



SPENCER NEW LEADER

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Free by request to residents of

East Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield, Brookfield, Leicester and Spencer

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Friday, April 24, 2026

Leicester Middle School shines at Massachusetts History Day

LEICESTER — Leicester Middle School students delivered an impressive performance at the Massachusetts National History Day (NHD) State Competition, joining nearly 400 students from 40 schools at Winchester High School.

Twenty-seven Leicester students earned spots at the state competition after advancing through local and regional rounds. What began as a program teachers thought might face resistance, especially with weekend commitments, has instead become a source of excitement. Sixth grade teacher Norm Everett said it has been “exciting to watch our students grow enthusiastic,” noting that students now “genuinely look forward to” competing each year.

That enthusiasm was evident the night before the competition at Leicester’s first History Day themed dance. Students dressed as figures such as George Washington, Eleanor Roosevelt, Amelia Earhart, soldiers, astronauts, and even “The Bill” from Schoolhouse Rock, while others wore red, white, and blue.

Leicester’s success continued at the state level. For the third year in a row, the school will send students to the National History Day competition in June at the



Ian Pennycook and Anna Derrick.

University of Maryland, College Park.

Ian Pennycook qualified with his individual exhibit on the Space Race, becoming the first Leicester student to advance in that category. Raegan Higgins also qualified for the second consecutive year with her performance, “From ‘Protection’ to Equality: Women, Work, and the Fight for Reform.”

Anna Derrick earned the Marilyn Ross Memorial Book Award for her project on Florence Griffith Joyner and her impact on women’s sports.

The journey began in February with about 200 students competing at the school level. Thirty five advanced to regionals, and 27 reached the state competition.

Seventh grade teacher Renee Freeman emphasized that NHD goes beyond memorizing history, encouraging students to “research, investigate, question, and make connections” to their own lives. Principal Douglas Daponte said he was “extremely proud” of the students’ accomplishments and praised those advancing to nationals.

With continued success and growing enthusiasm, Leicester’s NHD program reflects what Everett called a “testament to the dedication and excellence” of its students.

West Brookfield voters to decide on Prop 2 1/2 override

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

WEST BROOKFIELD — West Brookfield’s annual town election is quickly approaching on May 5, and while the ballot of candidates is thin, with no truly contested positions, it’s the lower half of the document that will draw the most attention, as a pair of ballot questions will seek to determine the fate of a Proposition 2 1/2 override.

The override scenario provides voters with three distinct possibilities: the full funding request, a partial override request, and no override at all. Question 1A seeks an additional \$1.6 million that will support both the municipal and Quaboag Regional School District budgets to maintain level services. Question 1B seeks an additional \$1.1 million that would maintain municipal services

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Spencer to join communities in horticulture education survey

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

SPENCER — The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District is one of several Central Massachusetts school districts taking part in a survey through the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission to gauge interest in adding agricultural vocational programs through what could possibly become a large-scale regional partnership.

During a School Committee meeting on April 14, Superintendent of Schools Paul S. Haughey detailed a new initiative to bring programs to the region that would provide education in horticulture and other agricultural fields. After a conversation with Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent Colleen Mucha, Haughey and the administration decided to join in pursuing grant money to start a new multi-district initiative with the first step being a survey through the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC).

“This is to look at possibly establishing a shared resource where we could do something with horticulture. There’s no agricultural programming in this catchment area. There’s clearly a gap in terms of the economic landscape for central Massachusetts that we need to fill,” Haughey told the committee.

Currently, students seeking agricultural education have options outside of the district, and Haughey and other local school leaders feel adding their own program would go a long way to maintaining students and providing the desired educational opportunities for future career growth. While the survey specifically references a horticulture program, Haughey said the program could involve a variety of agricultural fields.

“I would encourage any parent, family member, or young person or student who has interests in agriculture, horticulture, animal science, veterinary sciences, environmental science and technology (etc.) to please take part in this survey,” he said. “CMRPC will take all that data and share it with all the local districts and work with us to put a proposal together for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.”

The survey is currently live and accessible through the Spencer-East Brookfield School District website home page and runs through late April and early May. Pending the results, the district and other schools involved in the partnership could seek grant funding later this year.

Leicester fourth-graders participate in Pioneer Day

LEICESTER — Fourth-grade students at Leicester Elementary School stepped back in time for a full day of immersive, hands-on learning centered on life along the Oregon Trail in the 1800s. The experience, rich in both historical content and student engagement, brought the Westward Expansion unit to life in a meaningful and memorable way.

The day began with a special presentation sponsored by the LES PTO, featuring a collection of authentic Oregon Trail artifacts shared by former LES fourth-grade teacher Ann Hyland. Students eagerly examined each item, making predictions about its purpose and use and sparking curiosity and discussion as students learned about the artifacts used.

As the day continued, students took part in a classic pioneer activity—making butter by hand. With cream generously donated by Cooper’s Farm in Leicester, students shook and churned their way to a finished product, which they then sampled on hardtack, a staple food of the time period. Students shared mostly positive reviews of the butter, while the hardtack proved to be less popular. Students also worked collaboratively to design and construct their own Conestoga wagons, applying both creativity and an understanding of the practical needs required for such a journey. Along with these activities, students have been working on a writing assignment where they create journal entries from the point of view of someone traveling the Oregon Trail. This has given them a chance to pull together what they’ve learned while practicing writing from a different perspective.

Fourth Grade students Mia Escobar, Madeline Morris, and Jace McCauley shared, “It was fun because we got to see real items that were used during

Westward Expansion. Making butter was cool, and it actually tasted good! Thank you, Mrs. Hyland, for coming back to school and teaching us and showing us your artifacts!”

The unit will culminate in a highly anticipated “Pioneer Night” on June

3 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Leicester Elementary School. Fourth-grade families are invited to attend and view the wide array of student work, celebrating the knowledge, creativity, and effort demonstrated throughout this engaging unit of study.



Decades-old lyrics meet cutting-edge AI

INDEPENDENT ARTIST PERRY JONES RELEASES 32-TRACK, MULTI-GENRE PROJECT IN SIX WEEKS

EAST BROOKFIELD — An independent artist has released a 32-song music collection spanning pop, hyperpop, rock, hard rock, shoegaze, '60s psychedelia, epic pop, and dark country—created in just six weeks using a hybrid process that blends original, decades-old lyrics with AI-generated composition and vocals.

to the 1990s, when JONES was managing bands in the Worcester music scene. During that time, he wrote approximately 140 songs, 20 of which were sold to Boston-area bands. One of those tracks went on to become a national hit—standing as a quiet but notable milestone in a long-running creative journey.

& 5, and the first upload to YouTube on March 8. What followed was an intense six-week creative surge, transforming a deep archive of lyrics into fully realized songs for the first time.

Drawing heavily from personal experience, the lyrics reflect a wide range of lived moments: conversations with strangers, relationships, and observations from years on the road and in music circles. Other influences include time spent in the Army in Germany, weekends on leave, walks along Rhode Island beaches, and memories of sunsets over the Pacific.

“This project is really about unfinished work finding its voice,” Jones says. “These lyrics have been with me for years—decades, in some cases. AI gave me a way to finally hear them.”

Rather than replacing traditional songwriting, the artist uses AI as a creative partner—bridging the gap between written word and recorded music. The result is a diverse catalog that blends nostalgia with experimentation, analog roots with digital execution.

Now available on YouTube under

the name PerryJ Music, the songs represent both a rediscovery of past work and a redefinition of the creative process itself.

About the Artist Perry Jones is an independent artist/songwriter with roots in the 1990s Massachusetts music scene, the artist has written over 140 songs, with 20 placed with Boston-area bands, including one national hit. His current work explores the intersection of lyric-driven storytelling and AI-assisted music production, bringing decades of material into a modern sonic landscape.

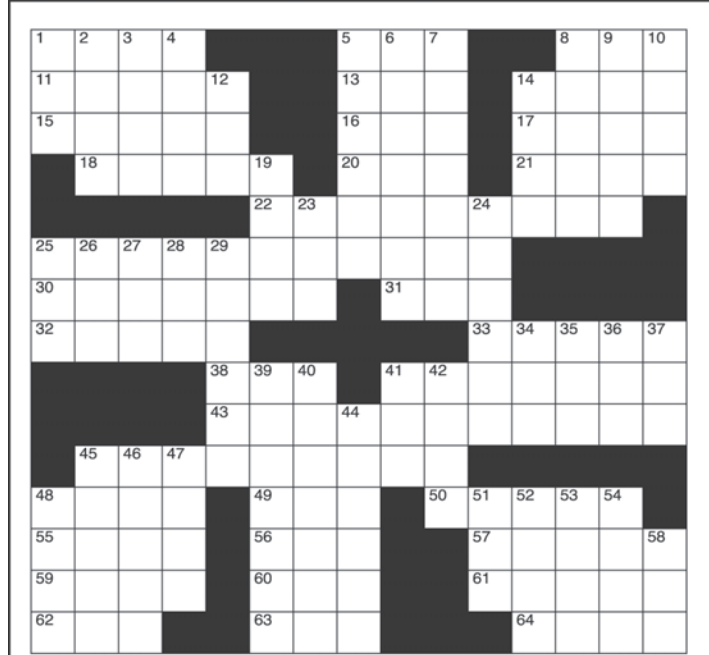
While the release itself is new, much of the material traces back to a rewritten song on March 4

Veterans' Service Officer Position

The Town of Sturbridge is accepting applications to fill the part-time, 10 hours per week, Veteran' Service Officer position. The position will act as a Veterans' Agent and thus requires all appropriate State and Federal certification. Applications are available on-line on the Town of Sturbridge website under job opportunities. <https://www.sturbridge.gov/your-government/pages/job-opportunities>

The position is non-union and reports to the Town Administrator. The Town is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE).

**Town of Sturbridge
Town Administrator
308 Main Street
Sturbridge MA 01566
BOSAdmin@sturbridge.gov**



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Egyptian bull-god
- 5. Romanian monetary unit
- 8. Will Ferrell holiday film
- 11. "It Ain't Half Hot Mum" actor
- 13. Error-related negativity
- 14. Volcanic crater
- 15. Boston Herald columnist Margery
- 16. True market value
- 17. Italian term for exchange rate
- 18. Informal loan clubs
- 20. Men's fashion accessory
- 21. Children's craft supply
- 22. Extra benefits
- 25. In an early way
- 30. A judge has one
- 31. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 32. Tractor unit
- 33. Defunct supercomputer developer
- 38. Promotional materials
- 41. A forgetful state
- 43. One who beheads
- 45. Photographers
- 48. Small, rich sponge cake
- 49. Clergy's vestment
- 50. Expressed pleasure
- 55. Abba __, Israeli politician
- 56. Zero
- 57. Ancient Greek word for "earless"
- 59. Nigerian governmental area
- 60. Mild expression of surprise
- 61. Places to hang things
- 62. Keyboard key
- 63. Make a mistake
- 64. One-time president of Republic of Korea

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Bridge building degree
- 2. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 3. Large, stocky lizard
- 4. Romanian river
- 5. Communication
- 6. Stoats
- 7. Showcases
- 8. Bird of prey
- 9. King of Thebes
- 10. Cleaving tool
- 12. Large African antelope
- 14. Three are particularly notable
- 19. Meet one's needs
- 23. C. European river
- 24. Dictator
- 25. Indicates how much out of 100 (abbr.)
- 26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 27. Consume food
- 28. Woman (French)
- 29. Scrape a surface
- 34. Green vegetable
- 35. Pacific Standard Time
- 36. Capital of Brazilian city
- 37. Paddle
- 39. Cause to become insane
- 40. Drier and flakier
- 41. Mimic
- 42. ESPN personality Kimes
- 44. One who moves slowly
- 45. Secret political clique
- 46. Behind the stern of a ship
- 47. Supernatural force
- 48. Sanctuary
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Grayish white
- 53. Engrave by coating
- 54. North Carolina university
- 58. Midway between south and southeast

PUZZLE SOLUTION

B	A	T	A		L	E	U		E	L	F					
C	L	E	G	G		E	R	N		M	A	A	R			
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C	H	A	M	B	E	R		S	S	R						
T	O	T	E	R						A	P	P	R	O		
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JOY (Just Older Youth) Adventurers offers journey through Canadian Rockies & Pacific Northwest

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

The landscape soon transforms as the route climbs inland through British Columbia's dramatic highways toward alpine terrain. Highlights include the soaring presence of Mount Robson and the pristine beauty of Jasper National Park, where glacier-fed lakes, rugged peaks, and serene wildlife encounters define each moment. A cruise on Maligine Lake and time

along the iconic Icefields Parkway lead to the immense Columbia Icefield, offering rare access to ancient glaciers and sweeping mountain vistas.

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

The experience concludes as forests and mountains give way to vineyards, lakes, and the energetic waterfront of Seattle. From coastal elegance to icy glaciers and

iconic skylines, this trip weaves together nature, culture, and comfort into a richly layered exploration of western North America.

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

WEEKLY POLICE BLOTTER

Spencer

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

Leicester

The Leicester Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of April 9-15.

William Alan Deming, age 69, of Leicester was arrested on April 9 in connection with a default warrant.

David Thomas Hart, Jr., age 62, of Dudley was arrested on April 10 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license for OUI and operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on April 10 for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle and driving at a rate of speed exceeding the posted limit.

Robert Paul Marconi, age 41, of Auburn was arrested on April 11 for Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Operating Under the Influence (Alcohol), Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle, a Marked Lanes Violation, and Failure to Signal.

David Rose, age 61, of Spencer was arrested on April 11 for Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, Assault & Battery on a Police Officer, Resisting Arrest, Disorderly Conduct, and multiple counts of Threatening to Commit a Crime.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on April 13 for operating an Unregistered and Uninsured Motor Vehicle and Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle.



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NOTICE HYDRANT FLUSHING TOWN OF SPENCER

The Town of Spencer Water Department will be flushing fire hydrants throughout the western part of the distribution system starting April 13th thru April 30th 2026.

Flushing removes sediment from the water mains to help maintain water quality. When the Water Department staff is in the immediate area, residents could experience loss of pressure and short periods of rusty water. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. A daily list of the flushing locations will be posted on the Spencer town website www.spencerma.gov each day by 8:00AM (click on Departments, then click Water Department, then click Hydrant Flushing 2026). If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact the Spencer Water Department office at 508-885-7525. Thank you.



SPENCER ALMANAC REAL ESTATE

BROOKFIELD
None

EAST BROOKFIELD
None
LEICESTER
\$1,150,000, 6 Brickyard Rd, Qs Lending T, and Ross, Steven A, to Thomasian, John H.
\$305,000, 8 Locust St, Reed, Karter K, to Reed, Derek.

NORTH BROOKFIELD
None

SPENCER
\$354,000, 25 Church St, Mccaffrey, Brian G, and Mccaffrey, Dawn, to Shamlian, Stephen M.
\$285,000, 41 Kingsbury Rd, Pinto, Gerard P, and Pinto, Gail P, to Cloyes, Victoria L.

WARREN
None

WEST BROOKFIELD
\$667,000, 25 Highland Trl, Bsm Hsh LLC, and Kaufman, Yiyzchok, to Johnson, Eric N.
\$488,600, 37 Central St, Clark, Pamela J, to Bell, Robert Earle, and Bell, Joann Margaret.

Emergency funds offer breathing room when it matters

Everyone needs an emergency fund. Financial experts recommend it, and we've all experienced surprise expenses: a costly car repair, a broken water heater or unexpected medical bills. Despite our best intentions, building a financial cushion can feel impossible. After rent or mortgage, groceries, utilities, and everyday expenses, it seems there's nothing left to save.

If this sounds familiar, you're not alone. Many Americans struggle to maintain emergency savings. But building those savings doesn't necessarily require massive lifestyle changes or windfalls. With a strategic approach and realistic milestones, you can create the financial safety net you need.

Start small and build momentum. Traditional advice suggests saving three to six months of total expenses. It's excellent goal but can feel overwhelming when you're starting from zero.

Instead, begin with a more achievable target, such as \$500 or a full month's worth of expenses. The key is to get started and con-



FINANCIAL
FOCUS

TREVOR
NIELSEN

tribute consistently.

Even a few hundred dollars can provide meaningful protection and help you avoid relying on credit cards or high interest loans. This initial milestone can cover many medium-sized emergencies. Once you reach the first milestone, work toward one and a half to two months of expenses, then the full three to six months.

Find money you didn't know you had. Building your emergency fund doesn't always require cutting expenses. If you're employed, set up automatic transfers from your paycheck into a separate savings account. Cancel subscriptions you rarely use, shop around for better insurance rates and take advantage of sales when-

ever you can.

Consider saving windfalls like tax refunds, work bonuses or birthday money. If your budgeted expenses come in lower than expected — perhaps your health care costs or home maintenance needs were less than anticipated this month — save the difference in your emergency fund.

Have a dedicated account for your fund. Keep your emergency savings in a separate account from your regular checking, so you're less tempted to use the money for non-emergencies. Choose an account that's easily accessible and without penalties and, while you shouldn't invest emergency money in stocks or bonds, look for an account that earns interest.

Balance competing priorities. Building an emergency fund is important, but it shouldn't come at the expense of other crucial financial goals. If you're carrying high-interest debt or missing out on your employer's retirement contribution matches, address those priorities first, while still

building your emergency savings.

Ultimately, you'll want to balance your emergency fund with other goals. To determine an emergency savings target, consider your personal risk for unexpected expenses, your job security and family circumstances. You may need three to six months' worth of savings, or possibly some other amount. If this step feels overwhelming, ask a financial advisor to help you come up with a suitable plan.

The path to financial security requires progress rather than perfection. Begin where you are, use what you have and take one small step at a time. That first \$500 might feel modest, but it represents the freedom to handle whatever life throws your way.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local

Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Trevor Nielsen, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or trevor.nielsen@edwardjones.com. Edward Jones, Member SIPC

P.E.T. of the Week
Sponsored by Leicester Veterinary Clinic, LLC

Meet Loki
Loki requires a stable, low-stress home. He will not succeed in a busy, chaotic, or frequently changing environment. He needs time to build trust, but once that trust is established, he forms a strong bond and is very affectionate with his person. Loki is not a small dog—he weighs around 70 pounds and doesn't always realize his size. For his age, he is very active and physically strong. Loki enjoys daily walks and will let you know when it's time to go. Despite being around 8 years old, he remains strong on leash and needs a confident handler. He loves hiking, tug-of-war, and spending time outdoors—especially sunbathing in the summer.
Loki's requirements: Adult-only household • No other pets • Fully fenced yard (required) • Stable, low-stress environment • Patient, experienced adopters willing to move at his pace
Multiple meet-and-greets and a home visit required to ensure the right fit for his forever home
Loki does best with routine, clear boundaries, and limited visitors. Given time, consistency, and the right match, he becomes a devoted companion who bonds closely with his person.
Loki is not for everyone—but for the right home, he will be an incredibly loyal dog.

Second Chance Animal Services
www.secondchanceanimals.org
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• Domestic health certificates and much more!

Dr. Colm P. Scanlon
Veterinarian

Richard Sugden Library announces upcoming events

SPENCER — The Richard Sugden Public Library will host a series of community programs in May highlighting student creativity, personal storytelling and adult career training opportunities.

The David Prouty High School Annual Art Show will be on display at the library from May 7 through May 21, featuring work by student artists from across the school's visual arts program. An opening reception is scheduled for Thursday, May 7 at 6 p.m., offering residents a chance to meet the young artists and view a range of student-created pieces. The exhibit continues a longstanding partnership between the school and the library that brings student artwork into a public setting each spring.

Later in the month, the library will host "Share Your Tattoo Story," an informal community conversation on Monday, May

11 from 6 to 7 p.m. The gathering invites participants to talk about the meaning behind their tattoos or attend simply to listen as others share personal experiences. Organizers describe the event as an opportunity to explore how body art can reflect identity, memory and life milestones.

On Thursday, May 14 at 6 p.m., Bay Path Career Technical Institute's Career Technical Institute for Adult Learners will present a free informational session for adults ages 18 and older who are unemployed or underemployed and interested in hands-on career training. The presentation will outline training options and career pathways in fields such as culinary arts, automotive technology, diesel technology, auto collision repair, electrical work, manufacturing, building maintenance, HVAC and welding.

Attendees will also learn about program eligibility requirements and the types of support available to help participants complete training and enter the workforce. Organizers say the session is designed to provide a clear overview of the institute's offerings in an accessible, informal setting.

All programs will be held at the Richard Sugden Public Library, 15 Main St., Spencer. Residents interested in attending may contact the library for additional details.

WANTED TO BUY Antiques & Old Stuff

- Bottles • Crocks • Jugs • Costume Jewelry • Pottery • Toys
 - Pewter • Glassware • Sterling Silver • Coins • Gold
 - Silver Plated Items • Watches • Typewriters • Sewing Machines
 - Tools • Radios • Clocks • Lanterns • Lamps • Kitchenware
 - Cookware • Knives • Hunting • Fishing • Military • Masonic
 - Fire Dept • Advertising Signs & Much More
- CALL DONALD ROY 860-874-8396**

Throwdown! Food Truck Festival returns to Spencer Fairgrounds May 16

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

Throwdown! 2026 is Worcester County's longest running and largest annual Food Truck Festival and Craft Fair. A panel of judges and event attendees cast votes for their favorite food truck to be honored with the prestigious "Best of Worcester County Food Trucks" and the ever coveted "People's Choice" awards. Along with great food from dozens of food trucks, customers may browse among the over 50 artisanal craft vendors, enjoy carnival style games, listen to music or participate in an array of yard games such as corn hole, giant blocks, ladder toss and other fun activities just for the kids. Enjoy craft beer and wines at this year's event from "The Stein & Vine", Central Massachusetts' favorite mobile bar service. It's a fantastic way to spend a Spring afternoon with family and friends in a beautiful outdoor setting.

WooTrucks has been the most trusted name in reliable food truck booking for over a decade. Our commissary, commercial kitchen, and base of operations for food trucks, caterers, bakers, and food entrepreneurs is located at 67 Main St., Boylston. Our fully permitted and approved facility to prepare food was established to foster a transparent, self-policing community of food trucks and food entrepreneurs practicing only the highest standards of customer service while maintaining strict adherence to health, sanitation and food codes. WooTrucks operates food truck festivals throughout the region and supplies food trucks to corporate clients, private businesses, breweries, academic institutions, and local municipalities.

FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION, CALL 774-200-7308
EMAIL: MIKAELA@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS

Explore Prince Edward Island This Summer or Fall

Explore Prince Edward Island This Summer or Fall This two-bedroom cottage near Tignish provides sweeping views of the ocean, the beach, and the North Cape lighthouse. Enjoy kayaking, bicycling, walking the beach, swimming in the warmer Gulf Stream waters, and exploring the community of Nail Pond and the many PEI attractions. Full Appliances. The cottage sleeps six comfortably. Weekly rent is only \$1,100. Contact Scott, for more information at 603-254-5032, or scottm@plymouth.edu.

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ARTHRITIS?

Is your arthritis care all that you would hope it to be?
If not we may be able to help.

Osteoarthritis of Hands - Knees - Hips. Back and Shoulder Problems Rheumatoid Arthritis Psoriatic Arthritis - Gout

Charles A. Birbara, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine, UMass-Chan Medical School
25 Oak Ave., Worcester, MA 01605 508-799-2674
"Committed to Advancing appropriate care to people with arthritis"

72ND ANNUAL WINDHAM COUNTY 4-H AUCTION & TAG SALE
326 Taft Pond Rd, Pomfret, CT
MAY 1ST AND 2ND, 2026

Join us for a great cause! All proceeds benefit the Windham County 4-H Foundation, Inc., sponsors of the Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp and Ragged Hill Woods Environmental Program

Over 4,000 sq ft of household, garden, toys, tools, linens, Christmas... We have it all!

A little bit of everything will be on the auction block. Restaurants, tourist attractions. New & antique furniture & collectibles.

Preview @ 5 pm Auction @ 6 pm with Auctioneer Ernie Eldridge

- **FRIDAY** come bid on a Cape Escape or a ride on the Essex Steam Train
- **SATURDAY** is sports night including 2 VIP Red Sox Tickets for July 21, signed memorabilia from the Bruins and much more!

Donated items may be delivered to the lower level of the lodge at Camp April 15 - April 28
M-W-F: 9 am - 5 pm Tue & Thurs: 9 am - 7 pm Saturday: 9 am - 2 pm
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PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

A consequential choice for West Brookfield voters

West Brookfield's town election on May 5 may appear quiet at first glance. With no contested races on the ballot, voters could be forgiven for assuming the evening will pass with little suspense. Yet the real decision facing residents this year sits farther down the ballot, where two Proposition 2½ override questions ask the community to weigh its priorities for the coming years.

Overrides are never easy votes in a small town. They ask neighbors to balance the immediate reality of higher property taxes against the longer-term stability of municipal services and schools. That tension is not unique to West Brookfield, but it is especially visible this spring.

The town's financial situation did not arrive suddenly. Officials have warned for years that reliance on one-time revenues to close budget gaps could not continue indefinitely. Now that those temporary solutions have run their course, the community is being asked to decide how it wants to respond.

Question 1A proposes a \$1.6 million override intended to maintain level services for both municipal departments and the Quaboag Regional School District. Question 1B proposes a smaller \$1.1 million override that would support municipal services but provide less funding for the schools. Either option represents a different path forward, and both come with real consequences.

For many households, the estimated tax increases associated with either option are significant. That reality deserves acknowledgment. Residents are already managing rising costs in nearly every part of daily life, and additional tax pressure is not something anyone welcomes lightly. At the same time, the services funded through the town budget are the foundation of what makes a community function well, from public safety and infrastructure to classrooms and libraries.

It is also important for voters to remember that the election alone will not settle the matter. Even if one of the override questions passes on May 5, the proposal still will be approved at the June 2 Annual Town Meeting. The process reflects the town's tradition of careful decision making and shared responsibility.

Another point worth keeping in mind is the continuing uncertainty surrounding West Brookfield Elementary School. While budget discussions often lead residents to worry about the future of the building, that decision ultimately rests with the Quaboag Regional School Committee. The override vote is about maintaining services, not determining the school's fate on its own.

Meanwhile, the uncontested nature of most local races should not reduce their importance. Select board members, committee representatives and other elected officials guide the town through moments exactly like this one. Even without competition on the ballot, participation in the election remains essential to maintaining a strong civic tradition.

West Brookfield has always been a community that takes its responsibilities seriously. Annual elections and town meetings are where neighbors shape the direction of their shared future together. This year's ballot offers a clear example of that role in action.

Whether residents support one override option, the other, or neither at all, the most important step is showing up and taking part in the decision. In towns like West Brookfield, participation is not only a right. It is how the community continues to move forward together.

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No cents

To the Editor:

In response to the letter entitled "My Two Cents":

I agree that the American flag is a symbol of freedom and of the men and women who

have fought for our freedom.

I also agree that the Pledge of Allegiance is a statement of loyalty to the United States — but not to Trump!

I further agree that our currency says "In God We Trust." It is Donald Trump that we don't trust.

If we are indeed a "Christian nation," then act like it! Lying, hating and anger are not acts of a true Christian. That is pure garbage. I have children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and they and their friends, are all kind and respectful people. Obama, Biden and Clinton all had legit-

imate exemptions for not serving in the military. Unlike Trump, who used his phony bone spurs to avoid his military service. His bone spurs don't seem to prevent him from play golf on a regular basis.

There was mention of the Bible several times. Is this the same Bible that Trump refused to place hand on when he was sworn in as President?

As for us "knowing the truth and it will set us free," we know the truth! It is the MAGAs who would not know the truth even if it bit them. A true "Brother In Christ" would not accept the things that Trump is saying and what he is doing to our sacred democracy.

By the way, now that the penny has been eliminated, your two cents equals "0."

NOREEN FERNANDES
WEST BROOKFIELD

Every child deserves the chance to stand on a solid foundation

To the Editor:

Many in this community know my name because I have written to these pages before as Chair of the Leicester Democratic Town Committee. That work matters to me. But the position I am seeking now is different in kind. A seat on the Leicester School Committee is not a partisan role, and it should never be treated like one. The responsibility here is not to a party. It is to children.

I am running because I know, in a very real way, what it means when a school becomes the place that holds a child steady.

I did not grow up with a consistent sense of safety at home. School was where I found it. It was where expectations were clear, where someone paid attention, where I began to understand that I was not defined by the circumstances I came from. That foundation changed the direction of my life.

Later, working as a paraprofessional and substitute teacher, I saw how often that same quiet turning point is still happening. A child walks into a building carrying more than anyone can see. And the question—every single day—is whether the

adults and the system around them are strong enough, thoughtful enough, and attentive enough to meet that moment.

That is the work.

This is not about ideology. It is about whether our schools are places where children can grow into who they are meant to be. Whether they are challenged, supported, and protected in equal measure. Whether decisions are made with care, with focus, and with a clear understanding that they ripple far beyond a single meeting or vote.

Leicester is a small town. That does not make this responsibility smaller. It makes it more personal. The outcomes are not abstract here. They belong to children we know, families we see every day, futures that are being shaped right now.

I am running because I take that responsibility seriously. Because I have lived what a strong school can do. And because I believe every child in this town deserves that same chance to stand on something solid and build from there.

ELIZABETH MCKENZIE-ZITO
LEICESTER

Our tax burden is akin to setting your paycheck on fire

To the Editor:

How about some Massachusetts facts:

The 2026 State Tax Competitive Index ranks Massachusetts as 43, meaning there are 42 states with lower tax burdens. The Massachusetts individual income tax rank is 42, the corporate tax rank is 33, the sales tax rank is 22, the property tax rank is 48, and the unemployment insurance tax rank is 45. And Massachusetts levies both an estate tax and a real estate transfer tax.

Massachusetts, which was once an engine of job growth and opportunity, ranks 47th out of 50 states in creating jobs over the last five years.

Massachusetts property taxes are among the highest in the nation, even with the 2½ levy limit passed by the voters in 1980.

From Chip Ford, former executive director for Citizens for Limited Taxation, they got the required signatures to get the Prop 2½ question on the ballot:

"Politicians now argue that inflation and economic pressures have made Prop 2½ 'outdated.' The Massachusetts Municipal Association and other local officials have called for loosening its limits. Rather than defending this critical taxpayer protection, Boston Mayor Michelle Wu has publicly begun calling for its repeal."

"Beacon Hill continues to advance costly policies such as NetZero climate energy mandates that municipalities are forced to fund, while state spending skyrocketed and local aid to cities and towns fails to keep pace. Small towns are hit especially hard when they must absorb these mandates with limited resources. Instead of calling out the real causes of municipal budget crises, ambitious politicians like Mayor Wu try to blame Prop 2½."

"But Prop 2½ does not need reassessment. Taxpayers already shoulder the burden of Beacon Hill's out-of-control agenda. Instead of addressing affordability at its source, politicians are now trying to circumvent our taxpayer protection law and reach deeper into your pockets to fund problems they continue to create. To them, your property tax bill is just another untapped revenue stream for unconstrained spending."

A recent Boston Globe poll showed that one in three residents is considering leaving Massachusetts because of the rising cost of living. People are struggling to provide for their families, as grocery prices are sky-high, medical and utility costs continue to soar, and there is a desperate shortage

of affordable housing. Runaway spending at the state level (lest we forget how Gov. Maura Healey squandered \$4 billion in taxpayer funds on lavish lifetime welfare benefits for illegal immigrants), higher taxes, and escalating utility bills have made the state less affordable and less competitive.

Four billion dollars divided by 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts equals \$11,396,011.40—\$11 million could go a long way toward improving each of our 351 underfunded municipal budgets!

The Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance watchdog group notes that the Bay State's ranking "reflects a broader pattern of high taxes, rising housing costs, and burdensome NetZero climate mandates."

Based on 2026 data, Massachusetts ranks second, after Hawaii, for highest electricity rates.

Hawaii remains the most expensive at approximately 39.79 cents/kWh, largely due to its isolation and reliance on imported fuel.

Massachusetts, however, ranks second on the mainland at roughly 31.16 cents/kWh.

According to data from Choose Energy, the states with the highest residential natural gas rates as of January 2026 include Hawaii at number one at \$52.13 per unit and Massachusetts at number two at \$25.77 per unit.

The Bottle Bill, passed in 1982 with the justification that it would reduce roadside litter, is another "roundabout" tax that gets forgotten in one's quest to quench their thirst! FYI: Roadside litter is rampant on all the highways and byways of Massachusetts.

According to tables compiled by the Department of Revenue, abandoned nickels added \$71 million to state coffers in fiscal 2021 and another \$71 million in fiscal 2022. Historically, the state has received between \$34 million and \$43 million per year in forfeited deposits. This revenue fluctuates based on redemption rates, which reached an all-time low of approximately 35 percent in 2024. The state loves low redemption rates, as this is another untapped revenue stream for them to waste more money.

Taxes are necessary to operate federal, state, and municipal governments, and people don't mind paying when they see a return on their investment, but paying higher taxes today in Massachusetts is akin to burning your paycheck in a woodstove!

JEN GAUCHER
SPENCER

When the town clock still keeps time

There are some sounds you don't notice until they disappear.

LANTERNS

ALONG

MAIN

STREET

By CHARLES

In a lot of Massachusetts towns, there's still a clock somewhere that strikes the hour. Sometimes it's on a church steeple. Sometimes it's on the old town hall. Once in a while it's tucked into a square you pass every

day without really looking up. But if you stand still long enough, you can hear it doing its quiet work.

I grew up with one of those clocks nearby. It rang out every hour, whether anyone was paying attention or not. As a boy, I didn't think much about it. It was simply part of the background, like the sound of a screen door closing or a dog barking two streets over.

Later in life, I began to notice how steady it was.

The clock didn't hurry when the day felt rushed. It didn't slow down when a summer evening stretched longer than expected. It kept time the same way every day, through snowstorms and parades and ordinary Tuesdays that nobody would remember except the people who lived them.

That kind of reliability leaves a mark on you.

Not long ago, I was walking through a downtown I have visited for years and suddenly realized the clock I expected to hear was silent. The tower was still there. The hands were still pointing somewhere near the right hour. But the sound was gone.

It surprised me how much I missed it.

A town clock is not a dramatic thing. It does not announce emergencies. It does not gather crowds. Most people do not check their watches against it anymore. Still, it says something important without speaking directly. It tells you that your town has been keeping track of time longer than any one of us has lived here.

There is comfort in that.

I sometimes think those clocks helped shape how people once moved through the day. Noon meant something when you could hear it ring. Six o'clock meant supper was near. Nine o'clock meant it might be time to head home. The sound traveled farther than any calendar reminder ever will.

Even now, when I hear one strike the hour, I pause for just a moment.

It reminds me that the same sound reached people who stood in that same place fifty years ago. Maybe they were carrying groceries. Maybe they were walking home from work. Maybe they were meeting someone they planned to marry. The clock marked their afternoons too, whether they noticed or not.

We talk a lot about preserving old buildings, and that matters. But sometimes what really stays with us is not the structure itself. It is the life that continues around it.

A clock that still rings is a sign that a town is paying attention to its own rhythm.

Every so often, when I pass through a center where the bell still sounds the hour, I find myself slowing down without meaning to. I listen until the last note fades. Then I go on with whatever I was doing before, feeling just a little more connected to the place than I did a minute earlier.

It is a small thing, I know.

Still, in a Massachusetts town where the clock is still keeping time, it feels like something worth listening for.

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump is no true Christian

To the Editor:

On Easter Sunday, many of us apparently did not find our President's message very inspiring. His Secretary of "War" has also failed to inspire. Hegseth's description of the Iran conflict as a holy war sounded more like the terrorist rhetoric of a cult leader, and I certainly sympathize with both young and seasoned older soldiers who question the legitimacy of being ordered to perform acts considered illegal or immoral by most of the rest of the world.

Pope Leo has come under some scrutiny for criticizing Trump's policies, much of that coming from Trump and Vance. Of course, Trump thinks he can do better at just about everything and needs no advice from others. Vance (a recent convert to Catholicism) has been quick to give the Pope advice on how to do his job, essentially warning him to mind his own business and stay out of dialogue involving Trump's policies. Trump recently threatened complete annihilation of a country, and he has already eliminated programs both here in the US and abroad that will result in tremendous suffering of the poor, sick, and hungry. Whose business is that?

In Dickens' classic "A Christmas

Carol," Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by the ghost of his business partner, Jacob Marley. When Scrooge tells Marley that he was always a good man of business, Marley laments "Mankind was my business! The common good was my business." Trump and his followers claim he is a good man of business. But he is neither a good man nor a good businessman. Perhaps he is a gifted scammer, but is that a quality that we want in our President? He certainly has not cared a hoot for the common good, as indicated by his treatment of young women and others he can exploit. Our current Pope, on the other hand, has done much more than study theology, spending much of his life in service to the poor and downtrodden. Personally, I'm not Catholic, and I'm a strong proponent for separation of church and state (secular government). But I would wholeheartedly trust the advice of a truly good man like our current Pope over that of our current President or Vice President.

I hear many politicians claiming we are a "Christian" nation, established by our founding fathers and currently celebrating the 250 years of our existence. But our founders were acutely aware of the danger

of a mad king (the madness of King George of England). They also would have been well aware of consequences of religious zealotry close to home (the Salem witch trials) and abroad (religious persecution at the hands of the Spanish inquisition). Our Constitution was designed to help guide our secular government with a carefully crafted balance of powers to prevent us from ever again suffering under the rule of kings or religious zealots. Thank God! But unfortunately, they could not have foreseen the development of legalized bribery facilitated by an oligarchy of extremely wealthy partisan zealots willing to spend billions of dollars pushing false narratives intended to thwart the common good and benefit the incredibly rich.

What was Trump's motivation in

picturing himself as Christ? Was it his great desire to heal and revive the dead, including those recently killed or seriously injured during his "excursion" into Iran? Did he want to convince us of the holy nature of the Iran conflict, and assure us that the sacrifice of those already lost is worth being part of his holy war? Perhaps Trump's recent health issues and theological excursion made him aware of prime heavenly real estate, especially the Biblical depiction of many fine mansions.

Careful what you say, Vance! Trump might not react well to hearing that he can't buy a mansion there or bring Mar-a-Lago with him on his ultimate excursion.

DAVID W. BROWN
NORTH BROOKFIELD

Hoping and praying

To the Editor:

First, the good, good news.

In the past six months or so, 30 or more free and fair elections have been held across our United States. Some have been for positions like governor or state representatives and others for ballot measures. In almost all the swing away from Donald Trump/MAGA candidates etc. has been 15-20 percent or more.

What these results point to is that more and more American voters disapprove of Trump and those officials who support him and his actions. More than that they show that Trump politicians, in free and fair November 2026 elections, will likely lose control of our American House of Representatives and perhaps our Senate.

If that happens, we can begin to move towards restoring our beloved 250 year old democracy and away from Trump and those around him who seek to rule rather than govern.

Then the good bad news. Hungary and its' leadership acted as the model for Trump and MAGA. That country's voters, in disgust, have thrown them out of elected government leadership. In other words, they understood MAGA model doesn't work for the country or its' people. (Recently too, the formerly Trump supporting Prime Minister of Italy has called his actions against Pope Leo "unacceptable.")

Now some more good news, we the people have and can do something about it.

First and most effectively we can respectfully talk about both our love of country

and deep concerns about what Trump tries to do both here and beyond our shores. (An example here is Trump's war of choice in Iran which some experts estimate over time will cost over \$1 trillion, or \$12,000 for a family of four.)

Also in rallies and other public events we can demonstrate our opposition to the Trump/MAGA "I rule" approach and instead indicate our support for the 250 years of American democracy.

We can support and push elected officials like, Congressman McGovern, who recently lost his daughter, but strongly perseveres and Congressman Neal to do more.

Finally, Trump/MAGA know they will likely lose a free and fair election, so we need to support organizations, including those I have earlier mentioned that will legally fight for such elections and to help any and all qualified Americans, including MAGA supporters, to get out and vote. In this context let me add another organization. "Activate America" It can, let you from home, contact with voters in key election races by simply writing post cards.

Why do I care so much about the 2026 elections and beyond?

Two reasons. What I have seen happen in other countries — the collapse of democracy — I do not want to see this happen in our beloved country. And even more than that for my children and grandchildren. And yours.

KEVIN KANE
SPENCER

Apologies to Pat Sweet

To the Editor:

As one of the principal 'KK's' you are tired of, I too am tired. There are many other stories I would rather be telling instead of commenting upon the ceaseless Trump gaffes. I did make it to one of the "No Kings" standouts, but my age and physical condition, limits that ability. I am grateful to have the opportunity to share my thoughts with the 6 towns we receive this publication

Unlike the President, I am a big believer in the first amendment (in fact, most of them) As the grandson, son, nephew, cousin, father and grandfather of veterans, and a 13th generation New Englander, I take my patriotism seriously.

Harry Truman was president when I was born, so have seen several. I have not agreed with all of them, but always respected them. My attitude about all people, formed by my Christian upbringing, is that everyone deserves your respect. It is theirs to lose. I lost all respect for DJT when living in New Jersey, I watched how his "Art of the Deal" worked, causing and creating bankruptcies, including his own. I

knew even then he should never be allowed deficit spending.

If you thought DOGE was about fiscal responsibility, or believed the promises for no more wars, more prosperity, lower prices, and open borders were the main issues, explain how you can even justify this man telling the pope that his advocating for peace, and publishing pics of himself as deity, that he, and his Secretary of War Crimes, are blowing up civilians, including children, and chose to kill the current Ayatollah's father, wife and child, who he now criticizes as not wanting peace.

We have a convicted felon as POTUS, so should not be surprised when he acts like a criminal. I was not at all surprised by the total silence from the Whitehouse, when two sexual predators resigned. If we ever get to see the testimony of the 13-year-old's experience with Donald Trump, he would not want any comment recorded.

As long as he continues to embarrass my country being who he is, I will continue to be who I am.

KEN KIMBALL
BROOKFIELD

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LEGALS

Brookfield Planning Board Notice of Public Hearing

In accordance with M. G. L., Chapter 40A, Section 5 and the provisions of the Brookfield Zoning Bylaws Section 13.D, the Brookfield Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on proposed amendments to the Town of Brookfield Zoning Bylaw concerning Accessory Dwelling Units.

The hearing will take place on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, in the Banquet Hall of Brookfield Town Hall, 6 Central St., Brookfield, MA, starting at 6:45 pm or as soon thereafter as can be heard. Meeting details and agenda will be posted at www.mytowngovernment.org/01506. A copy of the proposed amendments may be inspected at the office of the Town Clerk at Brookfield Town Hall during normal business hours.

Kevin Erkkila, Chair
Brookfield Planning Board
April 17, 2026
April 24, 2026

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION NOTICE OF A VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

Project Description: West Brookfield- Bridge Replacement, W-19-002 (187), Long Hill Road Over Quaboag River
Project File No. 613143

A Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed project in West Brookfield, MA.

WHEN: 6:00 PM, Wednesday, April 29, 2026

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Bridge Replacement, W-19-002 (187), Long Hill Road Over Quaboag River project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of fully replacing existing Bridge No. W-19-002 carrying Long Hill Road over the Quaboag River. The existing span length of the bridge will be increased from approximately 95 feet to 140 feet. The new structure will consist of a steel multi-girder superstructure on pile supported concrete abutments. The existing roadway on the bridge will be widened by 1 foot on each side to provide an 11-foot-wide lane and 5-foot-wide shoulder in each direction. The existing 5-and-half-foot wide sidewalk on the south side of the bridge will be replaced with a 6-foot-wide sidewalk to meet current criteria. Sidewalk ramps are proposed at the bridge approaches to transition pedestrians to the shoulder. Long Hill Road will be repaved for approximately 300 feet on each side of the bridge. Roadway upgrades are proposed within the paving the limits including new guardrail, curbing, and drainage structures. The shoulder widening has been provided in accordance with applicable standards to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian use.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Town of West Brookfield is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 613143. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted.

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g. interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer

by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the hearing, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.

This hearing will be hosted, or a cancellation announcement posted, on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

**JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR
CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER**

April 10, 2026
April 17, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 10 Jones Street, Spencer, MA 01562

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Amanda M Davin to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Guild Mortgage Company LLC, and now held by **Guild Mortgage Company LLC**, said mortgage dated July 11, 2022 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 67888, Page 298, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Mortgagee, as nominee for Guild Mortgage Company LLC to Guild Mortgage Company LLC by assignment dated June 4, 2024 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 70394, Page 273; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Mortgagee, as nominee for Guild Mortgage Company LLC to Guild Mortgage Company LLC by assignment dated August 13, 2024 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 70903, Page 62; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Mortgagee, as nominee for Guild Mortgage Company LLC to Guild Mortgage Company LLC by assignment dated December 19, 2024 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 71491, Page 134; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on May 14, 2026 at 02:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

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

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

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

this publication.

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

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

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

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

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

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

Notice of Public Hearing

The North Brookfield Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at 6:35PM at the Senior Center, 29 Forest St., North Brookfield, MA. Public opinion will be received for 60 Gilbert St., regarding a special permit request by Robert Anderson for a tri-plex residential unit (Section IV.A.2.I.) per the North Brookfield Zoning Bylaws. The property is in the R-11 District and Downtown Overlay District. Any person interested in being heard or seeking information should appear at the above stated time and place. A copy of the proposed permit application is on file in the office of the Town Clerk, 215 North Main St., No. Brookfield, MA.
William King, Chair
April 24, 2026
May 1, 2026

Notice of Public Hearing

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

**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. WO26P1247EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

Estate Of:
**Donna Ann Goudreau
Also known as: Donna A Goudreau
Date of Death:02/26/2009**

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/19/2026.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to

this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 15, 2026
Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate
April 24, 2026

**NOTICE TO PLANNING CONSULTANTS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PLANNING FIRMS FOR TOWN OF SPENCER ZONING BYLAW AND SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS REVIEW AND UPDATE**

The Town of Spencer is soliciting proposals from qualified planning consultants to conduct a comprehensive review and update of the Town of Spencer's Zoning Bylaw and Subdivision Regulations. The deadline for response is **May 25, 2026, at 12:00 PM.** Interested parties must access the full Request for Proposals by visiting the Town's website at www.spencerma.gov/bids.aspx. Questions can be sent to Vivian Poplawski, Town Planner, at VPoplawski@SpencerMA.Gov by **May 18, 2026 at 12:00 PM.**
April 24, 2026

**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. WO25P1175EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
**Joseph A. Kularski, Jr.
Also known as: Joseph A. Kularski
Date of Death: 08/11/2024**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Katherine L Richard of Wilbraham MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: .
Katherine L Richard of Wilbraham MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/12/2026.**

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 14, 2026
Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate
April 24, 2026

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Piano concert to benefit May House restoration

LEICESTER — A spring evening of live piano music in Leicester will support preservation efforts at one of the town's historic homes, as musician Alley May Coté Dorgan presents a benefit concert Saturday, April 25, at the Unitarian Church on Washburn Square.

The program, scheduled from 6:30 to 8 p.m., will raise funds for the May House Restoration Fund, an initiative connected to the care and continued stewardship of the longtime family property associated with the May name in the Leicester area. A suggested donation of \$10 per person will be

accepted at the door, with refreshments offered following the performance.

Dorgan, described as a pianist, composer, singer and drummer, plans to present a varied program designed to appeal to a wide audience. The concert will include a blend of original works and arrangements prepared by the performer, reflecting influences from multiple musical traditions and time periods.

The evening also carries special significance through the instrument itself. Music will be performed on JoAnn Milburn May's Mason & Hamlin grand piano.

Supporters of the May

House Restoration Fund hope the evening will highlight the continuing importance of maintaining historic structures connected to Leicester's past while offering residents a chance to come together around live music. With a relaxed format and a reception planned afterward, the event is designed to encourage conversation as well as appreciation for the performance itself.

Those interested in attending are invited to arrive before the 6:30 p.m. start time. Donations collected during the evening will go directly toward restoration efforts.



Courtesy

The Spencer Garden Club's April meeting was held on April 14. Ed Bemis from Bemis Farms Nursery in Spencer was the guest speaker who amazed us with his knowledge of grafting plants, its' history, and some of the grafting techniques successfully used today. The Garden Club would love to have you join us! Meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month (except January and February) at the East Brookfield Senior Center at 1 p.m., and delicious goodies are always served. Next meeting will be our amazing plant auction fund raiser on May 12 at 1 p.m., and we'd love to welcome you!

Leicester Senior Citizens Club launches membership drive

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

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

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

To learn more about the membership drive or to sign up, please visit the Leicester Senior Center at 40 Winslow Ave., Leicester, during operating hours (Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.), or call David Wood, Program Director at the senior center, at (508)-892-7016.

LWPA organizes Lake Wickaboag Area Cleanup for April 25

WEST BROOKFIELD — In conjunction with Earth Day, the Lake Wickaboag Preservation Association ("LWPA") is once again hosting its annual cleanup effort around Lake Wickaboag shorelines and roadsides on Saturday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to noon, rain or shine. All are welcome!

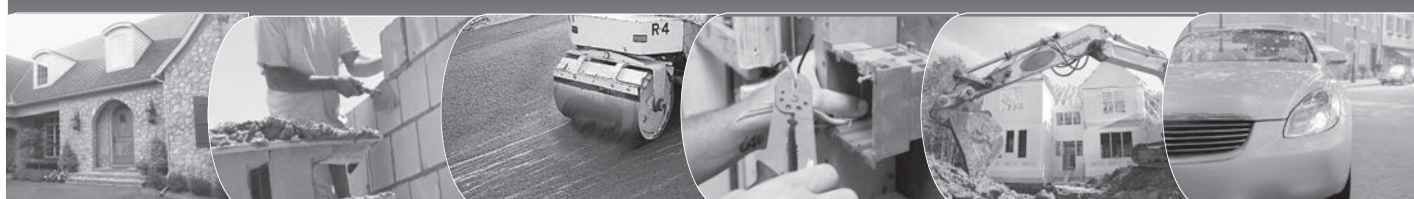
Please meet at the town beach at 12 Lakeview Ave. in West Brookfield at 9 a.m. Light refreshments will be provided as will trash bags and clean up location assignments. Cash prizes will be awarded!

There will be an information table with lake and LWPA-related brochures and flyers. A member of the LWPA Board will be on hand for anyone who wants to "Ask the Expert" about Lake Wickaboag's water quality, weeds, treatments, etc. A wide selection of LWPA merchandise will also be available for sale.

The LWPA will sponsor its first-ever "Reduce. Reuse. Recycle! Lake Gear Swap." Bring paddle boards, water skis, tow ropes, kayaks, life vests, etc. in good condition that you no longer need or use and swap it for something else, if you'd like! Corn hole will also be set up at the beach.

Bring your gloves and bring your energy to help bring back the spring sparkle to the area. For additional information, please email lwpa01585@gmail.com.

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OBITUARIES

Marilyn K. Gaudette, 79



Spencer, MA—Marilyn K. (Gay) Gaudette, 79, died peacefully surrounded by her family on Saturday, April 18, 2026.

She is survived by her devoted husband of 60 years, John P. Gaudette; her daughter, Katherine “Kaye” Spence and her husband, Robert, of Spencer; and her son, John “Jay” P. Gaudette Jr. and his wife, Nancy, of Peachtree City, Georgia. She also leaves five cherished grandchildren, Jason Gaudette, Jennifer Daniell, Trevor Spence, Jacob Spence, and Malorie Spence and her fiancé, Bryce Gosselin; as well as three

great-grandchildren. Marilyn is also lovingly remembered by her cherished cat, Harry. She was predeceased by her son, Derek John Gaudette in 1994, and her brother, Howard Gay in 2009.

Born on April 10, 1947, at Mary Lane Hospital in Ware, Marilyn was the daughter

of the late Winthrop B. Gay and Katherine (Sheldon) Gay of West Brookfield. She was a 1965 graduate of North Brookfield High School.

Marilyn dedicated many years to continuing her father’s legacy as publisher of the Wick-Qua-Boag Weekly and later served as editor of the Spencer New Leader. In 1994, she and her husband relocated to Georgia, where she worked as an executive assistant at DHL for nearly 25 years. Following her retirement in 2018, they returned to Spencer.

Marilyn found joy in life’s simple pleasures. She had a deep love for cats, a fondness for collecting old dolls, and enjoyed gardening, cooking, and researching her family genealogy. Above all, she treasured time spent with her family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Second Chance Animal Shelter, 111 Young Road, P.O. Box 136, East Brookfield, MA 01515.

There are no calling hours. Burial will be private at the request of the family.

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Donations needed for Community Baby Shower

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

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

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

Olivia Hintlian earns Emerson College Dean's List honors for Fall 2025 semester

BOSTON — Olivia Hintlian of Spencer is majoring in Journalism.

The requirement to make the Dean's List is a grade point average of 3.7 or higher for that semester.

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Hydrant flushing to begin April 13 in Spencer

SPENCER — The Town of Spencer Water Department will be flushing fire hydrants throughout the western part of the distribution system starting April 13 through April 30.

Flushing removes sediment from the water mains to help maintain water quality. When the Water Department staff is in the immediate area, residents could experience loss of pressure and short periods of rusty water. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. A daily list of the flushing locations will be posted on the Spencer town Web site, www.spencerma.gov, each day by 8 a.m. (click on Departments, then click Water Department, then click Hydrant Flushing 2026). If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact the Spencer Water Department office at 508-885-7525.

Transfer Station stickers on sale starting April 13

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

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

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

Please include a stamped self addressed envelope to: Department of Utilities & Facilities

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Questions? Call 508-885-7515.

Applications welcome for Quaboag Historical Society scholarship

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

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

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

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VERRIDE
continued from page 1

but provide less funding to the School District. Each question stands alone on the ballot. Citizens can vote for both options, or just one if they choose. Either option requires a majority vote to be approved, and if both are approved then Question 1A will be implemented by law. But if neither received a majority vote in favor, then the override fails entirely.

Even if the questions are approved by the election, they must also be accepted by a majority vote at the annual town meeting in June. If neither option passes at the town meeting, then the budget will require cuts to fit within the limits of Proposition 2 1/2.

In March, Town Administrator Theresa Cofske released a statement concerning the proposed override and its necessity for the future of West Brookfield.

“The town continues to have an increasing structural financial gap caused by revenues vs. expenditures. In the past, the town has used one-time revenues to fill the gap (not a recommended practice) to go into town meeting with a ‘balanced’ budget. However,

as was forewarned by the Advisory Committee and the Town’s Financial Consultant for the last six or seven years, supplementing the budget this way would prove to be unsustainable as those one-time revenues would be depleted over time, which has led to the decision to propose an override,” wrote Cofske.

Since March, additional documents explaining the override have been released, including clarifying that regardless of the result of the override the fate of the West Brookfield Elementary School remains in the hands of the Quaboag Regional School Committee. Budgetary constraints have threatened the continued operation of the school for years.

According to a tax impact estimates posted on the town Web site, Question 1A’s ask for \$1.6 million would increase the average single-family property taxes increase by \$934.72 next year. Question 1B for \$1.1 million would increase the same average single-family households’ property taxes increase by \$645.21. It’s important to note that this is an average, and exact impacts on individual household taxes may vary.

Of course, the local elec-

tion will also determine new leadership in the community, but there is substantially less drama involved in those decisions with no truly contested seats on the ballot.

Henry Brogna is the lone candidate for the single vacancy for Selectman, Jason Paquette is uncontested for a return to the Board of Health, Cassie Paolucci is unopposed for her re-election campaign for Common Committee, Janet Foley and Jane Higgins are locks for be re-elected to the Library Board of Trustees, Philip Guerin is uncontested for a return to the Water Commission, and Matthew Pelloquin from the Town of Warren, and Philip Landine and Travis Mathieson from West Brookfield are all unopposed for their re-election campaigns for the School Committee. Seats on the Housing Authority and Planning Board as well as the Town Assessor have no candidates on the ballot.

West Brookfield’s Town Election will take place on May 5 at the Senior Center at 73 Center St. from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for June 2 at the Elementary School at 89 North Main St. at 6:30 p.m.

Safe Boating certificate courses scheduled at Milford and Webster locations

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

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

most other states & many countries where boating safety education is mandatory including RI and CT.

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

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

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

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

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

The registration deadline is April 26.

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

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

Webster Fire Department Classroom, 55 Thompson Rd., Webster

The registration deadline is May 10.

Contact our Public Education Officer Phil Kubat for registration or additional

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

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

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

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Latin American Business Expo returns to Worcester April 25, marking 11 years of impact

WORCESTER — The Latin American Business Organization Inc. (LABO) will host its Annual Latin American Business Expo on Saturday, April 25 from noon to 4 p.m. at the DCU Center in Worcester. This dynamic event is free and open to the public, bringing together entrepreneurs, micro, small businesses, and the community for a day of connection, opportunity, and celebration.

This year marks 11 years of impact since the first Latin American Business Expo launched in 2015, continuing a strong tradition of elevating small and minority-owned businesses across Central Massachusetts.

A platform for business growth and visibility The Latin American Business Expo has become

a key space where businesses gain exposure, build connections, and access new opportunities. Attendees can expect:

A diverse range of local and regional business exhibitors

Food tastings representing Latin American cultures

A Venture Pitch Competition supporting small business innovation

Networking opportunities with entrepreneurs, institutions, and community leaders

Family-friendly activities, entertainment, raffles, and prizes

Come out. Discover. Support.

This is an opportunity to meet local entrepreneurs, explore their products and services, and buy local. Not only are you supporting

local businesses, you are also supporting the families behind them and strengthening our local economy.

“For 11 years, LABO has been creating opportunities where they didn’t exist,” said Elizabeth Cruz, President of LABO.

“This Expo is more than an event, it is where businesses are seen, supported, and connected to opportunity,” added Cruz. “It represents our commitment to helping entrepreneurs grow, build, and contribute to Worcester’s economy.”

The Expo advances LABO’s mission to elevate underrepresented businesses and drive economic mobility through entrepreneurship and workforce development.

Rooted in impact
Founded in 2015, LABO is a Worcester-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit and an affiliate of the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce. The organization is dedicated to increasing economic prosperity for Latino-owned and underserved businesses through training, certification programs, and business development initiatives.

Today, LABO delivers more than 12 active programs and workshops in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, breaking language barriers and creating real access to opportunity for our community. These include youth entrepreneurship and leadership development programs, workforce training, supplier diversity certification, financial readiness, and industry-recognized certifications, including the only Construction Supervisory License (CSL) training in Spanish in Worcester County and ServSafe certification offered in both Spanish and Portuguese.

Get involved
The Latin American Business Expo is free to attend, with limited opportunities still available for vendors, sponsors, and community partners.

To register, become a vendor, or learn more, visit: www.labous.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Friday's Child

Keira and Landon
Age 16, 15
Registration 9050 9019

Landon and Keira are a close-knit brother and sister who very much want to be adopted together. Their bond is strong, and they truly find comfort and confidence in one another. Keira is especially protective of Landon, often stepping into the role of encourager and cheerleader when he needs it most.

Keira is outgoing, social, and comfortable expressing her thoughts and feelings. She has a lively personality, a witty sense of humor, and a slightly sarcastic edge that makes people laugh. Beneath that confidence, she has a genuinely soft and caring side. Keira has a bold, unique sense of fashion and fully embraces her style — from coordinating outfits to accessorizing with a trendy pocketbook and bright lipstick that makes her look pop. She loves shopping for clothes and expressing herself creatively through fashion.

Keira’s interests are wide-ranging. She enjoys swimming, playing board games, reading, watching TV shows and movies, and bowling. She is talented in Tae Kwon Do and participates in therapeutic riding lessons. Always full of ideas, Keira hopes to explore music and dance lessons in the future. She attends a technical school and is considering focusing on fashion design or animal science — two areas that reflect both her creativity and her love for animals.

Landon is a kind, loving, and thoughtful child with a big heart and a wonderful sense of humor. He enjoys making others laugh and often surprises people with his clever observations. Landon is naturally curious and loves to figure out how things work — whether it’s taking apart a concept in science, solving a tricky problem, or building something new. He is especially interested in science and engineering and thrives when he can work hands-on.

Landon loves building with Legos, where he can spend hours designing detailed structures and experimenting with new ideas. He enjoys spending time outdoors and benefits from opportunities to stay active. He appreciates one-on-one attention and thrives with encouragement and positive reinforcement. Landon does best in environments where his curiosity is nurtured and where he feels supported as he explores new interests.

Together, Landon and Keira are bright, engaging, and full of potential. They bring laughter, creativity, determination, and heart into every space they enter.

<https://www.mareinc.org/recruitment-group/23373776781>
Can I Adopt?

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

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

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

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

The members-only exhibition will feature original pieces limited to a maximum size of 12 by 14 inches, measured by outside

frame dimensions. Artists may submit up to two entries each. Organizers said the smaller format encourages experimentation and accessibility while allowing a broad range of styles and media to be displayed in a shared community setting.

The show will be judged as a single category rather than divided by medium. Awards will be presented for first, second and third place, along with an honorary mention. A People's

Choice selection will also be recognized. Ribbon prizes will be awarded to winners.

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

attend the reception to connect with visitors and fellow exhibitors.

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

Registration for the show opened Feb. 22 and continues through April 15, or until available space is filled. Advance registration is required, and artists must

complete the entry process through the guild's website.

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

Support for the exhibition

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

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



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

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



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

Webster - 24 Cooper Rd
New Construction - Craftsman Style home



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

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Webster Lake Waterfront Listing!!
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Webster Lake - 302 Kildeer Island



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Asparagus chowder is back!

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

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

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



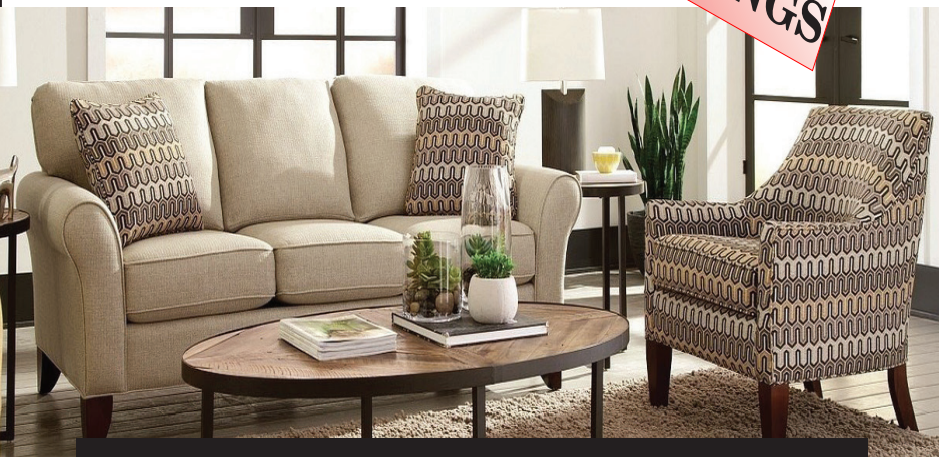
Courtesy

Ed Bemis of Bemis Farm Nursery delighted members of the Spencer Garden Club with his presentation on grafting and cutting plants. After the talk, one of the members remarked he made a "sort of boring topic" extremely interesting! Ed also gifted the club with pansies and pots for planting. The next meeting of the club will be Tuesday, May 12 at 1 p.m. in the East Brookfield Senior Center. It will be the club's spring auction featuring plants, garden items, baked goods and household treasures. The public is invited to attend. New or prospective members are always welcome.

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