensor
- Italian: Ascensore
- French: Ascenseur
- German: Fahrstuhl

What's the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.

A



B



Answers: 1. Boat in water 2. Extra antenna on building 3. Missing C&C from building sign 4. Left building is taller

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1848: A photograph of the June Days uprising becomes the first known representation of photojournalism.

1947: "The Diary of a Young Girl" is published.

1997: The National Hockey League approves expansion franchises for four cities.

NEW WORD HIGH-RISE

a building with occupied floors more than 75 feet above street level

Did You Know?

Chicago's Home Insurance Building is widely considered the world's first skyscraper. Skyscrapers enable more offices or homes to be built in urban areas.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Skyscraper top

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to roller coasters. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 1 = E)

A. 18 24 1 1 22

Clue: Velocity

B. 2 1 14 25 2 26

Clue: How tall

C. 26 6 11 3 23 18

Clue: Rails

D. 11 4 9 18 1 4 1 5 26

Clue: Diversion

Answers: A. speed B. height C. tracks D. amusement

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

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

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LEGALS

Town of West Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals

A public hearing will be held on
Tuesday, July 8, at 6:00 p.m. at the
West Brookfield Town Hall, to act on
an application for a Special Permit, for
the property located at 39 Foster Hill
Road, West Brookfield. The applicant
wishes to construct a building on an
undersized lot. A special permit is
required.
June 27, 2025
July 4, 2025

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The Town of Spencer is seeking proposals for a Wireless Data Transfer Facility on a portion of the former Lake Street School, located at 17 Lake Street / 42 Highland Street, Spencer, Massachusetts. Request for proposal documents including property information, the submission requirements, and the terms and conditions can be found at www.SpencerMA.gov/Bids. Responses to the Request for Proposals must be received by 11:00 AM, EST, on July 28, 2025. This request for proposal is issued by the Town Administrator's office, Spencer,

MA.
June 20, 2025
June 27, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO23P3880EA
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

Estate Of:
DOREEN M ANGERS
Also Known As:
DOREEN ANGERS
Date of Death: 08-15-2023

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner
TANYA ANGERS of Spencer MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
TANYA ANGERS of Spencer MA has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve surety on the bond.
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties

are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
June 27, 2025

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POLICE REPORTS

Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, JUNE 12
7:14 a.m.: open door/window (Main Street), bldg. secure; 8:49 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 9:00 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, unregistered mv, criminal application issued; 9:23 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, no inspection sticker, criminal application issued; 10:18 a.m.: commercial alarm (Stafford Street), resolved; 10:48 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 11:04 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, number plate violation to conceal ID, unregistered mv, criminal application issued; 11:14 a.m.: animal complaint (Mulberry Street), referred; 1:37 p.m.: wires down (Henshaw Street), resolved; 1:39 p.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 1:55 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), services rendered; 4:28 p.m.: ambulance (McCarthy Avenue), transported; 4:52 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), assisted; 5:17 p.m.: summons service (Main Street), unable to serve; 5:37 p.m.: keep the peace (Brookside Drive), services rendered; 7:04 p.m.: welfare check (Brook Street), assisted; 7:43 p.m.: animal complaint (Carleton Road), referred.

FRIDAY, JUNE 13
1:47 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:02 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 12:18 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), assisted; 12:25 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), services rendered; 12:34 p.m.: hit/run accident (River Street), name and address redacted from police log, leaving the scene of a property damage accident, criminal application issued; 1:22 p.m.: disturbance (Stafford Street), services rendered; 2:04 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 3:18 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), services rendered; 3:26 p.m.: ambulance (Siani Road), transported; 4:58

p.m.: summons service (Main Street), unable to serve; 5:22 p.m.: disabled mv (Henshaw Street), resolved; 5:32 p.m.: disabled mv (Henshaw Street), mv towed; 8:29 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Stafford Street), investigated.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14
12:30 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:33 a.m.: mv stop (McNeil Highway), investigated; 5:41 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:57 a.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), unable to locate; 1:39 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), resolved; 2:11 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 4:10 p.m.: ambulance (Eleanor Terrace), transported; 4:20 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 8:34 p.m.: ambulance (Ingram Road), transported; 9:25 p.m.: assist other PD (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 11:39 p.m.: suspicious mv (Pine Street), unable to locate.

SUNDAY, JUNE 15
7:09 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 8:32 a.m.: assist citizen (Pine Ridge Drive); 9:15 a.m.: ambulance (Paxton Street), transported; 9:49 a.m.: ambulance (Hemlock Street), transported; 9:50 a.m.: summons service (Main Street), unable to serve; 12:23 p.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), resolved; 12:36 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 2:23 p.m.: disturbance (Soojians Drive), peace restored; 4:34 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 6:49 p.m.: animal complaint (South Street), referred; 7:53 p.m.: welfare check (Upton Street), assisted; 8:04 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), referred; 8:44 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 11:06 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken.

MONDAY, JUNE 16
1:41 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:15 a.m.: assist other agency (Upton Street), services rendered; 7:19 a.m.: keep the peace (Upton Street), assisted; 7:29 a.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), referred; 7:37 a.m.: ambulance (Locust Street), transported; 8:32 a.m.: lobby service (South Main Street), assisted; 5:48 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (South Main Street), resolved; 5:56 p.m.: summons service (South Main Street), served; 6:12 p.m.: ambulance (First Street, Worcester), transported; 6:18 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), assisted; 7:32 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), shoplifting by asportation/2nd offense, criminal application issued; name and address redacted from police log, shoplifting by asportation.

TUESDAY, JUNE 17
12:03 a.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), assisted; 8:15 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 9:40 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 12:03 p.m.: summons service (Woodland Road), unable to serve; 1:04 p.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), services rendered; 1:12 p.m.: restraining order service (Pleasant Street), unable to serve; 3:10 p.m.: disturbance (Soojians Drive),

spoken to; 8:44 p.m.: mv stop (Memorial School Drive), spoken to.

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Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11
Sometime between 1:35-3:00 a.m. (not included on public log), address of incident not noted on log, Curtis P. Bealand, 33, 14 Smithville Road, Spencer, OUI liquor; negligent operation, leaving the scene of a property damage accident, arrest; 4:40 a.m.: animal complaint (Mechanic Street), dog bite; 7:00 a.m.: building checked, secure; 9:36 a.m.: disturbance (Wm. Casey Road), rep. of loud yelling; 10:01 a.m.: larceny (Cherry Street), rep. poss. stolen scooter; 10:10 a.m.: domestic abuse (West Main Street), poss. restraining order violation; 10:26 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo; 10:57 a.m.: mv lockout (Main Street), assisted; 11:54 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Fitchburg PD bolo; 12:39 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Charlton PD bolo; 1:22 p.m.: animal complaint (North Spencer Road), loose dog; 1:58 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 2:40 p.m.: suspicious persons (Adams Street), rep. poss. drug use; 3:05 p.m.: suspicious persons (Crestview Drive), spoken to; 4:41 p.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), rep. young child walking alone; 5:52 p.m.: commercial alarm (West Main Street), services rendered; 7:17 p.m.: RV complaint (Smithville Road), dirt bike/donuts in intersection; 7:46 p.m.: animal complaint (South Spencer Road), loose dogs; 8:09 p.m.: disabled mv (North Spencer Road), assisted; 9:05 p.m.: officer wanted (Smithville Road), req. welfare check/poss. OD; 10:00 p.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), assisted; (total daily mv stops – 5).

THURSDAY, JUNE 12
12:44-2:18 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:02 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 3:09 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), ofc. flagged by citizen; 3:50 a.m.: medical/general (Clark Road); 4:37 a.m.: medical/general (Kittredge Road); 4:55 a.m.: residential alarm (Jolicoeur Avenue), services rendered; 6:33 a.m.: animal complaint (Mechanic Street), rep. animal bite; 8:55 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. assistance; 11:00 a.m.: parking complaint (Mechanic Street), van on sidewalk; 11:14 a.m.: medical/general (Bay Path Road); 12:11 p.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), wallet found; 12:16 p.m.: DPW call (Clark Road), wires down; 12:19 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), rep. missing cat; 12:22 p.m.: animal complaint (Clark Street), re: dead rabbits; 12:38 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 1:11 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), services rendered; 2:09 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 2:32 p.m.: disabled mv (North Spencer Road), assisted; 3:54 p.m.: 911 call (Main Street), accidental; 4:26 p.m.: DPW call (Irving Street), re: water leak; 4:56 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 5:13 p.m.: officer wanted (Lakeshore Drive), re: custody issue; 5:33 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 8:13 p.m.: officer wanted (G.H. Wilson Road), rep. restraining order violation; 8:48 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), rep. poss. accident; 9:42 p.m.: disturbance (Chestnut Street), noise complaint; 10:17 p.m.: suspicious persons (Cranberry Meadow Road), investigated; 10:49 p.m.: medical/general (Condon Road); 11:04 p.m.: medical/general (McCormick Road); (total daily mv stops – 2).

FRIDAY, JUNE 13
1:15 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 2:01 a.m.: officer wanted (Bixby Road), rep. poss. vandalism; 2:24-2:38 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:42 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: retrieving belongings; 3:01 a.m.: medical/general (Kittredge Road); 3:57 a.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), loose dog; 4:09 a.m.: fire alarm (Maple Street), referred; 6:50 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 6:51 a.m.: animal complaint (High Street), loose dog; 7:56 a.m.: parking complaint (Temple Street), resolved; 8:54 a.m.: suspicious persons (High Street), investigated; 9:24 a.m.: lost/found (Howe Road), backpack at park; 10:36 a.m.: 911 call (Hasting Road), rep. disturbing phone call; 10:51 a.m.: suspicious persons (Paxton Road), info taken; 11:08 a.m.: suspicious persons (Paxton Road), investigated; 11:17 a.m.: suspicious persons (Mechanic Street), rep. shoes taken; 11:18 a.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 11:21 a.m.: animal complaint (North Brookfield Road), loose pig; 11:23 a.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), door open at abandoned house; 11:56 a.m.: accident (Crestview Drive), mv vs deer; 12:43 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Leicester PD bolo; 12:44 p.m.: mv complaint (Charlton Road), erratic operator; 12:46 p.m.: disturbance (Chestnut Street), services rendered; 1:01 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), re: dog at vet's; 1:46 p.m.: medical/general (Brooks Pond Road); 2:04 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 3:02 p.m.: restraining order service (G.H. Wilson Road); 3:33 p.m.: medical/general (Hastings Road), lift assist; 4:25 p.m.:

officer wanted (Charlton Road), poss. tenant/landlord dispute; 4:49 p.m.: medical/general (Pleasant Street); 6:03 p.m.: medical/general (Pleasant Street); 6:46 p.m.: fraud (Main Street), report taken; 7:31 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 7:48 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Main Street), referred; 7:56 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Wilson Street), referred; 8:57 p.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); (total daily mv stops – 0).

SATURDAY, JUNE 14
1:14 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), St. V's cath lab down; 2:02 a.m.: officer wanted (Pioneer Valley Drive), unwanted parties; 3:34 a.m.: mutual aid (Main Street), Leicester PD bolo/failure to stop; 3:45 a.m.: domestic (Temple Street), gf took car w/out permission; 3:55 a.m.: domestic (Mechanic Street), neighbor req. help; 4:36 a.m.: 911 call (Pioneer Valley Drive), accidental; 10:34 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), rep. road rage; 10:40 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), rep. vandalism; 10:43 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), rep. road rage; 10:48 a.m.: officer wanted (Debbie Drive), spoken to; 11:00 a.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 11:02 a.m.: officer wanted (Prospect Street), re: note left on car; 11:05 a.m.: officer wanted (Kittredge Road), party left hospital; 11:08 a.m.: officer wanted (Chickering Road), party w/suspended license driving mv; 11:16 a.m.: disturbance (Cherry Street), neighbor dispute; 11:41 a.m.: hit/run accident (South Street), report taken; 11:49 a.m.: fire alarm (Howe Village), referred; 12:36 p.m.: domestic (Main Street), rep. restraining order violation; 12:48 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street) re: text from RMV; 1:01 p.m.: juvenile matter (Chestnut Street), father/son dispute; 1:07 p.m.: medical/general (Condon Drive); 3:09 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), St. V's cardiac cath lab down; 6:10 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 6:21 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 6:39 p.m.: medical/general (Donnelly Road); 6:48 p.m.: animal complaint (McCormick Road), bear in yard; 8:03 p.m.: medical/general (Duggan Street); 9:53 p.m.: officer wanted (Cherry Street), fireworks/gunshots heard; 10:00 p.m.: domestic (Ash Street), restraining order violation; 10:16 p.m.: medical/general (Pioneer Valley Drive); 11:07 p.m.: 911 call (Cherry Street), hang-up; (total daily mv stops – 2).

SUNDAY, JUNE 15
12:58-3:25 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:47 a.m.: animal complaint (Hastings Road), c/o barking dog; 8:41 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 9:37 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo; 10:01 a.m.: 911 call (Church Street), accidental; 11:39 a.m.: medical/general (Briarcliff Lane); 12:38 p.m.: officer wanted (Terkanian Drive), re: text from RMV; 12:51 p.m.: officer wanted (Ash Street), re: text from RMV; 1:23 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), North Brookfield PD bolo; 2:35 p.m.: accident (Gauthier Road), report taken; 5:00 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 5:51 p.m.: juvenile matter (Maple Street), rep. young girl home alone; 7:10 p.m.: medical/general (Kittredge Road); 8:52 p.m.: animal complaint (Old East Charlton Road), c/o barking dog; 9:11 p.m.: medical/overdose (Chestnut Street); 11:44 p.m.: suspicious mv (West Main Street), investigated; (total daily mv stops – 1).

MONDAY, JUNE 16
12:44-1:57 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:08 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 5:26 a.m.: officer wanted (G.H. Wilson Road), concerned for neighbor; 6:44 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 8:48 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 9:55 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:59 a.m.: animal complaint (Hastings Road), bear in neighborhood; 10:01 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 10:02 a.m.: medical/general (Sherry Lane); 10:17 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 10:25 a.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), req. ACO; 10:39 a.m.: residential alarm (R. Jones Road), services rendered; 11:36 a.m.: suspicious persons (Maple Street), investigated; 11:44 a.m.: citizen complaint (Clark Road), c/o speeding; 11:45 a.m.: medical/general (Marble Road); 11:56 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 12:20 p.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 12:30 p.m.: harassment prevention order service (West Main Street); 12:42 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 1:03 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 1:25 p.m.: medical/general (Hastings Road); 2:23 p.m.: suspicious persons (Dale Street), investigated; 3:06 p.m.: elderly matter (Smithville Road), req. welfare check; 3:46 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 5:05 p.m.: officer wanted (Donnelly Cross Road), req. welfare check; 5:40 p.m.: juvenile matter (Cranberry Meadow Road), re: intoxicated juvenile; 6:33 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Southbridge PD bolo; 7:12 p.m.: officer wanted (Cranberry Meadow Road), re: female on lake; 9:44 p.m.: suspicious persons (Paxton Road), spoken to; 10:16 p.m.: medical/general (Briarcliff Lane); (total daily mv stops – 4).

TUESDAY, JUNE 17
1:01-3:00 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:55 a.m.: LTC issued (West



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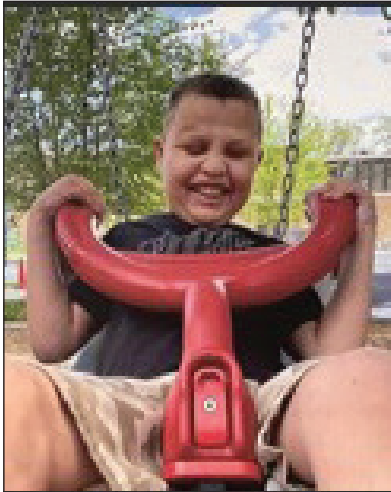

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The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with. To learn more 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.



University of Hartford students named to Dean’s and President’s Lists

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. — The University of Hartford is pleased to announce that 2,228 students have been named to the Dean’s List and President’s List for the spring 2025 semester.

The Dean’s List recognizes students achieving superior academic standing. The requirement, with some exceptions, is a grade point average of at least 3.0 and no grade below C.

The President’s List recognizes a select group of students reaching the highest level of academic standing. To be placed on the President’s List, students must maintain a GPA of at least a 3.75 and receive grades of C or better.

Among the local honorees are:

Alex Carter of W Brookfield - Dean’s List and President’s List

Hannah Collette of Leicester - Dean’s List and President’s List

Patrick Harrington of Leicester - Dean’s List and President’s List

Grace Karbowski of Spencer - Dean’s List and President’s List

Casey Macaruso of Leicester - Dean’s List and President’s List

Congratulations to all the honorees on their hard work and academic success!

Spread across seven dynamic schools and colleges, the University of Hartford has been guiding the purpose and passion of students for more than six decades. On our 350-acre campus alongside Connecticut’s capital city, approximately 4,100 undergraduate and 1,800 graduate students representing 48 states and 51 countries come together for a common purpose: to collaborate across different disciplines, diversify perspectives, and broaden worldviews. We’re a four-year private university focused on advancing the public good through meaningful connections within our communities. Our unique approach to comprehensive education gives us the critical perspectives that lead to impact change, regionally and beyond. With degree programs spanning the arts, humanities, business, engineering and technology, education, and health professions, we focus on doing the work that matters.

Leicester High School announces honor roll

LEICESTER — Leicester High School has released its honor roll for the fourth quarter of the 2024-2025 school year.

High Honors

12th Grade: Jayden Benton, Kayla Bouchard, Sophia Danforth, Dylan Delage, Ryan Delage, Kathryn Dolimount, Alexis Herbert, Gia Norcia, Sedona Richard, Krystal Vitorino

11th Grade: Avery Bullock, John Gahagan, Bueno Guzman Bueno, Natalia Kallio, Johanna Torres

10th Grade: Joshua McCormick, Hazinga Van Hazinga

9th Grade: Kennedy Bates, Brady Bouchard, Jude Campbell, Allison Gagne, Haylee Kularski, Julianna McCormick, Trinity Medeiros, Charlotte Mercer, Alivia Perry, Paula Roberts, Ryan Sweeney, Jayke Williams

Honors

12th Grade: Sean Alves, Jacob Cruz, Vanessa Finney, Vivian Giles, Kyle Huff, Felix Landor, Benjamin LaPointe, Jack Ledbetter, Ngoc Ly, Madeline Milionis, Alexander Ngo, Brenna Savoie, Ella

Smith, Elizabeth Sosa

11th Grade: Tomas Acero, Abigail Baker, Kate Barbato, Kaylee Buckley, Jacob Cospere, Brandon Escobar, Brody Grant, Emily Hunt, Nouman Khan, Ava Lane, Vincent Lopez, Savannah Lumb, Augustine Marubu, Christopher Moffat, Jemima Noel, Bethany Parke, Nola Perry, Kassidy Poce, Lucas Sampaio, Jack Skoglund, Luke Soden, Nicole Tuson, Tyler Williams

10th Grade: Jacob Beaulac, Inal Bouzid, Kayliana Chambers, Alexander Fournier, Taylor Gallant, Ty Gully, Ariana Gursky, Fillicity Kane, Jeremy Ledbetter, Valerie Maynard, Gianna Panepinto, Ava Petruzzi, Phuc Truong, \Abigail Valinski, Sabrina Wright

9th Grade: Matthew Alves, Anthony Andino, Muhammad Arslan, Rory Barrett, Emma Bernabei, Andrew Boucher, Zachary Couture, Annalise Guzman, Hailey Knott, Joseph Kulla, Brock Lopez, Matthew Magoun, Alena Martinkova, Max Milionis, Maia Mitchell, Trevor Moorghen, Nikolai Ngo, Brandon Nguyen, Juliana Ormon, Nicholas Stuart, Shane Stuart

UW-Madison announces spring Dean’s List

MADISON, Wisc. — The University of Wisconsin-Madison has recognized students named to the Dean’s List for the spring semester of the 2024-2025 academic year, including Kasey Dutter of Spencer.

Students who achieve at a high level academically are recognized by the dean at the close of each semester. To be eligible for the Dean’s List, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester. Each university school or college sets its own GPA requirements for students to be eligible to receive the distinction.

Natalie Karlson of North Brookfield earns degree at George Fox University

NEWBERG, Ore. — Natalie Karlson of North Brookfield was among the undergraduate, accelerated online degree and graduate-level students who received diplomas from George Fox University at its spring graduation ceremony in May of 2025. Karlson earned a doctor of ministry.

George Fox University is a Christian college classified by U.S. News & World Report as a “Best National University.” More than 4,000 students attend classes on the university’s campus in Newberg, Oregon, and at teaching centers in Portland and Redmond, Oregon. George Fox offers more than 60 undergraduate academic programs, accelerated online degree programs for working adults, six seminary degrees, and 15 masters and doctoral degrees.

Elizabeth Latour named to Elms College Dean’s List

CHICOPEE — Elizabeth Latour, of Brookfield, was named to the College of Our Lady of the Elms Spring 2025 Dean’s List.

Latour was among more than 450 students named to the Spring 2025 Dean’s List.

Elms College is a co-educational Catholic college offering a liberal arts curriculum that prepares students holistically for a purposeful life in a diverse and interconnected world. Founded in 1928 by the Sisters of St. Joseph, Elms College has a tradition of educating reflective, principled and creative learners, who are rooted in faith, educated in mind, compassionate in heart, responsive to civic and social obligations, and capable of adjusting to change without compromising principle.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute announces Spring Dean’s List

WORCESTER — A total of 2,331 undergraduate students at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) were named to the university’s spring 2025 Dean’s List. The criteria for the WPI Dean’s List differ from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI students are named to the Dean’s List based on the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and hands-on projects.

“WPI’s academic programs are rigorous and require a level of independence beyond what is required in traditional courses. WPI students work on real-world, open-ended problems on campus and in communities around the globe. Far from being simple academic exercises, the projects students complete have genuine and lasting impacts in our partner communities,” said Provost Andrew Sears. “Some of this nation’s best and brightest students come to WPI to study engineering, science, business, and the humanities. Those named to the Dean’s List have excelled in all of their work, and we are exceptionally proud of these outstanding students.”

The following students were named to the Dean’s List for Spring 2025:

Kane Barnes from East Brookfield, class of 2027, majoring in Mechanical Engineering

Jacob Bergeron from Spencer, class of 2026, majoring in Computer Science and Data Science

Gavin Burkhardt from North Brookfield, class of 2025, majoring in Biology and Biotechnology and Environmental and Sustainability Studies

Matthew Carter from West Brookfield, class of 2028, majoring in Architectural Engineering

Madison Laflamme from Brookfield, class of 2026, majoring in Mechanical Engineering

Grace McGovern from West Brookfield, class of 2026, majoring in Business

Vincent Nguyen from Leicester, class of 2028, majoring in Interactive Media and Game Development

William Panepinto from Leicester, class of 2028, majoring in Architectural Engineering

James Sweeney from Leicester, class of 2028, majoring in Chemical Engineering

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

WPI is a top-tier STEM-focused research university and a recognized pioneer and global leader in project-based learning. Founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems, WPI’s continued mission is to transform lives, turn knowledge into action to confront global challenges, and revolutionize STEM through distinctive and inclusive education, projects, and research. WPI’s project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. Today WPI offers more than 70 Bachelor’s, Master’s, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. To help address ongoing challenges, improve lives, and help create a more sustainable world, WPI faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research in such areas as the life sciences, smart technologies, materials and manufacturing, and global initiatives.

Hofstra University congratulates Dean’s List students

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Hofstra University congratulates the students named to the spring 2025 Dean’s List for their outstanding academic achievement. Students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 during the semester to make the Dean’s List.

Local students who earned placement on the list include:

Abbi Lane of Leicester: Lane’s major is Speech-Lang Hearing Sci.

Jessica McCarthy of Spencer: McCarthy’s major is Exercise Physiology.

Hofstra University’s primary mission is to provide a quality education to its students in an environment that encourages, nurtures, and supports learning. At Hofstra, new ideas take shape through collaboration, engagement, and interaction. Hofstra students create their success with small classes and dedicated faculty, alongside a beautiful campus, plus all the opportunities of New York City within easy reach.

Hofstra University congratulates Provost’s List students

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Hofstra University is proud to release the spring 2025 Provost’s List, which recognizes students who earned a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

Local students who earned placement on the list include:

Elizabeth Manfield of Spencer: Manfield’s major is Psychology.

Jenna Oberg of North Brookfield. Oberg’s major is Exercise Physiology.

Hofstra University’s primary mission is to provide a quality education to its students in an environment that encourages, nurtures, and supports learning. At Hofstra, new ideas take shape through collaboration, engagement, and interaction. Hofstra students create their success with small classes and dedicated faculty, alongside a beautiful campus, plus all the opportunities of New York City within easy reach.

Area residents named to Dean’s List at University of New England

BIDDEFORD, Maine — Sydney Seymour and Gabrielle Soter of Spencer have been named to the University of New England’s Dean’s List for the spring semester 2025.

Dean’s List students have attained a grade point average of 3.3 or better out of a possible 4.0 at the end of the semester.

The University of New England is Maine’s largest independent university, with two beautiful coastal campuses in Maine, a one-of-a-kind study-abroad campus in Tangier, Morocco, and an array of flexible online offerings. In an uncommonly welcoming and supportive community, we offer hands-on learning, empowering students to make a positive impact in a world full of challenges. We are the state’s top provider of health professionals and home to Maine’s only medical and dental colleges, a variety of other interprofessionally aligned health care programs, and nationally recognized programs in the marine sciences, the natural and social sciences, business, the humanities, and the arts. Visit www.une.edu.

www.StonebridgePress.com

POLICE REPORTS

Main Street), assisted; 7:13 a.m.: juvenile matter (Ash Street), re: theft from teacher; 7:42 a.m.: officer wanted (Wall Street), req. investigation; 8:19 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), req. welfare check; 9:21 a.m.: animal complaint (Cherry Street), rep. dog bite; 10:48 a.m.: 911 call (Northwest Road), accidental;	10:52 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), re: threat of fight; 11:04 a.m.: fraud (Pine Acres), report taken; 11:35 a.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 11:50 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 12:33 p.m.: animal complaint (Paxton Road), req. help moving dog; 3:15 p.m.: juvenile matter (Northwest Road), sm. child in road-	way; 3:42 p.m.: suspicious mv (Bay Path Road), investigated; 4:37 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 6:09 p.m.: animal complaint (Wm. Casey Road), re: fox in road; 6:23 p.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 6:29 p.m.: disturbance (Church Street), unwanted parties; 7:36 p.m.: suspicious persons (Sullivan Street), investigat-	ed; 10:22 p.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), spoken to; 10:31 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), re: taking brother to hospital; 11:29 p.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); (total daily mv stops – 7).
			# # #

EBES
continued from page A1

child’s education have made a profound difference,” Lavin told parents. “Your presence at school events, your countless volunteer hours, and your open communication have helped create a strong partnership that has enriched our school community.”

Students have learned many lessons throughout their time at EBES, which featured plenty of challenges along the way. Earlier in their careers, students faced the pandemic closures and hybrid learning sched-

ules during an unpredictable time in nationwide education, emerging even stronger with every test.

“You learned that success takes hard work—and you felt proud when you earned that good grade or helped your team win a game,” Lavin said. “It took discipline, persistence, and support from your families, your friends, your school, and this wonderful community we share.”

This year’s Sendoff ceremony was held in memory of educator Lisa St. George, who is deeply missed by the entire school community.

“Today, we honor her

not only for the contributions she made to our school, but for the positive impact she had on each of us. I know that she would be so proud of the amazing young men and women that you have become in the last year,” Lavin said.

The event concluded with the presentation of certificates to students, followed by the playing of the school song.

“You have reached a significant milestone that marks the end of one journey and the beginning of a new one. You have grown in character, resilience, and creativity,” Haughey added



Students are congratulated on their accomplishments.

DPHS
continued from page A1

of wood athletic flooring in the gymnasium; the completion of tile flooring throughout the corridors; the installation of lockers; the addition of rubber treads at the stairwells; and the painting of track running lanes surrounding the football field.

“Phase One of the proj-

ect will be turned over to the school district this upcoming August. This will include the football field and track above the high school,” Pimentel said.

The project’s second phase will include both new construction and the renovation of the school’s A-Wing. Asbestos removal is scheduled to take place by the end of June, ahead of several other projects slated for July.

“Demolition of B-Building is scheduled to begin July of 2025,” Pimentel said. “New underground utilities and structural improvements to A-Building will also begin in July. New footings for the remaining portion of the addition will be excavated in August of 2025.”

Earlier this month, the school community took part in a final walk-through of the old aca-

demic wing prior to its demolition. DPHS alumni members, current students, staff members, and residents appreciated the opportunity to walk the historic halls one last time.

Meanwhile, in recent months, SEBRSD students have enjoyed chances to look ahead to the future through guided tours of the new facilities. School officials thank leaders with Jones

Whitsett Architects, Inc. (architect for the project); Fontaine Bros., Inc. (general contractor); Colliers Engineering and Design; and the rest of the construction team for helping to keep the community informed throughout the process.

Students and staff members are also thanked for their cooperation during the construction phases. SEBRSD leaders look forward to a busy

summer of projects.

“There is much to do in a short window, so we are taking an all-hands-on-deck approach to ensure a smooth summer,” Haughey said.

For further information about the project, visit www.sebrsd.org. Photos and other updates are available on the district’s social media pages.

HIGGINS
continued from page A1

can do for its youth, as well as for the overall vitality of the town, is to provide the best education possible to every child, with curriculums that provide them with the ability to be successful in whatever career they choose,” Higgins told the New Leader. “Schools are the largest expenditure in our town – and all towns – and it is important to find creative ways to fund the schools without undue taxes on the citizens.”

Both Higgins and his wife taught Pre-Can at multiple parishes for about 15 years. Additionally, he has coached several youth sports (baseball, softball, soccer, and basketball).

For his career, Higgins has spent the last 40 years working in sales/marketing in the electronics industry. His work has included director-level positions that prepared him well to join a municipal leadership team.

“I look forward to working jointly with the other School Committee members, as well as the administration, to make Leicester schools the envy

of the region,” Higgins added.

School leaders are eager to work with Higgins and continue advancing the district.

“I am thrilled to welcome John to the School Committee,” Kustigian said. “He has been attending meetings for quite a while, and he has a solid understanding of where we are going and our priorities. He is a great addition to the robust School Committee.”

Higgins recently toured the district’s schools with Dr. Kustigian. He looks forward to meeting more educators, students, and families, in addition to becoming more familiar with specific programs.

“I was very impressed with the progress in the new Chapter 74 Career and Technical Education (CTE) offerings. As these programs grow and expand, they will benefit the students and also help the town,” Higgins said.

Outside of municipal service, Higgins enjoys participating in 5Ks, 10Ks, and half-marathons. A few years ago, he began playing the trombone again, and he is now in a concert band, jazz band, and a brass ensemble.

MEETING
continued from page A1

realignments and offsets yielded a total savings of \$225,344, including a salary reduction for the high school principal position from \$128,000 to \$115,000.

North Brookfield Public Schools Superintendent Tim McCormick confirmed reports that NBHS Principal John Diorio is leaving the school at the end of this month. The updated salary for the principal position will be offered to his successor.

Additional savings were realized from the following school budget reduction areas: athletic transportation (\$17,061); a STEM teacher offset (\$25,000); the Into Reading curriculum (\$10,000); NBHS supplies and instruction cuts (\$6,500); a TAG Grant offset (\$40,000); and NBES program materials (\$3,584).

The total savings generated from FY26 school budget reductions was \$524,949.50.

With the passage of Article 13, voters

approved \$178,000 to fund the North Brookfield Emergency Squad service contract, plus emergency squad ALS services.

Article 11 authorized the Board of Selectmen to sell and transfer titles in the name of the Town of North Brookfield to any properties or lands obtained through legally acquired tax title foreclosures.

Article 12 established FY26 spending limits for various revolving funds listed in North Brookfield’s bylaws.

Articles 16 and 17 featured bylaw amendments, with new sections added. The additions created by Article 16 establish a tobacco control revolving fund for use by the Board of Health, while the Article 17 additions establish a records request revolving fund for use by the police department.

For further information about town meetings, upcoming events, and general announcements, visit www.northbrookfield.net.

GARDENING
continued from page A7

support to save space or crawl over the ground. Bush types are perfect for containers and small spaces. Check the seed packet for the number of days from planting to harvest.

Increase the health and productivity of your second planting by preparing the soil before planting seeds and transplants. Mix an inch of quality compost into the top six inches of soil. You’ll improve drainage in heavy soil, increase water retention in fast-draining sandy

soils, and add micronutrients that feed the soil, building microorganisms.

Once your seeds and transplants are in the ground, be sure to water properly. Keep the seedbed and roots of transplants moist the first few weeks. Gradually reduce watering frequency as seedlings sprout and grow and transplants become established.

You may need to adjust your succession planting schedule based on the weather. Hotter and cooler than normal temperatures can delay seed germination, harvest times, and flavor.

With a bit of planning, succes-

sion plantings, and regular harvesting you can enjoy fresh vegetables throughout the growing season.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener’s Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses “How to Grow Anything” instant video series and the nationally syndicated Melinda’s Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

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Town of Sturbridge Department of Public Works Immediate Opening

Laborer/Driver

The Town of Sturbridge has an immediate full-time opening(s) for Laborer/Drivers in the Department of Public Works, Highway Division. These positions are union positions, and the successful candidates will be responsible for operating light equipment and driving trucks equipped with dump bodies to transport and dump loose materials, landscaping, and plowing snow, among other responsibilities. A Commercial Driver's License (CDL Class B) and hoisting license (Class 2B) are preferred and required within 6 months. The starting pay for the position is \$23.98 per hour. For a copy of the complete job description and an application, please go to <https://www.sturbridge.gov/your-government/pages/job-opportunities>. Position open until filled. The Town of Sturbridge is an EOE.

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

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