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Free by request to residents of
East Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield, Brookfield, Leicester and Spencer

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Friday, August 28, 2026

Brookfield hires Eagan as new Town Administrator

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

BROOKFIELD — The Town of Brookfield has a new Town Administrator, pending contract negotiations with the Select Board.

Ryan Eagan was selected from a pool of three candidates during a meeting on Aug. 10. Eagan is currently the executive to the Mayor of Gardner and serves as President of the Randolph Town Council.

The other two candidates considered were Andrew Surprise, the former CEO of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce, and Charles Kokoros, the former Mayor of Braintree. Eagan will succeed the town’s most recent Town Administrator Blythe Robinson who gave their resignation in July.

Eagan was complimented for his municipal experience, which the Select Board felt would be an asset. The board admitted it was a difficult choice and that all three candidates were capable and worthy options, but Eagan impressed the most.

Turn To EAGAN page A10



Courtesy

Congratulations to David Prouty High School’s five All-American cheerleaders! We are incredibly proud of our five David Prouty Panthers who were selected as UCA All-American Cheerleaders at camp! This is an amazing honor, and a true reflection of their hard work, dedication, talent, and passion for cheerleading. We are so proud to see them represent David Prouty Cheer! Way to go, Panthers! Photo courtesy of the David Prouty Cheerleading Facebook page.

Richard Sugden Library offers support group for widows

SPENCER — The Richard Sugden Library invites widows to an informal conversational group.

“Every ending has a beginning.” “He’s in a better place.” We’ve heard it all. But, we have experienced a loss that was unique, equal to no other. We’ve also experienced love like no other. The Widows Group (WG) intends to build a community of love, support, patience, and understanding.

Please join us Wednesdays (the first and third of each month) beginning Sept. 2 from 1 - 2 p.m. Lifting hearts, one-at-a-time. September get-togethers will be Sept. 2 and 16 at the Richard Sugden Library, Spencer.

A Haunted Story Swap will be held at the Richard Sugden Library on Sept. 10 from 6 – 7:30 p.m. Share your eerie experience. We’re gathering

a record of otherworldly experiences that have occurred in Spencer and want to hear from you! Our main goal is to collect cemetery-based accounts, but other stories will also be noted afterwards. Please join us for this exchange of tales of trepidation and haunted happenings! Sponsor: Spencer Historical Commission and hosted by Prof. Garret D. Langlois, Ph.D.

Grow Happiness with Wendy O’Leary at the Richard Sugden Library, Spencer. Adult Happiness Club kicks off Sept. 17 from 1-2 p.m. Monthly schedule: Oct. 29, Nov. 19, Dec. 17, Jan. 21, Feb. 18, March 18, April 15, May 13, and June 17. The in-person group will have an optional activity following the session from 2-2:30 p.m. Sign up with Wendy O’Leary at woleary25@gmail.com. Sponsor: Friends of

the Library.

Traditional Folk Music in the 21st Century will be held at the Richard Sugden Library on Thursday, Sept. 17 from 6 – 7 p.m. Music is an essential part of connection. Derek Piotr, folklorist, performer, and composer shares his Fieldwork Archive, featuring more than 2,000 recordings of “non-singers” poems, hymns & songs. Sponsor: Friends of the Library.

Sound Healing experience at the Richard Sugden Library, Spencer. Immerse yourself in therapeutic sounds that calm the mind, heal the body, and uplift the spirit. Adults are invited to join us as Allison, from Friendly Ass Farm, leads this time of relaxation. Join us on Sept. 23 from 6-7 p.m. Tune into wellness. Vibrate with Harmony. Sponsor: Friends of the Library.

Leicester selects fire captain as new Emergency Management Director

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

LEICESTER — The Leicester Select Board has selected a new Emergency Management Director in hopes of rejuvenating to the town’s emergency management program.

The board appointed William Broullon to the position with a term to end on June 30, 2027. Town Administrator David Genereux said they want to make the position a larger part of the community with initial goals including forming a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), getting department heads back on board with policies and procedures, and being a unifying force for what happens after an emergency situation.

Broullon, a Captain of the

Leicester Fire Department, has spent decades in emergency response. His new role will make him the face of rebuilding Leicester’s preparedness and bring consistency to the town’s emergency management program after years of inactivity.

Broullon was one of four candidates interviewed for the position and received unanimous approval for his appointment.

Select Board Vice-Chair Kevin Menard, Sr. said every candidate received the same questions, and Broullon stood out among them of all.

“Bill excelled in the answers. Everybody was quite qualified and the certifications were there, but Bill works in town. He’s a firefighter in town, and we took that as a big plus,” said

Menard.

Select Board Member Peter Cusolito noted that the Emergency Planning Committee has been dormant for five years, and he would like to see Broullon take ownership of reviving that group.

However, he also pointed out that the town’s departments and the Select Board must do their part to support their new Emergency Management Director.

“I think it’s incumbent on this board to make sure that not only does the information come up, but the information goes out to the other departments. The Hazard Mitigation Plan is an execution plan. It’s now something that we have to execute. The Emergency Management Plan — there’s no plan, it’s more of

Turn To BROULLON page A10

East Brookfield Kindergarteners take their “First Ride”



EAST BROOKFIELD — Last week, AA Transportation held its annual “First Ride for Safety” event. Incoming Kindergarten students, their

siblings and parents/guardians came along to ride with the kindergarteners for their first ride on a school bus.

Our Kindergarten guests were first introduced to area

principals and police officers from East Brookfield. The students then worked their way thru several different stations where they learned about school bus safety.

The event was very well attended by very excited Kindergarten students.

AA Transportation in East Brookfield has been hosting this program for more than

20 years. This is a really helpful program for students and parents. We find that getting that First Ride out of the way with other family members present, eases

the student into school bus riding. With the basic safety information, the students that attend this program settle into school bus riding with less anxiety.



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CLUES ACROSS

1. Manila hemp plant
6. Turkish river
10. Something to read
14. In a way, initiated
15. Popular Apple TV series
17. King Charles is part of it
19. Earlier
20. Foot (Latin)
21. Zodiac sign
22. A browning of the skin
23. Remain as is
24. Turfs
26. It's used to slaughter animals
29. Volcanic crater
31. The mother of Jesus
32. One's life story
34. One-time Liverpool coach Slot
35. Counterparts

37. Jacob __, American journalist
38. Digital audiotape
39. River in South Africa
40. Kimono sashes
41. Rooting somewhere
43. American spy Aldrich
45. A way to call for
46. Taxi
47. Pancakes made of buckwheat flour
49. Swiss river
50. Popular type of video game (abbr.)
53. Have surgery
57. Formal withdrawal from a union
58. Performs spoken improv
59. Greek war god
60. 2,000 lbs.
61. Helps to evade capture

CLUES DOWN

1. Swedish rock group
2. "Friday Night Lights" director Peter
3. Currency exchange fee
4. Feline
5. Folk singer DiFranco
6. Ghostly pale from distress
7. Rapid eye movements
8. Monetary unit of Macao
9. Lawmakers
10. Colorless mineral
11. At some prior time
12. American protest singer
13. Opener
16. Seldom
18. Relaxing places
22. Touchdown
23. From end to end
24. Kids love him
25. Metal-bearing solid
27. Skin care product manufacturer
28. Thirteen
29. Angry
30. Member of a Semitic people

31. One-thousandth of an inch
33. Former CIA
35. Most lemony
36. Engage in
37. Mass of fish eggs
39. Food supplies
42. Backbones
43. American real estate investment firm
44. Megabyte
46. "Three Coins in the Fountain" songwriter
47. Dutch colonist
48. Full-grown pike fish
49. Emergency prep expert Edwards
50. Flute
51. Dismissive sound
52. Slang term for marijuana
53. Young women's association
54. Cosmopolitan city
55. Narrow isthmus in Thailand
56. Pointed end of a pen

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Spencer Town Moderator launches new community television show, “The Brewster Call”

SPENCER — Jason Brewster, the newly elected Town Moderator of Spencer, is announcing the launch of “The Brewster Call,” a new community television show on Spencer Cable Access, Channel 192.

The show airs Fridays from 6 to 6:30 p.m. and focuses on informed civic participation and respectful dialogue.

Special thanks to Spencer Cable Access for making this program possible and for its continued commitment to local programming and community engagement.

“The Brewster Call” is produced by Jason Brewster in his capacity as a private citizen. The views expressed are his own and should not be construed as official statements or positions of the Spencer Town Moderator or the Town of Spencer.

For questions or episode suggestions, email thebrewstercall@gmail.com.

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P.E.T. of the Week

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Meet

Gingerbread

Meet Gingerbread! This sweet older guy came to us when his previous owner could no longer care for him. He is a friendly boy, and a staff favorite! He has gotten along with other respectful cats and dogs in the past, so may be ok living with one again. Shortly after he came into our care he was diagnosed with diabetes. Fortunately, he is currently in remission which means he does not currently need insulin injections but he does need to stay on a consistent diet. He was also diagnosed with a heart murmur that will need to be monitored every 6 months by a vet. Gingerbread is currently in a foster home, but if you would like to meet him give us a call at 508-867-5525 to schedule an appointment

Second Chance Animal Services

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REAL ESTATE

BROOKFIELD

\$365,000, 26 Gay Rd, Abrams Janet M Est, and Starr, Meagan A, to Tebo, Cory J, and Dematte, Rachel.
\$35,000, 5 Forest St, Toto Rita F Est, and Toto, Eugene A, to R A Anderson Builders LLC.

EAST BROOKFIELD

\$195,000, 101 Howe St, Blanchette, Brian, to Maverick Dev Co LLC.

LEICESTER

\$535,000, 4 Birch Ln, Donzell, Jacob, and Donzell, Caitlin, to Rodriguez, Mary Elizabeth, and Rodriguez Jr, Orlando.
\$487,000, 3 Hammond St, Roberts 3rd, Joseph H, and Roberts, Christina L, to Winsky, Lauren, and Winsky, Jake.
\$470,000, 20 Victoria Dr #20, Arnold, Thomas F, and Arnold, Lauren S, to Goodrich, Patricia, and Duggan, Joseph.
\$435,000, 957 Stafford St, Plante, Kevin M, to Plante, Lauren.
\$420,000, 43 Lake Ave, Coraccio, Stephen, to Mattei, Antonio.
\$361,000, 57 Charlton St, Carmona, Jennifer Hadassa, to Rennie, Donna M, and Burnham, Andrew C.
\$335,000, 276 Pine St, Nourse, Carol A, and Nourse, David N, to Ekvall, Sean, and Deoliveira, Diane Pereira.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

\$90,000, 48 Mill Rd, Morin, Roland W, and Morin, Judith A, to Charles M Marcum Ret, and Marcum, Charles M.

SPENCER

\$1,180,000, 24 Pearl St, Burque Ft, and Burque, Jeremy J, to 24 Pearl St Spencer LLC.
\$720,000, 27 Woodside Rd, Shaw Development LLC, to Silva, Kayla, and Johnson, Brandy.
\$605,000, 13 Thompson Pond Rd, Ouellette, Jason Michael, and Whitney, Lori Jean, to Ferdaws, Mohammad J, and Ferdaws, Yasmeen.
\$485,000, 32 Main St, Torres, David Ojeda, to Oconnor, Patrick R, and Oconnor, Patrick N.
\$470,000, 1 Lake Whittemore Dr, Gentles, Tanieka A, to Bouche, Brent, and Bouche, Ulrike.
\$455,000, 25 Collier Cir, Bushe Noelle Lee Est, and Bushe, Benjamin V, to Walsh, Ryan, and Walsh, Lauren.
\$375,000, 6 Old Farm Rd, Nicolas Brian Stephen Est, and Tenore, Mary Ellen, to Embury, Brianna M, and Davilli, Gianni Patrizio.
\$280,111, 59 Borkum Rd, Devries Kenneth R Est, and Hashey, Alicia, to Deoliveira, William F, and Deoliveira, Chayen Dwlian.
\$183,000, 94 Clark Rd, Resi Credit Opportunities, and Wilmington Svgs Fund Soc, to Orange Stone Holdings LLC.
\$70,000, Kingsbury St #2, Mrozek Ft, and Quintanilla, Sylwia, to Mfb Realty Consulting LLC.

WARREN

\$692,000, 804 Main St, Veronex LLC, to Big Dee LLC.
\$210,000, 901 Cronin Rd, Menard, Kathleen A, to Bertnell Realty Inc.

WEST BROOKFIELD

None

Spencer American Legion Charity Golf Tournament set for Sept. 26

SPENCER — The Gaudette Kirk Post 138 American Legion Spencer invites golfers, sponsors, and community members to participate in its Annual Charity Golf Tournament on Saturday, Sept. 26, at Heritage Country Club. This annual event combines a day of golf, fellowship, and giving back, with all proceeds supporting veterans in need.

The mission of the Gaudette Kirk Post 138 Charity Golf Tournament is to help veterans by preventing hunger, homelessness, and the lack of life's basic necessities. Funds raised through the tournament provide direct assistance to local veterans

and their families, ensuring those who have served our country receive support during difficult times.

Golfers of all skill levels are welcome to participate in the 18-hole scramble. The tournament fee is \$115 per golfer, which includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, a light lunch at Heritage Country Club, and dinner at the Gaudette Kirk Post 138 American Legion following the tournament. The day will also feature on-course contests, raffles, prizes, and awards.

Businesses and organizations are encouraged to become sponsors, while individuals and foursomes are invited to register early

and help make a difference in the lives of local veterans.

For registration, sponsorship opportunities, or additional information, please contact Carol by phone at 774-454-0366 or e-mail post138spencerma@gmail.com.

About Gaudette Kirk Post 138 American Legion

Gaudette Kirk Post 138 American Legion is committed to serving veterans, supporting military families, promoting patriotism, and strengthening the local community. Through its annual charity golf tournament and other fundraising efforts, the Post provides direct assistance to veterans

by helping prevent hunger, homelessness, and the lack of basic necessities, honoring the service and sacrifice of those who have served our nation.

Leicester Public Schools offers meals at no cost for students

LEICESTER — Leicester Public Schools participates in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. As part of this program, all schools offer healthy meals every school day at NO COST to the students due to the implementation of the Community Eligibility Provision for school year 2026-2027. Students receive breakfast and lunch at school without having to pay a fee or submit a household application.

Non-Discrimination Statement:

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities

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Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

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2. fax:
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Open poetry reading series coming to Merriam-Gilbert Library

WEST BROOKFIELD — Local poets, readers and lovers of the written word will have a new opportunity to share their favorites when the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library hosts “One Poem,” an open poetry reading series beginning in September.

The program is designed to provide a welcoming venue for writers to share their own poetry while introducing participants to the work of other published poets.

For each original poem a participant reads, organizers ask that the reader complement it with a poem by an established, published writer. Selections can range widely, from Shakespeare and Anne Bradstreet to Charles Bukowski, William Butler Yeats, Rumi, Adrienne Rich and contemporary poets.

“One Poem” will run from September through May, generally on the third Thursday of each month from 4 to 6 p.m. Some dates may be adjusted because of holidays.

Programs will be held in the upstairs meeting room at the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library on Main Street in West Brookfield. The meeting room is accessible by elevator.

The series is open to the Central Massachusetts community.

“Come: read, listen, learn, savor,” organizers invite participants.

Participants do not need to be poets themselves. Those without original work are welcome to read favorite poems by published writers, while community members who would rather listen are equally encouraged to attend.

Readings will take place in round-robin fashion, with participants sharing no more than two poems during each turn. The number of opportunities each person has to read will depend upon attendance. Organizers ask participants to avoid particularly lengthy selections so everyone has an opportunity to take part.

The series is intended to foster a creative community of writers and readers while exposing participants to poets and styles they might not otherwise encounter.

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



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Experience matters as Brookfield turns the page

The work of local government rarely slows down simply because there is a change at the top.

Budgets still need attention. Projects continue moving forward. Residents still expect answers. Departments still need coordination, and the countless deadlines and responsibilities that come with running a municipality do not wait for a new administrator to settle into the office.

That makes the Brookfield Select Board’s decision to select Ryan Eagan as the town’s next town administrator an important one for the community.

Pending successful contract negotiations, Eagan will succeed Blythe Robinson, who resigned in July. He emerged from a field of three finalists that also included Andrew Surprise, former CEO of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce, and Charles Kokoros, former mayor of Braintree.

By the Select Board’s own assessment, it was a strong group of candidates. That is encouraging in itself. Small communities often face considerable challenges recruiting experienced municipal professionals, particularly when they must compete with larger communities that can offer bigger staffs, larger budgets and, frequently, higher salaries.

Brookfield appears to have had three credible choices.

What ultimately distinguished Eagan was his hands-on municipal experience. He currently works as executive to the mayor of Gardner and serves as president of the Randolph Town Council. His background also includes experience in communications, health and economic development.

Select Board member Beth Coughlin put the board’s reasoning plainly when she said Eagan had “the most hands-on doing the work and municipal experience” among the finalists.

That experience could prove particularly valuable in Brookfield.

A town administrator in a community Brookfield’s size cannot simply be a manager in the abstract. The job requires someone willing to deal with the practical details of municipal government while also helping elected officials think several years ahead. There are grants to pursue, budgets to assemble, contracts to manage, personnel matters to address and state regulations to navigate.

There is also the less easily defined responsibility of building trust.

Eagan made an encouraging point during his Aug. 5 interview when he described himself as looking for a small community where he could “set down roots and invest.”

That should be an important part of the conversation as contract negotiations continue.

Small-town government works best when administrators understand that communities such as Brookfield are not simply smaller versions of cities. Relationships matter. Institutional knowledge matters. Residents expect accessibility. Decisions that might seem minor on a spreadsheet can have significant consequences for a department, neighborhood or family.

At the same time, Brookfield can benefit from an administrator who brings experience from outside the community. Fresh eyes can identify opportunities and inefficiencies that become difficult to see when people have been working within the same system for years.

The goal should be a balance between respecting what already works and recognizing what can work better.

Eagan will have time to demonstrate whether he can strike that balance. First, the Select Board and its preferred candidate must complete contract negotiations and establish a start date. Once that happens, both sides should recognize that stability matters.

Municipal leadership is most effective when an administrator has enough time to understand a community, develop relationships with department heads and residents, establish priorities and see long-term projects through from planning to completion.

Brookfield has made its choice after considering three qualified candidates. The next task is to give the new administration a clear set of expectations, strong communication with elected officials and an opportunity to succeed.

Selecting a town administrator is not the end of a process. It is the beginning of a partnership, one that can have an impact on nearly every corner of town government.

For Brookfield, that partnership now has an opportunity to begin on a promising foundation.

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump’s corruption

To the Editor:

Until now, the greatest threat to our American Constitution and Democracy has been the Civil War.

But then, fortunately, we had our greatest president, Abraham Lincoln to lead us. And to help him, Lincoln intentionally choose for his Cabinet a “Team of Rivals” made up of the most competent persons he could find to guide and assist him through our United States’ greatest crisis, until now.

Now we have multiple crises that many, including myself, think could at least equal the threat posed by our Civil War

But instead of Lincoln as President we have the mentally damaged Donald Trump who many, many including myself consider our very worst ever President. Likewise, his administration has no team of very competent rivals, but instead a group of people chosen to praise him and whatever he does.

Trump also stands as the person who created or has greatly contributed to many of our present crises including:

- his very expensive war with Iran which has expanded, shows no sign of going away, and is exhausting our soldiers, military supplies,
- the global warming we experience and see every day
- crazy on again off again tariffs and other costs which 80% of we Americans find it difficult to afford.
- ongoing action and threats to our best in the world election system and democracy,
- cutting taxes for the rich and adding government debt to 40 trillion dollars (\$40,000,000,000,000.) or to put it another way every man woman and child in the USA owes about \$150, 000 to various lenders, and
- attacking a world of friends and allies, so that they no longer support us, the most recent being Canada

More than that Trump himself, his family and close associates make up by far the most corrupt administration in our history

Examples include:

- Choosing government officials on the basis of contributions rather than their capability
- Appointing ambassadors the same way Benefitting those in industries in which the Trump family have invested like Crypto
- Benefitting those who have contributed to his personal projects like the White House ball room
- Accepting “Gifts” like passenger jets from foreign rulers, and
- Personally investing in businesses that that Trump as President promotes and favors

We now live in country not “By and for the people” But “by and for Trump and his cronies.”

More than ever since the Civil War, in the 2026 elections we need to begin the process of voting them out of corrupt power.

KEVIN KANE
SPENCER

Who, exactly, is ignoring the will of the people?

To the Editor:

In the Aug. 21 edition of the New Leader, a letter to the Editor had as their first sentence: “It could not be any clearer that this administration has put itself in a position to ignore laws, rules, norms and the constitution.” With this single sentence published in a Massachusetts newspaper, one can be easily confused as to which administration the writer was referring to, especially after the actions of the Queen Healy administration in the past few months.

With the November elections approaching, please look at some of the ballot questions that will be on the ballot and some that won’t, due to the “questionable” vocabulary usage by those State officials in charge of making sure the vocabulary is correct.

There was (emphasis on was, past tense) the ballot question about lowering the State income tax from 5 to 4 percent that won’t be on the ballot thanks to some of Queen Healy’s “staff.” After questionable vocabulary State Attorney General Andrea Cambell used in writing the ballot question, the State Judicial Court ruled that question cannot appear on this year’s ballot. An honest mistake I’m sure (wink wink nudge nudge). How dare Queen Healy’s peasants ask for some of their hard-earned money to stay in their own pockets instead of hers.

In case you forgot, and Queen Healy is hoping you did, Chapter 62F, the State law that says the State MUST issue tax refunds for too much State tax revenue collected, is trying to be secretly repealed, hidden in another Senate bill. Amendment 14 to a joint economic development bill (S. 3178), filed by state Sen. Jason Lewis (D-Winchester) and entitled Countering Fiscal Uncertainty, would repeal Chapter 62F if passed into law. State taxpayers last received a refund under this law in 2022 under then Gov. Baker, angering many of the liberal legislators.

Last is the postponement of Queen Healy’s fossil fuel phase-out plan, known as the Clean Heat Standard, which she’s putting off until January 2028, well after the November elections. Whatever happened to freedom of choice when it comes to what type of energy source you want to use to heat your home? The plan calls for nothing but electric heat for all new construction homes. Not economical at all when you consider the high cost of electricity here. Expect to see \$700-\$900/month electric bills in the winter when the electricity is increasingly produced by fossil fuel generators anyways. I wonder how much stock the legislators have in the mini-split and green energy companies.

With the first sentence I mentioned, it’s easy to be confused about who’s ignoring the will of the people. Remember this at the ballot box this November.

JOHN SHOCK
CHERRY VALLEY

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.

What does financial fulfillment actually feel like?



FINANCIAL FOCUS

TREVOR NIELSEN

Feeling financially fulfilled means so much more than just the number in your bank account. It’s about being able to take your family out to dinner without calculating whether you can afford it. It means sleeping soundly on a Sunday night, knowing that if the water heater gives out tomorrow, you can handle it. And it’s saying yes to a vacation because you planned ahead, and the money is there.

In short, financial fulfillment is the feeling that your money is supporting the life you want.

Yet true fulfillment is surprisingly rare. Only 16 percent of Americans are financially fulfilled, according to a 2026 study by Edward Jones and Gallup, “Money and Meaning: Understanding Financial Fulfillment.” Those at the other end of the spectrum, the financially stressed (32 percent), often say that money regularly controls their daily decisions. Most Americans (51 percent), however, fall in the middle — the financially conflicted. They manage to get by but often carry a persistent undercurrent of worry.

Notably, where you land on this spectrum has less to do with your income than you might expect. More than half of households earning \$175,000 or more are still financially conflicted.

Building the foundation

So, the question becomes, “What do financially fulfilled people do differently?” Simply put, they tend to have foundational planning structures in place. Five behaviors show up consistently among the financially fulfilled, and they’re simple steps you can take, too.

Build an emergency fund (98 percent of fulfilled have this). Aim for saving three to six months of living expenses in a liquid, easily accessible account. When you know you can handle the unexpected, you stop bracing for it, and lower stress gives you a higher quality of life.

Create a financial plan for retirement (91 percent of financially fulfilled have one). It’s hard to feel in control if you don’t know where you’re going. A retirement plan puts a real number on what you’ll need and lays out a clear path to get there, with built-in protection against life’s unexpected curveballs.

Save intentionally for major milestones (87 percent of financially fulfilled do). A home renovation, a new vehicle or a child’s education don’t have to feel disruptive. Setting money aside deliberately for the milestones you anticipate means you can say yes without scrambling.

Put an estate plan in place (66 percent of financially fulfilled have). Estate plans are not just for the wealthy. A will and basic estate plan help ensure what you’ve worked for still reflects your wishes after you’re gone.

Work with a financial advisor (60 percent of financially fulfilled who sought any guidance have used an advisor in the past year). The internet is great, but real guidance comes from a credentialed person who knows you and your family and what you want your money to do for you.

Knowing that your money is working toward the life you want doesn’t happen by accident. Feeling financially fulfilled is worth the effort and may be more achievable than you realize.

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, Member SIPC

The annual mystery of the missing household scissors

LANTERNS
ALONG
MAIN
STREET
By CHARLES

There are certain objects in a house that apparently do not belong to anyone. Scissors are one of them.

My wife and I have purchased enough pairs of scissors during our marriage that, mathematically speaking, we should be able to open a small barber shop. Yet when I actually need a pair, there are none to be found.

This happened again recently when I needed to cut the tag off something. Simple job. Thirty seconds, maximum.

I opened the kitchen drawer where the scissors are supposed to live. No scissors.

I checked the other kitchen drawer, even though scissors have never lived there. No scissors.

Then came the junk drawer, which is less a drawer than an archaeological site. I found three expired coupons, several batteries of uncertain strength, a key that nobody can identify, two rolls of tape and a tiny screwdriver apparently designed to repair eyeglasses. But no scissors.

At this point, I asked my wife the question every married person eventually asks. "Have you seen the scissors?" This is different from asking, "Where are the scissors?"

The second question suggests that the other person has some responsibility for their disappearance. After three decades of marriage, you learn these distinctions.

She had not seen them. Or, more accurately, she had not seen "the good scissors."

That was when I remembered that our house has categories of scissors. There are the good scissors. There are the old scissors. There are the little scissors.

There are scissors that came with some kind of sewing kit and are apparently forbidden for ordinary use.

And somewhere, allegedly, there is a pair of scissors in the garage. I went to investigate.

Anyone who has ever entered a garage looking for one specific item knows how this goes.

You begin with scissors. Ten minutes later, you are holding an extension cord, wondering why you own four nearly empty cans of spray paint and trying to remember when you bought a snow shovel with a cracked handle.

I did find a pair of pruning shears, but even I understood that using those to remove a clothing tag would represent an unnecessary escalation.

So I returned to the house. By now, the original task had become irrelevant. This was no longer about cutting a tag. This was about solving a mystery.

I checked the desk. I checked a basket in the living room. I looked in the drawer where we keep pens, even though the pens themselves rarely seem to be there. Then I spotted them.

The scissors were sitting on a table approximately six feet from where I had begun my search.

I picked them up triumphantly.

My wife looked over.

"Those aren't the good scissors," she said.

Apparently, victory has many definitions. I cut the tag anyway.

Later that day, I started thinking about all the other household objects that seem to operate under the same rules. Tape measures vanish immediately after being used. Pens migrate from room to room. Flashlights are plentiful until the power goes out. The one screwdriver you need is always missing from the otherwise complete set.

And socks? I am not even going to discuss socks. Some mysteries are beyond the reach of science.

What fascinates me is that these things never seem to disappear permanently. They merely go somewhere else for a while.

A missing tape measure eventually appears on a workbench. The flashlight turns up in the car. A pen emerges from underneath a pile of mail.

And the scissors will inevitably return to the kitchen drawer.

That is, until the next time I need them.

I suppose every home has its own small ecosystem, with objects circulating mysteriously among rooms and family members. Maybe that is why, after all these years, I have stopped asking who moved something.

There is rarely a satisfactory answer. Besides, I have learned the safest approach.

When you finally find the scissors, use them quickly. Then put them back exactly where they belong.

That way, when they disappear again, you can be absolutely certain it was somebody else.

Plan ahead for 26th Annual Leicester Harvest Fair

LEICESTER — The Leicester Harvest Fair committee welcomes exhibits from residents of Leicester and surrounding towns to enrich the Harvest Fair and display local handiwork. Entries will be exhibited and judged in two departments: Adults older than 18, and Youth — boys and girls under 18 as of Jan. 1, 2026.

Plan now to enter vegetables and flowers from your gardens and eggs laid by your backyard hens. Food artisans are invited to bring your home-baked pies, breads, muffins and cookies, as well as canned pickles, jams and jellies. Adults 21 and older can enter home-brewed beer, wine, cider/perry or mead. Artists and crafters are encouraged to display their photography and their fiber arts including quilting, sewing, knitting and crocheting, spinning and weaving, rug hooking, embroidery and tatting work.

More information with class lists, exhibit entry rules and helpful hints for a skilled display can be found on the Leicester Harvest Fair Facebook page and in Premium booklets available at the Leicester Town Hall, Senior Center, Public Library and at local businesses. Exhibitors should plan to bring their entries to the Town Hall on Friday, Sept. 18, from 4 to 7 p.m. Ribbons will be awarded the best three entries in each class.

The Massachusetts Master Gardeners will offer garden advice and free soil tests. Plan to gather a soil sample from your garden in advance and bring it to the Fair for pH analysis and recommendations. Instructions for collecting a soil sample can be found on the Harvest Fair Facebook page, or by clicking "gather your soil sample" at <https://massmastergardeners.org/education->

al resources/soil-testing.

Fair activities on and around the Town Common will entertain Fair-goers of all ages, rain or shine. Skilled artisans will demonstrate historic crafts, and local crafters will sell their wares. Food booths will offer a tasty selection of lunch choices, beverages and sweets. The Leicester High School CTE students will host booths, the Tri-M school band will perform, and there will be games and activities for children. Traditional folk music performances at the band stand will feature Yankee Notions, The Doolin Lads, and Slo-Grass. There will be a guided tour of historic buildings, and the Swan Tavern will be open to visitors.

Mark your calendar now and plan to join the festivities on the Leicester Common, in the Town Hall and nearby buildings!

WEEKLY POLICE BLOTTER

Spencer

The Spencer Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Aug. 12-18.

Jayden Y. Dadaille, age 18, of Spencer was arrested on Aug. 14 in connection with a warrant.

Jeffrey Joseph Magierowski, age 47, of Spencer was arrested on Aug. 17 for Assault with a Dangerous Weapon.

Leicester

The Leicester Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Aug. 13-19.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Aug. 14 for Leaving the Scene of Property Damage.

David Allen Grady, Jr., age 36, of Charlton was arrested on Aug. 15 for Operating Under the Influence (Liquor-third offense), Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license, Refusal by the operator of a Motor Vehicle to identify themselves to law enforcement, and Failure to Stop For Police.

Frankson George Arthur, age 19, of Charlton was arrested on Aug. 18 for Larceny.

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Workshop13 presents Eighth Annual Northeast Fine Arts Exhibition



WARE — The eighth annual juried Northeast Fine Arts Exhibition opens on Saturday, Aug. 22 with a reception from 1-4pm. Awards will be announced at 3 p.m., including a \$1,000 prize for Best in Show. This annual exhibition of realism is held in the unique Urban Hall gallery (formerly Grand Hall gallery) of Workshop13, a non-profit cultural arts and learning center located at 13 Church St. in Ware. Located on the second floor of Workshop13’s renovated church building, the newly renamed Urban Hall is now accessible by vertical chair lift.

The Eighth Annual Northeast Fine Arts Exhibition will be on display from Aug. 22 to Sept. 6, and can be visited on

Fridays from 4-7 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. This year’s exhibition gathers dozens of breathtaking works by artists throughout the northeastern U.S., including sculptures, paintings, drawings, and mixed media works.

The juror for the eighth annual NEFAE is Scott Prior. Scott Prior lives and works in Northampton, Massachusetts, where he has been a resident since 1971. Born in Exeter, New Hampshire, he received a BFA in printmaking from the University of Massachusetts in 1971. He has artwork in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the DeCordova Museum, the Danforth Museum, the New Britain Museum of American Art, the Rose Art

Museum and other major public and private collections. He has shown extensively in one-person and group shows in the United States and abroad. In 2001 he had a mid-career retrospective at the DeCordova Museum. Scott Prior is represented by the Alpha Gallery in Boston and William Baczek Fine Arts in Northampton.

About Workshop13
Workshop13 is a dynamic center where arts, culture, and community converge—expanding access to the arts and nurturing creativity and self-expression in our rural region. For more information, visit workshop13.org, or call 413-277-6072.

“Cabin at Sunset” by Scott Prior, juror for the eighth annual NEFAE.

Courtesy

Alex Cordy Memorial Golf Tournament set for Sept. 12

OAKHAM — St. Carlo Acutis Parish, Brookfield/West Brookfield/Warren, is having their Ninth Annual Alex Cordy Memorial Charity Golf Tournament at Quail Hollow Golf and Country Club, 1822 Old

Turnpike Road, Oakham, Massachusetts on Saturday, Sept. 12. Registration begins at 7:15 a.m., with a Shotgun Start at 8 a.m.

As many of you are aware, Alex Cordy was an integral part of our West Brookfield Community for many years. In memory of his outstanding service to his community, his parish, and being a founding member of our Knights of Columbus Council 11080, this tournament will once again benefit our Youth Activities Fund to support the youth in our local community, a cause that was very important to Alex. We were able

to award two \$1,000.00 scholarships this past year from the proceeds of this event to two local high school seniors, as well as fund many other youth activities. We ask that you please consider supporting our event by sponsoring or participating in the tournament individually or with a foursome. Tournament Raffle Items and General Donations to this event are always welcomed and appreciated!

Registration and sponsorships are now available for this tournament. To register, and for more information, please call (413) 813-8100 or email wallyconnor122@gmail.com.

Spencer Sunoco to host ‘Spencer’s Bravest Family Fun Day’

SPENCER — Spencer Sunoco will bring residents together later this month for an afternoon of food, games and family activities while raising money to support local first responders.

“Spencer’s Bravest Family Fun Day” will be held Sunday, Aug. 30, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Spencer Sunoco, 73 W. Main St.

Organizers are inviting families, friends and neighbors to attend the community fundraiser, with 100 percent of proceeds slated to support Spencer firefighters

and police officers.

The event will feature hamburgers and hot dogs, along with a lemonade stand. Activities for children and families will include face painting, temporary tattoos and games.

Local vendors will also participate throughout the day, and visitors will have opportunities to enter raffles.

The event is intended to provide residents with a fun end-of-summer gathering while showing appreciation for the firefighters and

police officers who serve the Spencer community.

Organizers are encouraging residents to bring family members, friends and neighbors and spend part of the day supporting the fundraiser.

“Together we can make a big difference,” organizers said in announcing the event.

Spencer Sunoco is located at 73 W. Main St. The Family Fun Day runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 30.

Girl Scout Troop welcomes new members

SPENCER — Girls entering grades Kindergarten and 1 in the fall are invited to join Troop 65501. The troop meets in Spencer every other Sunday, 4:30-5:45 p.m. Girl membership registration fee is \$111, and is active until September 30, 2027. Financial Assistance is available.

Girl Scouts is the premier organization for girls to learn about leadership, financial literacy, life skills, the outdoors, community service, science and technology. Girl Scout pro-

gramming is customizable for all types of learners! Previous Girl Scout experience is not necessary.

You can register for a spot in the troop at <https://go.gscwm.org/troop65501>. Questions? E-mail info@gscwm.org or call 508-365-0115.

About Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts serves nearly 6,000 girls in grades K through 12

with the strong support of over 2,500 adult volunteers in 186 towns and cities in central and western Massachusetts. The Girl Scout program allows girls to discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls together while building their personal leadership qualities. GSCWM supports girls by giving them extraordinary opportunities to explore, experience, and learn about their world and helps girls recognize that they are vital members of their communities.

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Spencer Republican Town Committee to hold inaugural meeting Aug. 27

SPENCER — The Spencer Republican Town Committee will hold its inaugural meeting on Thursday, Aug. 27 at 7 p.m. in the event hall at Charlie’s Diner, 5 Meadow Rd., Spencer. Spencer Republicans and unenrolled voters are invited and encouraged to attend. The meeting will offer residents an opportunity to meet the committee, learn about its work, and become involved in local civic and political life. The committee intends to meet regularly on the final Thursday of each month, holidays notwithstanding. Any questions can be emailed to spencer-marepublicans@gmail.com.

[www.Stonebridge Press.com](http://www.StonebridgePress.com)

ArtWorks Gallery welcomes you to view “Through the Lens”



Courtesy

“The Second Story of Hope” by Stephen Johnas.

WARE — Workshop13’s ArtWorks Gallery in Ware presents a photography exhibition called “Through the Lens: Presence and Absence.” This exhibition explores the relationship between visibility and implication—spaces that suggest human presence, objects that stand in for memory, or scenes where absence speaks as strong-

ly as presence. ArtWorks Gallery is located at 69 Main St. in Ware. “Through the Lens: Presence and Absence” is on display through Sept. 13. Gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4pm. For those who cannot attend the show in person, a virtual gallery is available for viewing at workshop13.org.

Fine art photographer James Gehrt served as the juror for this exhibition. Stephen Johnas was awarded Best in Show for the striking black and white photograph, “The Second Story of Hope.” Vern Mcclish’s “Abandoned Machine Shop” was awarded Best Color and Joanne Holtje’s “Ferry” was awarded Best Black and White. The Honorable Mention

for Color went to Damien O’Halloran’s “You and Me,” and the Honorable Mention for Black and White went to Bora Pina’s Source of Truth. Each of these photographers and their works will be spotlighted on Workshop13’s social media pages as well as in their weekly newsletter.

ArtWorks Gallery has two calls for art currently open. The Unexpected Portrait

closes its call for unique portraits in almost any medium at midnight on Aug. 20. “Americana: Pictures of Our Community” is accepting photos from residents of Ware and surrounding areas through Oct. 11. Visit workshop13.org for more information.

About ArtWorks Gallery and Workshop13
ArtWorks Gallery is Workshop13’s gallery on

Main Street. This space features numerous art exhibitions each year and is also available to rent for individual or group shows. Workshop13 is a dynamic center where arts, culture, and community converge—expanding access to the arts and nurturing creativity and self-expression in our rural region. For more information, visit workshop13.org, or call 413-277-6072.

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Vendors wanted for flea market on W. Brookfield Common

WEST BROOKFIELD — The First Congregational Church 36 N. Main St., W. Brookfield, UCC has been hosting their Flea Market on the town Common for more than 50 years. This year the Flea Market will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12 from 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (vendor check-in 6:30 - 8:30 a.m.).

Sellers of all kinds are welcome - flea folk, antique dealers, crafters, product vendors, and those emptying out basements and attics! No food vendors, please. Spaces are available for \$40 for a 20-by-20-foot grassy spot. Vendors must bring their own tables and tents. The church will sponsor a food tent with grilled food, cold drinks and sweet treats. Email to fcocfwbfleamarket@gmail.com for an application or call Karen at 508-801-7692.

Mark your calendars; the tradition continues!

Knights of Columbus plans walk, Mass at Nazareth Grotto

LEICESTER — The Knights of Columbus will hold a walk to the Nazareth Grotto followed by a special Mass on Sunday, Aug. 30.

Participants are invited to meet at noon at the Knights of Columbus council building, 91 Manville St., Leicester. Those attending may walk to the grotto with the group or drive separately and park at the grotto.

Bishop Robert J. McManus will celebrate Mass following the walk.

After Mass, participants are invited to return to the Knights of Columbus building on Manville Street for lunch and refreshments.

Community members are welcome to participate in the gathering.

LEGALS

Notice of Public Hearing– Planning Board

The Spencer Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, 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 Site Plan Review/ Special Permit/ Stormwater Permit– Applicant: New England Power Company and Massachusetts Electric Company; Owner: New England Power Company: 7.5 & 9 Meadow Road, Spencer, MA, Assessor’s Map U11-9 & 10. The applicant is seeking a Site Plan Review/ Special Permit/ Stormwater Permit under section 7.4 (Site Plan Review), 3.4.2.H (Special Permit for structures within floodplain), and the Spencer Stormwater Management Bylaw (Article 14 of the Spencer General Bylaws). Proposed construction and installation of certain substation-related equipment and facilities at its existing electric substation. The property is located within the Rural Residential (RR) and Commercial (C) zoning districts.

August 28, 2026
September 4, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No.WO26P2237EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Estate Of:
Lisa A DeVries
Date of Death: 12/29/2019

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **S/A-Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Alicia Hashey of Spencer MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: .
Alicia Hashey of Spencer MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/08/2026**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.

Date: August 12, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
August 28, 2026

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS CHERRY VALLEY AND ROCHDALE WATER DISTRICT WARRANT SPECIAL DISTRICT MEETING

To: Cheryl Balkus, District Clerk
Cherry Valley and Rochdale Water District

Greetings:

You are hereby directed to notify the VOTERS of the Cherry Valley and Rochdale Water District to meet in the district office at 148 Henshaw Street Leicester, Massachusetts 01524, on Thursday the seventeenth day of September two thousand and twenty-six (September 17, 2026) at seven P.M. (7:00 P.M.), then and there to act on the following articles:

ONE: KETTLEBROOK WATER MAIN Article: To see if the district will appropriate \$800,000 or any other amount to pay costs of replacing the Kettle Brook water main, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; to determine whether this amount should be raised by borrowing or otherwise, or to take any other action relative thereto.

You are hereby directed to serve this WARRANT by posting an attested copy at the Leicester Fire Department, Company No. 2, 226 Main Street, Cherry Valley, MA; Rochdale Post Office, 1138 Stafford Street, Rochdale, MA; at the Church Building, 672 Pleasant Street, Rochdale, MA; at the Leicester Town Hall and the Oxford Town Hall seven (7) days at least before said meeting.

Given under our hands, this 17th day of August 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
John Shocik, Chairman
Robert Jones, Commissioner
Michael McCormick, Commissioner

A TRUE COPY, ATTEST:
Cheryl Balkus, District Clerk
August 28, 2026

At the Zoning Board of Appeals public meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 08, 2026, in the McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, a public hearing will be held on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:

Notice of Public Hearing – Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals Variance Finding– Applicant/ Owner: Warren and Roberta Monette: Location Lot 32, Bond Street, Spencer Assessor’s Map R35-32. The applicant is seeking a Variance under Sections 5.1 (Table of Area Requirements) and 7.3 (Variance Requirements) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw, the current Zoning requirements for RR frontage is 200’ and the lot only has 51.3 feet of frontage, the applicant would like to build a new single-family home with a three-car garage, and septic system. The property is in the Rural Residential (RR) district.

August 21, 2026
August 28, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Emmanuel G. Matias to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, dated February 22, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 64608, Page 299, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, its successors and assigns to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, recorded on February 5, 2026, in Book No. 73164, at Page 297

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 PM on September 23, 2026, on the mortgaged premises located at 26 Donnelly Cross Road, Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:

The land in Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts, on the east side of Donnelly Cross Road, being

shown as Lot 1 on a plan of land entitled “Plan of Valley View Lots in Spencer, Massachusetts. Harvey Goldstein, owner”, October 12, 1967, Theodore P. Drazek, R.L.S. bounded and described as follows: See Plan Book 539, Plan No. 111, Beginning at a point in the Easterly line of Donnelly Cross Road, said point being the southwest corner of the lot herein described, as shown on said plan;

Thence S. 63 degrees 23’ E., 448.30 feet to a point at land of Charles Zablow;

Thence N. 8 degrees 56’ E., 148.25 feet along said Zablow land to a point at Lot 2;

Thence N. 62 degrees 19’ 20” W., 465.85 feet along said Lot 2 to a point in the Easterly line of Donnelly Cross Road;

Thence S. 41 degrees 19’ 30” W. 49.26 feet to a point; and S. 25 degrees 24’ W. 103.84 feet to the point of beginning; the last courses being along the Easterly line of Donnelly Cross Road. Containing 68,400 square feet of land, more or less.

The exact quantity of land or number of acres and/or square feet contained within the property described herein is not guaranteed by this company.

For mortgagor’s(s’) title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 61259, Page 12.

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

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

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

LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
29037
August 28, 2026
September 4, 2026
September 11, 2026

In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 131, Section 40 of the Wetlands Protection Act, the North Brookfield Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on September 8, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the North Brookfield Board of Health office, 215 No. Main St., No. Brookfield for an NOI filing and associated activities at 166 Oakham Road. Any person interested in this matter is invited to attend the hearing.

August 28, 2026

Town of Spencer Conservation Commission PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, MGL c. 131, s. 40 and the Spencer Wetlands By-Law: **Tyler Rehor** has filed a **NOI** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to

renovate a deck and build a patio located at **22 Ledge Avenue**, Spencer, MA.

New England Power Co and Massachusetts Electric Co has filed a **NOI** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to expand a substation for renewable energy located at **7.5 & 9 Meadow Road**, Spencer, MA.

Steven & Rebecca Haberman have file an **RDA** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to remove 8 trees located at **20 Laurel Lane**, Spencer, MA.

Applications can be reviewed at the Office of Development and Inspectional Services, Town Hall. A public hearing regarding these filings will be held by the Spencer Conservation Commission in McCourt Social Hall at Town Hall, 157 Main Street, on Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at which time all persons having an interest may be present or call in remotely to participate. Conservation Commission meetings open at 6:15 p.m.

Mary McLaughlin, Chairwoman
TOWN OF SPENCER
Office of Development & Inspectional Services
August 28, 2026

At the Zoning Board of Appeals public meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 08, 2026, in the McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, a public hearing will be held on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:

Notice of Public Hearing – Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals Variance Finding– Applicant: Prestige Capital Group, Owner: 1 Meadow Road LLC: Location: 1 Meadow Road, Spencer Assessor’s Map U11-7-0. The applicant is seeking a Variance under Sections 5.2.5 (Structures permitted within setbacks) and 7.3 (Variance Requirements). Upgraded and relocated vacuum units at the Car Wash facility within front setbacks. The property is in the Commercial (C) district.

August 21, 2026
August 28, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. W025P1175EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR ALLOWANCE OF ACCOUNT

In the matter of:
Joseph A. Kularski, Jr.
Also known as: Joseph A. Kularski
Date of Death: 08/11/2024

To all interested persons.
A Petition has been filed by: requesting allowance of the Special Personal Representative account(s) as Personal Representative and any other relief as requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/08/2026**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.

Date: August 13, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
August 28, 2026

Leicester Women’s Club meets Sept. 16

LEICESTER — The Leicester Women’s Club’s September Dinner & Meeting will be Pine Ridge Country Club on Wednesday, Sept. 16 at 6 p.m. The event is both a social gathering for members, prospective members and guests. The dinner, which includes salad, entrée, bread, dessert, coffee and tea, is \$28, payable at the door. A cash bar is available. For reservations, contact Linda Monahan at 508-330-9250 before Wednesday, Sept. 9.

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

Bay Path Continuing Education’s fall catalog available

CHARLTON — We are excited to announce that the Fall 2026 catalog is now available at www.baypath.net/bpce. There is something for everyone, featuring offerings in trades exam preparations, continuing education, professional development, health & wellness, art, food & entertaining, financial wellness, and much more.

Here are some of the new classes available:

Basket Weaving
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Classes for Two People to Take Together

Registration Opens on July 20 – Make sure to sign up early for the classes that catch your interest so you don’t miss this opportunity! You can reach us at www.baypath.net/bpce or call 508-248-5971, ext. 1715. Bay Path has been providing engaging adult continuing education classes for the past 30 years, conveniently located at 57 Old Muggett Hill Rd., Charlton.

East Brookfield seeks public input for Open Space and Recreation Plan update

EAST BROOKFIELD — The Town of East Brookfield, with assistance from the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), is updating its 2006 Open Space and Recreation Plan and is seeking input from residents.

Community members are encouraged to participate in a survey to share their thoughts on open space, recreational opportunities, and priorities for the future. Public feedback will help guide the development of the updated plan, which is required to maintain the Town’s eligibility for State grant funding for conservation and recreation projects.

Residents can complete the survey online at <https://tinyurl.com/yv7b23fy>. Hard copies are also available at Town Hall, the East Brookfield Public Library, and the Senior Center.

The Town encourages all residents to take part and help shape the future of East Brookfield’s parks, recreation resources, and open spaces.



Ecumenical service to be held on West Brookfield Common

WEST BROOKFIELD — The First Congregational Church of W. Brookfield, UCC, and the George Whitefield United Methodist Church will hold an ecumenical Sunday morning worship service on the West Brookfield town common on Sunday, Sept. 20 at 10 a.m. The public is warmly invited to attend. Extra chairs will be available but bringing your own is encouraged. Instead of a collection, it is asked that items for the Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry be brought for donation.

In case of rain, the service will be inside the church at 36 N. Main St.

Please call the Congregational Church for more information at 508-867-7078.

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Ten adults, 200 hours, one new career path

BAY PATH’S CAREER TECHNICAL INITIATIVE GRADUATES THIRD BUILDING MAINTENANCE COHORT

CHARLTON — Bay Path’s Career Technical Initiative (CTI) celebrated its third graduating class of adult learners on Aug. 12, honoring 10 students who completed the 200-hour Building Maintenance certificate program. The graduation luncheon, held on Bay Path’s campus, brings the program’s total number of graduates to 30 since its launch in September 2024.

This cohort traveled to Charlton from Worcester, Spencer, South Grafton, Southbridge, Oxford, Shrewsbury and ranged from 22 to 50 years old. Each will leave the program with supports that can lead to job placement, OSHA 10, Bloodborne Pathogens, Asbestos Awareness, Ladder Safety, Scaffolding Safety and Fall Protection certifications; a year of access to Interplay’s virtual reality trades training simulations and a fully stocked toolbox of the trade, presented at the ceremony in front of family and friends.

“The goal of this program is really to help people get into good-paying, in-demand careers by removing the barriers that often keep adults from going back to school or getting the training they need,” said Jibrael Younis, Operations Manager for Mass Hire, the state agency working with Bay Path to facilitate the CTI program. “We partner with vocational schools like Bay Path to provide industry-focused training that leads directly to employment in fields where employers are actively hiring for jobs that provide sustainable, livable wages.”

Demand for the program continues to grow. Bay Path has scheduled cohorts through 2028, and applications for the next Building Maintenance cohort are open now, closing once the program receives 24 applications or by Aug. 26, whichever comes first. The program is open to all Massachusetts residents 18 and older who qualify.

Among this cohort’s graduates are adult

students charting distinct paths into the trades. One graduate is using the certificate as a springboard toward a career in building inspection.

“I was previously working in the IT field and that field is shrinking because of AI technology. I needed to develop a different skill set,” said Jeff from Worcester. “I feel good, I feel like I accomplished something, taking a first step down a path for a new skill set. Job hunting is my next step; I’m not sure if I’ll go back to the IT field or if I’m going to commit to switching over to facilities maintenance. Regardless, having the skillset will be valuable and even if I don’t do it for a job, I’ll save me thousands if not tens of thousands in the future with home repair and maintenance.”

“I wanted to further my education and knowledge,” said Anne from Worcester. “I liked being in the program; it helped me learn more things. I do renovations. I’m proud. It doesn’t hurt to do it; you get the knowledge, the experience, and you can go out and further your job opportunities and your resume. My plans after this are to find a job, find a house, and try to find something in this career field. Ultimately, I want to join the military but the things I’ve learned here I can take with me.”

Bay Path’s CTI Building Maintenance program prepares adult learners for entry-level careers in building and property maintenance through hands-on and classroom instruction. Since launching in September 2024, the program has graduated 30 adult learners and built a growing pipeline of skilled tradespeople for the state. In addition to Building Maintenance, Bay Path’s CTI offers additional programs in Diesel Technology, HVAC, Electrical, Welding, Automotive Collision Repair, Automotive Technology, Culinary, and Manufacturing.



Courtesy
Seated, left to right: R. Zhou (Grafton), L. Pena (Southbridge), D.Raczka (Spencer), A. Vasquez (Worcester). From left to right, standing: Y. Mao (Grafton), W. Vega (Worcester), J. Wickens (Worcester), S. Shankara (Shrewsbury), J. Sweet (Worcester), and J. Watler (Worcester).

EAGAN

continued from page A1

Select Board member Beth Coughlin summed up the sentiment of the board.

“Ryan actually has the most hands-on doing the work and municipal experience of any of the three candidates,” she said.

While Eagan was not present to witness to vote, he had previously provided insight into his plans for the community during his interview on Aug. 5.

There he detailed his background in municipal government, which dates back to high school, including working in management roles for several mayors and roles in communication, health, and economic development.

opment.

He said his future is with municipal government, and he looked forward to the opportunity to take the next step in his career with Brookfield.

“I think, at the end of the day, Brookfield and I are kind of in the same place. I’m mid-career, if you will, or just after beginning of a career where I have enough experience, but I still have the energy. So, I’m very much looking for a small community to be in a management role to set down roots and to invest,” Eagan said in his interview.

The board will now proceed with working out a contract with Eagan. An official start date was not finalized or announced during the Aug. 10 meeting.

BROULLON

continued from page A1

a training thing,” Cusolito said.

Broullon himself said he was ready for the new challenge, thanking the Select Board for putting their trust in him to lead the Emergency Management Department.

“I’m grateful for the opportunity after 30 years of serving as a firefighter and a captain to take this

new responsibility and I plan on making sure that we have continuity and redundancy, that no one person or one plan can make anything fail,” he said.

Broullon’s first request following his appointment was that the Select Board establish a clear direct line of communication, assigning a board liaison for him to communicate with to ensure all updates get to the Select Board at-large.

“Bay Path has been such a great partner because they provide excellent hands-on training that’s aligned with what local employers are looking for, giving graduates in-demand skills and credentials that make them immediately employable for local jobs that offer

REGION — As the Bartlett High School Class of 1986 prepares to celebrate its 40th reunion on Sept. 26, organizers are asking the community for assistance in locating classmates who have not yet been reached through social media or via text.

To make the process simple, the reunion committee has created a short contact-information form and is encouraging residents, friends, and former classmates to help spread the word. If you know someone on the “missing classmates” list, organizers ask that you text them the link to the form so they can update their information.

Contact Info Form: <https://tinyurl.com/BHS1986-40Years>

If it’s easier, you may also complete the form on a classmate’s behalf—so long as you have their current contact details. Organizers

great wages,” Younis said. “Beyond the classroom, participants also receive support throughout the process including job readiness, career coaching and connecting directly to employers. Through Bay Path and MassHire, we can often help with supportive services, providing free tools and equipment, and funding for transportation and even childcare, so people can focus on completing their training instead of worrying about those barriers.”

About Bay Path
Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical

High School prepares students for both college and careers through a rigorous blend of academic coursework and hands-on technical training. Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Bay Path serves ten Southern Worcester County communities: Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, North Brookfield, Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Southbridge, Spencer, and Webster. Opening in 1972 atop Muggett Hill, the school has spent more than five decades offering 23 career areas alongside its academic program.

BHS Class of 1986 seeks community’s help locating classmates for 40th reunion

emphasize that any help tracking them down is truly appreciated, as personal connections often succeed where digital outreach falls short.

A list of classmates the committee is hoping to locate appears below. With the community’s support, they hope every member of the Class of ’86 will have the opportunity to join this milestone celebration.

Peter Allain
Beth Antonopoulos
Marie Aperges
Andrew Baca
Austin Bailey
David Beardsley
Frank Belanger
Carolyn Bembencik
Richard Bernier
Sheila Bialoncik
Beth Bialy
Jason Borski
Doreen Bourget
Eric Brisbois
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Stephen Carlson
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Tammy Deschenes
Aaron Dorcas
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James Gardner
Jeffrey Gatto
Tina Giakoumis
Alicia Goudreau
Richard Guerin
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Joseph Hughes
Melissa Jankowski
Thor Johnson
Nena Johnston
Lisa Kozlowski
Robert Krasnecky
Jill Krause

Michael Kryger
Rick Lawson
Deborah Leite
Linda Lifer
Patricia Majewski
Renee Marchand
Jennifer Marsh
Jennifer Mason
John Meagher
Fumiyo Mochizuki
Deborah Munsch
Brett Napierata
Wayne Parmentier
Brian Poplawski
Gary Poplawski
Edward Powers
William Radcliffe
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Collin Salmon
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Theresa Sergel
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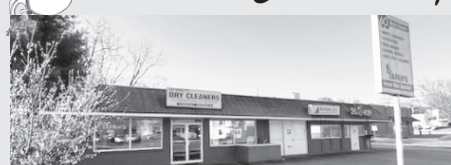
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Webster ~ 33 Slater Street



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Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce announces Leadership Worcester Class of 2027

WORCESTER — The Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce recently announced the selection of 28 talented professionals who will make up the class of 2027 of Leadership Worcester:

First name	Last name	Employer
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Jennessa	Burks	Allureativity
Shantelle	Campbell	City of Worcester
Harolyn	Castillo	CWE & World of Foods
Angelina	DiGioia	Guild of St. Agnes
David Echavarria	Toro	EzBusy.ai & Masis Staffing Solutions
Levi	Ekstrom	Open Sky Community Services
Miguel	Fernandez	Nazario Streetplus LLC & Downtown Worcester BID
Liza	French	Worcester Public Library & Century 21
Jennie Guzman	Quinsigamond	Community College & El Sal6n
ShelbyHutchinson	Keller Williams	Boston Metrowest & Raymond Media
Nathan	Lewis	Worcester Earn-A-Bike
Brendan	Madigan F.W.	Madigan Company, Inc.
MeganMoran	Worcester State	University
Landon	Parr	City of Worcester
Mitzila	Pineda	Workers Credit Union
Sabrina	Rashid	DCU Center
Yessica	Rivas	Unibank
Xena Robinson	Mahanaim Law, P.C.	
Shane	SampsonFontaine Bros. Inc.	
JessicaSarita	Sara's Auto Sales, Inc. & MassAbility	

Elizabeth	Shea	UMass Memorial Health
Tina Vo	Heywood Primary Care, Self Employed, UMass Chan	
Jaclyn Wallen	Resiliency Collective & A Deeper Way	
Leah Wilson	REALTOR® Association of Central MA	

The class was carefully selected by committee and includes a diverse group of individuals committed to Leadership Worcester. The selection committee sought motivated individuals who aspire to take an active leadership role in the city and who want work collaboratively across sectors on system changes. The selected applicants were notified this July.

The 2027 class will get underway on Sept. 10, with an overnight retreat offering participants an opportunity to get to know one another, determine individual leadership strengths, and to understand more about the Worcester community.

Monthly sessions will explore topics that are critical to the city. The daylong sessions will take place one Thursday a month from October through May and culminate in a graduation in June 2027. Session topics include Urban Sustainability, Education, Economic Development, Public Health, Community Safety, Government, Arts & Culture, and Food Security.

Karen Pelletier, Executive Vice President of the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce, said, "The Leadership Worcester Class of 2027 is the 12th cohort since the Chamber relaunched the program. Although the Chamber previously conducted a similar initiative for many years, it paused in 2000. Since restarting in 2015, the program has become highly competitive—this year alone, we received 62 completed applications for just 28 available slots. Leaders and stakeholders from diverse sectors volunteer their time to design each session, fostering a knowledgeable network of future leaders for our city."

Timothy P. Murray, President and CEO of the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce, said,

"Worcester's continued success depends on leaders who build strong networks beyond their own organizations and sectors and develop a broad understanding of the community around them. Leadership Worcester gives emerging leaders the opportunity to build those relationships, deepen their understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing our city, and learn from the people and organizations doing this work every day. We are excited to welcome the Class of 2027 and see how they will use this experience to help shape Worcester's future."

The cost to participate in the program is \$3,200. Scholarship assistance from employers and a number of Worcester foundations including: Greater Worcester Community Foundation, George F. and Sybil H. Fuller Foundation, George I. Alden Trust, Stoddard Charitable Trust, Hoche-Scofield Foundation, the Fletcher Foundation, the City of Worcester, Peter Staiti, and the Leadership Worcester Alumni Fund which is made up from alumni donations.

Applications for the next class will be available online in February 2027. For more information, visit www.leadershipworcester.com.

About the Chamber
The Chamber is dedicated to strengthening the local business community and supporting a vibrant regional economy. Through advocacy, connections, resources, and programs, the Chamber brings together businesses, community leaders, and partners to create opportunities for growth and collaboration. The Chamber serves as a trusted voice for its members and works to make the region a great place to live, work, and do business.



Family Dining & Gift Guide

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

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

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