

# SPENCER NEW LEADER

©2025, Issue #41

Free by request to residents of

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

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Friday, October 17, 2025

## West Brookfield's new Town Clerk enjoying meeting — and helping — the community

WEST BROOKFIELD — Since first coming aboard as West Brookfield's Interim Town Clerk in February, later being formally

elected to the position in May, Klarissa Rose says she has enjoyed getting to know the town and its residents more with every passing day.



Klarissa Rose

management helped her build a skill set that has served her well in her current position at town hall, where she is tasked with maintaining the town's voting rolls, processing vital records as well as the yearly census, handling the duties before and after annual town meetings, processing by-law changes with the Attorney General's office, and working with business owners in our town with keeping up with their DBA licensing.

Rose's husband is from West Brookfield originally, and the couple decided to settle there in 2024. It was while out searching for their daughter's missing cat that Rose stumbled across the job opening for Assistant Town Clerk. When she was invited to interview, she learned that the Town Clerk's position would soon be opening up as well, and was asked whether she was interested. She subsequently interviewed for the Clerk's position, and was delighted to be

offered the job a week or two later.

"My favorite part of my position is helping everyone the best that I can, and the challenges that come with my position," she said. "I have always thrived on any challenges, as it pushes me to learn more and it helps me grow increasingly as an individual while growing as a team as well."

Away from the Clerk's office, Rose says family is everything to her.

"I enjoy getting out no matter what we do; as long as we're enjoying family time, I'm happy!" she said. "I love watching my daughter perform gymnastics, we love doing mom and daughter shopping days, we love to go walking/hiking, I love watching and playing sports, doing crafts especially around the holidays, and our favorite thing to do is go to different waterparks and experience the different things offered at each one."

## Friends of Spencer Seniors hosting food giveaways

SPENCER — The Friends of Spencer Seniors will be hosting two food giveaways on Nov. 7 & Dec. 5. You must be age 60 or older and a resident of Spencer. Each recipient will receive a \$30 bag of non-perishables and a \$20 gift certificate.

You must sign up in advance. One giveaway per household. Must show I.D. at time of pickup.

Please call 508-885-7546 to sign up & get pickup time and location.

"It's been the best experience for me," she added. "I have always enjoyed helping people, and I feel this job allows me to do what I love on a different level than I am accustomed to, and that it allows me to do what I enjoy daily."

Prior to being appointed to the interim position, Rose worked for just over ten years for a hospital. She says her responsibilities there, such as scheduling, payroll, ensuring confidentiality with records, filing, working with Microsoft, and office

## Leicester band directors selected to march in 2026 Rose Parade

LEICESTER — Leicester High School Band Director Alexis Phillips and Leicester Middle School Band Director Kristina Looney have been selected to march in the Rose Parade with the Band Directors Marching Band on Jan. 1, 2026.

The 137th annual parade has a theme of "The Magic in Teamwork." Earvin "Magic" Johnson has recently been announced the Grand Marshal of this year's parade. The BDMB is a great example of this theme, as approximately 500 band directors from around North America will take to the streets of Pasadena, California together. The Rose Parade precedes the Tournament of Roses, usually known as the Rose Bowl, a college football game.

Looney has been a part of the Band Directors Marching Band since 2023 when she marched in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. The BDMB, sponsored by the Michael D. Sewell Memorial Foundation and Saluting America's Band Directors, also put together the New England Honor Band for the 2025 Rose Parade, which included 6 of Looney's and Phillips's Leicester musicians. Looney was able to serve as a staff member for the NEHB and marched in the parade as a banner carrier ahead of the band.

Looney quote: The Rose Parade is 5.5 miles long. Physically, it was challenging as a banner carrier, so I am defi-



nately nervous to march the parade again while playing the trumpet. Marching band is more athletic than most people realize, especially since we're not kids anymore!

This is Phillips' first appearance with the BDMB. She will also be playing the trumpet.

Part of the BDMB experience is a Service Through Music project. This year, participating band directors were

encouraged to put together a project that benefits local heroes, such as first responders and veterans, while following the theme of teamwork by combining existing bands or having students perform a concert together. Looney, who is a Cub Scout leader for Pack 53 in Auburn, reached out to local musicians involved with Scouting America (formerly Boy Scouts)

and Girl Scouts, alumni, and adult leaders. This group, called the Central Massachusetts Scout Band, will perform a concert on Friday, Nov. 7 at Leicester Middle School and include about 35 musicians.

The BDMB is directed by Jonathan D. Waters, who is also the director of the Bowling Green State University Falcon Marching Band.



Jacob Knight

## A Jaunt with Jacob: See New England through an artist's eyes

WEST BROOKFIELD — The West Brookfield Historical Commission is proud to present "A Jaunt with Jacob: New England Through an Artist's Eyes," a retrospective exhibition honoring the artistry and legacy of renowned local artist Jacob Knight.

This multifaceted exhibit offers a personal and powerful glimpse into Jake's creative world. The exhibition will feature prints of Jake's depictions of local New England towns, some never before exhibited photographs capturing Jake's world by local photographers and members of his circle, a collection of curiosities and ephemera from his past, video interviews with some of Jake's family and friends, and audio recordings of his poetry slams and music jams.

This celebration of Jacob Knight will offer a vibrant window into the soul of a beloved artist and community member.

An opening reception will be held Sunday, Nov. 9, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Ruth Wells Center for the Arts, 111 Main St., Southbridge.

SHOW DATES: Saturdays and Sundays, Nov. 9 through Nov. 29 from noon to 4 p.m., and weekdays by appointment. Call 508-764-3341 to make an appointment.

See you at the opening. Bring a friend.



# Paxton Area Seniors announce holiday trip

PAXTON — The Paxton-Area Seniors Bus Trip will conclude its 2025 bus trip schedule with a three-pronged holiday trip Monday, Dec. 8. This travel is sponsored by Paxton FCOA (Friends of Council on Aging). We welcome new travelers to join us at any time. Our travelers come from approximately twenty towns in the Central MA area

as well as towns in CT or other areas. The Paxton trips re-started in 2012 and since everyone enjoyed them, they have continued since Bob Wilby, who brought them back, passed in 2023.

On Monday, Dec. 8 at 12:30 p.m., we leave Paxton Senior Center (COA) at 17 West St. (Route 31, just south of Paxton Common and the only stop light in Paxton). The reason for the late departure time is an evening light display after dark!

A luncheon at the Steaming Tender Restaurant in Palmer is our first stop. Their classic dining car menu selections are based on historic railroad recipes. We will dine on a choice between their Old-Fashioned Chicken Pot Pie, Meatloaf with Gravy, or Haddock Florentine served with seasonal vegetables and red roasted potatoes. Entrees will be served with a side salad. Dessert sounds pretty special too: "N.Y. Central" Whiskey Bread Pudding.

During our time there, take a few minutes to walk around and view the historic and architectural details and railroad-themed collection of the Palmer Railroad Station,

home of the popular and well-respected Steaming Tender Restaurant, featuring Romanesque designs, textured and detailed heavy arches and stone blocks, a perfect backdrop for this railroad-themed restaurant.

We will resume our bus ride to the Pioneer Valley's Holyoke Mountain Range, arriving at

Atkins Farm Country Market in Amherst, a New England apple orchard and food market where they have been growing apples for more than 100 years and the home of world-famous Atkins apple cider donuts. We will have time to shop (think Christmas gift boxes, etc.), snack or buy from country-store style departments such as the butcher, the cheese maker, breads and other yummy-looking baked goods from the bakery department; candy, gift boxes such as jams, syrups, dressings and many more too numerous to mention! And there will be a couple mementos from the day for each traveler to take home.

For those who like a less strenuous day trip, this is the one. The amount of walking on this entire day's trip is limited, mostly to walking around the Farm Market.

To crown this enjoyable day away, our final destination is a bus drive-thru experience at Springfield's Forest Park, a two-and-a-half-mile dazzling display of 750,000 lights. With festive scenes, iconic characters, and peaceful gardens for displays including Seuss Land, Toy Land, Garden of Peace, Winter Woods (where the deer leap over the road), this light display is truly a "winter wonderland."

We will return to Paxton, arriving at 8 p.m. This trip is made possible by Wilson Bus Lines Motor Coach, and we appreciate Stephanie's efforts and success in scheduling these trips with and for us.

Tour cost is \$129. Payment for the Monday, Dec. 8 trip is due Monday, Nov. 17. Payments are non-refundable unless ticket can be resold. For reservations, call Deb Grensavitich at 508.754.6366 or email her at grensavitich@aol.com. Please make payments to Paxton FCOA and mail them to Deb Grensavitich at 88 Laurel St., Paxton, MA 01612-1234. Thank you.

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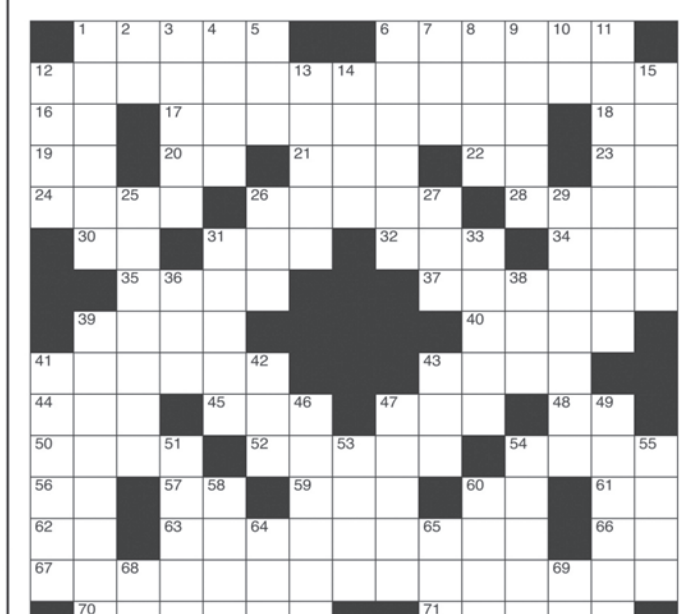
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**CLUES ACROSS**

- |                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Martial arts in China          | 40. Attack suddenly               |
| 6. The butt of jokes              | 41. Aviators                      |
| 12. Nevertheless                  | 43. Make perfect                  |
| 16. Sportscastr Michaelis         | 44. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)        |
| 17. A firm believer               | 45. Neither                       |
| 18. Atomic #18                    | 47. The center of a city          |
| 19. One's bestie                  | 48. Sacrifice hit in baseball     |
| 20. Of I                          | 50. Singer Redding                |
| 21. Hamburger accessory           | 52. Dragged forcibly              |
| 22. Thus                          | 54. Puncture with a knife         |
| 23. Partner to Pa                 | 56. Belonging to me               |
| 24. Scottish tax                  | 57. Expresses surprise            |
| 26. Cuts away                     | 59. Haul                          |
| 28. Require                       | 60. The Golden State              |
| 30. Government lawyer             | 61. Biblical Sumerian city        |
| 31. Own (Scottish)                | 62. Integrated circuit            |
| 32. Body cavity                   | 63. Opposed to certain principles |
| 34. Brew                          | 66. Sodium                        |
| 35. Young woman (French)          | 67. Qualities                     |
| 37. Platforms                     | 70. Walk                          |
| 39. Pair of points in mathematics | 71. It awaits us all              |

**CLUES DOWN**

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. Ate quickly                             | 33. Small evergreen Arabian tree |
| 2. Peyton Manning's alma mater             | 36. Something fugitives are "on" |
| 3. Moves through water                     | 38. 007's creator                |
| 4. Run away from                           | 39. Paintings on hinged panels   |
| 5. Utah resident                           | 41. Type of bomb                 |
| 6. Natural objects                         | 42. Japanese classical theater   |
| 7. Children's game                         | 43. U.S. gov't department        |
| 8. Obligation to prove                     | 46. Flightless bird              |
| 9. Ancient Greek building for performances | 47. One who cuts wood or stone   |
| 10. Soldier                                | 49. Buttock and thigh together   |
| 11. Decorated                              | 51. A way to gather              |
| 12. Catches                                | 53. Body part                    |
| 13. Russell __, author                     | 54. Argentinian city             |
| 14. Speak indistinctly                     | 55. Undergarments                |
| 15. Students get them                      | 58. Jai __, sport                |
| 25. Japanese warrior                       | 60. Container for shipping       |
| 26. Dessert                                | 64. Type of screen               |
| 27. Doleful                                | 65. Get free of                  |
| 29. Most cushy                             | 68. Indicates position           |
| 31. Moon crater                            | 69. Business department          |

**PUZZLE SOLUTION**



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### OCTOBER 17-24

**Friday, Oct. 17**  
Library by lantern, a tale and some rhyme, East Brookfield's readers meet at story time — 10:30 a.m., soft chairs, bright eyes, where autumn adventures and laughter arise.

**Saturday, Oct. 18**  
Crafts and creations, a fall-time parade, East Brookfield Library's craft fair is made — From 9:30 till noon, with yarns and delight, you'll find treasures glowing in October light.

Spencer's fields hum with farmers and cheer, Apple cider flows—it's harvest time here. From the Common to Mechanic, all morning long, the town feels stitched together in one bright song.

**Sunday, Oct. 19**  
Hymns drift through Leicester's crisp chapel air, choirs rehearsing with love and repair. Community meal at 1 p.m. sharp, warm stew, soft rolls, and kindness of heart.

**Tuesday, Oct. 21**  
Knitters unite at East Brookfield's hall, stitching their stories from summer to fall. Fiber Arts Group meets at 9:30 a.m., where needles click softly—like calm little gems.

**Wednesday, Oct. 22**  
At the Merriam-Gilbert Library in West Brookfield, 6:30 p.m.—a history field! Talks of old roads and stories retold, as candlelight flickers through memories bold.

**Thursday, Oct. 23**  
Story Pals gather at 3:30 p.m. bright, East Brookfield Library, their laughter takes flight. Older kids crafting with stories in hand, learning that tales make the best autumn plans.

**Friday, Oct. 24**  
Under moonlight in North Brookfield green, ghost tales whisper where townsfolk convene. The Historical Society hosts "Voices of Yore," 6 p.m.—chills, cider, and legends galore!

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

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**SPENCER NEW LEADER**  
PUBLISHED BY  
**STONEBRIDGE PRESS**  
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER  
FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
860-928-1818 EXT. 103  
frank@salmonpress.news

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

**OPERATIONS DIRECTOR**  
JIM DI NICOLA  
508-764-6102  
jim@stonebridgepress.news

**EDITOR**  
BRENDAN BERUBE  
508-909-4101  
news@stonebridgepress.news

**PRODUCTION MANAGER**  
JULIE CLARKE  
508-909-4105  
julie@villagenewspapers.com

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

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# Bay Path LPN launches new chapter after 17 years of compassionate care



Delene Sarsfield

as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) into this next chapter of her professional life—one defined by dedication to both her patients and her family.

Sarsfield recently passed the NCLEX-PN on her first attempt—a milestone she describes as “the greatest reward for all the hard work throughout nursing school.” Her success comes after completing Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy’s intensive ten-month program, all while navigating the challenges of being a first-time mother.

“My biggest challenge besides the rigorous curriculum... was ‘mom guilt,’” she shared. “As a new mother to a very young baby, I felt so guilty leaving her behind... but I had to do this for her, as well as for myself.” Sarsfield says her daughter remains her strongest motivation: “She is fiercely my driving force behind anything that I do—to set an example that any goal is achievable with honesty, diligence, and never giving up on your dreams.”

Before entering the practical nursing program, Sarsfield built a solid foundation in patient care, working at local facilities including CareOne at Millbury and Sterling Village. Her nearly two decades as a CNA deepened her empathy and commitment to providing the highest standard of care.

At Bay Path, Sarsfield stood out as a student leader and academic achiever. She was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society, elected as Student Representative and Commencement Speaker, and nominated for the prestigious Dr. Adelina Healy Clinical Excellence Award. She also held a leadership role in the UNICEF Club and served on the school’s Mock Code Team, demonstrat-

ing her commitment to both global and clinical health initiatives.

Sarsfield credits her success to a strong support system. Her mother, a nurse with nearly 30 years of experience, has been a guiding light. She also expresses deep gratitude to her in-laws and her husband, Daniel.

“I’m especially thankful for my wonderful, faith-filled husband, Daniel,” she said. “He’s always shown me integrity, kindness, patience, and love. He believed in me even when I struggled to believe in myself, and we’ve walked this journey hand in hand.”

As she prepares to begin her nursing career at The Overlook, Sarsfield brings clinical expertise in medication administration, wound care, and tracheostomy

care—along with a deep sense of humility and an eagerness to continue learning. Her faith remains central to her path forward: “I enter this new profession with utmost humility, eagerness to learn, and always trusting in God and my faith.”

Sarsfield isn’t stopping here. She’s already planning her next step: enrolling in an LPN-to-BSN bridge program, reflecting her commitment to lifelong learning and professional growth.

Her message to others is simple but powerful: “It’s never too late to go back to school or learn something new. As long as you put in the effort, dedication, and hard work—you can achieve anything.”

CHARLTON — For longtime Charlton resident Delene Sarsfield, the journey to becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) has been one of

perseverance, passion, and purpose. A 2025 graduate of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Sarsfield brings 17 years of hands-on experience

## St. Carlo Acutis Parish to hold Christmas Fair

### Legion Auxiliary hosting Fall Harvest Festival & Bake Sale

NORTH BROOKFIELD — American Legion Auxiliary Unit 41 will host their annual fall craft fair and bake sale on Saturday, Oct. 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Join us at American Legion, Post 41, 163 N. Main St., N. Brookfield (located behind Subway), for local hand-crafted items, homemade baked goods, a white elephant table and great raffles!

### ATTENTION WEST BROOKFIELD RESIDENTS

## Hydrant Flushing

The West Brookfield Water Department will be flushing hydrants Oct 20th through Oct 31st, 2025 during the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Flushing will cause some disturbance in the water mains. The water may appear cloudy but will eventually dissipate.

*Please plan water use accordingly.*

### NOTICE

## HYDRANT FLUSHING TOWN OF SPENCER

The Town of Spencer Water Department will be flushing fire hydrants throughout the eastern part of the distribution system starting October 1<sup>st</sup> thru October 24<sup>th</sup> 2025.

Flushing removes sediment from the water mains to help maintain water quality. When the Water Department staff is in the immediate area, residents could experience loss of pressure and short periods of rusty water. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. A daily list of the flushing locations will be posted on the Spencer town website [www.spencerma.gov](http://www.spencerma.gov) each day by 8:00AM (click on Departments, then click Water Department, then click Hydrant Flushing 2025). If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact the Spencer Water Department office at 508-885-7525. Thank you.

NORTH BROOKFIELD — St. Carlo Acutis Parish Christmas Fair will be held at St. Joseph’s Church Hall, 296 North Main St., North Brookfield, Saturday, Nov. 1, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Enjoy a bake sale, handmade crafts, jewelry, and raffles galore! Lunch is served from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., featuring homemade soups, great sandwiches, and delicious homemade apple pie. Come one, come all! Hope to see you there!

TOWN ORDERED

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# Idea in the mind!

Andrew Carnegie was born on Nov. 25, 1835, in Dunfermline, Scotland. In 1848, his family crossed the Atlantic and squeezed into a single rented room near Pittsburgh. Machines had wiped out his father's weaving trade. His mother took in mending and sold bread to keep them alive.

No money. No connections. Schooling cut short. Odds of success? Near zero.

At 13—before child labor laws or safety nets—he was expected to earn a living. He worked from dusk till dawn for

POSITIVELY  
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TOBY  
MOORE

\$1.20 a week. Just enough to keep the rent paid.

He clawed his way to a telegraph office—first as a messenger; then as an operator, sending messages across the wire faster than any train.

It opened a door to the Pennsylvania Railroad. There, for the first time, he saw the inner workings of power. He watched the men at the top. He took notes. And somewhere along those tracks, he made a quiet decision:

He wouldn't just ride the rails—he'd own them.

He moved forward with that idea, built a steel empire, and became the wealthiest man alive.

Carnegie then turned to a bigger question: What creates success?

In 1908, he met a young reporter named Napoleon Hill and dared him to find the answer. He opened doors to tycoons and inventors, told Hill to study them, and to write the playbook.

Years later, Hill delivered it—first in "The Law of Success," then in "Think and Grow Rich." That book went on to sell over 70 million copies—and it's still reprinted and read around the world.

Of all the ideas Carnegie gave Hill, one grips me most. He reportedly said:

"Any idea that is held in the mind—emphasized, feared, or revered—begins at once to clothe itself in the most convenient and appropriate form."

Burn that into your mind!  
Let's break it down.

"Any idea held in the mind..."  
What does it mean to hold an idea?

It means you keep it alive. You see it in your mind every day. You write it down. You say it out loud. You paste it on your fridge. You carve time for it. You take small, doable steps now—not later.

"...Emphasized, feared, or revered..."

To emphasize means to want it deeply. You think about it often. You're willing to give up comforts and distractions to chase it.

To fear it means the right kind of fear—the voice that whispers, "If I don't act, this dream will die." It gets you out of bed. It drives you to do the hard thing first.

To revere it means to honor it. You treat it like a calling. You protect it from doubt, from cynics, from your own excuses.

"...begins at once to clothe itself in the most convenient, appropriate form."

What happened to Carnegie when his dream began to clothe itself? The world began to respond. A skill put him near railroad men. A boom in demand met him on the tracks. A new way to make steel found him. Partners appeared. Doors opened. Setbacks drove him forward.

The idea became motion, then matter. It put on names, places, timing, and tools—until it wasn't an idea anymore. It was his life.

Now you ask: When will my dream happen?

When farmers plant seeds, they don't demand a harvest tomorrow. They water. They weed. They walk the rows before sunrise. They fight off the pests, mend broken fences, pray for rain, and rise again.

When a child is conceived, no mother asks, "Why isn't the baby born yet?" She nourishes it for nine months, knowing its time will come.

So it is with your dream.

One of the great teachers of human potential, Bob Proctor, taught that you may not know a dream's gestation time, but you can shorten it through focus and concentration.

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## 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. WO25C0513CA  
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

In the matter of:  
**Sohpie Michelle Dufresne**  
A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by  
**Sohpie Michelle Dufresne** of North Brookfield MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Sohpie Grace Dufresne**  
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10 a.m. on the return day of 10/28/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: October 02, 2025  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
October 17, 2025

(SEAL)  
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT**  
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT  
22 SM 001264  
**ORDER OF NOTICE**

TO:  
**Brian Blanchette**  
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):  
**Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.**

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in **East Brookfield, numbered 101 Howe Street**, given by **Brian Blanchette to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc. as nominee for Wintrust Mortgage, a division of Barrington Bank and Trust Co., N.A., dated December 30, 2015, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 54770, Page 330**, 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 **11/17/2025** or you may lose the opportunity to chal-

lenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.  
Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 10/3/2025  
Attest:  
Deborah J. Patterson Recorder  
RETURN ON ORDER OF NOTICE  
October 17, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Probate and Family Court**  
225 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608  
(508) 831-2200  
Docket No. WO19P2805EA  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

Estate Of:  
**Nancy Lagallo**  
Date of Death: 04/27/2019  
A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by **Mark Masiello** of Shrewsbury MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, 1st and other such 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 **10/28/2025**. 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. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: September 30, 2025  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
October 17, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Probate and Family Court**  
225 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608  
(508) 831-2200  
Docket No. WO25P3468EA  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:  
**Athena K Petsas**  
Date of Death: 11/12/2021  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Konstantinos T Petsas** of North Brookfield MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as

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 11/04/2025**.

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. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: October 6, 2025  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
October 17, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Probate and Family Court**  
225 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608  
(508) 831-2200  
Docket No. WO25P3467EA  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:  
**Debra Davis**  
Also known as: **Debra R Davis, Debra Robin Davis**  
Date of Death: 07/08/2025  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representat** has been filed by **Gabrielle A Olds of Gilbertville 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: **Gabrielle A Olds of Gilbertville MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court be-

fore: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/04/2025**. 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. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: October 6, 2025  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
October 17, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Probate and Family Court**  
225 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608  
(508) 831-2200  
Docket No. WO25P3386EA  
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE  
Estate Of: **Steven R. Corbin**  
Date of Death: 1/2/2025

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner  
**Andrea J. Cardin** of Spencer MA  
**Andrea J. Cardin** of Spencer MA has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
October 17, 2025



# DA to host upcoming event on holistic approaches to substance use disorder treatment and recovery

SHREWSBURY — Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr. is hosting a free event for the public focused on holistic approaches to substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and recovery on Thursday, Oct. 23, from 8 a.m. to noon at Veterans Inc., 59 South St., Shrewsbury.

This event, presented by the Prevention and Support Network, will feature keynote speaker Linda Geraghty, a trauma-informed yoga instructor and dedicated family recovery specialist prominently featured in the award-winning documentary "Our American Family."

Ms. Geraghty will share insights into the role of mindfulness, movement, and self-compassion when exploring generational addiction and trauma. Her work emphasizes the importance of integrating mind-body practices into traditional recovery pathways to promote long-term healing for individuals and families impacted by substance use disorder.

The event will also include a panel discussion featuring professionals in wellness, nutrition, and fitness, further exploring how holistic strategies can complement traditional recovery supports. Refreshments, networking, and resource tables will take place from 8 – 9 a.m. The program will begin promptly at 9 a.m.

District Attorney Early is dedicated to addressing the root causes and impacts of the polysubstance use crisis, as well as the effects of trauma, especially on children. In 2015, he formed the Central Massachusetts Opioid Task Force, now known as the Prevention and Support Network, which has more than 800 members in the network. Additionally, Mr. Early launched the Critical Incident Management Systems (CIMS) software in 2020, which allows police throughout Worcester County to track overdose incidents as they occur and promptly follow up with survivors to assist them in obtaining treatment. In 2021, Mr. Early also established the

Worcester County Drug Endangered Children's Alliance to identify and support children who have experienced a traumatic event. Federal grant funding was awarded in 2022 to support the expansion of the Alliance and the implementation of the Handle With Care programs in schools throughout the county, through which schools are notified by local police when a student has experienced a trauma such as viewing a drug overdose, enabling the school to reach out to the affected child.

Please register using the QR code provided on the flyer or visit the following link: <https://forms.office.com/g/sUPeVKYdBx>

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## WEEKLY POLICE BLOTTER

Spencer  
 The Spencer Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Oct. 1-8.

A 49-year-old male from Holden was taken into protective custody for intoxication on Oct. 3.

Anthony Vincent Dagostino, age 61, of Leicester was arrested on Oct. 7 for Operating Under the Influence (Liquor) and a Marked Lanes Violation.

Leicester  
 The Leicester Police Department reported the following arrests from Sept. 25 to Oct. 8.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Sept. 25 for operating an Uninsured and Unregistered Motor Vehicle.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Sept. 26 for operating an Uninsured and Unregistered Motor Vehicle.

Derek Paul Gallant, age 47, of Paxton was arrested on Sept. 26 for Operating Under the Influence (Liquor), Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, a Marked Lanes Violation, operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle, and Failure to Signal.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Sept. 28 for Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Possession of an Open Container of Alcohol in a Motor Vehicle, and an Equipment Violation (Miscellaneous).

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Sept. 29 for operating an Uninsured Motor Vehicle and operating a motor vehicle after suspension of registration.

Elizabeth A. Lemanski, age 45, of Worcester was arrested on Oct. 2 for Failure to Appear in Court After Release.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Oct. 3 for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle and operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Oct. 3 for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle.



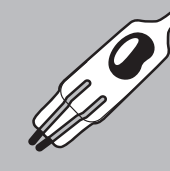
Peter J. Nally, age 69, of Leicester was arrested on Oct. 3 for Operating Under the Influence (Liquor-second offense), Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, a Marked Lanes Violation, and Possession of an Open Container of Alcohol in a Motor Vehicle.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Oct. 4 for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle and driving at a rate of speed exceeding the posted limit.


Jason A. Lavalley, age 49, of Cherry Valley was arrested on Oct. 8 in connection with a warrant.

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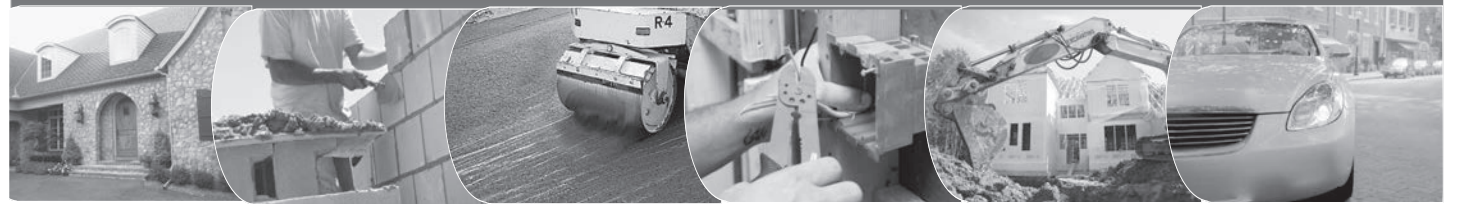
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# United Way of South Central MA kicks off 2025 Campaign, "United is the Way"

REGION — More than 130 years ago, a small group came together with the big idea that sparked the first United Way: communities get more done when we work as one. United Way Worldwide has once again been recognized on the Chronicle of Philanthropy's America's Favorite Charities list, which ranks the U.S. nonprofits that raise the most in gifts of cash and stock. The list identifies cause-driven organizations that most successfully earn direct financial support from individuals, foundations, and corporations.

This year, United Way Worldwide was ranked first

on the list. As a member of United Way Worldwide, United Way of South Central MA carries the vision of communities working together forward, creating pathways to better health, education, and job opportunities for all. We connected more than 19,000 people to resources and opportunities this past year alone. We are inviting you to take action because United is the Way to a better tomorrow. It's the way we support our neighbors facing challenges today. It's the way we create lasting change for all the residents of Charlton, Dudley, Southbridge, Sturbridge, and Webster. When

people like you come together, your generosity is multiplied by the power of community. Together, we can improve access to quality health insurance, education and care, support youth success from childhood through college and career, open pathways to financial freedom for individuals and families, and connect people to urgent resources, from social services to disaster relief.

Join us in shaping a thriving future for South Central MA. For more information or to donate, please visit our Web site, [www.uwscm.org](http://www.uwscm.org).

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The U8, U10, and U14 Leicester Spencer Raider cheer teams all claimed first place at Bay state Bash on Oct. 11. All three teams are headed to locals this Saturday.



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**FRANK G. CHILINSKI**  
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

**BRENDAN BERUBE**  
EDITOR

**EDITORIAL**

# Have a little more patience at the crosswalk

You can tell a lot about a town by the way it drives. Not its vehicles or speed limits, but its temperament—the little courtesies that make up the rhythm of local life. In Spencer and the Brookfields, we share narrow roads that ask for more than asphalt; they ask for cooperation.

There are, however, times when that cooperation has been tested. Days when the morning lines at the lights stretch longer than usual. Horns have grown sharper. A few impatient turns at intersections have nearly undone what small towns do best—trust one another to slow down.

It sounds trivial until it isn't. The crosswalk by the post office, the school zone near the fields, the jogger rounding a corner—these aren't city blocks with layers of signals and sensors. They're shared spaces where awareness is the difference between routine and regret. The roads here weren't built for hurry. They were built when a horse cart's pace suited both man and neighbor.

Patience, like road paint, fades with time if we don't reapply it. The courtesy of a wave, a pause to let someone merge, a decision to wait one more beat before turning—these are small acts that protect the larger idea of community. When we lose them, even briefly, it shows.

Town officials can post all the signage they want. The police can remind us about speed limits until the ink wears thin. But the real difference comes from people who decide to drive as if they actually live here. Because they do.

Autumn, with its fog and early sunsets, will test that patience even more. School buses pause in awkward places. Leaves slick the turns by the cemetery. The sun hits Route 9 at the exact angle to blind even the best of us. It's the season when we need each other's attention most—and the one when tempers rise the fastest.

The fix isn't a campaign or an ordinance. It's a mindset. Slower roads make safer towns. And safer towns, in the end, make calmer lives. We like to say we know our neighbors—but that means little if we treat the next car like an obstacle instead of a person who might be on their way to the same grocery store, the same school pickup, the same warm house.

So maybe this week, the best civic act isn't at a meeting or ballot box. Maybe it's simply stopping for someone who's waiting to cross. A wave through the windshield can feel like the friendliest handshake in town.

After all, if we can't share the road, how do we expect to share anything else?

## 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

### Question answered

To the Editor:

Do you ever wonder how seemingly rational people get duped into working against their best interests? We have already seen this in red states with the lowest income, worst educated populations, who have still not learned that doing the same thing over and over but expecting different results is a fool's errand.

There is no better illustration of this than the polling of post WWII Germans. Discontent opened the way for the brown shirt movement, and blaming other identifiable minorities for the nation's ills, clearing the way for the SS, death camps and the societal fear of pushing back.

MAGA may be a great logan, like Christian nationalism, but neither could be or act further from the goals they claim to espouse. George Carlin's tongue in cheek comment "Travel to strange new lands, meet new people, then kill them and steal their land" is an inconvenient truth we tend to overlook. My ancestors came here from England to New England in 1634. Even this migration does not change Carlin's original truth. Since we already own Boardwalk and Park Place, breaking into this Monopoly Game, guarantees brutal and disastrous outcomes for recent arrivals, no matter how dire the circumstances they left behind.

These are the pickers and packers, landscapers, construction workers and maids, necessary to pay the rentals on your houses and hotels, because when nobody can afford to, it is game over. Do not be distracted by stock market or published economic num-

bers (especially when info is suspect). Here are the realities. How long must you work to pay your bills? This is the only true measure of what a dollar is worth. Even if you set aside the tax penalty (tariffs penalize you for doing any business outside the USA), what kind of judgement uses that money to subsize countries now selling the soy you can't to your former customers and bailing out the big guys while letting them buy up most family farms?

The guy who claimed to save us from dealers, rapists and thugs, has masked 31,000 thugs who grab any non-white, suspected immigrant, without warrants, due process or any deference to immigration status. These are Trumps version of the SS, and because of their unpopularity, he is deploying military to protect them or to clean parks, leaving the employers patriotic enough to employ them in the lurch, all on our tab. Is this anyone's idea of government efficiency?

If you really think that Trump using the DOJ as his personal hit squad, also on your dime, and you think the GOP Boy Scout, former FBI director is the problem, I submit, that you are, and need to stop buying the distractions that the criminal POTUS, who should never have held any Federal office again if his Packed SCOTUS read section #3 of the Fourteenth Amendment. He is getting away with them exempting him from prosecution as being his licence to ignore all laws and his oath of office. If you actually still believe the Dems are the problem, keep drinking the Kool-Aid.

KEN KIMBALL  
BROOKFIELD

## On Day 266, what America thinks of Trump and his administration

To the Editor:

The Economist Magazine, published since 1843, has a high level of respect throughout the world. Overall Pro - American and conservative, with the well regarded survey organization YouGov, it publishes week to week survey results and updates of what people in the United States think of the Trump Administration,

On Oct. 13, day 266 of the Trump Administration, its' results include the following:

"The president's net approval rating is -16 percent down 0.7 points since last week. Thirty-nine percent approve, 56 percent disapprove, 4 percent not sure."

"In the nine months since he took office Donald Trump as set in motion a dramatic transformation of American Government. He has tried by executive fiat (or announcement) to reshape its (our American) trade arrangements, Immigration system, work force and foreign policy. He... and his Justice Department ... attack universities, the legal profession, the press and various businesses. Americans by and large have taken a dim view of his actions."

"Americans are not just disappointed with how he has handled bread and butter issues such as inflation and the economy They also don't like his approach that were central to his appeal , like immigration (as in ICE raids) and crimes (as in sending American soldiers in cities that did not ask for or want them)."

From the beginning of the Trump administration to the most recent Economist You Gov poll, in the key subjects, "approval" results include

- Inflation from plus 5 percent approval to minus 29 percent approval
- Health care from minus 5 percent approval to minus 21 percent approval
- Jobs and the economy from 10 percent approval to -19 percent approval
- Immigration from 10 percent approval to minus 8 percent approval
- Crime from plus 11 percent approval to minus 6 percent approval

By population, almost all types of Americans mostly disapprove of the Trump and his administration are doing:

- males and females,
- people of all ages,
- people of all levels of education and
- people of all races (including Whites if by 1 percent).

From this, I suggest two "take-aways."

First, when you read or hear that only "Radical Leftists" oppose Trump, that means that the majority of all Americans must be "Radical Leftists"

Second Trump, his administration etc. don't care what Americans think. Unless we peacefully protest and vote, change the direction America will continue down the road to ruin devastation and ruin.

KEVIN KANE  
SPENCER

## Oktoberfest

To the Editor:

Oktoberfest is the world's largest festival. It has grown worldwide over the past 200 years. The first celebration took place in Munich, Germany on Oct. 12, 1810, at a royal wedding between Crown Prince Ludwig and Princess Therese. It's a celebration of Bavarian heritage.

This event was the inspiration for a world class celebration. Men wore lederhosen, traditional leather trousers or knee-high shorts, checkered or plain white long sleeve shirts. Women wore a dirndl, and a blouse, high waisted full skirt and apron. The worldwide program draws more than six million visitors each year. The first festival included a horse race and parade.

At an Oktoberfest, you will find parades, costumes, singing, polka dancing, amusement rides, contests, church services. Authentic food during Oktoberfest are pretzels, roast chicken, bratwurst, pork knuckles and sausage. With lots of beer. The original Oktoberfest was from Oct.

12 to Oct. 18. To take advantage of the good weather, Oktoberfest dates are now Sept. 25 to Oct. 5. The largest Oktoberfest in the United States is held in Cincinnati, Ohio, with over 700,000 people in attendance.

Octobertest is called Wiesn, in honor of Princess Therese. However, the one word, a good word that describes and captures the essence of the true feeling and meaning of the celebration of Oktoberfest worldwide is Gemutlichkeit. Yes, Gemutlichkeit. A genuine feeling of being comfortable, pleasant. It really captures the feeling of goodwill, warmth, coziness, hospitality and good cheer. Let's do it!

With a Bavarian beer in one hand and moving your body to a polka, surrounded with friends and loved ones, having a broad smile on our face, saying with a loud voice: "Happy Oktoberfest! It's Gemutlichkeit time. Let's celebrate!"

DONALD L. GAUDETTE, SR.  
SOUTH HADLEY (FORMERLY OF  
BROOKFIELD)

## Open enrollment: What to know before you enroll



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For many people, fall brings an important opportunity: open enrollment. While it may not sound as exciting as planning for the holidays, taking a careful look at your workplace benefits now could save you hundreds or even thousands of dollars next year.

Open enrollment is the period when you will choose your medical and other workplace benefits for the year ahead. Most employers hold it in the fall, with elections taking effect in January. Once the window closes, you usually can't make changes unless you experience a major life event like marriage, divorce, the birth of a child or when a dependent has become an emancipated adult.

While it may be easy to simply renew last year's choices, that could be a costly mistake. Your employer's plans, providers or costs may have changed. It's also possible your own circumstances are different than they were a year ago — for example, if you had a baby, got married or expect new medical needs. Taking a fresh look helps ensure your benefits match your life today.

Here are a few tips for navigating open enrollment.

Compare health plans carefully. Employers often offer more than one health, dental or vision option. Look at differences in provider networks, prescription coverage and premiums. If you and your spouse both have coverage options, compare plans across employers. Just be mindful that some companies charge a fee if you enroll a partner who has their own workplace coverage. Many plans offer wellness discounts on monthly premiums based on your personal health condition.

Check your life insurance. Many employers provide a base level of life insurance, with the option to buy more. If your family has grown or your financial responsibilities have increased, now is the time to make sure you have enough coverage to protect your loved ones.

Consider disability coverage. A short-term disability plan can help cover income gaps for up to 12 months during recovery from surgery, illness, or childbirth. Long-term disability insurance offers protection if you're unable to work again for an extended period up to age 65. Ideally, coverage should replace up to 60% of your pre-tax income.

Understand supplemental options. Some employers also offer accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) insurance. While it can provide peace of mind, remember that it's not a substitute for life or disability insurance, since it only covers specific accidents.

Take advantage of tax-friendly accounts. Flexible spending accounts (FSAs) and health savings accounts (HSAs) let you use pretax dollars for eligible medical expenses. If you have young children or other dependents, ask whether your employer offers a dependent care FSA to help offset care costs. Note that these are use-it-or-lose-it, so contribute only what you expect to spend every year. HSAs, available with high-deductible health plans, are more flexible since unused funds roll over from year to year and can even serve as long-term savings.

Review your retirement savings. While your retirement plan usually isn't part of open enrollment, this is a good time to revisit it. Make sure you're contributing enough to earn your employer's match. Small increases can make a big difference over time.

Open enrollment may not be the most thrilling item on your fall to-do list, but it could be one of the most important. Taking a little time now to review your employee group benefits could give you greater financial security and extra savings throughout the year.

*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.*



# Thrift shop finds



Many readers of this column enjoy attending estate sales or stopping when they see a “yard sale” sign. Some of you also like hunting for bargains at estate sales. In today’s column, I’ll share some exciting thrift shop, estate sale, and yard sale finds that took place this year, along with some shipwreck treasures that were recently discovered.

Some thrift shop buyers post their finds online on Reddit, and Yahoo! News recently shared a few. One buyer paid \$40 for a gold ring that was estimated to be worth \$162. Elsewhere, a Canadian woman found a diamond and pearl ring in a “store grab bag” from a Canadian thrift store which could also sell in the low hundreds of dol-

lars. Another thrift store buyer found a diamond ring in a “bulk trash pile.” The diamond ring could sell in the low to mid-hundreds.

An estate sale buyer recently found the sale of their dreams, according to a “Newsweek” article. The estate sale buyer/dealer posted live on social media when they were allowed inside the garage door at an estate sale. They said they were the third person to enter the sale and there were about 200 people waiting to come in. The dealer posted images of a statue which was titled “Dying Gaul” priced at \$8. There



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES  
WAYNE TUISKULA

was what looks to be a Victorian era figural incense burner marked for \$5. The buyer said that they bought a Chinese vase for \$1 and had already been offered \$2,500 for it. The dealer estimated that their \$3,000 in purchases would yield \$30,000.

An Ohio couple had a great unexpected find when they decided to stop at a thrift shop while driving home. As they were leaving the shop, a gold frame caught the woman’s eye, according to the “U.S. Sun.” She purchased it for \$2.90. When she got in the car, she noticed a label that said “Johann Berthelsen.” She at first thought Berthelsen was

a local painter, but her research later showed he was a well-known artist. She consigned it to a local auction house, and it brought \$2,267.

Switching gears to the seas, coins from a 1715 Spanish shipwreck were just discovered in Florida, according to NBC News. Over 1,000 gold and silver coins were aboard the ship when a hurricane sank it off “Florida’s Treasure Coast.” The coins include pieces of eight, which could be broken into eight pieces and then spent individually. The coins are estimated to be worth \$1 million. Other items like a gemstone and gold necklace were also pulled from the wreck. Whether you’re diving 100 feet down into the ocean or diving into a thrift store jewelry box, you may be lucky enough to find some treasures

too. Our single-collector Civil War memorabilia auction will be online later this month. There is still time to consign for our major auction that will follow. We are accepting consignments of gold, platinum, diamonds, and other fine jewelry, sterling silver flatware and holloware, paintings, statues, gold and silver coins, and other valuable antiques and collectibles. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to upcoming events.

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

# Collect and save some heirloom vegetable seeds

Be a part of history and save money when planting next year’s garden. Collect and save the seeds from your favorite heirloom tomatoes, peppers, beans and peas this fall.

Seeds of heirloom plants have been collected and passed along for generations, producing offspring identical to the parent plant. Hybrids on the other hand involve crossing different plants to create a unique or improved variety. Saved seeds from hybrid plants do not grow into plants with all the same characteristics as the parent plant.

Heirloom peas and beans are generally self-pollinated, so they form seeds that will grow into plants like the parent plant. Allow the peas and beans you plan on saving to dry on the plant. Once the pods turn brown and

the seeds rattle inside, they are ready to harvest. This is about six weeks after you harvest snap beans for eating and about four weeks after the normal picking stage for peas.

Protect plants from frost or pull them out of the ground and hang them in a cool dry location, so the pods can finish drying if needed. Remove the pods from the plants, spread them out and allow them to further dry indoors for about two weeks.

Remove the seeds from the dried pods, store in an airtight opaque container in a cool dark location. You may want to store different varieties separately in paper packets and all the packets in one large airtight container. Label the seeds with the varietal name and date they were collected. Store in a cool location.



GARDEN MOMENTS  
MELINDA MYERS

Saving seeds from tomatoes requires a bit different preparation. Once the fruit is fully ripe scoop out the gelatinous center. Place this in a container of water set in a warm location to ferment. Swirl or stir the contents twice a day. After about a week the good seeds will sink to the bottom of the container.

Remove and compost the layer of fermented tomato waste and the inferior seeds floating on the surface. Pour the remaining water and the good seeds sitting on the bottom of the container

through a fine mesh strainer. Rinse the seeds, removing any of the gelatinous material that may remain. Spread the seeds on a piece of paper to dry.

Once dry, place the seeds in an envelope labeled with the date and variety and set in a sealed jar or plastic container. Store in the refrigerator or other consistently cool location until it’s time to start them for next season.

Use your saved seeds the following year for the best results. Then repeat each season.

Start with these and then consider trying other open-pollinated vegetables, flowers and even tree and shrub seeds. You’ll find helpful information in books, online and on the Seed Savers Exchange website. Saving your own seeds



Melinda Myers

The disease-resistant Abe Lincoln heirloom tomato was introduced in Illinois in 1923.

can help you save money while preserving and planting a bit of gardening history.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener’s Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses

“How to Grow Anything” streaming courses and the nationally syndicated Melinda’s Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).



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**Kamren**  
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Kamren is a resilient and fun-loving boy with a bright, inquisitive nature. He has a wonderful ability to advocate for himself and share his needs, which speaks to his strength and self-awareness. Affectionate and engaging, Kamren's genuine happiness and warmth make him a joy to be around. He might even describe himself as "super fun and always ready to play!"

Kamren loves spending time outside, especially swinging and playing active games with others. He also enjoys building with Legos and exploring activities that engage his senses, such as sand, water, and playdough. These experiences allow him to be creative and adventurous in his own way.

When it comes to food, Kamren's favorites include waffles, pasta, and ice cream—and he'll never turn down a Sprite!

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/22660622673>

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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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**Brookfields Lions Club President Bill Cass presented two checks totaling \$500 on Oct. 6 to support the West Brookfield Police Association's upcoming Halloween and Christmas events. Pictured (left to right) are Sgt. Kendall Perrault, Association President Craig Charron, Bill Cass, and West Brookfield Chief Nathan Hagglund.**

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