



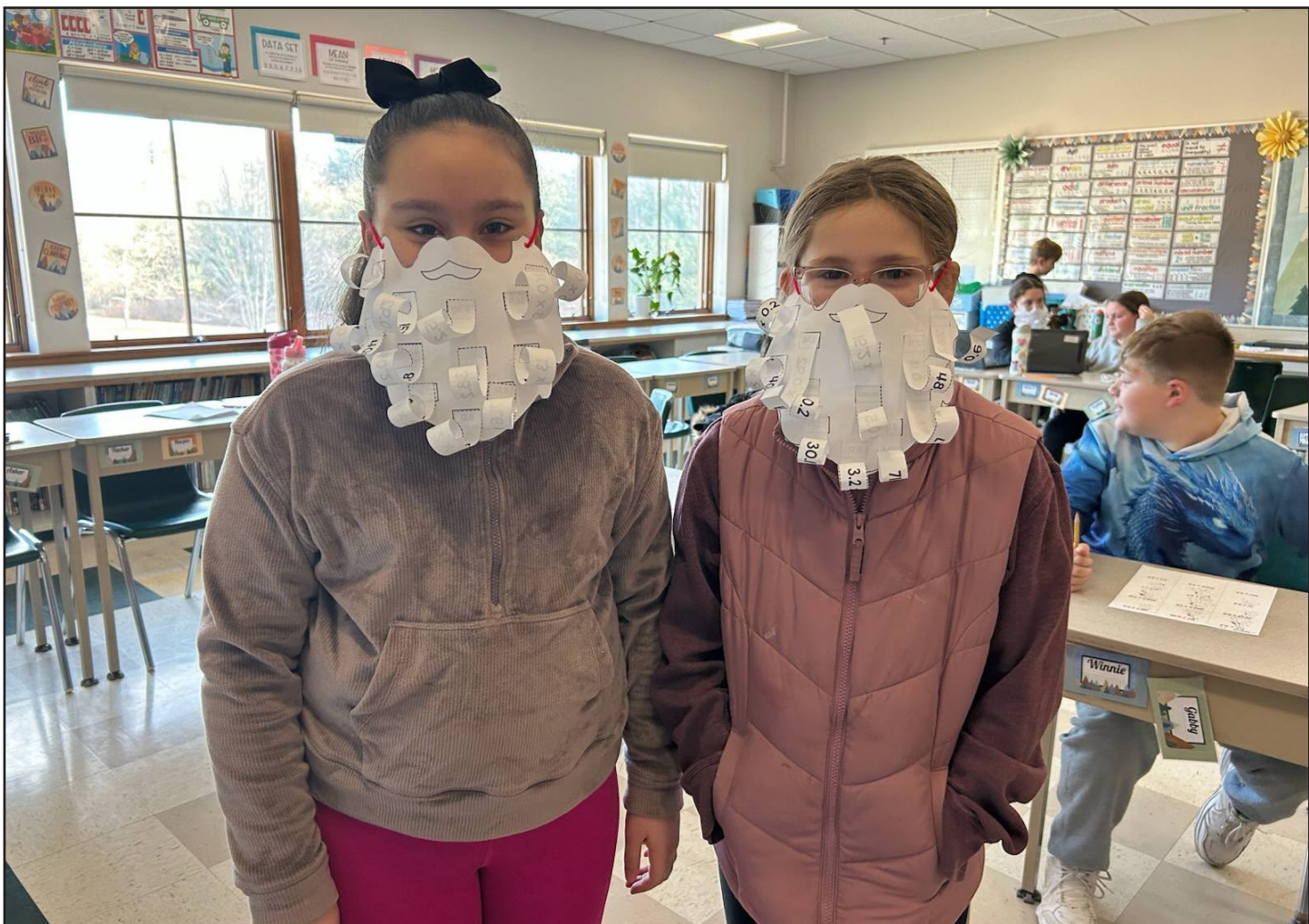
SPENCER NEW LEADER

Free by request to residents of East Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield,
©2025, Issue #52 Brookfield, Leicester and Spencer



SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO News@StoneBridgePress.news

Friday, December 26, 2025



Fifth graders at East Brookfield Elementary School have been hard at work reviewing their multiplication facts. But this wasn't just any math practice-it had a festive twist! For the final product, the students got to use their results to create their own magnificent Santa beards! Photo courtesy of the school's Facebook page.

Voters reject proposed nip ban in North Brookfield

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

NORTH BROOKFIELD — North Brookfield voters denied an attempt to ban the sale of nips in town, as well as an alternative proposal to impose a deposit tax, during a special town meeting on Dec. 10.

The proposal was the final article of the night in the form of a citizens' petition to create a by-law that would ban the sale of alcoholic beverages in glass and plastic containers of 100 milliliters or less, commonly known as "nip" bottles. While supporters argued the by-law would help reduce underage drinking and drunk driving as well as pollution, others felt it would unfairly impact local businesses.

Petitioner Bruce Arnold made his case for the by-law presenting a large bag of nips he collected over just a few hours of walking with his dog. He argued that access to nips and the improper disposal of the bottles were a significant issue for the town.

"Discarded nip bottles lead to the introduction of nanoplastics and microplastics in our food and our water supply. The bad news is that it's too late. You're already part plastic – Nip bottles encourage drinking while driving and are discarded to avoid an open container violation," Arnold said.

Before the public took an official vote on the original article, a counterproposal was introduced to allow continued sales but impose a 15-cent tax per bottle which would encourage customers to redeem the empty nips to get that tax back. However, it was argued that this would be difficult to enforce and would open local businesses to losing money as customers could redeem nips purchased in surrounding towns. It was also debated whether the tax would be allowed by the state Attorney General's office.

Local business owners voiced concerns with the counterproposal, especially since it was made clear on multiple occasions that nips account for a significant percentage of their sales. Yogesh Patel, owner of Bob's Deli and Variety, said he sympathized and agreed with the concerns over pollution and litter, but felt the proposed solutions were insufficient and potentially damaging to local businesses.

"We agree that the town's streets should be clean, and we support that. We want to do what we can as a business as part of this community," said Patel. "We love the idea of the 15 cents; the only concern as an owner is, there are so many towns around here where people can go buy their nips there."

Turn To PROPOSAL page A8

DPHS to remain closed through holidays after water main break

SPENCER — David Prouty High School will remain closed through the upcoming holiday break following a significant mechanical failure on Tuesday, Dec. 16.

At approximately 12:30 p.m. last Tuesday, a sprinkler main line burst on the second floor of the building, resulting in water damage to both the second and main floors. While recovery efforts began immediately, school officials have determined that additional time is required to complete repairs and ensure the facility is safe for students and staff.

School Closure & Reopening Schedule:

Closure: David Prouty High School will be closed through the end of the winter break.

Reopening: Classes are scheduled to resume on Monday, Jan. 5.

"We are doing everything within our power to restore the facility safely," said Superintendent of Schools, Paul Haughey. "The safety of our learning community is our top priority. We sincerely thank our students, staff, and families for their patience, support, and understanding as we work to bring the high school back online."

For further updates, please visit the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District website.

Promotions greenlit as Leicester PD continues move away from civil service

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

LEICESTER — Leicester is proceeding with filling vacancies within the police department now that the townspeople have voted to remove positions from civil service.

On Dec. 3, the Leicester Select Board gave approval for the police department to hire and promote individuals out of civil service and authorized that current non-civil service staff would be sworn in as permanent employees. The request came from Police Chief Kenneth Antanavica who informed the Select Board that the department was understaffed and personnel were ready to fill the gaps.

"I have two open positions, and I have four people out

Celebrate First Night in North Brookfield

NORTH BROOKFIELD — North Brookfield Cultural Council and North Brookfield Parks and Recreation department are hosting the town's second annual First Night Celebration!

Events throughout town will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 31, starting at noon. The town's Wastewater Treatment plant, located at 59 East Brookfield Rd., will be open for tours from noon to 2 p.m. Starting at 2 p.m. and continuing until 4 p.m., the town will host events at the following venues:

First Congregational Church — Music by Professor Sorghum's Good Time Music Review, local artists will show their work.

Christ Memorial Church — Creche Display, meditation in sanctuary. Pizza, snacks, games downstairs.

Herard Estates Common Room — Live Music, Poetry reading, Games, snacks.

Historical Museum — Open, scavenger hunt maps.

Bike House Brewery — welcoming guests, snacks, games for all ages. Pets welcome!

Library — Children's crafts, face painting, meet and greet with local author Jack McClintock, Colonial themed snacks, games.

Senior Center, Forest Street: Music by Ravenwood; hot chocolate served.

Town Hall — Open, welcoming guests. DJ Tabby Leblanc — playing

music at the Little Park.

Businesses in town will be open and ready to welcome guests: Shaman's Gift Shop, Jars Café, Subway, Angel Nails and Bliss Nails, Dragon Stones Gift Shop, NB Liquor Store, NB Smoke shop, Jim's Pizza and NB Pizza Palace. The day will end with a Bonfire on the town's common, starting at 4 pm and ending at 7pm. The NB Fire Department will assist to make sure the bonfire stays safe. We will enjoy music by DJ Tabby Leblanc, and food by Long Branch Hot Dogs and Jars Café. Complete scavenger hunt maps can be turned in for a chance to win a prize.

See you there!



Courtesy

Leicester High School's Hockey team, the Worcester Wildcats, played their first game of the season last night and earned a first-round win in the Lowell Cobblestone Tournament, 4 to 2. Senior Captain Jason Fuller had two assists, and Junior Ty Gully had two goals. Junior Jack Coleman had the game-winning goal. Leicester Middle School Guidance Counselor, Mike Vaughn, is a coach on the team. The Leicester High School Pep Band also attends games to support Leicester High School Hockey. Pictured: LHS Senior Captain Jason Fuller.

Turn To PROMOTIONS page A8


Leicester Senior Center thanks community for holiday donations

LEICESTER — The Leicester Senior Center is happy to announce the success of their recent donation efforts, thanks to the incredible generosity of our community members and local businesses. Your contributions made a significant difference, helping us to continue providing important services and a welcoming environment for older adults in Leicester.

We are very grateful for the generous donation of more than 100 bags of candy donated by Arcade Snacks Fine Nuts and Dried Fruits Company, located at 205 Southbridge St. in Auburn. These bags of candy were added to the 100 individual gift bags that the senior center filled and delivered to the senior housing complex in Leicester. The women of the “Golden Needles club” at the senior center were responsible for making this event possible.

Our goal has always been to provide a safe, engaging, and healthy environment for all who want to join us. For those interested in seeing what the Leicester Senior Center has to offer, we invite you to visit our website at leicesterseniorcenter.com or on our YouTube page “Leicester Senior Center”, for updates and a calendar of our events. Stop by and visit. We are open 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Monday – Friday.





ARTHRITIS?

Is your arthritis care all that you would hope it to be?
If not we may be able to help.

**Osteoarthritis
of Hands - Knees- Hips.
Back and Shoulder Problems
Rheumatoid Arthritis
Psoriatic Arthritis - Gout**

Charles A. Birbara, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine, UMass-Chan Medical School
25 Oak Ave., Worcester, MA 01605 508-799-2674
“Committed to Advancing appropriate care to people with arthritis”

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21		22				23				
			24		25				26					
27	28	29		30				31			32	33	34	
35			36				37				38			
39						40				41				
42					43					44				
45				46				47				48		
			49				50				51			
52	53	54				55				56		57	58	59
60						61			62		63			
64						65					66			
67						68					69			

CLUES ACROSS

1. Light cavalry

5. Coconut palms

10. Rounded knob

14. Central Japan city

15. Sandwiches

16. Shape produced by a curve

17. Ancient region in modern-day Syria

18. French modernist painter

19. Grandmother

20. Mammary gland of cattle

22. Rocky peak

23. Secret plan

24. Songs to one's lover

27. More (Spanish)

30. Father

31. Chinese principle underlying the universe

32. Ballplayer's accessory

35. Together

37. A person's brother or sister

38. Evil spirit

39. Monetary units

40. Partner to cheese

41. About Sun

42. Group of like-minded people

43. After B

44. Seaside room

45. Recipe measurement

46. Partly digested food

47. Flat-faced dog

48. People of southern Africa

49. Salts

52. Beard lichens

55. Sanders is one

56. Fencing sword

60. Ethnic group of Albania

61. Metric weight unit

63. Italian seaport

64. Longtime late night host

65. Extremely angry

66. Miami mascot

67. Mid-month day

68. Marked for omission

69. Body part

CLUES DOWN

1. Two-toed sloth

2. Fat from a pig's abdomen

3. Romanian city

4. Specifies

5. Rounded, glaciated valley

6. Spoke

7. Collection of sacred books

8. Extravagantly theatrical

9. Very fast airplane

10. Forearm bones

11. Ancient kingdom

12. Legitimate: __ fide

13. Semitransparent gemstone

21. Counsels

23. Head honcho

25. Cool!

26. Touch lightly

27. Extract money via taxation

28. Dyes

29. Cloying sweetness

32. Sodas

33. Coastal village in Guam

34. Chemical ring

36. The bill in a restaurant

37. Car mechanics group

38. One-time presidential candidate

40. Health care for the aged

41. Wise persons

43. Passage with access at one end

44. Make a wound

46. America's spies

47. Roof of the mouth

49. Plants of the lily family

50. Pinkish-red color

51. Vaccine developer

52. Mottled citrus fruit

53. A place to store garden tools

54. Rare goose native to Hawaii

57. Popular Hollywood pig

58. Musician Clapton

59. A move exposing one to danger

61. Historic Spanish soldier

62. CNN's founder

PUZZLE SOLUTION

K	O	E	N		D	E	T	E	D		S	E	D	I
S	I	B	I		E	L	V	H	I		O	N	E	T
I	H	V	B		L	V	H	V	O		E	H	E	
H	E	B	V	S		T	O	O		V	E	N	S	N
			S	E	L	V	O	I	T	I	S			
N	V	S		E	N	D		D	N	O		d	S	L
V	N	V	B	V	O		E	O		B	N	T	O	
H	V	T	O	S		O	V	W		S	V	H	I	T
A	E	O	B		B	I	S		D	E	L	I	N	N
d	V	O		O	V	L		D	V	D		S	V	W
			S	E	D	V	N	E	H	E	S			
T	V	B	V	O		H	O	L		H	E	D	D	N
V	N	V	N		L	E	N	V	W		W	V	H	V
d	O	O	T		S	d	V	H	M		V	H	V	N
O	B	W	N		S	O	O	O	O		N	V	T	N

Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts announces emergency assistance grants

WORCESTER — The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts today announced it has awarded \$250,000 in emergency financial assistance grants to three nonprofit organizations serving the region during this time of economic uncertainty and growing need.

The grants were awarded proactively by The Health Foundation in response to rising demand for emergency assistance amid unpredictable federal funding and shifting policies that are threatening safety net programs. The funding will support emergency finance assistance for basic needs such as housing, utilities, and food, with an emphasis on reaching individuals and families who may not qualify for other assistance or who live in communities with fewer available resources. The grants are intended to provide agencies with the ability to respond immediately to urgent needs.

“In this time of great need, The Health Foundation is committed to partnering with three trusted community action agencies to provide financial assistance that will address important basic needs throughout Central Massachusetts,” said Amie Shei, president and CEO of The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts. “These organizations share a commitment to underserved populations, and their expertise and compassion will ensure that critical financial assistance reaches those who are struggling to make ends meet.”

of Worcester Community Action Council. “Rising costs for basic essentials and diminishing public supports have created a perfect storm of economic insecurity. This generous philanthropic investment will make a meaningful impact when it’s needed most.”

“The need for emergency assistance is especially acute now, and having flexible resources means that we can respond quickly and thoughtfully to what people coming to us need in that moment,” said Kevin Reed, executive director of Making Opportunity Count. “We are deeply appreciative of The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts for this generous support that will make a huge difference for the individuals we serve.”

“We are incredibly grateful to The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts for recognizing the acute need across the region as costs continue to rise and resources for assistance are threatened,” said Susan Gentili, president & CEO of South Middlesex Opportunity Council. “The stress created by financial hardship can be overwhelming. This emergency assistance grant comes at a critical moment and will serve as a lifeline for people across our region as they work to meet their basic needs.”

- Community action agencies serve as trusted, locally-based organizations that administer federal and state funding programs aimed at helping residents overcome barriers to economic stability. By working through these agencies, The Health Foundation aims to ensure that funds reach households facing financial hardship.
- Allocation of funds between the three agencies is based on a rough estimate of the portion of The Health Foundation’s geographic service area that each agency covers. The grant awards will support emergency financial assistance to individuals and families in the region. The recipient organizations are:
- Worcester Community Action Council – \$100,000
 - Making Opportunity Count – \$100,000
 - South Middlesex Opportunity Council – \$50,000
- “These resources arrive at a pivotal moment for the neighbors we serve,” said Marybeth Campbell, CEO

About The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts

The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts is dedicated to improving the health of those who live or work in Central Massachusetts, with particular emphasis on vulnerable populations and unmet needs. Through its unique and impactful approach to grant-making, The Health Foundation supports community-identified health issues, with health defined broadly to include social determinants of health and with a focus on promoting health equity. As a health conversion foundation launched in 1999 following the sale of the not-for-profit HMO Central Massachusetts Health Care Inc., The Health Foundation’s grants have totaled over \$60 million to more than 240 unique organizations over its history. For more information, visit www.thfcm.org.

Legacy Showdown Game at DPHS Dec. 27

SPENCER — Get ready for an epic clash between the Legends and the Rising Stars at the David Prouty High School Gymnasium! Join us for a night of hoops, alumni pride, and an alumni cheerleader performance Dec. 27 at 6 p.m. Tickets: \$5 at the door

DPHS fans — this is your moment! Dig out your vintage gear or rock your freshest swag and come cheer loud for your team. Let’s show the players what school spirit really looks like!

Whether you’re backing the past, the future or both, this is a showdown you won’t want to miss. Let’s pack the gym and celebrate the legacy of DPHS Basketball!

www.StonebridgePress.com



TO PLACE AN AD:
MIKAELA VICTOR
(774) 200-7308
mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

LEGAL NOTICES:
(508) 909-4127

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES:
KERRI PETERSON
(508) 909-4103
kerri@stonebridgepress.news

TO PRINT AN OBITUARY:
E-MAIL
obits@stonebridgepress.news
CALL: 508-909-4149

OR send to Spencer New Leader
P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

TO SUBMIT A LETTER
TO THE EDITOR:
E-MAIL: news@stonebridgepress.news
OR send to Spencer New Leader
P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

SPENCER NEW LEADER
PUBLISHED BY
STONEBRIDGE PRESS

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
FRANK G. CHILINSKI
frank@salmonpress.news

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

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
JIM DINICOLA
508-764-6102
jim@stonebridgepress.news

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

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

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



Courtesy

Last Thursday morning, the Spencer Police Department proudly hosted its Annual Christmas Party for the Spencer–East Brookfield School District. Thanks to the Spencer Police Union, every K–4 student received a special gift. The kids also enjoyed a magician’s show and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus! Events like this reflect our commitment to giving back, and we’re grateful to everyone whose donations helped make it possible. Wishing our community a safe and happy holiday season! Photo courtesy of the department’s Facebook page.



Courtesy

Pre-K classes at East Brookfield Elementary School have been hard at work on some amazing projects. From building gingerbread houses to decorating trees with positive words, students created a beautiful end product! Photo courtesy of the school’s Facebook page.

P.E.T. of the Week

Sponsored by Leicester Veterinary Clinic, LLC

MAZZIE

Hi, I’m Mazzie! Looking for a fluffy boss to run your household? That’s me! I’m sweet, snuggly, and very into pets. I’m FIV-positive, but don’t worry - I can still live a long, happy life! I’m just looking for a home where I can be your one and only pet (more attention for me!). If you want a loving, easygoing buddy, I might just be your purrfect match.



Second Chance Animal Services
www.secondchanceanimals.org
East Brookfield, MA • 508-867-5525



Leicester Veterinary Clinic, LLC

1205 Main St. Leicester, MA 01524
P: 508-892-9181 • F: 508-892-8791
www.leicesterclinic.com

Wellness exams • Vaccinations • Cat Boarding
Spays, neuters and routine soft tissue surgery
Dentistry • Radiology (Digital)
In-house diagnostic laboratory facilities (Idexx)
• Pharmacy
• Prescription diets Hills, Royal Canin
• Domestic health certificates and much more!



Dr. Colm P. Scanlon
Veterinarian



East Brookfield Library collecting donations for Mitten Tree

EAST BROOKFIELD — The East Brookfield Public Library has its Mitten Tree up! We are collecting hats, mittens, scarves, gloves, socks for adults and children, ChapStick, new sweaters for all ages and sizes. If you or anyone you know needs any of these items, please come to the library and visit our Mitten Tree. Donations can be dropped off at the library during normal business hours.

**WANTED TO BUY
Antiques & Old Stuff**

- Bottles •Crocks •Jugs •Costume Jewelry •Pottery •Toys
- Games •Glassware •Sterling Silver •Coins •Gold
- Silver Plated Items •Watches •Typewriters •Sewing Machines
- Tools •Radios •Clocks •Lanterns •Lamps •Kitchenware
- Cookware •Knives •Hunting •Fishing •Military •Masonic
- Fire Dept •Advertising Signs & Much More

CALL DONALD ROY 860-874-8396

**Bring your family’s memorial back to its original beauty.
Have it cleaned by us professionally.**

**PEPIN
GRANITE INC
MONUMENTS**



Specializing In:

Personalized Monuments, Markers, Cemetery Lettering,
Cleaning, and Bronze Markers

Call For Appointment

508-892-4193

Family Owned/Operated • Indoor/Outdoor Display
Rt. 9 • 1500 Main St. • Leicester, MA 01524
Leo Pepin Jr. • Chantelle Pepin



PEPIN

WASTE SERVICE

Your Local Roll-Off Specialist

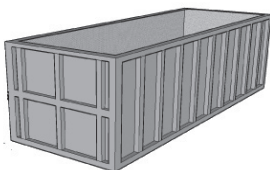


**WINTER
SPECIAL**

10 yd. Rental 1 Ton

3 sizes available. Call for pricing.

\$340



10-15-20 Yd.

508-892-4193 • Leicester, MA

Fully Insured



FRESHMEN NAMED TO BAY PATH HONOR ROLL

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School congratulates the following students in grade 9 on being named to the honor roll for the first quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

High Honors
Jureyn Axel Ambayec, Makenna Rose Anderson, Tyler Michael Beaty, Hope Alexandra Ceppetelli, Chloe Elizabeth Clifford, Nikolas Stephen Coraccio, Nicholas Anthony Cryan, Ashlynn Rose Cuniff, Hunter David Robert Cusson, Arthur Ribas Da Silva, Elyse Kimberly DaSilva, Helen Sofia Defranc, Kelsey Ann Dunn, Camila Isabelle Garcia Montoya, Tucker Hoopes Harrity, Virginia Heybeck, Iyla Lillian Huckins, Brady Larned Jackson, Elise Georgiana Kokoszka, Sophia Rose Lambert, Lev Francis Clemansky, Carrigan Frances Linde, Giavanna Louisa Lussier, Charles James Maglich, Reyo Xavier Matthews, Abigail Quinn McClendon, Matthew Joseph Monticelli, Camden John Morgan, Ron Wallace Mosong, Alexys Grace Nault, Finley Ann O'Shea, Irelyn Mackenzie Padden, Elianna Rose Payson, Zachary Ernest Edward Penney, Luke Gibb Pettes, Selina Yvette Piehl, Anthony Raymond Postale, Savannah Rose Pratt, Destiny Rose Purcell, Ayla Grace Reed, Camden Francis Riley, Lilyana Paulina Rivas, Alexandria Anne Romero, Ella Minerva Ruiz-Acosta, Chloe John Skarzenski, Margaret Anne Straw, Nicholas Edward Tod, Juliana Velez, Jayden Francis Warren, Camryn Grace Weagle, Abigail Mae White, Kaiya Faith Zaczek

Honors
Cole Patrick Adams, Caleb Jeffrey Andersen, Jack Robert Angiolillo, Emersyn Sue Bacon, Zachery Michael Barberio, Mia Gracelyn Benoit, Ava Elyse Bernard, Camryn Sophia Jean Boyd, Collin Jacob Brink, Hunter Richard Brodeur, Kaedynce Paige Brown, Brendon Bui, Brady Alexander Camdzic, Alexander Stephen Campbell, Zachary Thomas Carlsen, Mason Robert Case, William Alexander Cheney, Lilly Sky Connor, Josiah Rafael Grimaldi Corpuz, Vincent Joseph Corriere, Kaylynn Elizabeth Costa, Ethan Denis Crosby, Logan Thomas Curtis, Kendra Lynne Cutroni, Connor William Dalrymple, Chance James Daniels, Dante James Dawkins, Tucker Anthony Dean, Aayla Rose Dennison, Yasmin Jakowatz Dos Santos, Lucas James Dowd, Owen Caine Eckert, Luciana Amelia Edwards, Nathan Charles Ferguson, Gavin Kennedy Fitzgerald, Aiden James Foley, Madilynn Priscilla Foresteire, Olivia Rose Forrester, Caleb Joshua Fowler, Connor Keith Gasco-Albro, Matthew Edward Gaudreau, Ryan Steven Gaylord, Kacey Jean Gemboski, David Anthony Gil, Laycie Adrienne Gordon, Lena Jean Goyette, Joseph Anthony Greska, Emmary Dawn Gustafson, Isaiah Kojo Owuna Hagan, Corinne Allie Harrington, Gabriel Alexander Jebidiah Hayes, Drew Edward Jarvi, Brianna Michelle Judge, Zachary Stephen Kaiser, Eva Isabel Kaminski, Lindsey

Elizabeth Karlgren, Brody Neal Kenney, Jacey Lynn Kigar, Victoria Rose LaMountain, Maura Grace Lapriore, Jason Roberto Lareau, Joseph Nils Larson, Anthony Aaron Latour, Leandie Fariella Leandre, Alan August Levkovski, Valerie Abigail Lopez, Stella Grace Lovely, Matthew James Lynch, Brianna Macario, Cailyn Elizabeth Mackenzie, Rebecca Marie Malvey, Jathrian Angel Martinez, Nikolas Wayne Mason, Avery Mathieu, Oliver Patrick Mayotte, Keigan Adori McIlvaine, Vincent Andrew Menzone, Xavier Nikolai Metcalf, Alexander Wane Mikel, Athena Matilda Molnar, Mikayla Rae Moorcroft, Marlo Ann Nashold, Kenzie Macrae Nicoll, Oliver Parker Okolita, McKinnon Michael Pacheco, Matthew Dylan Paquette, Addison Lynne Paradis, Aden Mark Patterson, Max William Patterson, Wyatt Matthew Pelletier, Joseph James Peters, Logan William Pettinelli, Colton Joseph Porter, Kandace Rose Quattrucci, Miguel Lopes Ramos, Callen Michael Reardon, Trey Leonard Reichardt, Layla Sophia Reid, Ryan Paul Reno, Isabelle Louise Richmond, Jadaly Audrey Rivera Rodriguez, Alysmae Robles Aviles, Gabriela Araceli Rodas, Jherian Emmanuel Rodriguez, Sophia Lynn Rogers, Jayden Manuel Rosado, Michael Clement Salvatore, Sophia Alexis Santa, Alexis Rita Savary, William Frederick Schroeder, Daniel Ray Shirley, Grace Ann Shivick, Nico Adrian Smolynsky, Lilah Ann Soule, Laiza-Michelle Monice Spruill, Carlie Rose St. Cyr, Aslynn Jade St. Laurent, Ethan Daniel Starkus, Michael William Steuer, Brandon Scott Stone, Daniel Edward Sullivan, Brenna Louise Tebo, Brandon Michael Terry, Elin Margaret Thorsen, Noah Eladio Torres, Payton Rose Tremblay, Kourtney Lucy-Lynne Tucker, Peyton Michael Ward, Jacy Olivia Whalen, Landon Ryan Whatsitt, Jude Allen Worden

Principal's List
Leanna Kate Alvarez, Kaydence Harmony Aubin-Corriveau, Grace Pearl Aucoin, Andrea Vioet Barnett, Meredith Alyse Bohenko, Vincent Anthony Bongovio, Mya Ashley Borelli, Arianna Elaine Breault, Carson Alexander Brunnett, Colton Riley Butterfield, Joshua Robert Cardenas, Domonic Mickle Choiniere, Kayden Thi Chuong, Ian Michael Conley, Bianca Alexis Crespo, Kenai Alberto Cruz Mateo, Edwin Rojeliomar Cruz, Devlin Walker Davis, Michael John Devine, Cristian Benjamin Diaz, Reagan Josephine Eddy, William Francis Fraim, Christopher Daniel Gauvin, Logan Joseph Horner, Joseph Earl Jaillet, Sean Michael Labbe, Asher Cooper Landrum, Kelsey Lynn Larson, Yamidieli Sadiel Lopez, Camden Jeffrey Lucier, Hunter William Luukko, Braylyn Ellen McCarthy, Mason James Monahan, David Ruhamy Mweze, Kohl Evan Neeser, Andrew Cunningham Nieves, Patrick Logan O'Donnell, Max Rheault Peterson, Asael Bernard Ravanella, Savannah Valerie Richardson, Zachary Richard Rucho, Khloe Angelise Sanchez, Joao Eduardo Silva Gardino, Lily Jane Sperry, Ava Jade St. Peter, Parker Riley Verham, Mason Joel Waters



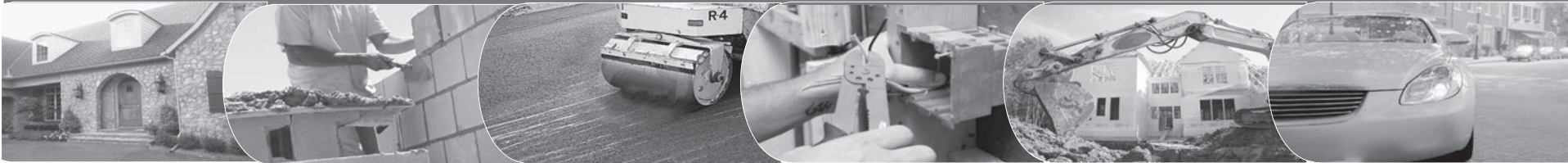
Courtesy
A huge thank you to Lou Meyerderks for doing an amazing presentation for students at East Brookfield Elementary School. She brought the Civil War era to life by dressing as a reenactor, sharing stories and facts about the time period, and explaining a fantastic collection of artifacts. Photo courtesy of the school's Facebook page.

Webster First Federal Credit Union donates \$25,000 to local food pantries

WORCESTER — Webster First Federal Credit Union announced today a combined donation of \$25,000 to several local food pantries to help ensure community members have access to food throughout the holiday season. The funds are intended to alleviate food insecurity during a critical time of year, providing much-needed resources to organizations on the front lines of hunger relief. The donations were distributed among three key community partners to maximize their impact across the region.

“We remain committed to ensuring every neighbor is fed and supported with dignity throughout this holiday season, a time when it is most needed by so many in our community,” said John Thomasian, [CEO of Webster First]. Webster First donated \$10,000 to the Webster Dudley Food Share to support its local efforts. An additional \$10,000 was given to the Worcester County Food Bank, a vital organization that distributed one million pounds of food in November alone. A further \$5,000 was allocated to The Greater Boston Food Bank to aid its mission of ending hunger in Eastern Massachusetts. This financial support will help these organizations continue their essential work of providing nutritious food to individuals and families facing hardship. About Webster First Federal Credit Union Webster First Federal Credit Union is a community-focused financial institution committed to serving its members and the communities it operates in. With a history of giving back, Webster First actively supports local initiatives and organizations that make a positive impact on the lives of its neighbors.

LOCAL SERVICE PROVIDERS



APPLIANCES

DAVE'S APPLIANCE Inc.
NEW & USED APPLIANCES

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED 3 GENERATIONS

Whirlpool

All Major Brands Sales & Service

508-867-3122
Parts Hotline 888-229-1027
www.davesapp.com
42 W. Main St., Brookfield, MA
Hours: Mon-Thurs 9-6 • Fri 9-5 • Sat 10-3

HOUSE CLEAN OUTS

CLEAN OUT SOLUTIONS

House Clean Outs • Junk Removal
Basements • Garages • Attics
Whole Houses • Hot Tubs, Pools,
Sheds Demo & Removal

Serving Central Mass
Call Skip Gervais
West Brookfield, MA
774-397-6500

BOAT OWNERS

ONSITE CANVAS MARINE

Tops • Interiors • Covers
Marc Bouvier 508-867-8072

Got Space?
we do.

Contact Mikaela Today
774-200-7308
mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

AUTO & TIRE

FULL DETAILING Inside & Out

Full Auto Body & Automotive Repair
Oil Changes | Brakes | Batteries | Tires
Check Engine Light

Interstate Batteries in stock

Batteries & Antifreeze Testing
Free w/oil change

Featuring: All Major Brand Name Tires

www.countryautobodyinc.com
69 Donovan Rd., North Brookfield, MA
508-867-9736

SEPTIC SYSTEMS

R. Barnes & Sons Sanitation

- Cesspool Pumping
- Title V Certification
- Portable Toilet Rentals
- Reasonable rates

508-867-3063
508-867-8993

TREE SERVICE

McNeely Tree Service
Insured • References
Workmans Comp Insured

- 101' Aerial Lift Rental
- Hazardous Tree Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Bobcat Rental
- Lot Clearing
- Emergency Services
- Firewood \$265/cord (2 cord min)
- Astroturf For Sale
- Asian Longhorn Beetle Certified

H: 508-867-6119 C: 508-523-1175

TREE SERVICE

Young's Tree Service

“Specializing In Dangerous Trees”

35+ years' experience

Fully Insured Free Estimates

John H. Young, Jr
508.885.TREE
1.800.660.5358

QCC strengthens leadership with new trustees

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College announced the appointment of three new members to its Board of Trustees: Max German, Maricelis “Mari” Gonzalez and Jessica Mandes. The appointments were made this October and November by Gov. Maura Healey following recommendations from the Public Education Nominating Council.

“We are thrilled to have the new members on board,” said QCC Board Chair Dr. Linda Maykel. “We have a lot of work ahead of us, and it’s great to be working

together towards our goals.”

German is currently a student at Boston College Law School. A QCC alum, German transferred to Boston College after completing his studies at QCC. He brings experience in labor, politics, and government, and remains deeply connected to Worcester.

Gonzalez serves as executive director of El Buen Samaritano Food Program Inc., a Worcester nonprofit combating food insecurity and supporting vulnerable families. Gonzalez has more than a decade of experience in nonprofit leadership

and advocacy. She is a member of Gov. Healey’s Latino Empowerment Council and has earned numerous honors, including Worcester Business Journal’s 2025 Nonprofit Business Leader of the Year and Telegram & Gazette’s “Hometown Hero” recognition in 2021.

Mandes, a Worcester native and first-generation college graduate, is the director of multilingual education for Worcester Public Schools. With more than 25 years in youth work and 15 years in public education, Mandes advocates for multilin-

gual learners and serves on several boards, including Worcester Latino Dollars for Scholars.

“These new trustees bring a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to education and community,” said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja. “Their leadership will help guide QCC as we continue to serve our students and the region.”

For more information about QCC and its Board of Trustees, visit QCC.edu/board-trustees.

Legacy Showdown Game at DPHS Dec. 27

SPENCER — Get ready for an epic clash between the Legends and the Rising Stars at the David Prouty High School Gymnasium! Join us for a night of hoops, alumni pride, and an alumni cheerleader performance Dec. 27 at 6 p.m. Tickets: \$5 at the door

DPHS fans — this is your moment! Dig out your vintage gear or rock your freshest swag and come cheer loud for your team. Let’s show the players what school spirit really looks like!

Whether you’re backing the past, the future or both, this is a showdown you won’t want to miss. Let’s pack the gym and celebrate the legacy of DPHS Basketball!

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!





Family Dining & Gift Guide

Too Busy to Cook?
Ask your favorite local restaurant if they offer dine-in or take-out!
Treat yourself to a nice dinner out anytime!
Restaurant gift cards make perfect hostess gifts!



Call Mikaela at 774-200-7308 or email mikaela@stonebridgepress.news to advertise on this page.



Amazing Stuffed Crepes Everyday!

Breakfast & Lunch • BREAKFAST ALL DAY
Daily Specials • Homemade Soups

MONDAY-FRIDAY LUNCH SPECIALS
Mon: American Chop Suey w/salad
Tues: Homemade Meat Loaf Dinner
Wed: Yankee Pot Roast
Thurs: Corned Beef & Cabbage
Fri: Fish and Chips

31 Pleasant St., Spencer, MA
508.885.7705
 Open 7 Days • 6:00am-2:00pm

Breakfast All Day
Lunch
 ALL MADE FROM SCRATCH



15 S. Main St., Leicester • 508-892-3222
 Dine-In or Take-Out • Gift Certificates
 Hours: Wednesday-Friday 5:30am-12:30pm
 Saturday & Sunday 5:30am-11:30am

ONLINE ORDERING
FARMHOUSE DINER MA.COM

CHARLIE'S
 Diner • Bar • Grill • Functions
 BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER

PRIME RIB
ON NEW YEAR'S EVE
STARTING AT 4PM
OPEN UNTIL 9PM

HOURS: Wed-Sat 8-9; Sunday 8-8
 Closed Mon & Tue
 5 Meadow Rd., Spencer, MA 01562
Gift Cards 508-885-4033
www.charliesdiner.com

Got Space?

we do.

Contact Mikaela Today
774-200-7308
mikaela@stonebridgepress.news



Salem Cross INN
 RESTAURANT & TAVERN
 260 West Main Street, West Brookfield, MA 01585

Come on in for a delicious meal!

Wishing you joy, warmth, and good eats this holiday season!

Happy NEW YEAR

For more info visit www.salemcrossinn.com (508)867-2345
 Hours: Thursday, Friday & Saturday 4-8; Sunday 12-5
 Hexmark Tavern Hours: Thursday & Friday 4-8



We will be closed on New Years Day



Community Connection

Charlton Oil Company
508-248-9797 Propane

Don't Pay Too Much for Propane

PROPANE	PRICE PER GAL.	PROPANE	PRICE PER GAL.
0-50.....	\$4.99	301-500.....	\$2.25
50-75.....	\$3.49	500 PLUS.....	\$2.10
76-150.....	\$2.95	Duel Fuel.....	\$3.75
151-300.....	\$2.55	Drop off Tanks.....	\$3.00

Tanks Filled to 80%
Driver Discretion

DON'T PAY TOO MUCH FOR OIL!
 Thursday price 12/18/25 was **\$3.19** per gallon*
 100 gallon minimum
ONLINE ORDERING NOW AVAILABLE AT
www.charltonoil.com

"Call Us First!"
 *prices subject to change



Got Space?

we do.

Contact Mikaela Today
774-200-7308
mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

NORTHEAST PIZZA is OUR *Passion*

Fresh ingredients, time-honored recipes, and friendly service.
 Since 1997

Open 7 Days a Week • We Deliver
DECEMBER SPECIALS

Chicken Pizza Sm. \$6.99 Lg. \$9.99 <small>Make it buffalo, BBQ, or sweet and sour for \$1.00 more</small>	Ham and Cheese Sub Sm. 8" \$5.99 Lg. 12" \$6.99	Small Cheese Pizza EVERYDAY 11-4 only \$5.00! NO LIMIT!
--	--	--

Cannot be combined with other specials or coupons.

Leicester 1205 Main St. 508-892-9276
 West Brookfield 208 W. Main St. 508-867-9567

~ Full bar & full liquor license at our Leicester Location ~
 ~ Serving Beer & Wine at both Locations ~
www.northeastpizza.com

Morin JEWELERS
 Fine Jewelry & Gifts
 The Jewelry store where you buy with confidence

WE BUY GOLD
Specializing in Custom Designs
All types of Jewelry Repairs

MASTER  JEWELERS™
 BRILLIANCE YOU DESERVE®

409 Main St. Southbridge, MA
morinjewelers.com • 508-764-7250
 Located at CVS Plaza

For Advertising Information Call
774-200-7308
 email: mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

PLUMBING

JOHN DALY PLUMBING
The Homeowners Plumber, SINCE 1988
 Faucets, Toilets, Pipe Repair, Garbage Disposals, Sinks, Vanities, Shower Valves, Outside Hose Connections, New Kitchen Sink Strainers and Undersink Re-Pipes, Sump Pumps, Sink Drain Cleaning,
Buy What You Like And I Will Install.
 Fully Licensed And Insured, License Number MPL-21763-J
 Call 508 304 7816 • jdrainman714@aol.com

Crooked Creek Farm
 East Brookfield, Massachusetts



Stock up now!


Retail Cuts, Quarter, & Half sides of Beef Available!

To purchase your meat packages
CALL/TEXT: (774) 200-7308
www.crookedcreekfarmma.org

Find Us on Social Media  

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY!

1 8 7 2 - 2 0 0 7



25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550
Telephone (800) 367-9898
Fax (508) 764-8015
www.StonebridgePress.com

FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

A winter standard we can keep

The stretch between Christmas and New Year’s can feel like a pause in the usual rhythm. School is out, some offices run on reduced hours, and the traffic patterns shift. But in towns like Spencer, Leicester, and the Brookfields, that “pause” is not a true break from community life. It is a reminder of what still has to work, even when the calendar says we are between things.

Winter tests the basics. Roads need attention. Sidewalks need clearing. Driveways need shoveling. Someone needs to check on a neighbor who has not been out in a day or two. Someone needs to notice the older resident whose mail is piling up, or the single parent who is trying to make a second job work while the kids are home. Winter is not only a season, it is a systems check.

That is why this week, with its mix of holiday spirit and year-end fatigue, is a good time to talk about a simple standard: keeping public life usable.

It sounds small, but it adds up quickly. A clear sidewalk is not only about tidiness. It is about whether someone can safely walk to a bus stop, a library, or a nearby store without stepping into traffic. It is about whether an older adult can make it to the mailbox without risking a fall. It is about whether a parent pushing a stroller can move down a street that is supposed to be for everybody, not only for those with four-wheel drive and good balance.

A well-cleared curb cut is not an extra. It is what allows a wheelchair user to get where they need to go. It is what allows a walker or cane to stay on level ground instead of forcing a detour into slush. It is what makes “access” more than a word on a sign.

A visible fire hydrant is not an item on a list. It is the difference between a fast connection and lost time when seconds matter. When snow piles up, hydrants can disappear. Digging one out is not a glamorous task, but it is a clear example of how neighbors can protect neighbors without ever exchanging more than a wave.

Then there are the indoor places that hold communities together in winter, the places that stay warm and open when the season narrows people’s options.

Libraries, senior centers, and town buildings are not only facilities. They are winter infrastructure. They offer heat, connection, information and sometimes the only comfortable public space a person can access without spending money. When they close for holidays or adjust hours, it is understandable. Staff deserve time with family, too. But it also means the rest of us should pay closer attention to what people may lose in that gap. If you know someone who relies on those spaces, a quick check-in can mean more than you think.

This is also the week when many people take stock of what did and did not work in the past year. That can be productive if it stays grounded. The strongest towns are not the ones that pretend everything is fine. They are the ones that can name a problem plainly and keep moving forward together.

If the plowing route needs improvement, say so, and show up when the discussion happens. If a dangerous corner needs better lighting or signage, report it and follow up. If a board or committee needs new members, consider stepping in, even for a limited term. Civic life does not run on good intentions alone. It runs on attendance, follow-through, and the quiet habits of people who care enough to do the unremarkable work.

There is a temptation, at the end of the year, to look for a dramatic “fresh start.” In local life, the better goal is a steady standard. Keep streets passable. Keep sidewalks walkable. Keep public spaces welcoming. Keep an eye out for the people who are easy to miss.

That is how a community carries itself through winter, and how it earns the right to say, when spring comes, that it did not only make it through. It looked out for its own.

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

Lanterns Along Main Street

There was a time when knowing your town meant more than knowing your password.

I do not say that to sound cranky or nostalgic. It is simply an observation. For many of us, the way we once learned about our community came from standing still long enough to notice it. You picked things up by listening, by watching, by being present in places where people naturally gathered.

You learned who lived where, not from an app, but from repetition. You knew who worked nights because their lights were on late. You knew who ran the hardware store because they were always behind the counter. You knew who coached which team because you saw them every week on the same patch of grass.

These days, information comes quickly and endlessly. We can pull up town alerts, meeting agendas, weather updates, and neighborhood chatter in seconds. That is convenient. It is also strangely isolating.

Knowing about a place is not the same as knowing it.

Real familiarity comes from routine. It comes from walking into the same post office or store often enough that the nod of recognition no longer needs words. It comes from noticing when something is off. A closed sign where there usually is not one. A porch light that stays dark longer than usual.

Those details tell stories that no screen can capture.

I have found, over time, that the stron-

LANTERNS
ALONG
MAIN
STREET
By CHIPPY

gest sense of belonging comes from modest habits. Sitting in the same seat at a local meeting. Taking the long way home past the center of town instead of the faster route around it. Stopping to talk, even briefly, instead of waving and moving on.

None of this requires deep conversation. Often, it is just a few words exchanged. A comment about the weather, a quick update about a family member, a shared sigh over the price of groceries. But those small exchanges stack up. They form a mental map of who we are together.

In small towns, this still exists. It has not disappeared. It has simply become easier to overlook. We rush through places that were never meant to be rushed. We treat locations as destinations rather than shared spaces.

I try, when I remember, to slow down enough to notice the ordinary. The same crossing guard, doing the job with care. The librarian who remembers what you checked out last time. The cashier who asks how a relative is doing and genuinely waits for the answer.

These are the threads that hold a town together. They are quiet. They are steady. They do not announce themselves.

And when you take the time to see them, you realize something important. Community is not something you log into. It is something you practice.

One familiar face at a time.

Take control: Why budgeting doesn’t have to feel restrictive



FINANCIAL
FOCUS

TREVOR
NIELSEN

Let’s be honest: The word “budget” doesn’t exactly spark joy for most people. It can feel restrictive or even generate feelings of guilt about past spending choices. But what if budgeting could feel empowering? When done right, it’s simply about understanding your money and making sure it aligns with what truly matters to you.

Who needs a budget? While nearly everyone can benefit from budgeting, it’s especially helpful if you’re just starting out on your own, if your expenses exceed your income or if you’re working toward a big goal like buying a home or retiring. Major life changes — marriage, a new baby, a job change or even retirement itself — are also perfect times to take a fresh look at your finances.

If your spending causes you stress or you simply want clarity about where your money goes each month, budgeting can help. Here are a few tips to help get you started:

Dispense with the dread. Often, the hardest part of budgeting is just getting started. Try breaking it down into small, manageable steps, and dedicate 30 minutes a week to tracking your income and expenses. Pair budgeting with something enjoyable — a favorite coffee or a relaxing activity — to make it less of a chore.

If you have no idea how much you spend, start by simply observing your buying habits for a few months. Review your checking and credit card accounts to see money coming in and going out. You can’t change the past, but you can adjust for your future.

Find your level of detail. There’s no one-size-fits-all approach to budgeting. You might start by tracking just total income and expenses or by using the popular 50/30/20 rule: 50 percent for necessities, 30 percent for wants and 20 percent for savings and debt reduction. Some people prefer to build detailed categories for everything from groceries to entertainment, while others keep broader categories that work better for their lifestyles.

Technology can be your friend here. Budget apps and Ai-enabled spreadsheets can pull information directly from your bank and credit card statements, making the process much easier.

Make it work for you. Once you’ve tracked your spending, look for areas to adjust. Can you swap brand-name items for generics? Are there subscriptions you’re not using? Sometimes the biggest impact comes from examining your largest expenses — housing, utilities, transportation, insurance — to find opportunities to save.

If you can’t make room in your budget, you may need to revisit and reprioritize your financial goals. A financial advisor can help you understand your options and any trade-offs.

Stay on track. Check in with your budget monthly, quarterly or annually — whatever works for you. When life changes, your budget should too. Salary increases, bonuses, new expenses or significant life events are all good reasons to review and adjust.

Above all, the goal of a budget isn’t perfection. It’s progress toward financial confidence and peace of mind. A good budget shouldn’t limit you — it should free you to spend guilt-free on what matters while saving intentionally for your future.

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Happy New Year

To the Editor:

I am resolved to see a new, better President this coming year, one who actually keeps his oath and promises, abides by the Constitution, and actually tells the truth. One with enough decorum to not attack political opponents in a tasteless manner after they suffer a tragic death. One with enough integrity to not name things after himself. One who gives up the sham drug outrage while pardoning a man

responsible for bringing tons into the US.

The jig is up. Telling people life is more affordable, despite all evidence to the contrary, has even awakened your most loyal cult members, because the alternate facts are not working anymore.

KEN KIMBALL
BROOKFIELD

Is grandpa OK?

To the Editor:

A 79 year old grandpa tells grandson “We can go to a movie.” Two days later, grandson asks, “Grandpa, you said we can go to a movie. When can we do that?”

Angry grandpa retorts “I never said that,

you are saying that.” and then “You’re a nuisance! You’re out of my will!”

Aunt Jane calmly says, “Grandpa has changed his mind about the movies.”

What? Say you were in the room. Would you say this is “changing his mind?” Would you instead suggest that grandpa has a screw loose?

On camera, President Trump said that he was fine with releasing the video of bombing the boat. I saw him say it. Anyone can see it. Video lives on.

A couple days later, a reporter reminded him that he said he was ok with releasing the video and asked when he would do it. He responded angrily saying he never said he was ok with releasing it. He said those were her words, not his. Then he attacked her character and the place she worked. You know, “Fake News.”

All the various news outlets said “he had changed his mind about releasing the video.”

Why didn’t they say “he has lost his mind?” That seems more to the point.

ALLAN JOHANNESSEN
LEICESTER

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.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



news@
stonebridgepress.news



Saint Joseph School welcomes new members to Children of Mary Sodality



Newly installed members of the Children of Mary Sodality stand together at the front of the church, facing the congregation with reverence and pride following their induction ceremony at Saint Joseph Basilica. Behind them at the altar stands Rev. Richard Polek, Pastor and Headmaster, who moments earlier blessed and presented each girl with a Miraculous Medal.

W E B S T E R — On Sunday, Dec. 7, at the Advent Family Mass, Saint Joseph School proudly celebrated the annual installation ceremony for new members of the Children of Mary Sodality—a cherished faith-based organization open to girls in Grades 3–8 at Saint Joseph School. The ceremony was led with poise and reverence by the Sodality’s student officers: President Ivonka

Warnajtys, Vice President Evelyn Macko, Secretary Amelia Potem, and Treasurer Sophia Surowaniec. One of the most meaningful moments of the installation took place at the altar, as parents placed the symbolic robes on their daughters, a beautiful sign of the girls’ induction into the Sodality and their commitment to grow in faith and devotion. Adding to the solemnity of the occasion, Rev. Richard Polek, Pastor and Headmaster of Saint Joseph School, blessed rosaries and Miraculous Medals. Then, he personally placed a medal on each newly installed member. At the same time, Betty Sabaj, President of the Holy Rosary Sodality, presented each new member with a blessed rosary affirming the Sodality’s call to live as young women of prayer, virtue, and Marian devotion. In addition to their spiritual formation, the Children of Mary contribute to parish life through service. Members participate in First Friday Adoration, praying the rosary before the Blessed Sacrament and joining parishioners in singing the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. They also assist in organizing and preparing the parish Advent Angel Tree, reflecting their desire to serve others with generous hearts—especially during the holy season of Advent. Sr. Mary Ann Papiez guides the Children of Mary, whose mentorship encourages the girls to deepen their relationship with Christ and to embrace a joyful spirit of discipleship. Saint Joseph School is honored to support the Children of Mary Sodality, nurturing a vibrant community of faith, devotion, leadership, and service among our students. Congratulations to the newest members as they begin this special journey: third-grade students Maria Mazzone, Paulina Deptula, and Maggie Belanger, and fourth-grade students Nella Copeland, Olivia Guinto, and Joanna Thrun. May Our Blessed Mother guide and protect each of you as you grow in faith and continue to shine as young leaders in our school and parish community.

DURKIN & SONS
Trucking Co.

**Trash Removal
Weekly Pickups
Cleanouts**
~ Reliable ~

www.durkintrucking.com
Spencer
508-885-4499

Cornerstone Bank names Daniel J. Zona president



W O R C E S T E R — Cornerstone Bank announced today that with the completion of the merger with Athol Savings Bank (ASB), that Daniel J. Zona will be assuming the role of president of Cornerstone Bank. Zona will succeed Randal D. Webber, who is retiring. Zona brings extensive experience in community banking, leadership and operational management. As president and CEO of ASB, he successfully led the institution while maintaining a strong focus on community engagement, customer service and innovation. He will now guide Cornerstone Bank into its next chapter, overseeing an expanded footprint and a growing team. “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. The people matter most.” Zona emphasized his priorities in the role will include integrating the Cornerstone and Athol teams, getting to know employees, preserving the legacy and community con-

nections of Athol Savings Bank and leveraging Cornerstone’s digital banking capabilities to enhance customer experiences. Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank, commented, “Dan’s leadership and deep understanding of community banking make him the perfect person to guide Cornerstone Bank as we expand into north central Massachusetts. His values, vision and dedication to employees and customers align seamlessly with our mission.” The merger between ASB and Cornerstone Bank will allow existing and new customers to access a broader suite of products and services, including enhanced digital banking options, while maintaining local branch relationships and community involvement. ASB will operate as a division of Cornerstone Bank, retaining its name and all current locations. 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, 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 cornerstone-bank.com or call 800-939-9103.

MAXWELL LUCIANO’S
UNION STATION
A QUITE NEW YEAR’S
— OF —
DINE AND DANCING

- À la carte menu
- DANCING START AT 6PM
- DINNER 4PM – 10PM

BAR APPS AVAILABLE AT 4PM
GUARANTEED RESERVATION REQUIRED
PROPER ATTIRE
508-755-6408

Courtesy

East Brookfield Elementary School loved welcoming Professor Jeff Hill from MA College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences on Friday, Dec. 12. He visited our fifth and sixth grade students to teach them all about the heart using hands-on models and an engaging presentation. Thank you to Professor Hill for making learning come alive! Photo courtesy of the school’s Facebook page.

LOWEST PRICES OF THE YEAR

Get After-Christmas Clearance Prices Now!
HUGE MARKDOWNS
STOREWIDE!

Save on Dinettes, Living Rooms, Bedrooms, Accessories plus so much more!

0% INTEREST - FOR 1 FULL YEAR!

www.sundeenfurnitureinc.com
Sundeen Furniture
241 PROVIDENCE RD., WHITINSVILLE MA 01588 • 508-234-8777
FREE LAYAWAY • FREE DELIVERY
M.T.W. 9:30-6:00; TH., FRI. 9:30-7:00; SAT. 9:30-6:00, SUN. 11-5

PROPOSAL

continued from page A1

If you buy ten nips, it’s \$1.50. They’ll buy it there, they’ll bring it here, they’ll bring it to us, and we lose that. We want to support the green streets, I’m just not sure (the proposal) would be economically possible to make sense as a business.”

This 15-cent tax proposal



Petitioner Bruce Arnold presents a bag of hundreds of nip bottles he collected while walking his dog as he defends his proposal for a by-law to ban nip sales in North Brookfield.

was soundly voted down, turning attention back to the original article. One taxpayer, Susan Lewandowski, who signed the original petition to bring the article to a town meeting, said she didn’t believe any solution presented at the meeting would truly solve the problem.

“We are faced with two competing truths. Yes, dis-

carded nip bottles lead to nanoplastics in our food and water, and it’s not a good thing. Nips are used in underaged drinking and drunk driving and are discarded to avoid open container violations, and yes nip bottles are the most commonly found items during cleanup events. However, I also don’t believe that banning the sales of nips will solve the problem,” Lewandowski said. “Those who irresponsibly consume nips and other forms of alcohol will still discard nips out the window whether they buy it from their town or wherever – And yes this will affect our businesses in town and it’s not fair to them.”

For now, the overwhelming vote against the by-law means nip sales can continue in the town unimpeded leaving concerned citizens to seek different solutions to the ongoing litter issues.

PROMOTIONS

continued from page A1

right now with a fifth going out next month, so I’m very short-handed,” said the Chief.

He added that the officers in line for promotions were already mostly trained, requiring only field training to get them fully prepared. The promotions would also reduce the need for overtime pay by creating better staffing.

Antanavica also sought to adopt a practice that would ceremoniously upgrade

employees from probationary to permanent officers through a second appointment by the Select Board.

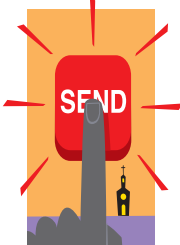
“When you get sworn in for the first time, that’s a one-year appointment until your one-year probation period is up,” said the Chief. “I would ask that everyone that has been there at least a year, if they’ve met the standard, we swear them all in as permanent.”

Selectmen approved both requests, continuing the evolution of the department to its new hiring standards.

The Chief also provided an update on how that

transition is taking place. Documents have been submitted to officially move the town out of civil service on the state level, although he acknowledged that the process is moving slowly. Leicester voters overwhelmingly approved a single ballot question during a special election on Oct. 28 to revoke Leicester’s adoption of the civil service law for police patrolmen and supervisory positions effectively changing the hiring and promotion practices for the police department for the first time since 1969.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



news@stonebridgepress.news

LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage 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, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for HarborOne Mortgage LLC, its successors and assigns to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., recorded on December 1, 2023, in Book No. 69952, at Page 104 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. to NewRez LLC DBA Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, recorded on February 7, 2024, in Book No. 70172, at Page 364

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 PM on January 12, 2026, on the mortgaged premises located at 132 North Brookfield Road, East Brookfield, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT:

The land in East Brookfield, Worcester County, Massachusetts, with the buildings thereon, situated on the easterly side of the State Highway leading to North Brookfield and bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point in the easterly line of said State Highway at land now or formerly of one Snay; THENCE northeasterly by said Snay land 162.25 feet to land of the North Brookfield Railroad Company; THENCE northwesterly by said railroad land 77.35 feet to land now or formerly of one Balchunas; THENCE southwesterly by said Balchunas land 181.25 feet to said highway; HENCE southeasterly by said highway 75 feet to the place of beginning.

Containing about 12,881 square feet of land, and being the premises shown as Lot No. 5 on a plan of House Lots in East Brookfield, owned by Arthur Ledoux” , which said plan is recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 41 Plan 54.

For mortgagor’s(s’) title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 61493, Page 394.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the

purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING

Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys, HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.

150 California St.

Newton, MA 02458

(617)558-0500

28366

December 12, 2025

December 19, 2025

December 26, 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. WO07P1928EP1

CITATION ON PETITION FOR

FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:

John J Byczek

Date of Death:01/02/1996

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **S/A - Formal Appointment of Successor PR** has been filed by **Paula A Herard-Burns of Rutland 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:

Paula A Herard-Burns of Rutland 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 01/06/2025.**

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: December 16, 2025

Stephanie Fattman,

Register of Probate

December 26, 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. WO25P4269EA

CITATION ON PETITION FOR

FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:

Andre J Roy

Also known as: Andy Roy

Date of Death:09/12/2025

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Nicole D Allen of East 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:

Nicole D Allen of East 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 01/06/2025.**

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: December 11, 2025

Stephanie Fattman,

Register of Probate

December 26, 2025

January 2, 2026

THE COMMONWEALTH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT

OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY

DIVISION

NOTICE OF A DESIGN PUBLIC

HEARING

Spencer - East Brookfield -

Intersection Improvements at

Route 9 and Route 49

Project File No. 613097

A Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed project in Spencer - East Brookfield, MA.

WHERE: Town of Spencer, Town Hall, Great Room

157 Main Street

Spencer MA, 01852

WHEN: Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 6:30PM

PURPOSE: 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.

PROPOSAL: 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 con-

crete roundabout, improved bike and pedestrian accommodations, lighting, and upgrades to pavement, drainage, pavement markings, and signage. The proposed pedestrian accommodations consist of 5-foot wide sidewalks along Route 9 and a shared use path at the roundabout. The proposed bicycle accommodations consist of 5-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 public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted on the MassDOT website listed below.

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.

In case of inclement weather, a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

JONATHAN GULLIVER

HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.

CHIEF ENGINEER

December 26, 2025

January 2, 2026

Zoning Board of Appeals

Town of North Brookfield

215 North Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535

The Town of North Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will hold a public hearing on January 26, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Senior Center. The application is for a Special Permit to convert and renovate the existing building at 75 School Street into a four-unit multifamily residential building by AUM Blackrock Investments LLC. The request is being made under the North Brookfield Zoning Bylaws, Section IV(A)(2)(1), which allows an existing dwelling to be converted to multifamily use if the ZBA grants a Special Permit. December 26, 2025

January 2, 2026

LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES

BROOKFIELD

Brookfield Ecumenical Food Pantry
St. Mary's Church
4 Howard Street, Brookfield, MA 01506
Distribution: Wednesday 9:30 AM-11 AM:
Saturday 9:30 AM-11AM

CHARLTON

Chip - In Food Pantry
McKinstry Building
37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507
Distribution: 3rd Saturday 9 AM-12 Noon

St. Joseph's Church, Charlton
Tuesday 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Wednesday 9-11 a.m.
Everyone is welcome.

LEICESTER

Leicester Food Pantry
St. Joseph-St. Pius X Parish
759 Main Street, Leicester, MA 01524
Distribution: Tuesday 5 PM-7 PM

NORTH BROOKFIELD

St. Joseph's Food Pantry
Located in the church hall at 296 North Main St. North Brookfield
Distribution is the 1st Thursday of the month from 5:00-6:30PM
the 3rd Thursday of the month from 12

Noon-1:15PM
Any questions should be directed to the Rectory office 508 867-6469.
St. Joseph's Food Pantry is a community partner affiliated with the Worcester County Food Bank.

OXFORD

Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf
Oxford Community Center
4 Maple Road
Oxford, MA 01540
Distribution: Thursday 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

ROCHDALE

The Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry
Greenville Baptist Church
674 Pleasant St.
Rochdale, MA
Distribution: Every Monday from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Open to everyone.

SOUTHBRIDGE

St. John Paul II Parish Food Pantry
279 Hamilton St., Southbridge
Tuesday 3-5 p.m., Wednesday 9-11 a.m.
(508) 765-0245

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 base-ment,
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
36 North Main Street,
W.Bookfield, MA 01585
Distribution: Wednesday 10 AM-11:30 AM Thursday 7 PM- 8 PM



Home Winter Auto

AUTO BODY / REPAIRS



KEARNS

COLLISION REPAIR

Since 1969
Always Going The Extra Mile For Our Customers

Free Written Estimates • Damage Appraisal
Color Matching Specialists • Rental Car Services
Warrantied Work & Repairs
Diagnostics • A/C Repair
Tune Ups & Engine Repair
Brakes • Alternators • Starters • ABS
Alignments • Tires...and more

Major Insurance Referral Shop
Honoring All Insurance Estimates

**1734 Providence Road (Rt 122)
Northbridge, MA 01534**
Ph: **508-234-5211** • Fax: **508-234-2231**
www.kearnscollision.com
Fully Certified • RS# 2678



BEST WINDOW COMPANY

Beautiful, Efficient, Affordable
WINDOWS & DOORS



KUBALA
HOME IMPROVEMENT
Your Window & Door Experts!

Award Winning High Performance
Windows & Doors

*Lifetime
Warranty*

**100%
FINANCING
AVAILABLE**

CALL NOW FOR
EXCLUSIVE SPRING SAVINGS
508-784-1550
MA CSL100114 | MA HIC150118 | CT HIC0619712

BUILDER



TAE

B • U • I • L • D • E • R
INCORPORATED

Remodeling Expert

- ◆ FINISHED BASEMENTS
- ◆ ADDITIONS ◆ GARAGES
- ◆ SIDING ◆ ROOFING ◆ DECKS
- ◆ WINDOWS ◆ DOORS
- ◆ KITCHEN ◆ BATHS

Quality Building Since 1985
Licensed & Insured
508-764-2293 ◆ 774-230-3967

LAWNMOWERS



ALWAYS THE BEST SERVICE



Snowblower & Generator Repair
Tractor Service
Tune-Ups & Repairs
Pickup & Delivery

508-987-2775
492 Main St Oxford
WORCESTERCOUNTY
LAWNMOWER.COM



For Advertising Information, Call 774-200-7308
email:mikaela@stonebridge press.news

CHIMNEYS/MASONRY

CHIMNEY CLEANINGS

Starting at \$99

ALL KINDS OF MASONRY & CONCRETE WORK
New & Repairs, Repointing, Rebuilding, Re-lining, Waterproofing, Foundation & Chimney Repair, New & Stair Repair, Concrete Walkways, Stonewalls, New Roofs, Construction & Carpentry.

Need to get it done? Call me!
-FREE Estimates-
Quality Chimney
(508)752-1003

FIREWOOD

HURLEY

FIREWOOD
Cut, Split, Delivered
GREEN

\$230 PER CORD
Call John at
508-958-4350



Home Improvement

BONETTI'S

Home Improvement
Roofing
Siding
Decks
Remodeling
Windows
Doors
Basement Finishing
Gutters Cleaning
Pressure Washing
Painting Landscaping

*Over 25 Years Experience
Residential Specialist*

Licensed and Insured
128231
508-347-4906
Cell 508-688-0072

MASONRY



MASONRY HARDSCAPE
RETAINING WALLS
OUTDOOR
LIVING CONSTRUCTION

Chimney Repair
Foundation Repair
Steps, Patios
Water Proofing
Walkways
Stone Veneer
Brick and Block Work
Cord Wood

Brian French
(413)222-5542
cjmasonryhardscape@gmail.com

GJ LEDUC PAINTING

Interior and Exterior

Power Washing
Wallpapering
General Repair
Fully Insured
Over 40+ Years
Experience

508-764-8548
774-230-8373

Plumbing



*Commercial,
Residential,
New Construction*

369 Main St,
Ste 4
Spencer, MA
1-833-969-4330
Fully Insured

MIKELAMBERTSPANDH
@GMAIL.COM

ROOFING

David Barbale

ROOFING

*Roofing/Gutters
Repair Work*

Fully Licensed
and Insured

MA LIC #CS069127
MA HIC. LIC #1079721
INS. # CAC032585

C: 508-397-6709
O: 508-248-6709
davidbarbale.com

Roofing

SAUNDERS & SONS ROOFING

*Read our reviews at the
Better Business Bureau.
A+ rating and accredited
member since 2009.*

Call Bill Toll-Free
1-866-961-Roof
508-765-0100
Lifetime material warranty &
25 yr. labor warranty available

MA Reg #153955
CSL #095459
CT-HIC #0638641

Fully Insured, Free Estimates
Family Owned and Operated
*Now Accepting All Major
Credit Cards*



Town-to-Town

Home Town Service,
BIG TIME RESULTS

CLASSIFIEDS

774-200-7308

Place your ad today!




VISA MasterCard Discover

FOSTER PARENTS WANTED:

Seeking Quality Homes Throughout Central MA To Provide Foster Care To Children In Need. 24/7 Support Generous Reimbursement, \$1000 Sign-On Bonus. Call For Details.

Devereux Therapeutic Foster Care. (508)829-6769



WAR RELICS & WAR SOUVENIERS WANTED:

WWII & EARLIER CASH WAITING!

Helmets, Swords, Daggers, Bayonets, Medals, Badges, Flags, Uniforms, etc. Over 40 years' experience.

Call David (508) 688-0847. I'LL COME TO YOU!



Got Space?

we do.

Contact Mikaela Today

774-200-7308

mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

Friday's Child



Lovely

Age 16

Registration #8332

Lovely is an independent and kind young girl whose name perfectly reflects her sweet and friendly nature. She has a wonderful sense of humor and enjoys sharing laughs with those around her. While it may take her a little time to open up, once she feels comfortable she values and enjoys her connections with others. Described as quiet and easygoing, Lovely has a calm, go-with-the-flow attitude that makes her a joy to be around. She has a creative spirit and a love for painting, proudly displaying her artwork and expressing herself through color and design. Lovely's gentle nature, paired with her creativity and sense of humor, makes her a truly special girl.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21188851857>

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

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



Do we have your attention?

Print Advertising is a very powerful medium and can deliver strongly for you business.

Consumer immersion in trusted content has a massive impact on awareness, trust, and effectiveness of its associated advertising. Media attention scores as applied to regular consumers of each medium, with print newspapers topping the table with a score of 80%, followed by regional print newspapers (76%). www.StonebridgePress.com


kids' corner




What's the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.

A



B



Answers: 1. Cake on plate 2. Missing candy cane 3. Missing design on inside of cup 4. Computer screen is lit up

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

DEC

22

1807: The Embargo Act is passed by the U.S. Congress, forbidding trade with all foreign countries.

1808: Ludwig van Beethoven conducts and performs at the Theater an der Wien, Vienna.

1937: The Lincoln Tunnel opens to traffic in NYC.

NEW WORD

MERRY

cheerful and lively

How they say that in...

English: Ribbon
Spanish: Cinta
Italian: Nastro
French: Ruban
German: Band

Did You Know?



Festive decorations are commonly featured in homes and stores throughout the holiday season.

Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Nutcracker



REAL ESTATE

Merry Christmas
to all from all of us at the

Lori Johnson-Chausse
William Hilmon II
Bryan Pelletier
Sharon Pelletier
Laurie Sullivan
Maurin Limock
Jane Austin Casper

HOPE
REAL ESTATE GROUP
hope2own.com
508.943.4333

We are proud to be an American!
God Bless the United States of America!



REAL ESTATE



PUT YOUR TRUST IN US
TEAMWORK AND EXPERIENCE
Jo-Ann Szymczak 774-230-5044
Diane Luong 774-239-2937
Maria Reed 508-873-9254
Bob Berk 508-367-9226
Vicki Bennett, Client Coordinator
ReMax Vision • 25 Union St., Worcester MA 01608
CALL FOR A MARKET ANALYSIS Licensed in MA & CT

CHARLTON- NEW LISTING
*1.38 Acres *2 Full baths * 1900 Sq. Ft.
*Finished Lower Level includes
Family room, Office, Game room
*Fireplace
*2 Mini Splits (A/C)

50 Old Spencer Rd. \$525,000

DUDLEY- 7 ACRES INCLUDES 5 ACRE BUILDABLE LOT
*View Video
*3 Bedroom
*24' Great Room
*Upgraded flooring, cabinets, lighting fixtures
*Gas heat, Gas fireplace
*Central Air

126 Old Southbridge Rd. \$800's

LAND! LAND! LAND!
30.2 Acres
Southbridge/ Dudley
Includes 4 Frontage Lots- Build or use for Recreation
Blackmer Rd \$295,000

DUDLEY- PRIVATE BACKYARD- NEAR SCHOOLS & SHOPPING
*Central Air *Central Vac
*Fireplace *Update kitchen counters and center island
*3 Full Baths
*24x20 Game room
*1st Floor Family room
*2 Car Garage
* View Video on Realtor.com
143 Charlton Rd. \$595,000

MEET YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS
Perfect for Realtors, Mortgage Companies, Banks, Real Estate Attorneys, Home Inspectors, Chimney Inspectors, Lead Removal businesses, Insurance Companies, etc... any business involved in the buying or selling of real estate.
To join this section, please contact your local sales rep, 774-200-7308 or email mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

"I SOLVE REAL ESTATE PROBLEMS"
ReMax Professional Associates
Licensed in MA & CT
We need properties to sell - any type!
Conrad Allen
508.400.0438
callen1995@aol.com

RE/MAX
RE/MAX Professional Associates

ERA Key Realty
SERVICES
Donna Flannery Realtor®
508-612-6771
Donnaflanneryrealtor.com
Donnaflannery@erakey.net
OVER 30 YEARS SELLING LOCAL REAL ESTATE
NATIONAL ERA FINALIST TWICE FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE
TOP AGENT YEAR AFTER YEAR FOR # OF UNITS SOLD & SOLD DOLLAR VOLUME
ERA HALL OF FAME
415B Main Street Spencer, MA 01562

When Experience and Commitment Matter
Mary Vigliatura Stolarczyk
ABR, GRI, CRS, C2EX RE/MAX Hall of Fame
508.612.1382
MESRealty.com
Mary@WillSellit.com

LET'S TALK REAL ESTATE
Is now a good time to purchase a house?
Can I buy with "0" Down Payment?
Why do I need a Buyer Agent?
Call or Visit an Open House and we can chat about Real Estate Opportunities
ReMax Vision
25 Union St., Worcester MA 01608
CALL JO-ANN FOR A MARKET ANALYSIS Licensed in MA & CT

Jo-Ann (Nedoroscik) Szymczak
CRS, GRI, SRES
508-943-7669
774-230-5044

Where Everyone Goes For Their Piece Of The Earth!

WINTER IS HERE! LANDSCAPING STONE

Purple • Red • White
Light Gray • Dark Gray
Greige • Blue

- Construction Stone
- Title V Sand • Utility Sand
- Concrete Sand • Pool Liner Sand
- Chicken Coop Sand • Silt
- Stone Dust • Crushed Gravel
- Crushed Asphalt
- Crushed Concrete • Cold Patch

SELF PICK-UP OR CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR DELIVERY TODAY!

Bond 508-885-6100 508-885-2480

Sand, Gravel & Asphalt

98 N. Spencer Rd., • Rte. 31N, Spencer, MA
www.bondsandandgravel.com

From classroom to Commencement stage: A Bay Path mentorship that spanned a decade

WORCESTER — A simple birthday message shared earlier this month quietly revealed something extraordinary: a decade-long mentorship between a Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy alumna and her former instructor—one that has grown into enduring professional collaboration, genuine friendship, and a legacy.

“Happiest of birthdays to you, my friend, mentor, and teacher,” wrote Hannah Lombardo, RN, of Woodstock Valley, Conn., formerly of Webster, in a Dec. 11 post to Gretheline R. Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN. “To many more years of wisdom and knowledge, happiness and fortune.”

What might have appeared to be a warm personal greeting instead underscored a bond forged in the classroom and strengthened through ten years of shared service to students and the broader community.

The celebration itself reflected Dr. Bolandrina’s commitment to service beyond education. She marked her 59th birthday at Kuru Kuru Ramen (<https://www.kurukuru-ramenshop.com/>) in the Worcester Public



Market with a fundraiser benefiting Bikes for the World (<https://www.bikesfortheworld.org/>). Continuing that effort, the Bolandrinass will travel in February 2026, driving a U-Haul loaded with hundreds of donated bicycles from Gardner, Massachusetts, to the organization’s headquarters in Rockville, Md.—transforming a personal milestone into an act of global generosity.

Where it began

The connection began in 2014, when Lombardo was a student in the Bay Path Practical Nursing program under Dr. Bolandrina’s instruction. Like many students, Lombardo graduated—but unlike most, she never truly left.

Soon after earning her LPN, Lombardo began returning to Bay Path as a volunteer skills lab assistant, mock code participant, and guest speaker. As her career advanced—from LPN to Clinical Educator, CPR/BLS Instructor, Nurse Supervisor, and eventually Registered Nurse with an Associate Degree in Nursing—her involvement with the Academy only deepened.

A model of mentorship in motion

By 2017, Lombardo was regularly assisting in skills labs. By 2018 and 2019, she was sharing job opportunities, mentoring students, and helping guide new nurses as they navigated their professional pathways. She became a familiar and trusted presence at community events, often volunteering alongside Dr. Bolandrina and faculty lead Dr. Adelina N. Healy of Dudley.

Her service extended well beyond the classroom. Lombardo provided onsite medical care at large-scale events, including:

- The Central Massachusetts Show Choir Festival, supporting more than 500 student performers from 24 schools
- The Shepherd Hill Regional High School Festival of Crafts
- Community health screenings and first aid initiatives throughout Webster, Dudley, and surrounding towns

Volunteer shifts frequently stretched from early morning to late evening—an embodiment of nursing’s commitment to service and care.

Words that defined the bond

In 2021, Lombardo publicly reflected on the influence of her mentor: “So thankful I met and have learned from you. I aspire to be half the woman you are.”

Dr. Bolandrina’s response captured the essence of meaningful mentorship: “You were great even before you came to Bay Path. Continue to soar and shine!”

That encouragement proved prophetic.

From student to speaker

In June 2025, Lombardo reached a milestone few alumni achieve when she was selected as Commencement Speaker for the Bay Path Practical Nursing Class of 2025, having also served as an inspirational speaker welcoming the Class of 2024 into Term 2. Standing on the commencement stage, she represented not only personal achievement but the long-term impact of the program itself.

Her journey—from PN student to RN, from volunteer to leader—became a living example for graduating students of what is possible beyond the classroom.

More than colleagues

Beyond their professional collaboration, Dr. Bolandrina and Lombardo share a genuine friendship. They are often seen supporting charitable causes and local music events, including performances by Otan Vargas (<https://www.otanvargasmusic.com/>), with Dr. Bolandrina’s husband, Joseph Bolandrina, frequently part of the gatherings. These shared moments reflect a bond that transcends titles, timelines, and roles.

A lasting legacy

The birthday message that sparked reflection this month was more than a celebration of another year—it was a quiet affirmation of Bay Path’s enduring legacy.

The relationship between Dr. Gretheline R. Bolandrina and Hannah Lombardo, RN, stands as a testament to what happens when education extends beyond graduation and mentorship becomes lifelong.

From classroom lessons to commencement speeches, their shared decade tells a powerful story: at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, education doesn’t end—it evolves.

308 LAKESIDE

CASUAL WATERFRONT DINING ON LAKE LASHAWAY

Happy HOLIDAYS

WEEKLY SPECIAL
Check out our **\$19.99 Three-Course Meal Deals**
Available Every Tuesday, Wednesday, And Thursday.

MUSIC BINGO EVERY THURSDAY 7 TO 9

2022 BEST OF CENTRAL MASS

Please call 774-449-8333 for reservations, take-out or reserve online 308lakeside.com

Check out the new Fall/Winter menu

OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK
11 - CLOSE
CLOSED MONDAYS

Please visit our website or Facebook page for our full menu.

308 MAIN STREET
EAST BROOKFIELD
774-449-8333
308LAKESIDE.COM

Thank you to all of our loyal customers this holiday season.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! ~Morse Lumber & Morse Family Christmas Tree Farm

Morse Lumber Co., Inc.
994 N Woodstock Rd., Southbridge MA 01550
Route 169, 1/2 Mile from Conn. Line
508-764-3231 Morse-Lumber.com

CHRISTMAS SALE! OPEN: Dec. 23rd, and Dec 24th: 8:00am-8:00pm

TOY CLEARANCE! SAVE UP TO **70% Off!**

MATTRESS SALE!
TWIN: \$199 (REGULARLY \$299)
FULL: \$269 (REGULARLY \$499)
QUEEN: \$299 (REGULARLY \$599)

HUGE KITCHEN PACKAGE & LAUNDRY REBATES

32" HD Smart TV.....\$99.99 Regularly \$149.99	GE DELUXE DISHWASHER Reg. \$499.99 \$369.99	G.E. DELUXE AIR FRY GAS RANGE Reg. \$899.99 \$699.99	FRIGIDAIRE DISHWASHER Reg. \$399.99 \$299.99	SAMSUNG TOP LOAD WASHER & DRYER Pair - Reg. \$1199.99 \$899.99 AFTER REBATE!	G.E. 27 CU. FT. FRENCH DOOR REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$1999.99 \$1399.99	5 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER Reg. \$1499.99 \$189.99	AMANA WASHER OR DRYER Reg. \$599.99 \$489.99
43" Smart TV.....\$199.99 Regularly \$249.99	WHIRLPOOL 21 CU. FT. TOP MOUNT REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$899.99 \$699.99	FRIGIDAIRE 18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$699.99 \$599.99	FAMOUS MAKER OVER THE STOVE MICROWAVE Reg. \$249.99 \$199.99	LG #3400 WASHER & DRYER Front Load, Reg. \$1599.99 \$1399.99	MAYTAG DELUXE WASHER OR DRYER Reg. \$699.99 \$549.99	WHIRLPOOL SIDE BY SIDE Reg. \$1499.99 \$1199.99	WE INSTALL TELEVISIONS, MICROWAVES & DISHWASHERS!
50" HDTV Television..\$229.99 Regularly \$269.99							
55" HDTV Television..\$229.99 Regularly \$349.99							
65" HDTV Television..\$329.99 Regularly \$599.99							
75" HDTV.....\$499.99 Regularly \$699.99							

INSTANT FINANCING UP TO \$10,000!

WHITCO

140 MAIN STREET, SPENCER, MA
508.885.9343
SEE WHITCOSALES.COM
FOR 100's OF DEALS!

Store Hours: Mon. thru Fri: 9am-9pm • Sat: 9am-8pm • Sun: 10am-7pm

Richard Sugden Library hosting program on difficult healthcare conversations

SPENCER — The Richard Sugden Library is hosting “Difficult Conversations: Healthcare” on Jan. 8 from 2-3 p.m. We’ll discuss ways we can cut health care costs while getting the care we need. In this small group discussion, participants share their experiences and opinions.

How it works: prior to the meeting, everyone reads an article provided by the library. The discussion will focus on the three options found in the reading. Sign up and get your materials today. This discussion is intended to promote listening and the understanding of various viewpoints.

Visit the Richard Sugden Library, 8 Pleasant St., Spencer, to register today!