



©2026, Issue #12

Free by request to residents of

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

SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS

Friday, March 27, 2026

# Leicester Middle School hosts first ever Unified Basketball game



LEICESTER — On March 18, Leicester Middle School Wolverines hosted the Auburn Rockets for a Unified Basketball game.

Special Olympics Unified Sports is an inclusive program pairing individuals with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team, promoting friendship, understanding, and inclusion through training and competition. With

over 1.6 million participants worldwide, it breaks down stereotypes and fosters social inclusion in schools and communities.

The Wolverine roster included the following LMS students: Anthony Sullivan, Kallee-Lee Carlson, Chloey Jones, Giuliana Escobar, James Boudreau, Kennedy Prachniak, Ryan Slade, Aksel Raymond, Camille

LeBlanc, Davina Santana, Jacob Soucie, Jayden Moore, and Reid Raymond. LMS teacher/Unified Basketball Coach Laura Tormey, along with assistant coach Joe

Barbato and many other staff members, led the team in practices and games in the Wolverines' first season of Unified Basketball. Before the game, Tormey announced, "Today we

gather here for basketball, but more importantly, we come together to command space in a world we want to see be more inclusive. There is nothing more important than being kind

to ourselves and one another."

The Leicester Middle School Pep Band added to the atmosphere, cheer-

Turn To UNIFIED page A8

## State funding confirmed for Mud Brook Bridge replacement

BY JASON BLEAU CORRESPONDENT

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The North Brookfield Board of Selectmen has confirmed approval of state funding to help reconstruct the Mad Brook Bridge, which has been closed since 2020.

Selectman Jamie Gilman read a notice from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation during a meeting on March 10 that revealed North Brookfield has been approved for funding through the DOT's Small Bridge Program. The probable cost of the project was stated to be \$1.87 million. It was confirmed that the award letter estimate includes all bid items as well as 10 percent construction contingency and a "not to exceed" amount of \$75,000 for construction and engineering services.

"The project was designed with assistance from Mass DOT, and the reconstruction of the bridge has progressed through design and approval in accordance with Chapter 85 of the Massachusetts General Law which is great news if you live or travel on Mud Brook Road," said Gilman.

The bridge was closed in 2020 after it was deemed unsafe by Mass DOT. The town has been working towards a resolution ever since. As recently as last year, North Brookfield was still working to secure funding for the project, and this latest news will finally allow them to go out to bid.

Kim George, the town's Highway Department Clerc, explained that while right of way concerns were previously addressed in 2024, she wanted to address those expectations with the town's legal representation again as the ownership of neighboring properties may have changed in the past few years. Selectmen okayed this approach. She also expressed interest in having multiple stakeholders from the town hall involved in the bid writing process.

"The bid will be complex. A bit more extensive than a regular construction and paving project," George said.

The town will continue to work with BSC Group as the project engineering firm. An updated project timeline was not disclosed during the Board of Selectmen meeting.

BY JASON BLEAU CORRESPONDENT

LEICESTER — A potential new contract is in the works regarding the responsibilities and costs shared by organizations that utilize Russell Memorial Park Field.

The Leicester Select Board discussed the status of the negotiations on March 17 where they approved, in concept, a new

contract that would need to be signed by all parties to agree to updated terms. The agreement is the result of several discussions between the town administration and representatives of the Leicester Little League and Girls Softball. Select Board member Peter Cusolito sat in on those meetings and presented details of the proposed contract to the board at-large, noting that it updates cost sharing

responsibilities and solidifies some of the town's responsibilities for maintenance.

The most recent contract had been in place since 2014 and required Leicester Little League and Girls Softball to pay 25 percent of all annual utility costs despite the league not using the lights on the field. The reworked document addresses these issues by basing the league's bills

on only the seven months they are in season where the lights are seldom in use.

Any alterations or improvements to the property will need to be approved by the town at the expense of the league while the town will provide brush cutting and drainage. The town still needs to coordinate with the Leicester High and Middle Schools about their utilization

Turn To FIELD page A8

## Wolverine Grill at Leicester High School opens its doors to the public

LEICESTER — The Wolverine Grill at Leicester High School has taken an exciting step forward, officially opening its doors to the public for the first time on March 19. Welcoming 42 guests on opening day, the student-run restaurant showcased not only delicious food but also the talent, dedication, and professionalism of its students.

Throughout the 2025-2026 school year, the Wolverine Grill has steadily built momentum by hosting private events in partnership with the Leicester Senior Center and the Leicester Housing Authority. These experiences have helped students refine their culinary and hospitality skills while strengthening connections within the local community.

With its public debut, the Wolverine Grill is now expanding its reach even



further. The restaurant will be open to the public every Thursday during the school year from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., offering guests the opportunity to enjoy freshly prepared meals in a welcoming environment.

Opening day featured a diverse and appealing menu, including chicken wings, fish and chips, baked crusted cod, the signature Wolverine SmashBurger, turkey club sandwiches, garlic green beans, and

dessert. The variety highlighted both classic comfort foods and thoughtfully prepared dishes, all created and served by students.

In addition to its Turn To GRILL page A8

# Kindergarten registration now open; free Integrated Preschool available for Leicester families

LEICESTER — The Leicester School District is pleased to announce that Kindergarten registration is now open for the 2026-2027 school year. We are also excited to continue offering tuition-free enrollment in our integrated preschool program for Leicester residents.

Children who turn five years old on or before Aug. 31 are eligible to enroll in Kindergarten at Leicester Elementary School. School hours are 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. There is no registration deadline, and families are encouraged to register as soon as possible to help us prepare for the upcoming

school year.

To enter Kindergarten, students must provide:

Proof of a lead screening with results

A physical exam dated within 13 months of the start of school

5 doses of Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTaP)

4 doses of Polio

3 doses of Hepatitis B

2 doses of Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)

2 doses of Varicella vaccine or documentation of chickenpox disease

Families are invited to attend Kindergarten Information Night on Wednesday, April 8, from

5-7 p.m. at the Leicester Middle School Fine Arts Center. The evening will include an informative presentation, a question-and-answer session, and a tour of Leicester Elementary School. It is a wonderful opportunity for families to learn more and begin building connections within the school community.

Registration information can be found at: [https://leicester.k12.ma.us/for\\_parents/student\\_registration](https://leicester.k12.ma.us/for_parents/student_registration).

In addition to Kindergarten registration, Leicester is proud to offer a tuition-free integrated preschool program for in-town resi-

dents. Children who turn three or four years old on or before Aug. 31 are eligible to apply. District residents who qualify for special education services may begin attending once they turn three, regardless of the birthdate cutoff.

Children enrolling in the preschool program must be independently toilet-trained (no diapers or pull-ups), unless a specific special education service requires otherwise. Children who are not yet independently using the restroom during the school day will need to wait to begin the program until they are developmentally ready.

More information about the integrated preschool program can be found at: <https://sites.google.com/lpsma.net/leicester-integrated-preschool?usp=sharing>.

For questions about Kindergarten or Preschool registration, please contact Leicester Elementary School at (508) 892-7050.

We look forward to welcoming our newest learners and partnering with families as they begin this exciting educational journey in Leicester!

## School District accepting applications for Kindergarten & Preschool

SPENCER — The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District is now accepting Kindergarten & Preschool applications for the 2026-2027 school year.

Kindergarten (for children who will reach the age of five years old by Aug. 31) Letters were mailed out last week to all families that listed their eligible child(ren) on the 2025 town census and emails were sent to all resident families that have a child currently enrolled in our Cubs' Corner Preschool program that will be of age by the cut-off date.

Kindergarten is offered at both Wire Village School in Spencer and East Brookfield Elementary School in East Brookfield. Students are enrolled at the school in their town of residence, in accordance with District policy. School hours are 8:25 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., Monday through Friday. There is no registration deadline.

Medical forms must be completed by a physician and must detail that your child has been given the following immunizations (including the dates the immunizations were given):

- 5 doses Diphtheria, Pertussis, and Tetanus (DTaP)
- 4 doses Polio
- 3 doses Hepatitis B
- 2 doses Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)
- 2 doses of Varicella Vaccine or Chicken Pox disease
- Proof of Lead Screening
- Vision and Hearing Screenings

Cubs' Corner Preschool The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District's Cubs' Corner Preschool will be relocated to the all-new preschool wing at David Prouty High School starting with the 2026-2027 school year. Our program is an integrated preschool with tuition-paying students, as well as special needs students. The resident rate is \$20/day for half days and \$40/day for full days. The non-resident rate is \$22.50/day for half days and \$45/day for full-days.

Sessions will be filled on a first come, first served basis. The following sessions are offered:

- Monday/Wednesday/Friday: AM, PM or Full Day
- Tuesday/Thursday: AM, PM or Full Day
- Monday-Friday: AM, PM or Full Day

Preschool Eligibility Requirements

Age requirement: Those attending a tuition-based preschool slot must be three (3) years old by the Aug. 31 cut-off date to be eligible to attend the current school year. District residents that qualify for Special Education services may attend once they turn three, regardless of the birth date cut-off.

Toilet Training: All tuition-based preschool students must be reliably toilet trained (no diapers or pull-ups) at the start of school. Children who do not evidence signs of reliable toilet training while in school will be found ineligible for enrollment.

Registration process

All student registrations are done online. If you would like to register your child to attend, please complete the Pre-Registration Form to begin the registration process and select the 2026-2027 school year. Once your form has been approved, you will receive an email with further instructions to create your PowerSchool online parent portal account where you will complete all of the required enrollment forms and upload required documentation. Families must provide a birth certificate (original or copy with a seal), most recent physical/immunization records/lead test (dated within one year of school start date), and two forms of proof of residency from the accepted documents listed on the address form. Tuition-based preschool families must submit a deposit equal to one week's tuition to secure their child's spot.

If you do not have access to the internet to complete the forms, we have a kiosk set up inside the Student Services office at David Prouty High School for families to use. An appointment is required to ensure that the kiosk will be available and a staff member is present to assist. The office is open for appointments Monday through Thursday, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Please call 508-885-8515 (opt. 0) with any questions,

to schedule an appointment or to provide supporting documentation.

For more information about the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District and to stay up-to-date on the latest happenings across the district, please visit the website at [www.sebrsd.org](http://www.sebrsd.org), follow us on Twitter and Facebook, and download the SEBRSD mobile app.

## JOY (Just Older Youth) Adventurers offers journey through Canadian Rockies & Pacific Northwest

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

The landscape soon transforms as the route climbs inland through British Columbia's dramatic highways toward alpine terrain. Highlights include the soaring presence of Mount Robson and the pristine beauty of Jasper National Park, where glacier-fed lakes, rugged peaks, and serene wildlife encounters define each moment. A cruise on Maligne Lake and time along the iconic Icefields Parkway lead to the immense Columbia Icefield, offering rare access to ancient glaciers and sweeping mountain vistas.

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

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

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



### 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"

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10				
11						12					13	14	15	
16						17			18					
19				20	21			22	23				24	
25						26					27			
28						29					30			
				31	32						33			
34	35	36	37							38				
39						40	41	42						
43						44					45	46	47	48
49				50					51	52				
53			54						55					
56		57				58					59			
60						61	62					63		
						64							65	

- #### CLUES ACROSS
- 1. "Bird of Paradise" constellation
  - 5. Red Sox WS winner Bronson
  - 11. Whirl
  - 12. The State Dept. has a notable one
  - 16. Energy, style and enthusiasm
  - 17. Part of the mind
  - 18. Mountainous country
  - 19. Type of beverage
  - 24. Atomic #109
  - 25. Opposite of falsities
  - 26. Female sheep
  - 27. Rocky peak
  - 28. Sensitive information sharing environment
  - 29. Ethnic group of Thailand
  - 30. Patron saint of Rome Philip
  - 31. Psychedelics
  - 33. Japanese pine
  - 34. Have an impact on
  - 38. Violent disorder
  - 39. A French river
  - 40. Early Mesoamerican civilization
  - 43. Messenger ribonucleic acid
  - 44. Musician Clapton
  - 45. Ancient Greek sophist
  - 49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
  - 50. Valley
  - 51. A way to unwind
  - 53. Atomic #93
  - 54. Recommending
  - 56. Indigo bush
  - 58. Larry and Curly's pal
  - 59. Off-Broadway theater award
  - 60. Fencers
  - 63. Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
  - 64. Relating to songbirds
  - 65. A way to assign

- #### CLUES DOWN
- 1. Some are "secret"
  - 2. Intestinal openings
  - 3. Distant planet
  - 4. Assembly possessing high legislative powers
  - 5. Genus of typical owls
  - 6. One with distinctively colored hair
  - 7. Red cross
  - 8. An alternative
  - 9. Abominable snowmen
  - 10. About ear
  - 13. The opening letters
  - 14. Feeling of regret
  - 15. Atomic #39
  - 20. Luteinizing hormone
  - 21. Atomic #55
  - 22. Carries a debt
  - 23. Albanian monetary unit
  - 27. Semitic abjad letter
  - 29. Yes
  - 30. Negative
  - 31. Earn a perfect score
  - 32. Connecticut
  - 33. Partner to cheese
  - 34. Snack nuts
  - 35. Quadruped's body part
  - 36. Locate
  - 37. Pitching statistic
  - 38. "\_\_\_, myself and I"
  - 40. Utah city northwest of Provo
  - 41. Football players in the trenches
  - 42. One who runs the show
  - 44. Wood
  - 45. Performing artists
  - 46. Slang for a cut
  - 47. More breathable
  - 48. Most crafty
  - 50. Provokes into action
  - 51. University of Dayton
  - 52. Sodium
  - 54. Large fish of the mackerel family
  - 55. Not one
  - 57. \_\_\_ and behold
  - 61. Sports highlight show
  - 62. "The Great Lakes State"

### PUZZLE SOLUTION

A	P	U	S		A	R	R	O	Y	O						
G	Y	R	E		S	E	C	R	E	T	A	R	Y			
E	L	A	N		I	D		T	I	B	E	T				
N	O	N	A	L	C	O	H	O	L	I	C		M	T		
T	R	U	T	H	S		E	W	E	S		T	O	R		
S	I	S	E		S	A	E	K		N	E	R	I			
					A	C	I	D	S		M	A	T	S	U	
A	F	F	E	C	T					M	A	Y	H	E	M	
L	O	I	R	E		O	L	M	E	C						
M	R	N	A		E	R	I	C			A	B	A	S		
O	E	D		G	L	E	N		U	N	C	O	I	L		
N	P		C	O	M	M	E	N	D	A	T	O	R	Y		
D	A	L	E	A			M	O			O	B	I	E		
S	W	O	R	D	S	M	E	N			R	O	E	S		
						O	S	C	I	N	E		S	O	R	T

## SPENCER NEW LEADER

**TO PLACE AN AD:**  
MIKAELA VICTOR  
(774) 200-7308  
[mikaela@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:mikaela@stonebridgepress.news)

**LEGAL NOTICES:**  
(508) 909-4127

**SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES:**  
KERRI PETERSON  
(508) 909-4103  
[kerrip@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:kerrip@stonebridgepress.news)

**TO PRINT AN OBITUARY:**  
E-MAIL  
[obits@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:obits@stonebridgepress.news)  
CALL: 508-909-4149

OR send to Spencer New Leader  
P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

**TO SUBMIT A LETTER**  
**TO THE EDITOR:**  
E-MAIL: [news@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.news)  
OR send to Spencer New Leader  
P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

**SPENCER NEW LEADER**  
PUBLISHED BY  
**STONEBRIDGE PRESS**

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER  
FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
[frank@salmonpress.news](mailto:frank@salmonpress.news)

BUSINESS MANAGER  
RYAN CORNEAU  
860-928-1818 EXT. 102  
[ryan@salmonpress.news](mailto:ryan@salmonpress.news)

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR  
JIM DINICOLA  
508-764-6102  
[jim@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:jim@stonebridgepress.news)

EDITOR  
BRENDAN BERUBE  
508-909-4101  
[news@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.news)

PRODUCTION MANAGER  
JULIE CLARKE  
508-909-4105  
[julie@villagernewsnewspapers.com](mailto:julie@villagernewsnewspapers.com)

The Spencer New Leader (USPS#024-927) (ISSN 1945-6603) is published weekly by Stonebridge Press, Inc., 25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550. Periodical postage paid at Southbridge, MA and additional mailing office(s). POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Spencer New Leader, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

# Swan Tavern Historical Museum launches 2026 programs April 2

LEICESTER — The Swan Tavern Leicester Historical Museum is about to start its 2026 presentation series starting in the first week of April. The tavern staff is enthusiastic and once again, will combine a mix of presentations and performances and will be inclusive of local history.

Thursday April 2 at 7 p.m.: “French Captives in Massachusetts” Steve & Bronya Joanis return to the Swan Tavern with presentation on Acadians forcibly brought to Massachusetts from 1755 to 1763 during the French & Indian War. Although this will be a media presentation, the presentation will be in period costume appropriate for 1786 and offer a remembrance or eulogy for Joseph Robichaux, the son of a French Neutral who died in a shipwreck in December of 1786 as well as

focus on the Robichaud family, Nova Scotians relocated to the New England States during the war. Come learn about this little talked about, but fascinating time in our local history.

Thursday, May 21 at 7 p.m.: “Resurrecting Lost Voices: The Letters of George Gould” In July 1862, the second year of the Civil War, a twenty-nine-year-old man named George W. Gould from Leicester enlisted in the 25th Volunteers to fight for the Union, leaving his wife Almira and their three young children at home. Private Gould was killed on June 6, 1864 at the bloody battle of Cold Harbor. One hundred fifty years later, graduate student Morgan Kolakowski Zhang shared her collection of Gould’s letters with Stan Prager, owner of GoGeeks Computer Rescue in East Longmeadow, as well as an

independent historian with an interest in the Civil War era. Stan was moved by the letters, and—in what he termed the perfect “marriage of history and technology”—set out to digitize and transcribe the letters, and create a website to honor George W. Gould. Join him in the story of PVT Gould and the tale to preserve his story.

Thursday, Oct. 29 at 7 p.m.: Vampires in Early New England In time for Halloween, Tom Kelleher returns to the Swan Tavern for presentation on Vampires in Early New England. The question of why scores of people opened graves of their sweethearts, sons, or daughters, along with husbands and wives will perhaps not be what you expect. What terror would drive these people to take this extreme stance? How does Count Dracula fit into the picture? Answers to

these and many other questions will be revealed.

Thursday, Dec. 4 at 7 p.m.: “Traditional Songs of Christmas” Come visit the Swan Tavern as it is bright with warm Christmas décor for a live musical performance by the Olde Towne Carolers of Boston. Dressed in period Victorian attire, the performance of traditional Christmas songs will last approximately 45 minutes. This event is free to the public, but reservations are requested.

All programs are presented by the Friends of Swan Tavern and/or the town of Leicester Historical Commission. This project is supported in part, by a grant from the Leicester Arts Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

# Solo/Duet series to blend poetry and chamber jazz at Merriam-Gilbert Public Library

WEST BROOKFIELD — A month-long series celebrating poetry and jazz will return to the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library in April, offering four evenings of live readings and chamber jazz performances in recognition of National Poetry Month and National Jazz Month.

The program, titled “Solo/Duet,” will take place Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. throughout April at the library, 3 W. Main St. Each session pairs local poets with small-ensemble jazz performances, creating a format in which spoken word “bookends” instrumental sets.

Organizers describe the series as an opportunity for residents to experience two art forms together in an informal and accessible setting. Admission is free, though seating reservations are encouraged by calling the library.

The April lineup begins April 7 with bassist Jerry Wilfong and percussionist-trumpeter Dick Hummel. Poets Glenn D’Alessio and Susan Roney-O’Brien will provide readings that evening.

On April 14, Wilfong will return alongside guitarist Mitch Seidman and harmonica player Chet Williamson. Poetry readings that night will be presented by Clair Degutis and Jim Beschta.

The April 21 program will feature Wilfong with guitarist Rich Falco and trombonist Rich Ardizzone. Judith Ferrara and Jonathan Blake are scheduled to read selections during the session.

The series concludes April 28 with a solo bass recital by Wilfong. The final evening’s readings will be delivered by Beth Sweeney and Stephen Campiglio.

According to program organizers, the series is structured to highlight the connections between improvisational music and contemporary poetry, offering audiences a chance to hear how rhythm, phrasing and narrative interact across disciplines. The alternating format allows listeners to experience both arts as complementary rather than separate performances.

Funding support for the series is provided through the West Brookfield Cultural

Council, with additional backing from the Massachusetts Cultural Council’s local cultural council program.

Library staff say the program continues a tradition of spring arts programming tied to National Poetry Month, observed each April across the country, and National Jazz Appreciation Month, which recognizes jazz’s cultural and historical significance in American life.

Residents of West Brookfield and surrounding communities are invited to attend any or all of the Tuesday sessions. Organizers recommend advance reservations due to limited seating in the library’s program space.

For more information or to reserve a seat, contact the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library at 508-867-1410.

# Workshop13 highlights local musicians with Singer Songwriter Series

WARE — Workshop13 is excited to highlight seven local and regional musicians in the next session of their Singer Songwriter Series: Jason Wood, Samantha Herman, Morgan Alyse, Valerie Newman, Jake Goldstein, Josh Noone, and our featured performer Peter J. Newland. This event takes place in Workshop13’s Grand Hall at 13 Church St, Ware, MA on Saturday, March 28. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the performance begins at 7pm. Tickets are priced on a sliding scale and are available at www.workshop13.org.

Enjoy photo ops, meet and greets, and great local music. Hot coffee, tea, beer, and wine are available for purchase, and free pop-

corn is provided. The performance will feature sound design by Brian Jyringi and be hosted by Amanda Meli and MC’d by Kevin Wherry. Singer-songwriters will share their original songs and the stories behind them, “in the round” style. This performance format brings a group of singer-songwriters together sharing the stage, with each artist delivering songs one after another. After intermission, enjoy a special featured performance by Peter J. Newland followed by a powerful second round, a group curtain call, and a community meet-and greet with all performers.

Singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Peter J. Newland formed the Springfield, MA rock

band FAT in 1969, which is still performing today. FAT released albums on RCA and their own Dream Merchant Records and were signed to Atlantic Records by Ahmet Ertegun and Jerry Wexler in 1980. Peter wrote all the songs on the FAT albums, collaborating on several with other FAT members. In 1985, Peter moved to Nashville and worked as a staff writer for Paul Overstreet and Fitzgerald/Hartley. He has had songs cut by Hank Williams Junior, Colin Raye, Tracey Lawrence, Alan Jackson and others. He moved back to Springfield in 2002. He performs locally and regionally with his original band FAT, his rock quintet RadioX, and The Peter J. Newland Trio.

# 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.

For Advertising Information Call 774-200-7308 email: mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

What should you do in the new year? Get your “estate needs in order”. No one likes to talk about death, that is why you should have everything done in advance. Make sure your hard-earned money and investments are left to those you want. Call me for a free consultation. Also, handling all types of real estate matters.



Cournoyer & Cournoyer, P.C. Attorney Don Cournoyer, Jr. Cell: 508-868-7943 don@cournoyerlaw.net



## ESTATE SALE

March 28th, Saturday 9am-3pm  
8 Pine Valley Dr  
Auburn, MA

### P.E.T. of the Week

Sponsored by Leicester Veterinary Clinic, LLC

#### Meet Willow

Willow is a sweet, energetic girl with a heart as big as her love for people. This little lady is a total “Velcro dog” who adores humans and lights up every room with her happy personality. She’s playful, affectionate, and always ready for cuddles or a fun adventure. Willow is currently underweight and needs to gain some healthy pounds. She also requires a dental procedure to help her feel her very best. Because of this, she will be available as a foster-to-adopt placement while she works on reaching a healthy weight and getting her dental care taken care of. If you’re interested in giving this loving girl a safe place to land and helping her on her journey to feeling amazing, please call the shelter for more information on how the foster-to-adopt process works. Willow can’t wait to meet her forever family!



Second Chance Animal Services  
www.secondchanceanimals.org  
East Brookfield, MA • 508-867-5525

**Leicester Veterinary Clinic, LLC**  
1205 Main St. Leicester, MA 01524  
P:508-892-9181 • F: 508-892-8791  
www.leicesterclinic.com

Wellness exams • Vaccinations • Cat Boarding  
Spays, neuters and routine soft tissue surgery  
Dentistry • Radiology (Digital)  
In-house diagnostic laboratory facilities (Iddex)  
• Pharmacy  
• Prescription diets Hills, Royal Canin  
• Domestic health certificates and much more!

**Dr. Colm P. Scanlon**  
Veterinarian

**MLS Aucoin Ryan Realty**  
Your Neighborhood Realtor  
201 South Street Southbridge, MA 01550  
508-765-9155 1-800-784-0445  
FAX 508-765-2698  
www.AucoinRyanRealty.com  
SpiroThomo@gmail.com

**Spiro Thomo Broker**  
Licensed 35+ years  
508.765.0465  
774.200.8043

## 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**

**Todd A. Ethier**  
B•U•I•L•D•E•R  
774-230-3967

- REMODELING EXPERT
- PROFESSIONAL INSTALLED
- WINDOWS AND SIDING

774-230-3967  
Quality Building Since 1985

**HARVEY WINDOWS**

◆ FINISHED BASEMENTS ◆ ADDITIONS ◆ KITCHENS ◆ BATHS ◆ GARAGES ◆ SIDING  
◆ ROOFING ◆ DECKS ◆ WINDOWS ◆ DOORS ◆ AUTHORIZED HARVEY DEALER  
◆ LICENSED & INSURED ◆ HONEST, CLEAN & DEPENDABLE

**PEPIN WASTE SERVICE**  
Your Local Roll-Off Specialist

**WINTER SPECIAL**  
**\$340**  
10 yd. Rental 1 Ton  
3 sizes available. Call for pricing.

**Roll Off Containers**  
Weekend Dumpsters for the Homeowner  
Houses • Attics • Cellars  
Construction Sites

10-15-20 Yd.  
**508-892-4193 • Leicester, MA**  
Fully Insured

1 8 7 2 - 2 0 0 7



25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550  
 Telephone (800) 367-9898  
 Fax (508) 764-8015  
 www.StonebridgePress.com

FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
 PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE  
 EDITOR

## EDITORIAL

# Basketball is more than just a game at Leicester Middle School

There are some school events that stay with a community long after the final buzzer sounds. The Unified Basketball game between Leicester Middle School and Auburn on March 18 appears to have been one of them.

On the surface, it was a middle school matchup between the Wolverines and the Rockets. In practice, it was something larger. Unified Sports programs, supported by Special Olympics, bring together students with and without intellectual disabilities on the same teams. The result is not simply competition, but connection. It is a reminder that the purpose of school athletics is not only to win games, but to help young people grow together.

That message was visible throughout the gym that afternoon.

Students played. The pep band performed. Teachers coached. Administrators officiated. Families filled the stands. And perhaps most importantly, classmates cheered not for one group or another, but for everyone on the court. Moments like that do not happen by accident. They reflect a school culture that values kindness as much as achievement.

Coach Laura Tormey's words before the game captured the spirit of the afternoon. She reminded students that they were not simply gathering for basketball, but to help shape a more inclusive world. That may sound like a large goal for a middle school gymnasium, yet it is exactly where such change begins. Inclusion is not taught only in classrooms. It is practiced in shared experiences.

Principal Doug Daponte noted that everyone in attendance was a winner. It is easy to understand why. When students step onto a court together as teammates and supporters, barriers that sometimes feel permanent begin to look smaller. Confidence grows. Friendships form. Communities strengthen.

Just as striking was the role played by the Leicester Middle School Pep Band. Forty student musicians volunteered their time to support the game. Their presence helped turn a school event into a community celebration. For the players on the court, hearing classmates cheer from the stands matters more than most adults realize. It tells them they belong.

Several students spoke afterward about the energy in the gym and the pride they felt in their school. Those reactions are worth noticing. Young people recognize authenticity quickly. When they describe an event as heartwarming or unforgettable, it usually means they experienced something genuine.

Programs like Unified Basketball do not require large budgets or elaborate facilities. They require commitment from teachers, administrators, families, and students who believe that participation should be open to everyone. Leicester Middle School clearly demonstrated that commitment.

It is also encouraging to hear students already hoping the team continues for years to come. That kind of enthusiasm suggests the program has taken root. When inclusion becomes part of a school's identity rather than a single event, the benefits extend well beyond athletics.

Communities often look for ways to bring people together across differences. Sometimes the answer is as simple as opening a gymnasium door, inviting everyone in, and letting students show what respect and teamwork look like in real time.

The scoreboard may have marked the end of the game, but the lesson carried home that evening likely stayed with everyone who was there. And that is the kind of victory any town can be proud of.

# VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Some of the people, all of the time

To the Editor:

I have mentioned before that it is easier to con people, than to convince them that they were conned. Would you believe that many of the same people who voted for Trump, because he claimed no more never ending foreign wars, better cheaper health insurance and making every important facet of your life better and cheaper, are actually thinking there are people dumb enough to buy their claims that he is doing a great job. It is pretty clear who that might apply to. His comments this morning was how great the markets are doing, especially the Dow and oil markets, but that it is not good for consumers.

If you have analyzed the double speak, it means if you are wealthy enough and derive enough income from stock investments, you will not mind being raped at the gas station, supermarket or on anything you buy.

I think the craziest claim he is working on now, is a complex bill of several hundred pages, that he claims that we have gotten so stupid after 250 years of voting, that we have no idea if voters are legitimate. The Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank investigated those claims, largely because of "stolen election claims", and found that the level of fraudulent votes over the last 40 years is .000000074 percent, and in no incidence would change any election result. If that seems obscure, you may remember Arizona's cyber ninja recount. At a cost of multiple millions of dollars and over five months, there was very little fanfare over the results. The found 86 more Biden votes and 244 less Trump votes, none of which changed a thing. Now that Tulsi Gabbard and the FBI have illegally seized Georgias ballots, even if they "find" the 11780 requested votes, I know I won't believe them.

More than half of the people now alive will not get my reference to "Jim Crow," so I will lay out why the same crowd who featured white only water fountains and bathrooms, and switched from being the KKK supportive Democratic party,

to Republicans. The became Democrats when Republican Lincoln signed the Emancipation proclamation. They then all became Republicans when Lyndon B Johnson signed the equal rights amendment. That amendment had been re-authorized by more than 90 senate votes, until Trump put it on his stop list, with the bipartisan immigration bill, and now, authorized infrastructure projects and the constitution itself.

While he is saber rattling about taking Cuba, because we need another island with massive need for infrastructure improvements like Puerto Rico still reeling from the last hurricane, he has allowed Bibi Netanyahu to do the con on him into their war of choice. Two months ago, Trump announced that we had set Iran's nuclear program back years with a Bunker Buster Bomb. Two weeks ago, we started a war with them because they were close to having a bomb. The number of lies being put forth and believed, has reached insanity.

We have been bad mouthing all countries, including our closest allies... We slapped tariffs on all of them. We let Israel force us into a war most of us are against. We have jeopardized security all over the world, at a cost that makes the foolishness of letting DOGE close down worthwhile agencies, while we use million dollar missiles to shoot down \$5,000 drones, or little wooden boats.

Some DOGE highlights includes closing US Aids, and because it was the back-up plan for the farmers who lost their markets to tariff retribution, will bankrupt 75 percent of small family farms, consumer protection, whose 3 billion dollar budget, returned 18 billion to consumers in its last year, I now understand cutting the national parks budget. Dirty rest rooms make little difference if nobody can afford to go.

If you are a person who thinks voter ID is anything but reducing voting of citizens already forced to stand in lines for hours in blue cities in red states, be sure to wear your red hat, so nobody thinks they can talk sense to you.

Ken Kimball  
 Brookfield

### No American kings, now and forever

To the Editor:

On Saturday, thousands of American communities like ours and millions upon millions of grandparents, parents, children and other Americans like us will, with joy and hope, rally together and say "No Kings!"

We patriotic Americans rally and say "No Kings!" because we see the ever more damage, chaos, and destruction the mentally damaged Donald Trump who believes "I rule America, I rule the world" has done

We rally and say "No Kings!" because Trump "feels good" about going to war, when we didn't have to. It is a war that cannot be won, costs billions of tax dollars a day, will badly affect family "affordability," the cost of living and the

economies of the United States and the rest of the world.

We rally and say "No (Crooked) King" because the kind of corruption that Trump, family, friends, followers and the MAGA mega-rich benefit from and costs us a day in and day out

We rally and say "No Kings" because we patriotic citizens want a democratic "United" States of America and Trump wants the opposite - to divide us, and restrict or ability to vote so he can rule.

We rally and say "No Kings" because we patriots believe in America's 250 year history of constitutional governance, which, however imperfectly, has served us so well.

Unlike Donald Trump.

KEVIN KANE  
 SPENCER

### Community helping community

To the Editor:

Community helping community! That is the foundation that has sustained the three Hearts for Heat chapters (North Brookfield, Leicester, and Princeton) for the last 18 years.

North Brookfield Hearts for Heat is a charitable program that helps NB residents who cannot afford to heat their homes during the winter. Emergency home heating assistance is provided to eligible residents. for oil, propane, natural gas, electricity, pellets, or cordwood - paid directly to the provider.

NB Hearts for Heat raises money locally and 100% of donations go toward purchasing fuel for households in need.

For NB Hearts for Heat to be successful, adequate funding is essential! Country Bank and North Brookfield Savings Bank have been phenomenal supporters since our first season in 2009 by providing initial capital and both have donated annually ever since. Monson Savings Bank joined our committed team last fall. We are most grateful for all three local financial institutions for not only the support they have given us, but all their community reinvestment and philanthropic endeavors. Thank you!

Tasse's Oil and Propane offers oil/propane at a reduced rate so clients get more fuel per delivery. Thank you!

Every January the NB Hearts for Heat board hosts a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser - an amazing collaboration with Hannaford Supermarket, Hayden Masonic Lodge, The Otters (musical ambiance), NB PTO, and students from the NB Honor Society and Valley View School. Thank you!

To complement the dinner and music, a wide variety of raffle items were donated by local businesses: Angel Nails,

Barbara Conway (I Spy quilts) Bike House Brewery, Bogey Lanes, City of Smoke, Connect Restaurant, Dragon Stones, Inishowen Farms, JARS Café & Bakery, Jim's Pizza, Joy of Beans, Marks of Asgard, Nancy Waldron (popcorn quilt), NB Liquors, NB Pizza Palace, Shaman's Closet, Spencer Greenery, Strandz Salon, Subway, Wayne Boulette (cutting board), and Whitco. Thank you!

The Boston Celtics contributed two team signed basketballs, the Boston Bruins - a signed puck, and the WooSox - four game tickets and team paraphernalia. Thank you!

The winter of 2025-2026 in Massachusetts has been colder and snowier than in recent years. Additionally, the fuel costs are more expensive. So far NB Hearts for Heat has provided fuel assistance for 27 local families, almost double our annual disbursements by March 1. As the inclement weather continues, 20 more are anticipated before the heating season concludes. Since 2008, we have assisted 372 families.

Applications can be downloaded from <https://www.heartsforheat.org/NorthBrookfield/> and mailed to the below address or emailed to h4hnbhbrookfield@gmail.com. Applications can also be found at the police station, town offices, library and schools in North Brookfield. Donations can be mailed to: North Brookfield Hearts for Heat, P.O. Box 44, North Brookfield, MA 01535.

I am most grateful to all who have helped support Hearts for Heat. This is Community Helping Community at its best!

SUZANNE Y. LEWANDOWSKI  
 FOUNDER & PRESIDENT  
 NORTH BROOKFIELD HEARTS FOR HEAT

## Ask these two questions before buying a home



FINANCIAL  
 FOCUS

TREVOR  
 NIELSEN

You may have heard that buying a home is better than renting. After all, why "throw money away" on rent when you could be building wealth through homeownership? Financial professionals say the decision isn't that simple.

The answer depends on your personal and financial situation. Before you begin house hunting, ask yourself two key questions: Can you afford to buy? And should you buy?

Can you afford to buy? While being ready to purchase a home means having enough money for a down payment and a monthly mortgage, other financial obligations are involved.

It's important that your debt levels are manageable before you buy. Without a mortgage, it's ideal for your monthly debt payments to be less than 20 percent of your gross monthly income. With a mortgage, debt payments should stay lower than 35 percent.

You'll also need to cover homeowner's insurance premiums with a deductible, pay annual property taxes, hold emergency savings for the costs of major repairs such as roof or driveway replacement, and build flexibility into your budget for routine expenses like HVAC tune-ups and lawn care. Don't forget the upfront costs, such as closing costs, that come with homebuying. They typically run between 2 and 6 percent of the purchase price.

Should you buy? One of the biggest factors in deciding whether to buy or rent relates to time. The longer you plan to stay in your house, the more likely it is that buying makes financial sense. Generally, professionals say it doesn't make sense to buy unless you're planning to stay in the home at least three to five years.

When you buy a home, you face high purchasing costs right away. Initially, you build equity slowly since most of your mortgage payment goes to interest. Staying in your house longer offers more time to build equity. Overall, the total cost of buying could be lower than renting.

Many factors can impact whether it will be more cost effective to rent than buy. Job stability, potential reduction in income for one or both spouses, mortgage rates, rental costs, the rate at which homes are appreciating in value and the cost of homeowners insurance all come into play. Fortunately, many online calculators account for these factors and help you compare your options.

Beyond the numbers. When deciding whether to buy a house, don't just look at the cost. Buying a home is more than an investment. Your home is where you live your life. So, you should consider your lifestyle and preferences. Buying might be more suitable if you need stability, want to personalize your home and are comfortable with tying a portion of your wealth to a house. Renting offers more flexibility and fewer maintenance responsibilities.

Ultimately, choosing to rent or buy comes down to understanding your finances, your plans and what you want from the place you call home. Take the time to assess costs and lifestyle trade-offs to help make a choice that supports your long-term goals.

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

### Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted. It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

# The bulletin board by the door

Just inside the entrance of our town library, there's a bulletin board that most people walk past without really noticing. I try not to be one of them.

It's not much to look at. A sheet of cork. A scattering of pushpins. A collection of flyers printed on everything from bright neon paper to the back side of what used to be someone's grocery list. But if you stand there long enough and read what's posted, you begin to understand something about the place you live that you might otherwise miss.

I stopped in last week to return a book and found myself lingering there longer than expected.

There was a notice for a spaghetti supper. A handwritten card offering piano lessons. A flyer for a church rummage sale with the date circled three different times in blue marker, as if to make sure nobody overlooked it. Someone had pinned up a careful request for help finding a lost cat. Another note announced a fundraiser for a neighbor going through a difficult stretch.

None of these things would make big headlines. But together they told a story.

It struck me that the bulletin board might be the most honest page in town.

Nobody is trying to impress anyone there. The paper curls at the corners. The tape never sticks quite right. Some notices are printed neatly at home, others written in block letters with a felt-tip marker. Every one of them represents somebody who decided to reach out instead of keeping quiet.

That still means something.

Years ago, before everything moved onto screens, those bulletin boards were how people found out what was happening. If you wanted to know when the pancake breakfast was scheduled, or who was collecting coats for winter, or whether someone was offering snow shoveling for a few dollars after school, that's where you looked.

I suppose today most of that information can be found online. But I've noticed that the bulletin board still fills up anyway.

I don't think that's an accident.

There's something reassuring about seeing those little pieces of paper pinned up in a real place where real people walk past them. It reminds you that the town is still paying attention to itself. It reminds you that neighbors are still asking for help and still offering it.

One flyer announced a community clean-up day along a stretch of roadside I drive past all the time. I had no idea it was happening. Another advertised a local concert I might otherwise have missed entirely. A third simply said "Volunteers Needed," followed by a phone number and a hopeful-looking smiley face drawn in pen.

Someone clearly believed someone else would call.

What I admire most about that board is how ordinary it is. Nobody gets paid to maintain it. Nobody organizes the colors or straightens the corners. It grows and changes week by week, quietly reflecting whatever the town happens to need at the moment.

In a way, it feels like a conversation that never quite ends.

Sometimes I think those boards are small acts of trust. A person puts something up there believing that someone else will read it and care. That's not a grand gesture. It's not dramatic. But it says a lot about the kind of place we live.

We still expect each other to notice.

On my way out of the library, I stepped back and looked at the board again before heading through the door. I didn't take down any phone numbers. I didn't sign up for anything that day. But I left with the quiet feeling that the town was doing what it has always done best, which is keeping track of its people in simple, steady ways that don't require much explanation.

# Poetry reading and book talk at Leicester Public Library

LEICESTER — Tuesday, March 31 from 6 - 7:45 p.m., join former Poet Laureate, two-time Pushcart nominee, and Lunar Codex contributor — and home town boy — Christopher Reilley to discuss his new book "Pour Decisions: Notes from Behind the Bar" and talks about writing, publishing, editing, workshopping.

The event is free, no registration required. Books available for sale at \$3 off cover price, and an additional \$3 from every book sold goes to the Friends of the Library.

This new poetry collection from Christopher Reilley—a longtime bartender, former Poet Laureate, Lunar Codex contributor, and two-time Pushcart Prize nominee—offers a sharply observed portrait of American tavern life as experienced from behind the bar. Rooted in years of service across working pubs and late nights, the collection traces the emotional undercurrent

of public life one conversation, one pour, one closing shift at a time.

Rather than romanticizing nightlife, the poems attend to the lived textures of the work itself: fleeting intimacy, humor, grief, and moments of unexpected grace. Bars emerge not as spectacle but as civic interiors—places where people arrive unguarded and language becomes both refuge and currency. With a voice shaped by literary discipline and sustained labor, Reilley writes with a rare authority grounded equally in craft and experience.

Early readers have praised the collection for its restraint and clarity.

"Funny, bruised, and honest as hell," wrote one longtime bartender. Another called it "working-class poetry at its best—unpretentious, generous, and real."

Reilley served as Poet Laureate of Dedham, has work archived on

the moon in the Lunar Codex, and has twice been nominated for the Pushcart Prize. Coincidentally, this book launches on the second anniversary of the Nova mission, the first to successfully land on the moon. This collection extends a body of work known for its attentiveness to place, labor, and voice, positioning the barroom as a vital site of contemporary American life and the bartender as both witness and translator.

The book will appeal to readers of contemporary American poetry, working-class and documentary writing, regional literature, and oral-history-influenced verse. It is well suited for literary festivals, university programming, community readings, and cross-disciplinary arts events.

More information is available at the Library's Web site: [www.leicesterlibrary.org](http://www.leicesterlibrary.org), or call 508-892-7020.

## WEEKLY POLICE BLOTTER

**Spencer**  
The Spencer Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of March 11-17.

Adam Garrette Spence, age 36, of Spencer was arrested on March 12 for Possession of a Class A Drug.

Stanley R. Hernandez, age 25, of Spencer was arrested on March 12 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license and in connection with multiple warrants.

Braulio Valentin Nieves, age 34, of North Brookfield was arrested on March 14 in connection with a warrant.

**Leicester**  
The Leicester Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of March 12-18.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on March 12 for Defective Equipment (left rear taillight), a Marked Lanes Violation, and Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on March 13 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license and operating a motor vehicle with

No Inspection Sticker. An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on March 13 for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle and driving at a rate of speed exceeding the posted limit.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on March 15 for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle, operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle, operating a vehicle with No Inspection Sticker, and driving at a rate of speed exceeding the posted limit.

## Victor Moisan earns faculty honors at Georgia Tech

ATLANTA, Ga. — Victor Moisan of Leicester earned the distinction of Faculty Honors for Fall 2025 at the Georgia Institute of Technology. This designation is awarded to undergraduate students who have earned a 4.0 academic average for the semester.

Read about other accomplished scholars on Gold Letters: A Spotlight on Student Achievement and learn about Georgia Tech's goal to attract, retain, and inspire more students by visiting Transforming Tomorrow: The Campaign for Georgia Tech.

The Georgia Institute of Technology, or Georgia Tech, is one of the top public research universities in the U.S., developing leaders who advance technology and improve the human condition.

The Institute offers business, computing, design, engineering, liberal arts, and sciences degrees, as well as professional development and K-12 programs for fostering success at every stage of life. Its more than 56,000 undergraduate and graduate students represent 54 U.S. states and territories and more than 146 countries. They study at the main campus in Atlanta, at instructional sites around the world, and through distance and online learning.

As a leading technological university, Georgia Tech is an engine of economic development for Georgia, the Southeast, and the nation, conducting more than \$1 billion in research annually for government, industry, and society.

For more information, visit [gatech.edu](http://gatech.edu).



# Community Connection

**Charlton Oil**  
508-248-9797 Propane

**Don't Pay Too Much for Propane**

PROPANE	PRICE PER GAL.	PROPANE	PRICE PER GAL.	Tanks Filled to 80%
0-50	\$4.99	301-500	\$2.25	Driver Discretion
50-75	\$3.49	500 PLUS	\$2.10	
76-150	\$2.95	Duel Fuel	\$3.75	
151-300	\$2.55	Drop off Tanks	\$3.00	

**DON'T PAY TOO MUCH FOR OIL!**  
Friday price 3/20/26 was **\$5.20** per gallon\*  
100 gallon minimum  
ONLINE ORDERING NOW AVAILABLE AT [www.charltonoil.com](http://www.charltonoil.com)

**"Call Us First!"**  
\*prices subject to change



**Morin JEWELERS**  
Fine Jewelry & Gifts  
The Jewelry store where you buy with confidence

**WE BUY GOLD**

**Specializing in Custom Designs**  
All types of Jewelry Repairs

MASTER JEWELERS™  
BRILLIANCE YOU DESERVE®

409 Main St. Southbridge, MA  
[morinjewelers.com](http://morinjewelers.com) • 508-764-7250  
Located at CVS Plaza

**PLUMBING**

**JOHN DALY PLUMBING**  
*The Homeowners Plumber, SINCE 1988*

Faucets, Toilets, Pipe Repair, Garbage Disposals, Sinks, Vanities, Shower Valves, Outside Hose Connections, New Kitchen Sink Strainers and Undersink Re-Pipes, Sump Pumps, Sink Drain Cleaning,  
**Buy What You Like And I Will Install.**  
Fully Licensed And Insured, License Number MPL-21763-J  
Call 508 304 7816 • [jdrainman714@aol.com](mailto:jdrainman714@aol.com)

**NORTHEAST PIZZA** is OUR *Passion*

Fresh ingredients, time-honored recipes, and friendly service.  
Since 1997

**Open 7 Days a Week • We Deliver MARCH SPECIALS**

<b>Mushroom Pizza</b> Sm. \$6.99 Lg. \$9.99	<b>Tuna Sub</b> Sm. 8" \$5.99 Lg. 12" \$6.99 <small>Add Bacon for \$1 more</small>	<b>Small Cheese Pizza</b> EVERYDAY 11-4 only \$5.00! NO LIMIT!
---	---	---

**Cannot be combined with other specials or coupons.**

Leicester: 1205 Main St. 508-892-9276  
West Brookfield: 208 W. Main St. 508-867-9567

~ Full bar & full liquor license at our Leicester Location ~  
~ Serving Beer & Wine at both Locations ~  
[www.northeastpizza.com](http://www.northeastpizza.com)

**Got Space?**  
**we do.**

Contact Mikaela Today  
**774-200-7308**  
[mikaela@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:mikaela@stonebridgepress.news)

**Crooked Creek Farm**  
East Brookfield, Massachusetts

**Stock up now!**



**Retail Cuts, Quarter, & Half sides of Beef Available!**

To purchase your meat packages  
**CALL/TEXT: (774) 200-7308**  
[www.crookedcreekfarmma.org](http://www.crookedcreekfarmma.org)

**FREE LOCAL DELIVERY!**

# Leicester Knights of Columbus hosting family dinner

LEICESTER — The Knights of Columbus, 91 Manville St., Leicester, will have a family dinner on Wednesday, April 8 at 6 p.m. The menu features a choice of baked ham or baked fish. Cost is \$15, and includes Salad, Entree, Dessert and Coffee.  
Call Don at 508-615-8434 or email at ohno7g7@yahoo.com by Monday, April 6 for reservations. All are welcome.

# A night of harmony and hope

JAK-L FOUNDATION TO HOST DUELING PIANOS IN AUBURN



The members of the JAK-L Foundation. Front row, from left: David Boucher, Christine Afful, Joy Kochinskas, Devon Renfro, Steve Kochinskas. Second Row, from left: Karen Sisko, Kathy Konkol-Saad, Kim Sterczala, Shirley Shepardson, Kerry Bielicki, Ruth Cahill, Laurie Boucher

# Leicester Knights of Columbus to hold ham raffle

LEICESTER — Leicester Knights of Columbus, located at 91 Manville St., Leicester, will have a Ham Raffle on Sunday, March 29. Doors open at 11 a.m., and games begin at noon. Game cards are 50 cents each. Prizes include hams and gift cards. 50/50 Raffle and other raffles are also included.  
This is a family friendly event.

## HOLY TRINITY

### ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

SOUTHBRIDGE — Holy Trinity Catholic Academy has released its honor roll for the second trimester of the 2025-2026 school year.

Grade 4  
Honors: John Nadeau, Joseph Nellenback, Owen Quigley, Vincent VLK  
High Honors: Lucius Batih, Victoria LaBonte, Elizabeth Nellenback

Grade 5  
Honors: Vera Abud Fuentes, Jaime Cruz, Mason Gonzalez, Jameson Howard-Donlin, Emma LaBarge, Matthew Olson  
High Honors: Charlotte Heckendorf, Connor Kreidemaker, Elinor Matzelle

Grade 6  
Honors: Emiliana Boswell, Karieliz Colon-Martinez, Juliana Dintino, Theodore Frazier, Elizabeth Gordon, Sachi Swadia, Jaydin Wales

High Honors: Tesslynn Cahill, Cameron Clifford, Alerix Gonzalez, Kaleigh Haglund, Carson Lazo, Jake Simanski, Benjamin Zuziak

Grade 7  
Honors: Jaliany Cruz, Angel Delgado, Ainsley Heckendorf, Evelyn Howard-Donlin, Jayden Zarzycki-Kotarba

Grade 8  
Honors: Sophia Gauthier, Celia Ladd, Carilynne Norris, Ayden Rodriguez, Alexio Yacavace  
High Honors: Abigail Frazier, Heer Swadia

AUBURN — Get ready to sing, dance, and make a difference. On Saturday, May 2, the local community will gather at J. Anthony's Italian Grill for a high-energy "Dueling Pianos" event presented by the JAK-L Foundation.

The evening promises a vibrant blend of music and laughter, but the mission behind the melodies is deeply personal. Proceeds from the event will directly support youth mental health and suicide prevention programs within the local community.

Turning pain into purpose The JAK-L Foundation was established in 2023 by President Joy Kochinskas. For Kochinskas, a local salon owner and stylist for more than 25 years, the cause is an intimate one.

After losing her sister to suicide in 2017, she became a dedicated advocate, participating in the "Out of the Darkness" walks for years before founding the JAK-L Foundation to create a more direct impact on mental health awareness.

"I'm hoping to make more of an impact on the mental health society," Kochinskas said regarding the foundation's mission. Alongside an active event committee, the foundation is working to transform how the community discusses and supports mental wellness.

Event details The event kicks off at 8:00 PM, though supporters are encouraged to arrive early.

When: Saturday, May 2

Time: 8 – 10 p.m. (doors open at 7:30 p.m.)

Where: J. Anthony's Italian Grill, 917 Southbridge St., Auburn

Admission: \$35 per person (plus fees)

Pro-Tip: Guests who enjoy dinner at J. Anthony's prior to the show will receive priority seating for the performance.

Community support The success of the JAK-L Foundation is driven by a dedicated team of volunteers. The event committee

includes David Boucher, Christine Afful, Joy Kochinskas, Devon Renfro, and Steve Kochinskas. Supporting the front lines are team members Karen Sisko, Kathy Konkol-Saad, Kim Sterczala, Shirley Shepardson, Kerry Bielicki, Ruth Cahill, and Laurie Boucher.

By attending, guests aren't just buying a ticket to a show—they are helping to "spark meaningful change" for local youth who may be struggling in silence.

# QCC appoints dean with strong computational science background



Dr. Dennis Dean

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College has named Dr. Dennis Dean as the new dean for the School of Computing and Applied Technologies. Dean brings more than two decades of experience in computational science, large-scale research management and collaborative scientific leadership in healthcare and higher education.

"We are thrilled to welcome a leader whose vision and experience align with our mission," said Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Kathy Rentsch. "His ability to unite teams, translate complex ideas, and support learners makes him an outstanding fit for QCC. We look forward to the energy, insight and innovation he will bring to our community."

Dean joins QCC after serving most recently in strategic roles at Velsora (formerly Seven Bridges) where he oversaw large genomics programs and scientific staff serving the biopharmaceutical sector. His work helped accelerate drug discovery by developing tools that reduced the time needed to identify combination therapies for cancer treatment.

"What excites me most at QCC is the opportunity to help students at every level," Dean said. "Our job is to prepare them now with the academic rigor, collaboration skills and hands-on experiences they need to step into the workforce with confidence."

Dean previously spent 15 years at Brigham and Women's Hospital studying the effects of sleep on cardiovascular disease, chronic illness and ADHD. He also contributed to research for NASA on automated astronaut scheduling and circadian alignment.

"The projects that have shaped my career have all come down to helping people move forward," Dean said. "The work is about understanding problems deeply and building tools and teams that make real outcomes possible."

At QCC, Dean will oversee computer science, computer information systems, computer systems engineering technology, automotive, utility, HVAC, manufacturing and electronics engineering programs. He plans to strengthen connections between curriculum, realworld projects, apprenticeships and coops. As a longtime mentor and tutor, Dean said preparing students for collaboration and effective communication, especially in an era of rapid advances in AI and computing, will be a central focus.

## SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



news@stonebridgepress.news



# LOCAL SERVICE PROVIDERS



### ASPHALT PAVING

"Quality counts when no one is looking." ACCREDITED BUSINESS BBB. A MEMBER FOR 25+ YEARS

**Bill Keyes**  
ASPHALT PAVING INC.

SPENCER, MA.  
774-261-5181  
ESTABLISHED 1963

KeyesPaving.com | 508-347-7499  
Fully Insured • Owner/Operator

### AUTO & TIRE

Country Auto Body, Inc.

FULL DETAILING Inside & Out

Full Auto Body & Automotive Repair  
Oil Changes | Brakes | Batteries | Tires  
Check Engine Light

Interstate Batteries in stock

Batteries & Antifreeze Testing  
Free w/oil change

www.countryautobodyinc.com  
69 Donovan Rd., North Brookfield, MA  
508-867-9736

### BOAT OWNERS

ONSITE CANVAS MARINE

Tops • Interiors • Covers  
Marc Bouvier 508-867-8072

### HOUSE CLEAN OUTS

CLEAN OUT SOLUTIONS

House Clean Outs • Junk Removal  
Basements • Garages • Attics  
Whole Houses • Hot Tubs, Pools,  
Sheds Demo & Removal

Serving Central Mass  
Call Skip Gervais  
West Brookfield, MA  
774-397-6500

### TREE SERVICE

McNeely Tree Service  
Insured • References  
Workmans Comp Insured

- 101' Aerial Lift Rental
- Hazardous Tree Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Bobcat Rental
- Lot Clearing
- Storm Clean-up
- Firewood \$265/cord (2 cord min)
- Astroturf For Sale
- Asian Longhorn Beetle Certified

H: 508-867-6119 C: 508-523-1175

### TREE SERVICE

Young's Tree Service

"Specializing In Dangerous Trees"

35+ years' experience

Fully Insured Free Estimates

John H. Young, Jr  
508.885.TREE  
1.800.660.5358

# Saint Joseph School's Migration Mass celebrates faith and culture



Courtesy

Students of Saint Joseph School stand with Bishop Robert J. McManus on the altar of Saint Joseph Basilica during the Annual Migration Mass, representing 26 nations through flags and traditional cultural dress in a celebration of faith, culture, and unity.

WEBSTER — On Sunday, March 15, the Saint Joseph School community gathered at Saint Joseph Basilica to celebrate its beloved Annual Migration Mass, a cherished tradition that had originally been scheduled during Catholic Schools Week in January but was postponed due to winter weather. The celebration brought together students, families, and parishioners in a vibrant expression of faith, culture, and unity.

The Migration Mass is one of the most meaningful traditions at Saint Joseph School. It celebrates the rich cultural diversity of the school community while highlighting the unity that flourishes through a shared Catholic faith.

The day began with a solemn yet joyful Mass, featuring an entrance procession of more than one hundred students proudly carrying flags representing their families' heritage. Twenty-six countries—the largest procession to date—were represented through flags and traditional attire, showcasing the cultural richness of the Saint Joseph School community. Flags from nations including the United States, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Egypt, England, France, Ghana, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mexico, Peru, Poland, Puerto Rico, Portugal, Scotland, Sweden, Syria, Turkey, Ukraine, and Venezuela filled the basilica with vibrant color, symbolizing the beauty of unity in diversity. Many students proudly wore traditional attire from their heritage, embracing the opportunity to share and celebrate their cultural roots.

The Most Rev. Robert J. McManus, Bishop of Worcester, served as the main celebrant and homilist.

Fourth grade students Olivia Guinto and Nella Copeland participated in the Liturgy of the Word. Following the readings, Grade 8 students Ivonka Warnajtys and Tenleigh Dowd led the congregation in the Responsorial Psalm, guiding the assembly in prayerful response to the Word of God.

The Prayer of the Faithful reflected the global spirit of the celebration. Prayers were offered in multiple languages, including Swahili by Michael Kamangu (Grade 5), Polish by Amadeusz Gacek (Grade 6), Gaelic by Mia Reed (Grade 5), Arabic by Ariel Corbin (Grade 5), Spanish by Hayley Benes (Grade 8), Greek by Giorgios Sgouritsas (Grade 6), and English by Cecilia Coan (Grade 5). These multilingual prayers beautifully illustrated the interconnectedness of the school's culturally diverse community and the universality of the Catholic faith.

In his homily, Bishop McManus reflected on the meaning of the Fourth Sunday of Lent and reminded the congregation that the Catholic Church is truly universal—bringing together people of every nation, language, and culture as one family of faith. He noted that the beautiful procession of flags and cultural attire was a powerful sign of the Church's unity in diversity. The bishop encouraged everyone to recognize Christ in one another and to welcome people of all backgrounds with compassion, reminding those present that our differences are gifts that strengthen the Church.

The Saint Joseph School Children's Choir, directed by Fine Arts Director Brigid Campbell and organist Maria Helena Czarnecka-Cieslak, elevated the celebration with inspiring Lenten selections. Hymns including "Save Your People, O Lord," "Your Only Son," "One Bread, One Body," "Bread for the World," and "From a King to a King" resonated throughout the basilica and added to the reverent and joyful atmosphere.

The Mass concluded with a special presentation to Bishop McManus by Student Council President Mychael Jones and Vice President Tenleigh Dowd, a heartfelt moment that reflected the gratitude and leadership of the students.

Following the Mass, students gathered with the bishop for a commemorative photo, capturing the joy and spirit of this meaningful occasion.

The Annual Migration Mass stands as a powerful testament to the Saint Joseph School community's commitment to embracing cultural diversity, fostering unity, and celebrating faith—values that lie at the very heart of the school's mission.

## Notre Dame Health Care announces new hires

WORCESTER — Notre Dame Health Care is pleased to announce the promotion of Rafael Jalles as Director of our newly launched Community Care service line offering non-medical in-home assistance. Jalles was most recently the staffing supervisor for our Health Center (Notre Dame Long Term Care and Rehabilitation Center) and played a collaborative role in the development of Community Care, a new program offering an array of private-pay, in-home services to patients in need throughout the community. He has years of direct care, administrative and operations experience in health care including service to seniors, as well as home care services.

Amy Martin, LSW, was recently hired as Director of Admissions and Marketing for our Health Center (Notre Dame Long Term Care and Rehabilitation Center). She has nearly 20 years of experience in comparable roles in the local community. In this position, she will bring her strong case management experience, understanding of the clinical assessment process and strong interpersonal skills to build strong, lasting relationships with our residents and their families. In addition, she will serve as a key stakeholder in maintaining and strengthening community partnerships with hospitals, community case management teams, social workers, and community agencies.

Finally, we welcome Tara Joslin-Murphy, RN as Nurse Unit Manager for our Amiens Village/West Unit at our Health Center (Long Term Care and Rehabilitation Center). Tara brings several years of healthcare experience including similar positions with other local organizations. In this role, she will oversee nursing care and functions within the care unit and will bring her administrative, supervisory, and direct care experience to benefit the residents in our Health Center.

To learn more about Notre Dame Health Care, visit our Web site, [www.notredame-healthcare.org](http://www.notredame-healthcare.org).



Courtesy

## TRINITY CATHOLIC ACADEMY CHAMPIONS!

It was an exciting weekend for Trinity Catholic Academy, as the Bobcats competed in the I-395 Basketball League Tournament—and came home as champions! Both the JV Girls and JV Boys basketball teams capped off incredible seasons by earning the top seeds in the tournament. After two intense and hard-fought games, both teams battled their way to capture the Championship titles. The excitement didn't stop on the court. Trinity's JV and Varsity Cheer teams also competed and delivered outstanding performances, bringing home first place for JV and second place for Varsity. Trinity Catholic Academy is incredibly proud of all of our athletes for their dedication, teamwork, and outstanding sportsmanship throughout the season. Way to go, Bobcats!

## Family Dining & Gift Guide

Too Busy to Cook?  
Ask your favorite local restaurant if they offer dine-in or take-out!  
Treat yourself to a nice dinner out anytime!  
Restaurant gift cards make perfect hostess gifts!

Call Mikaela at 774-200-7308 or email [mikaela@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:mikaela@stonebridgepress.news) to advertise on this page.

**CHARLIE'S**  
Diner • Bar • Grill • Functions  
BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER

FRIDAY 3/27 & SATURDAY 3/28

**MAHI MAHI**  
**AFTER 5PM**

HOURS: Wed-Sat 8-9; Sunday 8-8  
Closed Mon & Tue  
5 Meadow Rd., Spencer, MA 01562  
Gift Cards **508-885-4033**  
[www.charliesdiner.com](http://www.charliesdiner.com)

**Breakfast All Day**  
**Lunch**  
ALL MADE FROM SCRATCH

*Farmhouse Diner*

15 S. Main St., Leicester • 508-892-3222  
Dine-In or Take-Out • Gift Certificates  
Hours: Wednesday-Friday 5:30am-12:30pm  
Saturday & Sunday 5:30am-11:30am

ONLINE ORDERING  
[FARMHOUSEDINERMA.COM](http://FARMHOUSEDINERMA.COM)

*Kosta's*  
Cafe

Breakfast & Lunch • BREAKFAST ALL DAY  
Daily Specials • Homemade Soups

**MONDAY-FRIDAY LUNCH SPECIALS**

**Mon:** American Chop Suey w/ salad  
**Tues:** Homemade Meat Loaf Dinner  
**Wed:** Yankee Pot Roast  
**Thurs:** Corned Beef & Cabbage  
**Fri:** Fish and Chips

**31 Pleasant St., Spencer, MA**  
**508.885.7705**  
Open 7 Days • 6:00am-2:00pm

**UNIFIED**  
continued from page A1

ing on athletes and partners from both Leicester and Auburn. Eighth-grade student Joseph Ukoh began the game by playing “The Star-Spangled Banner” on the alto saxophone.

LMS Principal Doug Daponde served as the referee for the game.

According to Daponde, “Everyone in the gymnasium was the true ‘winner’ of the game. I want to thank the Auburn Rockets for their gamesmanship and spirit. I am grateful towards our faculty, staff, students,

and the LMS community for supporting the student-athletes on the court.”

Eighth-grade athlete Ryan Slade scored about 10 points during the game, and said afterwards, “It was fun. I loved it!”

LMS Paraprofessional Mackenzie Blomquist noted, “I loved watching all of the support. It really warmed my heart. The fact that we had 40 band kids volunteer- I loved that. I was so happy the entire time.”

LMS Paraprofessional Arianna Sherblom added, “It was nice to watch the community support the stu-

dents and to watch the students evolve using an outlet like sports, and to watch them meet new friends.”

Eighth-grade saxophone player Joseph Ukoh noted, “Seeing everybody cheer for both teams in the crowd was heartwarming and made me feel proud of our community.”

Eighth-grade student Emily Hipple says, “Even though our school may not be the biggest, we definitely had an awesome community join together to make the best game possible. The band, the crowd, and the energy everyone brought in general was truly amazing.”

**FIELD**  
continued from page A1

tion of the fields, and they are trying to move away from one-time usage.

Leicester Girls Softball League President Sue Sears noted how necessary the update has become, especially from a cost-sharing perspective.

“We’ve been maintaining it by ourselves, and we have no problem maintaining it. The issue is the bills. This year, the bill went up sig-

nificantly – we’re paying 25 percent of something that we have no use of at all. We’re willing to be there and be good community members because we share a spot, but we wanted a fair shot,” said Sears, specifically noting the cost sharing in regard to electricity usage.

Select Board Chair Doug Belanger saw the need for the new contract, but he didn’t want the document to be set in stone for numerous years. He’d like to see an annual agreement which can be subject to changes as

things evolve.

“It would be a good exercise to have this as an annual contract only because things snowball out of just habit. It’s what we always do, and then you’re three years out and you’re finding out there’s an issue, whatever it is,” he said.

The Select Board did not approve an official document. The board will re-address the matter at a later date once the contract is finalized and ready for approval.

Eighth-grade student Elisa Aguirre, says, “To be honest, I’ve never seen a community come together like this. It was truly amazing to see the amount of support for all the players.”

Aguirre urges the community to come to the next game, adding, “It means a lot to the kids, and seeing the smiles on their faces when people cheer is worth everything.”

Seventh-grade percussionist Alex Perez noticed

that “every single person there was so respectful. It was so nice seeing people sharing the love of basketball.”

Eighth-grade trombone player Sonya Potvin added, “I loved watching the kids smile when they scored a basket. I hope we have this team for years to come.”

Eighth-grade flute player Leah Varney says, “The amount of sportsmanship that I witnessed was overwhelming. Every time I

think about the game, I am brought to tears.”

Sixth grade player Giuliana Escobar remarked that her “favorite part of Unified Basketball was cheering for my teammates and working together. It showed me that sports are more fun when everyone is included. I also really enjoyed having friends, band mates, families, and teachers in the stands to support our team.”

**GRILL**  
continued from page A1

Thursday dining service, the Wolverine Grill is introducing a “Wolverine Grill Wednesday Grab and Go” option. This convenient offering will feature 10 wings for just \$8, giving the community another way to enjoy the restaurant’s popular items.

“As a student-run and locally inspired establishment, the Wolverine Grill represents more than just a place to eat—it is a hands-on learning experience where students gain real-world skills in culinary arts, customer service, and

business operations. At the same time, it serves as a gathering place that brings the Leicester community together,” said William May, Director of Career and Technical Education at Leicester High School.

Culinary instructor Andrew Aucoin added, “It has been incredible building the culinary program here at Leicester and seeing it grow into what it is today with the opening of the Wolverine Grill. Working alongside Steve Dahlgren throughout this process has been a great experience, and his support has been instrumental in bringing this vision to life. Our students are awesome; they are a

pleasure to teach and bring so much enthusiasm every day, both in the kitchen and in the restaurant. Watching them take pride in their work and connect with the community has been the most rewarding part of this experience.”

With a successful opening and strong community support, the future looks bright for the Wolverine Grill as it continues to grow, serve, and inspire. Community members are encouraged to stop by and experience it for themselves—and be sure to try the not-famous-yet (but soon will be) Wolverine SmashBurger.

# LEGALS

**Town of West Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals**

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the West Brookfield Town Hall, to act on an application for a Special Permit, for the property located at 39 Foster Hill Road, West Brookfield. The applicant wishes to construct a building on an undersized lot. A special permit is required per Section 4.2 dimensional requirements.  
March 27, 2026  
April 3, 2027

**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 a temporary moratorium on permitting of Battery Energy Storage Systems.

The hearing will take place on Wednesday, April 8, 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](http://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  
March 20, 2026  
March 27, 2026

**At the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, in the McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, a public hearing will be held on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:**

**Notice of Public Hearing – Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals**

**Amendment of Special Permit Extension of Alteration, finding it is not substantially detrimental to the neighborhood for a non-conforming structure– Applicant/ Owner: Jimmy George: Location: 20 Whittemore Cove, Spencer Assessor’s Map U17-08. The applicant is seeking a Special Permit under Sections 4.9.2.A.2 (Nonconforming Structures) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to amend the approved Special Permit from April 8, 2025, meeting, to add a roof to the proposed 10x14 deck to increase the building coverage by 20 square feet. The property is in the Suburban Residential (SR) zoning district.**

**Special Permit Finding– Applicant: David & Sharon Gregoire; Owners: David & Sharon Gregoire, Stephen Kary, and Jenelle Jones: Location: 15 Northwest Road, Spencer Assessor’s Map R39-43. The applicant is Special Permit under Sections 4.9.2.A.2 (Nonconforming Structures) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to add 300 square feet above an extended garage to be used as a bedroom. The property is located in the Rural Residential (RR) district.**  
March 27, 2026  
April 3, 2027

**At the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, in the McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, a public hearing will be held on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:**

**Notice of Public Hearing – Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals**

**Special Permit Finding– Applicant/ Owner: Robert Laprade: Location: 14 Bay Path Road, Spencer Assessor’s Map U22-73. The applicant is seeking a Special Permit under Sections 4.8.3.D (Customary Home Occupation) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to sell Class 6 live bait fish to locale fisherman for four months of the year (winter season). The property is located in the Suburban Residential (SR) district.**

**Variance Finding– Applicant/ Owner: Robert Lamothe: Location: 15 William Casey Road, Spencer Assessor’s Map R01-14. The applicant is seeking a Variance under Sections 4.9.2.A.3 (non-conforming structure /Single-Family/increase in nonconformity) and 7.3 (Variance Requirements) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to build a deck in the side setback. The property is located in the Rural Residential (RR) district.**

**Special Permit Finding– Applicant: Peter Kamal, Owner: 43 Orient LLC: Location: 7 Cherry Street, Spencer Assessor’s Map U07-53-0. The applicant is seeking a Special Permit under Sections 6.1.1 (Parking/Number of Spaces) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to have a two-family home with reduced amount of parking spaces. The property is located in the Town Center (TC) district.**  
March 27, 2026  
April 3, 2026

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

In accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, MGL c. 131, s. 40 and the Spencer Wetlands By-Law:

Kim Sliwoski has filed an NOI with the Spencer Conservation Commission to replace a retaining wall and expand the porch located at 43 Jolicoeur Ave, Spencer, MA.

Applications can be reviewed at the Office of Development and Inspectional Services, Town Hall. A public hearing regarding these filings will be held by the Spencer Conservation Commission in McCourt Social Hall at Town Hall, 157 Main Street, on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at which time all persons having an interest may be present or call in remotely to participate. Conservation Commission meetings open at 6:15 p.m.

Mary McLaughlin, Chairwoman  
March 27, 2026

**Town of West Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals**

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the West Brookfield Town Hall, to act on an application for a Special Permit, for William King, for the property located at 25 Shore Drive, ext.,

West Brookfield. The applicant wishes to build a house on a grandfathered lot. A special permit is required as per section(s) -4.2 Nonconforming dimensional requirements (a) (et al).  
March 27, 2026  
April 3, 2026

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE**

Premises: 130 Faith Drive, East Brookfield, MA 01515

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Jamie Marie Nelson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Caliber Home Loans, Inc., and now held by NewRez LLC, said mortgage dated September 7, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 66006, Page 210, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Caliber Home Loans, Inc. to NewRez LLC D/B/A Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing by assignment dated July 9, 2025 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 72230, Page 242; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on April 27, 2026 at 10:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

*The land in East Brookfield, Worcester County, Massachusetts, with the buildings thereon situated on the westerly side of Faith Drive and bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the southeasterly corner thereof at a point in the westerly line of Faith Drive which is also the northerly corner of a proposed street to be called Jean Avenue; THENCE S. 52 degrees 29’ W. by said proposed street 122.15 feet to a point at land now or formerly of Albert Freeman et ux; THENCE N. 21 degrees 52’ W. 180.63 feet to an iron pin; THENCE N. 88 degrees 33’ E. 150 feet to an iron pin in the westerly line of Faith Drive; THE two preceding courses being by other land now or formerly of Albert Freeman et ux; THENCE S. 8 degrees 25’ E. by Faith Drive 98 feet to the place of beginning. Being the same premises conveyed 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 August 27, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 66006, Page 206.

**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 NewRez LLC  
Present Holder of the Mortgage  
(401) 217-8701

March 27, 2026  
April 3, 2026  
April 10, 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. WO26P0682EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Estate Of:  
**Emmanuel A Therrien, Jr.**  
**Date of Death: 01/26/2026**

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Elaine E Perry of Ayer 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: **Elaine E Perry of Ayer MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Personal 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 04/07/2026.**

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: March 09, 2026  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
March 27, 2026

# OBITUARIES

## Robert A. Phaneuf 1942-2026



Spencer - Robert Andre Phaneuf, known to many as "Bob" or "Fuzzy", passed away peacefully with his family by his side on Saturday, March 7, 2026. Bob was spending time in Ave Maria,

Florida when he took ill, and passed away at Avow Florida Hospice in Naples, Florida. He was born in Ware, Massachusetts on June 9, 1942, son of the late Romeo J. Phaneuf and B. Loretta (Lamoureux) Phaneuf. Bob was raised and educated in Ware, a graduate of the former Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, and a 1960 graduate of Ware High School. He enlisted in the Massachusetts Army National Guard on March 11, 1963 and served with the 181st Infantry, 1st Battalion, Co. C, and was discharged on February 10, 1969 with the rank of Staff Sergeant. Bob was employed as a Superintendent of Dyeing for Robinson Thread Company in Worcester, and retired as a Ceramic Technician for the St. Gobain Company. After his retirement he volunteered as a funeral home attendant and pallbearer for Cebula Funeral Home for 20 years. Bob was a member of AMVETS Post 2577, Ware Council 183 Knights of Columbus, Greendale Men's Club and a faithful communicant of Mary Queen of the Rosary Parish in Spencer. On October 12, 1963, Bob entered into Holy Matrimony with Cecile M. Puliafico, together through good times and bad, sickness and health, they have been married for over 62 years. Bob and Ceil moved

to Spencer in 1969 and have been residents since. Bob enjoyed times spent with his family and friends, and watching all of the New England Sports Teams. Bob took great pride in his home, yard and



gardening. Bob leaves behind his beloved wife, Cecile M. (Puliafico) Phaneuf, loving children, son Michael Phaneuf and his wife Ellyn, daughter Denise Cunningham and her husband Jay, and his grandchildren; Adam and his spouse Jordan, and Megan Cunningham. He also leaves behind several nieces and nephews and cousins. Besides his parents, Bob was predeceased by his sister, Claire M. (Phaneuf) West in 2019, and brother-in-law, Henry R. West in 2015. A Visitation Period will take place on Sunday, March 22, 2026 from 2 - 5 pm, in Cebula Funeral Home, 66 South St., Ware. A Funeral Mass will be offered on Monday, March 23, 2026 at 10 am in Mary Queen of the Rosary Parish, 46 Maple St., Spencer. Everyone will meet directly at the church on Monday morning. Inurnment will take place in Mount Carmel Cemetery in Ware at the convenience of the family. Memorial Contributions may be made to either: St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, or to Mary Queen of the Rosary Food Pantry. Funeral Services and Arrangements are under the direction of Cebula Funeral Home of Ware. For more information and an online guest book, please visit: [www.cebulafuneralhome.com](http://www.cebulafuneralhome.com)

## Shirley Lorraine Hissem, 94



West Brookfield / Richmond - Shirley Lorraine Hissem, age 94, passed away peacefully on March 6, 2026, surrounded by the love of her family.

She was born on October 25, 1931, to Georgie McPhee Curtis. At the age of four, Shirley was placed on a trolley with her siblings and brought to the House of the Angel Guardian in Roxbury, Massachusetts. She spent the remainder of her childhood in foster care—an experience that shaped the strength, resilience, and perseverance that defined her life.

Shirley was married to Merle Walton Hissem, who passed away in 1974. In 1966 she purchased her home, one of the most meaningful achievements of her life. She worked long hours and often held two jobs to provide a stable and secure home for her children - something she had longed for in her own childhood. Her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren were deeply important to her and remained a constant presence in her heart throughout her life.

For her children - Debra, David, Catherine, and William - Shirley remained a steady and guiding presence whose strength and love shaped the family she built.

For most of her working life, Shirley

cared for others as a home health care worker, a role she took great pride in. She believed deeply in treating those in her care with compassion, dignity, and respect.

Shirley was proud of her Irish heritage and treasured the friendships and family relationships that enriched her life.

She is survived by her children David (Deb), Catherine (Robert), and William; her son-in-law Earl LaPensee; and her special niece Kimberly Pronto-Chisholm.

She was a proud grandmother to Angela, Heather, Ashley (Joseph), Michael (Emily), and John (Joleigh), and a loving great-grandmother to Snake, William, Charlie, and Thomas.

She was predeceased by her daughter Debra LaPensee and by her siblings Lila, Marcy, Joy, Joan, Larry, and David.

Shirley measured her life not by wealth or recognition, but by perseverance, kindness, and the love she gave to others.

A visiting hour will be held on Saturday, April 11, 2026, from 10 to 11AM in the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, followed by a celebration of life at 11AM. A reception will follow.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Abby's House, 52 High Street, Worcester, Massachusetts 01609, which provides housing and support for homeless and battered women and their children, or online at <https://abbysshouse.org> [varnumfuneralhome.com](https://varnumfuneralhome.com)

Send all obituary notices to Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550,

or by e-mail to [obits@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:obits@stonebridgepress.news)

# Home Spring Auto

### AUTO BODY / REPAIRS

## KEARNS COLLISION REPAIR

Since 1969  
Always Going The Extra Mile For Our Customers

Free Written Estimates • Damage Appraisal  
Color Matching Specialists • Rental Car Services

Warranted Work & Repairs  
Diagnostics • A/C Repair  
Tune Ups & Engine Repair  
Brakes • Alternators • Starters • ABS  
Alignments • Tires...and more

Major Insurance Referral Shop  
Honoring All Insurance Estimates

1734 Providence Road (Rt 122)  
Northbridge, MA 01534  
Ph: 508-234-5211 • Fax: 508-234-2231  
[www.kearnscollision.com](http://www.kearnscollision.com)  
Fully Certified • RS# 2678

### BEST WINDOW COMPANY

Beautiful, Efficient, Affordable  
WINDOWS & DOORS

**KUBALA HOME IMPROVEMENT**  
Your Window & Door Expert

Award Winning High Performance  
Windows & Doors

**Lifetime Warranty**

100% FINANCING AVAILABLE

CALL NOW FOR EXCLUSIVE SPRING SAVINGS  
**508-784-1550**  
MA CSL100114 | MA HIC150118 | CT HIC0619712

### Cleaning Services

#### HOUSE CLEANING AVAILABLE

Reasonable rates.  
Weekly, bi-weekly  
or monthly times available.  
~ Bonded ~  
Fully Vaccinated  
Call Wendy for a FREE estimate at:  
**774-262-9166**

### LAWNMOWERS

ALWAYS THE BEST SERVICE

**Snowblower & Generator Repair  
Tractor Service  
Tune-Ups & Repairs  
Pickup & Delivery**

508-987-2775  
492 Main St Oxford  
WORCESTERCOUNTYLAWNMOWER.COM

**For Advertising Information, Call 774-200-7308  
email: [mikaela@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:mikaela@stonebridgepress.news)**

### CHIMNEYS/MASONRY

#### CHIMNEY CLEANINGS

Starting at \$99

ALL KINDS OF MASONRY & CONCRETE WORK

New & Repairs, Repointing, Rebuilding, Re-lining, Waterproofing, Foundation & Chimney Repair, New & Stair Repair, Concrete Walkways, Stoneworks, New Roofs, Construction & Carpentry.

Need to get it done? Call me!  
-FREE Estimates-  
Quality Chimney  
(508)752-1003

### MASONRY

MASONRY HARDSCAPE  
RETAINING WALLS  
OUTDOOR LIVING CONSTRUCTION

Chimney Repair  
Foundation Repair  
Steps, Patios  
Water Proofing  
Walkways  
Stone Veneer  
Brick and Block Work  
Cord Wood

Brian French  
(413)222-5542  
[cjmasonryhardscape@gmail.com](mailto:cjmasonryhardscape@gmail.com)

### GJ LEDUC PAINTING

Interior and Exterior

Power Washing  
Wallpapering  
General Repair  
Fully Insured  
Over 40+ Years  
Experience

508-764-8548  
774-230-8373

### Plumbing

Commercial, Residential, New Construction

369 Main St,  
Ste 4  
Spencer, MA  
1-833-969-4330  
Fully Insured

MIKELAMBERTSPANDEH@GMAIL.COM

### ROOFING

#### David Barbale ROOFING

Roofing/Gutters  
Repair Work

Fully Licensed and Insured

MA LIC #CS069127  
MA HIC. LIC #1079721  
INS. # CAC032585

C: 508-397-6709  
O: 508-248-6709  
[davidbarbale.com](http://davidbarbale.com)

### Roofing

#### SAUNDERS & SONS ROOFING

Read our reviews at the Better Business Bureau. A+ rating and accredited member since 2009.

Call Bill Toll-Free  
1-866-961-Roof  
508-765-0100

Lifetime material warranty & 25 yr. labor warranty available

MA Reg #153955  
CSL #095459  
CT-HIC #0638641

Fully Insured, Free Estimates  
Family Owned and Operated  
Now Accepting All Major Credit Cards

# Got Space?

we do.

Contact Mikaela Today  
774-200-7308  
[mikaela@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:mikaela@stonebridgepress.news)

## Nomination papers for Brookfield town election due March 16

BROOKFIELD — Brookfield will hold its Annual Town Election Monday, May 4, with polls open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Town Hall, 6 Central St.

Nomination papers for the Brookfield Annual Town Election are available until the March 16 filing deadline at the Town Clerk's Office. The following offices and terms are open to candidates:

- Moderator (1 Year Term)
- Select Board (3 Year Term)
- Assessor (3 Year Term)
- Planning Board (5 Year Term)
- Planning Board (4 Year Term)
- Elementary School Committee (3 Year Term)
- Water Commission (3 Year Term)
- Board of Health (3 Year Term)
- Trustee For Merrick Public Library (2 - 3 Year Term)
- Cemetery Commissioner (2 Year Term)
- Cemetery Commissioner (3 Year Term)
- Town Collector (3 Year Term)

Monday, March 16, 5 p.m.

Last day to obtain and return nomination papers (49 days before election)

Monday March 30, 5 p.m.

Last day for registrars to certify Nomination Papers: (35 Days before election)

Monday, March 30, 5 p.m.

Last day for candidates to withdraw (Letter to the Town Clerk)

Please note you can now register to vote online at: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>.

## 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](mailto:jeffrobbins@charter.net) or 508-579-4786.

## 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.

## East Brookfield Library's seed program returns

EAST BROOKFIELD — The East Brookfield Public Library's seed program is back for another exciting growing year. Either come or call the library with the number of the items you would like. Our seeds are re-bagged, so if you need growing instructions see Carolann.

Did you know she was named Massachusetts Agriculturist of the year by the National Grange in 2000, and has won a number of vegetable growing competitions including the heaviest tomato contest and the heaviest pumpkin at the Big E. She has been named Grand Champion in the vegetable contest at the Big E 19 out of the 26 times she has entered! She knows her vegetables and is more than willing to answer any questions you may have.

## West Brookfield Historical Commission announces 2026 scholarship

WEST BROOKFIELD — The West Brookfield Historical Commission is pleased to announce its 2026, 15th annual scholarship in the amount of \$2,000. Qualified students must reside in West Brookfield and may attend Quaboag Regional High School, or be school-choice students, home schooled students, and independent school students.

This award is made possible through the J. Irving and Jane L. England Charitable Trust.

Application criteria:

The students must be planning to attend either a four-year college/university program or a two-year college with the intent to transfer to a four-year college. The Commission will show preference to study plans with concentration on History and History-related areas. Major or minors may include Political Science, Social Studies,

Anthropology, Archaeology, Historical Preservation, Museum Studies, and Education in any of these related fields.

Applicants must submit a brief essay based on one of the Notable Persons or Significant Places listed on the application. All necessary information will be found on the West Brookfield Historical Commission website. <http://westbrookfield.org>

Essays are due no later than April 6.

E-mail- [info@westbrookfield.org](mailto:info@westbrookfield.org)

Mail: West Brookfield Historical Commission, PO Box 372, W. Brookfield, MA 01585.

The application and details can be found on the Historical Commission Web site, <http://westbrookfield.org>.

For Advertising Information  
Call 774-200-7308  
email: [mikaela@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:mikaela@stonebridgepress.news)

Home Town Service,  
**Town-to-Town BIG TIME RESULTS**

# CLASSIFIEDS

## 774-200-7308

Place your ad today!



VISA, MasterCard, Discover

**WAR RELICS & WAR SOUVENIERS WANTED: WWII & EARLIER CASH WAITING!**  
Helmets, Swords, Daggers, Bayonets, Medals, Badges, Flags, Uniforms, etc. Over 40 years' experience.  
Call David (508) 688-0847. I'LL COME TO YOU!

**FOSTER PARENTS WANTED:**  
Seeking Quality Homes Throughout Central MA To Provide Foster Care To Children In Need. 24/7 Support Generous Reimbursement, \$1000 Sign-On Bonus. Call For Details.  
Devereux Therapeutic Foster Care. (508)829-6769  
**Devereux** ADVANCED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Advertise Here

For Advertising Information Call 774-200-7308 email: [mikaela@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:mikaela@stonebridgepress.news)

Advertise Here

### PART-TIME PROGRAM ASSISTANT

The Town of North Brookfield is looking for a part-time Program Assistant for the Council on Aging. Please submit a resume with a letter of interest to the Selectmen's Office, 215 Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535; or by email to [selectmen@northbrookfield.net](mailto:selectmen@northbrookfield.net).

### HELP WANTED

Commercial/Industrial sand blaster opening available in Oxford, MA. Duties include high pressure manual blasting of steel shot, grit and garnet. Experience a plus. Will train  
**Call BC Industries 508-987-3042**

### HELP WANTED

Industrial painter opening available in Oxford, MA Duties-include priming and painting of machine parts and structural steel. Experience a plus. Will train.  
**Call BC Industries 508-987-3042**

## Friday's Child



Layla is a resilient, energetic, and curious young girl who brings enthusiasm and joy into the spaces she enters. She loves expressing herself through colorful, hands-on arts and crafts, using creativity as a way to explore and share her ideas. Layla is very active and especially enjoys games that involve movement, where she can stay engaged and have fun at the same time. Layla attends elementary school and has built wonderful, positive connections with her teachers. She is an extroverted and outgoing child who truly enjoys being around others. Spending time with her friends at school and participating in activities within her community are among her favorite things to do.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/44789227065>

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](http://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.





# REAL ESTATE



43 East Main Street Webster, MA 01570  
Finest Realtor Associates to Serve You!

hope2own.com  
508.943.4333

Sharon Pelletier - Owner Broker  
Licensed in MA, CT & RI

**We Want  
Your Listings!**



**Dudley - 108 Southbridge Rd**  
*Featured New Listing!*

ESTATE SALE - REHAB PROPERTY BEING SOLD AS IS - ONE LEVEL RANCH HOME w/980 SF, Eat-in Kitchen, Living Rm, 3 BR, 1 Bath, Full, unfinished basement w/walkout access. FHW Baseboard Oil Heat, ~ In need of a septic system. Sloping back yard with views of the Quinebaug River. \$210,000.

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

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



Sprawling 62'x30' 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 w/15'x13' kitchen, 15'x22' living rm, 13'x11' dining rm, 10'x28' breezeway w/sliders to rear deck, and 3 season sunroom, hardwood & c-tile floors, replacement windows/doors & more, more, more! How do you like it? **Call today to schedule a showing!** \$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 \$649,900.00

## On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

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



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

*Webster Lake - 302 Killdeer Island*



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

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



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

**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
**WEBSTER, MA**  
2 Sylvester Dr  
Mortgagee's Sale of Real Estate on Premises

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1st @ 10:00 AM**

This home w/ inlaw unit features 7 rms, two full baths, oil heat, cooling, solar system, front and rear decks and two car garage on a 12,500±SF corner lot.

TERMS: A \$5,000 deposit shall be paid in cash or bank cashier's check by the purchaser at the time and place of sale.

www.amgauction.com  
508-842-1900

**AMG** AUCTION MARKETING GROUP  
Dale W. Schaezke, CAI, AARE PO Box 107, Shrewsbury, MA LIC#207

**For Advertising Information**  
**Call 774-200-7308**  
**email:mikaela@stonebridgepress.news**

**REAL ESTATE**

**PUT YOUR TRUST IN US**  
**TEAMWORK AND EXPERIENCE**

Jo-Ann Szymczak 774-230-5044  
Diane Luong 774-239-2937  
Maria Reed 508-873-9254  
Bob Berk 508-367-9226  
Vicki Bennett, Client Coordinator

**ReMax Vision • 25 Union St., Worcester MA 01608**  
**CALL FOR A MARKET ANALYSIS Licensed in MA & CT**

**CHARLTON- 1.3 ACRES**

**NEW PRICE**

\*2 Full Baths \* Fireplace \* 2 Mini Splits  
\*Recent Septic System \* Finished Lower Level  
\* Fenced in Yard Area- Great for Dogs

50 Old Spencer Rd. \$515,000

**TEMPLETON- RANCH ON 1 ACRE**

\*3 Bedrooms \* 1 Acre  
\*Privacy and Outdoor Space

17 Gray Rd \$409,000

**DUDLEY- 1.15 ACRE LOT**

\*Perc Test  
\* Land Survey Available

Old Southbridge Rd. \$124,900

**Southbridge- Dudley**  
30.2 Acres  
Potential for  
4 Frontage Lots  
Land great for  
recreation or Building  
Your Dream Home  
**\$295,000**

**Maria Reed**  
Received Re/Max  
Excellence Level Award  
The awards are based on Gross  
Commission  
Reflecting the  
Preparation,  
Effort and  
Commitment  
Essential to Real  
Estate Success



## MEET YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS

Perfect for Realtors, Mortgage Companies, Banks, Real Estate Attorneys, Home Inspectors, Chimney Inspectors, Lead Removal businesses, Insurance Companies, etc... any business involved in the buying or selling of real estate.

To join this section, please contact your local sales rep, 774-200-7308 or email mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

"I SOLVE REAL ESTATE PROBLEMS"

ReMax Professional Associates  
Licensed in MA & CT  
We need properties to sell - any type!

**Conrad Allen**  
508.400.0438  
callen1995@aol.com

**COMING SOON!!**  
**FREE CLASSES**

\*Learn about how to be show ready in selling your home  
\*Learn about the impact of Solar, Title 5, Home Inspection Requirements, and Buyer Agency when Selling Your Home

**ReMax Vision**  
25 Union St., Worcester MA 01608  
CALL JO-ANN FOR A MARKET ANALYSIS Licensed in MA & CT

Jo-Ann (Nedoroscik) Szymczak  
CRS, GRI, SRES  
508-943-7669  
774-230-5044

Buying or Selling a home?  
Every move is a new beginning! Let me help you navigate the path through your next journey...

**Bob Berk REALTOR**  
ReMax Vision  
Worcester MA  
508-367-9226  
bobberkrealtor@gmail.com  
Call for a free market analysis!

**Got Space?**  
**we do.**

Contact Mikaela Today  
774-200-7308  
mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

**ERA Key Realty**  
Donna Flannery Realtor®  
508-612-6771  
Donnaflanneryrealtor.com  
Donnaflannery@erakey.net

**OVER 30 YEARS SELLING LOCAL REAL ESTATE**  
**NATIONAL ERA FINALIST TWICE FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE**

**TOP AGENT YEAR AFTER YEAR FOR # OF UNITS SOLD & SOLD DOLLAR VOLUME**  
**ERA HALL OF FAME**

415B Main Street Spencer, MA 01562

**So Many Choices** All just waiting for a buyer like you.

Find the home made for you.  
Let us work with you to find your dream home.

**Lisa Caron Real Estate**  
42 W. Main Street, PO Box 447 Brookfield, MA 01506 Cell : 508-341-8299  
Your Local Real Estate Professional, Broker Owner  
GRI, ABR, LMC, CDPE,  
SRS, SRES, PSA, MRP, E-PRO, C2EX  
Listing Specialist, Accredited Buyer Representative,  
Notary Public  
Search Homes Instantly: <http://www.lisacaron.com>

# Founder of Paragus IT to deliver Nichols College commencement address

DUDLEY — Nichols College has announced that Delcie D. Bean IV, founder and CEO of Paragus IT, will give the commencement address at the 2026 commencement exercises, which will take place Saturday, May 2, at the DCU Center in Worcester.

“Nichols College is honored to welcome Delcie Bean as we celebrate the remarkable achievements of the class of 2026. His entrepreneurial spirit, creative business acumen and deep commitment to underrepresented communities embody the values we seek to instill in our graduates,” says Nichols College President Bill Pieczynski. “We know Delcie’s words will inspire our students to trust their instincts and take risks as they pursue their dreams, while continuing to lift others as they advance in their careers. We look forward to commemorating this milestone with him and our Nichols community.”

Since founding the company at the age of 13, Bean has transformed Paragus IT into one of the most successful, fastest-growing information technology (IT) firms in the region. The company’s unique corporate culture and strategic approach to providing outsourced IT services to small- to medium-sized businesses have earned many accolades, including being named to Inc. magazine’s list of 5,000 fastest-growing businesses and Forbes magazine’s 25 Small Giants list.

As the company has grown, so has Bean’s commitment to equity and inclusion. In 2014, he created Tech Foundry, an educational nonprofit designed to address the need for a skilled IT workforce by providing in-depth training for individu-

als from marginalized or underrepresented communities.

In 2016, Bean began the process of transitioning Paragus to a 100 percent employee-owned company, which he completed in 2024. He is currently working to grow Paragus into a \$250-million firm with offices across the country. In doing so, he aims to create more than 100 employee-owner millionaires.

Bean has advised state leadership on economic and technology matters and has served as a member of the Board of Trustees for Bay Path University. He has received multiple Entrepreneur of the Year and 40 Under 40 honors from Business West and the Worcester Business Journal, and Paragus has been recognized by WBJ as Best Employee-Owned Company for 2026.

Bean and his wife of 15 years live in southern New Hampshire with their three boys. He will receive an Honorary Doctor of Business Administration degree at Nichols College’s May commencement ceremony.

Constantine “Gus” Alexander, a former member of the Nichols College Board of Trustees, served as senior counsel in the law firm of Nutter, McClennen & Fish in their Corporate and Transactions Department for over 40 years and was a member of the firm’s Life Sciences and Medical Devices practice group. He represented a diverse client base comprised of public and private corporations, investment banks, venture capital firms, and CEOs and other senior executives, and he was often retained by special committees of boards of directors for advice and representation. He will receive an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree at the Nichols commencement ceremony.

Alexander acted as primary outside counsel to clients such as Anadys Pharmaceuticals, AutoImmune, BioLink, BridgeStreetAccommodations, Chadwick’s of Boston, Commerce Insurance, Damon Biotech, Damon Corporation, GenRad, Ground Round Restaurants, M/A-COM, Nabi Biopharmaceuticals, Phillips Screw Company, Provant and NewKidCo International. He has represented companies in numerous public offerings, private placements and other private financings and was lead counsel in more than fifty

purchases or sales of companies.

Early in his legal career, Alexander was a law clerk to Wilson Cowen, the former chief judge of what is now the Federal Circuit of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. He was also past chairman of the Securities Law Committee of both the Massachusetts and Boston Bar Associations and a past chairman of the Corporate Law Committee of the Massachusetts Bar Association. He lectured and authored in the corporate and securities law fields and taught at the Boston University School of Law. He also served on the Cambridge, Massachusetts, Zoning Board of Appeals for two decades, acting as chairman for much of that time. In addition, he was treasurer of the Boston Chamber Music Society.

A magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Tufts University and cum laude alumnus of Harvard Law School,

Alexander lives in Cambridge with his wife, Linda Reinfeld.

About Nichols  
Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols College transforms today’s students into tomorrow’s leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations. [www.nichols.edu](http://www.nichols.edu)

## Here Today Adopted Tomorrow hosting “Spay”ghetti Supper

PALMER — Here Today Adopted Tomorrow (HTAT) invites all animal lovers to our annual “Spay”ghetti Supper fundraiser at the St. Thomas Parish Center in Palmer on Saturday, March 28.

Enjoy a delicious chef-prepared meal while helping the very cats in our community! Whether you’re a true party animal or simply want to make a difference, it’s a great way to support a good cause with friends and family. Plus, enjoy raffles, prizes, and plenty of fun throughout the evening!

Each year, HTAT sees more cats pawing at its doors for help. As prices rise, everyone feels the strain—but many people don’t realize that rising costs affect pets, too. It’s not just veterinary care that has exploded; as food and housing prices rise, many loving pet owners find themselves struggling to keep up. When life becomes overwhelming, cats can be the ones caught in the middle.

That’s where HTAT steps in. Events like the “Spay”ghetti Supper make our support possible, helping us provide food, shelter, and care for cats who might otherwise fall through the cracks.

HTAT Executive Director Rachael Max says the event is a chance for the commu-

nity to come together while making a real difference. “‘Spay’ghetti Supper is one of our most popular events of the year,” said Max. “It’s always a fun night, but it also plays an important role in helping us continue our work with cats who need a little extra care and attention.”

The “Spay”ghetti Supper takes place at the St. Thomas Parish Center in Palmer on Saturday, March 28, 2026, from 5:00-6:30 PM. Advance tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors and kids under 12, while limited door tickets will be available at \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors and kids. To purchase tickets, visit [www.heretoday-sanctuary.org](http://www.heretoday-sanctuary.org) or call 413-324-8224.

If you are local and need assistance feeding or caring for your pet, HTAT can help. Local cat owners can spay or neuter their cats for \$80 or less, and strays and ferals can be fixed for free! Visit [www.heretoday-sanctuary.org](http://www.heretoday-sanctuary.org) to learn more about our community assistance programs.

About Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary

Here Today Adopted Tomorrow (HTAT) was founded by mother-daughter team Barbara Horn

and Rachael Max. HTAT is a volunteer driven group focused on helping cats and the people who love them in our community. In 2012 we opened our no kill, cageless cat adoption center for adult cats and kittens in Brimfield, MA. It is deeply important to us that every resident’s stay at HTAT is comfortable and healthy, making for well-adjusted, happy animals. Shortly after opening, we realized there were more homeless cats than we could handle by adoption alone. We believe that pets are cherished members of the family and that every cat deserves care, respect, and the chance to thrive, no matter their circumstances. We have programs to help special needs cats flourish and get adopted, as well as community assistance programs to help pet owners keep their pets, such as our Pet Food Pantry, low-cost spay-neuter program, and free cat behavior program. Each year, HTAT helps over 1,500 animals and their families. For more information, visit [heretoday-sanctuary.org](http://heretoday-sanctuary.org).

Visit Here Today Adopted Tomorrow on Facebook at [facebook.com/heretoday-sanctuary](https://facebook.com/heretoday-sanctuary), and follow us on Instagram at [@heretoday-adoptedtommorrow](https://instagram.com/heretoday-adoptedtommorrow).

**Where Everyone Goes For Their Piece Of The Earth!**

**SPRING IS COMING! LANDSCAPING STONE**

Purple • Red • White  
Light Gray • Dark Gray  
Greige • Blue

- Construction Stone
- Title V Sand • Utility Sand
- Concrete Sand • Pool Liner Sand
- Chicken Coop Sand • Silt
- Stone Dust • Crushed Gravel
- Crushed Asphalt
- Crushed Concrete • Cold Patch

SELF PICK-UP OR CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR DELIVERY TODAY!

HOME OWNER FRIENDLY  
NO MINIMUMS

**Bond** 508-885-6100  
508-885-2480

Sand, Gravel & Asphalt

98 N. Spencer Rd., • Rte. 31N, Spencer, MA  
[www.bondsandandgravel.com](http://www.bondsandandgravel.com)

**DURKIN & SONS Trucking Co.**

Trash Removal  
Weekly Pickups  
Cleanouts

~ Reliable ~

[www.durkintrucking.com](http://www.durkintrucking.com)  
Spencer  
508-885-4499

**Anniversary Sale!**

**Biggest Sale of the Year!**

COME CELEBRATE WITH US! We are celebrating by offering you savings of 20%-60% Off storewide.

As an added bonus, qualified buyers pay 0% Interest and NO DOWN PAYMENT for 1 FULL YEAR!

REGISTER TO WIN A \$500 SHOPPING SPREE! (No purchase necessary)

- ◆ Bedrooms
- ◆ Living Rooms
- ◆ Recliners
- ◆ Occasional Pieces
- ◆ Entertainment Centers
- ◆ Sealy Mattresses

STOREWIDE SAVINGS!

[www.sundeenfurnitureinc.com](http://www.sundeenfurnitureinc.com)

**Sundeen Furniture**

241 Providence Rd., Whitinsville • 508-234-8777

FREE Delivery & Removal • FREE Financing Available

M.T.W. 9:30-6:00; TH., FRI. 9:30-7:00; SAT. 9:30-6:00; SUN 11-5

**308 LAKESIDE**

**CASUAL WATERFRONT DINING ON LAKE LASHAWAY**

**LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEK!**

3/27 Topsy Duo  
4/3 Evan Couture  
4/10 Joe Macey  
4/11 Your Mother

**MUSIC BINGO EVERY THURSDAY 7 TO 9**

**WEEKLY SPECIAL**  
Check out our \$19.99  
**Three-Course Meal Deals**  
Available Every Tuesday, Wednesday, And Thursday.

Please call 774-449-8333 for reservations, take-out or reserve online [308lakeside.com](http://308lakeside.com)

308 MAIN STREET  
EAST BROOKFIELD  
774-449-8333  
308LAKESIDE.COM

Find us on Facebook

Check out the new Fall/Winter menu

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!

Email Us @

news@  
[stonebridgepress.news](mailto:stonebridgepress.news)

