



# SPENCER NEW LEADER

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Friday, August 8, 2025

## Riders descend on region for Pan-Mass Challenge

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

REGION — Riders from throughout the nation descended on central Massachusetts last weekend for the annual Pan-Mass Challenge.

Held on Aug. 2 & 3, the event brought together thousands of riders, volunteers, and guests in support of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

“The PMC is a fully supported bike-a-thon that provides riders with fundraising tools and guidance; meals and snacks at hub sites; water stops along routes; and mechanical and medical assistance,” read a statement released by PMC leaders.

The PMC offers 14 routes of varying distances to participants. Several local riders train throughout the year to be ready for the big weekend, with some participants accepting the challenge of an extended ride.

“As always, I ride for the angels above us and the warriors among us,” said West Brookfield’s Jessica Piwowski, a long-time member of Team De-Feet Cancer. “I ride for hope, for change, for a cure.”

Piwowski’s employer, Landry’s Bicycles, took on a larger role this year in support of the PMC at three major hub sites: Sturbridge, Wellesley, and Bourne.



Courtesy

Riders support the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute with their participation in the annual Pan-Mass Challenge.

“This has been a huge undertaking for me as the PMC liaison for Landry’s. I am so lucky that I get to combine something I’m so passionate about with a job I love and my love for bikes,” Piwowski

told the New Leader.

Now in her 12th year of PMC participation, Piwowski carried 117 names on her bike this year. Her teammates and supporters also honored those

who lost their battles with cancer, as well as those currently fighting the disease.

The PMC raises more money for charity than any other single athletic fundraising

event in the country. All funds raised by the event support the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, a world leader in adult and pediatric cancer treatment and research.

“Each summer, thousands of riders and volunteers from 43 states and 12 countries participate in the PMC,” read the statement released by event leaders. “One hundred percent of all rider-raised funds go directly to cancer research and treatment at Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund.”

The PMC is Dana-Farber’s single largest supporter. Since 1980, the event has raised roughly \$1.05 billion for Dana-Farber.

To learn more about the PMC and how you can join the fight against cancer by making a donation, visit [www.pmc.org](http://www.pmc.org). After arriving at the website, you can search for a rider, team, or volunteer; read their stories; and make a donation to support their goals.

Event leaders thank all volunteers, sponsors, supporters, and riders who make the PMC possible each year.

Additionally, all public safety agencies involved in the event are thanked for their efforts. Several police departments across the state, as well as members of the State Police, team up to ensure security along the course.

## School officials prepare to move into renovated DPHS

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — With construction work proceeding on schedule over the summer at David Prouty High School, it’s almost time for school officials to furnish the new facility.

Prouty’s new gymnasium, classroom wing, and track facilities are all on schedule to open in time for the upcoming school year. Several projects took place over the summer to finalize the new spaces for the start of classes.

“The David Prouty High School building project is on target, and has received what is needed to occupy the space,” said Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District Superintendent Paul Haughey. “A final walkthrough is planned later in the month by the fire department and inspectional services of the town, and we should be able to begin moving in shortly thereafter.”

After all approvals have been secured, furnishings and other items will be moved into the new facilities.

In recent weeks, crews also performed abatement and demolition work on the school’s old academic wing. This will allow for further work on the site to take place.

Nick Pimentel, a construction representative for Colliers Engineering and Design (the project’s OPM), detailed several final projects that were completed throughout the summer.

Turn To **DPHS** page **A14**

## Leicester Fair set for Sept. 20

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — With the return of school fast approaching – and days getting shorter again – local crafters and growers are getting ready for the always busy autumn festival season.

The Route 9 corridor features several fun fall traditions each year, including the beloved Leicester Harvest Fair held on the Town Common.

This year’s fair is set for Saturday, Sept. 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dozens of crafters, food vendors, and performers will make the day memorable for guests of all ages at the event, held rain or shine. Local organizations, agencies, and officials will also stop in to say hello to families, including first responders, library leaders, and representatives of other town departments.

“The Harvest Fair Committee works long and hard all year to put on a fun-filled, educational event. Their dedication and focus to detail is obvious throughout the fair,” said Select Board Chairman Doug Belanger.

After two consecutive years of rainy, windy weather, guests are hopeful for a bright fall day on the Common. The event will once again feature special displays and exhibits, as well as local students and Scouting groups getting involved.

Officials thank festival organizers and volunteers for their hard work in making the event a success each year. Local students also enjoy the opportunity to volunteer, help crafters unload, greet guests, and showcase programs at their schools.

“I always look forward to the Harvest Fair. This year, our students will be promoting our five Career Technical Education programs: nursing, culinary, electrical, building and property maintenance, and early education and care,” said Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Brett Kustigian.

Additionally, local guests are thanked for their strong support of area crafters each year, not only at Harvest Fair but events throughout the region.

“I am consistently impressed with the number of volunteers and the community spirit generated by the fair,” Kustigian added. “It’s a great day for Leicester and our neighboring communities. My favorite part is judging all the scrumptious baked goods in the morning. I wish every day could start like this.”

Guests are reminded to follow all parking regulations and restrictions around the Common, as the event typically draws a large crowd.

Additional information about the fair will be posted to the town Web site.

## Firefighters offer safety tips to local campers



BY KEVIN FLANDERS

STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Members of the fire department recently visited local students at their summer program to share fire safety tips.

On July 31, Leicester Fire Department personnel stopped by the elementary school to greet kids participating in the district’s annual Extended School Year program.

The fire safety session enabled students to tour a fire truck; learn about LFD protective equipment; ask questions of firefighters; and even spray water at targets

from a hose.

Additionally, kids learned about what to do in the event of a fire, as well as tips for preventing fires.

“The partnership between our schools and the Leicester Fire Department couldn’t be better. They teach so much more than fire safety; they teach life lessons that our students will remember forever,” said Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Brett Kustigian. “LFD always goes the extra mile, and I am grateful for the countless firefighters who vol-

unteer their time to work with our students.”

LFD firefighters always enjoy the opportunity to meet youngsters and help them get started early on fire safety education. The summer sessions help build on programming that takes place during the school year, officials said.

“Public education is so important when trying to prevent fires in the home,” said Jonathan Plante, who serves as an instructor with the fire department.

School leaders thank Melissa McCormick, a

district team chair who serves as the coordinator of the Extended School Year program.

This year’s summer program enrolled approximately 100 kids, who enjoyed three-hour sessions during four days weekly. Participants are able to take part in academic activities, crafts, and fun community programs like the fire safety lessons.

“We are lucky to have the fire department come here every year,” McCormick told the New Leader.

Turn To **SAFETY** page **A14**



# Officials call for changes in state education funding formula

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

REGION — Following another challenging budget season in communities across the area, officials are ramping up calls for major changes to state education funding formulas.

The Chapter 70 program, a formula-driven system, provides state aid to public schools to support operations. But officials throughout the state say the system is broken, placing added pressure on already strained municipal budgets.

“Spencer-East Brookfield, like a lot of school districts, does not get big increases in Chapter 70,” said Spencer Selectman Ralph Hicks, a former school superintendent. “The burden falls back on the communities, and we end up behind the eightball.”

Municipal leaders statewide have also expressed frustrations with increases in the “required local contribution.” This represents the annual amount communities are mandated by the state to pay for education.

“It’s unfair to see substantial increases. Every year they tell you what has to be raised, and it makes it hard to run a town when you have no choice but to pay it,” Hicks added. “If you don’t pay, the state will take it out of the town’s local aid.”

Officials said the state formulas are especially problematic for towns like Spencer and East Brookfield that belong to rural, regional school districts. With recent increases in funding demands imposed on communities by the state, several towns have struggled to afford the minimum amount of the required local contribution.

“Any formula that is going to increase a required payment by more than 2.5 percent per year creates structural deficits in the town’s finances,” said Spencer Town

Administrator Jeffrey Bridges. “The annual required contribution the Town of Spencer must provide between the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District and Bay Path Regional Vocational School increases year to year by more than what the town can raise by the entire 2.5 increment in taxation.”

Additionally, with students able to choose alternate vocational schools, towns are often left covering the costs of both tuition and transportation, officials said.

“Additional Chapter 70 aid helps the school, but does not relieve the town of the crushing increases in the local required contribution,” Bridges said.

Added Bridges, “The Commonwealth just approved a \$60.9 billion budget. Approximately \$7.6 of that goes toward pre-k to grade 12 education. Is this the level of commitment necessary to properly provide for the education of the youth of Massachusetts?”

In May, a pair of Proposition 2 ½ override requests failed at Spencer’s Annual Town Election. One of the questions (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 to meet the state-mandated required local contribution for school funding.

Several other local communities and school departments have also faced difficult budgetary decisions in recent years. This past spring, North Brookfield school officials outlined several budget reductions slated for the current fiscal year. Staff realignments and offsets yielded a total savings of \$225,344, including a salary reduction for the high school principal position from \$128,000 to \$115,000.

“You’re seeing more and more communities that are going for overrides every year. Some are successful and some are not, but they’re constantly trying to find more money to support their school districts,” North Brookfield Public Schools Superintendent Tim McCormick told guests during a budget hearing earlier this year.

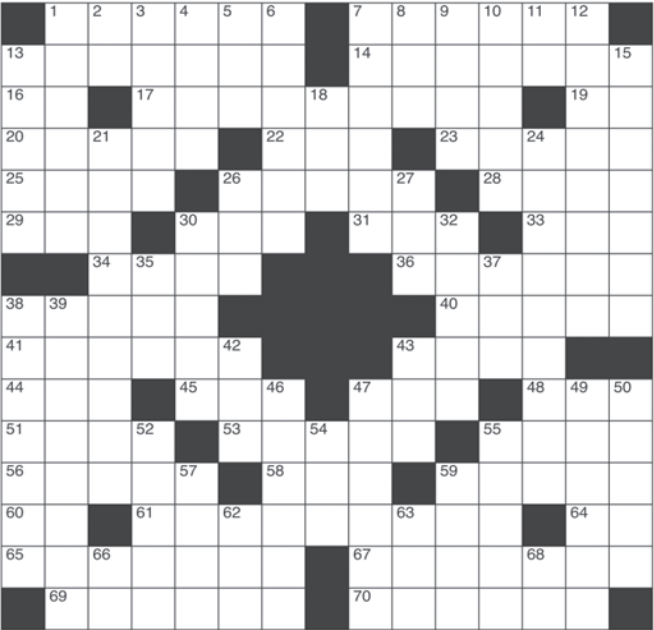
As local funding obligations continue to increase – and town officials and residents alike warn that the demands are unaffordable – many leaders insist that changes in state formulas are necessary to ensure that major cuts aren’t made in educational programming and staffing.

“I am entering my 17th year as a school superintendent in central Massachusetts. Having worked in two different districts (regional and municipal), school funding has always been – and continues to be – one of the biggest challenges superintendents face,” said Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Brett Kustigian. “The constant increase in expenses, coupled with uncertainty in state and federal budgets, makes school budgeting incredibly challenging.”

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### CLUES ACROSS

1. Spiritual leaders

7. Salt

13. Fortified wine

14. Edible mollusk

16. They precede C

17. A way to compare

19. State lawyer

20. “Game of Thrones” actor Ciaran

22. Eighth month (abbr.)

23. Very willing

25. \_\_\_ ex machina

26. Satisfies

28. Mountain in New Zealand

29. A doctrine

30. Popular Dodge truck model

31. Dekagram

33. Naturally occurring solid

34. Company officer

36. Villains

38. Cricket frogs
40. One of the founders of modern psychology

41. Endured

43. A female domestic

44. You can get stuck in one

45. Partner to feather

47. Passive optical network

48. French ballet dynasty

51. Employee stock ownership plan

53. Bottom layer

55. Sound

56. Yankee great Judge

58. Dickens character

59. Late beloved TNT sportscaster

60. South Dakota

61. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule

64. Gold

65. Longtime Braves hurler Julio

67. Humor

69. Shawl

70. Hospital unit

### CLUES DOWN

1. Animal disease

2. Commercial

3. Necklace materials

4. Containers

5. Investment account

6. Colorado Heisman Trophy winner

7. Dipped down

8. Head injury category (abbr.)

9. Lay about

10. Intestinal

11. Not yes

12. Caused to be loved

13. Muslim spiritual leader

15. Showing sincere conviction

18. Not in

21. Number above the line in a fraction

24. Lawn pest

26. Pouch

27. Ancient language in India (abbr.)

30. Start over
32. Wild white flower

35. Fourteen

37. Visual way to interact with computer (abbr.)

38. Side by side and facing the same way

39. Religious conflicts

42. Touch lightly

43. “Boardwalk Empire” actress Gretchen

46. Violent seizure of property

47. One who supports the pope

49. Malaise

50. Body fluid

52. Inauthentic person

54. Title of respect

55. Chilean city

57. Japanese city

59. Silk garment

62. Draw from

63. Automobile

66. The man

68. Top government lawyer

## Paxton-Area Seniors announce bus trip to Maine

PAXTON — On Wednesday, Sept. 17 at 8:30 a.m., the Paxton-Area Seniors Bus Trip is slated for a special treat. After an early lunch at Jonathan’s, a cherished Ogunquit, Maine, dining spot since 1976, our destination is Kennebunkport’s famed Seashore Trolley Museum where we can visit three carhouses filled with beautiful restored trolleys and more. Visit the Restoration Shop, explore the trolley exhibit halls, tour some trolleys (more than 320 are in their collection, reconditioned or in various stages thereof) and have a ride on their carefully-restored century-old streetcar on their private heritage railroad and top it off with a visit to the museum store. And the brand new Maine Central Model Railroad Building. They also have a year-round satellite museum, National Streetcar Museum, located in Lowell, Mass.


Once our Trolley Museum visit is complete, we will board Intown Trolley’s open-air trolley for a 60-minute narrated sightseeing tour of Kennebunkport and region. Highlights are President H.W. Bush’s summer estate at Walker’s Point, Saint Anthony’s Franciscan Monastery, stunning sandy beaches, Spouting Rock, Blowing Cave, local shops, hotels and restaurants. Learn firsthand the best local places to shop, stay and dine, thanks to our knowledgeable guide. Light amount of walking on this trip.

Lunch at Jonathan’s in Ogunquit consists of a house salad, then your choice of Chicken Piccata (boneless chicken sauteed with lemon, capers, butter and wine); Lemon Baked Scrod with lemon, beurre blanc and seasoned crumbs; or Roast Pork Loin finished with natural pan gravy. Cap off this delicious meal with chef’s choice of dessert with coffee and tea.

Enroute home, we will make a brief stop at the Seabrook, New Hampshire Rest Area; we are slated to arrive back in Paxton between 8:15 and 8:30 p.m..

The \$157 per person price covers the day’s events except for driver’s gratuity; a lovely lunch menu at highly-regarded Jonathan’s Restaurant with attractive gardens and grounds in Ogunquit (last year we even had a few minutes of entertainment (jokes) by one of the waiters!, then the exhibits, trolley cars and our trolley ride around Seashore Trolley Museum’s acreage, finishing the afternoon with the Intown Trolley guided tour around Kennebunkport and area as described above.

For information and reservations, call Deb Grensavitch at 508.754.6366 or email her at grensavitchd@aol.com. Please make per person \$157 payment out to Paxton FOCOA and mail it , along with your choice of entree(s), to Deb Grensavitch, 88 Laurel St., Paxton, MA 01612-1234. Payment is due Aug. 27, and is non-refundable unless ticket(s) can be re-sold. We hope you’ll join this friendly group of travelers!



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## SPENCER ALMANAC

### REAL ESTATE

#### BROOKFIELD

None  
EAST BROOKFIELD  
\$85,000, 108 Rice Rd, Cormier & Sons Const & Hm, to Kobel, Denise.

#### LEICESTER

\$1,500,000, 145 Clark St, Bonner, Derek, to Leicester Storage LLC.  
\$439,900, 5 Victoria Dr #33, Briarcliff Estates Sv LLC, to Siequist, Jean.  
\$260,000, 1024 Stafford St #1024, Dp Property Holdings LLC, to Njenje, Rithina, and Minja, Rose.  
\$50,000, 452 Pine St, Pmz Development LLC, to Carbonneau, Edward J.

#### NORTH BROOKFIELD

\$575,000, 118 Oakham Rd, Turning Pt Hm Buyers LLC, to Shipman, Samuel T, and Shipman, Jillian M.  
\$390,000, 76 Old East Brookfield Rd, Kristen A Lofgren T, and Lofgren, Kristen A, to Sands, Wilfred I.  
\$390,000, 78 Old East Brookfield Rd, Kristen A Lofgren T, and Lofgren, Kristen A, to Sands, Wilfred I.

#### SPENCER

\$805,000, 13 Pleasant St, Kab Properties LLC, to M L Novia Realty LLC.  
\$462,000, 15 Smithville Rd, Hunt, Justin A, and Kheim, Samantha M, to Jwanowski, John P, and Dzindolet, Dong L.  
\$430,000, 42 Northwest Rd, Summers, Karen W, to Gonsalves, Jacob W, and Woodworth, Emily E.  
\$400,000, 40 Brooks Pond Rd, Brooks Pond Road Rt, and Petrozzi, Sara, to Fwp Realty Partners LLC.  
\$399,000, 40 Irving St, Hamel, Joseph, and Hamel, Dorothy, to Ross, Brett A.  
\$389,900, 49 Church St, Kay, Ralph W, and Kay, Ada I, to Black Dog Rentals LLC.  
\$175,000, 31 Clark St, Parmenter, Sharon H, and Phh Mortgage Corp, to G1 Foss LLC.  
\$10,000, Wilson Ave, Beford, Janet, to Myhaver, Luke, and Lacaire, Margaret.

#### WARREN

None  
WEST BROOKFIELD  
\$565,000, 20 Central St, Pennie, David M, and Pennie, Cheryl A, to Aa & Z LLC.

### PUZZLE SOLUTION





### While Supplies Last



# Victor Moisan earns faculty honors at Georgia Tech

ATLANTA, Ga. — Victor Moisan of Leicester earned the distinction of Faculty Honors for Spring 2025 at the Georgia Institute of Technology. This designation is awarded to undergraduate students who have earned a 4.0 academic average for the semester.

Learn about Georgia Tech's goal to attract, retain, and inspire more students by visiting Transforming Tomorrow: The Campaign for Georgia Tech, and read more about Georgia Tech's accomplished scholars on Gold Letters: A Spotlight on Student Achievement.

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states and territories and more than 146 countries. They study at the main campus in Atlanta, at instructional sites around the world, and through distance and online learning.

As a leading technological university, Georgia Tech is an engine of economic development for Georgia, the Southeast, and the nation, conducting more than \$1 billion in research annually for government, industry, and society.

For more information, visit [gatech.edu](http://gatech.edu).

# Spencer Police Association holding annual golf tournament

SPENCER — The Spencer Police Association invites community members to support its fifth annual golf tournament next month.

The event is set for Saturday, Sept. 20, at Quail Hollow Country Club in Oakham. The program will include a day of golf, raffles, contests, and a BBQ dinner—all while supporting community causes.

This annual fundraiser allows the Spencer Police Association to give back to the community in several ways.

These include awarding college scholarships to local students; providing holiday gifts for the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District Christmas party; and donating Thanksgiving meals to families through the Spencer Food Bank.

Local assistance also allows officials to support several other community-based programs throughout the year.

“Whether you’re signing up a team, sponsoring a hole, or donating to our prize table, your involvement directly helps us

continue these efforts,” read a statement released by event organizers. “We truly appreciate the community’s continued support, and we look forward to another successful and fun tournament.”

Registration for the event starts at 7 a.m. A shotgun start will take place at 8 a.m.

The tournament cost is \$125 per player.

To register for the event, or to learn more about the tournament, please send an email to: [SpencerPoliceGolf@gmail.com](mailto:SpencerPoliceGolf@gmail.com).



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# The bookstore in the basement is “not Barnes & Noble”



Gus Steeves

Mary Gelezunas emerges from the Monson Unitarian Church after last Friday's bookstore closing time.

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

Just off Main Street in downtown Monson, there's an independent bookstore tucked into the Unitarian Church.

It's been there all of this century so far, but has no sign, no distinct name, not even many hours – just first Fridays 5:30-7:30 p.m. and third Saturdays 10 a.m.-1 p.m. But it has personality, especially if you like the chance of finding books in a well-stocked basement. Or, better yet, in the old “wine cellar” down the ramp behind that.

None of the people who founded it in 1999 are still around, but Mary Gelezunas took up the baton of running it as a volunteer back in 2004. She's not alone; she described its continued existence as “a labor of love by volunteers who are all book lovers.” It's also entirely reliant on donations – and gets quite a few of them.

“This is not Barnes & Noble,” she adds. “We have no control over what's donated.”

On the flip side, she added, they see this as “a community service for people (for whom) going to Barnes & Noble would be cost-prohibitive.” Books are mostly 50 cents to \$2.

Over the years, they've seen some quirky things come through. A 1950s home economics textbook. The original Alcoholics Anonymous book from the 1930s. An 1890s History of Germany that still had the stamp of the Prescott Public Library – a town that's been under the Quabbin Reservoir since the 1930s. A teaching atlas of Latin American history. A first edition copy of Uncle Tom's Cabin. Various long out-of-print books from private collections and estate donations.

“This place is dedicated to the art of browsing,” Gelezunas said, who noted the store has more than 10,000 titles.

The Unitarian Church bookstore began in 1999 as an idea of several church members, including then-selectman Ed Harrison, who “built it with scrap lumber cobbled together.” One of those founders “used a bandsaw down there to cut the bindings off” books they didn't sell and wanted to recycle.

Today, the church doesn't have a Web site nor even its own phone number to save money. But the store still comes up online if you google “Monson UU Church bookstore” or look at booksalefinder.com. Its hours are still the same as they were on a Facebook post from June 2019.

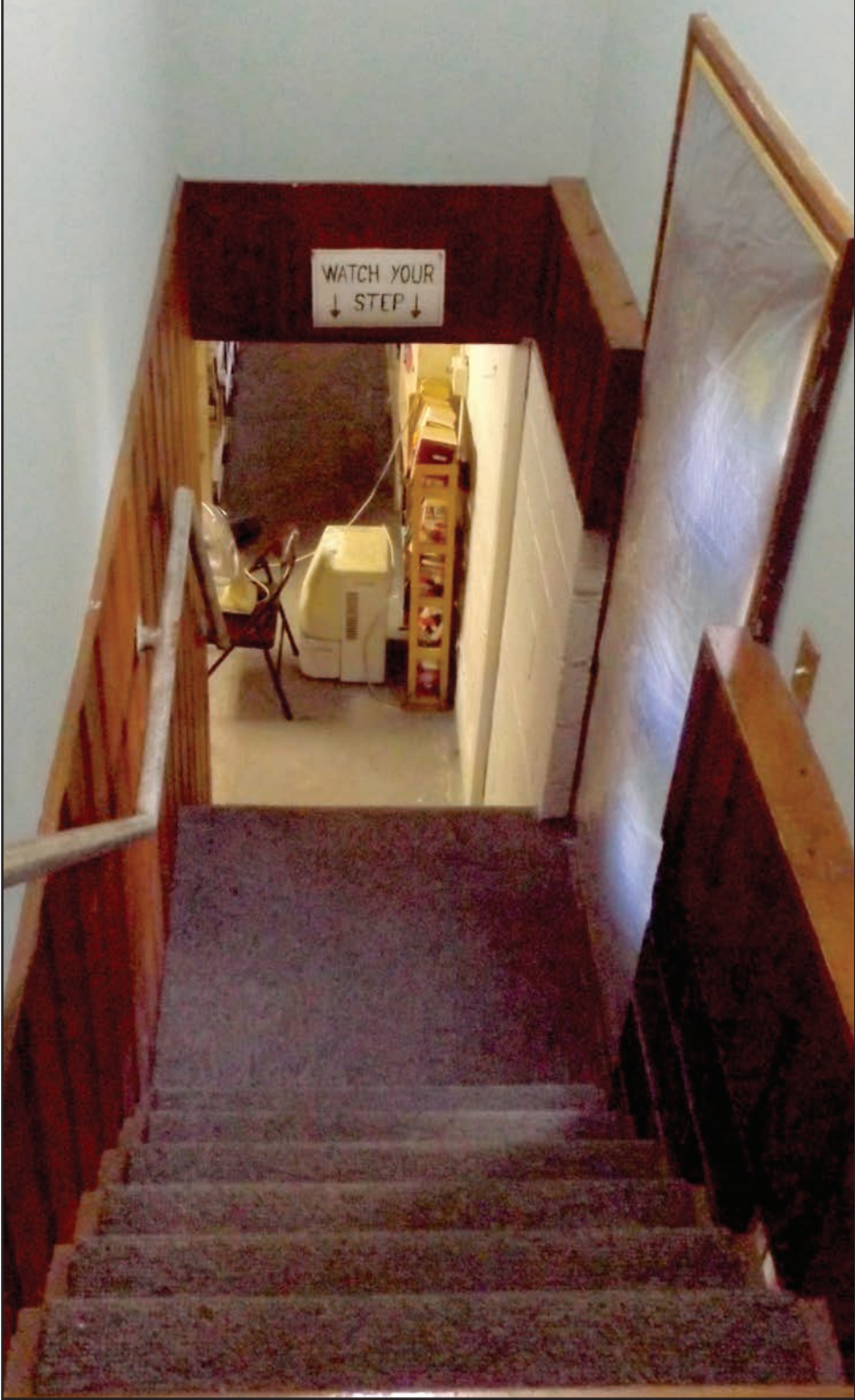
To find the books, you have to go through the church's main hall, which is festooned with another of the church's quirks – it houses a regional club for sewing machines, both electric and pedal-driven. Several of those machines are semi-permanently on display around the room, with several of them more than a century old and from foreign countries. Most of them are still useable, and when the club meets, they get used.

Beyond that, you'll go up the ramp, take a right and find a steep staircase down. At the bottom, the sign says

“watch your step,” but tall people really should watch their heads. Passing through that doorway brings you into a bibliophile's world of wonders.

The first section is mysteries, but browsing through the place, you'll find pretty much everything – fiction, science, religion (mostly not your typical spirituality), kids' books and biography. Make your way through the white door and down a second ramp into the “wine cellar,” and there's still more, including history, art, science fiction and fantasy, among other things.

With the rise of the internet, many people buy only what they're specifically seeking (and maybe what some corporate algorithm recommends), but miss out



The stairs down to the bookstore. Watch your head!

on the possibility of the unexpected finds a small store can have.

“The appearance of Amazon.com in 1995 led to a significant decline in the number of independent bookstores in the United States, leading many analysts to predict the demise of the sector,” reported Ryan Raffaelli of Harvard Business School in his 2020 paper ‘Reinventing Retail: the Novel Resurgence of Independent Bookstores.’ “However, between 2009 and 2018 independent bookstores proved to be far more resilient than expected. The American Booksellers Association (ABA) reported a 49% percent growth in the number of “indie” booksellers, from 1,651 in 2009 to 2,470 in 2018.”

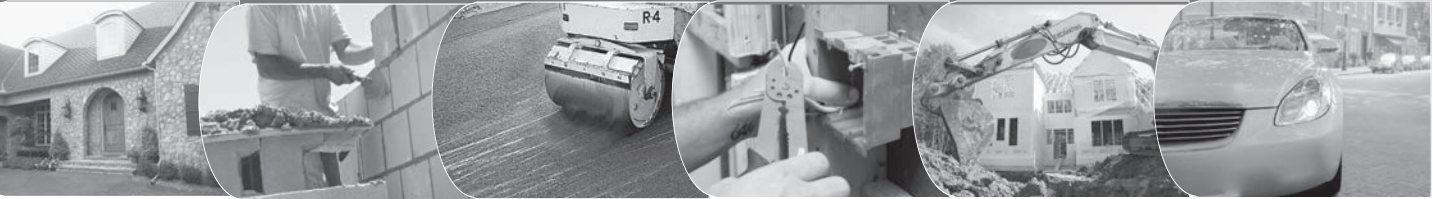
To counter Amazon and other

big-business competition, Raffaelli observes, “A core segment of book-buying consumers who drive sales in independent bookstores is attached to the bookstores' communal identity. When a consumer shops at an independent bookstore, they are reinforcing a set of beliefs that they have about themselves and their ability to contribute to the economic welfare of their local community.”

The paper's online at [https://www.hbs.edu/ris/Publication%20Files/20-068\\_c19963e7-506c-479a-beb4-bb339c-d293ee.pdf](https://www.hbs.edu/ris/Publication%20Files/20-068_c19963e7-506c-479a-beb4-bb339c-d293ee.pdf).

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BRENDAN BERUBE  
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

# The case for silence

We don't get much silence anymore. Even when the world is technically quiet, there's the hum of the refrigerator, the buzz of notifications, the constant chatter in our heads. We've gotten so used to noise that the idea of sitting in a car with nothing but the sound of the tires on the road feels almost rebellious.

Lately, we've realized how amazing real silence is. No radio, no podcast. Just us, our thoughts, and the steady rhythm of driving. It has been a reset button we didn't know we needed.

Science actually backs this up. A 2013 study published in Brain, Structure and Function found that periods of silence, just two hours of it, can help the brain generate new cells in the hippocampus, the part of the brain linked to memory and emotion. Other research has shown that quiet time lowers cortisol (the stress hormone) and lets the brain shift from "react" mode to "reflect" mode. In short: silence isn't empty, it's restorative.

We live in a world that treats silence like a gap to be filled. We fill it with scrolling, streaming, playlists, background noise and anything to avoid just... being. But what if the thing we're avoiding is the very thing our minds crave?

Driving in silence has become our version of meditation. It's where ideas show up uninvited. It's where we notice the scenery we usually speed past. It's where our brains, exhausted from the constant feed of information, finally exhales.

Silence isn't a luxury — it's fuel. The more we give ourselves those pockets of quiet, whether it's in the car or just sitting at our kitchen table, we can feel our brains unclenching.

So, here is our challenge to you: turn off the noise for ten minutes. Drive in silence and let your thoughts wander. In a world that keeps shouting for your attention, you might be surprised what you hear when everything else finally stops.

## 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

### Deep in what, exactly?

To the Editor:

My wife received a questionnaire and accompanying letter from the "non-partisan" Heritage Foundation, which she shared with me. There were 13 questions, and the foundation asked that she answer at least the first six brief questions. Rather than send them the responses plus their requested registration (plus tax-deductible gift), I decided to share what my responses would be to these six brief questions. I will try to be brief.

1) How would you describe the current levels of taxation imposed on Americans?

Which Americans? Many of the poor are already living in poverty and unable to own a house or build any equity. Yet Trump's tariffs are essentially a tax that impacts all of us, especially those already destitute. The Citizens United decision declared that corporations have the rights of individuals. Yet many of the wealthiest corporations pay virtually nothing in taxes because of very carefully constructed loopholes. Donald Trump would not allow the public to see his income taxes, and the reason became clear when we eventually learned he paid incredibly little.

2) Overall, do you believe Washington is spending too much money? "Washington" is a pretty broad term. Unfortunately, tremendous sums are being spent to deal with frivolous law suits, military parades, and damages resulting from failure of the current administration to prevent adequate responses to disasters (such as firing critical personnel just before the onset of the hurricane season). Does the sending of immigrants to prisons abroad or detention centers such as "Alligator Alcatraz," without due process and humane treatment, worth any supposed savings. A man bringing his child to a daycare center in Oregon was recently arrested by ICE agents who drove up in unmarked cars, failed to provide a warrant or any identification, and failed to provide the standard rights that help protect all of us from the tyranny of an autocratic government. How much is our democracy worth? Would you be willing to sell it for a 10% reduction in income tax? Speaking of tax deductions, the Heritage Foundation claimed that the gift to them would be tax-deductible. I have difficulty picturing them as a charitable organization.

3) Do you see the federal government as too large and powerful? The framers of our Constitution, worrying about the risk of a future president declaring himself a king and destroying representative government, thoughtfully placed checks and balances to limit the power of the president or any one branch of the government. Unfortunately, that balance of power has been sorely weakened by a conservative majority of the US Supreme Court that now has enabled a convicted felon and sex offender to do the unthinkable, giving him the "right" to

commit crimes without consequence supposedly in the pursuit of his duties as President. It appears that blatant disregard for the rules of law or for the rights of immigrants and citizens, as well as threats to our media and universities are now all part of his job description, as well as using his position as President to blatantly accept bribes such as billions in investments in his family's ventures, and gifts worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

4) Do you believe that policy makers have drifted too far from Constitution principles that should guide American's laws? Are you kidding? Section 3 of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution clearly forbids those from ever holding office who have sworn to protect the Constitution yet "have engaged in insurrection or rebellion, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof." How many police were injured or killed trying to defend against that mob of "patriots?" I believe giving a complete pardon to all attackers, regardless of violent crimes committed, would qualify as a source of comfort.

5) Do you think that Republicans in Washington can be doing more to represent US. conservatives and lead the way for limited government and lower taxes? They appear to be doing a great job of representing the wealthiest of the wealthy, passing a "beautiful bill" that will give huge tax deductions to wealthy individuals and corporations. How are they doing that? Raise the debt ceiling and cut funds for medical research, environmental protection, Medicare, Medicaid, and the social support that many in this country and abroad need. Pollution of the water we drink, the air we breathe, the food we eat, and the few remaining pristine wildernesses we cherish does not appear to be a relevant cost to consider. Many of the states that voted for Trump will suffer the greatest consequences, with health care access being one the first casualties. By now, most Americans appreciate the seriousness of the climate crisis, yet the Trump administration is forcing the EPA to accept his denial and ignore the pending disaster of global warming.

6) Are you concerned that the fiscal agenda enacted by Washington's out-of-touch ruling class has made the American Dream unattainable for hardworking citizens? Yes, I am concerned, because the out-of-touch ruling class is now a few billionaires with apparently enough money to buy elections and media companies, and sufficient lack of scruples to ignore the suffering they cause. Who elected Elon Musk to make decisions on how to spend money already appropriated by Congress to fight starvation, global warming, and threats to democracy here and abroad?

What followed were seven "in depth" questions. Deep in what? I'll let you use your imagination.

DAVID W. BROWN  
NORTH BROOKFIELD

## Great is too tough — make America good at least

To the Editor:

Picture this — you run a car company named Toyota, and bought into the idea that because you sell a bunch of vehicles here, you should open factories here to make them, employing our citizens. The president has suggested that other car companies should do the same. As CEO of ACME car company, do you move ahead with building multi million dollar plants, building cars using 50 percent tariffed steel and aluminum, and 25 percent tariffed car parts, or keep making them elsewhere and selling them here at 15 percent tariff? Of course, this scenario is based upon today figures, which we have come to realize, can change by any amount, on any given day. There is risk associated with all business investment, but we are now officially a dice game.

Ever hear the term "emoluments?" Theoretically, it is a law that prohibits profiting from elected office, from foreign sources. (Theoretically, it is fine as long as sources are domestic.) A prime example of this is Citizens United, where wealthy citizens and companies can use unrestricted funds to buy special interests influence. Some emoluments are subtle, like a Saudi Prince renting and entire floor of Trump's D.C. hotel his whole term. Others are less subtle, like using Marine One to attend a dinner for the largest purchasers of his new crypto currency. One that continues to give is soliciting the gift of a giant luxury jet, that even Qatar said was too expensive to fly or maintain, so that we can invest another billion in it to become Airforce #1,

donate it to his library, so we can pay to fly and maintain it in perpetuity. Even if he donated every dollar of his salary, it is miniscule in comparison.

Among the other brilliant financial moves delivered so far. DOGE has furloughed and accepted early retirement of 125,000 employees. If you have noticed that US Aid incinerated 500 tons of food not delivered to starving people, the Consumer Protection Agency is offline and National Park staff severely cut back, not to worry, those folks are all still on the payroll 'til September, though not working. Did you happen to catch sight of the celebration for passage of BBB, tax cuts for millionaires while taking food and healthcare from the poor. Robin Hood in reverse.

In the meantime, Chief Justice Roberts is lamenting the end of the rule of law. Congress just confirmed a federal judge who has ignored court orders and instructed others to, and who 75 retire judges, say should never be a judge. He passes Trumps loyalty test, which everyone should realize by now, over rules the constitution. Instead of enforcing section #3 of the 14th Amendment, SCOTUS has given him immunity from prosecution, and coupled with pardon power, makes him a dictator; especially since he now defines that immunity as go ahead and ignore the law. Will you be fooled by holding back the worst of BBB until after the '26 election? Based upon what I am seeing, I hope there will be one.

KEN KIMBALL  
BROOKFIELD

## Let a financial advisor help plan for life's curveballs



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No matter what stage of your life you're in — caring for children, working toward retirement or planning your legacy — unforeseen events like a job loss, a major illness or even a stock market drop could derail what you're working so hard to achieve financially.

With your future at stake, you may want to get guidance from a financial professional who can develop a personalized financial strategy to help you navigate life's curveballs.

Here are specific ways a financial advisor can help.

Create a customized long-term strategy. This is the first step to weather unforeseen events. You may have several long-term investing goals — your retirement, your child's education or perhaps a dream vacation. A financial advisor can help you build a strategy specific to your goals and risk tolerance. This will include prioritizing those goals, building a path toward each and pivoting your strategy as markets shift and needs change.

Set realistic expectations. Successful investing requires discipline and patience — most individual investors make their money over time, not overnight. Start by setting realistic timelines to reach each of your goals. And don't be surprised if you need to make trade-offs, like working an extra year to help fund your retirement dream home. It's realistic to expect you'll hit some bumps in the road. Perhaps the markets will drop and the value of your portfolio may follow. (It's also realistic to expect they will rebound, as they have historically. Of course, past performance of the markets is no guarantee of what will happen in the future.) A financial advisor can help you keep your emotions in check no matter what comes your way and stay focused on the long term, knowing you have a customized strategy in place.

Diversify your investments. The foundation for your portfolio is your asset allocation, or how you divide your assets among stocks, bonds, cash and other investments. Different investments behave differently in various market conditions, so maintaining a good mix can help better weather market fluctuations than putting "all your eggs in one basket." Finding the right diversification mix, and keeping it balanced despite what the market does, can get complicated, but it's almost second nature for a good financial advisor. All investments do carry risk, and asset allocation doesn't ensure a profit or protect against loss in a declining market.

Keep a long-term outlook. It's easy to become distracted by the latest headline, expert prediction or market swing. However, if these events don't change your long-term outlook, there probably isn't a reason to make changes to your strategy. In fact, these declines often present good opportunities if you're a long-term investor, so use them to your advantage — your financial advisor can show you how.

Keep your emergency savings well-funded. This is your "rainy day" fund, and an unexpected event may constitute a rainy day. For most people, maintaining three to six months of total expenses in emergency savings is appropriate. The specific amount depends on factors like your risk of unexpected expenses or temporary loss of income, and how much you value being confident that you can weather financial emergencies. A financial advisor can help you determine what your emergency savings should look like.

Unexpected events are part of life. You can't predict them, but you can prepare for them. No matter what is going on around you, having a professional by your side can help set you up to navigate them confidently.

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



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The day that hate is sent packing

To the Editor:

I do not remember hating people as a child. But I do remember when I experienced pure hatred for the first time.

One summer when I was five, my parents agreed to host a young woman from another country for the summer. My grandparents, who were members of a Unitarian church, learned about a recently widowed father who had been looking for a summer camp for his teenage daughter while he worked long hours. My grandparents thought that my parents could provide something even better, family living in the country, and he agreed. My parents were happy to host this young woman. So, in the summer of 1955, Rosa came to live with us. Rosa and I developed a strong bond that remarkable summer and my family and our entire neighborhood loved her. We enjoyed painting and coloring together, taking walks and she would read to me.

One summer day, Rosa asked permission to walk uptown with me and visit our local library. My parents agreed. I was so excited! The library was one of my favorite places to be, so we had a lovely time choosing books. As we left the library, chatting away, a group of teens and an older adult stopped and stared at us. One boy called Rosa a word I had never heard before, and her face turned pale. They all shouted angry words at us and even spit on us. Rosa hurried me away and we walked home in silence. I did not understand what had happened, but instinctively, I knew it had hurt her, and I was frightened. When we returned home, I told my mother what happened and repeated the word to her. With great sadness, she hugged us both, and told me that it would be OK, but we never walked to town again that summer. Rosa and I have never lost touch and our bond remains strong. Discrimination remains in her life. That makes me sad.

As I transitioned into adulthood, discrimination was being addressed in America by those in power passing new laws, by the leadership of courageous men and women and protests by passionate groups of all ages. I was often told family stories of my own ancestors from Ireland who were discriminated against for years and came to America because of the famine. In retrospect, it took years for America to develop laws and education to combat discrimination, hatred, and racism across our country. It is clear to me that in 2025, we traveled back in time to that unfortunate and ugly past.

So, what is my message? It is simple. Hatred is destructive. Empathy, kindness and compassion are being flushed down

the drain right now in favor of cruelty, thoughtlessness and extreme hatred directed toward people who are seen as the enemy because they do not fit into this new and strange American norm, but are immigrants looking for a new life, just like my grandparents and yours. I understand that not all coming to our country are here for a new life and there are those guilty of serious crimes. However, many are labeled “illegals” and “criminals” by our current administration just because they are caught in a slow and ineffective path to citizenship, not because they have committed any crimes. Some who are in the U.S. legally oftentimes for years, holding responsible jobs or as graduate students are detained anyway. And, in a chilling reversal of democracy, some are sent to other countries and prisons full of torture, humiliation and pain without due process and with no hope of ever returning to their families. This is the new America.

I have learned to respect differences in others. This took good role models in my life, education, the ability to listen, and the power of empathy. Feeling empathy for others is not hard or unusual. I am positive that many of you reading this will agree. Much has changed in America since Jan. 20, which both alarms and saddens me. How do we change this destructive hatred? I wish I knew the answer, but I know we need to try to do better. The first step is to acknowledge the alarming changes we see every day as our beloved country is losing the freedom we took for granted. The next step is to organize and fight back. I and many others are doing just that.

Recently, while I was driving home on a small country road, I noticed a speeding truck behind me. It pulled aggressively close, and its driver seemed incredibly angry. I pulled over to let him go by. He gave me the finger while screaming derogatory words at me, swerving, gunning the engine, and speeding away. This anger was not from the typical impatient Massachusetts driver we all know. It was raw, red-faced fury directed at me, meant to scare and intimidate. It occurred to me that anger and hatred seem the new norm, even in a small, rural community. The lingering question is: can we find a way to work together to bring back kindness, tolerance, community, empathy, fairness, and respect before it is too late? I do not have the answer, but I do know that I miss what America once was. I suspect that many of you feel the same.

ANN TOOMEY-DOANE  
WEST BROOKFIELD

Break the rules!

Vivek Ranadivé, a software entrepreneur and future NBA team owner, decided to coach his 12-year-old daughter's middle school basketball team in Redwood City, California.

He didn't grow up with the game, didn't play it, didn't know its culture—he just wanted to help. Vivek had a major problem—not only did he know nothing about the game, but neither did his girls. Most of them had never played a single minute of organized basketball.

But Vivek wasn't the type to do something halfway. From the moment he signed up, his goal was to win the state championship that season.

If he had told anyone, they might've laughed him out of the gym. But he started studying, watching games, trying to understand how basketball worked—and the more he learned, the more something didn't sit right.

After every score, teams would run back to the other end of the court, settle into formation, and wait to play defense. It was tradition. It was how the game was done. But to Vivek, it seemed like an unnecessary surrender—giving the other team a free pass for most of the court. Why retreat when you could press?

Without breaking a single rule, Vivek taught his team a strat-

POSITIVELY  
SPEAKING  
  
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MOORE

egy called full-court press: to stay on top of their opponents, disrupt every inbound, and apply pressure at every pass. It wasn't illegal. But he was breaking unwritten rules.

“Learn the rules like a pro, so you can break them like an artist.” — Pablo Picasso

And by the end of the season, that little team of underdogs was breaking all the unwritten rules—and was winning big.

Top performers don't follow rules—they rethink them. Research at Harvard Business School and Columbia shows that people who break norms (non-conformists) are often perceived as more powerful and more competent. One study found that entrepreneurs who take strategic risks and ignore conventional advice are more likely to create successful ventures than those who play it safe.

The girls weren't great dribblers, couldn't shoot from distance, and had no height advantage. But they had something nobody else did: an unconventional strategy and unwavering attitude.

As the first games kicked off, Redwood City stunned opponents with how quickly they scored—and how consistently they pressed.

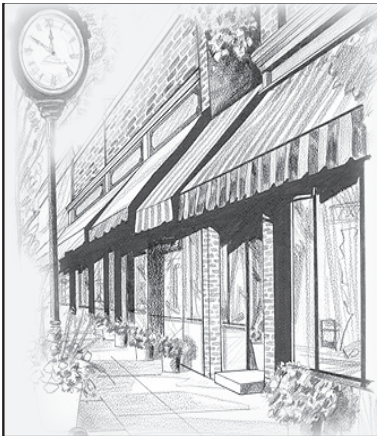
They jumped out to early leads—4-0, 6-0, even 12-0. One game ended with them leading 25-0 before the other team even scored. Instead of retreating after scoring, they hustled back, applied pressure on every inbound pass, and swarmed players off the ball. Teams used to long periods of transition now found themselves stuck in chaos before they could cross mid-court.

Opposing coaches fumed on the sidelines. One even confronted Vivek in the parking lot, furious that this “skinny foreign guy” was defying tradition—and winning. Every whistle signaled a barrage of fouls called on Redwood City—referees seemed determined to break them. But the girls adjusted. Instead of folding, they learned to play without pressing at times, weaving traditional basketball in between the chaos.

Through all the drama, they stayed unbeaten in most of their regular season. They won the local league, then the regionals, then advanced deep into the Northern California tournament. Each win built their stamina, sharpened their cohesion, and deepened belief in the system and each other.

By season's end, Redwood City had stormed through their local league and advanced all the way to the national Junior Basketball champion-

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



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## Harrington Auxiliary co-hosts annual “Driving it Ho(l)me” Car Show

BROOKFIELD — The Harrington Auxiliary and Center of Hope Foundation co-hosted the annual “Driving it Ho(l)me” Car Show at Oakholm Brewery on July 19. The sunshine and warm weather brought out 55 vehicles of different makes, models, colors to participate in the event.

DJ Bruce Marshall from the Valley’s Classic Hits, 97.7 FM, provided oldies music throughout the day and food trucks were available to satisfy every appetite. Oakholm Brewery offered the perfect brews to slake the thirst of all the car buffs. Spectators and vehicle owners had the opportunity to vote for their favorites in several categories.

Fran Banfill earned 1st place in the General Motors category and Ronald Messier copped 2nd place.

Ford 1st place went to Bill Dyer; and Jack and Anne Deel captured 2nd place.

Angelo LoConto took 1st place Mopar; Ken Keyes was awarded 2nd place.

First place Open Class went to David and Lynne Banks; Mike Paschetto took 2nd place Open Class.

Best in Show 2000 and up was awarded to Brian Leavitt. Scott Kowalyshyn won Best Truck in Show, and vehicle entrants in the show and spectators voted Brian Treitman People’s Choice.

The Harrington Hospital Auxiliary and Center of Hope Foundation extend sincere gratitude to the participants, spectators, vendors, food trucks, and Oakholm Brewery for its support for this event.

Harrington Auxiliary, established in 1932, is a non-profit organization of dedicated and impassioned volunteers whose mission is to support and enhance the excellent services provided by UMass Memorial Health - Harrington Hospital.

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# Keeping the Flavor of Vine Ripe Tomatoes

Tomatoes on the vine are an irresistible palate pleaser of summertime. Gardens bursting with the bright red fruit, conjure up visions of fat tomato sandwiches, fresh colorful salsa, and pots of thick tomato gravy. There's no doubt about it, delicious, home grown tomatoes are plentiful this time of year. However, no matter how many creative dishes you may come up with, it can be a challenge to use up a bountiful crop of tomatoes before they spoil.

Read on for some ways to keep just-picked tomatoes fresh, and how to properly freeze them to enjoy the fruits of your labor for months to come.

To chill or not to chill: My whole adult life, I have never put tomatoes in the refrigerator, much to the chagrin of well-meaning family and friends who will automatically stash the fruit (especially when cut) in the fridge for me. That said, I know tomatoes lose some flavor when chilled, but never really knew why. Is it just the coldness that dulls the flavor or is there more to it?

Turns out, the cold air has a negative effect on the tomato that goes beyond flavor. When stored below 55 degrees F, the low temperature damages the tomatoes cell membranes and disrupts the enzymes responsible for producing flavor and smell. Thus, refrigerated tomatoes can not only lose flavor, but become mealy or even mushy – to the point that even letting them sit in the sun won't bring back the flavor.

Still not convinced tomatoes shouldn't be chilled? Here's an excerpt from a



TAKE THE HINT  
KAREN TRAINOR

study that Cornell University did several years ago: "After storing whole tomatoes in the refrigerator for seven days (at 39 degrees), tomatoes lost some of their supply of substances that produce their characteristic aroma, which is a key part of their flavor. Three days of sitting at room temperature didn't remedy that, and a taste test by 76 people confirmed the chilled tomatoes weren't as good as fresh tomatoes."

So how to store tomatoes at room temperature? I used to put them on the windowsill to ripen (OK, I still do). But according to experts you should keep them out of direct sunlight, which can adversely affect the ripening process. Instead you can speed up the ripening process by placing tomatoes in a paper bag with an apple or banana, which produce ethylene gas.

Ripe, whole tomatoes should be stored stem side down at room temperature.

Cut tomatoes should be stored cut side down on a plate, and covered with a dish towel or paper towel to prevent flies.

Note: Never wrap cut tomatoes in plastic or in a plastic bag, as they can get slimy within a few hours.

Freezing Tomatoes: If you're lucky enough to have too many tomatoes to use or give away, and don't have the time or tools for canning or dehydrating them, freezing tomatoes are a practical option.

Freezing Raw Tomatoes: Despite what you might have heard, it is possible to quickly freeze raw tomatoes without

blanching them first. They may be frozen without their skins or frozen whole with their skins. Frozen tomatoes are best used in cooked foods such as soups, sauces and stews as they become mushy when they're thawed.

Tomatoes should be washed before cutting. To wash, wet each tomato with water, rub its surface, rinse it with running water, and dry it with a paper towel. After washing, cut away the stem scar and surrounding area and discard it before slicing or chopping the tomato.

Washing tomatoes in a sink filled with water is not recommended since contaminated water can be absorbed through the fruit's stem scar. The use of soap or detergent is neither recommended nor approved for washing fruits and vegetables because they can absorb detergent residues.

Tomatoes may be frozen whole, sliced, chopped, or pureed. Additionally, you can freeze them raw or cooked, as juice or sauce, or prepared in the recipe of your choice. Thawed raw tomatoes may be used in any cooked-tomato recipe. Do not try to substituted them for fresh tomatoes, however, since freezing causes their texture to become mushy. Tomatoes should be seasoned just before serving rather than before freezing; freezing may either strengthen or weaken seasonings such as garlic, onion, and herbs.

Preparation. Select firm, ripe tomatoes for freezing. Sort the tomatoes, discarding any that are spoiled. Wash them in clean water as recommended above. Dry them by blotting with a clean cloth or paper towels.

Freezing Whole Tomatoes with Peels: Prepare tomatoes as described above. Cut away the stem scar. Place the tomatoes on cookie sheets and freeze. Tomatoes do not need to be blanched before freezing. Once frozen, transfer the tomatoes from the cookie sheets into freezer bags or other containers. Seal tightly. To use the frozen tomatoes, remove them from the freezer a few at

a time or all at once. To peel, just run a frozen tomato under warm water in the kitchen sink. Its skin will slip off easily.

Freezing Peeled Tomatoes: If you prefer to freeze peeled tomatoes, you can wash the tomatoes and then dip them in boiling water for about 1 minute or until the skins split. Peel and then freeze as noted above.

Lifespan: To extend the lifetime of frozen tomatoes and all frozen foods it's imperative to maintain good quality by packaging foods in material intended for freezing and keep the temperature of the freezer at 0 degrees F or below. It is generally recommended frozen tomatoes be eaten within about eight months for best quality.

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.

## POSITIVELY

continued from page A7

ship tournament!

In the end, Redwood City didn't win the national championship. They came up short in the final rounds. But by then, the point had already been proven.

A team of middle school girls with no height, no elite skills, and no basketball pedigree had made it to the biggest stage in the country for teams their age—by doing what nobody else dared to do.

They didn't cheat. They didn't bend the rulebook. But they did break the

unwritten rules—the ones that say, "This is how the game is supposed to be played."

They rewrote the script. And almost won it all.

Because sometimes, if you want to win—if you want to slay the giants, shatter the odds, or change the game—you don't follow the rules.

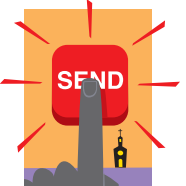
You break them.

With intention. With intelligence. With guts.

And sometimes, that's enough to change everything.

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# LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Probate and Family Court**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**(508)831-2200**  
**Docket No. WO25C0408CA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION TO**  
**CHANGE NAME**

In the matter of:  
**Holly Ann Hevy**  
**A Petition to Change Name of Adult**  
has been filed by  
**Holly Ann Hevy of North Brookfield MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:  
**Holly Ann Hastings**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10 a.m. on the return day of 08/26/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.  
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: July 28, 2025  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
August 8, 2025

**Town of West Brookfield**  
**Zoning Board of Appeals**  
A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 9, at 6:00 p.m. at the West Brookfield Town Hall, to act on an application for a Special Permit, for William and Jennifer Roberts, for the property located at 93 Lake Shore Drive, West Brookfield. The applicant wishes to demolish the existing garage and rebuild a new garage. A special permit is required as per section(s) -1.5 Nonconforming structures (a) (et al).

August 8, 2025  
August 15, 2025

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
The annual report of the Warren Rural Improvement Association is available at the address noted below for inspection by any citizen who so requests within 180 days after publication of this notice of availability.  
Warren Rural Improvement Association  
c/o Linda Cunningham  
P.O. Box 1315  
Warren, MA 01083-1315  
The principal manager is  
John J. Dyjak, Pres.  
Linda Cunningham, Treasurer  
August 8, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Probate and Family Court**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**(508) 831-2200**  
**Docket No. WO24P3872EA**  
**MOTION TO STRIKE OBJECTIONS**  
**OF JOSHUA VELAZQUEZ**  
Estate of Pamela Jeanne Velazquez  
Date of Death: 11/29/2023  
To all interested persons:  
A Motion to Strike has been filed by Jeremie L Witlin of Woonsocket, RI requesting that the Court to strike the objections of Joshua Velazquez and to enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Motion.  
The Petitioner requests that:  
Jeremie L Witlin of Woonsocket RI be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve With Personal Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Motion 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: 8:30am on August 13th, 2025  
August 8, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Probate and Family Court**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**(508) 831-2200**  
**Docket No. WO25P2260EA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR**  
**FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Estate Of:  
**Donald J Makowski**  
**Date of Death: 02/03/2025**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Carla Erickson of Warren MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:  
**Carla Erickson of Warren MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/19/2025.**  
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection

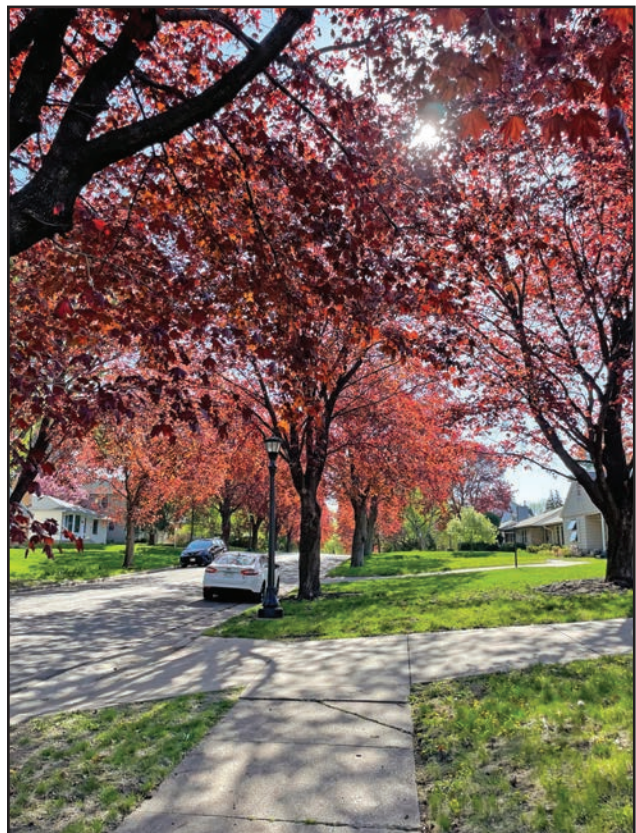
followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
**WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: July 171, 2025  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
August 8, 2025

Vertex Towers, LLC would like to place on notice the proposed construction of an installation consisting of a 140' (145' including all appurtenances) monopole tower known as Spencer located at 42°14'31.96" north latitude and 71°58'44.0" west longitude near 46 Greenville Street, Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts 01562. If you have any concerns regarding historic properties that may be affected by this proposed undertaking, please contact: Abby McKay, Lotis Environmental, LLC, at [McKay@TheLotisGroup.com](mailto:McKay@TheLotisGroup.com) or (509) 387-0700. In your response, please include the proposed undertaking's location and a list of the historic resources that you believe to be affected along with their respective addresses or approximate locations." August 8, 2025



# Plant a bit of shade



Melinda Myers

Norway maples providing shade and cooling the yards, sidewalk and street.

Summer heat may have you seeking comfort from a nearby shade tree. You immediately experience as much as a 15 to 20

degree drop in temperature and enjoy the relief it provides.

Bring this shady relief home by looking for ways

to include trees in your landscape. First, monitor patterns of sun and shade on and around your home throughout the day and throughout the year as the angle and position of the sun changes. Observe the impact your home, neighboring homes, sheds and existing plantings have on the sunlight reaching your landscape.

Consider providing welcome shade where needed during the hottest hours of the day and weeks of the year. Look for opportunities to plant trees where you can make a difference in your comfort and money spent cooling your home.

Plant trees, if space allows, near those areas where you spend time outdoors. Shading patios and decks makes them more inviting on a hot summer day. Deciduous trees that drop their leaves in winter allow you to soak up some welcome sunshine during the cooler months of the year.

Maximize the cooling benefits to your home by planting trees on the



## GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

east and west side of your house. Shading the roof, walls and windows greatly reduces heat gain and energy needed to cool your home. Since about 75 percent of the heat gain in a building comes through the windows, shading them can greatly increase your comfort and reduce money spent cooling your home. Once again, deciduous trees provide needed shade in summer and allow warming sunlight into homes during the cooler months.

Don't overlook paved areas near your home that greatly impact the air temperature. Shading paved drives and walks reduces heat absorbed that is released back into the surrounding air. Lowering the temperature of the space around your home helps

lower the indoor temperature.

Shading an air conditioner can increase its efficiency by as much as ten percent, reducing energy use and saving you money. If space is limited, consider planting a shade-producing shrub or vine trained on a trellis. Be sure to provide space around the unit for needed airflow.

Avoid underground and overhead utilities when planting trees. Tall trees that eventually grow into the wires or structures may interfere with utilities and power transmission, creating a real hazard. Improper placement results in pruning that ruins their beauty or requires removal, eliminating any benefit they provided. Always call 811 as you plan new plantings and at least three business days before placing the first shovel in the ground. It can help reduce the risk of injury and avoid the inconvenience that can happen when you damage an underground utility.

Consult your local university extension service and energy company for plant selection and placement recommendations for your area. Those living in wildfire prone areas need to also consider fire-safe landscaping practices.

No room to plant trees on your property? Consider joining the local tree board or other tree planting group. Adding trees to your community can help you and your neighbors create a healthier, cooler environment that everyone can enjoy.

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

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SPORTS  
FACT:

The earliest balls used in this sport were made from feathers and called “featheries.”

Answer: Golf

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.

	0	20	26
4	1		20
2			17
12	10	41	

9	6	2
15	1	4
20	0	6
Solution		

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

HLEO NI NOE

Answer: Hole in one

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1100: Henry I is crowned King of England.

1620: The Mayflower departs from Southampton, England, carrying would-be settlers to North America.

1914: In Cleveland, Ohio, the first electric traffic light is installed.

NEW WORD

BOGEY

a score of one stroke over par at a hole in golf

“How they say that in...”

English: Club (golf)  
Spanish: Palo de golf  
Italian: Mazza  
French: Club  
German: Golfschläger

Did You Know?

Buzz Aldrin, who served as Commander of Apollo 14, swung a golf club on the moon and sent two golf balls into space.

Answer: Golf club

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Golf club

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to eye health.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 1 = S)

A. 14 17 1 17 10 13  
Clue: Sight

B. 1 18 13 25 3 5 1 1 8 1  
Clue: Tinted lenses

C. 8 6 5 11  
Clue: Test

D. 21 4 10 22 8 15 22  
Clue: Care for

Answers: A. vision B. sunglasses C. exam D. protect

SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

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!

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

ANSWER:



# POLICE REPORTS

## Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, JULY 24  
12:12 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 12:49 a.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), resolved; 2:45 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 8:45 a.m.: summons service (Woodland Road), unable to serve; 8:50 a.m.: municipal security alarm (Main Street), call canceled; 8:55 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), mv towed; 9:31 a.m.: ambulance (South Main Street), transported; 10:32 a.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), spoken to; 11:11 a.m.: mv stop (Soojians Drive), citation issued; 11:20 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:52 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 4:06 p.m.: welfare check (Reservoir Street), call canceled; 5:22 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 5:39 p.m.: animal complaint (Auburn Street), referred; 5:52 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 7:04 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), spoken to; 7:18 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), Laura E. Ticehurst, 38, 148 Leicester Street, Unit B, Auburn, default warrant, distribution Class B drug, shoplifting by asportation, arrest; 10:05 p.m.: disturbance (Towtaid Street), spoken to.

FRIDAY, JULY 25  
12:33 a.m.: ambulance (McCarthy Avenue), transported; 12:37 a.m.: disabled mv (Stafford Street), mv towed; 12:56 a.m.: welfare check (Ingram Road), assisted; 1:32 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 5:20 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 7:55 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 9:03 a.m.: welfare check (Craig Street), assisted; 9:06 a.m.: larceny (Chapel Street), report taken; 10:36 a.m.: ambulance (Boyd Street), transported; 11:12 a.m.: suspicious mv (Charlton Street), gone on arrival; 12:45 p.m.: restraining order service (Victoria Drive), served; 12:57 p.m.: keep the peace (Carleton Road), resolved; 1:42 p.m.: erratic operator (Main Street), unfounded; 4:49 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), assisted; 6:12 p.m.: assist other PD (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 6:45 p.m.: restraining order service (South Main Street), served; 7:44 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 8:52 p.m.: disturbance (Polsom Street), gone on arrival; 10:39 p.m.: disturbance (Brickyard Road), resolved.

SATURDAY, JULY 26  
12:25 a.m.: ambulance (Parker Street), transported; 12:41 a.m.: disturbance (Brickyard Road), unfounded; 1:16 a.m.: disturbance (Brickyard Road), resolved; 7:42 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 11:53 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 1:47 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Spencer), transported; 3:31 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), assisted; 5:02 p.m.: ambulance (Soojians Drive), transported; 5:22 p.m.: disabled mv (Pleasant Street), resolved; 5:36 p.m.: animal complaint (Soojians Drive), referred; 7:45 p.m.: disturbance (Pleasant Street), unfounded; 8:34 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), no action required; 11:57 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning.

SUNDAY, JULY 27  
12:13 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, uninsured mv, op w/suspended registration, speeding, criminal application issued; 11:28 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 12:06 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 12:27 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 1:14 p.m.: assist citizen (Paxton Street), report taken; 1:51 p.m.: mv stop (Baldwin Street), written warning; 2:00 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), services rendered; 5:21 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 8:48 p.m.: ambulance (Marble Street, Worcester), transported; 9:05 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 11:50 p.m.: ambulance (King Street, Worcester), transported.

MONDAY, JULY 28  
12:48 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:52 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 1:09 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 1:27 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 1:39 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 3:19 a.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), services rendered; 3:56 a.m.: residential alarm (Woodland Road), investigated; 7:24 a.m.: disturbance (South Main Street), peace restored; 7:33 a.m.: commercial alarm (Paxton

Street), false alarm; 9:04 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 9:32 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 9:42 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 10:01 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, no inspection sticker, criminal application issued; 10:30 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:35 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), spoken to; 11:29 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 1:20 p.m.: disabled mv (Pleasant Street), assisted; 2:30 p.m.: mv stop (Peter Salem Road), written warning; 3:58 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:21 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 5:04 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:05 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:07 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), transported; 7:31 p.m.: threats (Chapel Street), report taken; 8:15 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:22 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:46 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 8:57 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), assisted; 9:19 p.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), resolved; 9:22 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 9:23 p.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), resolved; 10:07 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), spoken to; 10:32 p.m.: disabled mv (Stafford Street), assisted; 11:45 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning.

TUESDAY, JULY 29  
7:58 a.m.: assist citizen (Mill Street); 8:20 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 8:49 a.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), services rendered; 9:08 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, marked lanes violation, criminal application issued; 10:02 a.m.: suspicious mv (Water Street), spoken to; 10:50 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 11:35 a.m.: ambulance (South Main Street), transported; 12:04 p.m.: welfare check (Huntoon Memorial Highway), resolved; 12:28 p.m.: ambulance (Franklin Street, Worcester), call canceled; 2:29 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 4:04 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 4:26 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Spencer), transported; 4:41 p.m.: assist other PD (Waite Street), services rendered; 8:35 p.m.: disturbance (Water Street), spoken to; 8:56 p.m.: debris in road (Henshaw Street), resolved.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30  
12:10 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:17 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 1:26 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 3:15 a.m.: disabled mv (Dale Street), services rendered; 3:42 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 4:12 a.m.: debris in road (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 4:28 a.m.: suspicious mv (Soojians Drive), services rendered; 8:49 a.m.: arrest warrant service (Collier Avenue), Jonathan Robert Boisclair, 28, 26 Collier Avenue, Cherry Valley, straight warrant, arrest; 10:36 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 10:45 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 10:50 a.m.: assist citizen (Collier Avenue), name and address redacted from police log, possession Class A drug, possession Class E drug, criminal application issued; 12:39 p.m.: accident (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, negligent operation/injury from mobile phone use, criminal application issued; 2:04 p.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), assisted; 3:28 p.m.: erratic operator (Huntoon Memorial Highway), resolved; 4:58 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street, Worcester), transported; 8:37 p.m.: disturbance (Craig Street), assisted; 9:11 p.m.: disturbance (Charlton Street), Kyle E. Rochefort, 39, 70 Charlton Street, Rochdale, b&e of vehicle/boat in nighttime to commit a felony, threatening to commit a crime, arrest.

0

Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23  
1:40-2:35 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:48 a.m.: animal complaint (Mechanic Street), c/o barking dog; 6:42 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 6:43 a.m.: FID card issued (West Main Street), assisted; 7:09 a.m.: fire alarm (Wilson Street), referred; 8:33 a.m.: medical/gener-

al (North Spencer Road); 9:50 a.m.: suspicious mv (Prospect Street), investigated; 10:18 a.m.: animal complaint (East Charlton Road), loose dog found; 10:20 a.m.: citizen complaint (Meadow Road), re: road block w/no detail; 11:10 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 1:35 p.m.: suspicious persons (Chestnut Street), investigated; 1:54 p.m.: suspicious persons (Chestnut Street), resolved; 3:08 p.m.: mv repossessed (Main Street), info rec'd; 4:05 p.m.: mv lockout (Howe Village), assisted; 4:46 p.m.: citizen complaint (Main Street), c/o panhandlers; 5:18 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Church Street), James E. Woodbury, 49, 37 Church Street, Spencer; warrant, arrest; 5:33 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), inquiry re: lost cat; 5:35 p.m.: disturbance (Jolicoeur Avenue), resolved; 6:00 p.m.: animal complaint (Smithville Road), loose dog; 6:20 p.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), req. escort/retrieve belongings; 6:24 p.m.: medical/general (Smithville Road); 6:36 p.m.: officer wanted (Gold Nugget Road), req. welfare check; 6:43 p.m.: suspicious persons (Meadow Road), investigated; 8:13 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 9:03 p.m.: juvenile matter (Pleasant Street), re: two runaways; 9:09 p.m.: disturbance (Mechanic Street), neighbor dispute; (total daily mv stops – 0).

THURSDAY, JULY 24  
12:56 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), response not noted on police log; 5:45 a.m.: suspicious mv (Paxton Road), investigated; 6:46 a.m.: 911 call (Bell Street), accidental; 7:33 a.m.: residential alarm (Lincoln Street), services rendered; 8:41 a.m.: medical/general (Ash Street); 9:07 a.m.: officer wanted (Cherry Street), rep. brother missing; 9:13 a.m.: medical/general (Smithville Road); 10:04 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: Facebook issue; 10:05 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), rep. extortion; 10:50 a.m.: DPW call (Main Street), trash in road; 11:32 a.m.: restraining order service (Maple Street); 1:08 p.m.: animal complaint (Maple Street), c/o raccoons; 1:32 p.m.: disturbance (Maple Street), resolved; 1:39 p.m.: restraining order service/2 (West Main Street); 3:04 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), c/o harassment from neighbor; 3:36 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 3:56 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), rep. poss. restraining order violation; 7:33 p.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 8:07 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), mv vs goose; (total daily mv stops – 2).

FRIDAY, JULY 25  
1:28 a.m.: suspicious mv (Lakeshore Drive), investigated; 1:49-2:01 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:01 a.m.: fire alarm (Greenville Street), referred; 6:41 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 12:00 p.m.: intelligence/drugs (Maple Street), info taken; 12:31 p.m.: officer wanted (Borkum Road), re: suspicious letter; 12:51 p.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), resolved; 1:15 p.m.: officer wanted (North Spencer Road), re: substance on road; 1:37 p.m.: fraud (West Main Street), report taken; 1:51 p.m.: RV complaint (Lakeshore Drive), erratic operator/boat; 2:50 p.m.: assault (West Main Street), John J. Nelson, 59, 85 Oxford Road, Charlton, assault & battery w/dangerous weapon, assault & battery on person over 60 or disabled, arrest ; 3:24 p.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), rep. dog in mv; 4:15 p.m.: accident (Mechanic Street), report taken; 4:37 p.m.: suspicious persons (Dale Street), investigated; 7:38 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 8:20 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), req. police assistance; 9:11 p.m.: 911 call (May Street), rep. alarm sounding; 10:28 p.m.: mv complaint (Charlton Road), erratic operator; (total daily mv stops – 0).

SATURDAY, JULY 26  
2:13-2:33 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:34 a.m.: medical/general (Adams Street); 2:48 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Howe Village), no contact; 3:25 a.m.: medical/general (Mechanic Street); 5:10 a.m.: residential alarm (Smithville Road), services rendered; 9:20 a.m. commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 9:53 a.m.: DPW call (Brooks Pond Road), rep. damaged stop sign; 10:18 a.m.: medical/general (Crestview Drive), lift assist; 11:07 a.m.: DPW call (Bond Street), wire down; 11:08 a.m.: lost/found (Charlton Road), wallet lost; 1:05 p.m.: 911 call (Bixby Road), open line; 1:13 p.m.: medical/general (Lake Street); 1:38 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 2:03 p.m.: juvenile matter (Lake Street), rep.

kids breaking into school; 2:39 p.m.: disturbance (Mechanic Street), unwanted party; 3:01 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 3:30 p.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), req. escort; 4:46 p.m.: animal complaint (Meadow Road), rep. dog missing; 4:52 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 5:07 p.m.: 911 call (Wm. Casey Road), hang-up; 5:51 p.m.: officer wanted (Wall Street), no trespass order served; 7:30 p.m.: threats (Lake Street), report taken; 8:17 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo; 8:30 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 8:37 p.m.: medical/sudden death (Gold Nugget Road); 9:25 p.m.: juvenile matter (Dale Street), kids entered vacant house; 9:26 p.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), rep. attempted break-in; 10:08 p.m.: mutual aid (Pearl Street), assist Southbridge PD; (total daily mv stops – 4).

SUNDAY, JULY 27  
2:12 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), from Worcester PD; 9:16 a.m.: commercial alarm (Meadow Road), services rendered; 9:26 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street), lift assist; 12:02 p.m.: mv complaint (West Main Street), erratic operator; 1:40 p.m.: disturbance (Gold Nugget Road), family dispute; 1:41 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 1:58 p.m.: residential alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 2:01 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 3:05 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), req. assistance; 4:40 p.m.: officer wanted (Chestnut Street), spoken to; 7:14 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 9:39 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), open line/hang-up; 10:21 p.m.: harassing phone calls (West Main Street), Nicholas J. Toromino, 48, 10 South Maple Street, Brookfield, possession Class E drug, arrest; (total daily mv stops – 0).

MONDAY, JULY 28  
12:17 a.m.: building checked, secure; 1:36 a.m.: suspicious mv (Mechanic Street), investigated; 7:21 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 7:34 a.m.: intelligence/criminal (Pleasant Street), info taken; 7:36 a.m.: medical/general (Meadow Road); 8:28 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:31 a.m.: FID card issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:57 a.m.: arrest warrant service (Pleasant Street), Nicole M. Bruce, 41, homeless, Spencer; warrant/2, arrest; 9:28 a.m.: mv repossessed (West Main Street), info rec'd; 11:13 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 12:15 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Town House Court), accidental; 12:46 p.m.: larceny (Main Street), report taken; 1:12 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), debris in road; 1:49 p.m.: animal complaint (Charlton Road), c/o howling dog; 2:03 p.m.: medical/general (Highland Street); 2:10 p.m.: disabled mv (North Spencer Road), assisted; 3:01 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Charlton PD bolo; 4:29 p.m.: restraining order service (Wall Street); 4:48 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), accidental; 5:18 p.m.: mv lockout (Sherwood Drive), assisted; 5:32 p.m.: suspicious persons (Highland Street), rep. indecent exposure; 5:45 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 7:25 p.m.: mv complaint (Charlton Road), erratic operator; 7:28 p.m.: officer wanted (North Brookfield Road), rep. threats; 8:45 p.m.: citizen complaint (Main Street), kids at closed court; 9:12 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 9:29 p.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 11:27 p.m.: suspicious persons (West Main Street), investigated; (total daily mv stops – 0).

TUESDAY, JULY 29  
12:17-12:42 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:48 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), req. assistance; 6:57 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 7:04 a.m.: FID card issued (West Main Street), assisted; 7:38 a.m.: medical/general (Buteau Road); 9:00 a.m.: medical/general (West Main Street), call canceled; 9:01 a.m.: medical/general (Lincoln Street); 10:18 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 10:43 a.m.: intelligence/drugs (Main Street), info taken; 11:19 a.m.: medical/general (Linden Street); 11:55 a.m.: medical/general (Wire Village Road); 12:56 p.m.: disturbance (Church Street), verbal dispute; 2:44 p.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), license/other items found; 2:57 p.m.: juvenile matter (Park Street), resolved; 3:00 p.m.: disabled mv (North Spencer Road), assisted; 4:08 p.m.: medical/general (Meadow Road); 7:10 p.m.: fire (Main Street), referred; 8:48 p.m.: suspicious persons (Elm Street), investigated; 9:59 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 10:11 p.m.: medical/general (Donnelly Cross Road); (total daily mv stops – 0).





**SAFETY**  
*continued from page A1*

Added Kustigian, “LFD is always there when we need them, and it doesn’t

get any better than that.” The summer program, which serves students from grades pre-K to high school, offers four-week and six-week options for

families. Kids take part in a range of indoor and outdoor activities. Looking ahead, school leaders are eager to continue working with fire

officials to help introduce students to safety tips. “This is another example of how our town departments work together in the best interest of

our community and our students’ future. We are better when we work together,” said School Committee Chair Donna McCance.

To learn more about the annual Extended School Year program, contact the school department.



**DPHS**  
*continued from page A1*

These include the installation of wood athletic flooring in the gymnasium; the completion of tile flooring throughout the corridors; the installation of lockers; the addition of rubber treads at the stairwells; and the painting of track running lanes surrounding the football field.

Phase One of the project will be turned over to the school district this month, which includes the football field and track above the high school. For students and school officials alike, excitement is building as Prouty’s next chapter nears. “This week, faculty was invited to begin accessing their spaces, and the excitement is palpable,” said DPHS Principal Mary LaFreniere. “Although there are several weeks


until the opening of school, the atmosphere is charged with anticipation of finally being able to get in and enjoy this beautiful new facility.” Additionally, new underground utilities and structural improvements to A-Building began last month. Moreover, new footings for the remaining portion of the addition are being excavated this month. In other DPHS project news, a specialized process was used to remove chemicals found in a science room storage closet of the old building. “The primary concern during the most recent School Building Committee meeting was the need to remove chemicals from one of the storage closets safely,” Haughey said. “The chemicals cannot be mixed and require special disposal. As such, the Building Committee

reviewed the concern with the construction team and, through a unanimous committee vote, ensured that the chemicals were removed properly to avoid any mixing, which could pose a health or safety risk.” School officials thank leaders with Jones Whitsett Architects, Inc. (architect for the project); Fontaine Bros., Inc. (general contractor); Colliers Engineering and Design; and the rest of the construction team for helping to keep the community informed throughout the process. Students and staff members are also thanked for their cooperation during the construction phases. For further information about the project, visit [www.sebrsd.org](http://www.sebrsd.org). Photos and other updates are available on the district’s social media pages.

✿✿✿

Friday's Child

✿✿✿



Jamoni

Age 12

Registration #7022

stories from these games. His joyful spirit and enthusiasm for learning make him a delight to be around.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/22539845657>

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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](http://www.mareinc.org). Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster care.

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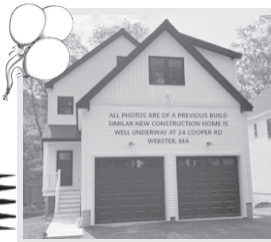
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\* June Cazeault \* Laurie Sullivan \* Lori Johnson-Chausse \* William Gilmore II \* Maureen Cimoch \* Bryan Pelletier

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

## 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 Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagamaugg

### Webster Lake - 53 Colonial Rd

WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT! JUST SIMPLY AN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY! OVER 31,000 SQ FT OF LAND! Summer Cottage on 9482 SF of land. 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 88 Union Point



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

### Webster Lake Waterfront 8 Long Island



Beautifully Updated Circa 1890s Classic Antique Island Cottage, with Rare Boat House Included! Extremely Unique, Clean & Well Maintained. Modern Conveniences w/in. Charm of Yester-Year! 1,240 SF, 6 Rms, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, Hardwood Floors! Fireplace w/Wood Pellet Stove, Wrap-Around Screened Porch, Lg Outbuilding w/Full Bath/Shower/Laundry & Workshop. Patriot Town Wtr/Sew + Private Well for Outdoor & Off-Season Water Use! 14,300 SF +/- Level Lot w/100's of Shoreline. Most Important of All - 25% Shared Ownership in a Mainland Waterfront Lot for Parking, Boat Docking & Winter Storage. **\$595,000**

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



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

## Webster Lake Waterfront Lots 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!**

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\*Kitchen with Breakfast Bar  
\*2 Car Garage

11 Pineview Rd \$535,000

## DUDLEY- NEW CONSTRUCTION



128 Old Southbridge Rd \$795,000

\*3 Bedroom  
24' Great Room  
\*Hardwood Floors  
\*8' Center Island w/ Corian Counters

## LEICESTER- RANCH



\*Vinyl Sided \*1300 sq. ft.  
\*4 Heat Pumps \*2 Car Garage  
2 Victor Ave \$465,900

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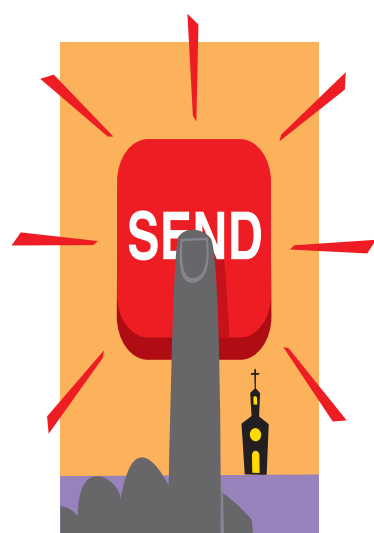
SPENCER — The Spencer Parks & Recreation Commission 2025 Summer Concert Series continues from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 10 at Powder Mill Park, corner Smithville and Meadow Roads, Spencer, with the Love Dogs.

Take one red-hot horn section, add liberal amounts of barrelhouse boogie-woogie piano, stinging Fender guitar, a funky and swinging rhythm section that Blues Review magazine called «the best in the business», and top it all off with a crazy and charismatic front man with one of the biggest blues voices around and you've got the Love Dogs. The band is seasoned with years on the road tearing up juke joints, concert halls and festivals, while releasing four critically acclaimed CDs. It's a recipe for music, mayhem, intensity and irreverence. It's the Love Dogs.

Next up in this series that runs through Aug. 24 will be Chuck & Mud and The Hole in the Dam Band on Aug. 17.

The concert series is proudly sponsored by Cornerstone Bank. Serving Worcester County, Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts.

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