



SPENCER NEW LEADER

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Friday, October 2, 2026

Courtesy

NORTH BROOKFIELD — For artist and illustra-
tor Russell “Russ” Buzzell, the landscapes, wildlife

Buzzell will open his studio at 25 Tucker Hill Rd. for the second time as part of the 32nd annual Back Roads Studio Tour, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 3 and 4, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The free, self-guided tour includes eight artists and craftspeople in Barre, Gilbertville, North Brookfield, Petersham, Spencer and Ware.

The idea grew from Buzzell's interest in local history and his discovery of the important role these establishments played in early Massachusetts communities. In 1656, the Massachusetts General Court made towns subject to fines if they failed to maintain an ordinary to accommodate travelers. More than places to eat, drink and sleep, ordinaries became important gathering places for travelers and townspeople alike.

“Once I learned why there were so many of these old taverns scattered across

The first subject in the series is the historic Brookfield Inn on West Main Street in Brookfield.

According to the Brookfield Historical Commission, President George Washington passed through Brookfield during his 1789 tour of New England. After dining at the Hitchcock Tavern in what is now West Brookfield, Washington and his party

Turn To BUZZELL *page* A10

OPENING BID: \$25,000

Stonebridge Press is selling its building at 25 Elm St., known as the Tiffany-Leonard House and long associated with the Southbridge News. Online bidding through Crexhi.com is scheduled to begin at noon on October 5, 2026, and run for two days. The listing describes approximately 9,536 square feet on a 0.32-acre lot.

Stonebridge Press says the decision reflects how its employees now work. Staff members operate remotely from home offices, on the road and throughout the communities the newspapers serve. Digital tools allow them to coordinate their work without gathering in one central office, leaving the company with more building than it needs.

The company continues serving its readers and advertisers through that arrangement, with employees working in their local markets. Selling the Elm Street property will allow another owner to make use of space that no longer fits the publisher's daily operations.

"We'd love to see someone in our communities get this property at a bargain price and put it to good use," said Frank Chilinski, president and publisher of Stonebridge Press.

Purchased by the local newspaper company in 1997 for \$190,000, the building has been vacant and for sale since January 2024. The most recent asking price was \$295,000. Its municipal assessment is \$480,300.

Built around 1832, the Tiffany-Leonard House has a history reaching back to the region's early manufacturing economy. Its original owner, Bela Tiffany, was a business partner of Samuel Slater in establishing a cotton mill in nearby Webster. The property later belonged to Manning Leonard, another prominent local businessman. Bela Tiffany's lineage was the renown jewelers on 5th Avenue in New York City.

The two-story brick house was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1989. Its Greek Revival architecture includes four tall columns supporting a triangular pediment, giving the front of the building the appearance of a classical temple. The brickwork and graceful proportions offer the kind of character that may appeal to a buyer who values older buildings.

Located near downtown Southbridge, opposite the Elm Street Fire House, the property is listed as an office building. Crexi's description includes central air conditioning and two bathrooms identified as ADA compliant. Buyers considering a different use should review the property's suitability and any required approvals.

The bidding will open at \$25,000, subject to reserve and auction terms. Prospective bidders should review all auction terms and property documents. This will be a non-contingent sale closing in early November.

Photos, property information and registration details are available at Crex.com by searching for 25 Elm Street, Southbridge. For more information or a building tour, contact Jonah Glickman at 508-868-3765 or email Audrey Hanna at ahanna@crexi.com.

LEICESTER — The Wolverine Grill at Leicester High School has opened for a new season building on what has been a successful first year of operation as an extension of the school's culinary arts program.

The Grill debuted in March of this year, and its fall schedule includes breakfast and lunch with all the food cooked by students at the school, putting their skills learned in the class-

room to the test.

Program leaders met with the School Committee on Sept. 21, one day before the Grill's first day of operation for the fall, providing an update on the young eatery and how students have embraced the opportunity to hone their skills in a real service environment. The Grill actually started off its season at the Leicester Harvest Fair earlier in September, giving the public a sneak peek at the new menu.

It was there that School Committee members saw

just how much pride the students have in the Grill. Committee Member John Higgins said he stopped by the booth and was thrilled to see how excited the kids were to be involved.

"You could see the joy in their faces. You could see that they really like what they're doing and that they're engaged – It's obvious that they like what they're doing and I really thought that was pretty cool," Higgins said.

Chef Andy Aucoin, one of the educators that lead the students at the Wolverine Grill, said the Harvest Fair was a great example of how the students take the lead in creating delicious meals for their patrons.

"The kids did phenomenal. Everything that we've taught in our training, in the shop, in the classroom they put to work out there. We really just went in, set them up, and got them going," said the Chef.

As the Wolverine Grill

moves to its stationary location, its second season brings both breakfast and lunch offerings, although they will be weekly not daily. Breakfast is a new offering held on Tuesdays from 9 until 11 a.m. Lunch will be offered on Thursdays from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., with both programs led by students with teacher guidance allowing them to embrace the full day-to-day operation of a kitchen and restaurant.

One of the major points made by program leaders is that the Grill is not designed to compete with local eateries but to contribute to their success. They want to guide the chefs of tomorrow to support local businesses in the future.

The Wolverine Grill is located at the side door entrance of 70 Winslow Ave. Information on food offerings is being made available on The Wolverine Grill social media page on Facebook.

NORTH BROOKFIELD — Musician, songwriter and performer, Stan Matthews has always loved music. He listens to a wide variety of styles and draws inspiration from everything he hears. He remembers being

immersed in the music of performers such as Louis Armstrong, Eddy Arnold, Hank Williams, Roy Acuff, Tommy Makem, and the Clancy Brothers as a child, thanks to his mother, father, and maternal grandparents. It's safe to say that the musical tastes of his family helped start him on his musical journey.

Matthews also credits the performance of the Beatles on “The Ed Sullivan Show” for influencing his desire to perform, explaining, “My mom put me in front of our black and white tv to watch The Beatles. After that nothing was the same.”

Turn To MATTHEWS *page* A10



25 ELM STREET | SOUTHBRIDGE, MA

Listed For Auction



To be Auctioned to the highest bidder.
Two-Day Auction Starts October 5th, 2026.
For details, go to [Crexix.com](https://www.crexix.com)





- Historical building, also known as Tiffany-Leonard House, built in 1832
- Large Executive Offices with Elegant Finishes and High Ceilings
- Large Open Concept Cubicle Areas

- Building size: 9,536 SF
- Lot size: 13,939 SF
- Loading docks: (1) tailgate height
- Basement: partial | Unfinished







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Fall tradition continues with 47th Annual Apple Country Fair

BROOKFIELD — One of Central Massachusetts’ favorite fall traditions returns to the Historic Brookfield Town Common on Saturday, Oct. 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hosted by the Brookfield Community Club, the 47th Annual Apple Country Fair features close to 100 local crafters, artisans, and bakers, along with live music, food trucks, lawn games, face painting, raffles, and plenty of family fun.

The fair brings together the best of small-town charm with a vibrant marketplace of booths filled with hand-knit clothing, pottery, wooden décor, homemade soaps, pet toys, maple syrups, beaded jewelry, locally-harvested honey

and delicious small-batch treats—perfect for early holiday shopping or treating yourself.

But the fair is more than just shopping—it’s a full day of entertainment and activities for all ages. Enjoy live music by local favorites Chuck and Mud and Spooner Well, let the kids enjoy lawn games and face-painting, and dig into delicious bites from a variety of food trucks.

Don’t miss the raffle drawings held throughout the day, including a classic 50/50 raffle and chances to win great prizes like family passes to regional museums, gift certificates to local restaurants and shops, sporting events and the ever-popular community-stitched

quilt. In the days leading up to the Fair, be sure to visit the Merrick Public Library to see this year’s themed quilt on display. The quilt is created through the talents and contributions of Brookfield community members, and will also be featured in the Fair raffle, giving one lucky winner the opportunity to take home this unique piece of Brookfield community history.

A favorite Fair tradition, the Apple Pie Baking Contest is open to bakers of all ages, with youth and adult categories.

Bring your best homemade apple pie and show off your baking skills! Entries for the apple pie contest will be accepted at the Library Annex (18 Common St) on the Day of the Fair until 9:45 a.m. There are three Judging categories: children under 12, ages 13-19, and adults ages 20 and older.

The Brookfield Community Club has been organizing the Apple Country Fair since 1979. The money raised at the

Apple Country Fair has generated grants for community service projects, including (but not limited to): Supplies for the Town’s annual luminary display on Christmas Eve Programs and speakers for Brookfield Council on Aging Equipment for Brookfield Fire Department and EMS Improvements to Brookfield Recreation’s Lewis Field Equipment for Brookfield Scout Troops

Programs at the Merrick Public Library Diane Martell Community Service Award for a graduating Brookfield Senior

The fair is held outside on The Common rain or shine. Mark your calendar, gather your friends and family, and come celebrate fall in Brookfield.

For more information, visit AppleCountryFair.com.

Open poetry reading series coming to Merriam-Gilbert Library

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

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

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

Shakespeare and Anne Bradstreet to Charles Bukowski, William Butler Yeats, Rumi, Adrienne Rich and contemporary poets.

Participants do not need to be poets themselves. Those without original work are welcome to read favorite poems by published writers, while community members who would rather listen are equally encouraged to attend.

Readings will take place in round-robin fashion, with participants sharing no more than two poems during each turn. The number of opportunities each person has to read will depend upon attendance. Organizers ask participants to avoid

lengthy selections so everyone has an opportunity to take part.

The series is intended to foster a creative community of writers and readers while exposing participants to poets and styles they might not otherwise encounter.

“One Poem” will run from September through May, generally on the third Thursday of each month from 4 to 6 p.m. Some dates may be adjusted because of holidays.

Programs will be held in the upstairs meeting room at the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library on Main Street in West Brookfield. The meeting room is accessible by elevator.

The series is open to the Central Massachusetts community. “Come: read, listen, learn, savor,” organizers invite participants.

WEEKLY POLICE BLOTTER

Spencer
The Spencer Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Sept. 16-22.

Jared Joseph Pike, age 30, of Spencer was arrested on Sept. 17 in connection with a warrant.

Arthur D. Poirier, age 74, of Spencer was arrested on Sept. 17 for Indecent Exposure, Disorderly Conduct, and Disturbing the Peace.

Jeffrey Joseph Magierowski, age 47, of Spencer was arrested on Sept. 19 for Disorderly Conduct, Disturbing the Peace, and Assault & Battery on a person over the age of 60 and/or Disabled.

Leicester
The Leicester Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Sept. 17-23.

William R. Denson, age 65, of Spencer was arrested on Sept. 17 for Trespassing and in connection with a straight warrant.

Pamela Sue Koch, age 63, of Worcester and Terri Lynn Senosk, age 65, of Leicester were arrested on Sept. 18 for Larceny Under \$1,200 By a Single Scheme and Conspiracy.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Sept. 19 for Leaving the Scene of Property Damage.

Two individuals whose identities have been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Sept. 21 for Shoplifting By Asportation.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Sept. 22 for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle and operating a vehicle with No Inspection Sticker.

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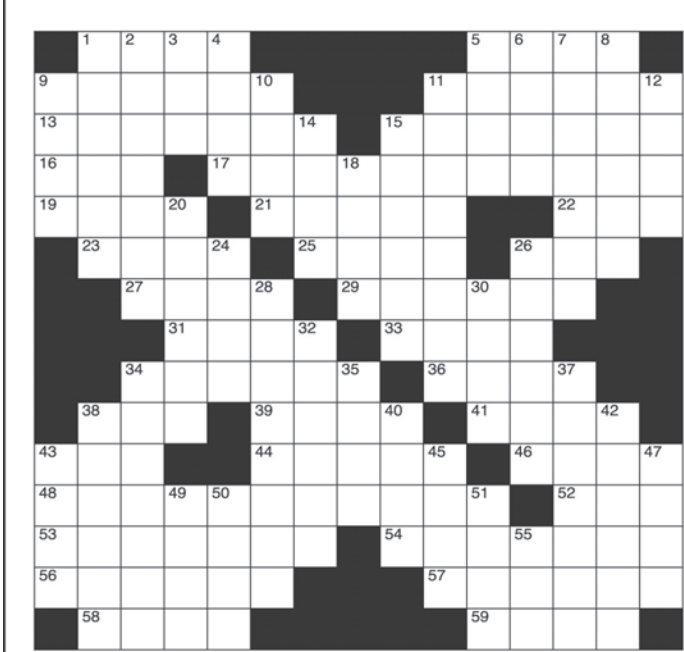
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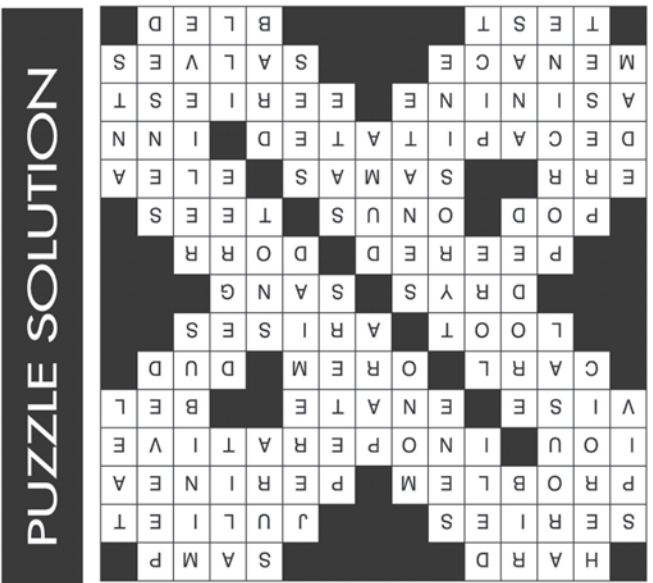


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Difficult
- 5. Coarsely ground corn
- 9. A group of similar things ordered one after another
- 11. Loved Romeo
- 13. Something to solve
- 15. Pelvic areas
- 16. Informal debt instrument
- 17. Ineffective
- 19. A device attached to a workbench
- 21. Related on the mother’s side
- 22. “Fresh Prince of ___ Air”
- 23. Astronomer Sagan
- 25. C. Utah city
- 26. Turkey
- 27. Informal terms for money
- 29. Awakens
- 31. Those who favored Prohibition
- 33. Blabbed
- 34. Looked through
- 36. Rhode Island rebellion
- 38. A type of “cast”
- 39. One’s duty
- 41. Where golfers begin
- 43. Make a mistake
- 44. Semitic Sun god
- 46. Ancient Greek City
- 48. Removed someone’s head
- 52. A place to stay
- 53. Unwise
- 54. Most unnatural
- 56. “Dennis” is a notable one
- 57. Ointments
- 58. Examination
- 59. Leaked fluid

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Brave
- 2. A state of excitement
- 3. Jest at
- 4. Sandwich store
- 5. Chapter of the Koran
- 6. Dismounted from a horse
- 7. Small vehicle
- 8. Irked
- 9. A disreputable man
- 10. Monetary unit of Samoa
- 11. A list of woes
- 12. Weight unit
- 14. Alone, single
- 15. Broadway legend Bernadette
- 18. Monetary unit of Serbia
- 20. Worn by exposure to the weather
- 24. A body of traditions
- 26. Students seek one
- 28. Hydrophilic amino acid
- 30. Nasal mucus
- 32. Branch of U.S. Congress
- 34. Swinish
- 35. Russian assembly
- 37. Grant an exemption to
- 38. Set up in advance
- 40. Satisfy
- 42. Felt
- 43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
- 45. Witnesses
- 47. Strong insects
- 49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- 50. One of an ancient people inhabiting Scotland
- 51. Cheerless
- 55. Unhealthy



SPENCER ALMANAC REAL ESTATE

BROOKFIELD

\$351,201, 81 Webber Rd, Palleria, Jenny Lee, and Palleria, William A, to Rcf Iii Acquisition T, and Us Bank Na Tr.

EAST BROOKFIELD

\$492,500, 473 W Sturbridge Rd, Ketner, Brent, to Ingram, Connor C, and White, Krystal.
\$439,000, 117 Draper Rd, Barry, Jaz Pariece, and Barry, Steven Mark, to Cano, Hanssell.
\$435,000, 155 Dunnbrook Rd, Lamoureux, Laurie, to Auger, Jefferson, and Malakie, Keara.
\$375,000, 112 Blaine Ave, Charland, George A, to Kimball, Joel A, and Kimball, Brianne L.

LEICESTER

\$560,000, 92-94 Sargent St, Annunziata, John A, to Brito, Rodrigo Barros.
\$385,000, 90 Towtaid St, Sanko Flora L Est, and Szymczak, Linda, to Mcalary, Hayley, and Mcalary, Brandon.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

\$685,000, 147 Oakham Rd, Coughlin, Cynthia J, to Paul F Burns Ret, and Burns, Paul F.
\$634,000, 7 Kittredge Rd, Guertler, Susanne, to Contonio, Thomas Anthony, and Contonio, Mary.

SPENCER

\$700,000, 57 Oakland Dr, Zalieckas, Joseph J, to Barrell, Richard, and Barrell, Penny.
\$528,000, 20 Main St, Pray, Gregory L, and Pray, Catherine A, to Path To Freedom Fund LLC.
\$500,000, 207 S Spencer Rd, Healey Lt, and Healey, James, to Healey, Brian W, and Healey, Jennifer M.
\$468,000, 15 Hastings Rd, Gemme Kathleen M Est, and Kennedy, Kara Ann, to Gardner, Laura.
\$450,000, 9 Westland Dr, Standring, Todd M, to Sawyer, John, and Sawyer, Nancy.
\$310,000, 29 Pleasant St, Banyai, Thomas, and Banyai, Deborah, to Lindsey, Brittany.

WARREN

\$469,000, 1102 East Rd, Hebert, Virginia L, to Denham, Aaron.
\$450,000, 109 East Rd, Lone Oak Enterprises LLC, to Tuttle, Bradley, and Tuttle, Arielle.
\$400,000, 114 Burbank Ave, Denham, Aaron Paul, and Denham, Lauren, to Silberstein, Andrew W, and Deluna, Brenda Isabe A.

WEST BROOKFIELD

None

Qualifications create concerns in North Brookfield Fire Chief search

**BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT**
NORTH BROOKFIELD — The North Brookfield Board of Selectmen discussed the status of the fire chief search on Sept. 22, addressing concerns about certifications among the applicants.
North Brookfield has created a three-person committee to lead the search for a new fire chief consisting of Police Chief Ryan Daley, firefighter Mario Polanco, and Brookfield Fire Chief Peter Martell. Part of their charge is to review applications for the position, including their qualifications. However, numerous applicants were found to be

without the appropriate certifications listed in the job description or at least failed to include those certifications in their applications, leading the committee to consult with selectmen on how to proceed.
The committee reviewed nine applications with only one meeting all qualifications established in the job posting. Selectmen debated whether that means they should reduce the number of qualifications required or take a different approach to avoid narrowing the field to one single applicant. Any changes to mandatory qualifications would require the job to be posted again, extending the search process.

Chief Ryan Daley represented the search committee and said they didn't want to go backwards and reduce qualifications for the chief.
"The requirements were put out on the post for the job, and they are what they are. Whether people had them or didn't have them, put their resumes and sent in their applications, or didn't put them in, forgot to put them in, I feel like that's probably more so the case than not. I feel like they probably forgot to put some of these things in - Is it the committee's obligation to call these people and say, 'Hey, do you have them?'" or

is it our obligation to bypass that applicant because they didn't have it and didn't put it on their resume? That's what we did. We bypassed them because they didn't complete their application process the correct way," said the Chief.
Selectmen felt proceeding with one applicant would be risky but didn't agree on reducing the qualifications either. There was also the concern brought up by Chief Daley that they could be doing a disservice to the applicant that submitted everything properly.
"I don't think it's a matter of the missing items so much as the fact that we're bypass-

ing all these people because they didn't put them in, and now we're thinking about revamping everything when you do have somebody that put everything in the packet. I think that's where the waters are getting a little muddy. I think that's where the issue lies," said Daley.
It was Mary Beth Kularski, Executive Assistant to the Board of Selectmen, that offered the eventual compromise. She noted that just because the qualifications weren't listed on someone's resume doesn't mean they don't have them. She recom-

mended sending out a blanket email to all applicants asking them for their qualifications.
Daley and the selectmen saw this as an agreeable solution and moved to proceed with this approach before making any further decisions on candidates for the job. This will prevent the need for reissuing the job posting and allow existing candidates to prove they properly meet the standards for Chief of the North Brookfield Fire Department.

New Braintree prepares to mark 275th anniversary with Olde Home Day celebration

NEW BRAINTREE — A cherished autumn celebration will take place on Saturday, Oct. 3, as New Braintree hosts its 275th anniversary celebration, Olde Home Day. Designed to highlight the town's unique heritage and vibrant character, the daylong festival features a jam-packed schedule of activities for all ages.
The festivities kick off at 1 p.m. with a traditional town parade, leading into a diverse afternoon lineup along the town grounds. Highlights include line dancing demonstrations led by J.P. Ellory—with plenty of audience participation—alongside performances by the Next Step dance group and a wandering clown to entertain younger guests. Families can also explore a "Touch a Truck" exhibit, traditional children's lawn games, children's obstacle course,

as well as a children's scooter/bicycle obstacle course. You can take a chance with the New Braintree Fire Association's Duck Race as they travel the "river" down Utley Road. A bustling Farmers Market will be on the grounds showcasing local growers and artisans.
Food and drink offerings will highlight local favorites. Attendees can visit the Beer & Wine tent featuring selections from Lost Towns Brewing & Agronomy, or grab lunch from local food trucks Savage Wraps, and Off the Hook as well as some sweet treats from local bakers Music and classic festival competitions anchor the afternoon. The band Over the Hump takes the stage from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., coinciding with the popular pie-eating contest for children and adults. Local bakers are also invited to enter their homemade cre-

ations into the Apple Pie Making Contest to compete for town honors. Bring your pies to the New Braintree Town Hall from 2 – 3 p.m. Judging will begin at 3:30 p.m. Check the New Braintree Web site at www.newbraintreema.us for the contest rules.
As evening approaches, the energy picks up with a performance by Disco Lemonade from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., culminating in a spectacular evening bonfire.
Organizers are encouraging community members to get involved to help make the event a success. For volunteer opportunities, contest entry forms, or general information, contact event organizers at newbraintree275@gmail.com or call (413) 537-4813.



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Fundraiser Benefit Dinner
Please join us for an evening of great food and fun. Learn about our rescue and the horses and donkeys in our care. CNEER is a grassroots rescue located in West Brookfield, MA. Our mission is to rescue, heal and restore the spirit of the horse when it has been damaged through abuse, neglect and abandonment. We are committed to making a difference - one horse at a time.

October 24, 2026
Hardwick Crossing Country Club
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Payment must be received by October 10th
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CNEER.com or Visit Us on Facebook

Saving one horse many not change the world but for that one horse the world is changed forever.

Spencer Exchange Club to present 18 Under 18 Youth Leadership awards

SPENCER — For the sixth consecutive year, the Exchange Club of Spencer will in November announce the recipients of their 18 Under 18 awards to those under the age of 18 who reside in the towns Spencer or East Brookfield. The Exchange Club membership has annually been made aware of young men and women whose impact on their communities may have gone unnoticed. They are not necessarily the highest academic achievers, star athlete or the most popular among their peers. They are those unassuming young adults who demonstrate attributes of leadership, passion, a caring and supportive nature, selflessness and citizenship. They are making a difference to others and their communities.
The Exchange Club has acknowledged and awarded nearly 100 young adults with the 18 Under 18 award over the past five years who were nominated by their teachers, employers, school counselors or others who felt they made a difference in their communities. Award recipients were recognized with citations and presented with monetary

awards. This year's award ceremony will be held during a Worcester Railers game at the DCU Center in Worcester on Sunday, Nov. 22.
The Exchange Club membership is purposefully invested in the present and future of the Spencer and East Brookfield communities. They wish to highlight the innate talents that our youth exhibit unselfishly every day in what sometimes seems like the simplest of actions of caring and the ability to relate to others. They believe that curiosity, analytical thinking, dependability and a strong work ethic make the greatest difference where we all live, work and play. The club's vision of the future is that these young men and women will carry on the Exchange's mission of "Unity for Service."
Application and nomination forms may be accessed on the Facebook pages of the Spencer Exchange Club, Spencer Bulletin Board or at www.spencerexchangeclub.org. Sponsorship forms may also be accessed at those locations.



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Friday's Child



Hanna
Age 11
Registration #9518

Hanna is an enthusiastic and happy girl whose lovely smile can light up any room. She has a natural appreciation for the world around her and finds a lot of joy in spending time outdoors. One of her favorite places to visit is the beach, where she enjoys exploring, taking in the scenery, and collecting seashells. Hanna is also caring and eager to help others. She enjoys being involved in group projects and events and takes pride in knowing that she has contributed. She is motivated by encouragement and does her best when she is given opportunities to participate and feel that her contributions matter. Hanna thrives when the people around her recognize her efforts and encourage her to keep trying new things. With her cheerful personality, beautiful smile, and willingness to lend a helping hand, Hanna has a lot of joy to share with the people around her. She would benefit from a family who will encourage her interests, celebrate her accomplishments, and give her opportunities to be an active and meaningful part of family life.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/60245393446>
Can I Adopt?

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

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



1 8 7 2 - 2 0 0 7



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www.StonebridgePress.com

FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

A landmark worth a second look

A newspaper’s work has never been confined to four walls. It happens at town meetings, along Main Street, on school sidelines and in conversations with the people who call our communities home.

Still, a building can become part of a newspaper’s identity. That is true of 25 Elm St. in Southbridge, the historic Tiffany-Leonard House, long associated with the Southbridge News and Stonebridge Press Newspapers.

Now, we hope someone will give it a new purpose.

Stonebridge Press is putting the property up for online auction through Crexi, with bidding beginning Oct. 5 at noon. The opening bid is \$25,000. The auction will be live for just 48 hours.

That number deserves a second look. It raises the possibility of acquiring a historic building for less than the price of a new car. But an opening bid is a starting point, not a promised selling price. The auction is subject to terms that prospective buyers should read carefully.

Why are we selling? Because the way we produce your newspaper has changed over the years.

Our employees now work from home offices, on the road and throughout the communities we serve. Stories, photographs, advertising and page layouts can move between colleagues without everyone gathering under one roof. We still need people who know their communities. We no longer need the space that once brought those people together.

The building has been vacant since January 2024. Keeping it empty serves neither our needs nor the property’s future.

Built around 1832, this brick landmark has nearly two centuries behind it. Its columns and distinctive architecture are reminders that buildings can contribute something to a town beyond square footage. They give a place character and connect one generation to another.

Of course, character alone does not make a project practical. Any interested buyer should tour the property, examine its condition, understand the costs and investigate what uses would be permitted. An attractive purchase price is only one part of the calculation.

We have a financial interest in this sale, and readers deserve that acknowledgment. We also would welcome seeing a familiar landmark occupied and useful again.

Perhaps the right person is reading this newspaper. Perhaps you know someone who should take a look.

Visit Crexi.com and search for “25 Elm Street, Southbridge” to see photographs, property information and auction details. Bidding is scheduled for Oct. 5 & 6.

An old newspaper building has room for new ideas. We hope someone in our communities will see a possibility worth pursuing.

Letter submission policy

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

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Play “Doge the Craters”

To the Editor:
Welcome to Spencer, home of the state’s largest and most challenging obstacle course! Yes, you too can play “Dodge the Craters” absolutely free of charge!

All you need are your vehicle and a valid driver’s license. But if you lose part of your vehicle in a crater, game over.

PAT SWEET
SPENCER

Thank you for your coverage of Leicester’s Harvest Fair

To the Editor:
Thank you very much for the wonderful coverage of last week’s Leicester Harvest Fair! The articles and photos and the tribute to the high school students in the Editorial all highlight what is so special about that annual event. The work and knowledge of the CTE students has added a valuable dimension to the Fair visitor’s experience. We on the Harvest Fair committee owe so much to the community organizations, middle and high school students, Boy Scout troops,

local crafts people, and other volunteers who come together each September to provide food, entertainment, demonstrations and educational exhibits, as well as the critical help in setting up and taking down all the equipment necessary to stage the Fair. Your coverage celebrated that strong community participation — thank you! Sincerely,

CHRISTIE HIGGINBOTTOM
LEICESTER HARVEST FAIR COMMITTEE

Fake news

To the Editor:
Trump was already a big fan of fake news, so has added a TV station to his UnTrue Social network.

I expect his election security claims and moves to control it, to ramp up as long as his poll numbers keep falling. Even his most devout cult fans, being among those he is bankrupting, are losing confidence in his leadership.

My worry is how will those in a position to curtail him ignoring laws, court orders and the Constitution respond to his illegal orders to invoke the Stalin style election, where it matters not who votes and how, only who counts the votes. While I am not a fan of Elon Musk, I set stock in him saying he delivered Trumps last victory, and that he is working to do it again. Anyone who thinks the guy who makes cars that can take you anywhere without a driver, cannot hack voting machines or voter rolls, is living in blissful ignorance.

Anyone who does not see him meeting Xi and Putin at airports and rolling out red carpets, as the opposite of calling out our leaders as communists for representing the working people, has swallowed the hook. Admitting China’s state media, while locking out three American news networks., is so similar to Hitler’s behavior, as to be remarkable.

Who remembers the plan to free the Iranian people from their evil leadership? That has become genocide and erasure of their entire population, and the pea brain announced it at the UN. This guy having the nuclear codes is way off the rails.

Some questions for Repbulicans

To the Editor:
I have wondered just what the Republican Party stands for. I understand a conservative approach to finances – don’t spend what you don’t have – and have practiced that for all my life. I remember a time when the “trickle down” theory was supposedly going to benefit us all, but it never did trickle down to me. Certainly, the last 10-plus years are very confusing to me, so I have some questions.

Does a Republican agree that grabbing people off the street without a warrant mainly because they are black or brown and may have an accent is right?

Does a Republican approve when that person is thrown into a concentration, excuse me, a detention camp without a trial and without proof that they belong there and without notification to family is right?

And, about these concentration — I mean, detention — camps, who is paying for the upkeep, the food, the heat, the water, the staff?

Does a Republican agree with bombing small boats, killing over 100 people, without knowing who they are and what they are doing?

Do the Republicans really believe we should go to war with Iran without a clear plan and definitely an exit plan? We don’t have billions of dollars to give the American people health insurance, food, shelter but we can bomb a country “out of existence”? Do we not know how long the memories of a country like Iran can be? We remember 9/11 25 years later but we have killed one of their presidents and his child. Do you really think they will forget?

Do Republicans believe it is a conservative budget move to attack Argentina for oil that we may never see since the big oil companies don’t think it worth it to rehab the system that is there?

And what about our servicemen and women? What about the danger they are being put in in Argentina and Iran? We have already lost some of them and how many more are injured or maimed for life? And now, we are in charge of security for Greenland and he is talking about Cuba.

Where is the budget and manpower coming for that? Can we just agree that he wants to rule the world?

Do the Republicans agree that requiring some Haitians in Ohio must wear ankle monitors or be immediately deported? Doesn’t it make you think of the Jews or the Slaves? What is happening to the human beings in this country?

We haven’t heard about the Epstein files for a while have we? I have said he is a master at diverting attention. Iran, Greenland, Venezuela, Cuba. What’s he afraid of? The truth?

Do the Republicans who so ardently support his every word or action think it right to demolish the East Wing to build a gaudy ballroom rivaling Versailles? There is no one I have ever heard of who wants the ballroom. Is it going to house the homeless he has created? Is it going to be a soup kitchen for those who cannot afford food? It going to be a place where people can go to get warm because they cannot afford heat?

This is a man who is mentally ill and the people who support him are vile. How dare he threaten to demolish the Kennedy center unless his name is on it? How dare he construct an arch with his name on it at what cost we can only imagine? And how dare he insist that a new warship that was supposed to be named after a (black) hero at Pearl Harbor be named after him? How dare he threaten our elections with lies purporting that in spite of facts to the contrary they are corrupt.

This person has enriched himself and his family with Billions, not Millions, Billions of dollars while decent people of this country cannot afford gas for their cars, food for their families, heat for their homes, or a sense of peace that all will be all right.

This person has the nuclear codes and one has to wonder what he might in the middle of the night while in one of his snits. I pray for us all, and for him.

JUDY ROSE
EAST BROOKFIELD

Look at your financial situation holistically



FINANCIAL FOCUS

TREVOR NIELSEN

When you plan a trip, you consider not only the destination but also the climate, activities that interest you, transportation needs, anticipated costs, best time to go and coverage for your work, home, or pets. It’s a holistic approach — looking at your trip from a variety of angles.

It’s wise to apply that same holistic thinking when you plan for your financial future — that is, bringing into the picture all elements of yourself.

Here are some things that may affect your financial strategy:

Your views on helping your family – Your decisions about helping your family are clearly going to be a major part of your financial strategy, and this is true at virtually all stages of your life. When your children are young, you’ll need to decide if you’re going to save money for their college education, and if so, how much, and in what investments. When they’re young adults, you may also need to decide how much financial support you’re willing to provide for major expenses such as down payments on a new home or a new car. And when you’re drawing up your estate plans, you’ll need to consider how and when to distribute assets to your children, grandchildren, or other family members.

Your personal beliefs – As someone with civic, ethical, and moral concerns, you may feel compelled to make charitable gifts throughout your life and then make philanthropy part of your legacy. To accomplish these objectives, you’ll want to include gifting techniques in your financial strategy today and your estate plans for tomorrow. Of course, for the estate-planning component, you’ll need to work with your tax and legal advisors.

Your purpose in life when you retire – Having a purpose can bring fulfillment beyond financial security. Leading up to retirement, your purpose may involve providing for your immediate family, bringing value to your profession, or contributing to your community. When you retire and step off your career path, you’re entering a new world of possibilities. How will you define, and live out, your new sense of purpose at this stage of your life? Do you seek to broaden your horizons by traveling around the world? Or spend more time volunteering? Can you pursue hobbies that give you a chance for self-expression? Each of these choices will carry different financial implications for how much you’ll need to accumulate for retirement and how much income you will need to take out each year from your retirement accounts, such as your IRA and 401(k).

Your health – Your physical and mental health can play big roles in your financial plans and outlook. On the most basic level, the healthier you are, and the better you take care of yourself, the lower your health care bills will likely be during retirement, which will affect the amount you need to put away for health care. And you also may need to prepare for the costs of long-term care, which can be enormous — in fact, a private room in a nursing home in can easily cost \$100,000 per year, according to Genworth, an insurance company.

It can be challenging to weave all these elements into a single, unified vision, so you may want to get some help from a financial professional. But, in any case, be prepared to look at your situation holistically because, when putting together a lifetime’s financial strategy, every part of your life matters.

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

That is a perfectly good box

My wife tried to throw away a box the other day. Not some battered old thing that had spent six months in the garage. This was a good box. A very good box. Clean. Sturdy. Nice square corners. Medium-sized. The kind of box that immediately makes a man think, “We should keep that.”

“For what?” my wife asked.
I didn’t appreciate the interrogation. I didn’t know what it was for yet. That’s not how boxes work. You keep the box first. Its purpose reveals itself later.

This particular box had arrived with something we ordered, and after unpacking it my wife broke down the packing material and headed toward the recycling.

I rescued the box.
“We don’t need that,” she said.
“We might.”
“For what?”

Again with the questions. This is one of the differences between us after 30 years of marriage. My wife sees an empty cardboard box. I see potential. Maybe somebody will need to mail something. Maybe we’ll need to store something. Maybe one of the kids will move someday and suddenly require exactly one medium-sized cardboard box. Who’s going to look foolish then? Not me.

The box went downstairs. It joined several other boxes. There is the long narrow one that could someday be useful for something long and narrow. There is the small heavy-duty box that is obviously too well-made to discard. There is a shoebox, which hardly counts because shoeboxes have been official household storage containers since approximately the beginning of civilization.

Then there are the truly elite boxes. Anyone over 50 knows what I mean. These are boxes so well constructed that throwing them away would be an insult to manufacturing. You pick one up and admire it.

“Look at this thing.”
Nobody else in the house looks.
“Double-walled.”
Still nothing.
“That’s a good box.”

At this point, your spouse leaves the room. Fine. Some people appreciate craftsmanship.

The problem, of course, is that boxes reproduce. You save one because it might be useful. Then another arrives that is slightly smaller, which means it serves an entirely different hypothetical purpose. Then you get a big one, and obviously you can’t throw that away because big boxes are hard to find when you need one. Soon, there is a section of the basement that looks as though you are preparing to relocate without telling anybody.

Every few months, my wife notices.
“Are we keeping all these?”
I know this is not really a question. So I conduct an inventory. This generally involves picking up each box, examining it and deciding that, yes, we apparently are keeping all of them. Occasionally, I sacrifice one to maintain domestic peace. Usually the weakest. A bent corner will do it.

“Fine,” I’ll say. “This one can go.”
Then I flatten it with unnecessary solemnity and put it in recycling. The others survive another round.

I realize there is a certain absurdity to all this. Cardboard boxes are not rare. Stores have them. Neighbors have them. The world is not facing a cardboard shortage. But try telling that to a man who once needed a box at 7:30 on a Sunday morning and didn’t have one. That experience changes you. Besides, every now and then, the system works. Somebody needs to ship a Christmas present, pack up old dishes or carry something to the car.

“Do we have a box?”
That’s my moment. I don’t say anything. I simply walk downstairs and return carrying exactly what the situation requires. My wife looks at the box. Then she looks at me. I try not to appear smug.

Thirty years of marriage has taught me many things. One of them is knowing when you’ve won. Another is knowing enough not to say so.

The good box stays.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stealing our election

To the Editor:

During my life, I have lived, worked and travelled across our planet. By chance, I often happened to be in a country that was either getting ready, having or just had an election.

(Here, let me mention the great international election work, done by Jimmy Carter the Democrat, who fully accepted defeat by Republican President Ronald Reagan – in fact during my lifetime, in 20 Presidential elections, only Donald Trump said he was cheated.)

Likewise, I have worked in elections both in our rural South during the Civil Rights Era and in New England in both in the 20th and 21st centuries.

So, I have seen elections - both free and fair and otherwise.

Now, just not me, but people and neutral organizations that work day and night on American elections — with solid evidence — say because he will likely lose too much that Donald Trump and those loyal to him and not our Constitution again trying work hard to prevent free and fair 2026 American elections.

Documented proof of this, with many proven examples, includes:

Trying to change election rules by orders from President Trump

Blocking millions of Americans from voting if they cannot show proof of citizenship (almost no non-citizens try to vote)

Tampering with election equipment and voter files
Trying to influence or punish election officials and voting organizations

Using government departments and agencies to pretend voting is “rigged”

Providing support to those who want to destroy the free and fair election process

Cancelling back the ability of those organization who protect free and fair elections

This list could go on and on. To overcome this Trump effort to have a situation where one person and his loyal followers rule and benefit, we need to both to have as many Americans as possible stand loyal to our Constitution and, in this election, support Senate candidates like Chris Pappas in New Hampshire and Troy Jackson in Maine.

KEVIN KANE
SPENCER

East Brookfield library seeks vendors for annual craft fair

EAST BROOKFIELD — Local artisans and craftspeople will have an opportunity to showcase their work this fall when the East Brookfield Public Library hosts its Annual Craft Fair.

The fair will be held Saturday, Oct. 17, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will feature handcrafted items.

Library organizers are emphasizing that partici-

pating vendors must offer items that are genuinely handmade. Products must be completely handcrafted rather than commercially produced items that have been modified with a small number of handmade additions.

Prospective vendors will be required to have their work reviewed before participating in the fair. Those

interested may email photographs of their handcrafted items to cmacmaster@cwmar.org. Artisans may also bring one or two samples of their work to the East Brookfield Public Library for review.

The review process is intended to ensure that the annual event remains focused specifically on handcrafted goods and the

work of participating artisans.

The Annual Craft Fair will take place Saturday, Oct. 17, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the East Brookfield Public Library.

Anyone interested in participating as a vendor should submit photographs by email or visit the library with samples of their work for consideration.

Friends of the Leicester Public Library announce Fall Book Sale

LEICESTER — “If you are doing fall cleaning, the Friends of the Leicester Library would appreciate donations of unwanted books, board games, puzzles, DVD’s, and CD’s for our Fall Book Sale,” Charissa Berube, Friends of the Leicester Library Chair, says.

The Friends group holds a Book Sale every Fall and every spring.

“The Book Sales are huge events, and we’re able to provide opportunities to purchase all sorts of books for all age groups at truly discounted prices,” Berube explains. “It’s a terrific event that helps the library as well as people who come looking for books and the many other items we sell, and our Friends group truly enjoys helping through the events.”

The Fall Book Sale will be held on Saturday, Oct. 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and on Tuesday, Oct. 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Proceeds from the Book Sale are used to purchase arts and craft supplies for children’s and adult programs and to sponsor special educational presentations and programs.

“The monies raised are truly important and help-

ful, as we’re able to offer popular programs that the library would not be able to afford otherwise,” Berube continues.

All the items that are sold at the Book Sale are contributed by area residents.

“We count on the kindness of people who might be looking to clear out unwanted items and help the library in the process,” Berube states.

Please bring the items you would like to contribute to the inside of the library any day and time it is open. Please, no encyclopedias or medical textbooks.

Bring your unwanted items to the Library over the next few weeks, then come to the Book Sale and find some great prices on books, games, and other items that you will use and enjoy!

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Spencer Cultural Council now accepting applications!

SPENCER — The largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, the Local Cultural Council (LCC) Program enriches the cultural life of all cities and towns in Massachusetts. Led by municipally appointed volunteers, LCCs award \$6.6 million every year, supporting 7,400 cultural programs that include everything from field trips to lectures, festivals, and dance performances.

The Spencer Cultural Council grant cycle is now open (closes Oct. 15). This

is a very easy grant to apply for. Grants are awarded/denied by Jan. 1. The grants need to be completed by Dec. 31, 2027. Grants are reimbursed to grantees when paperwork is submitted after the program. For questions, contact Denise at dfarmosa@cwmar.org. The online application can be found at <https://massculturalcouncil.org/communities/local-cultural-council-program/application-process/>.

Who is eligible to apply for an LCC grant?

Applicants must

reside or be located in Massachusetts. Local Cultural Councils may accept applications from anyone included in the list below:

- Individuals. Individual applicants must show that a public benefit results from the project for which they are applying.
- Incorporated private nonprofit organizations.
- Unincorporated associations that can establish a nonprofit objective.
- For-profit organizations whose application demonstrates public bene-

fit.

- A group of individuals coming together with a common purpose (e.g., local community band, theater group) that do not have nonprofit status.
- Public schools, libraries, other municipal agencies, and the Local Cultural Council itself.
- Religious organizations. Religious organizations or groups with a religious affiliation are eligible

to apply for funding for a project or program that: Is available to the general public. Has the purpose of benefiting the public, not the religious organization. LCCs cannot fund activities that are “inherently religious” such as religious worship, instruction, and proselytization.

The Mass Cultural Council is extremely appreciative of the efforts made by Local Cultural Council

members in ensuring public access to culture in our communities. LCCs and their grant recipients are vital partners in our attempt to raise awareness about public funding for arts and culture in Massachusetts, both in the Legislature and with the public. The Spencer Cultural Council is a local agency funded by Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Spencer announces early voting, state election and Special Town Meeting dates

SPENCER — Spencer residents will have several important civic dates to keep in mind this fall, with in-person early voting beginning in October, the state election scheduled for Nov. 3 and a Special Town Meeting following two days later.

The Town of Spencer has announced that in-person early voting for the 2026 state election will begin Saturday, Oct. 17, and continue through Thursday, Oct. 29.

Early voting will take place at Spencer Town Hall, 157 Main St. The hours will vary during the early voting period, and residents are encouraged to consult the town’s website for the complete schedule before heading to Town Hall.

The early voting period gives registered voters an

opportunity to cast their ballots before Election Day rather than visiting the polls Nov. 3.

Election Day itself is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 3. Spencer voters will cast ballots in the Great Hall at Town Hall, with polls scheduled to be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Town officials are encouraging eligible residents to participate in the election.

The November election will be followed closely by another important date on Spencer’s municipal calendar.

The town will hold a Special Town Meeting on Thursday, Nov. 5, beginning at 7 p.m. Town Meeting provides registered voters with the opportunity to consider and vote on municipal matters placed on the meeting warrant.

Additional information about the Special Town Meeting, including the warrant and matters scheduled for consideration, is expected to be available through the town as the meeting approaches.

The Town Clerk’s Office oversees election and voter records in Spencer. Town Clerk Sandra Fritze’s office is located at Town Hall and can be reached at 508-885-7500, ext. 150. Regular Town Clerk’s Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and 7:30 a.m. to noon Thursday.

Residents seeking the latest election information, including the complete schedule of early voting hours, should check the town’s website as the dates approach.

Charlton and Leicester history groups team up for tavern crawl

CHARLTON — The Charlton Historical Society (CHS) and the Leicester Historical Commission will collaborate on a full day program exploring how the American Revolution shaped Central Massachusetts on Saturday, Oct. 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The day includes tours of the Swan and Rider Taverns, a tour of the Number 2 Schoolhouse, a walking tour of Leicester Common, presentations on the Marquis de Lafayette and the Declaration of Independence, and breakfast and lunch. The cost is \$35 per person before Oct. 3 and \$40 the day of the event. This event is limited to 50 people. Participants will drive in their own vehicles to the two sites. In addition to walking, the day will include climbing one flight of stairs.

Roadside taverns like the Swan built in 1768, played

a key role in starting the American Revolution. Come learn how it was in the Swan that the term “minutemen” was first uttered. Frenchmen like the Marquis de Lafayette were essential in helping us win the Revolution. Fifty years after the Revolution, Lafayette returned to the United States for a triumphant tour of the new country. Learn what his stop at the Rider Tavern was like. The ideals of the Revolution would be a central part of American curriculums in one-room schoolhouses like the Number 2 one that is part of this full day of activities.

About CHS

The Charlton Historical Society collects, preserves and shares the history of Charlton, Massachusetts. The Society maintains the Number Two Schoolhouse and the historic Rider Tavern, which serves as

home to the Society. The CHS regularly offers tours, talks, and activities for all ages in the Rider Tavern, a twenty-two-room turnpike inn restored to its original 1799 condition. The private, nonprofit CHS also offers programs throughout the community. For more information <https://charltonhistoricalsociety.com>.

About the Friends of the Swan Tavern

The Friends of Swan Tavern is a registered non-profit group that assists the Leicester Historical Commission, a town agency with fundraising efforts, restoration, and repair work, as well as the operation of the tavern as a historical museum, community, and education center. Rotating historical displays and educational programs on local and regional history occur regularly at the Swan Tavern.



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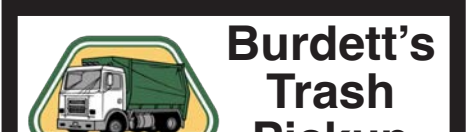
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Richard Sugden Library offers support group for widows

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

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

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

A Haunted Story Swap will be held at the Richard Sugden Library on Sept. 10 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Share your eerie experience.

We’re gathering a record of otherworldly experiences that have occurred in Spencer and want to hear from you! Our main goal is to collect cemetery-based accounts, but other stories will also be noted afterwards. Please join us for this exchange of tales of trepidation and haunted happenings! Sponsor: Spencer Historical Commission and hosted by Prof. Garret D. Langlois, Ph.D.

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

com. Sponsor: Friends of the Library.

Traditional Folk Music in the 21st Century will be held at the Richard Sugden Library on Thursday, Sept. 17 from 6 - 7 p.m. Music is an essential part of connection. Derek Piotr, folklorist, performer, and composer shares his Fieldwork Archive, featuring more than 2,000 recordings of “non-singers” poems, hymns & songs. Sponsor: Friends of the Library.

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

East Brookfield library plans Fall craft fair, seasonal movie programs

EAST BROOKFIELD — The East Brookfield Public Library is preparing for a busy fall, with its annual Fall Craft Fair and a series of seasonal movie programs planned for October and November.

The library’s Annual Fall Craft Fair will be held Saturday, Oct. 17, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., bringing together local crafters and shoppers for one of the library’s fall traditions.

Organizers are emphasizing that the fair is reserved for genuinely handcrafted items. Vendors interested in participating must offer items they have made themselves rather than commercially produced products with minor handmade additions.

Prospective vendors are asked to submit photographs of their work to cmacmaster@cwmar.org for review.

Crafters may instead bring one or two samples of their work to the library for consideration.

The library will also offer several movie programs during the fall, inviting residents to bring along a snack, enjoy a film and spend some time with others in the community.

The October schedule begins Tuesday, Oct. 13, at 1 p.m. with a showing of “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow.”

Halloween festivities will continue Thursday, Oct. 29, with a Charlie Brown program beginning at 3:30 p.m. Children are encouraged to attend in costume for a showing of “It’s the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown.” Following the movie, costumed children will have an opportunity to “haunt” Town Hall.

November will bring two

more movie programs.

“The Librarian” will be shown Tuesday, Nov. 10, beginning at 1 p.m.

Later in the month, the library will get into the Thanksgiving spirit with “A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving” on Thursday, Nov. 19, at 3:30 p.m. The program will include a Charlie Brown-inspired feast for those attending.

The combination of the craft fair and movie programs gives residents several opportunities to visit the library this fall, whether they are searching for locally handmade goods, looking for an afternoon movie or bringing children out for a seasonal celebration.

For additional information about the craft fair or upcoming programs, contact the East Brookfield Public Library.

Author Suzanne Strempek Shea comes to Workshop13



Suzanne Strempek Shea

take place in Workshop13’s newly renamed Urban Hall at 13 Church St., Ware, which is now accessible via vertical chair lift. It takes place on Oct. 4 from 2-4 p.m., with doors opening at 1:30 p.m.

Told through the eyes of her grade-school self, “Compositions” brings to life a world shaped by faith, family, and tradition — where classrooms hold generations of memories, nuns teach with both patience and personality, and childhood moments become lifelong touchstones. With sharp observation and heartfelt storytelling, Strempek Shea reflects on the people, places, and rituals that formed her early years, from beloved woods and fishing holes to parish customs and family bonds that reveal both strength and vulnerability.

Her essays shimmer with nostalgia, humor, and emotional clarity, offering a kaleidoscope of scenes that feel both deeply personal and universally resonant. Readers and listeners alike will find themselves transported, reminded of the small miracles and quiet revelations that shape who we become.

About Workshop13

Workshop13 is a dynamic center where arts, culture, and community converge—expanding access to the arts and nurturing creativity and self-expression in our rural region. For more information visit workshop13.org, or call 413-277-6072.

North Brookfield Cultural Council seeks funding proposals

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

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

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

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

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

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

Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club to hold first meeting of the year

WEST BROOKFIELD — The Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club (QVARC) will hold its upcoming membership meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 29, at the Senior Center in West Brookfield at 73 Central Street. Doors open at 6 p.m., with the meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

The club will look ahead to an exciting milestone: celebrating the club’s 40th anniversary in March, 2027.

Club members will provide updates on their recent visit to the HamXposition in Marlboro, the largest amateur radio convention in the Northeast. Members plan to discuss and share ideas for celebrating four decades of amateur radio service in the Quaboag Valley area and will be starting to plan special activities and events to mark the occasion throughout the year.

Looking toward 2027, the club will also discuss offering amateur radio licensing exam classes, electronic VE testing sessions, and ways to welcome new members into the hobby.

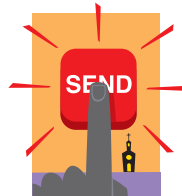
QVARC warmly welcomes area hams and anyone curious about amateur radio to reach out and get involved. Whether you’re a licensed operator, a lapsed one looking to get back on the air, or simply curious what ham radio is all about, there’s a place for you in the club as it heads toward its 40th year.

For more information about QVARC, upcoming events, or how to get involved, visit www.qvarc.com or find the club on Facebook at Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club.

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LEGALS

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:

Jeremy Crocker has filed an **RDA** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to rebuild a retaining wall located at **3 Lake Avenue**, Spencer, MA. **Colleen Casey** has filed an **RDA** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to demolish a deck and add a sunroom located at **81 Jolicoeur Avenue**, Spencer, MA.

Kenneth MacDonald has filed an **NOI** with the Spencer Conservation Commission for a proposed Single-family home located at **11 & 15 Wilson Avenue**, Spencer, MA.

Applications can be reviewed at the Office of Development and Inspectional Services, Town Hall. A public hearing regarding these filings will be held by the Spencer Conservation Commission in McCourt Social Hall at Town Hall, 157 Main Street, on Wednesday, October 14, 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
October 2, 2026

Notice of Public Hearing for Zoning Amendment – Planning Board

The Spencer Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, October 20, 2026**, in McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, and the hearing will be conducted in person and remotely on the following items starting at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:

Newly Proposed Article: Zoning Bylaw Article 4.8.12, Temporary Moratorium on Data Centers, in effect through November 5, 2027

Interested parties may review the proposed bylaw at the Office of Development & Inspectional Services and the Town Clerk's office, located in Memorial Town Hall, during regular business hours, as well as posted on the Planning Board's webpage at www.spencerma.gov.

October 2, 2026
October 9, 2026

At the Zoning Board of Appeals public meeting to be held on Tuesday, October 13, 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 Public Hearing Special Permits & Variance– Applicant: New England Power Company and Massachusetts Electric Company; Owner: New England Power Company: 7.5 & 9 Meadow Road, Spencer, MA, Assessor's Map U11-9 & 10. The applicant is seeking Special Permits under section 4.9.3.C (Extension of nonconforming use) and 3.4.1.G.9 (Earth removal within 4 feet of groundwater table), and a Variance under sections 5.1 (structures within side setback) and 7.3 (Variance requirements). Proposed construction and installation of certain substation-related equipment and facilities at its existing electric substation. The property is located within the Rural Residential (RR) and Commercial (C) zoning districts.

September 25, 2026
October 2, 2026

NOTICE OF SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE SPENCER BOARD OF SELECTMEN, PLANNING BOARD, ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that a Special Joint Meeting between the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Conservation Commission of the Town of Spencer will be held on Wednesday, October 7, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. in the Great Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA.

This Special Joint Meeting will be

held for the purpose of discussing the ongoing review and update of the Town of Spencer Zoning Bylaw and Subdivision Regulations, including recommended amendments and matters related to the regulation and administration of land use within the Town.

Members of the public are invited and encouraged to attend. An opportunity will be provided during the meeting for members of the public to offer comments regarding the review and revision of the Zoning Bylaw and Subdivision Regulations.

October 2, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 131, Section 40 of the Wetlands Protection Act, the North Brookfield Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on October 13, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Offices, 215 No. Main St., No. Brookfield for an NOI filing and associated activities on 91 & 107 Oakham Road, North Brookfield.

Any person interested in this matter is invited to attend the hearing.

October 2, 2026

(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 26 SM 003038 ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:
Shaun Pelis; Jennifer M. Jenkins and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (et seq): TH MSR Holdings LLC

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Spencer, numbered 21 Highland Street, given by Shaun Pelis to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Prestige Home Mortgage, LLC, dated September 16, 2022, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68227, Page 131, as affected by a Partial Release dated September 15, 2026 and recorded at said Registry in Book 74184, Page 22, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before November 9, 2026 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on September 22, 2026.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
October 2, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 97 East Charlton Road, Spencer, MA 01562

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Jared L. Armstrong to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for loanDepot.com, LLC, and now held by **loanDepot.com, LLC**, said mortgage dated August 10, 2022 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68071, Page 127, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for loanDepot.com, LLC, its successors and assigns to loanDepot.com, LLC by assignment dated May 1, 2025 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 71936, Page 222; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on November 5,

2026 at 11:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit: *BEGINNING at an iron pipe in the easterly line of East Charlton Road at a point which is one hundred twenty-two (122.00) feet, measured along the easterly line of said East Charleton, Road, from the southerly end of a curve connecting said line with the southerly line of Bacon Hill Road; Thence from the point of beginning as defined above N. 27° 58' E. along the easterly line of said East Charleton Road, one hundred and twenty-two (122.00) feet to a point; Thence by a curve to the right having a radius of 22.95 feet, and length of 26.57 feet to a point in the southerly line of Bacon Hill Road; Thence 8. 85° 42' E. by the southerly line of said Bacon Hill Road, three hundred and forty-six (346.00) feet to an iron pipe at a stone wall; Thence 8. 9° 04' W. along said stone wall and by land now or formerly of William V. & Alta M. Cambell, four hundred and sixty-seven (467.00) feet to an iron pipe; Thence N. 56° 15' W. by a wall, seventy-one and 43/100 (71.43) to an angle; Thence N. 44 degrees 08' W. still by said wall, one hundred and sixty-three and 13/100 (163.00) feet to an angle; Thence N. 51 degrees 00' W. still by said wall, one hundred and ninety-two and 55/100 (192.55) feet to an angle; Thence N. 10 degrees 12' W. still by said wall eighty and 11/100 (80.11) feet to an angle; Thence N. 53 degrees 21' W. seventeen and 30/100 (17.30) feet to the point of BEGINNING. Meaning and intending to convey said premises as described in deed dated July 30, 2019 and recorded August 6, 2019 with Worcester South Registry of Deeds in Book 60837, Page 23.*

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication. Upon information and belief, the third and fourth bounds above should state S. and not 8. due to a typographical error.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated July 30, 2019 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 60837, Page 23.

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 loanDepot.com, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701
October 2, 2026
October 9, 2026
October 16, 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. WO26P0436EA
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR ORDER OF
COMPLETE SETTLEMENT**
Estate of:
Bernard A Arsenault
Date of Death: 08/28/2025
A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by **Randy Beauregard of Brookfield MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and such other relief as may be

requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/20/2026.** 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.

WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 18, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
October 2, 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. WO20P3489EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF
SUCCESSOR PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE**

Estate of:
Marian Elizabeth Cogswell
Date of Death: 09/29/2020

To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by: Joshua Velazquez of Spencer MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order that **Joshua Velazquez of Spencer MA** be appointed as Successor Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/20/2026.** 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.

WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 17, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
October 2, 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:

Jeremy Crocker has filed an **RDA** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to rebuild a retaining wall located at **3 Lake Avenue**, Spencer, MA. **Colleen Casey** has filed an **RDA** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to demolish a deck and add a sunroom located at **81 Jolicoeur Avenue**, Spencer, MA.

Kenneth MacDonald has filed an **NOI** with the Spencer Conservation Commission for a proposed Single-family home located at **11 & 15 Wilson Avenue**, Spencer, MA.

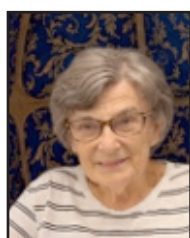
Applications can be reviewed at the Office of Development and Inspectional Services, Town Hall. A public hearing regarding these filings will be held by the Spencer Conservation Commission in McCourt Social Hall at Town Hall, 157 Main Street, on Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at which time all persons having an interest may be present or call in remotely to participate. Conservation Commission meetings open at 6:15 p.m.

Mary McLaughlin, Chairwoman
October 2, 2026

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OBITUARIES

Carol Louise Kenerson, 79



Carol Louise (Messier) Kenerson, 79, of Spencer, Massachusetts, passed away peacefully on Thursday, September 24, 2026, while visiting her son, John, in Dubuque, Iowa, fol-

lowing a courageous 25-year battle with COPD.

Carol was born on Monday, December 16, 1946, to Robert Messier and was lovingly raised in Spencer by her paternal grandparents, Eva and Joseph Messier. Their love, guidance, and support helped shape the woman she would become.

Carol is survived by her devoted husband of more than 60 years, Butch Kenerson; her daughter, Melissa Hassett of Brookfield, Massachusetts; her son,

John; her grandchildren, Jessica Walker and Corey Costa, also of Brookfield, Massachusetts; and her beloved cat, Nora.

Carol was a member of the David Prouty High School Class of 1964, and for more than 30 years, she worked at Millbrook Distributors. She was a woman of remarkable dedication and strength, known not only for her strong work ethic but also for her unwavering devotion to her family. After long days spent doing physically demanding work at Millbrook, she came home every night and prepared a home-cooked meal, made sure the family had clean and ironed clothes for the next day, and tidied the house before taking a few moments for herself to unwind with a couple of Salem cigarettes and a glass of Coke.

Among the simple pleasures Carol enjoyed were a weekly Friday night ham

grinder from the Spencer Pizza House and Saturday night dinners that featured a T-bone steak at the Auburn Mall's York Steak House and, after it closed, prime rib at Christo's Restaurant in Worcester. These small traditions brought her happiness and became cherished family memories.

Carol's life was defined by selflessness. She consistently placed the needs of others before her own and found her greatest happiness in caring for those she loved. She took special pride in making birthdays and Christmases memorable, always working hard to ensure those occasions felt special for her family.

The family is deeply grateful to the ICU staff at Mercy Hospital in Dubuque, who used every available resource to help

Carol fight a severe COPD exacerbation complicated by pneumonia. While her illness ultimately proved too great to overcome, we are thankful for their exceptional care, compassion, and dedication to her and our family.

Anyone who knew Carol understood that she never sought attention or recognition for herself. Honoring her wishes and the quiet humility that defined her life, no public memorial service will be held.

Carol's kindness, strength, and selfless love for her family will be remembered always and missed beyond measure. Her passing has left us truly heartbroken and created a void in our lives and in our hearts that will never be filled.

How to Submit an Obituary

Guidance in Your Time of Need.

Posting an obituary is a meaningful way to honor the life of someone who has passed, share the loss with the community, and support the grieving process. It celebrates their life, family, memories, and accomplishments while bringing people together in remembrance. An obituary also helps loved ones find comfort and closure during a difficult time preserves the individual's story as an important part of the family's history and legacy.



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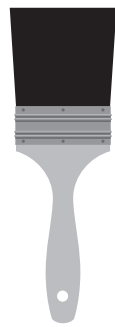
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BUZZELL
continued from page A1

continued east and sought lodging in Brookfield. Local tradition holds that innkeeper Mercy Wheeler Bannister, suffering from a severe headache and not realizing which “president” was seeking accommodations, turned the party away. Washington continued to Spencer, where he spent the night at Isaac Jenks’ tavern. The incident gave Brookfield its own variation on the familiar “George Washington slept here” claim: George Washington almost slept here.

Buzzell’s original pen-and-ink drawing of the Brookfield Inn will be on display at Buck Hill Studio during the tour, and prints will be available for purchase. He plans to continue the series with other historic Massachusetts taverns.

The project is a natural extension of Buzzell’s work, much of which reflects the farms, forests, wildlife, buildings and history of central Massachusetts.

Buzzell grew up on his family’s North Brookfield farm, where his childhood was spent milking cows, driving tractors and helping with the daily work of farm life. Art, however, was his first love. A 1960 graduate of North Brookfield High School, he graduated from the Art Institute of Boston in 1966.

His professional career included several years with the Massachusetts Audubon Society, where he illustrated publications and developed the detailed approach to wildlife and natural subjects that continues to characterize much of his work.

Buzzell went on to illustrate a number of books, including Ronald Rood’s *Animals Nobody Loves*, the Massachusetts Audubon Society’s *The Farm Book* and William G. Sheldon’s *The Wilderness Home of Giant Panda*. He was also a contributing artist for DeCourcy Taylor’s *The Ultimate Fishing Book* and *The Art of Shooting Flying*.

His illustrations have appeared in *Gray’s Sporting Journal* and

Wisconsin Sportsman, and he has freelanced for the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Buzzell works in oils, watercolors, pen and ink and scratchboard, with subjects ranging from wildlife and rural landscapes to historical scenes. Among his best-known works are *Sunday Afternoon on the Buzzell Farm* and *Wheeler’s Surprise*, his historical depiction of the 1675 ambush of Capt. Thomas Wheeler’s company by Nipmuc warriors during King Philip’s War.

Russ isn’t the only storyteller in the Buzzell family. Copies of “The Artist, the Farmer, the Hunter, and the Good Guy,” written by Buzzell’s sister-in-law, Diane Buzzell, will also be available for purchase during the studio tour. The book tells the story of Russ and his brothers and their lives growing up in North Brookfield, providing another perspective on the family, community and rural New England life that have influenced so much of his artwork.

And visitors to Buck Hill Studio will get a taste of Buzzell family tradition in a more literal sense. Diane plans to make a batch of her well-known Swedish Brownies from an old family recipe to share with studio visitors during the weekend.

The Back Roads Studio Tour was founded in 1994 by a group of local artists and craftspeople who wanted to invite the public into their studios to see where and how their work is created. More than three decades later, the annual event continues to offer visitors an opportunity to meet artists and craftspeople while traveling the back roads of rural central Massachusetts.

In addition to Buzzell’s Buck Hill Studio, this year’s participating studios are Pieceful Primitives, Lou Meyerdierks, 36 Donnelly Cross Road, Spencer; Brookfield Paperworks, Elisabeth Hyder, 23 High St., North Brookfield; Jeff Palmer Designs, 14 Mill Rd., North Brookfield; John Collins Studio, 29 Beach

Rd., Ware; Dragonbelly Ceramics, Lisa Cohen, 183 Mechanic St., Gilbertville; Sheldon Farm Baskets,

Sue Morello, 587 Sheldon Rd., Barre; and Petersham Leathers, Sylvia Brown, 202 Popple Camp Rd.,

Petersham. For more information about the Back Roads Studio Tour, participat-

ing artists and a tour map, visit backroadsstudiotour.org.

MATTHEWS
continued from page A1

When he was 12, it was the guitar riff to “Smoke on the Water” by Deep Purple that motivated him to tell his father that he wanted to learn how to play guitar. The next day his father came home with a Jimi Hendrix record and told him that if he really wanted to learn how to play the guitar, he needed to listen to Hendrix, because he was the best.

Matthews started a band with his best friends in high school and upon graduation went on to Berklee College of Music in Boston. Not content playing other people’s music in cover bands, he started writing his own songs making use of the interest in poetry he had developed in high school.

He recorded a demo at a recording studio in Worcester, and his songs did get some airplay on WAAF and WBCN, the big rock stations back then.

After shopping his songs to record companies in New York and London, Stan’s frustration with the reality of the music business led him to what he calls a “personal hiatus.”

It was the release of Johnny Cash’s “American Recordings” series that brought Matthews back to his love of music and renewed his desire to create once again. His big challenge by that time was to juggle a renewed interest in songwriting with a wife, three children, and a full-time job as a truck driver.

Stan Matthews, the dad, emphasizes to his now adult children that what matters is not whether you end up being famous or being unknown. Like everything that we do in life, the important thing is to try. Here he uses the words of Vince Lombardi, “It’s not whether you get knocked down, it’s whether you get up.” When he was much younger, he believed that I wanted to be a rock star. Now he is glad that he never did. Fame has a high

price -- just look at Johnny Cash, Hank Williams, Jimi Hendrix and many more. Stan is convinced that he is much happier as a family man who also makes music than he would have been if he had made it to the big time. He is determined that he’ll continue making music until they put him “in the ground. My music will last long after I’ll have turned to dust. I did it my way,” he insists.

Matthews views each song as a painting. To him each instrument, musical note and word is color on a canvas. He writes as each song is a personal experience. His music is stark, stripped bare, and the lyrics are honest. He sings about life from the perspective of the working man. The intent of his music is to take you on life’s journeys: a search for love, the joy of a child’s birth, the struggle of relationships, the anguish at the loss of a job, the sorrow at a loved one’s passing.

Matthes has released four CD’s and won an award from the International

Singer Songwriter’s Association. He continues to write and record music and poetry. Most Fridays he can be found at the open mic series at Lost Towns Brewing in Ware. For more information on new releases or future events, you can check out his Web site at www.stanmatthewsmusic.com.

Matthews has lived in North Brookfield for seven years with Tonya, his wife of thirty-three years, their five children and at the moment, eleven chickens.

The Friends of the North Brookfield Town House would like to thank Stan Matthews for helping us put a spotlight on the arts as our “Artist of the Month for October.”

The Friends is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization focused on restoring, preserving, and sustaining the Town House as a cultural center of North Brookfield. Every month this organization recognizes a featured artist in their community.

Leicester Public Library hosting annual Craft Swap

LEICESTER — If you are interested in most any kind of craft, it’s worth your while to stop in at the annual Craft Swap at the Leicester Public Library, 1136 Main St. in Leicester, on Oct. 1, 2, and 3 during regular library hours!

“Our Craft Swaps have been very popular events!” Library Director Suzanne Finstad Hall exclaims. “Every time we hold the Craft Swap, the response

has been awesome, with many area crafters and people interested in starting a particular craft coming to the library and finding materials they can use or bringing items they no longer need to give to neighbors who share their interests.”

“You don’t need to have anything to swap,” Hall explains. “Anyone is welcome to come and browse through all the items we’ll

have and pick out items needed to work on whatever you may be working on or try something new.”

No donation is required to participate.

Every year attendees will find a wide variety of items, including paint, pencils, markers, brushes, art paper, sewing fabric, ribbon, yarn, felt, buttons, beads, jewelry making supplies, craft tools, kits, books, and more!

If you have items to swap

/ contribute to the Craft Swap, please bring them to the library anytime the library is open prior to the Swap or that day.

“We are fortunate to have a large number of people engaged in a variety of crafts, which means there are really a lot of items here to be found!” Hall continues.

Contact the Leicester Library if you have any questions.

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

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

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

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

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

LEICESTER — The Leicester Democratic Town Committee is pleased to present “For the Love of Democracy,” a comedy fundraiser featuring the nationally known comedian Jimmy Tingle, who has appeared on such prestigious outlets as 60

Minutes, PBS, MSNBC, Fox, Comedy Central, and NPR, as well as presenting his own comedy special on HBO. The event will be hosted by former radio show personality from WSR 96.1 and Mix 93.1 Chris Zito.

Show time is

Girl Scout Troop welcomes new members

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

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

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

About Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts

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

Thursday, Oct. 1, at the Leicester Social Club, 91 Mannville Rd., Leicester, Massachusetts. The show will benefit the campaigns of Incumbent State Rep. David LeBoeuf, Worcester 17th District; State Sen. candidate Shannon Teabo, Worcester-Hampshire District; and State Rep. candidate Nick Lazzaro, Worcester 7th District.

on-one time with all three of the candidates, as well as with U.S. Representative Jim McGovern, Jimmy Tingle himself, and host Chris Zito. General Admission tickets are \$35, with doors opening at 6:15 p.m. Tickets sales are handled by ACT Blue and can be ordered at leicesterdtc.com.

Come join the fun! We hope to see you there. In the words of the former Morning Radio Show host - “Tell Your Pals.”

East Brookfield Library plans two-week Ghost Craft program

EAST BROOKFIELD — The East Brookfield Public Library is getting into the Halloween spirit with a two-part Ghost Craft Program planned for October.

Adults are invited to visit the library and create their own centerpiece ghost display during sessions scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 8, at 4 p.m. and Thursday, Oct. 15, at 3:30 p.m.

The craft is designed as a two-week project, with participants working on their displays during both sessions. Because the project requires both programs to complete, participants must be available to attend on both dates.

The program is open to all adults, but advance registration is required.

The Ghost Craft Program is among the seasonal activities offered by the East Brookfield Public Library and gives local residents an opportunity to create a Halloween decoration of their own while spending time with others in the community.

Those interested in participating should contact the East Brookfield Public Library to sign up for the program.

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Webster - 3 Oakwood Dr



ON DEPOSIT

Presenting a meticulously maintained Colonial! This inviting home, spans 2,042 sf +/-, 4 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths. Offers a refined living experience designed for comfort & convenience. The kitchen is a culinary enthusiast's delight, featuring a dining area w/picturesque views! Sleek stainless steel appliances, elegant maple wood cabinets & stone counters that provide both functionality & aesthetic appeal. The living room offers a sophisticated ambiance, enhanced by hardwood floors, crown moldings & custom built in shelves. For special occasions enjoy the formal dining rm & a cozy everyday fireplace family rm w/sliders to a very private deck. Also provides a 2 car att'd garage for secure parking & storage. Discover the exceptional life-style afforded by this distinguished residence! We invite your inquiry & a private viewing! **MLS#73523347 \$589,900**

Featured New Listing!

Webster Lake Waterfront - 86 Bates Point Rd



ON DEPOSIT

This Beautifully Maintained Two-Level Waterfront Panoramic WATER VIEWS from almost every Single Window!! 50 Ft of Sandy Shoreline!! Front-row Northwest-facing Sunsets!! The House Layout is Designed for a Seamless Indoor-Outdoor Lifestyle. Weather-Protected Patio! The Gem of the House is the Living/Dining room Combination!! Offering a sweeping Wall of Windows to enjoy watching Mother Nature at her Finest!! Granite Countertops, Stainless-steel Appliances, White - Soft-close Cabinets and Solid Wood Flooring!! This Main Level has an Effortless Layout adding a Roomy Convenient Bedroom & Large Closet, Full bath, 1/2 Bath & Laundry!! Downstairs, the Walk-out Lower Level Transitions into a phenomenal Guest Retreat with 2 Bedrooms, Living space, and Full Bath!! 2 Car Garage! **MLS#7356983 \$1,050,000.**

Featured New Listing!

24 Laurelwood Dr Webster Lake Waterfront



ON DEPOSIT

On the shores of prestigious Webster Lake! Experience ultra-luxury lakefront living with direct water access. This young modern craftsman lake home is masterfully designed to maximize panoramic Western views through a two-story architectural tower. The home boasts 3,790 +/- square feet of sophisticated, three-story living space, complete with multilevel waterside decks, a radius stone faced patio, and a tiered landscape with its own waterfall. From morning coffee to sunset gatherings, you will enjoy every minute overlooking your waterfront. The 1,735 +/- square foot main level features a spacious open floor plan, welcoming you into a kitchen, dining, and living area tailored for intimate social hosting. The living room flows seamlessly onto an expansive open deck and into an exquisite sun-drenched sitting room. A magnificent primary bedroom suite offers a private full bath, double sink vanity, walk-in closet and dressing room. The purposely designed lower level delivers effortless, large-volume entertainment, featuring a full second kitchen and a sprawling recreation room that opens to a substantial lakeside patio. With 2 additional bedrooms and bath, this level easily serves as a private guest floor. This Lake property is designed to create long-lasting memories! **MLS#73563787 \$1,750,000**

Webster ~ 33 Slater Street



Sprawling fieldstone faced Ranch! Located on a +/- 0.5-acre, 2 car garage. Offers: 1,860 sf main level plus 1,000 sf +/- finished lower level, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 2 stone fireplaces FHW BB heat. Open floor plan kitchen, living rm, dining rm, breezeway w/sliders to rear deck, and 3 season sunroom **MLS # 73500183 \$464,900**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

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60 Wakefield Ave ~ Corner Lot!



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Webster Lake ~ 0 Wakefield Ave



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