

# SPENCER NEW LEADER

©2025, Issue #36

Free by request to residents of

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

SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO [NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS](mailto:NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS)

Friday, September 5, 2025



Kevin Flanders

Guests honor the life and legacy of Vietnam War veteran James Terry.

## Ceremony honors life and legacy of local Vietnam veteran

BY KEVIN FLANDERS

STAFF WRITER

EAST BROOKFIELD — The community recently honored the life and legacy of Vietnam War veteran James Terry during a memorial ceremony.

On August 23, the East Brookfield Historical Commission officially renamed the intersection of Podunk Road, Shore Road, and Draper Road,

which was previously known as “Four Corners.”

Following the dedication ceremony, the location is now known as “Terry Corner” in memory of James Terry, a Podunk resident, 1964 graduate of David Prouty High School, and U.S. Marine Colonel.

A large crowd attended the event to join Terry’s family and friends in

celebrating his impacts on both his community and nation.

“He is an inspiration to future generations to serve their community and country with the same unwavering dedication,” said East Brookfield Select Board Chairman Andrew Lynch.

Born in East Brookfield in 1946,

Turn To **TERRY** page **A10**

## Police urge drivers to use caution around school buses

BY KEVIN FLANDERS

STAFF WRITER

REGION — With classes back in session, local police departments are urging drivers to slow down, use caution, and help ensure a safe start to the school year.

Area police agencies will have a heavy presence on roadways around schools throughout September, looking out for distracted drivers, speeders, and motorists unlawfully passing school buses.

“It is illegal to pass a stopped school bus when its red lights are flashing and stop arm is extended. Always stop for school buses to keep our children safe,” read a statement released by the Spencer Police Department. “Also, drivers must slow down to 20 MPH in designated school zones during posted hours. Please stay alert for children

walking, biking, or crossing the street.”

For Spencer Police Chief Michael Befford and his team, this year’s back-to-school season brings a unique set of challenges, as the David Prouty High School construction project remains ongoing.

“We are navigating the partially complete

Turn To **CAUTION** page **A12**

Courtesy

SPD School Resource Officer Todd LaPorte is looking forward to another great year inside SEBRSD schools.



## Artist uses creativity to benefit community

BY KEVIN FLANDERS

STAFF WRITER

NORTH BROOKFIELD — Local artist Nadia Sukharev continues to use her talents to support community projects.

A 2024 graduate of North Brookfield High School, Sukharev raffled off her painting of the Town House last year to raise \$800 for the historic building’s restoration.

“It felt really good knowing something I created could actually help the community,” said Sukharev, who is now studying fine art at Wachusett Community College.

Looking ahead to the Family Fun Fest set for Sept. 28, Sukharev will once again display her work to guests, offering a new painting to be raffled.

The Friends of the North Brookfield Town House non-profit organization is hosting the event, which will take place from noon to 4 p.m. at Bike House Brewery (formerly Common Ground Ciderworks).

Guests will enjoy music, offerings from vendors, raffles,

food trucks, and fun activities for attendees of all ages.

For Sukharev, the event provides another great opportunity to use her artwork to benefit the community.

“I’ve loved art since I was little, but it wasn’t until high school that I started to take it more seriously. Just before my senior year, I began trying some commission work, and I also painted the North Brookfield Town House,” Sukharev said. “During my senior year, I got to do an internship painting murals at North Brookfield Junior-Senior High School, which was a great experience.”

Added Sukharev, “I’ve recently been working on another painting for the Town House project—this time of Brookfield Orchards.”

The painting will be raffled off during the Sept. 28 event. Prior to the Fun Fest, the painting will be on display at the Brookfield Orchards Harvest Craft Fair on Sept. 6 & 7. Guests will be able to purchase

Turn To **NADIA** page **A12**



Courtesy

Local artist Nadia Sukharev is benefiting the community with her artwork.

## Citizen petition seeks special election in Spencer

BY KEVIN FLANDERS

STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — Following the failed override questions this past spring, a group of residents is petitioning selectmen to hold a special election featuring a condensed request.

Led by Ryan Morton, the petitioners have begun the process of collecting signatures from residents. Their goal is to convince selectmen to authorize a special election, allowing residents to vote on an override specifically requesting funds for the fire department and Spencer Rescue Squad.

“After the failure of Proposition 2 ½ in the May 2025 election, I became concerned about the town’s next steps. I had hoped the Board of Selectmen would resubmit the ballot questions separately for each funding request,” read a statement released by Morton. “The petition aims to show the BOS that holding a special election would be worthwhile.”

In the weeks leading up to the May 13 Annual Town Election, many residents warned that the two override questions were packed with too many funding requests and would be shot down.

The first question (defeated by a margin of 1,039-473) asked whether voters support authorizing the town to assess an additional \$1,348,390 in real estate and personal property taxes to fund several departmental expenses. These included \$830,000 for the regional school districts’ assessment to meet the state-mandated “Required Local Contribution”; \$150,000 to fund contractual expenses for the Spencer Rescue Squad; and \$368,390 for four firefighters in the Spencer Fire Department (replacing the expiring grant funds for these positions).

The second question (defeated by a margin of 1,019-492) asked whether voters support authorizing \$211,500 to be assessed for added municipal personnel, including \$88,500 for one Highway Department employee and \$123,000 for one police officer for the SPD.

Four months later, Morton and several other residents hope selectmen will consider the opportunity to hold a special election focusing only on funding requests for the fire department and Spencer Rescue Squad (SRS).

Filed by Morton, the citizen petition features two ballot questions. The first asks whether residents authorize the town to assess an additional \$150,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding contractual expenses for the Spencer Rescue Squad for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026.

The second question asks whether the town should be allowed to assess an additional \$368,390 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding four firefighters in the SFD for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026.

“With the possibility of losing SRS and four full-time firefighters, I felt that expanding the highway or police departments was less urgent. The town’s priority should be preserving its existing services,” Morton added.

After launching the peti-

Turn To **ELECTION** page **A10**



# Climate, health advocates concerned about new solar and battery rules

**BY GUS STEEVES**  
CORRESPONDENT

REGION — As area towns face changing their bylaws to address larger solar and battery storage projects in light of state law passed last November, citizens are trying to figure out what the new laws actually mean, and how to face the issue.

Last week, several from across the state came together in an online forum under the auspices of Responsible Solar Massachusetts, with the big takeaway being that local Boards of Health (BOH) have a lot more authority to regulate, and even stop, such projects than many people think.

According to Mass Association of Health

Boards' Government Relations Director Mike Hugo, local health boards have a different status than other boards.

"A health regulation is looked at by the court as a state statute," he said.

Courts often say other kinds of boards "did it wrong," but will only review a BOH decision to determine "whether it's arbitrary and capricious or not." If the BOH held public hearing(s) on the issue and can show they did due diligence to look at possible health harms, the courts typically uphold such decisions, he explained.

Such information was good news to other participants. They're concerned the new laws defining what's eligible for state alternative ener-

gy incentives – dubbed "Smart 3.0" – aren't actually very protective for land and communities.

Responsible Solar's Janet Sinclair said the law says developers "can't put solar in core habitat" or on "permanently protected land," but those are already prohibited. She's concerned it does too little to save the most important remaining forests, the ones that sequester the most carbon.

"For those of us facing forest clearcuts for solar, there's not really much here that helps us," she said, later adding, "we worked so hard to get better regulations."

Instead, she'd like to see the state adopt Audubon Society's proposal that would prohibit solar in the 40 percent of critical

forests that aren't yet protected.

Katherine Harris agreed, saying the official restrictions would not prevent solar development of the coastal pine barrens of the southeast, in part because those pines are fairly short-lived.

To Faith Berry, it's "disconcert-

ing" that many solar arrays and battery sites of that area are in cranberry wetlands and often above Plymouth County's key water sources. (That's a key issue for Oakham residents, too; their Planning Board rejected a battery storage site in part because it'd endanger the Quabbin watershed, but the company appealed to the state.)

"I have some concerns about how the state is circumventing NEPA [National Environmental Protection Act] guidelines," Berry said.

She also noted the electric companies have been adding significant fees to customers' bills to cover such projects, but the fees don't seem to be related to what their energy use is.

Sinclair said NEPA limits might not apply because most of the funding isn't federal money; most of it comes from those ratepayers via the "smart program" fees. The 2024 law requires the state to create regulations for such projects, with solar arrays of more than 25 MW and battery storage over 100 MW both going directly to the state's Energy Siting Board for hearings.

Smaller ones go to local boards, but can be appealed to the state.

She described the problem as not illegal, just "really bad."

To Berry, "What we really need to focus on is how do we grasp some level of control locally?"

She sees that as happening "through having more local siting hearings."

Other issues the forum raised were impact on Native American lands, with Harrison observing Natives "have stewarded this land for thousands of years." But today, most important Native cultural and sacred sites are in private hands and some are "prime sites for solar," so she urged raising Native land concerns through the public hearing process. She noted the Mass Environmental Policy Act and Mass Historical Commission require consulting with any affected Native tribes if the project requires a state permit or has state funding, and local boards can do that, too.

Hugo said BOH authority comes from the MGL Chap 111 "nuisance" statutes, which requires the board



WEALTHCARE | RETIREMENT | INCOME

www.thecapstone.group

Located at Cornerstone Bank  
200 Charlton Road (Suite B), Sturbridge, MA

Visit our website to schedule your courtesy retirement checkup today!

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
					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			

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Fairly large

6. Barrels per day (abbr.)

9. Cover the entirety of

13. Leafy appetizer

14. Showy ornament

15. Norse personification of old age

16. Athletes

17. Closes tightly

18. Attack via hurling items

19. Where the reserves stand

21. Sword

22. Begat

23. Damage another's reputation

24. Northeast

25. Turf

28. For each

29. Hours (Spanish)

31. Western state

33. One who offers help

36. Flanks

38. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
39. Free from drink or drugs

41. Tunnels

44. Mature

45. More dried-up

46. News organization

48. Steal something

49. Forms one's public persona (abbr.)

51. Female fish eggs

52. Small petrel of southern seas

54. Edible starches

56. Historical

60. In a place to sleep

61. Horse grooms

62. Off-Broadway theater award

63. Chinese dynasty

64. Resembling a wing

65. Small projection on a bird's wing

66. Of the Isle of Man

67. Derived unit of force (abbr.)

68. Plate for Eucharist

- CLUES DOWN
1. Vipers

2. Ancient city in Syria

3. Slog

4. Emits coherent radiation

5. "Pollock" actor Harris

6. Bleated

7. Monetary units of Afghanistan

8. Tooth doctor

9. One who takes apart

10. Commoner

11. Beat poet Ginsberg

12. Cave deposit material

14. Home energy backup

17. Begets

20. Face part

21. Frocks

23. Hill or rocky peak

25. Giving the impression of dishonesty

26. About ear
27. Male parents

29. Popular grilled food

30. Vaccine developer

32. Not conforming

34. Polite address for women

35. 1970 U.S. environmental law

37. Astronomical period of 18 years

40. One who fights the government

42. Center for Excellence in Education

43. Watches discreetly

47. An electrically charged atom

49. Hymn

50. Arabic given name

52. Popular pie nut

53. City in Zambia

55. Species of cherry

56. John \_\_, British writer

57. Be next to

58. Make angry

59. Give birth to a lamb or kid

PUZZLE SOLUTION

N	E	L	V	d		N	A	d		X	N	V	W		
V	T	U	T	V		H	V	T	V		O	V	I	T	
E	I	B	O		S	E	C	A	S		d	E	B	V	
A	H	V	d	N	E	G	E	T		S	O	G	V	S	
			N	O	I	H	d		E	O	H		H	d	
B	V	N		I	d	N		H	E	H	E	S			
E	d	I	H		S	B	W	O	C	V	L	V	C		
H	E	B	O	S		W	V	L		S	E	d	I	S	
		N	V	L	I	H	V	W	V	S		H	V	L	N
			S	V	H	O	H		H	E	d		d	O	S
E	N		H	V	L		d	E	H	I	S				
H	E	B	V	S		S	E	N	I	T	E	d	I	S	
L	T	E	d		S	T	V	E	S		S	O	H	d	
I	T	T	E		d	N	V	G		d	V	T	V	S	
N	V	d	S		d	B			E	T	d	W	V		

## Leicester Knights of Columbus to hold family dinner

LEICESTER — The Leicester Knights of Columbus will hold a family dinner on Wednesday, Sept. 10, at 6 p.m.

Guests will have a meal choice of shepherd's pie or baked fish.

The meal cost is \$15 per person, which includes a salad, entrée, and dessert.

To make reservations, call Don at 508-615-8434. You may also send an email to: ohno7g7@yahoo.com.

Please make your reservations by Monday, Sept. 8.

The location is 91 Manville St.

## Tag sale at Christ Memorial Episcopal Church

NORTH BROOKFIELD — A tag sale will be held at Christ Memorial Episcopal Church, 133 North Main St., on Saturday, Sept. 13 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Plants (indoor and out), puzzles, books, clothes, kid's stuff, kitchen and household items, treasures, and more. Name your own price. New this year: Help support the NB Food Collaborative – bring non-perishable items for the table. Rain date Sept. 20.

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



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  
860-928-1818 EXT. 103  
frank@salmonpress.news

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

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

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

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

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

P.E.T. of the Week

Sponsored by Leicester Veterinary Clinic, LLC

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



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

SPENCER ALMANAC

— REAL ESTATE —

BROOKFIELD

None

EAST BROOKFIELD

None

LEICESTER

\$3,780,000, 1621 Main St, Hy Ventures Leicester LLC, to Farah Main Street LLC.

\$530,000, 14 Wesley Dr, Mckeon, Barbara J, to Rose, Robert P, and Rose, Melissa.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

\$50,000, 16 Central St, Ingemi Jr, John J, and Ingemi, Sandra L, to Milligan, Thomas.

SPENCER

\$415,000, 66 S Spencer Rd, Cassavant Sr, Kenneth J, and Cassavant, Jeanne M, to Jdmzw LLC.

\$350,000, 15 S Spencer Rd, Foley, Michael M, to Nowak Enterprises LLC.

\$70,000, 24 Kittredge Rd, 80 Gage St Inc, to Angelo, Thomas, and Angelo, Zachary.

WARREN

\$405,000, 1085 Southbridge Rd, Vallee, Darlene E, to Latulippe, Jhan B.

\$220,000, 110 School St, Anchor Rei Inc, to Ridz, Allyson R.

\$50,000, 2273 Main St, Sullivan Sophie R Est, and White, Rebecca, to Cembura Lt, and Cembura Jr, Thaddeus J.

WEST BROOKFIELD

None



# Bay Path announces opening of new Diesel Technology program

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School is proud to announce the launch of its newest Chapter 74-approved program, Diesel Technology, beginning with the start of the 2025–2026 school year. Incoming freshmen will be the first to enroll in the program, making Diesel Technology the school's 23rd Career

Technical Education (CTE) shop. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education recently approved Bay Path's application to establish Diesel Technology as an official Chapter 74 program. The new offering was made possible in part through grant

funding from the Skills Capital Modernization Grant, supported by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Education. Students in Diesel Technology will embark on a four-year program

that provides a solid foundation in preventative maintenance, safety practices, diagnostics, and essential technical skills. Areas of study will include diesel engine systems, electrical and

electronic fundamentals, hydraulics, braking systems, and other relevant topics. The program is designed to prepare students for both immediate entry into the workforce and advanced training opportunities in the diesel technology industry.

"We are incredibly proud and excited to announce the launch of our new Diesel Technology program at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School. This is more than just a new program—it's a direct investment in the future of our students and our local economy. The demand for skilled diesel technicians is high and growing, offering our graduates access to high-paying, essential careers right here in our community. This program will provide our students with the hands-on skills and technical competencies needed to succeed in a rapidly evolving industry. By partnering with leading local businesses and using state-of-the-art

equipment, we're ensuring our students receive an education that is both rigorous and relevant. We're preparing them for a meaningful career that will contribute to the strength and vitality of our region for years to come," said Kyle Brenner, Superintendent-Director of Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School.

The Diesel Technology program underscores Bay Path's mission to provide high-quality technical education that equips students with real-world skills and opens doors to meaningful careers.

Bay Path extends its gratitude to MassHire, our many sponsors, community partners, and advisory board members whose guidance and support made the launch of Diesel Technology possible, including: Advantage Truck Group, C.M.T.S. Truck Service, E.L. Harvey & Sons Inc., Massasoit Community College, Milton CAT, National Grid, and Volts, LLC.

## Students named to Spring Dean's List at Western New England University

SPRINGFIELD — Western New England University (WNE) takes immense pride in recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of more than 550 students who have been named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2025 semester.

Ryan Seeton of W. Brookfield  
Sarah Drappuch of Brookfield  
Ariana Masterjohn of W. Brookfield  
Alexis Kaloudis of Brookfield

Western New England University (WNE) is a private, nationally ranked, comprehensive institution with a focus on preparing work-ready and world-ready graduates. Founded in 1919 in Springfield, Massachusetts as a division of Northeastern College, WNE's 215-acre suburban campus serves more than 3,700 students, including over 2,500 full-time undergraduates. More than 47,000 alumni have earned degrees through its more than 90 undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs at Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and School of Law. Students come from 39 U.S. states and territories and 23 countries. Of 45,104 living alumni, 30% remain within the region, residing in the four Western Massachusetts counties and northern Connecticut.

WNE is classified among nationally ranked universities in US News and World Report, and among the Top 100 Undergraduate Engineering programs, and in the Doctoral/Professional Universities category in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

## Students named to Western New England University's Spring Dean's List

SPRINGFIELD — Western New England University (WNE) takes immense pride in recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of more than 790 students who have been named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2025 semester.

Sydney Corfe of W. Brookfield  
Sarah Drappuch of Brookfield  
Madeleine Johnson of Rochdale  
Alexis Kaloudis of Brookfield  
Ariana Masterjohn of W. Brookfield  
Shyra McWhorter of N. Brookfield  
Gabriel Paquette of W. Brookfield  
Thomas Robidoux of W. Brookfield  
Ryan Seeton of W. Brookfield  
Matthew Tiberii of W. Brookfield

Western New England University (WNE) is a private, nationally ranked, comprehensive institution with a focus on preparing work-ready and world-ready graduates. Founded in 1919 in Springfield, Massachusetts as a division of Northeastern College, WNE's 215-acre suburban campus serves more than 3,700 students, including over 2,500 full-time undergraduates. More than 47,000 alumni have earned degrees through its more than 90 undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs at Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and School of Law. Students come from 39 U.S. states and territories and 23 countries. Of 45,104 living alumni, 30% remain within the region, residing in the four Western Massachusetts counties and northern Connecticut.

WNE is classified among nationally ranked universities in US News and World Report, and among the Top 100 Undergraduate Engineering programs, and in the Doctoral/Professional Universities category in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

## Students named to President's List at Western New England University

SPRINGFIELD — Western New England University (WNE) takes immense pride in recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of more than 400 students who have been named to the President's List for the Spring 2025 semester. Students are named to the President's List for achieving a semester grade point average of 3.80 or higher.

Madeleine Johnson of Rochdale  
Gabriel Paquette of W. Brookfield  
Thomas Robidoux of W. Brookfield  
Matthew Tiberii of W. Brookfield  
Shyra McWhorter of N. Brookfield  
Western New England University (WNE) is a private, nationally ranked, comprehensive institution with a focus on preparing work-ready and world-ready graduates. Founded in 1919 in Springfield, Massachusetts as a division of Northeastern College, WNE's 215-acre suburban campus serves more

than 3,700 students, including over 2,500 full-time undergraduates. More than 47,000 alumni have earned degrees through its more than 90 undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs at Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and School of Law. Students come from 39 U.S. states and territories and 23 countries. Of 45,104 living alumni, 30% remain within the region, residing in the four Western Massachusetts counties and northern Connecticut.

WNE is classified among nationally ranked universities in US News and World Report, and among the Top 100 Undergraduate Engineering programs, and in the Doctoral/Professional Universities category in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.



### 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"

**Affordable™  
Windows &  
Doors** COMPANY, INC.

MasterCard VISA DISCOVER  
HOURS: MON. - FRI. 8-4:30 • SAT. 9-1

1152 Main Street • Route 9  
Leicester, MA • 508-892-9292

**MARVIN**

**We Deliver  
Throughout  
New England**



CELEBRATING  
**38**  
YEARS



Elevate Slider  
Price Includes:  
Ultrix Threshold  
Clad Maintenance  
Free Exterior  
Handle Set  
Low E Argon Gas  
60x80 • 72x80

**\$1895\***  
\*Promotion Price  
Valid when you bring this ad.  
Ends September 17th

**TAKE  
AN EXTRA  
20% off**  
All The Bargain Bay Products  
While Supplies Last  
When you bring this ad  
**See the Tab Bargain Bay  
at our website for a  
large selection!!**

**PEPIN**  
WASTE SERVICE  
*Your Local Roll-Off Specialist*



**FALL  
SPECIAL**  
10 yd. Rental **1 Ton**  
3 sizes available. Call for pricing.

**\$340**



**Roll Off Containers**  
Weekend Dumpsters  
for the Homeowner  
Houses • Attics • Cellars  
Construction Sites

10-15-20 Yd.

**508-892-4193 • Leicester, MA**  
Fully Insured



**BARGAIN  
BAY**  
BIG SAVINGS  
ON

Visit our  
Online  
Bargain Bay  
affordable  
windows.com

**INTERIOR/EXTERIOR DOORS & WINDOWS AT SUPER BARGAIN PRICES**





**\$38**  
As Low As



**\$75**  
As Low As



**\$16**  
As Low As

**WHILE SUPPLIES LAST**



# East Brookfield Library offers busy schedule this fall

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS**  
**STAFF WRITER**  
EAST BROOKFIELD — Guests of all ages are invited to check out a busy schedule of programs this fall at East Brookfield Public Library.

A USPS job fair will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 9, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come to the library to discuss job opportunities in your area.

To learn more about this event, please contact Caryn at 978-962-2371.

An annual craft fair will be held on Saturday, Oct. 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free to the public, the fair will offer a range of local crafters.

If you would like to get involved in the fair as a vendor, please contact the library. Meanwhile, story-time sessions are offered on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Children ages six months to six years are invited to play games, listen to stories, and create art projects to take home.

Caregivers are required to stay with youngsters during story-time sessions. One adult caregiver is required for every two children in attendance.

The library's Story Pals program is intended for children who have outgrown gener-

al story-time sessions, but still enjoy making a craft and listening to a story. Sessions are held on Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. Additionally, guests are invited to support the library's Food Shelf program by bringing new, unexpired food items to the library during regular hours. Personal items are also accepted, including shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, laundry detergent, toilet paper, diapers, wipes, deodorant, barrettes, hair ties, socks, reusable plastic containers for food, aluminum foil, plastic wrap, trash bags, dish soap, and more.

All collected items will be distributed to local families and individuals in need.

"Our food shelf is always available during normal library hours," read a statement released by officials.

The library's Fiber Art Group welcomes anyone who is interested in fiber arts, which includes knitting, crocheting, embroidery, hand sewing and cross stitching. Tuesday sessions will take place at 9:30 a.m. on Sept. 16, Sept. 23, Oct. 14, Oct. 21, and Nov. 18.

The library's Adult Knitting Group meets on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.

"All skill levels are wel-

come. Bring a current project, or check out our many pattern books for inspiration," the statement read.

The Library Book Talk Group meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 11 a.m. Stop by the library and pick up the book in advance.

A Pokémon Go Club meets every Monday at 3:30 p.m. All players must have their own devices to play on. Children and adults are welcome to attend sessions. Children under 12 years old must be accompanied by an adult.

Guests are also invited to check out special crafting opportunities at the

library.

"Every Monday in the Children's Room, there is a self-directed craft project," the statement read. "Craft projects may have small parts. Children under 12 years old must be accompanied by an adult, with one adult for every two children."

The library's Technology Tuesday program is a great resource for guests in need of help with questions of all sorts.

"We can teach you how to do things like use the library catalog to look for books and materials, place holds, add Libby to your e-reader or phone, and generally make the

most out of the online resources we have available for you," the statement read. "We can also help with non-library related things like setting up an email account."

If you would like help specific to your device, please bring it along.

The library's Movie Time program will offer sessions on Sept. 30, Oct. 28, and Nov. 25 (all at 12:30 p.m.).

A Homework Help program is available to assist local youngsters with homework questions. This is not a tutoring session, but instead a program enabling kids to ask for help on specific

questions.

Staff members will be available to assist children with homework questions on Mondays from 3-6 p.m. Children under the age of 12 must have a parent or guardian remain with them.

Adult board games are offered on the first Tuesday of every month at 1 p.m.

Meanwhile, Saturday board game sessions are offered to guests of all ages at 10 a.m. No games will take place on Oct. 18.

Additionally, library officials invite guests to visit the makerspace area and check out its offerings. To learn more, contact the library.

## Paxton-area Seniors announces trip to see tribute to musical legends

PAXTON — On Tuesday, Oct. 14 at 8:30 a.m., Paxton-area Seniors head south to Plantsville, Conn., to see and hear A Tribute to The Legends of Old Vegas at Aqua Turf, one of Connecticut's largest and nicest entertainment venues.

This trip is our next-to-last bus trip of the 2025 season. Wilson Motor Coach leaves Paxton Council on Aging (Senior Center at 17 West St., Paxton, which is also Route 31) at 8:30 a.m. Enjoy Aqua Turf's lovely grounds during our few hours there.

Enjoy a luncheon consisting of Lemon Chicken and Pork Schnitzel, served family style. There likely will be an appetizer, salad, vegetable, etc. Dessert is apt to be something special. We have been to two or three events there in recent years, mostly including music and sometimes dancing, and we have always found it to be a special day. They take good care of us and give us our money's worth.

Aqua Turf is located in a country setting in Plantsville, Conn.,

with lovely grounds to walk, if and as desired, with fountains and lovely gardens, trees, cobblestone pathways, gazebos, and flower beds. Say nothing about a stunning, large water feature visible from the main dining room! While there, you could fit in a ten-minute walk which would be very refreshing. Otherwise, walking on this trip is extremely light since we will not be visiting other venues.

Dave Colucci and Lisa Carter are the featured entertainers who will bring us our favorite entertainers from the past including Frank Sinatra, Dino (Dean Martin), Wayne Newton, Bobby Darin, Marilyn Monroe, Peggy Lee, Nancy Sinatra, Lynn Anderson and Rosemary Clooney.

Today's trip cost is only \$129. This does not include the driver's gratuity, but it does include the delicious family-style luncheon, the spectacular show and travel via Wilson Bus Motor Coach. Payments are non-refundable unless ticket(s) can be re-sold. Our tour date again is Tuesday, Oct. 14.

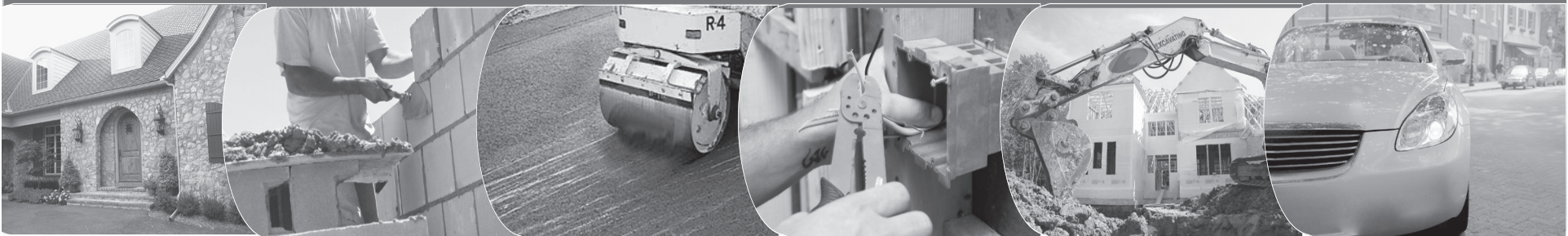
For reservations or information, please call Deb Grensavitch at 508.754.6366 or email Deb at grensavitchd@aol.com. Please make payments, at \$129 per person, to Paxton FOCOA (Friends of Paxton Council on Aging) and mail to Deb Grensavitch, 88 Laurel St., Paxton, MA 01612-1234. Passenger count and payment are due three weeks prior to the trip which is Sept. 23 for the Oct. 14 trip.

The Paxton Senior Center at 17 West St. is on Route 31 heading south toward Spencer, but is just south of Paxton Common and the only traffic light in town. We will make one brief stop in the morning at the TA Travel Center in Willington, Conn., where people can use the facilities and buy a coffee or snack if they are so inclined. We will probably do the same on the return trip. We expect to arrive back at Paxton Senior Center at 6 p.m. Please join us for this enjoyable, restful day with good food and great entertainment.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



# LOCAL SERVICE PROVIDERS



## Got Space?

we do.

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

### APPLIANCES

## DAVE'S APPLIANCE Inc.

### NEW & USED APPLIANCES

**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

### AUTO & TIRE

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

**Interstate Batteries in stock**  
Batteries & Antifreeze Testing  
Free w/oil change

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

### BOAT OWNERS

## ONSITE CANVAS MARINE

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

### 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**

### 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
- Storm Clean-up
- 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



# Regional Transit Authority celebrates milestone

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

REGION — The Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) recently celebrated surpassing five million rides, a milestone that reflects growing ridership and a commitment to expanding access across the region.

The WRTA has long served as a critical link for residents throughout Worcester County, connecting riders to jobs, schools, medical appointments, and other essential services.

“For those without access to a car, transit offers independence, consistency, and a reliable way to participate in daily life,” read a statement released by the authority.

Since 2020, the WRTA has provided fare-free service to riders, made

possible through funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the Fair Share Amendment.

Suspending fares has helped eliminate a major barrier for riders, making public transit more accessible and equitable across the region, officials said.

“Surpassing five million rides is a powerful reminder of the essential role public transit plays in the lives of our residents,” said WRTA Administrator Josh Rickman. “This milestone reflects the ongoing investments in service reliability, route efficiency, and community engagement. Our operators, contractors, and staff have worked hard to make transit more dependable, responsive, and aligned with the needs of the people we serve.”

Doug Belanger, a Leicester selectman who also serves as the WRTA Advisory Board Chairperson, was thrilled to join fellow leaders in celebrating the recent milestone.

“This achievement shows what happens when we prioritize smart planning and consistent service delivery,” Belanger said. “From expanding service hours to launching new initiatives, WRTA has stayed focused on building a transit system people can count on. Five million rides is proof that we’re moving in the right direction.”

Looking ahead, WRTA leaders are committed to investing in several additional service enhancements. These include service analyses and surveys; accessibility upgrades for visually impaired riders; a central hub lobby renovation; bus stop improvements; and intelligent transportation systems (ITS) upgrades.

Officials are also planning to improve customer-facing technologies, including bus tracking and other services.

A community celebration to mark the five million rides is scheduled for Sept. 18 during the quarterly “Riders’ Forum.” Attendees can enjoy fun giveaways and have the opportunity to engage directly with WRTA staff members.

Information about the upcoming surveys will also be available at the event.

“WRTA team members will be on site at the central hub to share details about new initiatives and gather valuable community feedback,” read the statement released by the authority.

The event will take place from 9 a.m.

to 5 p.m.

The WRTA is a regional transit system that serves Worcester and the surrounding 36 communities in central Massachusetts. The WRTA’s bus fleet includes diesel-electric hybrid vehicles, as well as clean-diesel buses.

As the second largest regional transit authority in Massachusetts, the WRTA also provides paratransit services for elderly and disabled riders.

All fixed routes and paratransit services are free through June 2026.

## Upcoming presentation examines facts and fiction surrounding immigration

WEST BROOKFIELD — There is no doubt that immigration is complex and an issue of concern for many of us. An upcoming presentation at the Merriam-Gilbert Library, “Immigration: Facts and Fiction,” will focus on some of the reasons why people immigrate to the U.S. and many of the myths and misconceptions that surround this process.

Organizers of this event hope to foster a fuller understanding of some of the struggles that prompt people to move from their home countries and also to make connections to the journey to the U.S. that many of our own family members made either recently or in the past. We plan to tell this story through music, poetry, and the voices of people who have made the long journey here along with the presentation of some historical facts. We hope to change the narrative that too often portrays newcomers to our nation as somehow a drain upon our resources or a threat to our safety by sharing research on how incorrect these myths are. We welcome you to join us for this interactive presentation Thursday, Sept. 11 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the library, 3 W. Main St., West Brookfield.

This event is being sponsored by Grassroots Central Mass. For more information on Grassroots Central Mass please visit our Web site: <https://grassrootscentral-mass.org> or email us at [info@grassrootscentralmass.org](mailto:info@grassrootscentralmass.org).

### 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

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

#### SPENCER- EAST BROOKFIELD -

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

#### STURBRIDGE

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

#### WEBSTER

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

#### WEST BROOKFIELD

Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry  
First Congregational Church  
36 North Main Street,  
W.Brookfield, MA 01585  
Distribution: Wednesday 10 AM-11:30 AM  
Thursday 7 PM- 8 PM



## 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](mailto:mikaela@stonebridgepress.news) to advertise on this page.

### Breakfast All Day Lunch

ALL MADE FROM SCRATCH

## Farmhouse Diner

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  
[FARMHOUSEDINERMA.COM](http://FARMHOUSEDINERMA.COM)

## CHARLIE'S

Diner • Bar • Grill • Functions  
BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER

FRIDAY 9/5 & SATURDAY 9/6

# TUNA STEAK

**AFTER 5:00 PM**

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](http://www.charliesdiner.com)

**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

**BOOKING FUNCTIONS OF ALL SIZES  
FROM 2-300 GUESTS (NO ROOM FEES)**

## Spencer Country Inn

Buy Entree Get 1 1/2 price  
(dine-in only) Cannot be used on  
holidays or private parties  
With this ad. Exp 9/30/25

**Fish N' Chips To-Go ~ Fridays Only \$15.95**

**SUNDAY BRUNCH** 10am-1pm  
All You Can Eat **\$22.95** (plus tax & gratuity)

**500 Main St., Spencer, MA**  
**508-885-9036**  
[www.spencercountryinn.com](http://www.spencercountryinn.com)  
Lunch: Fri & Sat 11:30-2:00  
Dinner: Fri & Sat 5:00-8:00  
Sun. Brunch: 10am-1pm

## Salem Cross INN

RESTAURANT & TAVERN

260 West Main Street, West Brookfield, MA 01585

**Over 50 Years of New England Hospitality!**

Open Thurs - Sat 4-8 Sunday 12-5  
Dine Outside on Our Patio Weather Permitting  
Hexmark Tavern is Open Thurs. & Fri. 4-8

**See Our Facebook page for Tavern Specials**

**www.salemcrossinn.com (508)867-2345**  
\*No Outdoor Dining When A Wedding Ceremony Is Taking Place

Home Town Service,  
**BIG TIME RESULTS**

# Town-to-Town CLASSIFIEDS

## 774-200-7308

Place your ad today!

VISA MasterCard DISCOVER

**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!

Advertise Here

**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**

**Devereux**  
ADVANCED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

**BOY SCOUT TROOP 273 FALL YARD SALE**  
**Saturday, September 20th**

Universal Tag Parking Lot, 36 Hall Road, Dudley  
Early Birds (8am to 9am) \$10.00 per person fee  
9am until 3pm FREE We accept CREDIT CARDS!  
24,000 sq.ft. of yard sale items ONE DAY ONLY  
**Pick your items and Make an offer!**

Grouped Items: Electronics - stereos, speakers, etc. (no TV's)  
Tools - hand tools, lights, flooring etc.. Furniture - Tables, chairs, bed frames, cabinets, hutches, etc..  
Housewares - glassware, dishes, pictures, mirrors, bowls, cups, small appliances  
Sporting goods - Bikes, skis, baseball equipment, golf, exercise equipment  
Clothes - shirts, pants, jackets, shoes, bags  
Kids toys and baby items - high chairs, bouncy, games, Antiques

**Jet Ski Lift For Sale**  
**1 Shore Master Jet Ski Lift**  
**\$1200 OBO**  
**Call 508-248-2950**

**Brookfield Congregational Church**  
will participate in the  
**Town-wide Tag Sale**  
to be held on  
Sept.6, 2025 from 9 AM - 3 PM.  
We will be set up on Central St.  
beside the Church located at  
8 Common St, Brookfield, MA 01506.  
**Hope to see you there!**



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

# Back to school, back to community

As the first yellow buses rumble down our roads and the leaves begin their slow turn toward autumn, families across the region are preparing for another school year. For some, it's the excitement of a child stepping into a kindergarten classroom for the first time. For others, it's the nervous pride of watching a senior set out on their last first day. Whatever the stage, the back-to-school season is more than a turning of the calendar—it's a reminder of how deeply education is woven into the fabric of community life.

Our schools are more than buildings where lessons are taught. They are living centers of connection, growth, and shared identity. Friday night football games bring neighbors together across generations. Elementary school art shows brighten the walls of libraries and town halls. School concerts, plays, and robotics competitions showcase not only student talent but also the quiet dedication of teachers, parents, and volunteers who make them possible.

In a time when rural towns across Massachusetts face tough questions about growth, development, and how to preserve their character, investing in our schools remains one of the surest ways to safeguard our future. A strong school system makes our towns more attractive to families, sustains property values, and—most importantly—gives our young people the skills and confidence to succeed, whether they stay here close to home or venture farther afield.

But education is not only the responsibility of educators and administrators. It is the work of an entire community. Parents can play a part by attending open houses, volunteering in classrooms, or joining booster clubs. Local businesses can help by offering internships, sponsoring youth programs, or donating expertise. Retirees, too, can lend their time and wisdom—whether tutoring, reading to young children, or serving on school committees.

And it isn't just about giving. It's about showing up. When we fill the bleachers at a game, clap at a school play, or stop to congratulate a student we know in the grocery store, we send a powerful message: You matter. What you do matters. We are proud of you. That encouragement shapes character just as surely as any textbook.

This year, as the school doors open once again, let's make a renewed commitment to support our students and those who guide them. Let's remember that every investment of time, energy, and attention we give to our schools is an investment in the long-term vitality of our local communities.

Back-to-school is not just about the children returning to class. It's about all of us returning—returning to a sense of shared purpose, shared responsibility, and shared pride in the place we call home.

## Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

# VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Putin played Trump...again!

To the Editor:  
So, MAGA cult people, like it or not, Putin took Trump to the cleaners... again! In 2018, Putin crushed Trump in Helsinki, and now he did it again. The only difference between the two meetings is that this last one was on American soil! And Trump rolled out the red carpet, no less.  
You folks have to admit, the self-proclaimed "world's best deal maker" is totally outclassed by Putin. In this instance, Trump proclaimed to the world that he wanted Putin to agree to a cease fire and that he (Trump) would "not be happy" if Putin did not agree. Well, guess what? Putin said no, yet Putin got everything he wanted from Trump, and Trump got nothing! So we have to assume that Trump is "not

happy."  
But never fear — at the end of the Alaska meeting, the idiot in the White House gave the MAGA world the typical nothing salad of words that he always does.

So, Putin gets to continue killing innocent Ukrainians (one attack coming very soon after Putin left US soil) while the Ukrainians, the US and the rest of Europe got nothing!  
One last thought: remember that before the election, Trump told the world that only he could bring the war to an end, that he would end the war 24 hours after he was elected? I guess his gold Rolex must have stopped working. Great job, Trump!

ANTHONY FERNANDES  
WEST BROOKFIELD

### What is too much power?

To the Editor:  
Anyone who is paying attention can see that this president has successfully overcome the design of the three co-equal branches of government being checks and balances of any of them exceeding the authority they were designed to wield and uphold. The clearest picture of the rubber stamp GOP Congress is the party suggesting that they avoid town halls and public events where their constituents will likely express their disapproval. The level of it being so extensive that the administration knows their approval is tanking, and they can only hope to retain a majority by cheating. California, who had enacted districting designed to honor all voices, is stepping up to counter Texas, which is 60/40 party mix, working to eliminate all Dem majority districts. I won't bother with additional legislative comments, because, what Trump wants, Trump gets. They have event continued to dilute the Epstein files.  
The judicial includes the courts and DOJ. My first inking that they were corrupt was when one state wanted Trump banned from their ballot, because any third grader can read section #3 of the 14th Amendment and see that, unless ban to hold any federal off-ice, be lifted by a two-thirds vote of both houses, anyone who participated in, or supported, an insurrection may not serve. The stacked Scotus ignored the ban, saying it was up to congress. Unlike impeachment that requires a certain majority, there would be no way he could have gotten the required vote to lift the ban. Not only is he there illegally; I see no intent to ever leave. Not only does Trump use every weapon he has against courts who rule against him (some of whom he appointed who respect the law), but he leverages law firms to represent his vast number of frivolous suits.  
Trump is a mob boss, and uses the DOJ as his mob. You are paying for the frivolous investigations and

law suits (as are the individuals he targets). The worst president in history, has targeted Obama, Clinton, Biden, and a cast of the thousands who rub him the wrong way. His AG and much of his cabinet are stooges selected not for qualifications or experience, but only for loyalty. Meaning, they literally would not exercise 25th amendment, if he actually did shoot someone.

Although, secret service has protected him and all of his properties and family non-stop since his first term, he has just removed Kamal Harris from protection. He is prepping us for martial law by deploying troops and the masked ICE army, only in red states, despite actual crime figures.

Employers, trying to be patriotic, hire guard. 20 years ago, they were rightly called out for Katrina. Today, they are picking up litter in D.C. I bet their employers are thrilled.

Robert Kennedy is the largest danger to your health and welfare in history. The purpose of the CDC ( Center for Disease Control) is controlling disease. The best way to do that is vaccines. Kennedy's advice to forgo measles vaccine, resulted in 30,000 unnecessary cases and 150 deaths. The new edict on Covid vaccines is have a co-morbidity, be old and have a doctor's note. It will likely reduce the life expectancy nationwide. The top five doctors from the CDC are now gone — good luck.

I read the testimony of a 14 year old Epstein "maid" who said she saw a 12 year old with Trump in a hotel. While that have penalty or just get filed with proven election conspiracies, other perverted acts and blatant disregard for using presidency for personal profit? We should all be very afraid, while we still can.

KEN KIMBALL  
BROOKFIELD

## Latest auction news

It's been over a month since my last auction news update. As usual, there is a lot to catch up on beginning with some news from the United Kingdom.

Auction staffers found a rare book while appraising items in a Bristol, England estate. A book specialist was looking through a "run of the mill bookcase" when she spotted the rare book, according to the Smithsonian Magazine. She recognized the pale green book with mountains and a dragon as "the Hobbit." When the book was first published in 1937 the author, J.R.R. Tolkien, designed the cover with eagles soaring over forests and mountains. Tolkien also created ten black and white illustrations. There were 1,500 copies of the first edition printed with a few hundred now currently known. The book was missing the dust jacket and had faded over the years. Despite this, it sold for nearly \$57,000.

It seems like every year I write about a new sports memorabilia auction record. A new sports card auction record was set by the "2007-08 Upper Deck Exquisite Collection Dual Logoman Autographs Jordan & Bryant card, numbered 1-of-1" card. Collector Matt Allen and Canadian investor Kevin O'Leary (known as "Mr. Wonderful" on the "Shark Tank" television show) were the winning bidders. Upper Deck first issued "Exquisite" cards for \$500 for five cards during their 2003-2004 release. This is one of the first times that patches and signatures were used



with a card, according to ESPN. The card sold for \$12.932 million, eclipsing the \$12.6 million paid for a 1952 Topps Mickey Mantle card in 2022.

In upcoming auction news, over 1,000 Hollywood props are hitting the auction block this week. One of the highlights of the auction is Tobey Maguire's Spider-Man costume from the 2002 movie that is estimated to bring between \$100,000 and \$200,000. The Batman suit worn by Michael Keaton in the 1989 Batman movie is expected to bring from \$250,000 to \$500,000. The bullwhip, belt, and whip holster used by Harrison Ford in "Indiana Jones and the Last

Crusade" also has a \$250,000 to \$500,000 estimate. After some vetting, a lightsaber thought to have been used by Darth Vader was confirmed to be authentic. The lightsaber was created from a camera flash. Plastic strips were added, and it was modified to hold a blade, according to CBS. Estimated at \$3 million, the "Star Wars" saber is

Turn To **ANTIQUES** page **A12**

## Life insurance: Protecting what matters most



FINANCIAL  
FOCUS

TREVOR  
NIELSEN

September is Life Insurance Awareness Month and the perfect time to consider whether you have adequate coverage to protect your loved ones. While no one likes to think about what would happen if they weren't around, doing so is an act of love.

Life insurance is fundamentally about protecting your loved ones should something happen to you. If you pass away, your family will not only face the challenges of grief and loss but they could also find themselves financially strapped. Life insurance can help provide them with financial security in the event you no longer can.

Who needs life insurance: You're a good candidate if you have a spouse or partner who depends on your income, or if there are children or other loved ones whom you support. Insurance protection can also be a solution if you have outstanding debts like a mortgage, credit cards or a car loan, or if you simply don't want to burden your loved ones with your final expenses.

Insurance through work: While many people have life insurance through their employers, this coverage may not be enough for you, depending on your situation. Among employers who offer group life insurance, only 2 percent offer more than two times the employee's annual salary — essentially just two years of income — according to the Guardian's 2023 Workplace Benefits Study. And remember that it's only good as long as you're employed there. With all this in mind, many people purchase individual insurance as a supplement to their workplace coverage.

How much: You might hear that you need life insurance equal to about seven to 10 times your pretax annual salary. That's not a bad "ballpark" figure, but not everyone is playing in the same ballpark. To get a true sense of how much of a death benefit is right for you, use the «L-I-F-E» guide to calculate your needs:

Liabilities: Will your family need to pay off a mortgage, credit cards, car loan or other debt?

Income: Will your family need to replace your income for a period of years?

Final expenses: Do you have the resources to cover funeral and burial expenses?

Education needs: Do you need to put children through a private school or college?

Which type: You can choose between two basic types of life insurance: term and permanent. As its name suggests, term insurance is designed to provide coverage for a designated period, such as 10, 15 or 20 years. In general, term insurance is quite affordable for most people, especially when they buy policies as young adults. On the other hand, permanent insurance, such as whole life or universal life, is usually considerably more expensive because in addition to providing a death benefit, your premiums build cash value. In choosing between term and permanent insurance, you'll want to evaluate several issues, such as how long you think you'll need coverage and how much annual premium you can afford to pay.

Life insurance needs can change over time, so it's important to review your coverage every three to five years or after major life events like marriage or birth of a child. Consider working with a financial advisor who can look at your complete financial situation and help you choose a policy that truly fits your family's needs. Taking action sooner rather than later could be one of the most important gifts you give your loved ones.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Trevor Nielsen, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or trevor.nielsen@edwardjones.com.

*Edward Jones is a licensed insurance producer in all states and Washington, D.C., through Edward D. Jones & Co., L.P. and in California, New Mexico, and Massachusetts through Edward Jones Insurance Agency of California, L.L.C., Edward Jones Insurance Agency of New Mexico, L.L.C., and Edward Jones Insurance Agency of Massachusetts, L.L.C.*



# Planting Bulbs this Season for Spring Flowers

Following a long New England winter, few signs of spring are more welcome than the first sprouts of green popping up in a barren garden. The promise of a season of beautiful blooms, the tiny shoots are the gardeners reward of a past autumn spent preparing and planting. Experts agree fall offers ideal conditions to plant perennials. In fact, autumn is the preferred time to plant spring blooming bulbs. Therefore, it's time once again to review a beginner's guide to preparing, planning and planting bulbs now for a flourish of flowers come spring.

**Choosing Choice Bulbs**  
If you are selecting bulbs in bulk, such as loose bulbs offered at discount garden centers, it's important to follow a few rules of thumb. Typically, big bulbs produce the largest blooms and may yield more flowers, therefore, it may be worth the cost to pay a bit more for good sized, healthy bulbs. However, if you are on a budget and have the time to wait, smaller bulbs will eventually increase in size and bloom each year. When choosing a bulb, look for those that are firm and plump. Hold them in your palm and select bulbs that feel heavy for their size. Avoid

bulbs with bruises, spots or signs of mold. And steer clear of soft, mushy and lightweight bulbs. Sprouting bulbs may indicate a bulb that has been in storage for a long time.

**Planning a Flower Garden**  
A little thought and preparation go a long way in reaping the benefits of a successful spring and summer flower garden. The planning you take time for in the fall will be apparent when the flower garden plantings burst with color and texture next year. Know your flowers before you plan to plant. While most bulbs require an area where there is full sun, other varieties such as the iris and crocus enjoy some shade after blooming. For best results select a location in full sun or sun with morning shade only. Well drained soil is a requisite for flower bulbs. If you have poor soil, raised flower beds may be an effective alternative.

For best results, design your garden with pen and paper first, mapping out the size of the beds and the flowers to scale. Keep in mind color, texture and fragrance are all important factors when deciding on a particular flower garden plan. Plotting a garden plan is an exciting chore, and there are some



TAKE THE HINT  
KAREN TRAINOR

basic rules that ensure a pleasant mix of color for a showy display. Notice how a clump of daffodils and tulips are much more charming than a tidy row of the springtime flowers. The eye is drawn toward the burst of color when these flowers are situated in generous groups of plantings. Be sure to take an accurate bulb count of such large splashes of plantings. Your layout plan should also include using flower bulbs as accents in perennial beds, or to fill in rock gardens or as an interesting border to greenery. Be sure to plan for extra bulbs to fill in areas or to add as landscape accents.

For an interesting mix, merge short plants with tall specimens to give variety and depth as well as differing textures. And don't underestimate the power of fragrance. Nothing is more delightful than a pathway of floral scents welcoming visitors to your door! You should also decide if you want to plan out

every aspect of planting a semi formal garden, or if you choose instead to toss convention and bulbs to the wind, planting bulbs the natural way, thus creating a natural sprinkling of blooms. Scaling plants to the bed is another important factor when plotting your plan. A simple rule to follow is to keep in mind the tallest plant in an island flower bed should have a mature height that is equal to about half the width of the bed. Place these plants in the center, so they can be viewed from all sides. Also remember to take into account plants that grow and expand quickly.

Color is another major consideration when planting your bulbs. If you want your garden to be a showcase all season, select a variety of bulbs that flower during early, middle and late spring and summer for a continuous burst of color. Just as in the home, in the garden bed cool colors seem to recede and warm colors appear to come forward. To make a small garden area appear larger and more spacious, plant flowers in cool, light colors. As a general rule white goes a long way in a garden bed, but if you use a lot of white flowers in an area, consider

adding a dramatic splash of bright red or bright pink or purple for visual contrast. And, remember, if you are growing flowers to cut and bring the blooms indoors, choose colors that will go with the decor of your home, as well as harmonize with one another in the garden. Gardens, in fact, are often planned around color. The ambiance of your outdoor living space is determined by color and your choices decide whether your garden flowers contrast or complement each other which can result in either a subtle hue of color or a spectacular show of brilliant blooms. The former, which relies on soft pastels to make a statement in the flower garden, is often achieved through monochromatic planning. Choosing flowers of all the same color family may offer a soothing garden setting. Interest is accomplished by providing varying textures and flower heights in monochromatic pastel gardens. For a more showy garden, eye catching bright reds, yellows, purples and whites take center stage in a flower bed. Such contrasting colors can be often be achieved with little effort simply by matching up opposite colors on the standard color wheel.

**Planting Prep:** Planting time varies depending on location, but here in the Northeast it ranges from September until as long as the soil can be worked, usually around the end of October. Prepare your bed by making sure soil is properly fertilized. Be sure to dig out the soil to the proper depth. Loosen the soil and if you choose, add a bulb booster to the soil. Bulbs should be planted with pointed side up. Place them firmly, yet gently, into the ground. Cover the bulbs loosely with soil, water lightly and add a layer of mulch. Typically, bulbs should be planted three times as deep as the bulb is wide. In sandy soils, you can plant a little deeper, and in heavy soils you can dig a slightly shallower hole. Bulbs should be spaced approx-

imately a width twice the diameter of the bulb. Note: Tulips should be planted one inch deeper than indicated if the soil is not too heavy and their location is permanent as deep rooting can prolong the effective life of the tulip bulb.

**Forcing bulbs**  
Forcing bulbs indoors allows the impatient gardener to enjoy springtime blooms during the winter season. Certain bulbs, such as the narcissus and hyacinth lend themselves to forced budding.

To do: Drop a bulb into a glass jar and fill with water and small pebbles until the water level reaches the base of the bulb. Position the jar in a sunny window. Water must remain at the same level, so add moisture as needed. To prevent mold, change the water periodically.

Win a Three Course Dinner for Two at the Publick House  
Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month (or whenever I receive enough tips for a column) will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

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

## From anger to strength

We've all had those moments—the ones where your blood goes from zero to boiling in two seconds flat. You're cool, calm, and collected until you're not. It could be the driver who cuts you off or the co-worker who sends a "quick email" at 4:59 p.m. Maybe it's that person with a different political opinion than yours. It's different for everyone, but sometimes we lose control!

There's a part of your brain called the amygdala—two little almond-shaped clusters buried deep in your head, responsible for fight or flight mode. Whenever you lose control, the amygdala presses the panic button. Stress signals flood your body. Heart rate spikes. Cortisol surges. Rational thought goes out the window, and you're in fight mode.

The amygdala is like a built-in alarm system, constantly scanning for threats. It's the reason our ancestors ran from saber-toothed tigers instead of trying to pet them.

You'd think letting it all out would make you feel better, like releasing steam from a pressure valve—but it's not really like that. After a moment of rage, your brain doesn't just cool off. It can stay locked in fight mode for hours. During that time, your logical thinking is foggy, you are emotionally reactive, and even your memory and ability to learn drop dramatically.

Why? Because when the amygdala floods your system with stress signals, it hijacks the prefrontal cortex—the part of your brain responsible for reasoning, planning, and impulse control. That's why you say things you regret, or make decisions that feel smart in the moment but dumb five minutes later.

The brain is like clay—it reshapes itself based on what you do over and over. Every time you snap, you're carving a deeper groove in that "anger pathway." The more you use it, the stronger it gets. Which means the next outburst comes faster, with less provocation.

It's like lifting weights for the wrong muscle. The more reps you put in, the bulkier that anger response becomes. Or like watering weeds instead of flowers—pretty soon the weeds take over, choking out everything else.

Over time, your fuse shortens. You become easier to trigger. People start tiptoeing around you, because they don't know what version of you they're going to get. To add insult to injury, chronic anger literally weakens the brain circuits tied to empathy and self-control. The amygdala causes your fight response to grow more dominant, while the prefrontal cortex loses influence. The result? You become more impulsive, less compassionate, and stuck in a loop where anger trains the brain to get angrier.

But let's look on the bright side! When you pause, take a breath, and decide not to blow your top, you're doing more than just "holding it together"—you're actually retraining your brain. That moment of restraint activates your prefrontal cortex—the part of your brain responsible for judgment, impulse control, and higher reasoning. At the same time, it signals the amygdala to calm down, which lowers stress hormones such as cortisol and adrenaline.

The more often you do this, the stronger those calm, rational circuits become. You'll find yourself less over-reactive, more compassionate, and better at handling conflict. Neuroscientists refer to this as emotional regulation—your ability to feel the surge but not get swept up by it. It's like building a stronger inner pilot who can take back the wheel from that raging chimp in your head.

If the payoffs to restraint weren't obvious, there are other benefits as well.

POSITIVELY SPEAKING  
TOBY MOORE

People tend to trust and respect those who stay steady when others lose control. Cooler heads don't just prevail—they lead.

Regulating your outbursts is essential, no matter what—but especially if you're leading an organization or a family. Keeping calm isn't just about appearances; it keeps your brain in an optimal state where you can make wise decisions, guide others with clarity, and earn respect that lasts. Have you noticed? The strongest leaders—the ones people trust most—are typically those who remain calm under pressure.

So next time your blood starts to boil, hit pause. Walk into the other room, close your eyes, and breathe for a few minutes. That's how you train your brain for strength instead of weakness. Anyone can lose it—real power is staying calm.

Toby Moore is a columnist, the star of Emmy - Nominated A Separate Peace, and the CEO of Cubestream Inc.



## 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.....	\$5.70	300-500.....	\$2.55
50-75.....	\$3.40	500 PLUS.....	\$2.40
75-150.....	\$3.05	Duel Fuel.....	\$3.75
150-300.....	\$2.75	Drop off Tanks.....	\$3.00

**DON'T PAY TOO MUCH FOR OIL!**  
•Thursday price 8/28/25 was **\$2.99** per gallon\*  
100 gallon minimum  
**ONLINE ORDERING NOW AVAILABLE AT**  
www.charltonoil.com  
**"Call Us First!"**  
\*prices subject to change

**Bryzee**

**Candle Co.**  
**559 Main Street**  
**Fiskdale, Unit LL**  
**https://bryzeecandleco.com**

**NORTHEAST PIZZA**  
*PIZZA is OUR Passion*  
Fresh ingredients, time-honored recipes, and friendly service. Since 1997  
**Open 7 Days a Week • We Deliver**  
**SEPTEMBER SPECIALS**

<b>Pepperoni Pizza</b> Sm. \$6.99 Lg. \$9.99	<b>Meatball Grinder</b> Sm. 8" \$5.99 Lg. 12" \$6.99	<b>Small Cheese Pizza</b> EVERYDAY 11-4 <i>only \$5.00!</i> <b>NO LIMIT!</b>
--	--	---

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

**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.com**  
**Find Us on Social Media**

**FREE LOCAL DELIVERY!**

www.Stonebridge Press.com



**NAI** Glickman Kovago & Jacobs

25 ELM STREET | SOUTHBRIDGE, MA



9,536-SF HISTORIC OFFICE BUILDING  
FOR SALE



- Historical building, also known as Tiffany-Leonard House, built in 1832
- Large Executive Offices with Elegant Finishes and High Ceilings
- Large Open Concept Cubicle Areas



- Listing price: \$550,000
- Building size: 9,536 SF
- Lot size: 13,939 SF
- Loading docks: (1) tailgate height
- Basement: partial | Unfinished



JAMES GLICKMAN  
Principal

508-769-5007  
jglickman@glickmankovago.com



JONAH D. GLICKMAN  
Vice President

508-868-3765  
jdglickman@glickmankovago.com



# QCC’s Children’s School getting a start on leadership



Sen. Robyn Kennedy (left) reads a book at QCC’s Children’s School: Early Childhood Education Lab School.

dren to learn about different careers in public service while fostering curiosity about their community helpers.

The Children’s School serves as both a childcare facility for community families and a practical learning laboratory for early childhood education students at QCC. The dual purpose creates a unique environment where future educators gain real-world experience while children receive care and education.

**DURKIN & SONS**  
Trucking Co.



Trash Removal  
Weekly Pickups  
Cleanouts  
~ Reliable ~

[www.durkintrucking.com](http://www.durkintrucking.com)  
Spencer  
**508-885-4499**

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College’s Children’s School: Early Childhood Education Lab School has been promoting leadership through recent visits by guests, including Senator Robyn Kennedy and QCC Chief of Police Steve DiGiovanni.

In an effort to introduce young learners to positive leadership role models, both Kennedy and DiGiovanni held reading sessions and engaged in a discussion that educated the children on their roles in the community. The visit was part of the Children’s School’s ongoing commitment to providing enriching experiences that support early childhood development.

“Our focus with the children right now is on all the different roles it takes to make a community thrive,” said Director of the Children’s School/Early Childhood Education Lab Erin Roache. “These visits were a wonderful way to start. It was beautiful to see our diverse population of children given a connection to people in leadership whom they might not otherwise have the opportunity to connect with.”

Both visiting leaders emphasized the importance of early childhood education and community investment in young people’s development. The interactive format allowed children to ask questions and see leadership in action.

“Chief DiGiovanni and Sen. Kennedy were patient and took time to listen and respond to the children. Senator Kennedy even fielded a few tough questions about the current political climate. What a beautiful moment to see the children we advocate for become their own advocates with leadership,” Roache commented.

Following DiGiovanni’s visit, the children participated in a Touch-a-Truck style event, where they could explore various community service vehicles up close. The hands-on experience allowed chil-

## Friday’s Child



**Sincere**  
**Age 10**  
**Registration #7381**

Sincere, who prefers to go by John, is an incredibly smart and thoughtful boy with a bright imagination. When asked what he wants to be when he grows up, John says he wants to be “brave” like a superhero—a reflection of his kind heart and strong spirit. John enjoys a variety of creative and enriching activities. He loves drawing, coloring, baking, swimming, playing video games, and going to church—especially because it means a trip for ice cream afterward. He does very well in school and is especially passionate about science, though he also has exceptional reading skills for his age. While John isn’t interested in most sports, he thrives

in artistic settings and truly enjoys swimming. His creativity, intelligence, and gentle personality make him a joy to be around.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/22542013028>

### Can I Adopt?

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

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

Advertise Here

Advertise Here

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









# Three ways to preserve the beauty of your summer garden



Melinda Myers

Lay flat-faced flowers, like these Shasta daisies, face down on a flat surface to dry.

Fall is quickly approaching and as you prepare for the change of seasons, consider preserving some of your summer garden's beauty. Photograph, dry, or press a few of your favorite flowers to enjoy and share with others.

Cell phone cameras have greatly improved and allow

even novice photographers the opportunity to capture the beauty of their gardens and favorite plants. Visit your garden in the early morning or evening when the light tends to be perfect for taking pictures. Try focusing on a favorite flower, bouquet or garden that you love. Watch how plant shapes,

colors and textures contrast and combine to create pockets of beauty in the garden.

Harvest and dry some of your favorite flowers for dried arrangements and crafts. Pick the flowers when they are at peak bloom and dry them. Cut the flowers midday when they contain less moisture, reducing the dry time.

Use a bypass pruner or garden scissors to cut the stems above a set of healthy leaves. Remove the foliage and gather them into small bundles. Secure the stems with rubber bands. They will contract when the stems shrink and continue to hold the stems tightly. Use a spring-loaded clothespin to hang the bundles from a hanger, clothesline or nail. Allow the flowers to dry in a warm, dark, dust-free location.

Lay flat-faced flowers, like daisies, face down on a flat surface to dry since they tend to close a bit when hung upside down. Simply cut off the stem and place the flowers face down on newspaper or craft paper in a warm, dry location. Once dried, you can glue them in place or use florist wire to create stems for arranging.

Be sure to pick a few seed-pods and seedheads from



## GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

perennials and ornamental grasses. Allow them to dry on the plants, harvest and use them to add interesting texture and form to your dried flower arrangements and projects.

Try pressing a few flowers to use for making cards, gifts, and works of art. Just place the leaves and flowers between pieces of craft or similar paper in a flower press or heavy book. You can purchase or make your own flower press with wood, bolts, wing nuts, cardboard, and paper. Be sure to sandwich the flowers between sufficient layers of paper to protect the pages of your book.

Use freshly picked flowers at their peak of beauty for best results. Arrange the leaves and petals as desired before pressing, since they will dry the way you place them.

Once your flowers are placed

in between the paper and pages of the book, close it, and stack a few books on top for added weight. Or evenly tighten the flower press to apply needed pressure. Your dried flowers will be ready in about a month.

Store pressed flowers in paper envelopes or between sheets of paper. Place them in cardboard boxes in a dry location until you are ready to create your pressed flower project.

As your gardens transition into fall, look for other flowers, foliage and seed pods to add to your dried flower collection. Continue to photograph your garden and enjoy the beauty every change of season provides.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

# Home & Spring 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

**Todd A. Ethier**  
**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

**WORCESTER COUNTY LAWMOWER**  
ALWAYS THE BEST SERVICE

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

508-987-2775  
492 Main St Oxford  
WORCESTERCOUNTYLAWMOWER.COM

## For Advertising Information

Call 774-200-7308

email:mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

Advertise on this page  
for one low price!  
Get 7 papers.  
Call 774-200-7308

- Spencer New Leader
- Sturbridge Villager
- Charlton Villager
- Southbridge News
- Webster Times
- Auburn News
- Blackstone Valley Tribune

## 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  
\$250 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

**C & J**  
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  
frenchyn45@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

## PAINTING

**Scott Bernard's PRECISION PAINTERS**

Finest  
Craftsmanship  
Since 1979

Interior-Exterior  
Paints, Stains,  
Wallpaper and  
Fine Faux Finishes

Satisfaction  
Guaranteed  
Free Estimates  
774.452.0321

Got Space?  
we do.

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

## Plumbing

**MIKE LAMBERT'S PLUMBING & HEATING INC.**  
LIC 15843-54

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

ACCREDITED BUSINESS A+

## Window Cleaning

**Crystal Clear Window Cleaning**

Residential  
Commercial  
Professional

Spencer, MA

**Sean McGrail**  
(774)633-4309

Seanmcgrail21@aol.com

Advertise on this page  
for one low price!  
Get 7 papers.  
Call 774-200-7308

- Spencer New Leader
- Sturbridge Villager
- Charlton Villager
- Southbridge News
- Webster Times
- Auburn News
- Blackstone Valley Tribune



CAUTION

continued from page A1

DPHS project that now has a new traffic pattern. Our School Resource Officer [Todd LaPorte] has been assisting with the traffic in the mornings, as well as release time, making suggestions on how the process can be streamlined,” Befford told the New Leader.

SPD members, like the rest of the school community, are in the process of learning the new DPHS building and the recently renovated grounds.

“Department members are working to familiarize themselves with the new portion of the school to ensure the best response, if the need ever arrives,” Befford added.

Drivers are urged to exercise caution and patience throughout the year while navigating the DPHS campus, as construction equipment and personnel will be sharing the site with buses and other vehicles. School and police officials will update the community on any potential traffic control changes as the year moves along.

“As the new school year begins, the Spencer Police Department would like to wish all students, families, and staff a safe and successful start,” read the statement released by the SPD. “Our School Resource Officer, Todd LaPorte, is ready to welcome everyone back and continue working to keep our schools safe.”

Drivers are also reminded to focus on crosswalk safety around area schools. You must yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.

Additionally, students are urged to always use marked crosswalks and look both ways before stepping into the road. Never cross the street unless you are in a designated crosswalk. Moreover, even when you are in a crosswalk, make sure traffic in both directions has stopped for you before proceeding into the roadway.

Meanwhile, parents and visitors are asked to be mindful of all parking and traffic control requirements on school grounds, especially at the Prouty site under construction.

“Please follow posted parking and traffic rules around school buildings. Improper parking or stopping in restricted areas creates dangerous situations for kids,” the SPD-issued statement read. “Officer LaPorte is here to support students, families, and staff throughout the year. Let’s all do our part to make this a safe, positive, and successful school year in Spencer.”

For questions about traffic control regulations, please contact the Spencer Police Department or an administrator at your child’s school.

If you are unsure about a traffic control policy at the Prouty site, school officials and police personnel are eager to help.

“Officers are patrolling the school zones, enforcing traffic violations, and monitoring the safety of the students who walk to and from school,” Befford said.

NADIA

continued from page A1

raffle tickets during the event (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

Art as inspiration

As a triplet, Sukharev has always relied on a strong family support system. Facing no shortage of adversities in recent years, she has drawn inspiration from her family and her passion for creativity.

“Art has been really important to me, espe-

cially because I’ve had some health challenges,” Sukharev shared with the New Leader. “In 2022, I needed neurosurgery, and I had to take time off from school. Recovery was tough, but I was able to graduate with my siblings. No matter what was going on, art was always the thing that helped me get through.”

Sukharev is currently working on an array of projects, including commissions and prints. She even produced a wedding project featuring 20 small painted pieces that were

displayed at the reception.

“It’s been exciting to see people enjoy my work in different ways, and I’m looking forward to seeing where it goes from here,” Sukharev said.

Bike House Brewery is located at 31 East Brookfield Rd. in North Brookfield.

Established in 2006, the Friends of the North Brookfield Town House is a nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring the beloved landmark.

“At the heart of North Brookfield,

Massachusetts, stands the iconic Town House—a symbol of our rich history and a beacon of our community’s future,” read a statement posted to the Friends’ Web site.

Vendors are welcome to participate in the Family Fun Fest (\$50 registration fee per vendor). Meanwhile, community donations are welcome to assist ongoing restoration efforts.

To learn more about how you can support the effort, visit [www.nbtown-house.com](http://www.nbtown-house.com).

ANTIQUES

continued from page A6

sure to be the highlight of the auction.

We are offering some film props and clothing in a one collector Laurel and Hardy memorabilia online auc-

tion that is currently running. The online Pennsylvania transportation museum auction ends on September 9th. A one collector Civil War memorabilia auction will be online next month. Future auctions will include gold jewelry, sterling silver, art, and

advertising signs, along with a wide variety of other items from multiple estates. We are always accepting valuable pieces and collections for upcoming sales. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

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

# Community invited to join focus group to help fight scams

DUDLEY — Tri-Valley, Inc., an Aging Services Access Point (ASAP) serving the southern Worcester County area, is partnering with SilverShield, a leading scam prevention organization, to host a community focus group dedicated to helping older adults and caregivers recognize and fight scams using a new scam detection service.

The focus group will take place on Thursday, Sept. 25 at Tri-Valley, Inc., 10 Mill St., Dudley, with two available sessions: 10:30-11:30 a.m. and 1-2 p.m.

Participants will have the opportunity to test a new anti-scam tool developed by SilverShield, which is designed for use via text and email, no app required. In addition, participants will share their experiences and offer feedback related to this new service.

To thank attendees for their participation, all focus group participants will receive:

A free lunch

A free one-year subscription to the SilverShield Scam Detector service

Entry into a gift card raffle, with the first four attendees of each focus group to check in receiving an additional raffle ticket

This event is open to the public and aims to bring community members together to help shape tools that empower individuals to better detect and respond to fraudulent activity.

“Scams are becoming increasingly sophisticated and harder to spot,” said Joe Vaudreuil of Tri-Valley, Inc. “We’re excited to partner with SilverShield to equip our community with the tools and knowledge they need to stay protected and informed. We’re thrilled to offer this opportunity to older adults and caregivers in our community to have their voices heard.”

To sign up for a focus group, participants can register directly at <https://forms.gle/eLXiRfcz6UCDrnVz9>.

# LEGALS

Notice of Public Hearing

The North Brookfield Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at 6:15PM at the Senior Center, 29 Forest St., North Brookfield, MA. Public opinion will be received regarding the amendment of the North Brookfield Zoning Map for the Summer St., Bigelow St. and Downey Rd. neighborhood. A proposal for changing the R30 District to R11 District will be discussed. Any person interested in being heard or seeking information should appear at the above stated time and place. A copy of the proposed amendments are on file in the office of the Town Clerk, 215 North Main St., North Brookfield, MA. William King, Chair  
August 29, 2025  
September 5, 2025

Notice of Special Public Hearing  
East Brookfield  
Zoning Board of Appeals

This Zoning Board hearing will take place at the East Brookfield Memorial Town Complex, 122 Connie Mack Drive, East Brookfield, MA on Wednesday, September 17th, 2025. Hearing will commence at 6:00PM or soon thereafter as can be heard. Interested parties can attend in person. Applicant: Robin M. Gagne., owner of the property at 204 Stone Road, East Brookfield, MA. The applicant is requesting a “Special Permit” and “Finding” for the removal of an existing structure and construction of a new structure on a non-conforming lot as outlined in the East Brookfield Zoning Bylaws. This hearing will determine if the proposed new structure is not more detrimental to the neighborhood in which it will be located. Additionally, this hearing will determine if this structure does not endanger the health and safety of the occupants in a designated floor plain.  
September 5, 2025  
September 12, 2025

Town of West Brookfield  
Zoning Board of Appeals

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at the West Brookfield Town Hall, to act on an application for a Special Permit, for Ronald Sicotte, for the property located at 79 Lake View Ave., West Brookfield. The applicant wishes to build a host. A special permit is required as per section(s) -4.2 Nonconforming dimensional requirements (a) (et al).  
August 29, 2025  
September 5, 2025

Notice of Public Hearing—  
Planning Board

The Spencer Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on Tuesday

September 16, 2025 in **McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, , 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, and the hearing will be conducted in person and remotely on the following items starting at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:**  
**Special Permit – Applicant/ Owner: Lussier Enterprises, LLC; Location: 37 Marble Road; Spencer Assessor’s Map R14-6-1. The applicant is requesting a Special Permit under 5.3.10 (Rear lot subdivision) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw in order to establish a rear lot subdivision, creating a separate building lot. The property is located within the Rural Residential zoning district.**  
August 29, 2025  
September 5, 2025

The North Brookfield Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing meeting on Monday Oct 6, 2025, at 6:00pm at the Senior Center, 29 Forest St., North Brookfield, MA. Kenneth Hodge 49 Shore Road is requesting a Special permit as prescribed in section VI B 4 of the Zoning Bylaws for replacement of a garage. The proposed garage replacement will not meet the front and side setbacks in the R30 zone. The Special Permit is for expansion of a nonconforming structure. A copy of the application is available at the Town Clerk’s Office at 215 North Main St, North Brookfield, MA.  
September 5, 2025  
September 12, 2025

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE  
OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 40 School Street, Spencer, MA 01562

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Ralph Kirouac and Amy Kirouac to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, and now held by **Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC**, said mortgage dated September 11, 2019 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 61031, Page 66, as affected by a Loan Modification dated September 28, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 66545, Page 176; as affected by a Loan Modification dated June 28, 2023 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69482, Page 364; as affected by a Loan Modification dated May 16, 2024 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 70649, Page 3; said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.,

as Mortgagee, as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC by assignment dated February 18, 2020 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 61991, Page 369; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction on** October 9, 2025 at 12:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:  
*Certain tracts or parcels of land with the buildings thereon, situated in Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts, and with exception hereinafter mentioned, bounded and described as follows: The land in said Spencer, with the buildings thereon, situated on the east side of School Street, being a lot about one hundred and ten (110) feet wide on said street and one hundred and fifty-six and two-thirds (156 & 2/3) feet deep, and is the same premises that were conveyed to Treffle Lareau, Jr., by Clovis Duverger by Deed dated March 30, 1909, and recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 1903, Page 157. Also another tract of land, situated on the east side of said School Street, northerly of and adjoining the first described tract, being a lot about one hundred and sixty-five (165) feet wide on said street and one hundred and fifty-six and two-thirds (156 & 2/3) feet deep and is the same tract that was conveyed to Treffle Lareau, Jr. by Deed from Moses Nolan, dated August 18, 1910, and recorded with said Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 3074, Page 135, with conditions to maintain fences as therein mentioned. Excepting and reserving, however, from said above descriptions a part of said described lands heretofore sold and conveyed by Grantors to Francis John Madelle, sometimes called Francis J. Madelle, Jr. and Irene B. Madelle by Deed dated February 17, 1951, recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 3319, Page 163 and described as follows, to wit: The land in said Spencer on the easterly side of School Street and further described as follows: BEGINNING at the northwest corner of land now or formerly of Grantors at said School Street; THENCE Southeasterly one hundred and fifty-six and six tenths (156.6) feet by land of other owners to a point; THENCE Southerly, parallel or about parallel to said School Street, one hundred and nineteen and seven-tenths (119.7) feet by land of other owners to land now or formerly of Grantors; THENCE Westerly one hundred and forty-eight and five tenths (148.5) feet by a line at right angles to said School Street and by other land now or former-*

*ly of Grantors to said School Street; THENCE Northerly one hundred and sixty-nine and eight -tenths (169.8) feet by said School Street to the point of beginning.*

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor’s Title see deed dated September 11, 2019 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 61031, Page 63.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.  
Brock & Scott, PLLC  
23 Messenger Street  
2nd Floor  
Plainville, MA 02762  
Attorney for Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC  
Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701  
September 5, 2025  
September 12, 2025  
September 19, 2025

Notice of Public Hearing—  
Planning Board

The Spencer Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on Tuesday September 16, 2025 in **McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, , 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, and the hearing will be conducted in person and remotely on the following items starting at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:**  
**Public Hearing: Scenic Road — As required by MGL Ch. 40, Sec. 15C of the General Laws of Massachusetts, a public hearing will be held related to tree work associated with tree removal on William Casey Road (from intersection with Jolicoeur Rd.) The applicant is Brande Tarantino with the National Grid Forestry Division, and the work is located within the Rural Residential zoning district and on designated Scenic Roads.**  
August 29, 2025  
September 5, 2025



# POLICE REPORTS

## Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21  
6:50 a.m.: animal complaint (Rawson Street), referred; 9:04 a.m.: assist citizen (Burncoat Street); 9:11 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), transported; 9:19 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 10:07 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 10:27 a.m.: mv stop (Bond Street), spoken to; 10:34 a.m.: mv stop (Bond Street), verbal warning; 10:40 a.m.: mv stop (Bond Street), verbal warning; 11:11 a.m.: mv stop (Auburn Street), written warning; 11:20 a.m.: mv stop (Auburn Street), verbal warning; 11:32 a.m.: arrest warrant service (Main Street), Sergio Perez, 34, 747 Main Street, Leicester; failure to appear upon recognizance, arrest; 11:57 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 12:07 p.m.: parking complaint (Green Street), services rendered; 12:14 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 1:54 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 4:47 p.m.: restraining order service (Burncoat Street), report taken; 5:21 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), assisted; 6:10 p.m.: assist citizen (Soojians Drive); 6:51 p.m.: suspicious person (Bottomly Avenue), unable to locate; 6:56 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 8:07 p.m.: disabled mv (Charles Street), services rendered; 8:21 p.m.: disturbance (Stafford Street), spoken to; 8:54 p.m.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), resolved; 8:59 p.m.: suspicious activity (Memorial School Drive), spoken to; 11:38 p.m.: family problem (Stafford Street), resolved.  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 22  
12:17 a.m.: family problem (Stafford Street), spoken to; 12:46 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:56 a.m.: assist citizen (Stafford Street), call canceled; 1:00 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, number plate violation to conceal ID, uninsured mv, unregistered mv, speeding, criminal application issued; 3:48 p.m.: ambulance (Fourth Avenue, Spencer), transported; 7:53 a.m.: suspicious activity (Soojians Drive), services rendered; 8:24 a.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), Brandon M. Beauchene, 33, 227 Harrington Street, East Brookfield, larceny under \$1200 by single scheme, shoplifting by asportation/3rd offense, arrest; 8:35 a.m.: vandalism (Redfield Road), report taken; 10:26 a.m.: ambulance (Valley Street, Spencer), transported; 1:53 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 2:00 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 2:01 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:04 p.m.: mv stop (Massasoit Drive), verbal warning; 2:19 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:16 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), spoken to; 4:27 p.m.: animal complaint (Soojians Drive), referred; 4:43 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 5:38 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 5:53 p.m.: disabled mv (Peter Salem Road), services rendered; 6:14 p.m.: mv stop (Franklin Street), verbal warning; 6:46 p.m.: welfare check (Craig Street), assisted; 7:45 p.m.: summons service (South Main Street), served; 8:26 p.m.: suspicious mv (Waite Street), resolved; 11:36 p.m.: disturbance (Deer Pond Drive), resolved.  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 23  
1:05 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:14 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:22 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:59 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 8:04 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:29 a.m.: investigation (Hyland Avenue), report taken; 8:49 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:03 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:13 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 9:22 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:32 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:04 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 10:36 a.m.: suspicious activity (Main Street), investigated; 1:21 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:26 p.m.: ambulance (Salem Square, Worcester), transported; 5:01 p.m.: hit/run accident (Soojians Drive), report taken; 5:03 p.m.: assist citizen (Soojians Drive); 5:04 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 5:25 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), transported; 6:24 p.m.: ambulance (Nanigain Road, Paxton), transported; 7:12 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 7:45 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 9:35 p.m.: erratic operator (Ferncroft Road), spoken to; 10:36 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 11:12 p.m.: investigation (location not noted on police log), report taken.  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 24  
8:09 a.m.: ambulance (Dewey Street, Worcester), transported; 9:34 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), written warning; 9:44 a.m.: welfare check (Paxton Street), services rendered; 10:40 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 11:35 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 12:54 p.m.: ambulance (May Street, Worcester), transported; 1:05 p.m.: fraud (Soojians Drive), report taken; 1:49 p.m.: disabled mv (Huntoon Memorial Highway), services rendered; 6:27 p.m.: animal complaint (Stafford Street), referred; 7:51 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:59

p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), referred.  
MONDAY, AUGUST 25  
12:28 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 1:44 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 7:48 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 8:20 a.m.: residential alarm (Stafford Street), false alarm; 9:27 a.m.: welfare check (Pine Street), assisted; 12:21 p.m.: summons service (Main Street), unable to serve; 2:22 p.m.: ambulance (Chapel Street), transported; 3:37 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 5:45 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 6:37 p.m.: restraining order service (Laurelwood Avenue), unable to serve; 7:14 p.m.: assist other PD (Stafford Street), services rendered; 8:11 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:13 p.m.: suspicious vehicle (Virginia Drive), unable to locate; 10:25 p.m.: erratic operator (Soojians Drive), spoken to.  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 26  
12:03 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, tire tread depth violation, number plate violation, criminal application issued; 7:39 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:47 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:54 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, criminal application issued; 8:29 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:45 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:14 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 9:21 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:33 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:47 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:00 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:17 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:25 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:26 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:36 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:41 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:44 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), verbal warning; 10:48 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Pleasant Street), unable to locate; 11:05 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 11:11 a.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 11:37 a.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), verbal warning; 11:44 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 11:48 a.m.: erratic operator (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 11:50 a.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), verbal warning; 12:14 p.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), report taken; 12:51 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:55 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:57 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:01 p.m.m.: disabled mv (McNeil Highway), assisted; 1:07 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 1:12 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 1:24 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 1:26 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:35 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:38 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:44 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:52 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:31 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 2:35 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), gone on arrival; 2:38 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:47 p.m.: hit/run accident (Paxton Street), report taken; 7:49 p.m.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), unable to locate; 8:39 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning.  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27  
1:09 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:42 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:49 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 7:20 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 7:25 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 7:37 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), spoken to; 7:39 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 7:50 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), spoken to; 8:04 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), citation issued; 8:19 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 8:39 a.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), written warning; 10:11 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 12:12 p.m.: ambulance (Edward Street), transported; 12:37 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:47 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 1:11 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 1:24 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 1:30 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 1:46 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 1:50 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 2:21 p.m.: welfare check (McNeil Highway), assisted; 2:48 p.m.: debris in road (Lakeview Drive), no action required; 3:00 p.m.: accident (Pleasant Street), report taken; 3:48 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 4:02 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), verbal warning; 4:10 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), verbal warning; 4:25 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), verbal warning; 4:33 p.m.: disabled mv (Pine Street), services rendered; 4:44 p.m.: mv stop (Charles Street), spoken to; 4:51 p.m.: family problem (Pleasant Street), report taken; 7:18 p.m.: investigation (Bourne Street, Worcester), report taken; 9:58 p.m.: welfare check (South Main Street), assisted.

## Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20  
1:03 a.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), Joseph Aaron Tremblay, 28, 97 Maple Street, Spencer, warrant, arrest; 8:01 a.m.: mv complaint (G.H. Wilson Road), spoken to; 9:39 a.m.: medical/general (South Spencer Road); 9:47 a.m.: officer wanted (Wire Village Road), poss. restraining order violation; 11:18 a.m.: disturbance (Howe Village), neighbor issues; 11:43 a.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 1:02 p.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 1:30 p.m.: fire alarm (Cherry Street), referred; 1:39 a.m.: officer wanted (Church Street), Matthew D. Hunt, 40, 8 School Street, Spencer, distribution Class B drug, possession Class B drug, conspiracy to violate drug laws, arrest; Joseph L. Kryger III, 52, 15 Earley Street, Spencer, possession Class B drug, conspiracy to violate drug laws, arrest; 2:07 p.m.: juvenile matter (West Main Street), re: visitation; 2:32 p.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 3:08 p.m.: disturbance (Howe Village), neighbor issues; 3:40 p.m.: mutual aid (North Spencer Road), Paxton PD advises erratic operator; 4:07 p.m.: medical/general (Lake Street); 4:12 p.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), c/o harassment; 4:47 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), neighbor dispute; 6:09 p.m.: fire (Sherman Grove), referred; 7:33 p.m.: DPW call (Oakland Drive), heard bang/lost power; 7:47 p.m.: disturbance (Cherry Street), noise complaint; 8:42 p.m.: officer wanted (Charlton Road), re: family issue; 9:14 p.m.: fraud (Langevin Street), report taken; 9:35 p.m.: commercial alarm (Mechanic Street), services rendered; (total daily mv stops – 0).  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 21  
1:24-1:26 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:14 a.m.: commercial alarm (Mechanic Street), services rendered; 6:14 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (R. Jones Road), hang-up; 6:16 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 6:53 a.m.: animal complaint (Kingsbury Road), loose dog; 7:02 a.m.: intelligence/criminal (West Main Street), info taken; 7:14 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:17 a.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 8:44 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Rustic Lane), no contact; 9:10 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 11:29 a.m.: missing person/adult (Lincoln Street), services rendered; 12:02 p.m.: officer wanted (Chickering Road), spoken to; 12:26 p.m.: suspicious persons (Meadow Road), investigated; 1:16 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 1:26 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), services rendered; 2:46 p.m.: accident (Maple Street), report taken; 2:50 p.m.: mv lockout (Main Street), assisted; 3:02 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), found kitten; 3:15 p.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 4:16 p.m.: hit/run accident (West Main Street), report taken; 4:43 p.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), assisted; 5:55 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), groundhog under shed; 6:14 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), services rendered; 6:31 p.m.: fraud (West Main Street), report taken; 9:19 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 9:27 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), assist w/accident; (total daily mv stops – 2).  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 22  
12:49 a.m.: suspicious mv (Mechanic Street), investigated; 1:38 a.m.: officer wanted (Sunset Lane), rep. cyber-crime; 1:43-2:33 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:34 a.m.: medical/general (Fourth Avenue); 3:35 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 4:23 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 6:22 a.m.: animal complaint (Meadow Road), rep. dog bite; 6:26 a.m.: medical/general (Northwest Road); 6:46 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 6:51 p.m.: FID card issued (West Main Street), assisted; 6:59 a.m.: assault (Franklin Street), report taken; 7:32 a.m.: stolen property (Valley Street), rep. iPhone stolen; 7:46 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 8:35 a.m.: medical/general (Hebert Road); 9:07 a.m.: 911 call (Maple Street), accidental; 9:09 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 10:13 a.m.: officer wanted (Bell Street), req. welfare check/employee; 10:22 a.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 10:37 a.m.: mv lockout (Condon Drive), assisted; 10:41 a.m.: mv lockout (Meadow Road), assisted; 11:00 a.m.: animal complaint (McCormick Road), rep. attack/dog-on-dog; 11:27 a.m.: restraining order service (Franklin Street); 11:47 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Gardner PD req. welfare check; 12:02 p.m.: identity theft (Bond Street), report taken; 12:26 p.m.: commercial alarm (Maple Street), services rendered; 12:28 p.m.: animal complaint (Meadow Road), c/o dog barking; 1:03 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 4:11 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), rep. item fell from mv; 4:51 p.m.: accident (Greenville Street), report taken; 5:13 p.m.: lost/found (Main Street), wallet found; 6:37 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 10:06 p.m.: missing person/juvenile (Pleasant Street), family issue; 10:34 p.m.: building checked, secure; 11:12 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), c/o mv speeding; 11:13 p.m.: accident (Paxton Road), report taken; 11:41 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Ash Street), hang-up; 11:47 p.m.: abandoned 911 call

(Salem Street), hang-up; (total daily mv stops – 1).  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 23  
3:57 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: mental health issue; 6:38 a.m.: larceny (West Main Street), report taken; 6:50 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 10:43 a.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 12:00 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), response not noted on police log; 12:02 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 12:56 p.m.: disturbance (Pope Street), neighbor req. welfare check; 1:20 p.m.: medical/general (Clark Road); 1:32 p.m.: fire (Browning Pond Road), referred; 1:32 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 2:28 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), rep. harassing phone calls; 3:06 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Langevin Street), illegal burn; 4:27 p.m.: fire alarm (Willow Lane), referred; 4:29 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), rep. medical issue; 5:15 p.m.: officer wanted (Highland Street), c/o presence of trailer; 6:13 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), assist Paxton PD w/accident; 6:28 p.m.: illegal dumping (Browning Pond Road), recliner left on roadside; 6:37 p.m.: 911 call (Church Street), resolved; 7:28 p.m.: 911 call (Chestnut Street), req. ambulance/unavailable; 7:45 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 8:04 p.m.: mv fire (Condon Drive), referred; 8:06 p.m.: school alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 8:18 p.m.: officer wanted (Cherry Street), spoken to; 8:40 p.m.: mv complaint (Charlton Road), erratic operator; 8:46 p.m.: officer wanted (Chickering Road), fireworks complaint; (total daily mv stops – 0).  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 24  
12:06-1:11 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:51 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), assist Charlton PD; 8:52 a.m.: medical/general (Spring Street); 9:50 a.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 9:58 a.m.: officer wanted (Paxton Road), rep. gunshots; 10:24 a.m.: medical/general (Hastings Road); 10:32 a.m.: mv complaint (Paxton Road), c/o mv speeding; 10:36 a.m.: parking complaint (West Main Street), mv in fire lane; 11:37 a.m.: officer wanted (Wall Street), rep. pkg. left at bldg; 1:18 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), spoken to; 1:55 p.m.: accident (McDonald Street), report taken; 9:14 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 10:11 p.m.: officer wanted (Bixby Road), spoken to; 10:32 p.m.: building checked, secure; 11:10 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 11:14 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 11:54 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: mental health issue; (total daily mv stops – 1).  
MONDAY, AUGUST 25  
12:28-2:52 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:44 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:05 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 9:04 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), West Brookfield PD bolo/welfare check; 10:07 a.m.: accident (North Brookfield Road), report taken; 10:36 a.m.: suspicious persons (Oakland Drive), investigated; 11:46 a.m.: medical/general (Smithville Road); 12:10 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 1:20 p.m.: larceny (Main Street), report taken; 3:02 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: text rec'd; 3:33 p.m.: restraining order service (Bixby Road); 4:09 p.m.: citizen complaint (Lambs Grove), c/o neighbor cutting trees; 4:26 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 4:47 p.m.: 911 call (Paxton Road), hang-up; 5:01 p.m.: officer wanted (Nottingham Circle), c/o harassing texts; 5:35 p.m.: mv complaint (Mechanic Street), c/o mv speeding; 5:46 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 5:54 p.m.: fire alarm (East Charlton Road), referred; 7:53 p.m.: medical/general (Blueberry Hill Road); 8:51 p.m.: disturbance (Lincoln Street), neighbor issue; 11:37 p.m.: 911 call (Howe Village), req. officers; (total daily mv stops – 2).  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 26  
12:05-3:08 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:11 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), assist State Police; 2:44 a.m.: 911 call (Cherry Street), no response noted on police log; 7:20 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:17 a.m.: fire alarm (Mechanic Street), referred; 8:29 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 8:31 a.m.: animal complaint (Charlton Road), loose dog; 9:08 a.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), assisted; 9:47 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), rep. road rage/Route 9; 10:19 a.m.: medical/general (Bixby Road); 10:32 a.m.: animal complaint (Smithville Road), loose cows; 11:29 a.m.: officer wanted (Irving Street), rep. sale of multiple revolvers/pistols; 12:28 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 12:53 p.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 1:25 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 4:06 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 4:12 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 5:19 p.m.: juvenile matter (Paxton Road), kids/bikes in roadway; 6:43 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 6:52 p.m.: juvenile matter (Greenville Street), services rendered; 8:50 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 8:58 p.m.: officer wanted (Charlton Road), mv has not been returned; 8:58 p.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), req. property check; (total daily mv stops – 10).





Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20.  
The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right.  
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

9		20	31
	10		22
3		15	36
17	30	42	

51	81	3
7	10	5
20	2	9

Solution

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



**1781:** Los Angeles is founded as El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora La Reina de los Ángeles.

**1812:** The Siege of Fort Harrison begins during the War of 1812.

**1972:** “The Price is Right” premieres. It is the longest-running game show on American television.

Body FACT

This item should only weigh about 10 to 15 percent of a child’s body weight.

Answer: Backpack

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

AKCB OT HSLOOC

Answer: Back to school

NEW WORD

LOAD

a heavy or bulky thing being carried

How they say that in...

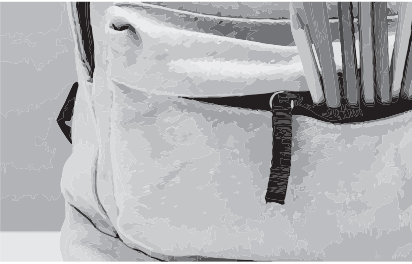
- English: Carry
- Spanish: Llevar
- Italian: Portare
- French: Porter
- German: Tragen

Did You Know?

Backpacks aren’t just for school. They are important gear when hiking or camping, and should be packed so they are not too heavy.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Backpack

⊙ \* ✎ ☹ ☼ ~ ⓪ 𐀀 ✧ ✨ ✕ ✨ ✚ ✨ ✨ ▲ ☾ ✨ ♂ ✨ ✨ 𐀀 𐀀 ☾ 𐀀

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to hiking.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 15 = O)

A. 1 15 15 14 22

Clue: Footwear

B. 14 3 20 10 5

Clue: Path

C. 11 3 6 11 20 3 6

Clue: Get ready

D. 15 25 14 8 15 15 3 22

Clue: Nature

Answers: A. boots B. trail C. prepare D. outdoors

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Here’s How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

ANSWER:



# REAL ESTATE

**HPE**  
REAL ESTATE GROUP  
43 East Main Street Webster, MA 01570  
Finest Realtor Associates to Serve You!

hope2own.com  
508.943.4333

Sharon Pelletier - Owner Broker  
Licensed in MA, CT & RI

**We Want  
Your Listings!**



**Featured Listing  
WEBSTER - 24 COOPER RD**

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

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

**Featured New Listing  
WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT -  
31 BAYVIEW!!**



**Panoramic View**, from this absolutely lovely home. 2600 +/- SF, 3+ Beds, 2 full baths, 2 car detached garage! 63' +/- waterfront. .37 Acres! Sandy Waterfront! The home is full of Natural SunLight! Mature landscaping of seasonal plants/shrubs & yummy raspberries! Acres of untouched Forest across the street. Located on a low traffic, private dirt road! Only a handful of homes! **\$1,100,000**

**Snug Harbor Villa!  
WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT**



**WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT LIVING AT IT'S FINEST! \*\* THE VILLA'S at SNUG HARBOR! \*\* END UNIT\*\* IS TRULY A RARE FIND! ONE OF ONLY 6 UNITS > Custom Built THIS 4000+/- SF w/Special Features & Upgrades. Offers 4 BRs - 3 are Primary BR Suites w/private baths, 4-1/2 Baths Total!! The Outstanding direct lakefront location provides exceptional Southern panoramic views across Middle Pond, a boat dock, & full recreation activities like swimming, fishing, kayaking, paddle boarding -- whatever Floats Your Boat :- ) ! Perfect setup for entertaining family, friends & guests! Enjoy All 4 Spectacular Seasons! It's more than a home - it's a Life Style! **NEW PRICE \$1,075,000****



**WEBSTER LAKE-  
WEST POINT  
ROAD!**

"Off Season Rental"  
October 1st-May 15th  
4 Bedroom,  
2 Bath,  
2 Car Garage  
**\$3500/month**

**WEBSTER- 4 PERRYVILLE RD**



Hip Roof ranch! Move In Ready. Updated Kitchen. Formal Dining Rm, Living Rm.(18x13) Great Rm. 3+ BRS & full updated Bath w/Tub. Hardwood floors. Fireplace. Quality Owens-Corning finished basement system. 3 large LL rooms & 2nd Full Bath, kitchen area w/cabinets & refrigerator. Morton Barn Style Garage .39 acre **\$435,000**

## On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

**Webster Lake - 53 Colonial Rd**



**SORRY, SOLD!**  
WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT! JUST SIMPLY AN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY! OVER 31,000 SQ FT OF LAND! Summer Cottage on 9482 SF of land. Commanding view, breathtaking Western Sunsets + 5 Waterfront Lots across the street, on 4 of the 5 possibly buildable. assisted sale **\$1,199,900**

**Webster Lake Waterfront  
8 Long Island**



**SORRY, SOLD!**

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



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

**Webster Lake Waterfront Lots  
Bates Point Rd**

In Beautiful, Calm, *Winter Cove*  
Lot# 1003R Natural Level Shore line 3800 +/- Sq Ft **\$180,000 SORRY SOLD!**  
Lot# 1004R Natural Level Shore Line 5000+/- Sq Ft **\$350,000 SORRY SOLD!**  
Lot# 1005R Natural Level Shore line 7800 +/- Sq Ft **\$380,000 SORRY SOLD!**

# 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**

**DUDLEY- NEW COLONIAL ON 7 ACRES**



**\$50,000 PRICE  
REDUCTION**

- \* 24' Great Room
- \* Privacy
- \* Enjoy a Wooded Natural Setting
- \* 3 Bedrooms
- \* 2.5 Baths
- \* Upgrades include Corian Counters
- \* 8' Center Island
- \* Energy Efficient Heating System
- \* Includes 2nd Buildable Lot

**128 Old Southbridge Rd \$875,000**

**CHARLTON- PRIVATE COMPOUND  
WITH INGROUND POOL**



- \* New Well \*
- Ranch Style Home with Media Room
- \* 2.5 Baths
- \* 1864 sq. ft.
- \* Outbuilding with Private Driveway
- \* Perfect for Your Office or Business

**8 New Spencer Road \$769,000**

**LEICESTER-  
RANCH**



- \* Sided \* Solar
- \* 2 Car Garage
- \* 4 Heat Pumps

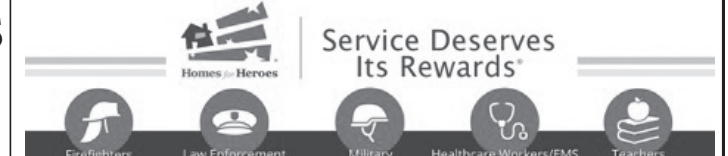
**2 Victor Ave  
\$455,000**

**ORANGE-  
1600 SQ. F.T SPLIT**



- \* 3 Baths
- "Like New" Property
- \* 1 Acre

**31 Prescott Lane  
\$475,000**



**GET TO KNOW YOUR REALTORS**



**Maria (Sun) Reed  
508-873-9254**

Spencer Resident for 30 Years  
A Senior Residential Specialist  
Licensed 38 Years  
Service Areas: Leicester, Worcester, Spencer, Oxford, Auburn



**Bob Berk  
508-367-9226**

Charlton Resident for 25 Years  
Realtor, Educator  
Service Areas:  
Charlton, Oxford, Sturbridge, Leicester, Southbridge

## 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



**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



"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



**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



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

## INVENTORY DOWN, LISTINGS WANTED

NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO SELL!!!

CALL ME FOR A MARKET ANALYSIS

Ask about the Homes for Heroes Reward  
and See if Your Community Service  
Qualifies for an Award

**ReMax Vision**  
25 Union St., Worcester MA 01608

CALL JO-ANN FOR A MARKET ANALYSIS

Licensed in MA & CT





# Agawam South Rehab promotes Bay Path alum to Assistant Director of Nursing

CHARLTON — Agawam South Rehabilitation is proud to announce

the promotion of Isabella Boateng, RN, to the position of Assistant Director of Nursing & Infection Control Nurse. In her new role, Boateng will help lead the facility's nursing department, ensuring the continued delivery of high-quality, patient-centered care.

Boateng will be responsible for overseeing daily nursing operations, supervising and mentoring nursing staff, and leading the facility's vital infection prevention and control initiatives. She will collaborate with interdisciplinary teams to develop and implement comprehensive care plans, serving as a key liaison between administration, healthcare providers, residents, and their families.

"Isabella is a natural leader whose dedication to patient-centered care is evident in everything she does," said Dr. Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, where Boateng graduated from with a Certificate in Practical Nursing in 2021. "Her clinical expertise, calm demeanor under pressure, and compassionate approach have made her an invaluable asset. I am thrilled to see her step into this leadership role and confident she will excel in advancing the mission of care at Agawam South Rehab."

Boateng's

journey to this leadership position is marked by continuous professional growth. She recently earned her Associate of Science in Nursing from Capital Community College and became a Registered Nurse in June 2025. Her career includes valuable experience as a Clinical Nurse Liaison with Stern Consultants, where she honed her skills in care coordination and patient advocacy, and as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) with Genie Healthcare.

Boateng shared her excitement and feelings of being honored for the opportunity with Dr. Bolandrina, who recognized Boateng's focus on providing compassionate, high-quality care and advocating for patients even as a PN student. Boateng looks forward to supporting Agawam South Rehab's exceptional nursing team and contributing to their continued success in serving the community.

With a strong foundation in geriatric treatment, dementia care, and regulatory compliance, Boateng brings a wealth of knowledge and a resourceful, ener-



Isabella Boateng

getic approach to her new role. Her promotion reflects Agawam South Rehab's commitment to recognizing and fostering talent from within its community.

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

**FALL 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

HOME OWNER FRIENDLY  
NO MINIMUMS

VISA MASTERCARD

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF PAXTON

**BETTER TOGETHER**  
THE TEAM THAT JESUS IS BUILDING

**WELCOME SUNDAY**  
A DAY FOR FAMILIES AND FAITH

SEPTEMBER 7TH 2025

Join us Sunday, September 7th at 10am for worship and Sunday school for the kids!

Let's grow together in faith and community!  
All are welcome — bring your loved ones and neighbors!  
Pot luck luncheon immediately following

1 Church Street, Paxton, MA – 508 756 2818 – paxtonucc.org – churchoffice@fccpaxton.org

10 AM

**NOW OPEN**

**BREZELANDS ORCHARDS**

**APPLES**

**PICK YOUR OWN**

Visit The Farm For:  
• Just Baked Pies  
• Cider Donuts • Cheese

**FREE**  
with this coupon and purchase  
Tues.-Thurs. Only

**1/2 Dozen Cider Donuts**

Southbridge Rd., Warren, MA • 413-436-7122  
Open 10am. - 6pm  
5 min. from Sturbridge - 148 N. Follow signs

9TH ANNUAL

**HARVEST CRAFT FAIR**

SEPTEMBER 6TH & 7TH  
10AM-4PM

BROOKFIELD ORCHARDS  
12 Lincoln Rd. N Brookfield  
01535

Local Beer & Wine Vendors

Local Food Trucks

Pick Your Own Apples

Wagon Rides

Live Music Both Days!  
Between The Waves (9/6)  
Moonlight Saints (9/7)

Snack Bar

90+ Crafters

Stay updated on this fun family event by visiting our social media and website.  
www.BrookfieldOrchards.com

Local Beer & Wine Vendors

Local Food Trucks

Pick Your Own Apples

Wagon Rides

Live Music Both Days!  
Between The Waves (9/6)  
Moonlight Saints (9/7)

Snack Bar

90+ Crafters

**Sealy**

**FIND YOUR BEST NIGHT'S SLEEP TODAY**

**FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY**

**SPECIAL SAVINGS!**

Crown Jewel by Sealy® Jewel Nile  
Queen Mattress Only  
**\$399\***

Crown Jewel by Sealy® Opal House  
Firm or Plush Queen Mattress Only  
**\$649\***

Crown Jewel by Sealy® Royal Cove  
Firm or Plush Queen Mattress Only  
**\$799\***

Upgrade to an Adjustable Base

CARRYING THE TOP BRANDS

Sealy TEMPUR-PEDIC STEARNS & FOSTER

LAYAWAY • FREE DELIVERY & REMOVAL • FREE FINANCING AVAILABLE\*

**SUNDEEN FURNITURE**

241 Providence Rd.  
Whitinsville, MA 01588  
(508) 234-8777

Mon.-Wed. 9:30 AM-6 PM  
Thurs.-Fri. 9:30 AM-7 PM  
Sat. 9:30 AM-6 PM/Sun. 11 AM-5 PM

\*Terms and conditions apply. See store for details. Copyright 2023 Sealy, Inc. All rights reserved.

**308 LAKESIDE**

**CASUAL WATERFRONT DINING ON LAKE LASHAWAY**

**LIVE MUSIC LINEUP**  
9/5 JONNY TAYLOR  
9/7 EVAN COUTURE  
9/12 SEAN FULLERTON  
9/14 JONNY TAYLOR

**Check out our New Summer Menu**

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

2022 BEST OF CENTRAL MASS

Check out the new Fall/Winter menu

Is it time to **Fall** in love with your next home?

**www.lisacaron.com**

**OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE!**

**Lisa Caron Real Estate**  
Broker, Owner GRI, ABR, SRS, RENE, C2EX, SRES, MRP, PSA, LMC, CDPE, E-PRO  
42 W. Main Street, PO Box 447 Brookfield, MA 01506  
Cell : 508-341-8299  
Search Homes Instantly: <http://www.lisacaron.com>

**Lisa Caron**