



# SPENCER NEW LEADER

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Friday, August 1, 2025



Local guests take part in recent “Wild Bill Swim” fundraisers.

Courtesy

## Cool off for a cause at Wild Bill Swim and Paddle Challenge

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

BROOKFIELD — Local residents are invited to cool off for a cause at the fourth annual Wild Bill Swim and Paddle Challenge fundraiser.

Set for Saturday, Aug. 9, the event will take place from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Lake Quacumquasit (South Pond) in Brookfield. The celebration will start at the South Pond public beach.

Established by Jennifer Yorzyk-Triger in honor of her late father, Olympic gold medalist Dr. William “Bill” Yorzyk, the event continues to draw more

Turn To **WILD BILL** page **A13**

## Spencer Fair returns Labor Day weekend

SPENCER — Though it seems that summer only just began, the annual Spencer Fair is right around the corner.

The four-day Labor Day weekend fair is set to run from Aug. 29 through Sept. 1.

As always, the fair will feature a packed lineup of musical performances. These include special themed shows and several tribute bands.

Additionally, the event will offer a combination of beloved returning programs and exciting new offerings.

Multiple tractor pulls are on this year’s schedule, in addition to truck pulls and a demolition derby. Agricultural exhibits, contests, and competitions will also be offered, including the always popular display of giant pumpkins.

Also returning is a favorite for families and guests of all ages, the Midway, offering attendees thrilling rides and activities.

Meanwhile, several local vendors and growers are also scheduled to attend the fair.

General admission to the fair is \$18 per person (\$15 for advanced sales). Seniors, military members, and children ages seven to 12 will pay \$12.

Children under the age of seven will get into the fair free of charge.

Information on weekend passes and other special ticket options is available on the fair Web site.

No pets (except for service dogs) are allowed on the fairgrounds. Additionally, no large coolers or bags, weapons, or outside alcoholic beverages are allowed on site.

To learn more about the fair, including a full schedule of musical acts and competitions, visit [www.spencerfair.org](http://www.spencerfair.org).

Fair organizers thank all local sponsors for their support.

The fairgrounds are located at 48 Smithville Rd.

## Police officers to be honored for actions during recent calls

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Members of the Leicester Police Department will be honored next week for their actions taken during recent responses.

On Aug. 5, town officials will hold a recognition ceremony at 6 p.m. inside the Town Hall gymnasium.

LPD Det. Sgt. Matthew Brady, Det. Travis McCauley, Officer Ives Fisher, and K-9 Officer Matthew Fenuccio (and K-9 Cooney) will be honored for their actions during a July 6 pursuit of a carjacking suspect.

The incident began when a suspect on probation took a vehicle without permission from a residence in Clinton, striking several people and causing property damage.

Later that day, the same suspect carjacked a woman at a Dairy Queen in West Boylston, then fled the area in her stolen vehicle.

At approximately 7:45 p.m. that evening, Leicester Police officers were notified that members of the Worcester Police Department were pursuing the carjacking suspect in the stolen vehicle, heading west as it approached Leicester on Route 9. Leicester Police Sgt. Matthew

Brady observed the vehicle on Main Street in the area of Waite Street, then assumed the pursuit. A short time later, Detective Travis McCauley and Officer Ives Fisher also followed the vehicle.

The suspect traveled down Pleasant Street and eventually onto Hartwell Road in Oxford, police said.

“At that time, the vehicle turned around on another person’s front lawn, accelerated, and intentionally rammed Sgt. Brady’s cruiser on the driver’s side as he was attempting to exit, trapping him inside,” an LPD-issued statement read. “Det. McCauley and Officer Fisher immediately took the occupants into custody, detaining them for the West Boylston Police Department.”

LPD K-9 handler Matthew Fenuccio and K-9 Cooney also responded to the scene, as well as officers from Worcester, West Boylston, Oxford, and the Massachusetts State Police.

Also scheduled to be honored during next week’s ceremony is Officer Paul Pepin, who assisted two critically injured colleagues following a serious accident last month.

On July 10, Pepin was enjoying an off-duty motorcycle ride with fellow LPD Officers Edward

Santiago and Stephen Kustigian. While riding ahead of them on a road in Worcester, Pepin noticed that they were no longer behind him.

After reversing direction, Pepin observed that his colleagues had both been involved in a collision with another vehicle. He immediately rendered aid, including the application of a tourniquet, while waiting for the arrival of EMS personnel.

Pepin later visited his friends in the hospital to provide support and comfort for their families.

Both officers who were involved in the wreck are expected to be out of work for an extended period, police leaders said. The driver who struck the officers was arrested and charged with OUI.

Meanwhile, strong community support continues to pour in for the injured officers through donations. Please check out the police department’s social media pages for more information on how you can help.

The Aug. 5 program is also expected to include a pinning ceremony for Leicester’s newest police officer, Nicholas Wilson.

Local legislators and other area leaders have been invited to the program.

## LHS culinary students to serve public at new Wolverine Grill

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Set to open this fall, The Wolverine Grill will provide Leicester High School culinary arts students with a unique opportunity to serve the public.

The Wolverine Grill will be located at the old Leicester High/Middle School on Winslow Avenue, which now serves as the district’s Career Technical Education School (CTE).

The facility will represent a key component of the recently established culinary arts department at Leicester High School. Students will gain real-world, hands-on experience by serving the public from a newly renovated commercial kitchen.

“The public is invited to see first-hand the delicious menus selected and

prepared by Leicester High School students,” read a statement released by district leaders.

The exact date for the opening of the restaurant has not been announced. Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Brett Kustigian said guests can expect to see it open this fall.

“This is a first for LHS. Running a restaurant is sophisticated, and it requires strong financial and operational management,” Kustigian told the New Leader. “Fortunately, we have the support of the community and volunteers to help get it off the ground. I have no doubt The Wolverine Grill will be successful, as the culinary arts program is proving to be extremely popular with the students.”

Each Chapter 74 program must have a

Professional Advisory Committee (PAC), school officials explained. The PAC is a group of individuals who provide expert advice and recommendations to help guide the development and implementation of these programs.

The Leicester Culinary PAC is comprised of several local business professionals. These include Jeff Eller (owner of Eller’s Restaurant), Briana Azier (owner of Bri’s Sweet Treats), and Torr Byland (Deangelo’s owner), among many others.

These professionals are helping to inform decisions related to curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

Additionally, the CARE group of Leicester volunteered to clean and help decorate the restaurant



Courtesy

Turn To **WOLVERINE** page **A12**

A new educational facility will allow LHS students to serve members of the public at The Wolverine Grill.



# Fall River tragedy prompts demands for improved fire safety

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

REGION — In response to last month's deadly fire at a Fall River assisted living residence, state leaders have announced steps to enhance the safety of residents living in facilities across the Commonwealth.

A July 13 fire at Gabriel House, an assisted living residence (ALR) in Fall River, left 10 residents dead and dozens injured.

Firefighters and residents were among the injured, according to State Fire Marshal Jon Davine.

"What happened in Fall River is a horrible tragedy. Our hearts are with the families who lost loved ones and the first responders who saved so many others," said Gov. Maura Healey. "This is a moment to make sure that every assisted living residence is prepared to respond to emergencies and to protect the safety of their residents."

On July 21, the state's Executive Office of Aging and Independence – the agency tasked with ensuring that ALRs are in compliance with state regulations – launched a statewide initiative to ensure that all 273 ALRs across Massachusetts are prepared to protect residents during emergencies.

As part of the initiative, all ALRs must issue a letter to residents and families outlining fire safety protocols, evacuation procedures, and key points of contact for questions or concerns following an emergency.

Additionally, ALRs have been directed to ensure that evacuation instructions and exit routes are posted inside each resident's unit, as well as in common areas.

Furthermore, state officials will distribute a fire safety assessment survey that all ALRs must complete, reaffirming compliance with fire safety requirements such as sprinkler systems, fire drills, evacuation protocols, and maintenance of fire-rated doors and walls.

Providers will also report information on key systems within their buildings to help prioritize oversight.

Additionally, ALRs must submit a site-specific emergency preparedness plan to state officials.

"We are engaging every assisted living provider in this process. By requiring clear communication with residents and detailed reporting to the state, we are making sure resident safety is front and center – today and every day," said Office of Aging and Independence Secretary Robin Lipson. "Our entire team is committed to strengthening emergency readiness and improving standards across the assisted living sector in Massachusetts."

While state leaders commend providers for steps already taken to ensure safety, they insist that more can be done statewide.

"These immediate actions underscore our administration's commitment to protecting our vulnerable populations. We are working closely with providers, local officials, and families to put safety first and provide the peace of mind that residents deserve," said Massachusetts Health and Human Services Secretary Kiame Mahaniah.

The Office of Aging and Independence is also in the process of finalizing proposed amendments to strengthen regulatory requirements for ALRs.

The investigation into the cause of the Gabriel House fire is being conducted by the Bristol County District Attorney's Office, State Police detectives, the Fall River Fire Department, Fall River Police Department, and the State Police Fire Investigation Unit assigned to the State Fire Marshal's office.

"Investigators identified an oxygen concentrator and numerous smoking materials in the room of origin," read a statement released by the state's Department of Fire Services. "They developed hypotheses by which either of these could have ignited a fire, but were unable to test them. Tragically, the occupant of this room was among those who lost their lives on July 13, and investigators could not obtain an account of the fire in its beginning stages."

## P.E.T. of the Week

Sponsored by Leicester Veterinary Clinic, LLC

Meet Flash, a sweet guy who is in need of MCL surgery, which will be covered by Second Chance, and is looking for a foster or foster to adopt home. Due to his recovery needs, he is looking for a peaceful, quiet environment so he can rest and heal. He would do best in a home without other pets or young children. Flash can be nervous around new people, and it may take a few meetings for him to feel comfortable and build trust. However, once he opens up, his loving and affectionate nature will shine through, and you'll be rewarded with a loyal and sweet companion. If you're looking for a dog who will show his true colors with patience and care, Flash could be the perfect fit during his recovery journey.



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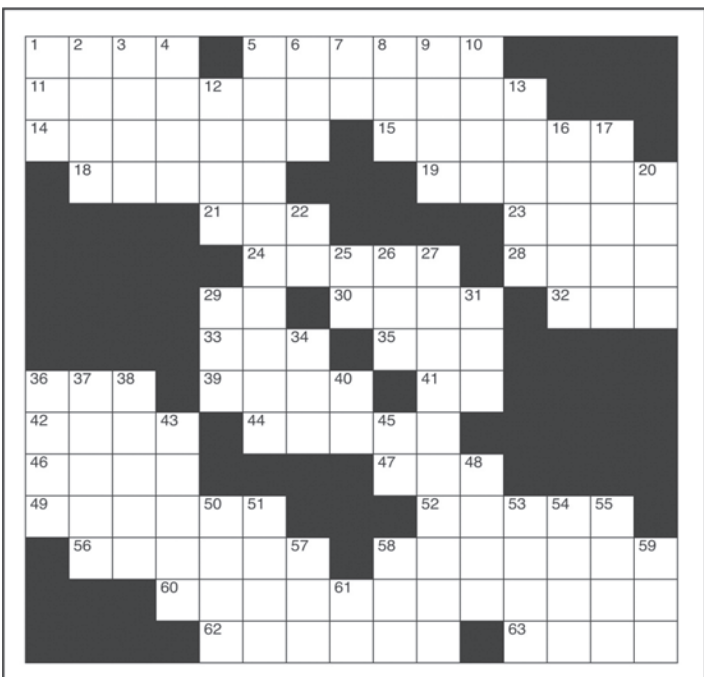


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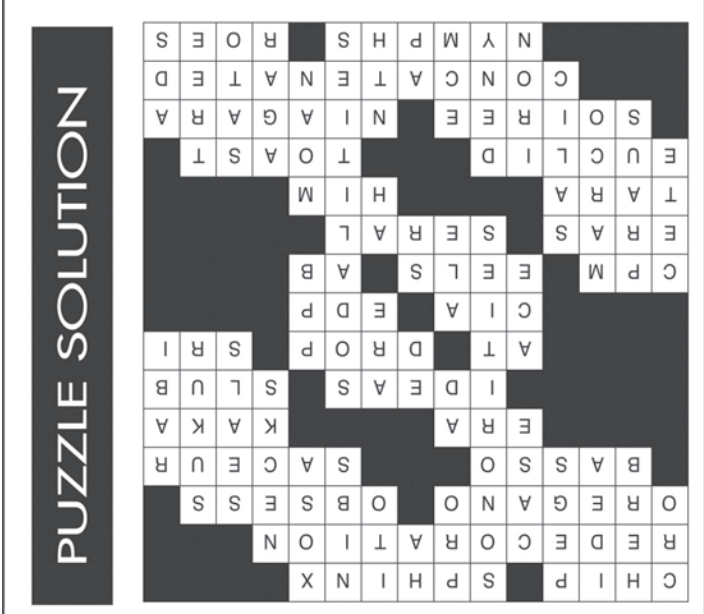


- ### CLUES ACROSS

  - 1. Popular potato snack
  - 5. Guards the Pyramids
  - 11. Furnish anew
  - 14. Herb
  - 15. Preoccupy the mind continually
  - 18. The lowest adult male singing voice
  - 19. NATO commander (abbr.)
  - 21. A major division of geological time
  - 23. New Zealand parrot
  - 24. Notions
  - 28. Lump in yarn
  - 29. Indicates position
  - 30. Lose hold of
  - 32. Hindu honorific
  - 33. Former OSS
  - 35. Electronic data processing
  - 36. Cost per mile
  - 39. Snake-like fish
  - 41. They start the alphabet
  - 42. Taylor Swift's tour
  - 44. Intermediate ecological stage
  - 46. Scarlet's home
  - 47. Of he
  - 49. Ohio city
  - 52. Breakfast item
  - 56. An evening party
  - 58. \_\_\_ Falls
  - 60. Linked together
  - 62. Mythological spirits
  - 63. Small Eurasian deer

- ### CLUES DOWN

  - 1. Earliest human form: \_\_\_ -Magnon man
  - 2. Flavoring
  - 3. Notion
  - 4. Bundy and Fenwick are two
  - 5. Qualities of sound
  - 6. One who gets paid
  - 7. Expresses surprise
  - 8. O.J. trial judge
  - 9. Pointed ends of pens
  - 10. Shield bugs genus
  - 12. Container for shipping
  - 13. Upper body parts
  - 16. Closes tightly
  - 17. Nigerian World Heritage Site
  - 20. Volcanic island in Fiji
  - 22. Commercial
  - 25. - \_ : denotes past
  - 26. They \_\_\_
  - 27. Confraternities
  - 29. A way to gain a point
  - 31. Parts per billion (abbr.)
  - 34. Brew
  - 36. Badgers group
  - 37. Sailing boat
  - 38. \_\_\_ Polo, explorer
  - 40. Elder citizen (abbr.)
  - 43. Frankish law code
  - 45. Exclamation of surprise
  - 48. Groan
  - 50. It presses clothing
  - 51. Do not allow
  - 53. Gelatinous substance
  - 54. Common Japanese surname
  - 55. Present in nature
  - 57. Electronic countermeasures
  - 58. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
  - 59. Commercial
  - 61. News agency



# Scholarship Scramble golf tournament set for Aug. 9

WEST BROOKFIELD — Sons of the American Legion, Post 244, West Brookfield, is hosting its 20th Annual "Scholarship Scramble" Golf Tournament on Saturday, Aug. 9. This 18-hole tournament begins with an 8 a.m. Shotgun start at Quail Hollow Country Club, Oakham.

A chicken dinner, raffles, and prizes will follow at the Legion Post 244 in West Brookfield.

Entry fee of \$120 per person must be received by Aug. 2, 2025. For more information, contact Kevin at 774 230-3262 or Gary at 508 450-8643.

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## SPENCER ALMANAC

### REAL ESTATE

**BROOKFIELD**  
\$610,000, 77 Rice Corner Rd, Mark & Tracey Simonelli Ft, and Simonelli, Mark J, to Rondina, Allan.

**EAST BROOKFIELD**  
None

**LEICESTER**  
\$650,000, 18 Water St, Pappas, Carol A, and Pappas, Gregory J, to Trujillo, Brendaliz, and Gonzalez, Danilkys.  
\$565,000, 214 Rawson St, Aguinada, Jose S, to Dwyer, Bruce, and Dwyer, Diane.  
\$425,000, 66 Virginia Dr #66, Clark Jr John F Est, and Clark, Lynn M, to Fontaine, Deborah L.  
\$365,000, 6 Atwood St, Marianna Duda T, and Perry, Hedy, to Soucie, Kevin.  
\$355,000, 29 Mayflower Rd, 29 Mayflower Road T, and Goodrich Mtn Lane LLC Tr, to Ngo, Quanglinh, and Ngo, Renee A.  
\$255,000, 40 Lakeview Dr, Mcmanus-Hazzard, Lee, and Hazzard, Mike, to Diesel Flips LLC.  
\$170,000, 14 Deer Pond Dr, Pianka, Zdzislaw, and Pianka, Katarzyna, to Krawczyk, Marek.

\$125,000, Breezy Green Rd, Foy, David P, and Foy, Alyssa J, to Oneil, Sean M, and Oneil, Lisa A.

**NORTH BROOKFIELD**  
\$455,000, 24 Mill Rd, Barrette, Richard P, to Mitchell Jr, John P, and Mitchell, Alicea R.

\$390,000, 2 Mccarthy Rd, Carboneau, Edward J, to Desrosiers, Leo, and Barrows, Lauren.  
\$360,000, 7 Fullam Hill Rd, Agualema, Luis D, and Zhau, Maria Y, to Rojas, Jennifer, and Nieves, Braulio V.

**SPENCER**  
\$800,000, 85 Hastings Rd, Miner, Allan R, and Miner, Wendy A, to Lyon, Stephen, and Lyon, Wendy.  
\$665,000, 10 Pauls Dr, Jahnke Construction LLC, to Maracallo, Angelica, and Maracallo, Alexander M.

\$450,000, 53 Oakland Dr, Swam, Danute M, and Swam, Robert J, to Morton, Kyle D, and Morton, Kelly T.  
\$350,000, 15 Depot Rd, Meloche, Catherine J, to Mehtala R, Jonathan G, and Mehtala, Wilhelmina A.  
\$300,000, 53 Chestnut St, Spencer Real Estate LLC, to Chestnut Op LLC.  
\$70,000, Brooks Pond Rd, Sielis, James, to F T Smith Trucking & Exca.

**WARREN**  
\$650,000, 326 Little Rest Rd, Day, Jacquelyn J, and Day, Ryan M, to Nordstrom-Ramos, Noelle, and Nordstrom-Ramos, Michael.  
\$319,000, 114 Southbridge Rd, Melanson, Richard J, and Melanson, Nancy B, to Canton, Donald.  
\$315,000, 37 Winthrop Ter, Benjamin, Paul V, and Benjamin, Jeanne H, to Whistlestop T, and Macdonald, Susan A.

**WEST BROOKFIELD**  
\$90,000, 46 Atwater Ave, William Henry King RET, and King, William H, to Perham, Donald H, and Perham, Doris J.



# QCC SUCCESS Scholar proves there's no one way to learn

WORCESTER — Local student Matthew Cronin is redefining success by turning personal obstacles into opportunities, thanks in part to the SUCCESS Scholars program at Quinsigamond Community College.

Cronin is part of QCC's SUCCESS Scholars program, a state-funded initiative that provides support for students facing systemic barriers. Since starting at QCC in the fall of 2023, Cronin has made the Dean's List and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Cronin cited the SUCCESS program as a factor in his impressive

academic performance.

"I used to struggle in school and people in my life told me I couldn't do it," Cronin shared. "Now, I'm using my disabilities as a superpower."

Growing up, Cronin's learning disabilities, including ADHD and auditory processing disorder, weren't properly addressed, which led to academic difficulties. After high school, he completed a small amount of training and worked in medical billing but desired a more fulfilling career.

Encouraged by staff at Genesis Clubhouse, a vocational and rehabilita-

tion program for individuals who live with mental illness, Cronin applied to QCC. What might have previously been out of financial reach became affordable to Cronin thanks to the implementation of MassReconnect, the state-funded program covering community college tuition and fees for students over 25 who haven't received a bachelor's degree.

Once enrolled at QCC, Cronin began meeting with a SUCCESS advisor. The program utilizes a case management approach focused on building relationships with students. The

SUCCESS advisor serves as a main contact to guide students through college processes and expectations, navigate challenges and connect them with key supports.

"Matthew's journey is a powerful reminder of the transformative impact of access, support and belonging. Programs like SUCCESS Scholars and MassReconnect are not just helping students stay in college — they're empowering students like Matthew to thrive, lead and inspire others along the way," said Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs Kevin Li.

In this newfound supportive environment, Cronin was able to explore his passions and joined the human services and deaf studies programs. Currently, Cronin is pursuing the path to become a social worker and an advocate, translating personal experiences into meaningful change. He is also interested in entrepreneurship and inspirational speaking.

"Matthew is such a good example of how to advocate for yourself and effectively utilize resources," said SUCCESS Scholars Academic Advisor Mallory Dutton. "Once he got his feet

firmly on the ground in college, his first instinct was to help other people see that this is possible for them too."

Cronin also recognized other QCC supports, such as the Student Accessibility Services (SAS) department, which has been instrumental to his achievements. SAS academic coaches have helped Cronin develop personalized strategies addressing time management and learning techniques. This, combined with his work in the SUCCESS Scholars program, has transformed his approach to education.

## Spencer summer concerts continue with the Deloreans

SPENCER — The Spencer Parks & Recreation Commission's 2025 Summer Concert Series features the Deloreans from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 3 at Powder Mill Park, corner Smithville and Meadow Roads, Spencer with.

The Deloreans is a seven-piece horn band that performs mostly pop, rock and soul hits of the '70s and '80s. The instrumentation is guitar, bass, drums, keyboards, sax, trumpet and trombone. Four members sing and create great harmonies and backups.

The series runs every Sunday through Aug. 24, and continues Aug. 10 with the Love Dogs.

The concert series is proudly sponsored by Cornerstone Bank. 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 provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts.



## Officials brace for peak mosquito-borne illness season

BY STAFF WRITER KEVIN FLANDERS

REGION — As we approach the peak season for West Nile virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), area residents are urged to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites.

Last month, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) announced the first confirmed animal case of WNV in 2025. A goat was exposed to WNV in Lunenburg in Worcester County, officials said.

"With this evidence of an animal infected with West Nile virus, we know that there are the right conditions and enough disease circulating to result in a human infection," said Public Health Commissioner Robbie Goldstein. "The elevated temperatures, combined with high humidity, increase mosquito activity."

WNV and EEE are both spread to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. Last year, due to excessive rainfall, saw several local communities placed at elevated risk for human infections.

While EEE can infect people of all ages, individuals under 15 years of age or over 50 are at greatest risk for serious illness. Symptoms of EEE include high fever, muscle pain, headaches, and seizures. Symptoms can occur up to two weeks after a person is bitten by an infected mosquito.

WNV can cause fever, headaches, and rashes. The illness can sometimes be serious or fatal.

Thus far, there have been no human cases of WNV detected in Massachusetts. There were 19 human cases of WNV recorded in 2024.

One of the best ways to protect your family against mosquitoes is to avoid outdoor activities during peak mosquito hours from dusk to dawn. If you must be outside during these hours, be sure to apply insect repellent and maximize clothing coverage of exposed skin.

Residents can also reduce the number of mosquitoes around their homes by draining sources of standing water. Mosquitoes often lay their eggs in small pools, wheelbarrows, rain gutters, and drains. Residents are advised to frequently empty flowerpots and wading pools, in addition to changing the water in birdbaths daily.

It is also important to make sure that window and door screens fit tightly. Screens with holes or openings should be replaced, officials said.

Local officials will post additional resources and updates on conditions within respective communities throughout the late summer and fall months.

Residents are also urged to take steps to protect their pets from mosquitoes.

"Animals that live outdoors are at somewhat higher risk from arboviruses than humans who spend more time indoors," said State Epidemiologist Dr. Catherine Brown. "But the weather this summer is creating the opportunity for it to be a busy WNV season, and it is important to take steps to prevent mosquito bites."

Additional information about EEE and WNV, as well as reports of current and historical virus activity in Massachusetts, can be found by visiting [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov).



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Left to right: Todd Tallman, Cornerstone Bank CEO; Colleen Lord, VP Senior Market Manager; Melissa and George Victo, Founders of Cole W. Victor Memorial Foundation; Moola (mascot).



Todd Tallman, Cornerstone Bank CEO; Colleen Lord, VP Senior Market Manager; Michelle Hart, Founder of B.O.S. Inc.; Moola (mascot).

# Cornerstone Bank’s Spencer branch Customer Appreciation Day a heartfelt celebration of community and giving

SPENCER — Cornerstone Bank’s Customer Appreciation Day, held Saturday, July 12, at its newly renovated Spencer Branch, was more than just a celebration; it was a meaningful show of gratitude and community support that included \$10,000 in charitable dona-

tions to two local nonprofits. The festive, family-friendly event welcomed community members to the branch for a morning filled with games, giveaways, complimentary ice cream from Suzy Q’s Ice Cream Truck and photos with Moola the Cash Cow. The highlight of the day was a special donation presentation, during which Cornerstone Bank awarded \$5,000 checks to two deserving Spencer-based organizations.

The recipients were: Beautifying Oncology Spa Services (B.O.S. Inc.) to support its mission of providing free spa and hair services to individuals undergoing chemotherapy or radiation treatment. The nonprofit helps restore confidence and well-being to those facing the physical and emotional challenges of cancer. Cole W. Victor Memorial Foundation Inc., which honors the memory of Cole Victor, a beloved local resident, and has made a lasting impact on the Spencer community through initiatives such as a new public park gazebo and scholarships for local students.

“This day was all about giving back to

our customers, our neighbors and the organizations that make Spencer such a special place,” said Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank. “The turnout was incredible, and we were especially honored to support these two nonprofits doing such meaningful work in our community.”

The event also marked the public unveiling of the branch’s modern

renovations, designed with comfort and convenience in mind, reflecting Cornerstone Bank’s continued commitment to serving customers and investing in the communities it calls home.

Cornerstone Bank thanks all who attended and looks forward to continuing its tradition of community connection and local support.

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## Cornerstone Bank announces merger with Athol Savings Bank, expanding footprint in Worcester County and North Central MA

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a subsidiary of PeoplesBancorp, MHC, and Athol Savings Bank announced today the execution of a merger agreement, pursuant to which Athol Savings Bank (“ASB”) will merge with and into Cornerstone Bank, which will expand Cornerstone into a new and vibrant region in north central Massachusetts. As part of the merger, ASB will operate as a division of Cornerstone Bank, maintaining its name and five branch locations. This strategic move allows Cornerstone Bank to bring its full suite of digital banking services and customer-focused innovations to an expanded clientele, while preserving the trusted local brand that ASB has built.

“This is an incredibly exciting time for us,” said Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank. “We are growing. Athol Savings Bank has a great team, and its mission, values and commitment to mutuality align seamlessly with ours. This move will strengthen our ability to serve our communities while preserving our focus on customer service. Our combined scale will make us more efficient, expand product offerings and improve customer service through shared resources and technology. In today’s industry, scale matters.”

ASB’s strong financial performance and customer-first approach align well with Cornerstone’s commitment to growth and innovation. Customers can expect the same seamless, local service with even better technology and improved access to financial planning tools on a robust digital platform, elevating their overall banking experience. Further, as a combined organization, it will allow for enhanced commitment to charitable giving, community involvement and volunteerism in the North Quabbin region.

ASB staff will be retained and fully supported throughout the transition, with significant focus made to ensure continuity in roles by offering the same or similar positions. This collaboration is rooted in growth, not reduction. In a key leadership transition, Daniel J. Zona, the current President and Chief Executive Officer of ASB, will assume the role of President of Cornerstone Bank, succeeding Randal Webber, who announced in March he will be retiring. The Cornerstone Bank Board of Directors will also expand to welcome four new members, including Mr. Zona, helping to round out leadership representation across the newly expanded region the bank will now serve.

“I’m honored to lead Cornerstone Bank into this next chapter,” said Zona. “Both banks share a commitment to

our community, employees and customers. Together, we can achieve strategic growth while maintaining a community-first approach rooted in mutual values.”

Completion of the transaction remains subject to approval by the corporations of ASB, as well as regulatory approval. The closing is expected to be final in the first quarter of 2026.

Luse Gorman, P.C. served as legal counsel for Cornerstone Bank while Piper, Sandler & Co. served as Financial Advisor. Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C. served as legal counsel for ASB.

About Cornerstone Bank  
Cornerstone Bank (\$1.65 billion institution) 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, Cornerstone Bank’s local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities through a broad range of deposit and loan products and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank’s personal and business banking offerings, please visit [cornerstonebank.com](http://cornerstonebank.com) or call 800-939-9103.

About Athol Savings Bank  
Founded in 1867 in Athol, Athol Savings Bank (\$650 million institution) has built a legacy of local service, integrity and trust for over 150 years. As a mutual savings bank, we answer to our customers, not shareholders, offering personalized financial solutions with a focus on community values. We are committed to continuous improvement, planned growth and delivering strength, stability and security to those we serve. As “A Solutions Bank,” we strive to meet the evolving needs of our customers and communities every day. To learn more about Athol Savings Bank, A Solutions Bank, please visit [ibankasb.com](http://ibankasb.com) or call 888-249-3200.



## Friday’s Child





**Garrett**  
**Age 10**  
**Registration #8406**

Garrett is a fun and lively boy with a big personality who loves bouncing on the trampoline and playing outdoors. He enjoys expressing his creativity through coloring and drawing letters and numbers on his whiteboard. Garrett shows impressive patience as he sorts through items in a large container, carefully inspecting each one before placing it behind the container—a favorite activity he enjoys with many different toys. During his downtime, Garrett likes watching TV and relaxing. In the classroom, he uses a communication device and has been making great progress in using it effectively to express his needs and participate.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21182817133>

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

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



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# Local resident named to Simmons University Dean's List

BOSTON — Eden Riel of Cherry Valley was named to the 2025 spring semester dean's list at Simmons University in Boston.

To qualify for dean's list status, undergraduate students must obtain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, based on 12 or more credit hours of work in classes using the letter grade system.

About Simmons University  
Located in the heart of Boston, Simmons is a respected private university offering nearly 50 majors and programs for undergraduate women and graduate programs open to all on campus, in blended formats, or entirely online in nursing and health sciences, liberal arts, business, communications, social work, public health, and library and information science. Founded in 1899, Simmons has established a model of higher education that other colleges and universities are only recently beginning to adapt: the combination of education for leadership in high-demand professional fields with the intellectual foundation of the liberal arts. The result is a Simmons graduate prepared not only to work, but to lead in professional, civic, and personal life - a vision of empowerment that Simmons calls preparation for life's work. Follow Simmons on Twitter at @SimmonsUniv, and on LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/school/simmons-university/>.



DICK MCGRATH

## HALL OF FAMERS

The National Baseball Hall of Fame's Class of 2025 was inducted over the weekend in Cooperstown, N.Y. The inductees included (group photo, l to r), Billy Wagner, Ichiro Suzuki, CC Sabathia, the late Dick Allen (represented by his wife, Willa) and the late Dave Parker (represented by his son, Dave Parker Jr.).



# Community Connection

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE  
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

# The soundtrack of our lives

You're driving home late one night, tired but wired, and then it happens. That one song — your song — comes on the radio. Maybe it's Whitney, or Nirvana, or A Tribe Called Quest, or that one-hit wonder from your senior year. Suddenly, you're not in traffic anymore. You're back in your first car, windows down, summer air thick with possibility. You're 16, or 18, or 21, and for a moment, you feel it all again. That moment is science.

According to neuroscience research, the music we listened to in our adolescence and early adulthood (roughly ages 12 to 25) gets deeply embedded in our emotional memory, thanks to the way our brains are wired during those formative years. It's a phenomenon sometimes referred to as the "reminiscence bump" a window of time where memories are more vivid, and experiences (especially those connected to emotion and identity) leave a lasting imprint.

When music enters the scene during that stretch of life, when you're first falling in love, figuring out who you are, and building your independence it becomes more than just background noise. It becomes part of your personal identity. So, decades later, when you hear that track again, it doesn't just spark a memory, it lights up the emotional centers of your brain, releasing dopamine, triggering nostalgia, and often bringing comfort and joy.

Nostalgia gets a bad rap, like it's some kind of wistful indulgence. But it's actually good for you. Studies show that nostalgic experiences (including music-based ones) can increase feelings of connection, meaning, and optimism. They act as a psychological time machine, reminding you of who you've been and helping you reconnect to the parts of yourself that still matter.

Your favorite music from your youth isn't just "old school." It's a form of self-preservation. A reminder of your wildness. Your hope.

So, when you hit play on that mixtape in your mind, know this: you are not stuck in the past. You are drawing strength from it.

## 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

### Speak up for democracy

To the Editor:

Let me start with something relatively simple. I hear often that Social Security is going broke. There is a simple solution. Currently, everyone continues to pay on all wages into Medicare until one stops working. However, there is a limit on what is paid into Social Security. When a person reaches \$176,100 in wages, they no longer pay into Social Security. Why? There is a simple solution; remove that limit so that no matter the wages, a person pays into Social Security. Why the limit for those earning what seems like decent wages?

Now on to something not so simple. Jeffrey Epstein and his procurer, Ms. Maxwell, are scum of the earth. I keep hearing that they sexually abused "young women." There were many girls! Fourteen, 15, 16, 17 year old girls were abused by these pigs.

And now, the big pig in the White House seems to want us to forget about the thousands of pages in the Epstein files. Why? If he isn't guilty of anything nefarious, why have 100 FBI agents working 24 hours a day scouring the pages to find any mention of the Prez? And do you wonder if these pages will "accidentally" get shredded?

And now a high ranking member of his cult has met with Ms. Maxwell for two days. Why? To see what she has to say about the convicted felon and convicted sex abuser in the White House? I am expecting that before this letter appears, she will be offered a pardon because "she didn't know what she was doing and was under Epstein's spell." Poor pig of a woman. So a pardon, and she will be still about the Prez, and in 10 years she will write a book about it all when it will be too late. It makes me think that the MAGA folks and Republicans have no clue about how damaging sexual abuse and how long the effects last. Ask anyone who has been abused!

And the Speaker recesses the House for six weeks rather than allow a vote on whether the files should be released. Does he think we are so stupid that in 6 weeks we will forget about

the rape of girls and young women? What are they afraid of?

I understand that this administration was going to deport rapists and murderers. Was that poor guy with his weed whacker and three sons who are Marines a rapist or murderer? They said he ran. Well, darn it! If I was walking along trying to do my job and men with masks jumped out of an unmarked van and grabbed me, you can be sure I would run. How stupid! What next, are we going to wear something on our clothing (like in Hitler's Germany) to denote what race, gender, religion we are? Don't worry, if you are white, this won't apply to you.

I am appalled that Stephen Colbert's show is coming to an end. Why? Because he called out his parent company caving to the Prez dislike of anyone who doesn't praise him like the Second Coming. And all the lawsuits against Harvard. Why? They are trying to control what we learn and hear. They are trying to limit who can attend and what is taught. Isn't that mind control? Intelligent people will be rooted out as was done in China. Not only were the professors fired, they were sent to labor camps.

It seems to me that the Mafia Prez is perpetrating a "protection" racket against companies and lawyers saying that unless they pay up, in one way or another, they will pay in other ways. That is what the Mafia does, isn't it? Pay up or you will be hurt. Isn't that called extortion?

Are you and I paying for those ads with Kristie Noem praising the felon abuser Prez for his actions against rapists and murderers? You mean the guy with the weed whacker?

I cannot believe what is happening to our beloved country. If you prefer a despot or a tyrant or a fascist running things, which is where we are headed, then stay silent. If you want the democracy that was intended, get involved, speak up. Thank you, Ken and Kevin, for your letters of truth.

JUDY ROSE  
EAST BROOKFIELD

### Immigrants and immigration

To the Editor:

Before getting to immigration, let me ask a question about which country Brazil might see as a friend and ally and which it might not. Remember that democratic Brazil not only has South America's largest economy, but the eighth largest in the world. Remember too that Brazil imports more from the USA than it exports to us, so no trade deficit exists.

Now one powerful country – China – wants to work with Brazil and hoprovide finance for a railway line across South America to a port in Peru so that Brazil's imports and exports to China would become less expensive.

Now in another country — our USA — Donald Trump has said he will slap a 50 percent tariff on Brazil's products to the USA because the Brazil court system has indicted a former president who's friendly with Trump. To put it mildly, we have no business interfering with Brazil's courts (just like Brazil should not interfere with ours).

So my question: who now seems the better friend of Brazil – China or the USA?

Now immigrates immigration.

In 2024, our USA could have approved laws and funding for a strong a strong immigration control program that would have both halted illegal immigration and encouraged the kind of immigration the USA needs. The congressional bill had as developers and sponsors the conservative Senator from Oklahoma James Langford and the moderate Senator of our next door Connecticut, Chris Murphy. It also had the endorsements of the Senate leaders – Republican Mitch McConnell and Democrat Chuck Schumer. In the words of reporters, "the funded bill would raise(d) the standard to get asylum, sent away those who don't and speeded) up and expedite(d) those who do."

Likewise as Langford indicated, "The border security bill will put a huge number of new enforcement tools...to finally stop the illegal flow." The bill provides funding to build the Wall, increase technology at the border, add more detention 'beds,' more agents and more deportation flights."

This bill, the first of its' kind for about 60 years, stood ready for passage.

But this tough but good immigration bill didn't get passed because Donald Trump didn't wanted it passed. He ordered Republicans, including Senator Langford, to reject it. (He also lied about it – no surprise there). Most importantly Trump, for personal reasons – as always - wanted border and immigration chaos, along with using cruelty, as a very main political weapon to help him win the presidential election. With no bill approved, Trump's presidential actions now force we taxpayers to spend something like \$125 billion, and accept cruelty to mothers, children and families. As Trump would say "Cruelty like you have never seen before." The manner with which he and his "Border Czar" daily do this should appall Christians and all believers.

Trump tries to make us hate most immigrants calling them "vermin" and "poisoning the blood of Americans." (Hitler said much the same about Jewish people.)

Better than my words come facts from the Cato Institute, a very conservative policy organization. In 2023, its staff testified to Congress and provided the following facts from well-documented sources including:

Immigrants can save the uniter Sates from population decline.

Immigrants can save the United Sates from labor force decline and fill shortages in industries such as construction, manufacturing, agriculture, education, health, tourism, and retail services.

Immigrants can contribute to the shortfall in Social Security funding.

Immigrants pay much more in taxes than they receive in benefits.

Immigrants supercharge entrepreneurship and innovation.

In addition, the CATO institute showed that our laws make it difficult for needed and well qualified immigrants to enter – in fact, we are among the most difficult in the world.

So regarding immigrants, I hope, as the cruel Trump wants, that we don't "Cut off our noses to spite our faces."

KEVIN KANE  
SPENCER

# You have an estate plan — whether you know it or not



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Think estate planning is only for the wealthy or elderly? Think again. If you own anything — a home, a car, a savings account, even a pet — you already have an estate plan. The only question is: Did you create it, or will your state do it for you?

When someone passes away without an estate plan, state laws take over, deciding who gets what and when. This legal process may not reflect your wishes. That's why taking control of your assets through a personal estate plan should be a top priority.

At its core, estate planning is about clarifying your wishes and making things easier for your heirs. It ensures your assets are distributed according to your preferences, designates who will make decisions on your behalf if you can't and provides guidance for your care in a medical crisis. Most plans include four key components:

A Will – This document outlines how your assets should be distributed after your death and names an executor to oversee the process in probate court. It can also designate guardians for minor children. Keep in mind that a will doesn't cover everything — certain transfer on death (TOD) accounts and jointly held property may bypass your will entirely.

Power of Attorney – If you become incapacitated, you'll want someone you trust to be able to make decisions on your behalf. A durable power of attorney designates such a person, helping to ensure your bills are paid, your business continues (if you have one) and your wishes are honored.

Health Care Directive – Sometimes called a living will, this document spells out your preferences for medical treatment if you're unable to speak for yourself. It can also designate someone to make health care decisions for you.

Beneficiary Designations – Accounts like 401(k)s, IRAs, and life insurance policies transfer directly to the people you name, regardless of what your will says. It's essential to review these beneficiary designations regularly, especially after significant life events such as marriage, divorce, death of a spouse or the birth of a child.

One common myth is that a will is all you need. But wills only take effect after death; they don't help if you're alive but unable to make decisions. Another misconception is that estate planning is only for the wealthy. In truth, planning is about more than money — it's about making things easier for the people you love during difficult times.

An effective estate plan can prevent costly legal battles, reduce confusion and give your loved ones a clear roadmap to follow. It also allows you to leave a legacy that reflects your values and priorities.

As your life changes, your estate plan should change along with it. Review your documents every few years or after major life events. It's often a good idea to seek help with such reviews. Your financial advisor or attorney can guide you through the process, ensuring your plan fits your unique circumstances.

In the end, estate planning isn't just about planning for what happens when you are gone. It's about feeling confident, knowing that what matters most — your family, your purpose, your legacy — is protected.

*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.*

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# Readers Share Tips and Tricks

Summer is heating up and so are the great ideas from readers! Read on for an array of helpful hacks to make life a little easier:

**\*\***  
This Whitinsville reader offers clever hints to keep your backyard birdbath in tip top shape!

My hint for your readers is about back yard birdbaths. Birdbaths not only provide a spot for birds, and small animals to cool off, clean up, and get a drink, but offer us a little entertainment with their antics in the water.

A couple of tips include the following.

Placement is important. Try to find a spot that has shade. The birds won't be interested in hot water if it is in the hot sun. By placing it near bushes or trees, it offers birds some safety.

Use Mosquito dunks, available online and at hardware stores. Placing one in the water prevents your birdbaths from becoming a breeding pond for mosquitoes.

The third tip will keep the water algae free. After filling the birdbath, place some copper in it. No, pennies won't work, as they don't contain enough copper. Instead, go to a hardware store



TAKE  
THE  
HINT  
  
KAREN  
TRAINOR

or home repair center and pick up a couple of copper plumbing fittings. Just throw them into the bottom and the water will remain crystal clear.

Tom Griffin  
Whitinsville MA  
**\*\***

Recycling is "in the bag" with this reader's reusable tip:

When you are finished with your cereal, save the bag inside. You can heat ay food to warm it up in the microwave and it's safe – plus no dish to wash.

Sandra  
Ware, MA  
**\*\***

Who knew? A favorite summertime fruit cools you off both inside and out!

Did you know bananas, like watermelons, have cooling properties that cooling properties? They cool the intestinal heat in your body, making it one of the best cooling foods to eat during the hot weather.

Bree

Terry Kolesnik  
Charlton, MA  
**\*\***

Cherry tomatoes are plentiful right now, but slicing each little tomato individually and corraling them on the cutting board can be a challenge. This reader's tip cuts the chore down to size!

Fill a plastic lid with cherry tomatoes (I use a Cool Whip cover). Place a second cover, flat side down on top. Using a serrated knife, cut between the lids. Voila! All are cut in half in mere seconds.

Lois O'Leary  
Brookfield, MA

**\*\***  
This reader shares a recipe from her childhood – and best of all, it uses no eggs!

My favorite cake, called "big wacky cake," is one that I've been making since I was a child:

Ingredients: ¾ cup butter (1 ½ sticks) or oil; 2 cups granulated sugar; 3 cups all purpose flour; 6 tablespoons cocoa powder; 2 teaspoons baking soda; 1 teaspoon salt; 2 tablespoons vinegar (plain white); 2 cups warm water.

Directions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray (or grease with butter)

a 13' x 9" pan. Combine butter and sugar; blend well. Sift dry ingredients together; and add to butter mixture.

Mix vinegar and water together and add to above. Mix until well blended, but do not overbeat. Bake for 45-60 minutes. Frost as desired, then enjoy!

Cecile Collier  
Leicester, MA  
**\*\***

Prize Winner  
Congratulations to Cecile Collier, whose name was drawn for Dinner for Two at the Publick House. She shared the cake recipe above.

**\*\***  
Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month (or whenever enough submissions are received) will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm

counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press newspapers? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, C/o the Southbridge Evening News, PO Box 90; Southbridge, MA 01550. Or email KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

## Human psychology

Sometimes there comes a moment when you realize life isn't just happening to you. You're interpreting it and reacting to it. You've been living inside a story your past wrote for you—before you knew you were the one telling it.

That's not your fault. It's your default. But the moment you see it—you can change everything.

Modern psychology has shown us that the brain is less a camera and more a courtroom—building stories, assigning blame, rewriting memory, all in service of keeping your ego comfortable or your fear pacified.

Psychologists like Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky spent decades studying how we form judgments, and their research uncovered a gallery of mental shortcuts—cognitive biases, emotional filters, and distorted beliefs that make us feel right, even when we're not. But often, what feels true is just what feels familiar.

And once you begin to see the stories you're telling yourself, something else becomes clear: there are parts of your life you won't even narrate. Things you won't face. Conversations you won't have. Feelings you won't feel. You tell yourself it's not the right time, that it's not a big deal, that you'll deal with it later. But in truth—what you avoid ends up shaping you more than what you confront.

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Avoidance feels like relief. At first. You push something away—pain, responsibility, vulnerability—and for a moment, your body thanks you. The pressure drops. But behind that false peace, something dangerous grows. Each time you dodge discomfort, you quietly teach your nervous system that the discomfort was too much—that the fear must be obeyed.

Psychological studies on exposure therapy conducted by Joseph Wolpe and later David Barlow show again and again: the only way to reduce fear is to face it. The only way to weaken shame is to bring it into the light.

Healing doesn't come from feeling safe all the time. Success doesn't come from playing small. Growth begins when you learn to walk toward what makes you uncomfortable—on purpose.

And what we avoid doesn't just shape our behavior—it quietly shapes who we become. Because here's the deeper truth: you are not who you think you are. You are who you practice being.

Identity isn't fixed. It's not a core you discover—it's a pattern you reinforce. You are a feedback loop of habits, emotional reactions, routines, roles, and stories you tell yourself. What you repeat becomes familiar. What becomes familiar becomes comfortable. And what becomes comfortable becomes "me."

Turn To **POSITIVELY** page **A10**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Our free country

To the Editor:

Isn't it wonderful to live in a place with such strong values for freedom, of speech, religion, and the press?

A place where the hosts of the nighttime talk shows continue to poke fun, satirize and make jokes about presidents, politicians and world events, as they have done for my entire lifetime, without fear of reprisal? A place where civil servants' jobs are not dependent on political views or loyalty pledges?

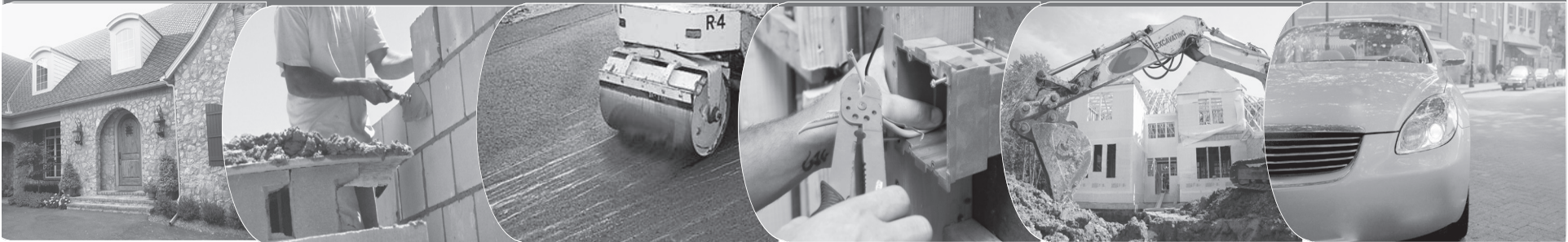
A place that encourages diverse points of view and encourages diverse opinions and beliefs? Where colleges and universities are melting pots and

the envy of the world for their diversity and openness to let unrestricted concepts blossom and thrive? A place where our Constitution and rule of law are supreme, and attorneys are unfettered and unafraid to have their positions heard?

Anything else would border on dictatorship, and our elected representatives would never allow their powers usurped, and would not hesitate to stand up for what is right, a 250 year old tradition. Stand back, and stand by.

KEN KIMBALL  
BROOKFIELD

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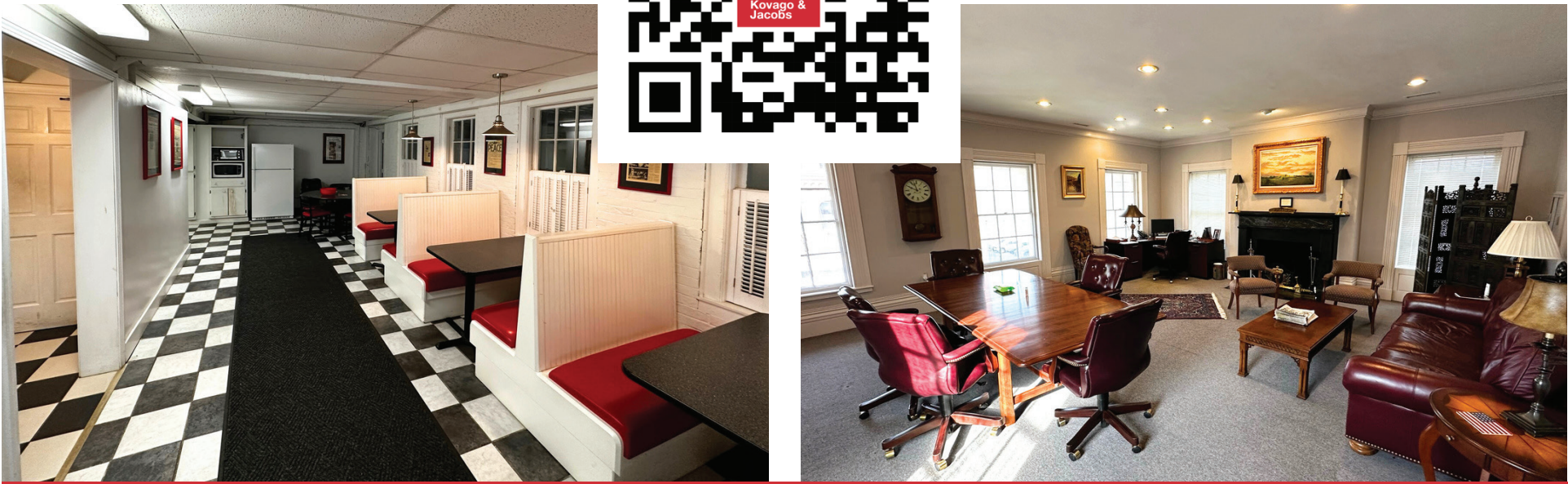
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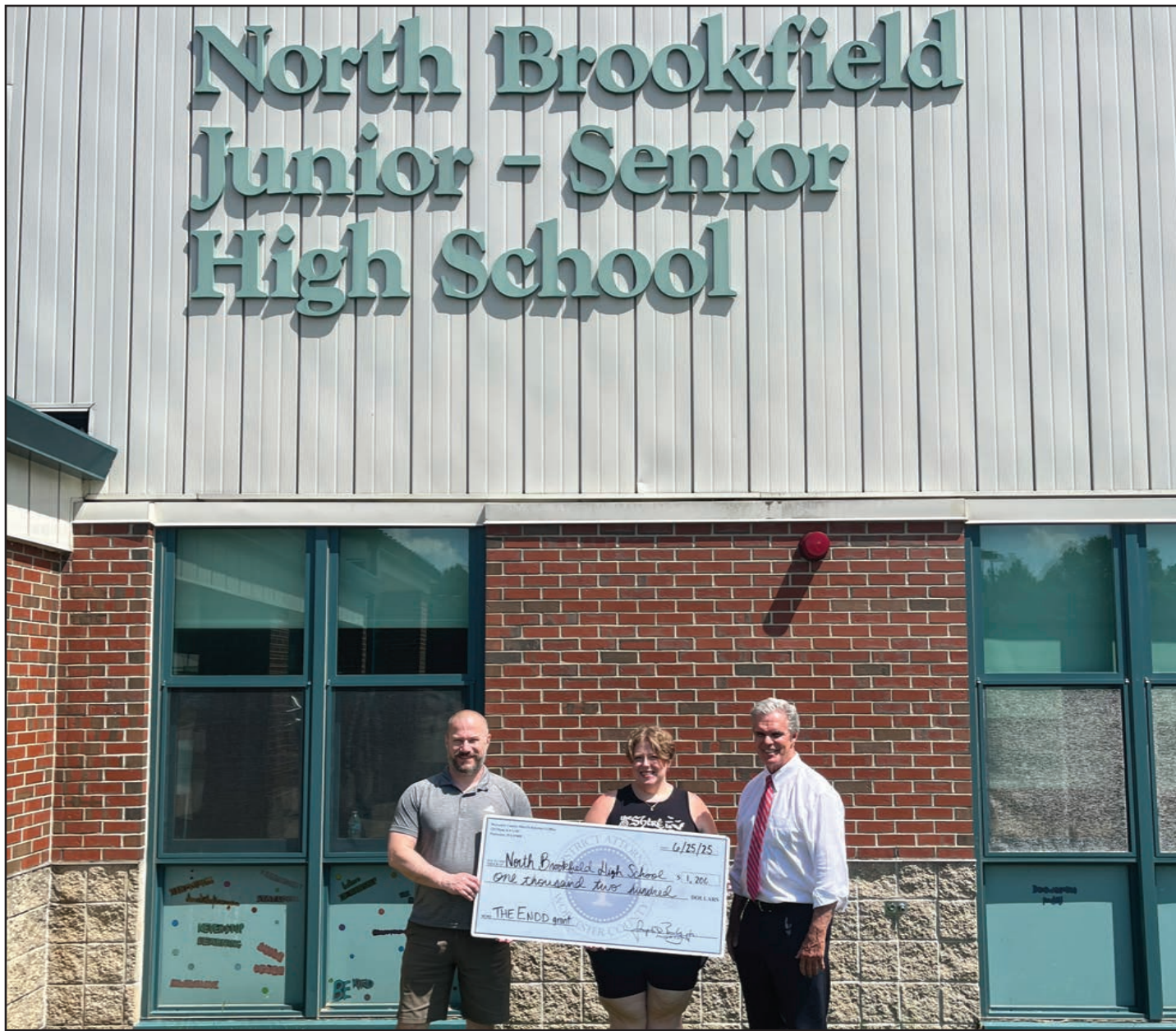


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# DA provides funding for safe post-prom and graduation celebrations



District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr. provided funding for safe post-prom and post-graduation events at local high schools, including North Brookfield Junior Senior High School.

WORCESTER — For the seventh year, District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr. provided funding for safe post-prom and post-graduation events at local high schools, including Uxbridge High School, Northbridge High School, Auburn High School, Douglas High School, Blackstone-Millville Regional High School, North Brookfield Junior Senior High School and Bartlett High School, thanks to his annual grant program, which is designed to keep students from driving impaired.

"We know that life can change in the blink of an eye, and we want to do everything we can to prevent a tragedy before it occurs," DA Early said. "We've been proud to help fund post-prom and post-graduation programs year after year. Prom and graduation are major milestones that deserve to be celebrated, but too often we see young people engaging in risky behavior following these events."

This year, the District Attorney's office awarded a total of \$23,100 in grants to 20 different schools across Worcester County to fund events organized and overseen by adults, which offer safe drug- and alcohol-free alternatives to the high-risk activities that often follow end of the year celebrations for high school students.

The office has been providing these funds to schools for seven years. District Attorney Early felt it was vital to continue supporting these prevention programs and is utilizing his Drug Forfeiture Reinvestment Program this year. Funding to support these grants was previously provided by the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance Drunk Driving Trust Fund.

## St. Joseph's Abbey celebrates 200th anniversary with open house

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — Local residents are invited to join in the celebration of the 200th anniversary of St. Joseph's Abbey by attending an open house this weekend.

Set for Saturday, Aug. 2, the event will take place from 9 a.m. to noon. The public is invited to explore the abbey, meet members of the monastic community, and learn about centuries of contemplative life.

St. Joseph's Abbey, a Trappist monastery nestled in Spencer's rolling meadows, has served for generations as a place of peace and reliability amid the bustle of society.

Founded in 1825 in Tracadie, Nova Scotia, the monastic community later moved to Rhode Island. Following a fire in 1950, the community made its permanent home in Spencer.

"Over the years, the abbey has become renowned for its Trappist Preserves, home-made jams and jellies, and a retreat ministry rooted in silence, prayer, and hospitality for all who seek spiritual renewal," read a statement released by event organizers.

Highlights of the open house will include guided tours of the monastery church and cloisters; displays from the abbey's historic archives, including Trappist Preserves and The Holy Rood Guild vestments; and opportunities for guests to meet monks, ask questions, and partake in prayer accompaniment.

"Hope does not disappoint," said Abbot Vincent Rogers during a recent Jubilee reflection celebrating both the church's 2025 Jubilee Year and the abbey's bicentenary.

In celebration of the Abbot's message, the open house will offer a window into the abbey's tradition of blending prayer and work throughout life's daily rhythm.

Light refreshments will also be provided during the open house.

St. Joseph's Abbey is located at 167 North Spencer Rd. Parking for the open house will be available on site; volunteers will offer guidance.

Admission to the event is free for all guests.

"The main cloister area is accessible. Some monastic areas, including the manufacturing areas, remain private," the promotional statement read. "The abbey's bicentennial invites reflection on enduring hope, tradition, and service."

St. Joseph's Abbey is a cloistered Trappist monastery that follows the Rule of St. Benedict in silence, communal prayer, and simplicity.

The Abbey community has supported itself through retreats, liturgical arts, produce-based enterprises, and a focus on spiritual hospitality.

For more information about the event, please visit [www.spencerabbey.org](http://www.spencerabbey.org).

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OBITUARIES

Sandra Lee Corriveau, 64



Sandra Lee Corriveau, 64, of Webster died Friday, July 18, 2025, at UMASS Memorial-University Campus with her loving family at her side after a long illness. Sandra was born on May 21, 1961 in Webster, MA, the daughter of the late Earl George Adams, Jr. and the late Alice (Lubecki) Adams. Paternal grandparents were the late Earl, Sr. and Matilda (Dubrawa) Adams. Maternal grandparents were the late August and Nellie (Andrzejewski) Lubecki. Her husband of thirty-five years, Richard “Dick” Corriveau, preceded her in death in 2016. Sandra is survived by her children, son Curtis Adams of Webster and partner Amber, daughter Rebecca Boutillette and husband Scott, and step-daughter Robbin (Corriveau) Luberto of North Brookfield, grandchildren Corey Adams and his fiance Ashley, Katelyn Chickering and partner Kody, Kasey Ross and husband Tyler. Great grandchildren include Maisy, Braxton, Kolby, Gage, Bella, Taylor, T.J. She was one of seven children: brothers Ken, Dana, and the late John Adams of Webster; sisters Gloria Bannister of Webster, Donna Santerre and husband Paul of Danielson, CT, and the late Christine Adams and her late partner Ray Belanger of Webster. Nieces/neph-

ews include Gayle, Jane, Peter, Craig, Amanda, Derek, Monica, John Jr, Shannon, Jason, Jena, Jesse, and her beloved Jessica and their families. She also leaves her aunt Patricia Merritt of Webster and her family, James Joseph Orlowski of South Carolina, and Joanne Maas of Washington state. In the 1980s, Sandra owned “Sandra’s Donut Chateau” in Dudley, which boasted varieties of square donuts. However, she spent most years working at the USPS distribution center in Shrewsbury, where she was close friends with Steve, Lynniece, and Pat, retiring for health reasons in 2021. Sandra enjoyed Bingo, Keno, Dunkins, playing games on her tablet, jigsaw puzzles, oldies and country music, her monkey collection, Shirley Temple dolls, and shopping. Most of all, she loved spending time with family and friends, especially her daughter and late mom, Alice. She constantly baked yummy cookies and breads for her friends and family. Sandra was always loving and generous, and a good friend to those who knew her. Her smile and laughter will always be remembered. Memorial calling hours will be Saturday, August 2, from 1 to 4 PM at Bartel Funeral Home, 33 Schofield Avenue, Dudley, MA. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to a children’s or animal charity. Sandra’s condolence book is at [www.bartelfuneralhome.com](http://www.bartelfuneralhome.com).

POSITIVELY

continued from page A5

Psychologists and behavioral scientists have long known that we don’t rise to our highest beliefs—we fall to our most repeated actions. You may wish to be bold, steady, at peace—but wishing doesn’t shape you. Repetition does.

The research on neuroplasticity, from pioneers like Donald Hebb and Carol Dweck, confirms: your brain reshapes itself based on what you do consistently, not what you hope is true.

So if you want to change your life, stop asking, “Who am I?”

Start asking, “What do I repeat?” The real “you” isn’t found in your reflection. It’s built in your rituals.

Even the strongest habits can fall apart when emotions hit. You might know what to do—but then emotion clouds your thinking. Emotions don’t care how much you’ve practiced—they test whether you can stay present when it counts.

To see yourself clearly—not as a fixed identity, but as a living pattern. Not as a passenger, but as the narrator holding the script. Yes, your brain plays tricks. Yes, fear wants the wheel. But you are not at the mercy of old wiring. You are the

architect of what comes next.

Take the pause. Challenge the thought. Face the thing. Move, even when you tremble. Speak the better story, even if your voice shakes at first.

You don’t need to be perfect. You need to be present. You don’t need to know who you are. You need to start becoming who you were meant to be—on purpose.

Life isn’t asking you to get it all right.

It’s asking you to participate, to show up, to choose the next true step. And repeat it, until it becomes you.

Gathering ideas for next year’s garden



Melinda Myers

An AAS trial garden at Boerner Botanical Gardens.

Summer is a time when many gardeners begin making plans for new additions to next year’s gardens. You may already be doing ongoing evaluations of your own plantings and may want to include tours of others’ gardens.

A walk around your neighborhood can provide inspiration and a chance to observe plants thriving in the same or similar conditions that exist in your landscape. Local garden tours allow you to take a closer look at both front and backyard gardens filled with plants, garden art and more.

Whether you tour alone or with a group of friends, it is a great opportunity to meet the gardener, gather ideas, exchange gardening secrets, and get inspired. Many of the garden tours are sponsored by garden clubs, libraries, beautification groups and other similar organizations. The proceeds from the event usually support a worthy cause in the community. You’ll find local garden tours promoted online, in local publications, garden centers, botanical gardens and other similar venues.

The Garden Conservancy’s Open Days program is a one-of-a-kind private garden tour. Participating gardens are located around the country in small and large lots that feature a variety of styles, plants and features. All you need is a little time and a ticket to participate



GARDEN MOMENTS  
.....  
MELINDA MYERS

in the self-guided garden tours. A listing of the Open Days gardens, their location and dates for each garden is listed on their website.

Visit your local or nearby public botanic gardens and arboreta. They feature plants in gardens and natural settings with similar growing conditions to nearby home gardens. They often feature new and unique varieties, traditional favorites and garden designs, providing inspiration to all who visit.

All-America Selections’ (AAS) Display Gardens are another valuable resource for gardeners. AAS is a non-profit organization that trials and evaluates plants for outstanding qualities suitable for the home garden. They have been helping gardeners grow award-winning flowers and vegetables since 1932.

New never-before-sold plant varieties bred for home gardens are planted, observed and evaluated at various trial gardens throughout North America. Trial gardens are located at public gardens, seed companies, or universities. The potential plant introduction is observed and its performance evaluated

throughout the growing season. Volunteer judges rate the plants on improvements in characteristics such as aesthetics, performance and productivity as well as pest and disease tolerance. A plant must have significantly improved qualities to be considered for an AAS award.

Display gardens feature the newest AAS winners in a well-maintained setting where you can view the winners. There are nearly 200 display gardens in the United States and Canada located in public botanic gardens and arboreta, municipality gardens, garden retailers, university gardens and more. Some locations also offer related educational opportunities, open houses or field days during the growing season.

Take some time to enjoy and evaluate your gardens. Then set aside some time to visit local gardens for ideas and inspiration.

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” instant video series* 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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			3				4	
1		3	2	9				
			4		7			
		7					9	
5				8			3	
						1		
	7			1	2			6
	9	4						
8								5

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5	7	4	9	6	3	8	2	1
2	1	3	5	7	4	8	6	9
6	8	2	4	1	9	5	3	7
2	5	1	6	7	4	8	3	9
4	3	7	9	8	1	2	5	6
8	9	3	6	2	5	7	4	1
3	1	8	7	6	4	9	5	2
7	6	5	8	2	9	3	4	1
9	4	1	2	5	3	6	8	7

ANSWER:



# Ama Asante graduates from Missouri State University

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — Missouri State University awarded 2,824 degrees to students in spring 2025.

The commencement ceremonies took place May 9 at Great Southern Bank Arena. Ama Asante of Leicester graduated with a Master of Business Administration. Students who graduated with honors completed at least 30 credit hours with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5.

Missouri State University is a public, comprehensive university system with a mission in public affairs. Our purpose is to develop fully educated persons with a focus on ethical leadership, cultural competence and community engagement.

For more information about Missouri State, visit MissouriState.edu. You can also find us on Facebook, follow us on X, Instagram and LinkedIn and see what's happening on YouTube. Receive notification of Missouri State news releases as soon as they are posted by subscribing to our news blog

# Local residents named to Clark University Dean's List

WORCESTER — The following local residents were named to Clark University's Spring 2025 Dean's List:

Abigail E. Gahagan of Leicester was named to first honors.

Ana G. Ruggieri of Leicester was named to first honors.

Kaleigh M. Raskett of Spencer was named to second honors.

Ashley Leighton of Spencer was named to second honors.

Students must have a GPA of 3.8 or above for first honors or a GPA between 3.50 and 3.79 for second honors.

Founded in 1887, Clark University is a liberal arts-based research university that prepares its students to meet tomorrow's most daunting challenges and embrace its greatest opportunities. Through 33 undergraduate majors, more than 30 advanced degree programs, and nationally recognized community partnerships, Clark fuses rigorous scholarship with authentic world and workplace experiences that empower our students to pursue lives and careers of meaning and consequence.



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WOLVERINE  
continued from page A1

prior to the state inspection. The facility includes a collage of Leicester High School through the years; a picture of the original Castle Restaurant; and a picture of the former Rochdale Diner on the walls.

“Once again, the community is coming together to support our students and our schools,” Kustigian said. “When you get passionate people devoted to the common purpose of supporting students, great things happen. I am humbled and grateful for the tremendous outpouring of support.”

The name, “The Wolverine Grill,” was recently selected by Leicester High School students. To facilitate this process, LHS partnered with the Town of

Leicester and Town Clerk Pam LaFleur, who created a ballot shortly after the town election to allow students to cast their votes on the name of the restaurant.

“Getting students to take ownership of their learning – and promoting partnerships with the community – is a focus at Leicester High,” said LHS Principal Ted Zawada.

School leaders are also excited to have Chef Andy Aucoin teaching LHS culinary arts.

“Chef Aucoin is the perfect person to take the culinary program to the next level,” Zawada added. “Students rave about his lessons and literally run to his class. We are fortunate to have him.”

Local residents are encouraged to check back this fall for announcements on the grand opening of The Wolverine Grill.

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. WO25P2552EA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Estate Of:  
**Samuel Palumbo**  
**Date of Death: 06/19/2025**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Michael Palumbo of Sturbridge 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: **Michael Palumbo of Sturbridge MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/19/2025.**

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: July 22, 2025  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
August 1, 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. WO25P2273**  
**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**  
Estate Of:  
**Patricai Ann Benoit**  
**Date of Death: March 9, 2025**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Ronald P Benoit Jr of Spencer MA** **Ronald P Benoit Jr 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 re-

stricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
August 1, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Division**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**(508) 831-2200**  
**Docket No. WO22P2317PM**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT**  
Estate Of:  
**Mary Dionne**

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **Philip W. Summers of Acton MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account , and first account 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 08/19/2025.**

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  
July 18, 2025  
Stephanie K. Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
August 1, 2025

**At the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to be held on Tuesday August 12, 2025, 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 Permit Finding– Applicant: Daniel Faulkner; Owner: Richard Young; Location106 McCormick Road, Spencer Assessor’s Map R55-12. The applicant is seeking a Variance Permit under Sections 5.2.6 (Detached Accessory Structures) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to build a 36’ x 28’ detached garage in the front setback. The property is located in the Rural Residential (RR) Zoning District.**  
July 25, 2025  
August 1, 2025

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

In accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, MGL c. 131, s. 40 and the Spencer Wetlands By-Law:  
**David Bird** has filed an **RDA** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to replace a deck located at **16 Ledge Avenue, Spencer, MA.**  
**Tom Lynch** has filed an **NOI** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to construct a septic system located at **72 Thompson Pond Road, Spencer, MA.**  
**Peter Boria** has filed an **NOI** with the Spencer Conservation Commission for roadway, sidewalk & drainage improvements located at **Valley & Mill Street, Spencer, MA.**  
**Patrick Tatro** has filed an **NOI** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to construct a septic system located at **R25 44-1 Greenville Street, Spencer, MA.**  
**Jimmy Georges** has requested to **Amend the Order of Conditions** with

the Spencer Conservation Commission and demolish and reconstruct new foundations located at **19 & 20 Whittemore Cove, Spencer, MA.** Applications can be reviewed at the Office of Development and Inspectional Services, Town Hall. A public hearing regarding these filings will be held by the Spencer Conservation Commission in McCourt Social Hall at Town Hall, 157 Main Street, on Wednesday, July 23, 2025 at which time all persons having an interest may be present or call in remotely to participate. Conservation Commission meetings open at 6:15 p.m.  
Mary McLaughlin, Chairwoman  
August 1, 2025

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

In accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, MGL c. 131, s. 40 and the Spencer Wetlands By-Law:  
**Evan Bercume** has filed an **RDA** with the Spencer Conservation Commission for construction of a farm pond located at **159 South Spencer Road, Spencer, MA.**  
**Merrilee Allen Sprague** has filed an **NOI** with the Spencer Conservation Commission for repair of a retaining wall located at **41 Oakland Ave, Spencer, MA.**  
**Cody Berman** has filed an **NOI** with the Spencer Conservation Commission for demolition of a home and a proposed new single-family home, driveway and septic system located at **41 & 43 Eastalee Drive, Spencer, MA**  
**John J & Ruth A Green** have filed an **RDA** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to remove a tree located at **15 Washburn Terrace, Spencer, MA.**  
**David Matte** has filed an **NOI** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to construct a single-family home, driveway and septic system located at **R44/36-4 Gold Nugget Road, Spencer, MA.**  
**Thomas Runyon** has filed an **RDA** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to replace a driveway located at **76 Chickering Road, Spencer, MA.** Applications can be reviewed at the Office of Development and Inspectional Services, Town Hall. A public hearing regarding these filings will be held by the Spencer Conservation Commission in McCourt Social Hall at Town Hall, 157 Main Street, on Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at which time all persons having an interest may be present or call in remotely to participate. Conservation Commission meetings open at 6:15 p.m. Mary McLaughlin, Chairwoman  
August 1, 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. WO25P2031 EA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Estate Of:  
**Frances G Broden**  
**Also known as: Frances Broden**  
**Date of Death: 04/26/2025**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Carol Tomlin of West Brookfield MA** and **Deborah Brown of Rochdale 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: **Deborah Brown of Rochdale MA** and **Carol Tomlin of West Brookfield MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of

the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/19/2025.**

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: July 15, 2025  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
August 1, 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. WO25P2585EA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Estate Of:  
**Raymond L. Hubert**  
**Date of Death: 05/02/2025**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Bobbi-Jo Alexander of Warren 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: **Bobbi-Jo Alexander of Warren MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/26/2025.**

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: July 24, 2025  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
August 1, 2025







POLICE REPORTS

Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, JULY 17

8:17 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 8:34 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 8:40 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 8:44 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 8:54 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:38 a.m.: ambulance (Jacques Avenue, Worcester), transported; 9:50 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:50 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 10:24 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:43 a.m.: ambulance (Mill Street, Worcester), transported; 12:50 p.m.: restraining order service (Victoria Drive), unable to serve; 1:04 p.m.: welfare check (Pitcairne Avenue), services rendered; 1:26 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:29 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 1:33 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 1:39 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:48 p.m.: ambulance (Salem Square, Worcester), transported; 3:38 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street, Charlton), transported; 6:11 p.m.: disturbance (Lake Street), resolved; 6:45 p.m.: disturbance (Olney Street), spoken to; 9:38 p.m.: disabled mv (Huntoon Memorial Highway), resolved.

FRIDAY, JULY 18

1:28 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, negligent operation, speeding, citation issued; 5:58 a.m.: fraud (South Main Street), spoken to; 7:55 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 8:06 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 8:07 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 10:03 a.m.: shoplifting/2 (Soojians Drive), name and address redacted from police log, larceny over \$1200, advised civil action; name and address redacted from police log, larceny over \$1200, advised civil action; 10:40 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 11:13 a.m.: ambulance (Lillian Avenue), transported; 12:42 p.m.: ambulance (Henshaw Street), transported; 1:04 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 1:19 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Church Street), services rendered; 2:10 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), message delivered; 3:48 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), resolved; 5:31 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 6:47 p.m.: restraining order service (South Main Street), served; 6:57 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street, Worcester), transported; 7:12 p.m.: hit/run accident (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, leaving the scene of a property damage accident, resolved; 9:23 p.m.: ambulance (Virginia Drive), transported; 11:26 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:59 p.m.: ambulance (White Birch Street), transported.

SATURDAY, JULY 19

12:38 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 1:05 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:23 a.m.: mv stop (Auburn Street), verbal warning; 1:35 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:39 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 2:34 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:18 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:22 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 3:37 a.m.: mv stop (McNeil Highway), services rendered; 4:00 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 7:04 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 8:02 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:03 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Pleasant Street), resolved; 10:24 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 11:20 a.m.: family problem (Rawson Street), spoken to; 11:37 a.m.: assist citizen (Towtaid Street); 12:42 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 1:53 p.m.: parking complaint (Cricklewood Drive), services rendered; 3:07 p.m.: ambulance (Sunset

Drive), transported; 3:19 p.m.: ambulance (Parker Street), transported; 3:26 p.m.: assist citizen (Peter Salem Road); 4:14 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), call canceled; 5:38 p.m.: assist other PD (Chestnut Street, Spencer), resolved; 7:51 p.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), report taken; 7:53 p.m.: erratic operator (Pleasant Street), gone on arrival; 11:35 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:41 p.m.: assist citizen (Stafford Street).

SUNDAY, JULY 20

12:00 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:04 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 12:08 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 12:17 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:35 a.m.: suspicious person (Main Street), assisted; 1:03 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended registration, criminal application issued; 1:44 a.m.: mv stop (Burncoat Street), spoken to; 2:06 a.m.: mv stop (Bottomly Avenue), spoken to; 2:43 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 2:52 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 3:45 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 6:47 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 7:36 a.m.: harassment (Woodland Road), spoken to; 11:39 a.m.: welfare check (South Main Street), message delivered; 1:19 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Stafford Street), resolved; 1:31 p.m.: escort (Paxton Street), assisted; 2:55 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), resolved; 5:48 p.m.: suspicious person (Main Street), resolved; 6:30 p.m.: accident (Paxton Street), services rendered; 7:13 p.m.: ambulance (Breezy Green Road), transported; 8:09 p.m.: disturbance (Towtaid Street), spoken to; 9:38 p.m.: suspicious mv (Henshaw Street), no action required; 11:42 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning.

MONDAY, JULY 21

12:06 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:30 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 8:50 a.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 9:33 a.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), spoken to; 9:45 a.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), spoken to; 9:53 a.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), spoken to; 10:19 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, number plate violation to conceal ID, unregistered mv, criminal application issued; 11:03 a.m.: summons service (Wesley Drive), no action required; 11:35 a.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), unable to locate; 12:14 p.m.: ambulance (Flagg Drive), services rendered; 12:33 p.m.: restraining order service (Sunset Drive), report taken; 12:36 p.m.: summons service (Pleasant Street), report taken; 1:52 p.m.: arrest warrant service (South Main Street), Kevin Michael O'Brien, 72, 156 Ruthven Street, Dorchester, administrative booking/ Wrentham PD, arrest; 2:08 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 5:18 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 5:50 p.m.: accident (Paxton Street), services rendered; 6:11 p.m.: keep the peace (Hankey Street), services rendered; 7:43 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 11:23 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:35 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), citation issued.

TUESDAY, JULY 22

1:53 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 5:34 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 6:49 a.m.: restraining order service (South Main Street), served; 8:54 a.m.: mv stop (Auburn Street), spoken to; 9:01 a.m.: mv stop (Auburn Street), spoken to; 9:08 a.m.: mv stop (Auburn Street), written warning; 9:19 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 10:14 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), spoken to; 10:28 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), written warning; 10:44 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), written warning; 12:46 p.m.: ambulance

(Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 1:30 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 1:49 p.m.: neighbor dispute (Elmwood Avenue), spoken to; 4:22 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Main Street), unable to serve; 5:45 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 6:20 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 7:18 p.m.: animal complaint (Willow Hill Road), resolved.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23

1:07 a.m.: mutual aid (Mill Street, Worcester), call canceled; 7:20 a.m.: welfare check (Reservoir Street), services rendered; 9:22 a.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), name and address redacted from police log, shoplifting by asportation, report taken; 11:36 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), call canceled; 11:41 a.m.: animal complaint (Soojians Drive), unfounded; 1:42 p.m.: harassment (Woodland Road), spoken to; 1:51 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 2:51 p.m.: ambulance (Austin Street, Worcester), transported; 3:22 p.m.: assist citizen (Leela Lane); 5:17 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 6:58 p.m.: suspicious person (South Main Street), services rendered; 9:36 p.m.: open door/window (Mannville Street), resolved.

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Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

12:14-2:52 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:21 a.m.: medical/general (Marble Street); 5:49 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:05 a.m.: FID card issued (West Main Street), assisted; 10:08 a.m.: larceny (Grove Street), Gabriel H. Bloksberg, 57, 10 Grove Street, Spencer, warrant, arrest; 11:13 a.m.: animal complaint (Lakeview Drive), possum struck/ babies alive; 11:27 a.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 2:17 p.m.: restraining order service (Church Street); 2:27 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), intoxicated customer; 2:53 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Main Street), Damon M. Bell, 37, 40 Maple Street, Spencer, warrant, arrest; 3:41 p.m.: mv lockout (Thompson Pond Road), assisted; 4:19 p.m.: DPW call (Pleasant Street), traffic light malfunctioning; 4:43 p.m.: commercial alarm (Meadow Road), services rendered; 6:56 p.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 8:30 p.m.: RV complaint (South Spencer Road), c/o bikes on trail; 9:06 p.m.: mv complaint (Bixby Road), erratic operator; (total daily mv stops – 2).

THURSDAY, JULY 17

12:02 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 1:55 a.m.: building checked, secure; 2:59 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 3:39 a.m.: mutual aid (Main Street), assist State Police/transport; 4:58 a.m.: officer wanted (Thompson Pond Road), rep. tree down; 6:33 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 8:15 a.m.: medical/general (Brooks Pond Road); 8:24 a.m.: fraud (Vista Lane), report taken; 9:10 a.m.: parking complaint (Main Street), services rendered; 9:45 a.m.: medical/general (Jolicoeur Avenue); 10:16 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 1:21 p.m.: fire alarm (Chestnut Street), referred; 1:26 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 2:25 p.m.: medical/general (Temple Street); 2:54 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Leicester PD bolo/road rage; 3:15 p.m.: suspicious persons (West Main Street), services rendered; 4:21 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 9:26 p.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 9:52 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); (total daily mv stops – 8).

FRIDAY, JULY 18

12:38-2:09 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:23 a.m.: mv repossessed (Grove Street), info rec'd; 3:25 a.m.: mv repossessed (School Street), info rec'd; 3:30 a.m.: LTC issued (West

bance (Maple Street), re: issue w/renters; 6:31 a.m.: vandalism (Gold Nugget Road), shed door destroyed; 7:10 a.m.: lost/found (Main Street), wallet found; 8:06 a.m.: officer wanted (East Charlton Road), lg. branch in road; 8:24 a.m.: officer wanted (Salem Street), req. welfare check; 8:50 a.m.: lost/found (Pleasant Street), watch found; 9:53 a.m.: restraining order service (Charlton Road); 12:12 p.m.: restraining order service (Pope Street); 1:43 p.m.: RV complaint (Howe Road), c/o dirt bikes in area; 1:58 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 2:03 p.m.: fire (Wilson Avenue), referred; 4:30 p.m.: fire (Howe Road), referred; 4:37 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report; 6:10 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 7:10 p.m.: juvenile matter (Howe Road), c/o juveniles on ATVs/harassment; 7:37 p.m.: officer wanted (McDonald Street), spoken to; 9:55 p.m.: mv complaint (North Spencer Road), erratic operator; 10:11 p.m.: animal complaint (Northwest Road), rep. dog in distress; 10:42 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 10:46 p.m.: disturbance (Browning Pond Road), noise complaint/yelling; (total daily mv stops – 0).

SATURDAY, JULY 19

1:22 a.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), spoken to; 1:41-2:53 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:20 a.m.: suspicious mv (Howe Road), investigated; 3:46 a.m.: mutual aid (Main Street), assist Leicester PD; 6:24 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 7:44 a.m.: hit/run accident (Main Street), report taken; 9:51 a.m.: officer wanted (Pope Street), req. escort; 2:36 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 3:00 p.m.: accident (Cranberry Meadow Road), report taken; 3:17 p.m.: medical/general (Grove Street); 4:45 p.m.: disturbance (Chestnut Street), services rendered; 5:06 p.m.: medical/general (Briarcliff Lane); 5:31 p.m.: missing person/juvenile (Chestnut Street), report taken; 8:10 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 8:39 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (School Street), small campfire; 9:57 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 10:11 p.m.: suspicious persons (Howe Village), info taken; 10:20 p.m.: disturbance (Lyford Road), neighbor dispute/re: fire; 11:53 p.m.: mv complaint (Lyford Road), c/o speeding; (total daily mv stops – 1).

SUNDAY, JULY 20

12:09-1:55 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:17 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 6:20 a.m.: accident (South Spencer Road), report taken; 11:14 a.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 12:01 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo; 12:57 p.m.: officer wanted (Smithville Road), spoken to; 1:55 p.m.: medical/general (Woodside Road); 3:17 p.m.: medical/general (Ethier Drive); 3:27 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 5:27 p.m.: 911 call (Main Street), status not recorded on police log; 5:27 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), spoken to; 5:44 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), poss. drunk driver; 6:15 p.m.: mutual aid (Wm. Casey Road), assist Charlton PD; 9:09 p.m.: fire alarm (Maple Street), referred; 10:04 p.m.: juvenile matter (Main Street), rep. young child yelling; 11:45 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 11:48 p.m.: medical/general (Pleasant Street); (total daily mv stops – 1).

MONDAY, JULY 21

12:03-2:51 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:15 a.m.: medical/general (Charron Street); 12:39 a.m.: juvenile matter (Earley Street), kids running in yards; 1:49 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 6:19 a.m.: animal complaint (Charlton Road), dog barking; 7:34 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:55 a.m.: medical/general (Temple Street); 10:44 a.m.: DPW call (Greenville Street), trash/ side of road; 11:39 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 12:34 p.m.: restraining order service (Maple Street); 12:34 p.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 2:14 p.m.: animal complaint (Paxton Road), dead animal/roadside; 2:53 p.m.: restraining order service (Main Street); 7:19 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 8:08 p.m.: medical/general (Vista Lane); 9:52 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Bixby Road), status not recorded on police log; 11:00 p.m.: disturbance (Sunset Lane), drunk male; 11:16-11:48 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 11:16 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; (total daily mv stops – 1).

TUESDAY, JULY 22

12:20-12:47 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:51 a.m.: mv repossessed (Jones Street), info rec'd; 5:50 a.m.: medical/general (School Street); 6:52 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Sherwood Drive), status not recorded on police log; 7:12 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 7:17 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:45 a.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 8:55 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), questions re: restraining order; 9:18 a.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 10:08 a.m.: parking complaint (Howe Road), re: truck in lot; 10:32 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 12:02 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 12:57 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), questions re: e-bikes; 1:05 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), status not recorded on

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Turn To LOGS page A15



# POLICE REPORTS

## LOGS

continued from page A1

police log; 1:24 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), hang-up; 3:12 p.m.: officer wanted (First Street), req. welfare

check; 3:42 p.m.: accident (Route 49), report taken; 3:46 p.m.: juvenile matter (Paxton Road), c/o kids on ATVs; 6:05 p.m.: mv complaint (Maple Street), c/o aggressive operator; 6:07 p.m.: mv complaint (Hastings Road), c/o speed-

ing Corvette; 6:25 p.m.: suspicious persons (West Main Street), report taken; 7:46 p.m.: suspicious persons (Sherry Lane), investigated; 8:02 p.m.: odor of gas (West Main Street), referred; 8:08 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Road);

9:41 p.m.: 911 call (Chickering Road), accidental; 10:20 p.m.: medical/sudden death (Paxton Road); (total daily mv stops - 1).

# # #

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

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**WEBSTER - 18 GRAYSTONE AVE**

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Welcome to this "CLASSIC CAPE" offering the perfect blend of modern amenities. Recently remodeled open concept kitchen living room & dining area featuring granite countertops, new flooring & recent appliances. Updates include roof, windows, doors, Roth oil tank & Hot Water Heater (2021). New heating system in 2023. This is a "GEM" Possibility of a 4th bedroom/home office. 1 car under **\$405,000**

**Snug Harbor Villa!**  
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**WATERFRONT LAND**

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1640' direct waterfront on Cedar Lake! Secluded 11.61 Acres - Pristine, Undeveloped, Private & Serene! Potential for up to 5 house lots! 119' road front w/Gravel Drive Access to Land & Lake! 183' x Cedar Lake is full recreational-A Once in a Lifetime Opportunity! **\$999,000**

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**ON DEPOSIT**

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**Webster Lake - 53 Colonial Rd**

**SORRY, SOLD!**

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**Webster Lake Waterfront**  
**88 Union Point**

**SORRY, SOLD!**

Excellent opportunity! Natural Western Facing Shoreline-Beautiful Sunsets - Views of Middle to North Pond! 7,000 +/- Sq. Ft. Waterfront Lot! Fireplaced living room ! 12 X 30 one car garage. **\$660,000**

**Webster Lake Waterfront**  
**8 Long Island**

**ON DEPOSIT**

Beautifully Updated Circa 1990s Classic Antique Island Cottage, with Rare Boat House Included! Extremely Unique, Clean & Well Maintained. Modern Conveniences w/like Charm of Yester-Year! 1,240 SF, 6 Rms, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, Hardwood Floors! Fireplace w/Wood Pellet Stove, Wrap-Around Screened Porch, Lg Outbuilding w/Full Bath/Shower/Laundry & Workshop, Patio! Town Wtr/Sew + Private Well for Outdoor &/or Off-Season Water Use! 14,300 SF +/- Level Lot w/100's of Shoreline. Most Important of All - 25% Shared Ownership in a Mainland Waterfront Lot for Parking, Boat Docking & Winter Storage. **\$595,000**

**SORRY, SOLD!**  
**WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT!**  
**15 CEDAR POINT RD**

100+/- feet of Pristine, Sandy Shoreline! Boasting 6 Large rooms, 2 Baths, 3 Bedrooms, Garage. All on a Private road **\$1,000,000**

**Webster Lake Waterfront Lots**  
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**Lot# 1005R** Natural Level Shore line 7800 +/- Sq Ft **\$380,000 SORRY SOLD!**

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# DA meets with interns



Interns with the Worcester Judicial Youth Corps Program recently met Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr.

REGION — Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr. recently met local interns with the Worcester Judicial Youth Corps Program.

The program includes members representing several schools from throughout the county.

“It was an honor to speak to this year’s Worcester Judicial Youth Corps Program interns,” read a statement released by Early. “Throughout the sum-

mer, this great group of high school students will learn more about our court system from some of the best and brightest judges, lawyers, clerks, probation officers, and other court personnel.”

To learn more about programs run by the DA’s Office, visit [www.worcesterda.com](http://www.worcesterda.com).

# Bay Path graduate, mother of four triumphs in nursing journey



Gorret Rusoke and Dr. Adelina Healy

Luganda, Kiswahili, and Rutooro.

Her efforts didn’t go unnoticed. At graduation, she received both the Academic Excellence Award and the Clinical Excellence Award, alongside her induction into the National Technical Honor Society and participation in the school’s Mock Code Team.

In her words, the journey would not have been possible without the strong support around her. She expressed heartfelt thanks to the faculty and staff of Bay Path Nursing Academy—particularly Director Dr. Bolandrina Gretheline and Executive Assistant Donna—as well as her close-knit group of nursing school friends: Louise, Delene, Elizabeth, Flory, and Chali.

“They were my study partners and second family,” she said. “We built lifelong friendships that withstood every challenge.”

Rusoke is currently serving as a Direct Care Professional at the Mental Health Association in Chicopee, and previously worked at The Reserve in East Longmeadow and the Cooperative for Human Services in Lexington. Her next goal? To continue making a difference in patients’ lives with empathy, integrity, and love.

“I aspire to be the kind of nurse who makes an impact—who patients remember not just for their skill, but for how they made them feel. This is only the beginning,” Rusoke said.

As Gorret Rusoke steps into the next chapter of her career, she embodies the heart of modern nursing: resilient, compassionate, and deeply human.

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