

SPENCER NEW LEADER

©2025, Issue #44 Free by request to residents of
East Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield, Brookfield, Leicester and Spencer

SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS Friday, October 31, 2025

LHS students among top scorers on nationwide business exam

LEICESTER — It is no secret that Leicester High School is working hard to prepare students for career technical education with all of the vocational programs they have recently added, but they also have reason to celebrate academics.

Ariana Gursky and Muhammad Arslan scored among the top business students nationwide on rigorous exams to test their business knowledge. The exams are part of the school’s High School of Business™ program, a national accelerated business administration program of MBA Research and Curriculum Center. More than 7,000 students from across the nation participated in the program during the 2024-2025 school year.

Ariana and Muhammad were recently honored at the Leicester School Committee meeting.

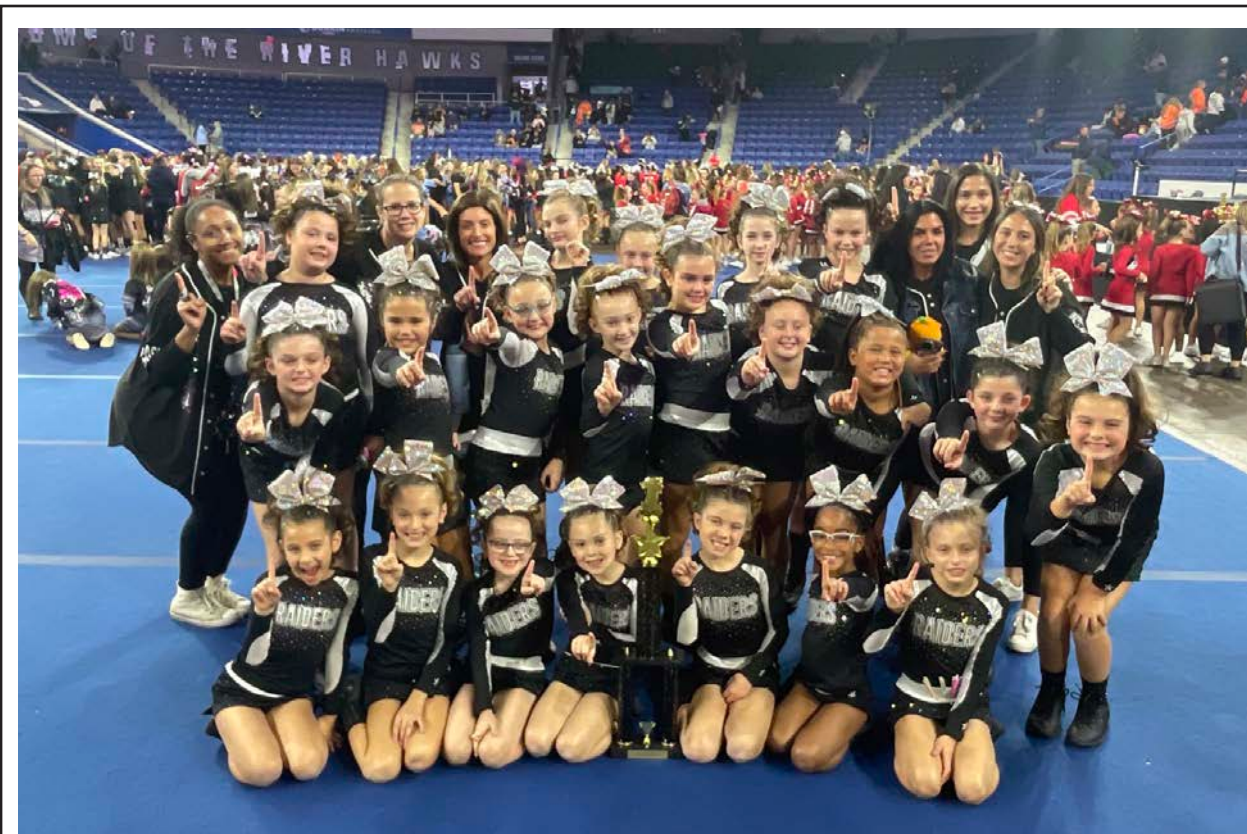
School Committee Chair Donna McCance said, “I am so proud of our students and their achievements. Their grades serve as evidence of their hard work, dedication and determination. Dr. Kustigian’s goal of building teamwork for the improvement and enhancement of our schools is enriching education for all our students. Teamwork does make the dream work.”

Superintendent Brett Kustigian also congratulated LHS Business Teacher, Mr. Andrew Lauer, for contributing to the success of LHS students.

Kustigian said, “Mr. Lauer is an awesome teacher and he is showing the nation that LHS students can compete academically with anyone across the country.”

Students participating in High School of Business complete real, hands-on business projects through a series of six courses. The program also includes observational internships, opportunities to earn college credit, and local over-

Turn To EXAM page A6



The U10 and U8 Leicester Spencer Raiders cheerleading teams placed first and second, respectively, at the state championships recently. Both teams are now headed to regionals.



LDTC hosting town hall with Driscoll

LEICESTER — The Leicester Democratic Town Committee is proud to present a Town Hall with Massachusetts Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll Monday, Nov. 10 at our own Town Hall, 3 Washburn Sq., beginning at 6 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.).

Driscoll will share updates on statewide initiatives—covering topics such as local economic growth, housing, education, and infrastructure—followed by an open Q&A session. Doors open to registered attendees at 5:30 p.m., and the meeting will begin promptly at 6 p.m. This is a free and public event. All are welcome—residents, students, and community members alike—to listen, learn, and engage in meaningful dialogue about the future of our Commonwealth.

Registration is encouraged to help us plan for seating and accessibility accommodations. To register or for more information, e-mail ldtcmass@gmail.com.

Announcing America’s AI Youth Festival

BOSTON — The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District, in partnership with MIT RAISE, hosts the America’s Youth AI Festival, celebrating the creativity, leadership, and innovation of students across the United States who are shaping the future of AI.

The Festival is hosted across Boston and MIT’s Cambridge campus, with events at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute, the MIT Media Lab, and the Edward and Joyce Linde Music Building.

Theme: Empowering America’s youth to aspire and inspire through AI innovation, shaping the next 250 years of technological leadership and creativity.

Grand Prize: Win an all-expenses-paid trip to MIT from July 17-19, 2026 (available to students ages 14 and up)

Festival materials, including Me, Myself & AI and AI LIVE, are now available, with lessons, student guides, and educator resources for additional events coming in the weeks ahead.

Visit: <https://www.dayofaiusa.org/festival> for more information.



CTE students conduct health screenings at LES

LEICESTER — Students from Leicester High School’s Health Assisting CTE program, run by Melissa Ledbetter, MSN, RN, NCSN, visited Leicester Elementary School last week to support staff by conducting vision, hearing, height, and weight screenings for students. These screenings were performed by the tenth graders in Health Assisting II, who are currently studying human growth and development and have been trained to meet all Massachusetts Department of Public Health requirements.

The Health Assisting program is a four-year pathway that begins in ninth grade with exploratory coursework and Health Assisting I. In tenth grade, students also earn certification in Alzheimer’s and Dementia care. Eleventh graders advance to earning their BLS (Basic Life Support) and CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) certifications, and seniors complete the program through a co-op, gaining valuable real-world experience working in the healthcare field.

Leicester Elementary School Principal Tracy Steiger states, “We are incredibly grateful to have access to such a strong CTE program in our district and appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with these students as they develop their skills and serve our school community.”

Worcester County Juvenile Court to host National Adoption Day celebration

WORCESTER —The Worcester County Juvenile Court will host its annual National Adoption Day celebration on Friday, Nov. 21 from 8:30-10:30 a.m., finalizing adoptions for 26 children joining 20 families from across Worcester County.

Five judges will preside over adoptions in separate courtrooms throughout the morning. The event is supported by community partners and friends of the court who will provide food, activities, gifts, professional photos, and more to help families mark this milestone occasion.

Festivities will include breakfast, arts and crafts, visits from local sports mascots, princess and superhero

characters, and service and comfort dogs, creating a joyful and memorable experience for participants.

National Adoption Day is observed nationwide each November on the Friday before Thanksgiving to raise awareness of the thousands of children in foster care who are waiting for permanent, loving families. In Worcester County alone, approximately 2,000 children are currently in child protective custody awaiting permanency — and more than 9,000 statewide. Since its inception in 2000, National Adoption Day has celebrated the adoptions of more than 85,000 children across the

United States.

Please use the main/front entrance and be prepared to go through security screening. Media must check in at the CASA

Project Worcester County table, which will be prominently marked with signage and media badges.

The Worcester County Juvenile Court, under the direction of First Justice Mary Beth Keating, currently holds sessions in four locations: Worcester, Fitchburg, Milford, and Dudley. It is the mission of the

Massachusetts Juvenile Court to protect children from abuse and neglect and promote opportunities for children to reside in safe, stable, permanent family environments whenever possible, to strengthen families when their children are in need of services, to rehabilitate juveniles, to protect the public from delinquent and criminal activity while holding offenders accountable and addressing the harm suffered by the community and the victim, and to

decide all cases fairly and impartially with dedication, integrity, and professionalism.

CASA Project Worcester County, a partner in National Adoption Day efforts, is a nonprofit organization appointed by Juvenile Court judges to the most complex cases. CASA's mission is to advocate for the best interests of abused, neglected, and vulnerable children, amplify their voices

in court, and support them on their paths toward a permanent home. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) are carefully screened and trained community volunteers. CASA Project Worcester County is a member of the National CASA Association and the oldest and largest of six programs of its kind in the state.

DOT to hold virtual public hearing on Route 9 project

SPENCER — A Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT Web site Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 5:30 p.m. to present the design for the proposed project in Spencer - East Brookfield.

The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

The proposed project consists of improvements along Route 9 and at the intersection of Route 9 and Route 49 in the Towns of East Brookfield and Spencer. The work involves construction of a cement concrete roundabout, improved bike and pedestrian accommodations, lighting, and upgrades to pavement, drainage, pavement markings, and signage. The proposed pedestrian accommodations consist of five-foot-wide sidewalks along Route 9 and a shared use path at the roundabout. The proposed bicycle accommodations consist of five-foot buffered bicycle lanes along Route 9 and a shared use path at the roundabout. Pedestrian and bicycle accommodations have been provided in accordance with applicable design guides.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 613097. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than 10 business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted.

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g., interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the hearing, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.

This hearing will be hosted, or a cancellation announcement posted, on the Internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

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MLS

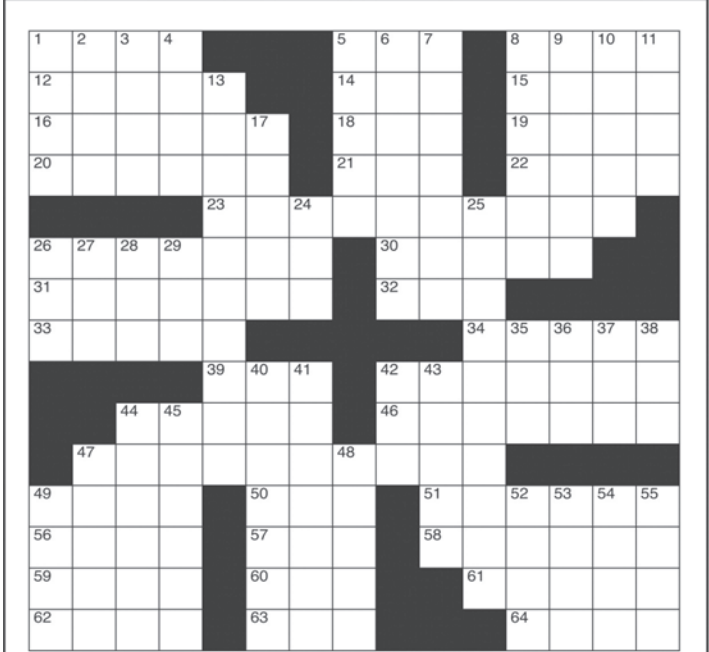
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CLUES ACROSS

1. El __, Texas town

5. Rocker's tool

8. A lot

12. Traveling by ground

14. Spelling competition

15. Two-toed sloth

16. Small perfumed bag

18. "Much __ about nothing"

19. Tough-skinned mollusk

20. Removes from record

21. It warms the planet

22. Leafy green

23. Quality of arriving favorably

26. Living thing

30. "Six of Crows" author Bardugo

31. Got around a rule

32. Resin from burned substance

33. Iraq seaport

34. Religious leaders
39. Fugitives are on it

42. Samson's influencer

44. Italian city

46. A quality of lacking interest

47. Predatory tropical fishes

49. Nobel physician Isodor

50. Luck

51. Stationary part of a motor or generator

56. Orthopedic professional group (abbr.)

57. One point south of due east

58. It follows 79

59. Paper currency

60. Anger

61. Spanish seaport

62. Sleep in a rough place

63. Famous museum

64. Selfs

CLUES DOWN

1. Bullfighting maneuver

2. From a distance

3. Soul and calypso song

4. Expressions of delight

5. Lower in esteem

6. Inner region of an organ

7. Flowers

8. A bog

9. Remove a fastening

10. Membranes

11. Enormous

13. One who abstains from drink

17. Malayan wild ox

24. Type of student

25. Rejecting all moral principles

26. Sino-Soviet block

27. Egyptian unit of weight

28. Wrong

29. Make a mistake
35. Indicates location

36. Boxing's "GOAT"

37. Where wrestlers compete

38. Timid

40. Disney town

41. Suggesting the horror of death and decay

42. Male parent

43. Remove for good

44. Simple shoes

45. Flowers

47. Hindi courtesy title for a man

48. Not pleased

49. "Atlas Shrugged" author

52. CIA officer and writer

53. Hoodlum

54. __ Von Bismarck, Iron Chancellor

55. Woolen rugs

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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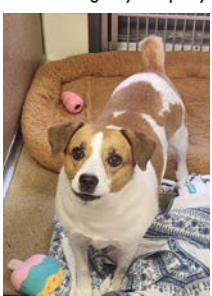
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P.E.T. of the Week

Sponsored by Leicester Veterinary Clinic, LLC
Hello, my name is Dante, I'm looking for my retirement home. In my 12 years of life I have quite the story. I am an escape artist and I can't help it, I love to explore! One of my adventures in my earlier years landed me with a broken leg. I absolutely must have a home with a fenced yard. I also need someone who will diligently keep my leash on. It is best if I go home to either a single person or to a couple and no young children because I'm afraid that's an easy way for me to slip out the door and take to wandering again. I can be shy at first, because of my special personality, you will have to make multiple visits to the shelter to make sure I am comfortable before I can go home. If you have the patience and the calm environment I'm looking for in a home please come in to meet me!



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Dr. Colm P. Scanlon
Veterinarian

SPENCER ALMANAC

REAL ESTATE

BROOKFIELD

None

EAST BROOKFIELD

None

LEICESTER

\$495,000, 2 Autumn Ln, Murray, Gerard K, to Macumber, Kristy.

\$467,000, 534 Pleasant St, Richford, Guy P, and Richford, Barbara A, to Dickey, Amanda M, and Cunningham, Glenn M.

\$425,000, 104 Huntoon Memorial Hwy, Koncepts Realty LLC, to Color Up Holdings LLC.

\$425,000, 6 Reservoir St, Brezniak Rt, and Brezniak, Pamela J, to Jordan, Melissa.

\$176,277, 28 Beech St, Delisle, Benjamin J, to Cepeda, Jennifer, and Cepeda 2nd, Miguel A.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

\$425,000, 32 Mount Pleasant St, Roman Catholic Bishop Of, to Bowlin, Emily G, and Bowlin, Renee J.

\$375,000, 23 Elm St, Pong, Blaine C, and Brunelle, Ashley, to Beshaw, Jesse.

SPENCER

\$490,000, 21 Brooks Pond Cross Rd, Schofield Ft, and Knight, Kelly A, to Callahan, Louis, and Callahan, Cheryl.

\$470,000, 15 Pioneer Valley Dr, Joslin, Patrick W, and Gomez, Christina L, to Anaman, James.

\$345,000, 30 Mcdonald St, Onacki, Thomas J, and Onacki, Montana V, to Quadarella, Krystal, and Burlingame, Kyle.

WARREN

\$580,000, 447 Coy Hill Rd, Bolduc Jr, Donald H, to Demetrius, Rashad A, and Porter, Tiffany.

WEST BROOKFIELD

\$764,000, 11 Lakeshore Dr Ext, Gately, Thomas, and Gately, Jane, to Ric A Weinman RET, and Weinman, Ric A.

\$649,000, 36 Mill Rd, Trzeciak, Aaron J, to Ragno, Kyle J, and Martin, Katherine N.

\$185,000, 211 Long Hill Rd, John D Zawalski Lt, and Zawalski, John D, to Mancini, Dean, and Mancini, Elizabeth.

COMMUNITY
CALENDAR
OCTOBER 31 TO
NOVEMBER 7

Friday, Oct. 31
The moon rides high on Halloween night, costumes swirl in the pale porch light. Trick-or-treat trails down Main and Pine, with laughter sweeter than any design. Spencer Fire's crew on Elm keeps watch, so goblins may giggle without a scotch. At East Brookfield Library, 6 to 8, spooky stories and cider await.

Saturday, Nov. 1
November wakes with a pumpkin sigh, leaves take flight as geese drift by. The Leicester Town Hall Craft Fair, ten 'til three, has quilts and jams and good company. Down in North Brookfield, noon 'til four, the Historical Society's antique store opens its trove of clocks and lace—a time-travel stop in a charming place.

Sunday, Nov. 2
A morning of muffins and mellow tunes, the West Brookfield Common hums by noon. At one, a farmers' market gleams, with apples polished to autumn dreams. The Warren Senior Center serves roast beef, with laughter and stories past belief. Donations go toward veterans' aid—gratitude's price already paid.

Monday, Nov. 3
The week begins with a mindful start, at Yoga in Spencer's Town Hall Art room, six o'clock—stretch, breathe, repeat, before the day can skip your beat. Then curl with cocoa by reading's glow, the Leicester Library Book Club Show meets at seven; bring thoughts to share, and maybe a sweater for the autumn air.

Tuesday, Nov. 4
Knitting needles click and clack, at East Brookfield Library, back to back. Crafting comfort, noon 'til two, with scarves of crimson, gold, and blue. Meanwhile, over in West Brookfield Square, the Friends of the Library Bake Repair (translation: bake sale!)—pies and cake, raising funds for the books they make.

Wednesday, Nov. 5
Spencer's Senior Center Lunch at noon—meatloaf, potatoes, and friendly tune. At night, when twilight paints the sky, the North Brookfield Chorus will try their voices at Town Hall, seven sharp, in songs that mend the weary heart.

Thursday, Nov. 6
Gobble, giggle, gather 'round, the Brookfield Lions are homeward bound. Their pasta supper, five 'til eight, feeds good causes on every plate. If you've still got pep in your step that night, the Leicester Open Mic starts at light—seven o'clock at the Public Pub, where poets and pickers trade sonic grub.

Friday, Nov. 7
The week bows out with candle glow, at St. Joseph's Church Bazaar below. Crafts, raffles, cider and cheer, a hint of holiday drawing near. As clocks fall back and nights grow long, our little towns keep spirits strong. So bundle up, step out, and see—there's magic yet in community.

Cornerstone Bank honored as 2025
Best of Central Massachusetts finalist

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank is proud to announce that it has been voted a 2025 Community Choice “Best of Central Massachusetts” top 3 finalist for Best Bank, an honor made possible by the votes and support of our community.

This recognition is a testament to the trust, connection and loyalty Cornerstone has built with the people and businesses it serves throughout Central Massachusetts. Each year, the Best of Central Mass Community's Choice Awards celebrate local organizations that make a meaningful difference in their communities. Being named among the top three in the region reflects Cornerstone's continued dedication to providing dependable, compassionate and personalized banking solutions.

“We're truly honored to be recognized by our community,” said Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank. “At Cornerstone, we strive to make a positive impact in the lives of our customers every day, whether that's helping them achieve their financial goals, supporting local causes or being a trusted partner through life's milestones. This recognition means so much because it comes directly from the people we serve.”

Cornerstone Bank is one of several standout institutions selected as finalists in the finance category, representing the very best of Central Massachusetts.

The 2025 Best of Central Massachusetts Community's Choice Awards Gala will be held on Nov. 6 at 6 p.m. at the DCU Center in Worcester. The exclusive event celebrates finalists and winners across a range of industries.

Cornerstone Bank extends heartfelt thanks to all who voted and continues to uphold its mission to be a supportive and trusted banking partner that truly sees, hears and stands with its community.

North Brookfield
Public Schools
offer Child Find

NORTH BROOKFIELD — North Brookfield Public Schools conducts ongoing “Child Find” to locate, identify, and evaluate children and youth ages three to 21 who live in North Brookfield and may have a disability and need special education services. This includes children who are home-schooled, highly mobile, homeless, in foster care/wards of the state, and students who attend private schools located in North Brookfield (even if they live elsewhere).

If you have concerns about a child's development, learning, behavior, speech/language, hearing/vision, or social-emotional needs, please contact Michael R. Baldassarre, Ed.D., Director of Student Services, at 508-867-3166 or mbaldassarre@nbschools.org.

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone, which is a subsidiary of PeoplesBankCorp, MHC, operating independently under its own name and brand, provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with 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 or call 800-939-9103.

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WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

TOWN OF AUBURN
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
SNOW REMOVAL APPLICATIONS

The Town of Auburn Department of Public Works is accepting applications for snow plowing for the 2025 - 2026 winter season. Applications may be obtained at the Department of Public Works — Highway Division, 5 Millbury Street, Auburn, MA 01501, Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.. Applications are also available on the Town of Auburn website www.auburnguide.com. Applications must be returned to the Department of Public Works. The Town of Auburn reserves the right to waive any informalities and accept or reject any or all applications, or portions of such, if thought to be in the best interest of the Town. Kenneth Fairbanks Highway Superintendent

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Fight the winter blues with double amaryllis



Courtesy — Longfield-Gardens.com

The artistic blooms of Double Aphrodite amaryllis have ruffled white petals with a narrow red edge and lime green center.

Add unique flare to this winter’s indoor garden and décor with double amaryllis. The several layers of colorful petals are sure to make a statement wherever they are displayed.

Start the amaryllis season with early blooming varieties grown in the southern hemisphere. Double Alaska features frilly, fully double

white flowers with a lime green center. Order bulbs early, store them in a cool, dry, dark location and plant these early blooming bulbs by Nov. 1 if you want flowers for the holiday.

Keep the color coming throughout the winter by growing a variety of other double amaryllis grown in the Northern hemisphere

that begin blooming in January. Plant a few bulbs every three weeks to extend your enjoyment for several months.

Watch the colors change on Double Giant Amadeus amaryllis. The petals start as mostly white with a fine red outline. As the flowers mature, the color intensifies to a blushing pink, coral and

salmon.

Grow Double Sweet Nymph (longfield-gardens.com) for a bit of a romantic charm. The layers of creamy white petals are covered with coral pink stripes.

If you like the traditional red amaryllis, you will enjoy the giant red flowers of Double King. Each bulb produces three stems with four or more blooms that open at different times to extend your enjoyment.

The candy cane striped narrow petals of Double Doublet are sure to catch your attention. Each flower is a bit different, adding to its uniqueness. Watch as the three stems grow, producing as many as a dozen flowers from each bulb.

Enjoy weeks of artistic blooms when you grow Double Aphrodite amaryllis. The ruffled white petals have a narrow red edge and lime green center. The fine red brushstrokes that extend from the petal tips add to this amaryllis’s charm.

Plant your amaryllis bulbs in a quality potting mix with the top half above the soil surface. Grow a sin-



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

month or more for your amaryllis bulb to wake up and start growing. Water more often once sprouts appear. Enjoy the transformation as the bulb turns into a flowering plant over the next few weeks.

Growing amaryllis indoors will keep you gardening all year long, providing mood-boosting benefits and stress relief. Plus, the colorful blossoms are sure to brighten your winter days.

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 was commissioned by Longfield Gardens for her expertise to write this article. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Now relax and wait a

LEGALS

Notice of Public Hearing Town of Spencer Tax Classification

The Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing on November 17, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, to discuss the percentage of the tax levy to be borne by each class of real and personal property for Fiscal Year 2026, pursuant to MGL Chapter 40, Section 56, relating to classification and taxation of property according to use.

Interested taxpayers may present their views verbally or in writing to the Board of Selectmen at Memorial Town Hall prior to or during said hearing. If you are not able to attend in-person, you may dial in from your phone: 1 866 899 4679 Enter Access Code: 479-429-349

Or join from your computer, tablet, or smartphone:
<https://www.gotomeet.me/Townof-SpencerMA/boardofselectmen>
October 31, 2025

Notice of Public Hearing Town of Spencer

The Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on November 24, 2025, at 6:00 pm in the McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer on the Annual License Renewals for 2026, including Class I, Class II, Class III, and Gravel. October 31, 2025

(SEAL)
THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket Number: 24 SM 004293
ORDER OF NOTICE
To:
Eva Adjoian
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):
NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in East Brookfield, numbered 132 North Brookfield Road, given by Eva Adjoian to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for HarborOne Mortgage LLC, dated November 26, 2019, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 61494, Page 1, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant’s/Defendants’ Servicemembers status.
If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before December 1, 2025, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of non-compliance with the Act.
Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on October 21, 2025.
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson

Recorder
28366
October 31, 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. WO25P3545EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
Brian Paul Connolly
**Also known as: Brian P Connolly,
Brian Connolly**
Date of Death:08/26/2025

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Denise M Connolly of Brookfield-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:
Denise M Connolly of BrookfieldMA 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 11/11/2025.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 16, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
October 31, 2025

To the owners of the hereinafter described parcels of LAND situated in the Town of Leicester in the County of Worcester and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to all concerned: You are hereby notified that on Monday, November 17, 2025 at 10:00 AM local time in Leicester Town Hall, 3 Washburn Square, Leicester, MA 01524 in the gymnasium, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 60, Sec 52 and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Treasurer, it is my intention to assign and transfer the Tax Title held by the Town

of Leicester covering the following described parcel to the highest bidder at public auction, for all taxes thereon with interest and all necessary and intervening charges of any balance of said taxes, unless the same has been paid in full before that date. The minimum bid for the unit will be the aggregate amount of taxes, interest and fees due on the account for the property that remains on the list below on the day of the Auction. In the event there are multiple parties bidding the same price, the bidding will go up in increments of \$1,000.00. All Bidders must pre-register by Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 2:00 PM. To pre-register, please call the Treasurer’s Office at 508-892-7004. Rules of sale will be available at the Office of the Treasurer. Honeyman Alexander T. located at 57 BURNCOAT LN in Leicester, MA, containing 0.093 Acres of Land and recorded at the Worcester Registry of Deeds- Book/Page 66497/19. Minimum Bid: \$12,469.85
October 31, 2025

AT&T Mobility, LLC is proposing to convert a temporary tower location into a permanent 125 ft Monopole telecommunications tower facility located at 17 Lake Street, Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts 01562. Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending comments to: Project 250052324PR, EBI Consulting, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or at (617) 715-1822.
October 31, 2025

Notice of Public Hearing– Planning Board
The Spencer Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on Tuesday November 18, 2025 in McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, , 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, and the hearing will be conducted in person and remotely on the following items starting at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:
Public Hearing: Scenic Road — As required by MGL Ch. 40, Sec. 15C of the General Laws of Massachusetts, a public hearing will be held related to tree work associated with tree removal on 20 William Casey Road, Map & Parcel: R10-18-1. The applicant is Albert Sandy owner of 20 William Casey Road and the work is located within the Rural Residential zoning district and on designated Scenic Roads.
October 31, 2025
November 7, 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:
Elizabeth Putnam has filed an **RDA** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to remove trees located at **21 Castle Lane, Spencer, MA.**
Brian T. Clancey has filed an **RDA** with the Spencer Conservation Commission for a proposed septic system located at **33 Lakeshore Drive, Spencer, MA.**
Gerson Henrique has filed an **NOI** with the Spencer Conservation Commission for a proposed Single-family

home, septic & driveway located at **130 Paxton 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, November 12, 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
Mary McLaughlin, Chairwoman
October 31, 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. WO25P1175EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
Joseph A. Kularski, Jr.
Also known as: Joseph A. Kularski
Date of Death:08/11/2024

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **North Brookfield Savings Bank of North Brookfield 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:
North Brookfield Savings Bank of North 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 11/11/2025.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 24, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
October 31, 2025

Christ Memorial hosting Red Door Fayre

NORTH BROOKFIELD — Christ Memorial Episcopal Church will hold its Red Door Fayre Saturday, Nov. 8 from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Browse a Christmas table, Exquisite Table, craft table, interior plants, a bake table and a selection of pies. Raffles will also be offered, and a homemade luncheon will be served including soups, sandwiches, and apple crisp.

WEEKLY POLICE BLOTTER

Leicester
The Leicester Police Department reported the following arrests from Oct. 16-22.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Oct. 16 for making Annoying Telephone Calls and/or Electronic Communications, Criminal Harassment, Stalking, and Accosting or Annoying Another Person.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Oct. 17 for operating an Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of registration, Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and driving at a rate of speed exceeding the posted limit.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Oct. 18 for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle and a Passing Violation.

Paul Didomenico, age 60, of Worcester was arrested on Oct. 18 for Operating Under the Influence (Liquor), Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, a Marked Lanes Violation, and Failure to Dim Headlights.

Amanda Marie Williams, age 35, of Cherry Valley was arrested on Oct. 20 for Failure to Appear Upon Recognizance.

Spencer
The Spencer Police Department reported no arrests during the week of Oct. 15-21.

Registration open for winter SEBRSD sports

REGION — Registration on FamilyID for David Prouty and Knox Trail Winter sports began Friday, Oct. 24. All student-athletes, in order to participate, must be registered and have an up-to-date physical exam on file with their building nurse.

On behalf of all of us within the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District, we are excited to announce that we are offering the convenience of online registration through FamilyID (www.familyid.com). FamilyID is a secure registration platform that provides you with an easy, user-friendly way to register for our programs, and helps us to be more administratively efficient and environmentally responsible. When you register through FamilyID, the system keeps track of your information in your FamilyID profile. You enter your information only once per family member for use in multiple programs.

Fire Cider workshop at the Leicester Library

LEICESTER — On Tuesday, Nov. 4 at 6 p.m., the Leicester Public Library will host a program on Fire Cider.

Fire Cider is a classic folk remedy that herbalists and “kitchen witches” have been making for generations. It boosts the immune system, wards off colds and flu, and is an overall tonic for the body. Fire Cider is a wonderful remedy to make on your own, but even more fun to make with friends!

Join Nora Toomey, Clinical Herbalist of True Bloom Apothecary, for an evening of community medicine making! As we chop up our ingredients, we will learn all about this delightfully spicy and sweet remedy, including the history, the primary herbal actions and applications, and the myriad of recipe variations you can try at home! Each participant will leave with a jar full of Fire Cider! Sponsored by the Friends of the Leicester Public Library, this program is for adults, and registration is required.

To register, click the link in the calendar at www.leicesterlibrary.org.

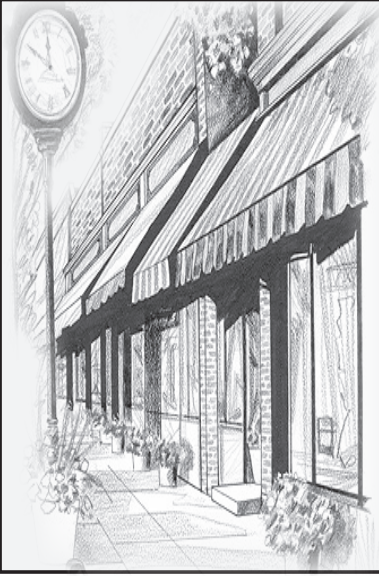
Leicester Women’s Club hosting Holiday Auction

LEICESTER — The Leicester Women’s Club will host their annual Holiday Auction at Pine Ridge Country Club on Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 6 p.m. The event is both a social gathering for members, guests and friends, as well as a fundraiser for local charities, including Hearts for Heat, McAuley Nazareth, Inc. and the Leicester Food Pantry. Donated items include food & wine, homemade baked goods, holiday décor, baskets and gifts. Purchases with cash or checks only, please. Women’s Club members and non-members are welcome, but reservations are required.

The dinner, which includes salad, entrée, bread, dessert, coffee and tea, is \$28, payable at the door. A cash bar is available. For reservations, contact Linda Monahan at 508-330-9250 before Wednesday, Nov. 12.

The Leicester Women’s Club, founded in 1962, is both a community service organization and a social club. It is open to women who are residents of Leicester and surrounding towns. Annual dues are \$20, and meetings are monthly from September through April. Members hold a basket raffle at the Leicester Harvest Fair in September to raise money for local scholarships, and a holiday auction in November to raise money for local charities. For information about membership, please call Renee McCue-Hall at 508-892-0186.

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EXAM
continued from page A1

sight via a steering team of college faculty, business professionals, and school personnel.
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Courtesy
Muhammad Arslan (center, holding certificate) is pictured here receiving his certificate from the School Committee.

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Courtesy

The Leicester Senior Center welcomes Donna Lee Honeywell performing as Patsy Cline on Sunday, Nov. 9 at noon. Honeywell will perform the legendary Country star's classic hits, accompanied by backup singers and a full orchestra. The cost per person is \$10, and includes a hot dog lunch prepared by Harry Brooks. For more information, please call the Senior Center at (508) 892-7016.



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QCC hires director for new Auxilium Center for Entrepreneurship

“By the time students graduate, they’ll not only have a degree, they’ll be ready to launch a business,” said Knight, who emphasized the importance of connecting the QCC community to Worcester’s thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Knight brings a wealth of experience to the role. She holds an MBA from Johnson & Wales University and a BA in global citizenship with a specialization in management from Becker College. Her leadership background includes serving as Director of the CWE-Central MA Women’s Business Center and Founder/CEO of Own Your Legacy Ventures LLC, an organization that helps entrepreneurs reach the critical two-year milestone through branding, consulting and strategic planning.

“Rocky brings robust experience as an entrepreneur and an educator, and she is well-connected within the regional entrepreneurial ecosystem. We are thrilled she’ll be working with QCC students and alumni to bring their ideas forward,” said Vice President of Academic Affairs Kathy Rentsch.

Knight also founded the For One Child Foundation, a nonprofit that has impacted over 1,500 students across Massachusetts and rural Jamaica through educational resources, digital access, and infrastructure develop-

ment. Her commitment to community empowerment has earned her numerous accolades, including the Worcester Business Journal’s 40 Under 40 Award (2024), Worcester Magazine’s Woman to Watch (2025) and recognition as a Massachusetts Commonwealth Heroine (2025).

“Entrepreneurship is a new type of job security,” said Knight. “I’m happy to be in a space where we can help people move forward and ensure entrepreneurs have access to the right resources.”

For more information on the Auxilium Center for Entrepreneurship at QCC, visit QCC.edu/auxilium.



Rocky Knight

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College has hired Rocky Knight as the director of its newly launched Auxilium Center for Entrepreneurship, a resource hub created to support and inspire students, staff and alumni in launching and scaling their entrepreneurial ventures.

Funded by the Cliff & Susan Rucker Foundation and supported through a strategic partnership with Auxilium Worcester, the center will offer one-on-one consulting, mentorship, workshops and training to help aspiring entrepreneurs navigate the complexities of starting and growing a business.

Sheriff’s Organic Farm continues long legacy of feeding Worcester County

WEST BOYLSTON — More than a decade ago, a newly elected Sheriff in Worcester County aimed to revive a program at the Worcester County Jail and House of Correction. That program not only honored the rich farming history of Massachusetts but also focused on modern methods of rehabilitating inmate populations.

Today, Sheriff Lew Evangelidis is proud of the program his staff has diligently worked to revive. The Worcester County Sheriff’s Office Inmate Run Organic Farm program is thriving, and those in need throughout Worcester County have benefited from the program for years.

As part of the House of Corrections’ Work Release Program, qualified inmates are permitted to tend to the grounds of the facility, including the various farming fields. The produce harvested by inmate work crews benefits numerous organizations, such as local food banks, senior centers, soup kitchens, veteran groups, and other charitable organizations in Worcester County.

In addition to their contribution to the community, inmates benefit by gaining valuable work experience, learning agricultural skills, and having the opportunity to participate in meaningful daily activities that promote responsibility and discipline. Additionally, the harvested food is also provided to the inmate population within the facility.



Courtesy

Sheriff Evangelidis and WCSO Lt. Travaglio pose with a mid-summer harvest of fresh organic produce.

“We are fortunate to have the land and the resources to support the Organic Farm program,” said Evangelidis. “We have put in a lot of effort to develop this program to its current state. While we are always subject to the challenges posed by Mother Nature, we have addressed the obstacles to optimize the work of the farm team and the inmates in the Work Release program. Through this work, inmates gain job skills, confidence, and the dignity that comes from engaging in a full day’s work for the benefit of others.”

Inmates eligible to join the work-release program are classified as low-risk and non-violent. Those who qualify and opt to participate earn “good time” credits each month for their positive behavior and active involvement in programming. The time commitment varies depending on the workload and time of

year, but typically, inmates work between 10 to 25 hours a week.

On the 18 acres of actively farmed land, zucchini, summer squash, cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, tomatoes, cabbage, corn, watermelon, and pumpkins were bountiful through the first frost in October. It was estimated that approximately 35,000 pounds of fresh organic produce were harvested and distributed to community partners this year.

Since taking office in 2011, Evangelidis has remained committed to developing the Organic Farm and being dedicated to the communities he represents. After multiple expansions of the farm under Evangelidis’ leadership, the Worcester County Jail boasts the largest organic farm on a correctional facility in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



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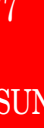
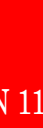
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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

The light within the lanterns

Every October, as the days grow short and the evenings take on that crisp, wood-smoke chill, our part of central Massachusetts seems to hum with anticipation. On porches from Leicester to West Brookfield, the first pumpkins appear. Little ghosts and superheroes start rehearsing their polite thank-you’s. Porch lights flicker on, and a familiar glow warms the winding streets of Spencer and the Brookfields. Halloween has returned, and with it comes a kind of neighborly magic.

It’s easy to dismiss the holiday as make-believe—a night of costumes and candy. But look closer, and you’ll see something more enduring in those flickering lanterns. Halloween is one of the few nights of the year when nearly every door in town opens to a knock. In a time when we spend much of our lives behind screens and locked doors, this single evening calls us back into the simple rhythm of community. We greet strangers, we laugh at creativity, and we share small gestures of generosity that add up to something much larger.

Parents walking the neighborhood this week will see that spirit everywhere. It’s in the effort of families who carve twenty pumpkins just to make the block feel festive. It’s in the police and fire crews who adjust their patrols to keep the sidewalks safe. It’s in the volunteers at the town’s trunk-or-treat events and the local businesses handing out cider and doughnuts downtown. There’s pride in all of it—the same quiet pride that defines these towns every season.

Halloween also reminds us of the power of imagination, something our communities need as much as our children do. The holiday gives us permission to be a little silly, a little daring, even a little mysterious. A cardboard sword or a thrift-store cape can turn an ordinary kid into a hero. That same creative spark drives the volunteers who plan our parades, the teachers who turn classrooms into storybook worlds, and the neighbors who transform their lawns into haunted wonderlands. For one night, the world is less about who we are and more about who we can be.

And while Halloween celebrates the playful side of fear, it also teaches a quiet kind of courage. Children learn to approach the unfamiliar with confidence. Adults are reminded that darkness isn’t something to hide from—it’s something that makes the light shine brighter. A jack-o’-lantern’s grin, after all, means little without the shadows around it.

So as the costumed crowds gather and the candy bowls empty, let’s carry forward the better parts of this season. Keep your porch light glowing a little longer—not only for trick-or-treaters but for the neighbor who could use a friendly word. Check on an elderly resident who may not see the parade of visitors this year. Slow down on your evening drive through the village streets. Small courtesies like these turn a single night of festivity into a year-round habit of care.

When the pumpkins collapse and the decorations are packed away, what remains is what matters most: the proof that even in a hurried world, we can still pause long enough to share laughter on a cool October night. The faces behind the masks are our friends, our families, and our future—and that, more than anything, is worth celebrating.

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

Did you vote?

To the Editor:

The reason we are where we are today is, not enough came out and voted to elect Harris. If you voted for anyone else, or did not vote, then you are responsible for where we are today. It is easier to con someone than to convince them they were conned.

Many thanks to the hundreds who turned out in West Brookfield at the No Kings rally. Having attended many of their summer concerts, rally attendees were along the curb where I would usually park, but having a handicap tag, I figured I could find something. I ended up in the space behind the bandshell, where the entertainers usually park. I was surprised to see new 30-minute parking sign, as certainly no concert is that short. I wonder who authored this, or whether it was created as a MAGA move against the weekly protesters. Because I walk with a cane, I did travel the length of the crowd and back, and visit with some friends and neighbors. Because it was a marathon for me, I did not last to the end of the event, but a friend who did found her car being ticketed when she reached it.

If you think this was because of a prevailing interest in law enforcement, what are your thoughts on masked ICE

agents who ignore due process and the rule of law being illegally (unconstitutionally) assisted by federal troops while a President (king) who is immune from prosecution for breaking laws is now using his pardon power to simply ignore laws as do his minions?

Speaking of law enforcement, why isn’t Section #3 of the 14th Amendment not being enforced? It states that anyone who participates in or assists or supports an insurrection is banned from holding federal office unless that ban has been lifted by a two thirds vote of both houses. Did I miss it?

If the fact that he recruited the Jan. 6 demonstrators and did not call out troops when Capitol was under siege was not enough, he pardoned beaters of Capitol police convicted of insurrection.

The variety of issues I saw protested ranged over the years of anti-Trump submissions I have made. One thing is clear — no number of protests or protestors will change a thing. If you want to make America- America again, vote blue at every chance. The price of failure is losing the chance.

KEN KIMBALL
BROOKFIELD

A moment of hope

To the Editor:

The news was bad on Fox. Millions of Democrats were holding a No Kings Day on Oct. 18. Word was out that this rabid, nasty group of Leftist Dems, probably part of Hamas, was out of control and marching in protest of our “Dear Leader!” They were going to riot and burn cities to the ground; they were armed and dangerous and hated America! Call out the troops!

On Oct. 19, we all got the “word.” No protest-related arrests anywhere, and the total of the marches nationwide rose to 8.1 million! And the rallies and marches were world-wide. As I clutched my pearls in horror, I saw pictures of many events all over the country and the world. To my surprise, participants were joyous, peaceful, wore frog, chicken and dinosaur costumes, were singing and laughing. Children and dogs were playing and the music was upbeat. How can this be?

Those of you who know me understand the above is satire. I do not aspire to being part of any group that promotes anger, hatred and violence. You also know I am

truthful, caring and have always done my best to make things better for families, children and communities. I am part of an amazing group that organized a No Kings Day rally in a small town on Saturday. We had over 500 participants and volunteers who were peaceful and joyous. The costumes were hilarious, and the music outstanding. Our local police officers were a vigilant presence and had an impromptu ballgame with the children. I am so thankful and proud of those who attended. This gives me hope. This was definitely a “We the People” moment.

I expect to receive nasty comments and criticism for this letter. That matters little to me. It is time for truth to win out and time to reach out our hands to each other, no matter our political affiliation. We must take back America now! Are you ready? What side of history will you be on?

ANN TOOMEY-DOANE
WEST BROOKFIELD

Boots

them to safety, but instead brought them unwanted glory and eternal loneliness.

These boots remain mired in the mud of the Mekong Delta, the deserts of Afghanistan and Iraq, and countless other countries.

Where they will be forgotten, just like the love, memories and hopes of the soldier who wore them!

HANK HOUGHTON
WEST BROOKFIELD

Our choice — democracy or a “Big Man”

To the Editor:

On Oct. 18, millions upon millions of Americans in over 2,500 cities and towns across the United States, including many of our towns, joyfully participated in “No Kings” rallies. Like me, I think they participated to celebrate our local and national sense of community and shared value of American “for the people” sh democracy.

Over 250 years, we, while never perfect, and often messy, for the “Common Good,” we have almost always been willing to compromise and work together. Not only has this mainly worked well, it has most often earned us the respect of the entire the world.

Thanks to our 250 years old Constitutional democracy, our decent and good American values and many unsung heroes like Kelly, Mattis, and Pelosi, our country survived the first four years of Donald Trump.

This time around, with what was the Republican party and others turned into servants of Donald Trump and his “Big Man” obsession with total power, “I rule

America, I rule the world,” the situation is different.

For him, it’s also about wealth with billions and billions of dollars put into his and family pockets so far, with more to come.

It’s also about Trump becoming more and more famous and spending more and more time in front of cameras rather working, even when government is shut down and millions of we Americans suffer because of it.

It’s also about Trump’s, Miller’s and Vought’s grand plans of destruction, the White House itself being a terrible example.

However, it’s also about anyone and anything that disagrees with our “Big Man,” whether it be American institutions, the economy, our best friends and neighbors.

We have much “No Kings” work to do.

KEVIN KANE
SPENCER

A financial roadmap for veterans entering civilian life



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The transition from military to civilian life brings countless adjustments. It also marks a good time to review how you’re taking charge of your financial future. Veteran Saves Week is Nov. 4-7 and an opportunity to focus on building financial confidence and creating a solid foundation for your new chapter.

Now in its second year, Veteran Saves Week centers around one core message: No matter where you are on your financial journey, small steps can lead to lasting change. Here are a few tips to help:

Understand the financial shift. If you’ve recently re-entered civilian life, it’s important to identify any gaps between your income and expenses. A key part of this gap often comes from the loss of military allowances, such as the Basic Allowance for Housing and Basic Allowance for Subsistence. You may also lose commissary and exchange privileges where groceries and goods were purchased tax-free.

Health benefits represent another shift. While you received health care through TRICARE on active duty, you might be eligible for TRICARE for Life and Veterans Administration benefits, but you may still need to supplement this coverage with a group health care plan from your employer or purchase it independently.

Build a budget. Getting a clear picture of your finances helps you make informed decisions. Look at your monthly income, expenses and savings to understand your starting point.

One strategy you may find useful is the 50/30/20 rule. With this, you divide your monthly take-home pay into three parts: 50 percent for needs like housing, utilities, food and insurance, 30 percent for wants and 20 percent for savings and debt repayment.

Take essential financial steps. Your monthly budget should include building an emergency fund, paying down high-rate debt and saving for retirement. It may help to use budgeting apps that categorize expenses and identify areas where you can cut back when necessary.

Building an emergency fund becomes even more critical during transition. Aim for three to six months of cash savings to provide a safety net for living expenses while you establish your civilian career.

Don’t overlook the available retirement planning tools. Even if you will have a pension, you might consider putting money into an IRA, or a 401k if one is available to you through a new employer, or into stocks and bonds to keep building toward your long-term goals. It’s also important to obtain a current Social Security statement since active-duty military pay FICA taxes.

Leverage available resources. There are transition support programs through the military and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, which also offer debt relief programs and financial counseling services.

Consider connecting with a financial advisor who understands the unique challenges veterans face during and after transition. They can help you create a strategy that maximizes your benefits and helps position you for long-term success.

Move forward with confidence. As Veteran Saves Week reminds us, small steps lead to lasting change. Your service has prepared you to overcome challenges – financial planning is just another mission you’re equipped to complete successfully.

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.

Should you sell or auction gold or silver?

At the time of writing today's column, silver is selling for over \$50 an ounce, while gold has sailed past the \$4,000 per ounce mark. You've probably seen television and newspaper ads telling you to trade your gold for cash. You may be asking yourself if you are better off selling your gold so it can be scrapped or if you should consign it with an auction house. The answer is: it depends.

If you have broken gold bracelets or damaged sterling silver serving pieces, it may be fine to sell them to a dealer who will scrap them. Whether you sell or auction the damaged and broken pieces, you will receive less than the scrap value. Pieces may need to be melted, and



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the buyer needs to make a profit. Some choose to auction broken pieces as well.

There are many silver pieces that should not be scrapped. Having a complete set of sterling silver flatware or hollowware serving pieces will appeal to collectors or buyers who plan to use them, and these sets should be sold at auction. Some sterling items are considered pieces of art and could command a premium. Georg Jensen, Tiffany, and patterns by famous makers like Gorham and Towle typically sell well above scrap prices. Antique pieces of sterling and coin silver by well-known silversmiths can also bring high prices.



Coin silver is 90% silver (the same percentage as a U.S. silver coin) while sterling is 92.5% silver.

Many of the reasons silver should head to auction also apply to gold. Tiffany & Co., Harry Winston, Cartier, and Van Cleef & Arpels are some of the makers that command a premium. Scrap dealers may not factor in the value of gemstones when buying jewelry. The gemstones and design of a piece can greatly

increase its value. Gold comes in different purities with 10 karat being 42 percent pure, 14 karat 58.5 percent, and 18 karat being 75 percent pure. The purity will of course impact the value. Auctioning your gold will ensure it reaches a wide audience. Instead of selling to one person, people from across the country or even across the world can compete to buy your items. Another plus is that the process is transparent. You can

see exactly what your pieces sold for and won't be left wondering whether or not you were paid a fair amount for your valuables.

U.S. coins cannot legally be scrapped and melted. Some gold and silver coins may be worth just their value for the precious metals. Dimes, quarters, half dollars, and dollar coins from 1964 are made with 90 percent silver. However, there are many factors that can make a coin more valuable. The condition, the date, the mintmark (the letter that indicates the city where it was made), and different variations can turn a \$10 coin into a \$1,000 coin. I'd recommend having your coins checked before you accept their gold or silver value.

Knowing when to sell gold and silver can be a difficult decision, especially with fluctuations in value.

Given the current prices, many people are finding there's a silver lining when they go for the gold and auction their pieces.

We are always accepting gold and silver for our auctions. Our single-collector Civil War memorabilia auction will be online next month. We are still accepting consignments of paintings, statues, vintage comic books, baseball cards, and other valuable antiques and collectibles. Please visit our website <https://centralmass-auctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

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

Sobriety

We all go through hard times. It begins quietly—a few rough days that turn into a few wrong turns. Then come the years of drifting, when comfort becomes craving and craving becomes chains. Maybe addiction shadowed those years, taking your peace, your people, your time—until you wondered if you'd ever climb out.

Whatever the case, you only have two options: Let the past define you, or let the past refine you.

The truth is, the hardest seasons often build the strongest souls — if we let them.

I was always a Robert Downey, Jr. fan, and not just because of his incredible talent as an actor, but because he's one of those people who chose to let his past refine him rather than define him.

He was one of Hollywood's brightest young stars—until years of chaos chipped away at his reputation, his finances, and his hope.

For a time, Downey's life read like a cautionary tale. In 1996, he was arrested for drug possession; he missed required court-ordered drug

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tests, his house in Malibu was lost, and his career stalled. Studios labeled him unreliable. For many years, he struggled to find meaningful work, his public image tarnished, his potential derailed. Years of drift: opportunities lost, trust broken, momentum vanished. Friends, fans, and insiders began to write him off. Those years defined him—for a while, at least. He was behind, and it showed.

Maybe you see some of yourself in that spiral — the regret, the exhaustion, the wondering if you'll ever get another shot.

In an interview with Oprah Winfrey, he said, "It's hard to get out of the barrel, it's slippery around the edges, and people like to see you fall back in."

Behind the headlines was a man fighting himself—haunted by his addictions, uncertain if he'd ever climb back.

Something inside of him must have shifted. Downey embraced treatment and sobriety. He began returning to the industry with more minor roles, rebuilding trust. Soon, he became the face of the Marvel Studios universe as Tony

Stark in Iron Man, launching a blockbuster run.

After a few years of focused effort, he effectively erased the drag of the previous decade. He locked into a mission: sobriety, discipline, and proving his value. From near-ruin to "one of the most bankable stars in the world," he flipped the narrative.

In a New York Times article titled "The Fall and Rise of Robert Downey, Jr.," he admitted, "I understand reversal of fortune; that usually comes from my own hand."

The years of chaos didn't vanish—they taught him—but the next few years of focus reset his life. He quieted the chaos. He said no to what destroyed him and yes to what healed him—recovery, the twelve steps, yoga, meditation, and a renewed sense of purpose.

He aligned with a new vision, determined to shift his trajectory—with a laser focus. By 2008, his new career arc was in place. The decade of hurt became the foundation for his resurgence. The past refined him—not defined him.

Now, what about you? Maybe you're looking at a past decade of "if onlys," of being stuck, of things going sideways, and you're ready

to say: not anymore.

Eliminate distractions—screens that snatch your attention, gossip that drains your energy, addictions that drain your soul, doubts that whisper "you can't."

It's time to focus. It's time to concentrate. The hole may be deep, carved by doubt or addiction, but you can still climb out. The light isn't gone—it's waiting for you to remember it's there.

It's faint at first—but it burns brighter each time you take a step upward.

You don't need to be perfect. You need to be present. You need to refocus. Focus is a superpower—and it doesn't cost money or status. It just asks for attention.

Your past? As hard as it is to believe, it doesn't get to decide your tomorrow.

Just a couple of years of concentrated, consistent action can rewrite your next chapter. And when you decide to live like that, you begin to become unstoppable.

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

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

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The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with. To learn more about adoption from foster care visit www.mareinc.org . 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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News, really close to home

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Contact 508-765-3701
Distribution: Tuesday 3-5pm,
Wednesday 9-11am
Southbridge and Sturbridge residents only

Southbridge Food Share
Located at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church,
lower level
446 Hamilton St,
Southbridge, MA 01550
Email:
Southbridgefoodshare.org@gmail.com
Phone: 508-764-6583
Open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday,
from 10:00 am to 11:15 am.

**SPENCER- EAST BROOKFIELD -
RESIDENTS ONLY**
Mary Queen of the Rosary Food Pantry
60 Maple St, Spencer, MA 01562
Distribution: Thursday 10 AM-12 Noon

STURBRIDGE
Saint Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry,
Located in the St. Anne Church basement,
16 Church Street, Fiskdale, MA 01518
Stocked by donations
Contact: 508-347-6398

WEBSTER
Webster-Dudley Food Share
4 Church St #2
Webster, MA 0570
Distribution: Tuesday and Thursday from
8:30 -11:00 am. Open to Webster and
Dudley residents.
Please call ahead: 508-943-9171

WEST BROOKFIELD
Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry
First Congregational Church
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Featured Listing

DUDLEY - 13 OXFORD AVE

2 -FAMILY offers 2,354 SF of living area! 2 Large Apartments, 5 Spacious Rms, 2 BRs, 1 Bath each. Beautiful grand front entry foyer with the charm of yesteryear! double French doors & other unique features. Plenty of Natural light that flows into these apartments! 2nd flr apt has a private enclosed rear entry with it's own outside covered porch. Updates were done to electric & roof to accommodate Solar Panels. Property was family occupied \$399,900.

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

Webster Lake - 302 Killdeer Island PANORAMIC VIEWS!



ON DEPOSIT

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

Snug Harbor Villa! WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT



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THE VILLA'S at SNUG HARBOR! ** END UNIT** IS TRULY A RARE FIND! ONE of ONLY 6 UNITS
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WEBSTER - 24 COOPER RD
NEW CONSTRUCTION Craftsman Style Home! Tucked away on Cooper Rd, Webster Lake w/Access at Lakeside Beach/Boat Ramp. 3rd of 4 Homes being built at this Site. Offers 2,155 SF +/- of Living Area, 7 Rms, 4 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 9' Ceilings. Wood Flooring Throughout w/Ceramic Tile Floors in the Baths. Spacious Main BR Suite w/ Walk-in Closet & Private Full Bath, Double-Sink Vanity! Lower level walkout w/ Slider. Basement-rough plumbed Central AC! Garage
\$649,900.

WATERFORD CT - 20 AVERY LN.



SORRY, SOLD!

Beautifully updated farmhouse - 5 min. to the ocean. Nothing to do just to move in!! 2 bed, 2 bath New Heating System, Central Air! Huge shed & deck! Oversized garage. 3/4+ acre. assisted sale **\$365,000**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg



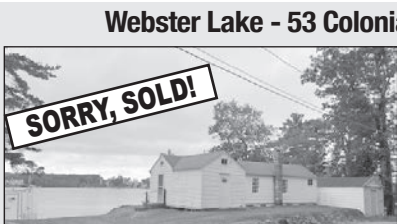
ON DEPOSIT

Ready for your year round enjoyment. 4 bedroom, 2 bath home. Open floor plan. Garage w/ enclosed entry to mudroom. Open living room with spectacular views! 2 bedrooms - 3/4 bath, on main level. Central air. Lower level, additional 2 bedrooms, bath, bonus family room, summer kitchen! Beachhouse! 51' of sandy beachfront!
\$799,000.



ON DEPOSIT

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



SORRY, SOLD!

Webster Lake - 53 Colonial Rd
WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT! JUST SIMPLY AN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY! OVER 31,000 SQ FT OF LAND! Summer Cottage on 9482 SF of land.. assisted sale **\$1,199,900**



SORRY, SOLD!

Webster Lake Waterfront 8 Long Island
Beautifully Updated Circa 1890s Classic Antique Island Cottage, with Rare Boat House Included! Extremely Unique, Clean & Well Maintained, Modern Conveniences w/the 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, Paved Town Vtr/Svr + Private Well for Outdoor &/or Off-Season Water Use! 14,300 SF +/- Level Lot w/105+ of Shoreline.
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DUDLEY- \$5000 BUYER INCENTIVE!

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*Every Efficient Construction *Gas Heat
*Central/Gas Fireplace *2 Wooded Private acres
128 Old Southbridge Rd \$745,000

LEICESTER- Ranch

NEW PRICE

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*2 Car Garage *Vinyl Sided
2 Victor Ave \$429,900

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From setback to strength: A Bay Path LPN’s journey of resilience and redemption

CHARLTON — For Jamal Kimani, nursing isn’t just a career—it’s a calling built on perseverance, purpose, and personal transformation.

Today, Kimani is a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) with hands-on experience in complex clinical care and a future that points toward advanced practice nursing. But his journey to this point was anything but easy.

“Failing nursing school the first time was one of the most humbling and defining moments of my life,” Kimani reflected. “It tested not only my academic ability but also my resilience and sense of purpose.”

Instead of allowing that setback to define him, Jamal chose to rise. He returned to nursing school with renewed focus and determination, ultimately earning his Certificate in Practical Nursing from Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy (Class of 2024) and passing the NCLEX-PN on his first attempt—an achievement he proudly calls his redemption.

While at Bay Path, Jamal deepened his professional development by earning certifications in Mental Health First Aid, Stop the Bleed, and Dementia Care, demonstrating his commitment to providing holistic, compassionate care.

Professional growth and compassionate care

Since becoming licensed, Kimani has gained invaluable experience working at both Lutheran Rehabilitation and Holy Trinity Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, where he honed his expertise in Wound VAC therapy, G-tube management, tracheostomy care, and ostomy support.

He continues to strengthen his clinical foundation through ongoing education, maintaining his HCP/BLS provider CPR certification and completing IV Therapy training. These achievements reflect his dedication to lifelong learning and to providing safe, skilled, and empathetic patient care.

A legacy of inspiration and mentorship

Behind Kimani’s journey stands a profound source of inspiration—his mother,

Dr. Jacque Kimani, DNP, MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC, a Psychiatric Doctor of Nursing Practice.

“As a psychiatric DNP and as Jamal’s mother, watching his growth has been one of the greatest joys of my life,” Dr. Kimani shared. “He fell, got back up, and transformed that setback into strength. He’s becoming not just a skilled nurse, but a compassionate leader whose purpose is rooted in empathy and perseverance.”

Remarkably, the professional journeys of mother and son share a meaningful connection through one mentor—Dr. Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN. Dr. Bolandrina taught Dr. Jacque Kimani during her practical nursing studies at Massachusetts Bay Community College, and years later, served as Academy Director at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, guiding Jamal through his own nursing education.

Reflecting on this rare generational



Jamal Kimani

link, Dr. Kimani expressed her gratitude: “You’ve done an amazing job! I am so glad my son was able to learn nursing from you. You’ve made a great impact in the nursing field as your former students have relocated all around the country. Please let Jamal and I know when your retirement party is—we would love to come and honor you, Professor.”

Looking ahead

Now, Jamal is preparing to take the next step in his academic and professional journey—enrolling in the RN program at Quinsigamond Community College this spring, with his long-term goal of earning his own Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree.

“I’ve learned that nursing isn’t just about medical skill—it’s about empathy, consistency, and the drive to keep improving no matter how far you’ve come,” Jamal said.

From personal adversity to professional achievement, Jamal Kimani’s story serves as a powerful reminder that failure is not the end—it’s often the beginning of something greater.

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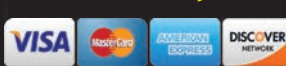
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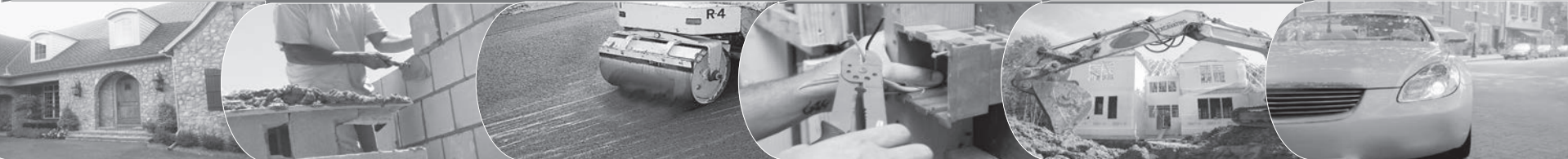


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