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Friday, July 24, 2026

# Stepping up for the community is rooted in Leicester’s history

BY LINDA COLBY  
C.A.R.E. LEICESTER  
AND CLOVER WHITHAM  
COMMUNITY HEART & SOUL

LEICESTER — In 1774, Leicester resident Col. William Henshaw coined the term “Minutemen,” asking citizens to be “ready to march upon a minute’s notice.” More than 250 years later, a new generation of Leicester residents is carrying that same spirit of service forward.

Today, Leicester is supported by a dedicated corps of volunteers working to make the town “a more dynamic and welcoming place to live, work, learn, and play.”

During the COVID-19 pandemic, these residents formed C.A.R.E. Leicester — Community Advocates for Resource Engagement — to oversee the distribution of federal relief funds through the American Rescue Plan Act. When that work was complete, the group chose not to disband. Instead, members turned their attention to Leicester’s future, launching initiatives focused on four priorities: economic development, education, infrastructure, and recreation.

Some of C.A.R.E. Leicester’s accomplishments are:

- Initiating the ARPA



Leicester’s Minuteman Revolutionary War memorial, erected by the Colonel Henshaw Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution in 1914.

Community Grant Program, delivering critical relief to local businesses and organizations recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Helping upgrade Leicester High School’s Career & Technical Education classrooms, equipping students with tools and resources to support hands-on learning.

- Launching the annual “Team Up 2 Clean Up” initiative, mobilizing residents

to promote environmental stewardship while strengthening community pride.

- Partnering with Leicester Parks & Recreation and Bri’s Sweet Treats to host the annual Family Fun Food Festivals on the Town Common, fostering community connections while supporting local organizations and businesses.

Last year, Jonathan Cohen, Vice President of Community Impact at Greater Worcester Community Foundation (GWCF), invited Leicester to participate in a Community Heart & Soul (CH&S) two-year pilot program. Founded by Lyman Orton, owner of

the Vermont Country Store, Community Heart & Soul is a nationally recognized, resident-driven process that seeks to engage everyone in the community to identify what they love most about their town, what future they want for it, and how to achieve it. More than a one-time initiative, it establishes a framework for sustained community involvement that can guide future generations.

For Cohen, Leicester was approached because it already had the foundation for success. “You have this group of longtime, really committed leaders who believe in the town,” he said.

“And so that just seems like a formula for potential success. Community Heart & Soul becomes another tool that can help them do that even better.”

As C.A.R.E. Leicester embarks on its Community Heart & Soul journey, this small army of volunteers hopes to grow its ranks. Inspired by the town’s Minutemen legacy, members are inviting residents to embrace that same spirit of service, commitment, and readiness to answer the call.

Their vision is to build a future where people contribute their time, talents, and ideas to strengthen

Leicester—not because they have to, but because they want to. By working together, residents can help shape a more vibrant, connected town while experiencing the lasting satisfaction that comes from making a meaningful difference in the lives of their neighbors.

To make that vision a reality, C.A.R.E. Leicester is creating a network of CARE On-Call Volunteers who are ready to step up when needed. Volunteers are matched with opportunities based on their interests, skills, availability, and accessibility, making it easy to contribute in meaningful ways. Whether assisting at community events, sharing professional expertise, or supporting special projects, CARE On-Call Volunteers help turn ideas into action and strengthen the town they call home. Anyone who is interested in becoming a CARE On-Call Volunteer, can visit the Volunteerism page at [www.care-leicester.org](http://www.care-leicester.org) and sign up.

C.A.R.E. sees volunteerism as one of the town’s greatest assets. In many ways, Leicester’s embrace of Community Heart & Soul echoes a longstanding tradition of neighbors answering the call to serve their community. Leicester’s modern Minutemen are not waiting for someone else to shape the town’s future. They are already building it together.

## Brookfield officials approve design for sidewalk accessibility upgrades

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

BROOKFIELD — Plans are in motion to make sidewalks and crossings more accessible in and around Brookfield’s historic district.

The Select Board hosted a discussion on July 16 where representatives of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) and designer Weston & Sampson detailed a project that will enhance sidewalk ramps utilizing previously acquired grant funding.

Brookfield received a 2022-2023 Community Development Block Grant totaling \$1.2 million for infrastructure improvements around Kimball Street. John O’Leary, a Principal Planner in the Community Development Department of CMRPC, explained that they worked with the town to utilize leftover funds to prioritize accessibility upgrades in that same area, although not limited to just Kimball Street.

“After meeting with the Select Board in the spring, as well as consulting with the highway superintendent at the time, we felt a good use of the remaining funds would be reprogrammed into this sidewalk project both in terms of it being done in the time that we have left for the grant and it being eligible through that Community Development Block Grant program,” said O’Leary.

The presentation on July 16 was the final design plan which included input from Bill Storti, a Project Manager and Senior Designer at Weston & Sampson. The project will include 30 ramps bringing them within ADA compliance. For many, this will involve installing truncated dome pads that indicate to pedestrians with vision problems where they can cross, installing granite to match the curb ramps in the area, and reconstructing sections of the roadway to change the grading.

Storti said they recommend roadways be closed whenever possible while work commences in order to make for a faster improvement process without the cost of flagmen to direct traffic.

“Once the contractor gets rolling, it’s probably a two- or three-day exercise at each intersection so it’s very minor inconvenience for local people,” Storti said, although he acknowledged that some areas of focus, particularly River Street, may still require traffic control as a complete closure may not be feasible.

With the Select Board’s approval of the final design, the project will now go out to bid with a hopeful start in August and completion by the end of September.

## East Brookfield Summer Concert series underway

EAST BROOKFIELD — The East Brookfield Bandstand Committee is once again bringing live music to Connie Mack Field this summer with six free Thursday evening concerts celebrating local talent, classic rock, and community traditions. Organized entirely by volunteers, the committee

relies on sponsorships, food sales, and donations to make the annual series possible.

This year’s lineup features a variety of musical styles, beginning with The Otters on July 16, followed by hometown favorites Big Gunz (July 23), classic rock tribute band Brookfield Rhythm (July 30), Beatles tribute 4Ever Fab

(Aug. 6), the rotating ensemble ‘Dentity Crisis (August 13), and the Brookfield-based rock trio Moonlight Saints closing the season on Aug. 20. Highlights include ‘Dentity Crisis’s special performance celebrating the 45th anniversary of The Rolling Stones’ rehearsals at Long View Farm in neighboring

North Brookfield, as well as the farm’s connections to The J. Geils Band and Aerosmith.

The East Brookfield Summer Concert Series continues to provide an opportunity for neighbors and visitors alike to gather, enjoy live music, and celebrate the community. We would love to see you there!

## State lawmakers present municipal fiber grant to Spencer Fire Department

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

SPENCER — The Spencer Fire Department has received a valuable grant to help improve communication capabilities for the town’s emergency services.

State officials gathered with Spencer fire officials on July 13 to officially announce the grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Rural Development a month after the money was officially earmarked for the project.

The funding totals \$76,000 and will cover the expansion of the town’s fiber optic infrastructure.

In a post on social media, State Sen. Peter Durant said Spencer Fire Chief



Bob Parsons made it clear this was a valuable project for the community and continues a longstanding grant-funded effort to upgrade the system one piece at a time.

He said lawmakers were happy to help procure this latest source of funding.

“The Spencer legislation delegation — myself, Rep. Donnie Berthiaume and State Rep. John Marsi —

work closely with Chris Lyon and Lyndon Nichols from USDA Rural Development to study the needs of our communities and seek funding through their programs. We are grateful to be able to help our rural communities,” Durant wrote.

According to a post on Durant’s social media page in June, which was shared and expanded on by the Spencer Fire and Emergency Services, the grant will allow the department to finalize adding all town buildings including EMS and the last radio site into the town’s Fiber network creating a more efficient communication network for emergency services throughout the town.







# Tobin family announces Third Annual Golf Tournament and FTD awareness walk

REGION — The Jim Tobin Memorial is inviting the community to support two upcoming events dedicated to raising awareness of Frontotemporal Degeneration (FTD), advancing research, and advocating for families affected by the disease.

The Third Annual Jim Tobin Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26 at Holden Hills Country Club. Registration is now open for foursomes at \$500 per team, and individuals who do not golf are welcome to attend the Italian buffet lunch for \$40 with advance registration. The event will also feature raffles, contests, and sponsorship opportunities. Net proceeds will benefit the Frontotemporal Disorders Research Center at UMass Chan Medical School and The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration (AFTD).

On Sunday, Sept. 6, Auburn resident and David Prouty High School graduate Devyn Tobin will take on the "From Lab to Legislator" Walk, a 40-mile one-man journey from UMass Chan Medical School in Worcester to the Massachusetts State House in Boston. Wearing a 40-pound weighted vest to symbolize the weight FTD places on families, he hopes to increase public awareness, support research, and encourage legislative action for those living with Frontotemporal Degeneration.

Both events honor the memory of Jim Tobin, a longtime Spencer resident, Air Force veteran, husband, father, and grandfather who lived with FTD. Many members of the Tobin family, including Jim's wife, continue to call Spencer home and hope the community will join them in honoring Jim's legacy and supporting efforts to improve the lives of families affected by FTD.

For golf registration, sponsorship, ship information, or to learn more about the awareness walk, contact jimtobinmemorial@gmail.com or visit the Jim Tobin Memorial social media pages.

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*Leicester Democratic Town Committee  
plans second annual potluck barbecue*

**LEICESTER** — The Leicester Democratic Town Committee is inviting Democrats from across Central Massachusetts to gather for an afternoon of food, conversation, and community at its second annual Potluck BBQ. The event is designed to bring together local residents and party members to reconnect with friends, meet new people, exchange ideas, and strengthen relationships ahead of the upcoming election season.

Organizers encourage attendees to bring a favorite dish to share while enjoying an informal afternoon focused on fellowship and civic engagement.

"Come together with Democratic friends from across Central Massachusetts for an afternoon of great food, laughter, and meaningful conversation," organizers said in the event announcement. "It's a chance to reconnect with old friends, make new ones, share ideas, and strengthen the relationships that will help us work together during the upcoming election season."

Participants are asked to bring a potluck item and are encouraged to RSVP by Sunday, Aug. 16. Registration is required, as the event location will only be provided to those who register in advance.

Organizers said they hope attendees will leave with new connections, fresh ideas, and renewed enthusiasm for the months ahead.

For more information or to register, visit the Leicester Democratic Town Committee's Web site, [ldtcmass.org](http://ldtcmass.org).

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for more than  
50 years. This  
year the Flea  
Market will be  
held on Saturday,  
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3:30 p.m. (vendor  
check-in 6:30 -  
8:30 a.m.).  
Sellers of all  
kinds are wel-  
come - flea folk,  
antique dealers,  
crafters, prod-  
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those emptying  
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and attics! No  
food vendors,  
please. Spaces are  
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Jaslyn is a friendly, outgoing teen who  
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She loves being in the company of peo-  
ple and thrives in social settings where  
she can talk, laugh, and share experi-



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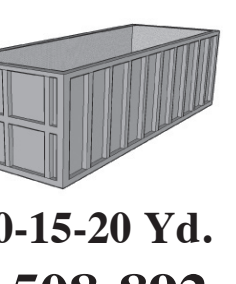
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# Friday's Child



















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Jaslyn is a friendly, outgoing teen who truly lights up when she's around others. She loves being in the company of people and thrives in social settings where she can talk, laugh, and share experiences. Jaslyn has a warm and welcoming personality that helps her connect easily with both peers and adults. She enjoys expressing herself through fashion and self-care, especially getting her hair and nails done. It's something that makes her feel confident and happy. Jaslyn's favorite activities include singing and dancing — she loves music and isn't shy about showing off her moves when a good song comes on! Jaslyn is also very active and enjoys spending time outdoors. Whether she's participating in community activities, going for walks, or simply soaking up fresh air, she appreciates opportunities to be out and about. She enjoys staying busy and benefits from environments where she can engage in fun, structured activities. Jaslyn's joyful energy, love for connection, and enthusiasm for life make her a bright presence wherever she goes.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/22533457815>

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



















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EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Answering the call,  
250 years later

The image of the Minuteman is deeply rooted in New England history. It evokes thoughts of ordinary citizens who set aside their daily lives to answer an extraordinary call, serving not for recognition or reward, but because their communities needed them. Leicester can rightly claim a special place in that history. It was here that Col. William Henshaw coined the term "Minutemen," describing neighbors who would be ready to respond at a moment's notice. More than two and a half centuries later, that same spirit remains one of the town's greatest strengths.

Fortunately, today's challenges are different from those faced in 1774. Instead of answering a call to defend liberty on the battlefield, residents are being asked to strengthen their community through volunteerism, civic engagement, and a willingness to share their talents with others.

That is exactly what C.A.R.E. Leicester represents.

Born during one of the most difficult periods in recent history, the organization could have quietly concluded its work after helping oversee the distribution of American Rescue Plan Act funding. Instead, its members recognized something important. The relationships, trust, and momentum built during the pandemic could become the foundation for something much larger.

Since then, the group has demonstrated what can happen when citizens decide to invest in their hometown. Support for local businesses, improvements to career and technical education, community cleanup initiatives, and family events on the Town Common are all examples of people choosing to improve the quality of life for everyone around them.

Perhaps even more significant is Leicester's participation in the Community Heart & Soul program. Unlike projects that focus solely on buildings or budgets, this initiative begins with listening. It asks residents what they value, what they hope to preserve, and what they envision for the future. Those conversations often reveal that a town's greatest assets are not found in its infrastructure, but in its people.

Communities are strongest when residents believe they have both a voice and a responsibility. Too often, civic participation is reduced to voting once or twice a year or attending an occasional public meeting. While those activities remain essential, thriving communities are built every day by people coaching youth sports, organizing events, serving on committees, cleaning parks, mentoring students, supporting local nonprofits, or simply lending a hand to a neighbor.

The introduction of CARE On-Call Volunteers recognizes an important reality about modern life. Many people want to help but cannot commit to long-term volunteer positions. By matching residents with opportunities based on their interests, skills, and availability, the program lowers the barrier to participation. Whether someone has two hours to spare or two days, every contribution can make a difference.

Volunteerism has always been one of the defining characteristics of small-town New England. Fire departments, youth organizations, historical societies, libraries, recreation programs, and countless community events depend on residents who step forward without expecting anything in return. Their efforts often go unnoticed, yet they quietly improve daily life for everyone else.

As Leicester continues celebrating its rich history, it also has an opportunity to define what the next chapter will look like. The Minutemen legacy is not simply a story to be remembered during anniversaries or historical commemorations. It is a reminder that communities flourish when ordinary people are willing to answer the call.

Today's call is not to muster on the town common with a musket. It is to show up with ideas, compassion, energy, and a commitment to making Leicester an even better place to live.

History may remember William Henshaw for giving the Minutemen their name. The future will be shaped by the residents who choose to live out that same spirit of service in ways both large and small. If enough people answer that call, Leicester's finest days may still lie ahead.

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

## Building your child's education fund, one brick at a time

Every solid house starts with a good blueprint and a strong foundation. Saving for a child's education is very similar. College costs can seem daunting. In addition to tuition, you'll need to account for housing and food, books and supplies, transportation, and other expenses. The average annual budget at an in-state public university runs around \$30,990 today, and a private school is \$65,470 according to the College Board. While most families won't pay a college's list price, you'll still want to start saving as early as possible to be ready when your child is.

Lay the foundation early. You don't have to wait until you have the perfect set of plans to start building. There are specific accounts designed to save for education, and some do not require a minimum opening deposit. Setting up automatic recurring contributions, even modest ones, lets you build steadily over time without requiring constant attention.

As your child ages, look for ways to redirect expenses you no longer have towards the build. For example, daycare costs, which can exceed \$1,000 a month, can be shifted into a college savings account once your child enters school. Tax refunds and annual bonuses make excellent additional contributions. And others can pitch in – instead of birthday or holiday toys, ask grandparents or relatives to contribute directly to a college savings account.

Know the size of the house you're building. Families saving for community college followed by two years at a public university might target around \$65,000. Those aiming for four years at a public school are looking at roughly \$100,000. Whatever the goal, plan for education inflation of about 4 percent annually, which can roughly double costs over 18 years.

You don't have to source all the building materials yourself.



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Scholarships, grants, student loans, and income from part-time work are all legitimate ways to help finish the structure.

Don't let one project consume the whole budget. One risk for parents is pouring so much into the college fund that the retirement fund goes neglected. Remember, loans and grants exist for college, but not for retirement. Striking the right balance may mean targeting a more affordable

school, planning to cover only a portion of costs, or adjusting retirement timelines slightly.

Choose the right building materials. For many families, a 529 plan is the right foundation. Earnings grow tax-free, distributions are federally tax-free when used for qualified education expenses, and many states offer additional income tax deductions for contributions. Even better, anyone – such as grandparents or friends – can contribute.

Additionally, qualified expenses for a 529 plan go beyond tuition and cover books, computers, internet access, room and board, and more. Vocational and trade schools often qualify, too, opening the door to careers in skilled trades, healthcare, and technology.

No contractor builds alone. A knowledgeable financial advisor can help you draw up a realistic blueprint and make sure the college project doesn't crowd out the rest of your financial future. The earlier you break ground on that conversation, the stronger the structure will be.

*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.*

## The last pay phone

### LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET

By CHARLES

Every once in a while, something disappears so quietly that you don't realize it has gone until you go looking for it. That happened to me a few weeks ago.

I wasn't actually planning to make a phone call. I simply drove past an old convenience store where I distinctly remembered a pay phone standing outside for decades. It had been tucked beneath a little metal hood, facing the parking lot.

It wasn't attractive. It wasn't historic. It wasn't something anyone photographed.

It was simply...there. Except it wasn't.

The concrete pad remained, along with four rusty bolts sticking out of the ground like tiny gravestones. If you didn't know what had once occupied that spot, you'd never give it a second glance.

For anyone under about 30 years old, the idea of needing a pay phone probably sounds ridiculous. We all carry computers in our pockets now. If we're lost, we have GPS. If we need help, we can text. If we're running late, we can call before anyone has time to wonder where we are.

But there was a time when finding a pay phone could feel like finding water in the desert.

You always needed a quarter. If you didn't have one, you started checking cup holders, coat pockets or the bottom of your glove compartment. Sometimes you'd ask a stranger, "Do you have change for a dollar?" Nobody thought that was odd.

There was an unspoken etiquette, too. You kept your conversation short if someone else was waiting. If the weather was bad, you'd hunch beneath the little metal cover while rain dripped off the edges. In winter, the handset always seemed about twenty degrees colder than the air around it.

The pay phone was also a witness to life. Teenagers nervously calling home after missing curfew. Parents letting family know they had arrived safely. Drivers reporting breakdowns before roadside assis-

tance came with smartphone apps. Young couples talking longer than they could afford because hanging up first somehow felt impossible.

Looking back, it's amazing how much trust we placed in those phones. They sat outside through blizzards, thunderstorms and heat waves. Thousands of hands touched them. Somehow they almost always worked.

Today's technology is unquestionably better. I wouldn't trade my cell phone for a pocket full of quarters. But convenience has changed something else. Because every call is private now.

You never overhear someone happily announcing they got the job. You don't hear somebody telling their spouse they'll be home in twenty minutes. You don't watch a nervous teenager practicing what they're about to say before dropping a coin into the slot.

Life still happens, of course. We just experience it behind screens instead of out in the open.

Small-town Massachusetts has always been full of ordinary landmarks that quietly stitched communities together. A hardware store with creaky floors. The diner where everyone knew the waitress's name. The corner barber shop. The bulletin board covered with handwritten notices.

The pay phone belonged on that list. It wasn't important because of what it was. It mattered because everyone, sooner or later, needed it.

Maybe that's why seeing those four empty bolts caught my attention. They reminded me that progress rarely arrives with a parade. More often it comes one unnoticed change at a time, until the world you've always known has become somebody else's history.

Someday, a child will ask what those rusty bolts are for. Someone my age will smile.

"They used to hold a pay phone," we'll say.

The child will probably look puzzled. And for a brief moment, we'll realize we're telling a story that has quietly become history.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Can't make it up

To the Editor:

The "Squid Game" movie had a game called red light/green light. I do recall playing this game as a child on the playground. In the movie, being caught moving was fatal. I find that the current situation in the Straight of Hormuz, seems to bear a lot of similarity. After 40 years of resisting Israel goading us to deal with a nation, who considers Israel displacing Palestine, to be the middle eastern version of the trail of tears displacement of the Cherokee nation. I do think there is some logic that displacing Palestine being the Brits idea of restitution for the holocaust might be punishing the wrong country.

The Brits were also instrumental in the post 9/11 lie, that saw us kill thousands of Iraqis, though most of the attackers were Saudi. Israel used our mass killing spree in Irag as justification to commit genocide in GAZA. I recall VP Biden on a trip to try to get a two-state solution' being embarrassed by Netenyahu announcing new settlements in what the called the "disputed territory" The dispute being whether they could seize more land from Palestine. Like Trump golf and frivolous spending, figures you will not see is how much Israel has expanded what they started with, Israel was feeling its oats after decimating GAZA and decided to attack Hezbolla in Lebanon, so sold Trump the likne that he should immediately facilitate the ripe desire for regime change in Iran. Stay tuned.

In the mean time CA Congressman Ro Khanna traveled to GAZA to review the aid and reconstruction progress there. He was taken into custody by Israeli settlers wielding M4 rifles we supply to their military, This prompts the question, what are armed Israeli settlers doing in Gaza?

Putin is now begging us to stop Ukraine attacking their infrastructure. We do so little for Ukraine, I doubt we could stop anything. We are way past day one, and their solution seems more effective than ours.

After ICE getting their full funding, including for cameras not seen, this admin coming back for more defense money after, not just depleting it in Iran, but using million dollar shells on little wooden boats in th Caribbean and threatening to invade Cuba and Greenland, close the tap.

DOGE closed USAID, killing over 700,000, cut funding for consumer protection and the US Park service.

The current estimated deficit will hit 32 trillion by end of Trump term, 8 trillion from Trump first term and 11 from this one. Promises mean nothing to this guy. He bankrupts casinos. What did you expect? Costly re-namings, arches, failed pond repairs and he actually wants a 2.5 percent contractor fee for a ballroom nobody approved. Remember the old adage that the house has "the power of the purse" He was first impeached for withholding Ukraine aid. He now arbitrarily cancels thing like disaster aid to red states, tunnel construction in NYC and re-allocates the money unchallenged.

He says those Dems will impeach him as soon as they can. Of course they will, and it should already have happened between the gifting and violations of the constitution, many resolutions are already written awaiting replacing the gutless feckless GOP Congress.

So outrageous, it does distract from Epstein.

Ken Kimball  
Brookfield



# Alex Cordy Memorial Golf Tournament set for Sept. 12

OAKHAM — St. Carlo Acutis Parish, Brookfield/West Brookfield/Warren, is having their Ninth Annual Alex Cordy Memorial Charity Golf Tournament at Quail Hollow Golf and Country Club, 1822 Old Turnpike Road, Oakham, Massachusetts on Saturday, Sept. 12. Registration begins at 7:15 a.m., with a Shotgun Start at 8 a.m.

As many of you are aware, Alex Cordy was an integral part of our West Brookfield Community for many years. In memory of his outstanding service to his community, his parish, and being a founding member of our Knights of Columbus Council 11080, this tourna-

ment will once again benefit our Youth Activities Fund to support the youth in our local community, a cause that was very important to Alex. We were able to award two \$1,000.00 scholarships this past year from the proceeds of this event to two local high school seniors, as well as fund many other youth activities. We ask that you please consider supporting our event by sponsoring or participating in the tournament individually or with a foursome. Tournament Raffle Items and General Donations to this event are always welcomed and appreciated!

Registration and sponsorships are

now available for this tournament. To register, and for more information,

please call (413) 813-8100 or email wallyconnor122@gmail.com.

## Sons of the American Legion to host 21st annual Scholarship Scramble

WEST BROOKFIELD — The Sons of the American Legion Post 244 will host its 21st Annual Scholarship Scramble Golf Tournament on Saturday, Aug. 8, raising funds to support local scholarships.

The tournament will be played at Quail Hollow Country Club in Oakham with an 8 a.m. shotgun start. Golfers will compete over 18 holes before returning to American Legion Post 244 in West Brookfield for a chicken dinner, raffles, and prize presentations.

The entry fee is \$120 per person, and registrations must be received by Aug. 1.

The annual event serves as a fundraiser for the Sons of the American Legion's scholarship program, which supports local students pursuing higher education.

Organizers encourage golfers of all skill levels to participate while helping invest in educational opportunities for area students.

For more information or to register, contact Kevin at 774-230-3262 or Gary at 508-450-8643.

## Weekly Police Blotter

### Spencer

The Spencer Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of July 8-14.

David Jael Williams-Rodriguez, age 19, of Spencer was arrested on July 8 in connection with a warrant.

Stanley R. Hernandez, age 26, of Worcester was arrested on July 10 in connection with multiple warrants.

### Leicester

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

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on July 11 for operating a vehicle with No Inspection Sticker, operating a motor vehicle after suspension

of license, and a Motor Vehicle Equipment Violation (Miscellaneous).

Edmond James Pelletier, age 31, and Kayle Kristen Kozlowski, age 30, both of Spencer, were arrested on July 11 for Shoplifting By Asportation and Shoplifting By Price Tag Tampering.

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

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on July 14 for Shoplifting By Asportation.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on July 15 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license.

## Vendors wanted for flea market on W. Brookfield Common

WEST BROOKFIELD — The First Congregational Church 36 N. Main St., W. Brookfield, UCC has been hosting their Flea Market on the town Common for more than 50 years. This year the Flea Market will be held on Saturday, September 12th from 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (vendor check-in 6:30 - 8:30 a.m.).

Sellers of all kinds are welcome - flea folk, antique dealers, crafters, product vendors, and those emptying out basements and

attics! No food vendors, please. Spaces are available for \$40 for a 20-by-20-foot grassy spot. Vendors must bring their own tables and tents. The church will sponsor a food tent with grilled food, cold drinks and sweet treats. Email to fccofwbmarket@gmail.com for an application or call Karen at 508-801-7692.

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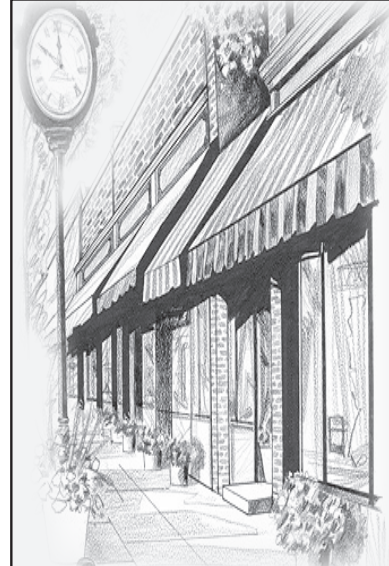
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# New England Water Ski Collective celebrates successful return of State Slalom Championships

CHARLTON — The New England Water Ski Collective celebrated a milestone day for tournament water skiing in Massachusetts on Wednesday, July 15, as 33 skiers from across the region gathered at Buffumville Dam for the 2026 Massachusetts State Slalom Championships.

The two-round slalom event marked the first tournament hosted by the New England Water Ski Collective and the first Massachusetts state tournament in roughly 10 years. Skiers competed for Massachusetts State Championship titles while also earning valuable North East Slalom Series points and AWSA qualification scores for Regional and National tournaments later this summer.

“Bringing a state championship back to Massachusetts was a major goal for our group, and seeing a full field, strong skiing, and so much support from the regional water ski community made the day incredibly special,” said the New England Water Ski Collective. “This event showed what is possible when teammates, friends, volunteers, officials, sponsors, and public partners all come together around the sport.”

The Collective is proud of every athlete who competed and helped make the day such a success. The organization is especially proud of its own skiers and champions, with Sydney Zmetra earning the Women’s 1 Division title, Christina Fluckiger earning the Women’s 2 Division title, and Jared Bushnell earning the Men’s 2 Division title for the New England Water Ski Collective.



Division Champions (Unofficial)  
• B1: Levi Hinman, 34.00 buoys – 4.00 @ 23mph 15 Off  
• B2: Aaron Kline, 70.00 buoys – 4.00 @ 32mph 22 Off  
• B3: James Ervin, 80.00 buoys – 2.00 @ 34mph 28 Off  
• B4: Ryan Ervin, 91.50 buoys – 1.50 @ 36mph 32 Off  
• G5: Kristina Kreft, 77.00 buoys -5.00 @ 34mph 22 Off  
• M1: Jack Decker, 98.00 buoys – 2.00 @ 36mph 35 Off  
• M2: Jared Bushnell, 63.50 buoys – 3.50 @ 30mph 22 Off  
• M3: Neal Kline, 62.00 buoys – 2.00 @ 32mph 15 Off

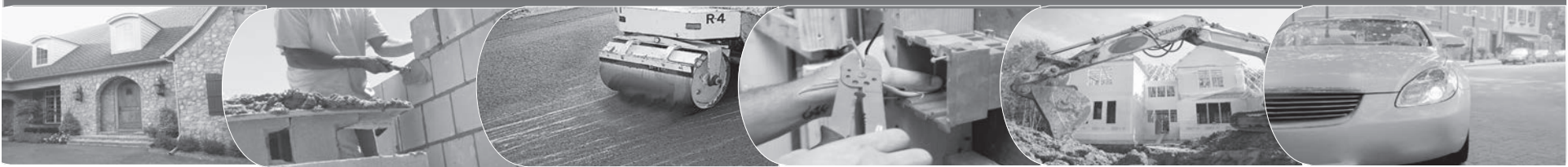
• M4: Derrick St Laurent, 97.00 buoys -1.00 @ 34mph 38 Off  
• M5: Patrick Morrill, 94.00 buoys – 4.00 @ 34mph 35 Off  
• M6: Paul Myers, 92.00 buoys – 2.00 @ 34mph 35 Off  
• M7: Stephen Kristo, 86.00 buoys – 2.00 @ 32mph 35 Off  
• M8: Rui Afonso, 80.00 buoys – 2.00 @ 32mph 32 Off  
• M9: Dennis Jenks, 77.50 buoys – 6.00 @ 30mph 15 Off  
• W1: Sydney Zmetra, 75.00 buoys – 3.00 @ 30mph 32 Off  
• W2: Christina Fluckiger, 62.50 buoys – 2.50 @ 32mph 15 Off  
• W6: Janet Pearl, 59.00 buoys – 5.00 @ 30mph 15 Off  
• W7: Donna Jenks, 72.50 buoys – 0.50 @ 30mph 32 Off

The New England Water Ski Collective extends heartfelt thanks to the teammates, friends, volunteers, officials, families, and sponsors who made the day possible and helped turn the championship into such a success. Special thanks go to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for allowing the event to be held at the beautiful Buffumville Dam site and facilities.

The Collective is also grateful for the support of its lead event sponsors: S-Lines USA, Zmetra Clear Span Structures, and New England Boat Company of Webster. S-Lines USA provided skier ropes and additional safety gear, Zmetra Clear Span Structures supplied tents and athlete setup areas, and New England Boat Company supported the event with boats for safety, scorers, and judges.

Additional sponsors supporting the New England Water Ski Collective’s Adaptive and Competitive Divisions this season include The Mark Fidrych Foundation, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Move United Sport, The Craig H. Neilsen Foundation, Arbella Insurance, author Karen Michalson, Hazard Marine, Team Hoyt New England, Reardon Insurance, Awning Cleaning Industries, Ski-It-Again.com, Pakachoag Acres Day Care Center, Doug Russell Marine, The Hanover Insurance Group, Foxy Travel and FTI Coach, Howe Lumber, Swissturn USA, and many personal supporters.

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# Spencer Summer Concert Series continues with Vivi & DaFunk

SPENCER — The Spencer Parks & Recreation Commission's 2026 Summer Concert Series continues from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, July 26 at Powder Mill Park, corner Smithville and Meadow Roads, Spencer with Vivi & DaFunk.

M i k e G i a n f r i d d o and Alan D'Allessandro founded DaFunk. They decided to add a lead vocalist, Yvette Rhault, in 2015 and expanded their name to Vivi & DaFunk. The band added Warren Olsen and Glenn Fournier, who both play bass and keyboard, in 2021. As a five piece unit, they are to pull out the pretty amazing music that makes Vivi & DaFunk one of the premier dance bands in the area. The band performs through-



out New England -- and with the talented Yvette "Vivi" Rhault at the helm, they never disappoint! Next up in this series that runs through Aug. 23 will be the Blind

Tiger Swing Posse on Aug. 2.

The concert series is proudly sponsored by Cornerstone Bank. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone

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level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts.

## Salve Regina University announces Dean's List for Spring Semester

NEWPORT, R.I. — The following students were named to the Dean's List during the spring 2026 academic semester at Salve Regina University. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 for full-time students completing at least 12 graded credits, or

a semester grade point average of 3.8 for part-time students completing at least six credits.

M a d e l i n e Milionis of Leicester

Gia Norcia of Spencer

Payton Prouty of West Brookfield

Greenly Waugh of Spencer

Salve Regina University is a Catholic, coed-

ucational institution of higher education founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1947. It offers rigorous, innovative academic programming in the liberal arts tradition that prepares students to be global citizens and lifelong learners. More than 2,700 students from around the world are enrolled in

Salve's 60+ academic programs, which include bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees along with graduate certificates and combined bachelor's/master's programs. Every undergraduate student engages in Salve Compass, a four-year experience that charts a personalized, values-based

path connecting college to a successful, fulfilling career and life. The University is also home to the Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy, a multi-disciplinary research center focused on the intersection of politics, policy and ideas. For more information visit [salve.edu](http://salve.edu).

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# LEGALS

**Docket No. WO26E0039PP**  
**Petition to Partition Citation**  
**(A.C.92A)**

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Worcester Probate & Family Court**

To Leah O'Brien, Personal Representative of the Estate of David L. Cataldo and to all other persons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by Bonnie Lee Gannon of Spencer, in the County of Worcester representing that he hold as tenant in common undivided part or share of certain land lying in Spencer in said County Worcester and described as follows:

EXHIBIT-A  
to Petition to Partition

A certain parcel of land in Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts and shown on a Plan of Land prepared for Raoul and Alison Chalifoux by Sadowski Engineering, Inc. dated September 2, 2003, and revised September 19, 2003, and recorded at the Worcester District 801, Plan 78. The parcel is more formerly bounded and described as follows:

Said parcel is also known as Lot 14A and contains 62,144 (+/-) square feet for 1.42 (+/-) acres.

This lot can be seen on the above mentioned plan.

BEGINNING at a bound on the southerly side of Sherwood Drive at a point on a curve to the left whose radius is 360.00; THENCE along that curve a distance of 82.01 feet to a bound at the point of tangency;

THENCE N. 31 ° 55' 58" E. a distance of 118.49 feet to a bound at the corner of Lot 13 and land now or formerly of Williams;

THENCE S. 42° 41' 43" E. a distance of 318.42 feet along Williams land to a concrete bound to be set at he corner of land of Chalifoux;

THENCE S. 46° 32' 41" W. a distance of 229.32 feet to a concrete bound;

THENCE N. 35° 40' 09" W. a distance of 279.55 feet to the point of beginning. The last two courses by land of said Chalifoux.

SUBJECT to a drainage easement and the right to construct and maintain drainage structures therein as shown on said Plan, being reserved by Alfred R. Williams, his assigns or successors in interest.

SUBJECT to the right to flow water for outlet and drainage structures located across the above-described tract to Thompson Pond through the easements shown on said and wetland areas located on said lot.

RESERVING to the grantor, and his agents, during the development and until completion of the roadway construction, the right to access over that portion of the granted premises adjacent to said roadway as is reasonably necessary for construction od same until completion.

Being the same premises conveyed to the Grantor by Deed dated May 14, 2003 and recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 30191 Page 191.

SUBJECT to a 20 foot slope easement adjacent to the street line of Sherwood Drive for roadway construction purposes and the rights of utility companies to install and maintain underground/aboveground wires, junction boxes, transformer or other equipment along said roadway, which rights are reserved by Alfred R. Williams, his assigns or successors in interest.

This conveyance is also made subject to the following restrictions:

No rights of way by necessity or otherwise are conveyed or reserved over the cart roads shown on said plan.

TOGETHER with and subject to the following restrictions:

No dwelling shall be permitted on any lot that contains a dwelling area, exclusive of any private garage or porches, or less than one thousand square feet. Buildings must be completed on the outside within one year after the original framing has commenced.

No livestock, poultry, or animals of any kind other than household pets shall be kept on the premises, except that horses shall be allowed on lots having an area of two acres or greater.

Garbage and rubbish shall be placed in containers and removed at frequent intervals. Utility easements for the benefit of all the lots on said plan. Said utility easements shall not interfere with the construction of buildings on said lots.

Reserving drainage, slope and construction easements relating to said roadway.

BEING the same premises conveyed to grantors by deed dated December 14, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester District Court Registry of Deeds in Book 66829, Page 25.

setting forth that he/she desire that all the aforesaid described part of said land my be sold at private sale not less than Seven Hundred Twenty Five Thousand (\$725,000.00) dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition

and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Worcester before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the thirty-first day of July 2026 the return day of this citation.

Witness, Kathryn M. Bailey, Esq., First Judge of said Court, this sixteenth day of June, 2026.

Stephanie K. Fattman  
Register of Probate  
July 17, 2026  
July 24, 2026s

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Probate**  
**and Family Court**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01876**  
**(508) 831-2200**

**Docket No. WO26P1901EA**  
**INFORMAL PROBATE**  
**PUBLICATION NOTICE**

Estate Of:

**Stephen E Londergan**  
**Date of Death: May 04, 2026**

To All persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Melissa Racine of Worcester MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

July 24, 2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Probate**  
**and Family Court**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**(508) 831-2200**

**Docket No. WO26P2311 EA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR**  
**FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

Estate Of:

**Kurt A Nordquist**  
**Date of Death: 05/18/2026**

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **David Zanauskas of Spencer MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: .

**David Zanauskas of Spencer MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the estate in **unsupervised administration**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/18/2026**.

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

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION**  
**UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS**  
**UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

**WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.**

Date: July 16, 2026  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate

July 24, 2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Probate**  
**and Family Court**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**(508) 831-2200**

**Docket No. WO26P2059EA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR**  
**FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

Estate Of:

**John F. Cassavant**  
**Date of Death: 05/24/2026**

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Dianna J. Caffarena of Spencer MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: .

**Dianna J. Caffarena of Spencer MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the estate in **unsupervised administration**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/11/2026**.

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

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION**  
**UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS**  
**UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

**WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.**

Date: July 14, 2026

Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
July 24, 2026

**At the Zoning Board of Appeals public meeting to be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, in the McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, a public hearing will be held on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:**  
**Notice of Public Hearing – Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals Variance Finding– Applicant/ Owner: Paul and Denise Parker: Location 22 Sunberg Road, Spencer Assessor's Map R13-20-2. The applicant is seeking a Variance under Sections 5.2.6 (Detached Accessory Structures) and 7.3 (Variance Requirements) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to install a shed in the front setback. Current Zoning for RR is 55 feet, and the request is to change to 37 feet. The property is in the Rural Residential (RR) district.**

July 24, 2026  
July 31, 2026

**At the Zoning Board of Appeals public meeting to be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, in the McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, a public hearing will be held on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:**

**Notice of Public Hearing – Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals Variance Finding– Applicant: Ser-rato Signs/ Sean McGlone; Owner: BVR Realty Trust: Location 177 Main Street, Spencer Assessor's Map U14-63-0. The applicant is seeking a Variance under Sections 6.5.3.C.2 (Sign/ Regulations/ Village Residential) and 7.3 (Variance Requirements) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to install a ground-mounted sign 91 inches in height, 64 inches in width, totaling 33.25 square feet. Current Zoning for VR only allows 12 square feet. The property is in the Village Residential (VR) district.**

July 24, 2026  
July 31, 2026

**COMMONWEALTH OF**  
**MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL**

**COURT COMPLAINT TO**  
**FORECLOSE TAX LIEN**

[seal]

**No. 15 TL 000554**

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, and to Philip E. Moynagh, and Philip E. Moynagh, Jr., both deceased, both formerly of West Brookfield, Worcester County, and said Commonwealth; Britta L. Worster and Eugene C. Mongeon, both deceased, both formerly of East Brookfield, and Joseph A. Worster, deceased, formerly of Worcester, all in Worcester County, and said Commonwealth; Joseph A. Worster, Jr., deceased, formerly of Wallingford, in the State of Connecticut; Dharma, adopted daughter of Philip E. Moynagh, Jr., residence unknown; Nancy J. Mongeon, Individually, and as Guardian for Shane

H. Mongeon, now or formerly of East Brookfield, Gay-Lynne Barrett a/k/a Gay Giza, now or formerly of Brookfield, Jan Savage, now or formerly of East Brookfield, Christina L. Moynagh, now or formerly of Gardner, and Terry Ward, now or formerly of Spencer, all in Worcester County, and said Commonwealth; Laura Sheppard, Esq., Court Appointed Attorney for Shane H. Mongeon, now or formerly of Amherst, in the State of New Hampshire; James Worster, now or formerly of Gouverneur, Arthur Mongeon, now or formerly of Oneida, and Tammy Brandt, now or formerly of Fort Ann, all in the State of New York; Dawn Mongeon, now or formerly of Meriden, in the State of Connecticut; Angelique Mongeon, now or formerly of New Paris, in the State of Ohio; Christy Smith, now or formerly of Millville, in the State of Delaware; Megan L. Moynagh, now or formerly of Houston, in the State of Texas; Eugene C. Mongeon, Jr., now or formerly of Plant City, and Patricia E. Barnes, now or formerly of Bushnell, both in the State of Florida; Town of East Brookfield (Conservation Commission); Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Department of Environmental Protection); Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Office of the Attorney General); or their heirs, devisees or legal representatives, successors and assigns:

A Complaint has been filed by the Plaintiff Town of East Brookfield. The Complaint asks the Court to enter a judgment ending any ownership rights or interests in the land described below. The Complaint is about a parcel of land located in the Town of East Brookfield, Worcester County, Massachusetts, described in the Complaint as follows:

Property Address: 290 East Main Street 004.2-0130-0034.0 A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing about 0.09 Acres being described as Map 004.2 Lot 0130 Plot 0034.0 in the office of the assessors and identified in Book 20001 on Page 180 at the Worcester County Registry of Deeds.

**To respond to the Complaint, you or your attorney must take these steps by the Deadline to Answer, which is the thirty-first day of August in the year two thousand and twenty-six.**

First, prepare a written Answer. You may write your own Answer or use the form or the online guided interview program on the Court website. Second, file your Answer with the Land Court Recorder's Office, or in the Assistant Recorder's Office at the Registry of Deeds where the land is located, or using the Court's online eFiling system. Third, serve a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff by mail or e-mail.

**If you do not answer the Complaint by the above Deadline to Answer, this Court will find you in default.** You may lose the chance to answer or dispute the facts listed in the Complaint or pay the taxes owed. You may lose all ownership rights or interest in the land described above. If a judgment of foreclosure is entered, you will lose ownership of your property. If the property is worth more than the amount owed to cover the tax debt and foreclosure costs, you may be entitled to receive any remaining funds (excess equity) from the Plaintiff. It is ordered that this citation be published right away, once in The New Leader a newspaper circulated in Town of East Brookfield.

Witness, **GORDON H. PIPER**, Esquire, Chief Justice of said Court, this seventh day of July in the year two thousand and twenty-six.

Attest with Seal of said Court

Deborah J. Patterson  
Recorder

Plaintiff's Attorney: James E. Coppola, Jr., Esq. 40 South St, Marblehead, MA 01945 Tel: (781)639-0140

July 24, 2026



# Local students receive degrees from Quinnipiac University

HAMDEN, Conn. — Molly Ledbetter received a Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Resource Management and Marketing from Quinnipiac University during commencement ceremonies held in May:

About Quinnipiac University

Quinnipiac is a private, coeducational institution

located 90 minutes north of New York City and two hours from Boston. The university enrolls 9,700 students in more than 100 degree programs through its Schools of Business, Communications, Education, Computing and Engineering, Health Sciences, Law, Medicine, Nursing and the College of Arts & Sciences. Quinnipiac

is ranked 51st in The Wall Street Journal/College Pulse "2026 Best Colleges in the U.S." and is also recognized by U.S. News & World Report and The Princeton Review's "The Best 391 Colleges." The university is expanding innovative programs for both traditional and adult learners and developing dynamic corporate partnerships. Quinnipiac

recently completed a significant capital expansion on its main campus, including a state-of-the-art new School of Business and an interdisciplinary science and innovation hub. For more information, please visit qu.edu. Connect with Quinnipiac on Facebook and Instagram and follow Quinnipiac on X @QuinnipiacU.

## LEGALS

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. WO24P1268EA

CITATION ON PETITION FOR ALLOWANCE  
OF ACCOUNT

In the matter of: Ronald R Rainka  
Date of Death: 03/11/2024

To all interested persons:  
A Petition has been filed by:  
**Anthony S. Rainka of Douglas MA**  
requesting allowance of the 1st account(s) as Personal Representative and any 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 **08/11/2026**. 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: July 10, 2026

Stephanie Fattman,

Register of Probate

July 24, 2026

## Bay Path Continuing Education's fall catalog available

CHARLTON — We are excited to announce that the Fall 2026 catalog is now available at [www.baypath.net/bpce](http://www.baypath.net/bpce). There is something for everyone, featuring offerings in trades exam preparations, continuing education, professional development, health & wellness, art, food & entertaining, finan-

cial wellness, and much more.

Here are some of the new classes available:

- Basket Weaving
- Breadmaking and more
- Gluten-Free Pasta Making
- Japanese Ikebana Flower Design

• Professional Writing

• Tai Chi

• and more

Additionally, we have returning favorites including:

- Line Dancing
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- Stained Glass Making
- Bob Ross Art Classes
- Yoga for All
- Classes for Two People to Take Together

Registration Opens on

July 20 — Make sure to sign up early for the class-

es that catch your interest so you don't miss this opportunity! You can reach us at [www.baypath.net/bpce](http://www.baypath.net/bpce) or call 508-248-5971, ext. 1715. Bay Path has been providing engaging adult continuing education classes for the past 30 years, conveniently located at 57 Old Muggett Hill Rd., Charlton.



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# Cornerstone Bank names Leah Cox

## Senior VP, Chief Credit Officer

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank has appointed Leah Cox as senior vice president and chief credit officer, adding a seasoned banking executive to its leadership team as the bank continues to support commercial growth and maintain strong risk management practices across its market.

In her new role, Cox will oversee the Bank's commercial credit function, including portfolio risk monitoring, credit policy, regulatory compliance and the development of credit staff. She will play a key role in helping ensure the Bank's lending decisions align with its long-term strategic goals.

"Strong credit leadership is essential to supporting our customers while maintaining the safety and soundness of the bank," said Daniel Zona, president of Cornerstone Bank. "Leah offers extensive exper-

tise, sound judgment and a collaborative leadership style that will help us continue serving our business customers and communities for years to come."

Cox brings 24 years of experience in commercial credit, risk management and loan administration. She is a graduate of the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University and holds professional certifications from the Risk Management Association and the American Bankers Association.

Cox earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics and sociology from Boston College. She resides in Swansey, New Hampshire and volunteers with her local Humane Society.

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and



providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone, which is a subsidiary of PeoplesBankCorp. MHC, operating independently under its own name and brand, provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations. With the addition of Athol Savings Bank, a Division of Cornerstone Bank, in 2026, Cornerstone offers customers access to 17 branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts, the most in Worcester County. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. To learn about Cornerstone Bank's personal and business banking offerings, please visit [cornerstonebank.com](http://cornerstonebank.com) or call 800-939-9103.

Courtesy Photo

(Left) Leah Cox

## Ryan Rushford joins Weichert, Realtors® - Hope & Associates

WORCESTER — Weichert, Realtors® - Hope & Associates is proud to announce Ryan Rushford has joined their Worcester office. Rushford joins a dedicated team of knowledgeable agents at Weichert, Realtors® - Hope & Associates, who bring many years of combined real estate expertise to their clients.

Weichert, Realtors® - Hope & Associates, located at 470 Park Ave., is an independently owned and operated affiliate of Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. For more information, please contact Julia Acquah-Harrison at (508) 795-3885 or [jharrison@hope-homes.com](mailto:jharrison@hope-homes.com).

About Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc.

Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. is a top real estate franchisor established in 2001 by Jim Weichert, president,

chairman and CEO of Weichert Companies, which has been in operation since 1969. The company provides a clearly defined business model for operating, managing, and marketing a real estate brokerage, along with industry-leading technology, marketing tools, and support. Its first affiliate opened in 2002, and the franchise network has since grown to over 330 offices, serving markets in over 40 states. The company has appeared on the Entrepreneur Franchise 500 list as a top residential real estate franchise and been identified by Franchise Business Review as a top franchise for owner satisfaction 11 years in a row. For more information about Weichert, visit [Weichert.com](http://Weichert.com). For more information about franchise opportunities, visit [WeichertFranchise.com](http://WeichertFranchise.com).

## Webster First launches 'Pay a Person'

*Send money to friends and family instantly, no extra apps required*

WORCESTER — Webster First has announced an exciting update to its online banking platform with the launch of a new "Pay a Person" feature. Arriving this July, this convenient tool will let members send money instantly to friends and family straight from their account—no extra third-party payment apps to download or sign up for. With just a few taps, members can transfer funds in seconds, making it faster and easier than ever to pay back a friend, share expenses, or help out a loved one. Designed for speed and simplicity, "Pay a Person" puts effortless, secure payments right at members' fingertips.

The Pay a Person tool was created to make everyday financial moments simpler. To

send money, members only need the recipient's name and phone number or email address. There's no need to ask for account or routing numbers. Once a transfer is started, the recipient gets a quick notification and can accept the funds in just a few steps, even if they don't bank with Webster First.

The feature is built for the moments that come up in daily life. Members can split a dinner bill with friends, chip in for a group gift, pay a babysitter or dog walker, settle up on shared rent or utilities, or send emergency funds to a family member in a pinch. Pay a Person makes it easy to move money quickly and securely whenever the need arises.

Webster First designed the Pay a Person feature with flexibility and

affordability in mind, giving members several ways to send money based on how quickly it needs to arrive. Sending money to another Webster First member is always free and lands in their account instantly, making it perfect for quick, everyday exchanges. When the money is headed to someone at a different bank, members can choose a free next-day delivery option that's ideal for payments that aren't time-sensitive. And for those moments when speed matters most, recipients at outside financial institutions can accept the funds instantly for a simple, low flat fee of just \$2.50. No matter which option members choose, the recipient receives a text or email with clear, step-by-step instructions on how to accept the funds.

To make sending money as simple as possible, Webster First has built Pay a Person directly into its online banking platform. Members can access the feature right from their account dashboard, with clear prompts and an intuitive layout that guides them through each transfer in just a few taps.

About Webster First  
Webster First is a community-focused credit union committed to helping its members make sound, responsible financial decisions. By providing modern digital tools and trusted local service, Webster First makes everyday banking simple and secure. For more information about the new online banking updates, visit [webster-first.com](http://webster-first.com).

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# Outdoor summer concert returns Aug. 21 in downtown Worcester with Jazz+ Live™ featuring The Love Dogs

WORCESTER — WICN Public Radio 90.5 FM, The Hanover Theatre & Conservatory for the Performing Arts, and the Downtown Worcester Business Improvement District invite the community to celebrate summer at the 9th Annual Jazz+ Live™ concert, featuring the acclaimed jump blues and rhythm & blues band The Love Dogs.

The outdoor concert will take place on Friday, Aug. 21, behind The Hanover

Theatre in downtown Worcester. Gates open at 5 p.m., with the concert beginning at 6:00 p.m.

For more than two decades, The Love Dogs, fronted by the charismatic Eddie Scheer, have entertained audiences across the United States, Canada, and Europe with their irresistible blend of jump blues, New Orleans R&B, swing, and early rock 'n' roll. Their powerhouse horn section, boogie-woogie piano, soulful vocals, and infectious

stage presence have made them one of New England's premier live bands and a favorite among music lovers of all ages.

"Jazz+ Live™ has become one of Worcester's signature summer traditions because it brings together outstanding live music, strong community partnerships, and people who simply enjoy spending an evening together," said Melanie Le-Boeuf, Executive Director of WICN Public -MORE-Radio. "At WICN,

we believe music has the power to connect people."

Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, along with food and non-alcoholic beverages, to enjoy during the performance. Food trucks and cash bars will be available throughout the evening. Outside alcohol is not permitted.

General admission tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 on the day of the event. Guests should bring their own lawn chairs. VIP front-row tables for four

are available for \$175 per table, offering reserved seating with the best views of the stage. Tickets are available through The Hanover Theatre Box Office and online at TheHanoverTheatre.org.

About WICN Public Radio

WICN Public Radio 90.5 FM is an independent, nonprofit public radio station serving Central Massachusetts and beyond. Through award-winning jazz, roots, blues, world

music, and locally produced programming, WICN connects listeners with the arts, culture, education, and conversations that enrich the region. WICN's mission is to inspire, entertain, and engage diverse audiences while supporting the cultural vitality of the communities it serves. Broadcasting throughout Central New England and streaming worldwide, WICN brings exceptional music and local voices to audiences wherever they are.



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MLS #73534105 \$333,000

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Experience ultra-luxury lake-front living on prestigious Webster Lake. This masterfully designed, brand-new construction masterpiece spans 2,556 square feet of sophisticated, two-story living space optimized for panoramic Western water views and direct lake access. The upper level features a magnificent primary bedroom suite, anchoring an exquisite year-round sunroom that flows seamlessly onto an expansive open deck. Designed for seamless entertaining, the lower level serves as a private guest floor, complete with a full second kitchen, additional bedroom, and premium finishes throughout. From morning coffee to sunset gatherings, you'll enjoy every minute while overlooking the water from the lakeside deck, gorgeous covered patio, open 2nd story deck/sunroom. Every detail of this high-end estate redefines waterfront elegance.

MLS #73542689

\$1,650,000.

## Webster - 106 East Main St (Rte 12) Commercial Opportunity!



Corner Lot, 275' +/- Road Frontage, Extremely High Traffic Count, 6,200 SF (75x80) Commercial Building, Currently 2 Units -> Potential for More. Economical, Efficient Natural Gas FHA Heat & Cooling. Its close proximity to Successful National Franchised Businesses generates Significant Commerce at this Location. Convenient Access.

MLS #73512426

\$ 615,000

## 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

\$479,900

## Webster - 24 Cooper Rd New Construction - Craftsman Style home



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

MLS # 73534271

\$679,900

## On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg



## Webster Lake Waterfront 22 Union Point Snug Harbor Villa

Waterfront Lake Snug Harbor Villa End Unit!  
Most Luxurious & Largest on the Lake!

Presenting a distinguished condo residence that will provide an exceptional waterfront lifestyle! Offers an expansive 4600 sf+ featuring 4BRs, 4-1/2 baths, 3 frpics & more, all designed for relaxation & convenience! Nothing quite compares! Priced to Sell. VIEW REALTOR MLS # 73507605 FOR MORE DETAILS \$999,900.

## Webster Lake Waterfront!! On Indian Point # 10



Astounding Panoramic Views across mid-section of Webster Lake! View the lake from all windows. Located on a peninsula providing 2 Shorelines. Fireplaced Living Room! 2 Baths. FHW Oil Heat! Central Air. Garage.

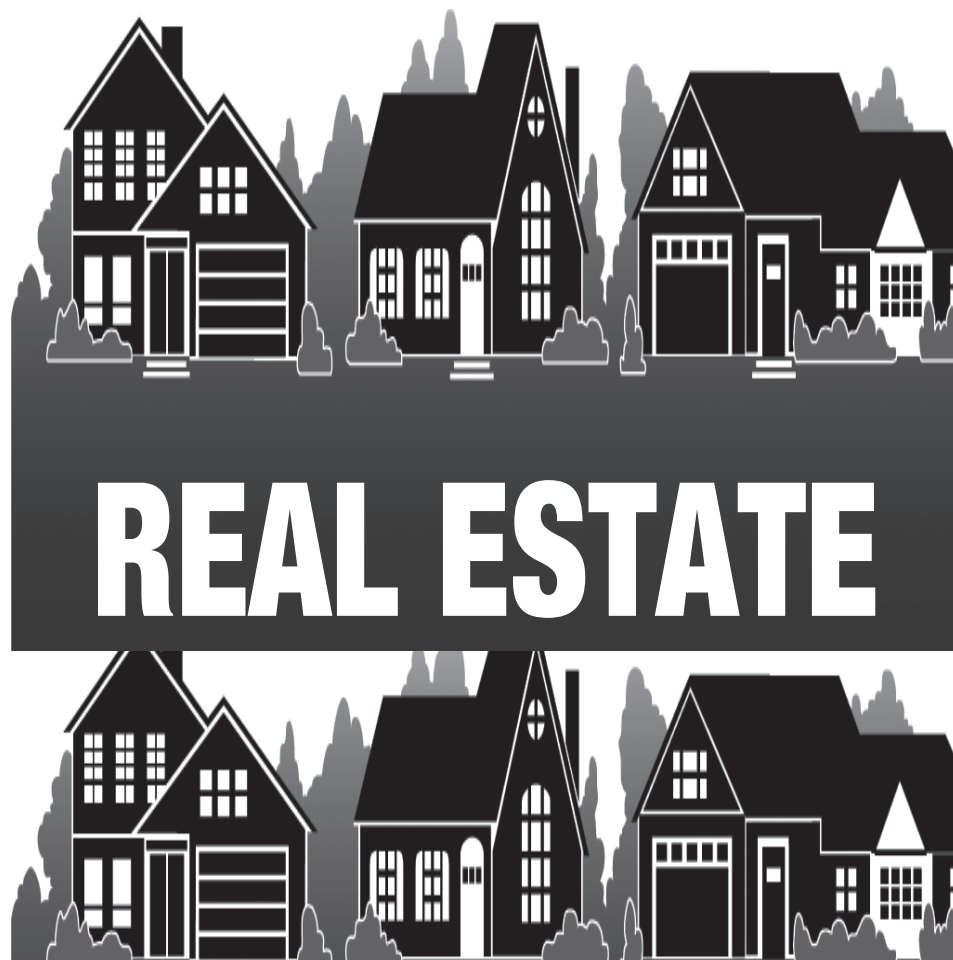
\$ 900,000.

## Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!



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

\$1,100,000



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41 Worcester Rd. \$449,500

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\*HW Floors  
\*1st Floor Family Room

9 Colonial Rd \$565,000

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\* Amazing Waterviews  
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34 Lake Sargent Dr  
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# ArtWorks Gallery invites art-lovers to LandEscape

WARE — Workshop13’s ArtWorks Gallery in Ware presents a new exhibition called LandEscape. This exhibition aims to expand or even reimagine the traditional landscape as a personal sanctuary and to document the diverse spatial forms of escapism that we need to recharge our spirits. ArtWorks Gallery is located at 69 Main St. in Ware. LandEscape is on display from June 27 through Aug. 2. Gallery hours



Courtesy Photo

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

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Art-lovers at the opening reception of LandEscape.

are Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4pm. For those who cannot attend the show in person, a virtual gallery is available for viewing at workshop13.org.

Fine artist Shona Macdonald served as the juror for LandEscape. Kathy Halper was awarded Best in Show for her striking painting, “Tree Shadows.” Halper is self-taught, exhibiting artist with 30+ years of experience and a portfolio of work ranging from painting, mixed media, and textiles, to sculpture. Career highlights include exhibition opportunities at Art Basel Miami, gallery representation in NYC/ Los Angeles/Chicago, a profile in Huffington Post as well as other international publications.

Porter Gifford received an Honorable Mention: Work on Paper for Pool “#3174, Concord, MA,” and Jackie Boudreau Kinsey received an Honorable Mention: Painting for “Shivelight Dream.” Three works received an Honorable Mention: Creative Interpretation: “Consolation” by Cai Vail, “Refuge: Azores Beach” by

Richard Wollman, and “Small Feather” by Cathy Durso. Each of these artists and their works will be spotlighted on Workshop13’s social media pages as well as in their weekly newsletter.

ArtWorks Gallery is offering a free plein air painting session outside the gallery (inside if it’s raining) facilitated by fine artist Loretta Medeiros. This session will take place on Saturday, July 18, from 1:30-4 p.m. Artists can bring their own materials, and Workshop13 can supplement. This plein air session is free and open to the public.

About ArtWorks Gallery and Workshop13

ArtWorks Gallery is Workshop13’s gallery on Main Street. This space features numerous art exhibitions each year and is also available to rent for individual or group shows. Workshop13 is a dynamic center where arts, culture, and community converge—expanding access to the arts and nurturing creativity and self-expression in our rural region. For more information visit workshop13.org, or call 413-277-6072.

## Registration open for Brookfields Lions Club Golf Tournament

NORTH BROOKFIELD — Registration is now open for the 2026 Brookfields Lions Club golf tournament, according to event chair, Marc Kokansky.

The annual event is taking place on Saturday, Aug. 22 at the Quail Hollow Country Club, 1822 Old Turnpike Rd., Oakham. The four-person scramble tournament begins with registration at 12 p.m., followed by a 1 p.m. shotgun start.

The entry fee is \$100 per golfer, which includes 18 holes of golf, cart, skins competition, closest-to-the-pin contests, and a meal following the tournament at Quail Hollow Country Club.

Proceeds from the tournament will benefit the Brookfields Lions Club’s

charitable programs and community service projects throughout the area. Through fundraising events such as this tournament, the club supports local organizations and individuals while carrying out the Lions’ mission of serving those in need.

To register a team or obtain additional information, contact Marc Kokansky at 508-847-9843. Registration is open now through August 15.

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

## Magician Ed Popielarczyk bringing family show to East Brookfield library

EAST BROOKFIELD — Families are invited to experience an entertaining morning of magic, balloon art, and comedy when magician Ed Popielarczyk visits the library on Thursday, Aug. 13, at 10:30 a.m.

The free program is open to all ages and will feature Popielarczyk’s interactive magic show, along with his colorful balloon creations and his unique flea circus performance.

Popielarczyk has been performing magic for nearly 35 years, delighting audiences throughout New England with a blend of humor, audience participation, and family-friendly entertainment.

Library officials encourage community members of all ages to attend and enjoy the performance. The event is designed to provide a fun and engaging experience for children and adults alike.

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