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Friday, April 11, 2025

# LHS Business and Finance program builds momentum



Courtesy  
Students in the LHS Business and Finance program work in teams.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Still in its first year of operation, the Business and Finance program at Leicester High School is quickly building interest and momentum.

As the latest addition to the school’s Career Technical Education (CTE) portfolio, the Business and Finance branch joins several other popular innovation pathways that help students build foundations for career success.

“Innovation pathways (IP) are a new initiative that must be approved by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education,” read a statement released by school leaders. “IPs are designed to give students coursework and experience in a specific high-de-

mand industry.” When LHS students enroll in the Business and Finance program, they must take several required classes. These include Principles of Business, Business Economics, Principles of Marketing, Principles of Finance, Principles of Management, and Business Strategies. “LHS is committed to a strong academic program in all areas. The Business and Finance IP is one way we are continuing to maintain high expectations for all students,” said Leicester School Committee Chair Donna McCance. Business and Finance courses are taught by Andrew Lauer, who brings several years of experience in both education and business. Before he made his transition to teaching, Lauer logged more than 20 years of business man-

Turn To **LHS** page **A14**

# Spencer officials scale back override proposals

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — Following a series of public hearings, selectmen announced significant reductions planned for the town’s override request. Projected reductions from the original proposals include eliminating amounts slated for infrastructure upgrades, as well as requesting one new police officer position instead of two. Additionally, the original request for two new Highway Department employees has been trimmed to one. The result, officials project, is a revised override request pared down to roughly \$1.8 million from the original \$2.4 million ask. Selectmen, who discussed the override during an April 3 meeting, planned to meet again on April 7 to finalize the request and take a vote. If approved, the final request will appear before voters on the ballot next month. “We had to make quite a few cuts. We got a lot of feedback from residents,

and we wanted to go through and see what adjustments we could make,” said Select Board Chairman John Howard. The school portion of the request was last projected to be \$830,000, with selectmen slated to make a final decision at their April 7 meeting. Officials remind residents that the school portion was not determined by local school leaders but instead calculations made at the state level. Each year, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education sets the amount Spencer must send to the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District and Bay Path Regional Vocational High School. “The school portion is the big hit. The state mandates what you have to pay,” Selectman Gary Woodbury told the New Leader. Public hearings were held over the past month to enable residents to ask questions and share feedback on the proposals. Spencer’s public safety leaders and other municipal directors presented on their departments’ needs,

but several residents said they couldn’t afford either of the two requests put forth for discussion. Selectmen said they understand the constraints and challenges facing residents as they prepare to vote on the override request. “There are many people who want the town to have what it needs, but they are on fixed incomes and have limits,” said Selectman Ralph Hicks. “We listened to the people, and we acted accordingly.” During the public hearing process, residents learned about multiple items officials were originally seeking to fund through the override. These include the required local contribution for school funding; contractual obligations with the Spencer Rescue Squad; and the retention of four Spencer Fire Department firefighters (the positions are currently funded through a federal grant). Although several items from the original proposals have been nixed, officials preserved other items deemed critical to public safety and town operations.

As of the latest press update, selectmen were still planning to include funds to cover the firefighting positions in the final override request. The federal grant expires in February 2027 and cannot be renewed through federal monies. Over the past decade, the fire department has responded to a growing number of calls, all while its call firefighter

Turn To **VERRIDE** page **A14**

# Schools brace for loss of federal funds

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER



REGION — State officials announced last week that schools across the Commonwealth will be impacted by the Trump Administration’s decision to terminate education grant funding. Gov. Maura Healey joined officials statewide in condemning the Trump Administration’s decision to terminate \$106 million in grant funding meant to support K-12 education in Massachusetts. “At a time when students are still struggling to recover from the pandemic, we need to be doing everything we can to address learning loss and the youth mental health crisis. Instead, President Trump suddenly ripped away more than \$100 million in funding that is supposed to go right to Massachusetts students

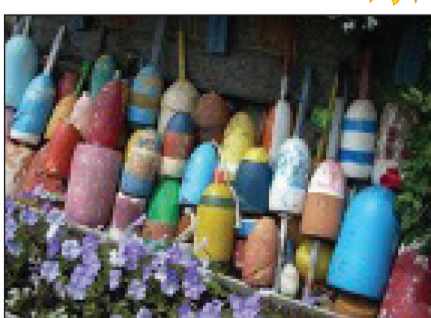
Turn To **FUNDS** page **A14**

# Food Truck Festival returns May 10

SPENCER — The Throwdown! 2025 Food Truck Festival will be held Saturday, May 10 from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the Spencer Fairgrounds, 49 Smithville Rd. Admission \$5 at the gate (children under 12 free). Throwdown! 2025 is Worcester County’s longest running and largest annual Food Truck Festival and Craft Fair. A panel of judges and event attendees cast votes for their favorite food truck to be honored with the prestigious “Best of Worcester County Food Trucks” and the ever coveted “People’s Choice” awards. Along with great food from dozens of food trucks, customers may browse among the more than 50 artisanal craft vendors, enjoy carnival style games, listen to music or participate in an array of yard games such as corn hole, giant blocks, ladder toss and other fun activities just for the kids. Enjoy craft beer and wines at this year’s event from “The Stein & Vine,” Central Massachusetts’ favorite mobile bar service. It’s

Turn To **FESTIVAL** page **A14**





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Courtesy

The Spencer Exchange Club recently donated \$1,000 to local scout Troop 116 and Pack 138. Troop 116 will be using the funding in support of their trip to Gettysburg during April vacation. They are going to be in Gettysburg for 4 days packed with hiking and horseback riding through the battlefield along with a ghost tour. They will also be visiting the Eisenhower Historic Site to learn about the former president and his life. They will be visiting Indian Echo Caverns to take a cavern tour and learn about the local Native Americans. Pack 138 will be using the funding to support their graduation camp at Treasure Valley Scout Reservation in May. This is a great event for the Cub Scouts because it coincides with the annual inter-tribal Pow Wow. The cubs get to spend the afternoon at the Pow Wow and learn about native American life and traditions. It’s followed by a campfire and a Rank Ceremony where they earn their rank for the year and any belt loops they earned since February.

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# Haston Library offers busy spring schedule

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS**  
**STAFF WRITER**  
NORTH BROOKFIELD — The Haston Free Public Library team invites guests of all ages to enjoy a busy spring schedule. Craft Night for Adults returns on Thursday, April 10, at 6 p.m. Faux stained glass will be the theme for this month's

program. Please register for this event in advance by contacting the library by phone or email. On Saturday, April 12, the library will host a showcase of local authors. The program will begin at 1 p.m. "We have a great list of participants for this event, and we hope to see lots of community mem-

bers supporting their own," read a statement released by library officials. The program will include writers sharing book excerpts and poetry. The event is a great way for readers to discover local talent and learn about their writing processes.

The library's Book Discussion Group will next meet on April 29 at 7 p.m. This month's featured book is "On the Map," written by Simon Garfield. Library officials also invite guests to check out a new program called "Cook the Book Club." "Select a recipe from this month's featured cookbook (available at the circulation desk), cook it up, and bring it to our potluck and discussion," the library-issued

statement read. "Let's share great food and conversation."

The group will meet on April 24 at 5:30 p.m. Meanwhile, historical classes will be presented this month by Castle Nitor. A session covering block printing will take place on Thursday, April 17, from 5-7 p.m. A session on drop spinning is set for Monday, April 28, from 6-7 p.m.

Several April story-time programs will be offered to youngsters on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. Books will be paired with craft activities covering such topics as Easter eggs, bunnies, flowers, and spring treats.

Additionally, the library will host Community Connections programming for kids on April 9 from 10-11:30 a.m. Explore reading, crafts, and play activities with your child.

The library continues to host the Children's

Art Club on the first and third Monday of each month. All sessions last from 4-5 p.m.

The library's youth Lego Club takes place every Thursday at 4 p.m.

Finally, library officials recently welcomed Joyce Tibbetts as the new Assistant Librarian.

"Joyce moved to the area last fall, and she's already made herself right at home in our community," the library-issued statement read. "After spending many years on the Cape, Joyce is happy to be back in the inland part of the state, having previously lived in Shutesbury over 30 years ago. Joyce finds the people here to be incredibly welcoming, friendly, and encouraging, and she has thoroughly enjoyed

With 20 years of experience

working in libraries, Tibbetts describes the library community as her own private utopia.

"She's passionate about helping others discover the joy of reading and is excited to connect with the library's patrons to learn more about their interests and preferences," the statement read.

For more information about upcoming library events, or to register for an activity, call 508-867-0208. You may also send an email to: hastonfree-publiclibrary@gmail.com.

Additionally, if you are interested in volunteer opportunities at the library, stop by and fill out a volunteer form.

The library is located at 161 North Main St.

## Leicester KOC holding annual ham raffle Sunday

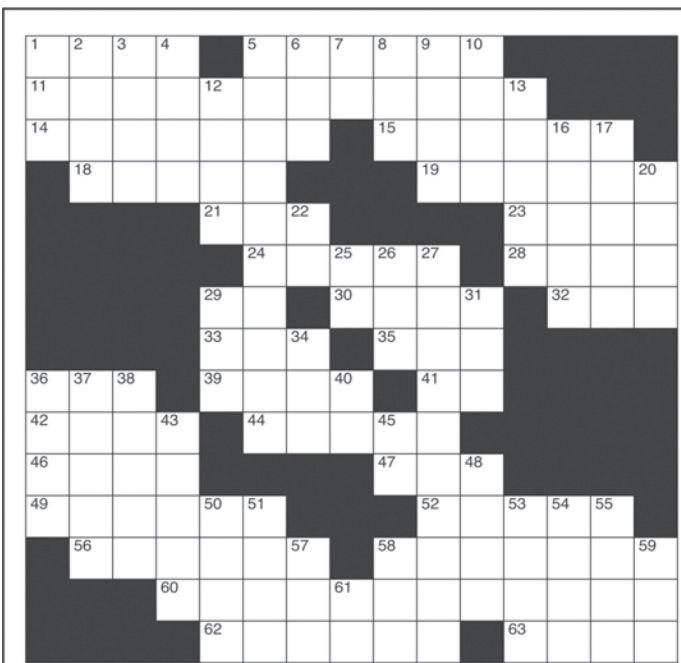
LEICESTER — The Leicester Knights of Columbus will hold their annual ham raffle on Sunday, April 13, at 91 Manville St.

Doors open at noon, and the games will begin at 1 p.m. Other raffles will also be held.

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1. Garden tool

5. A way to preserve

11. Gratitude

14. Domestic sheep

15. Simpler

18. Cavities containing liquid

19. Large fish-eating bird

21. Ocular protection index

23. Phil \_\_, former CIA

24. Icelandic poems

28. Pop

29. Device

30. Actor Rudd

32. A pituitary hormone

33. Focus on an object
35. Corpuscle count (abbr.)

36. Young women's association

39. Not shallow

41. Doctor

42. Furniture

44. Hindu male religious teacher

46. Highly spiced stew

47. A way to communicate

49. Almost last

52. Astronomer Carl

56. Small horses

58. A slender tower with balconies

60. A disrespectful quality

62. Fully shaded inner regions

63. Short convulsive intake of breath

### CLUES DOWN

1. Popular Sunday dinner option

2. Oil cartel

3. Agile

4. Greek goddess of discord

5. Genetically distinct variety

6. Indicates badly

7. Popular Mr. T character

8. Consumed

9. Chinese dynasty

10. NFL great Randy

12. Within

13. Palm trees

16. Fungal disease

17. Tall, slender-leaved plants

20. Affirmative! (slang)

22. A passport is one

25. Two outs in baseball (abbr.)

26. Swiss river

27. Deferential
29. Where a bachelor lives

31. Portable computer screen material

34. A crying noise of a bird

36. Sticky, amorphous substance

37. Starchy dish of dried tubers

38. Type of acid

40. Partner to "Ma"

43. 16 ounces

45. The Bay State

48. A well-defined track or path

50. Substitution

51. Defined period

53. Group of toughs

54. Region

55. Famed Scottish Loch

57. Blood relation

58. Not around

59. Recipe measurement

61. Father to Junior



## QCC offers free tax prep through VITA program

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College is participating in the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program for the current tax season. Individuals who make \$67,000 or less per year can receive free tax preparation services from VITA volunteers, who have been certified by the IRS.

"It's a great experience for the students and builds a sense of community," said Associate Professor of Accounting Eduardo Rivas, who coordinates QCC's involvement with VITA, explaining that volunteers get to work with people from a wide variety of ages, abilities and cultures.

Students from any discipline can join the VITA program, but many are in the Business Administration and Accounting programs.

QCC student Joshua Roman has worked in finance for years at his family's business, but with the owner's retirement approaching, he wanted to show his clients that he can offer the most current knowledge and experience through his credentials. In addition to bolstering his career, he has enjoyed the volunteer aspect of VITA.

"It's really rewarding. We were able to help an elderly couple acquire a specific credit, which got them a bit more of a refund than they were expecting," Roman recalled. "To them, it felt life changing."

Many students participating in the VITA program also commented on the soft skills they have gained from hands-on experience with actual clients. More than just telling clients how much they will receive or owe, volunteers educate them on how the process works and ways to improve their tax situations for the future.

Wanda Morales had never volunteered before but has been excited to help people with their tax preparation. She said she improved her communication skills through the interactions she's had in the program.

"Sometimes, it's a difficult situation, so you need patience to explain to people why they owe because they don't have enough withholdings," Wanda commented.

According to Arielle Bento, who wants to pursue a career in accounting, she's learning about confidentiality and real-world financial situations.

"Taking calls for the program has really helped me build my confidence," Bento commented.

Bento was recently selected for the Local Finance Commonwealth Fellowship, a paid internship program that will focus on municipal finance practices.

Melvin Minaya noted that the hands-on experience in the program is not only helping his self-assurance, but also building trust in the Spanish speakers who he assists with translation.

"I'm getting all this experience at a young age. I know how to treat people, what the questions are going to be and how I'm going to answer. I have the confidence to do it and the mentality to focus," Minaya said.

QCC's VITA program operates out of the Main South CDC in Worcester, but also offers tax preparation services remotely for qualifying participants. The VITA program runs through April 11.

To make an appointment with the VITA program visit [getyourrefund.org/mscdc](http://getyourrefund.org/mscdc), call 508-752-6181 or email [vita@qcc.mass.edu](mailto:vita@qcc.mass.edu). More information is available at [QCC.edu/vita](http://QCC.edu/vita).

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**SPENCER**  
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\$731,400, 1 Meadow Rd, Pallotta Ft, and Pallotta, Christopher D, to 1 Meadow Road LLC.  
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\$80,000, 181 Ash St, Lasell, Thelma L, to Cogswell, Steve, and Cogswell, Karen.  
\$75,000, 27 Woodside Rd, Witz Richard H Est, and Darling, Hyman G, to Shaw Development Inc.

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# Expert warns against financial scams

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — As Kevin Donohue knows all too well, scammers are everywhere, especially online.

Sometimes, they even pretend they want to help you against scammers, or are the police, or want to give you free stuff — if you pay “taxes” beforehand. They also change all the time.

“A scam you learn about today may not be the same tomorrow,” Donohue told about 20 people recently at the Senior Center. Donohue is a presenter for the District Attorney’s office.

But their pattern’s usually the same. The scammer will use any information they have about you — there’s a lot of it available online for most of us, and even more that’s been stolen in various hacks — to make you feel at ease, seeking to pry crucial details they don’t have from you, such as account and Social Security numbers, passwords, and other details that’ll let them rob you.

“They know not everybody will fall for it, but only need a certain percentage,” he said, later adding, “People always think it’s targeted to me, but it’s not. It’s sent to thousands of people.”

The crooks use what he termed “social engi-

neering” to build trust with the information they already have. For example, they might have hacked your health record to pretend to be the hospital following up on a recent appointment or procedure. When you answer, they ask to verify what they have, then for details they don’t have.

“Never verify something for someone who calls you,” Donohue said.

George Chenier admitted he fell for a hospital scam, saying he knew he should’ve hung up when the crooks identified themselves as “Harrington Memorial Hospital” rather than UMass-Harrington. A woman said she’s concerned that Harrington (and other places) have gone paperless, wanting payments on credit cards or by phone. She said she won’t pay that way “and had to fight to get a paper bill.”

Regarding that point, one man noted, “I thought cash was legal tender for all debts, public or private.” (He’s right; our currency states that in print. In Massachusetts, a Constitutional amendment from the late 1970s specifically says all retailers must accept cash.)

Sometimes, the victims are those who believe themselves immune to scamming — even to the point of rec-



Gus Steeves

Kevin Donohue with the DA’s office logo behind him.

ognizing it’s probably crooked, but ignoring their own alarm bells as Chenier did. They’re far from alone. The Federal Trade Commission logs about 2.6 million fraud reports every year, and “whatever the number is, it’s under-reported,” Donohue said. Often, the victims are embarrassed and want to hide it, but he strongly urged them to speak up, tell friends and their community this happened. Invariably, they’ll find others who have been scammed, too.

Their tactics are various. Some will pretend to be the police saying they can void an arrest warrant for a payment. Others claim your account has been hacked, sometimes with a “spoofed” phone number from a legiti-

mate bank, and offer a chance to protect your money by transferring it to another account (often Bitcoin) they control, and then steal.

Occasionally, the scam call or letter is real. But Donohue advised everyone to assume its fake and never give personal information to someone who calls you. Instead, look up the company’s real number and call them to check. (Don’t call the caller ID number or the one on the letter.)

When he started with the DA’s office, scams were mostly by phone, but they’re mostly online now, particularly using links in email (“phishing”) and text (“smishing”) that go to sites that upload malware to

your computer or phone. Such malware often aims to collect anything on the computer and send it to the criminals, hoping to collect passwords and account information.

When it comes to user names and passwords, Donohue warns, “Don’t autosave them on your computer.” (Many websites offer that as an option for “convenience,” but that’s vulnerable. One way to keep them safe is to write them down; online crooks can’t hack paper. It’s also generally recommended not to use the same password for multiple places and to change them periodically.)

Donohue discussed several other scam types. Those include the EZ Pass Scam, where people get a text claiming they have “overdue toll charges” (The state won’t text you for that.) Another type is the “brushing scam,” where people receive unsolicited packages that have no sender or return information, but a QR code with a note “scan this to see who sent it.” That will load malware on your phone. Under state law, people can keep unsolicited packages, although they’re usually

not very valuable. Scam QR codes also appear in all kinds of public places — he cited parking meters as an example — and scammers can easily alter a legit one or print a scam one to stick over it.

“If the QR code is anywhere other than behind their desk, it’s not safe,” Donohue said. “As new tech comes out, scammers use it.”

Even Alexa has become a scam avenue. Donohue said a few years ago, there were reports of a scammer hacking Alexa and convincing children he was Santa.

Technology has led to a split in scam success. While younger people fall victim to more of them (usually online), seniors get taken for larger sums of money, simply because they’ve saved and invested it for years.

“Anyone can fall for a scam,” Donohue said. “If you do, don’t keep it locked inside. Share it. ... When you do, it’s potentially helping others to block them from coming through.”

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

## Wings of Song prepares for upcoming concerts

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

REGION — Capping a three-year exploration of the theme “Home,” local community chorus Wings of Song is preparing for a pair of concerts next month.

The programs are set for Saturday and Sunday, May 17-18.

“Home, for many of us, is our only real sanctuary, our safe harbor, the place where we can be most fully ourselves, the place where all our beloved stuff is, the place where we’re with the ones we love,” read a statement promoting the event.

Last year, the chorus sang “Rough Seas, Safe Harbor,” exploring what it means to be far from home for one or two years at a time, then to return home.

Now, in 2025, it’s time for “Here Is My Home,” a deep dive into what home has meant to Americans and to people around the world over the years.

In “Here Is My Home,” Wings of Song will sing about yearning for home, waiting to finally go home, savoring the comforts and consolations of home, and being welcomed home.

Additional themes will include the call of home, cherishing our planetary home and environment, home as a community, home as a particular beloved geographical region, and home as a reunion with loved ones.

“The program won’t touch on all the meanings of home, but it’ll make a good start,” the promotional statement read. “As always, there will be audience singalongs, including the concert’s theme song, ‘Here Is My Home,’ and also ‘Home, Sweet Home.’ Expect tremendous variety, including some fine instrumental accompaniment.”

On Saturday, May 17, at 7:30 p.m., the chorus will perform at St. Joachim Chapel (part of

St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish at 16 Church St. in Fiskdale).

The next day, on May 18, a concert will take place at 3 p.m. at Elm Street Congregational Church (61 Elm St. in Southbridge).

Admission to both concerts is free, with a freewill offering collected during intermission.

Free refreshments will be served after each concert.

Both concert venues are fully accessible. Please arrive early to be sure of a seat.



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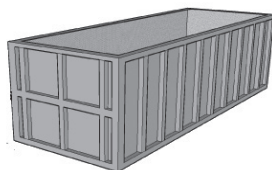


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# MassIndie2025 Film Festival showcases Oscar-nominated “Porcelain War,” bold local & regional indie talent

SOUTHBIDGE — The annual 2025 Massachusetts Independent Film Festival (MassIndie2025) will be packed with indie features, shorts, documentaries, experimental, horror films and more, all made both locally and from around the country and the world including the Oscar Nominated Documentary “Porcelain War” by Brendan Bellomo and Slava Leontyev.

The festival takes place on April 24 through 26 at the Wellsworth Hotel & Conference Center, 14 Mechanic St., Southbridge, and a special screening of student films at Razzo Hall, Clark University, on Friday the 25th.

(Special note: Important Venue Update for MassIndie. Due to unforeseen circumstances, our previously announced venue, starlite in Southbridge, has closed. All three days of MassIndie—April 24 to 26—will now take place at the Wellsworth Hotel in Southbridge.)

The festival is presented by the Shawna Foundation which also runs the Shawna Shea Film Festival (SSFF) which will return to Southbridge in July. The Foundation also runs the Scandriglia Film Festival in Italy every other year in October. Our next date there is October 2026.

This year’s MassIndie Film Fest includes the feature length movies “Mountain Lion” by Brooklyn Demme, film director Jonathan Demme’s son, “Fakes” by John Hayeck shot entirely in Worcester; and “The Dirty Gerund Poetry Show Documentary” by Manny Alvarado about the iconic Worcester poetry reading series that has taken place at Ralph’s Diner for the last 15 years.

“We also offer screenings online exclusively to the Shawna Foundation Patreon subscribers which include the feature

length films “Atrabilious” by William Atticus Parker, son of Billy Crudup and Mary-Louise Parker, starring Jeffrey Wright and Leon Addison Brown and the Canadian Feature “Home Free” by Avi Ronn Federgreen starring Michelle Nolden and Art Hindle. Allowing our Patreon members this opportunity helps people who live in rural areas or who don’t have the ability to travel to take part in experiencing truly independent art,” said festival director Skip Shea.

The festival also has blocks full of short experimental, horror, international and documentaries made by filmmakers who chose to lean more towards art then commerce with their work showing their true independent spirit.

“In keeping with the mission of the Shawna Foundation roughly 60 percent of the movies we will screen were made by people in the underrepresented communities. But that also reflects roughly the average amount of films submitted by the same community. The Shawna Foundation has become known that we are the home for all voices. We truly believe that showing the stories of a diverse population only shows how

much we have in common. We all experience sadness, joy, loss and survival. And we can all relate to that,” said Shea.

Shea is an acclaimed Uxbridge-based filmmaker, writer, director and producer who founded the Shawna E. Shea Memorial Foundation Inc. in memory of his daughter Shawna E. Shea, an Uxbridge High School student and a creative and artistic young woman who died at 16 in a 1999 automobile crash.

The nonprofit organization runs a number of arts and film programs, all with the Shawna Foundation’s mission to equitably promote and support students through scholarship and showcase artists in filmmaking, performance arts, poetry and other creative endeavors with a focus on underrepresented communities. The Foundation’s vision is the belief that the arts and education are essential to creating a vibrant, healthy community and world.

Tickets for program blocks are \$10. For the full schedule and to buy tickets, visit [shawnafoundation.org](http://shawnafoundation.org).

### Public Service Announcement

### Town of Spencer

### 2025-2026

Transfer Station Stickers will be on sale at the Water Department beginning April 14, 2025 during regular business hours: Monday to Thursday 8:00AM to 5:00PM

Sticker fee is \$75.00

Second stickers for same household cost an additional \$30.00.

Renewals can be paid online at [www.spencerma.gov](http://www.spencerma.gov) or by mailing your completed form with check/money order

Please include a stamped self addressed envelope to: Department of Utilities & Facilities

Attention: Stickers

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Questions? Call 508-885-7515.

## QCC to screen addiction documentary filmed in Worcester

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College is hosting a screening of the documentary film “Recovery City” on Monday, April 7 at 6 p.m. in the Hebert Auditorium of the main campus on 670 West Boylston St., Worcester. This event is free and open to the public. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with the director and cast members.

“Recovery City” was directed by Lisa Olivieri and follows four women from Worcester who are either in recovery from drug addiction, or helping others with addiction recovery. The film received the


Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature at the 2024 GlobeDocs Film Festival and the 2024 Provincetown International Film Festival.

“Everyone’s lives are touched by addiction and being able to pull back the curtain in our own community and see what these people’s journeys have been, will be an eye-opening experience,” said QCC’s Director of Health and Wellness Heather Lukas, organizer of the screening.

Lukas wanted to screen the film on campus to spread awareness about local issues such as the hazardous effects of opioid abuse. Lukas has completed work with the Worcester

Department of Public Health’s opioid taskforce and the state’s Community Naloxone Program (CNP), which has allowed QCC to offer education and distribution of naloxone with the goal of preventing death from an opioid overdose.

“The fact that this was filmed in Worcester over five years, doesn’t show active drug use, but shows the featured women doing well really sets this film apart from other documentaries on this subject,” Lukas said, adding, “This is a powerful film that is a must watch.”



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## Meet your candidates for selectmen

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The candidates for Board of Selectmen in North Brookfield will be hosting a “meet and greet” on Friday, April 25. It will begin at 6 p.m., and will be held at the North Brookfield Sportsman’s Club. Come and get to meet the candidates and get to know us.

The setting will be informal. You can ask the questions that are important to you and discuss the issues that you want to discuss. This will help you to make an informed decision on Election Day. There will be free food and entertainment provided. Contributions are appreciated.


## Word of Life Church invites community to Resurrection Sunday Service

SPENCER — Word of Life Church invites the community to join its Resurrection Sunday Service April 20, beginning at 9 a.m. at the American Legion Hall, 175 Main St., Spencer.

We are a church that believes that the love of God is for everyone, and that whosoever calls on the Lord shall be saved. A place where you will find forgiveness and redemption.

This will be a tie of worship and prayer and the reading of His living Word, the Bible. Whether you are a believer in Christ already or someone looking for a reason and a purpose, you are welcome.

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**Wesley**  
**Age 10**  
**Registration # 8475**

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

The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with.

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



### ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR WAIT LIST

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<b>AUTUMN RIDGE</b> – Fiskdale, MA	<b>KIRKWOOD PLACE</b> – Palmer, MA
<b>BAYBERRY POINT</b> – Salisbury, MA	<b>MARCONI VILLAGE</b> – Marion, MA
<b>CROMESSETT WOODS</b> – Wareham, MA	<b>PINEVIEW</b> – Baldwinville, MA
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# QCC's Auxilium Center for Entrepreneurship announced

WORCESTER  
— Quinsigamond  
Community College  
kicked off StartUp Week  
Worcester earlier today  
with the announcement  
of the Auxilium Center  
for Entrepreneurship, a  
new initiative made pos-

The Auxilium Center for Entrepreneurship will serve as an innovation hub for QCC students of any discipline, offering workshops, mentoring,

consultation services and entrepreneurship-focused curriculum.

"This has been an amazing partnership. The Center will help our students get the social capital and the guidance that they need. The generous gift of the Cliff and Susan Rucker Foundation will help empower QCC students to be catalysts for economic growth. Our students are rooted here, and they will invest in our community," said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja.

The Cliff and Susan Rucker Foundation has committed \$100,000 per year for a minimum of three years to support

staffing and programming at the Center.

"No aspiring entrepreneur should ever feel like they're doing it alone. In partnership with QCC we're laying the groundwork for a vibrant entrepreneurial hub...in the broader Worcester community," said Jacob Rucker, private equity analyst at Rucker Investments and co-founder of Auxilium. "This will be a space where bold ideas are welcome, risk is encouraged and support is real. Auxilium will be this program's partner, mentor and constant source of encouragement."

Also speaking at the announcement was Noah

MacDonald, who is studying business administration at QCC and started a group for students called Coalition of Rising Entrepreneurs (CORE) to help students such as himself who want to start their own ventures.

"I just started getting into entrepreneurship and I can see how important it is. I have very big goals for my life so I'm grasping opportunities. A place like this could give me the mentorship that I need and show me the paths I can take," MacDonald commented.

QCC Board of Trustees President Dr. Linda Maykel reflected on starting a dental practice with-

out knowing where to turn for advice on simple business practices such as signing a commercial lease.

"To have a center now where students can come and have people to mentor them through is absolutely one of the most exciting things I've seen since I've been here," said Maykel. "The Center will also maximize QCC's existing wraparound services like counseling and the HomePlate Food Pantry & Resource Center."

The Center is set to open on QCC's main campus in Fall 2025.

# Central Mass. Grown celebrates 10 years of supporting local farmers

STURBRIDGE — This May, Central Massachusetts Grown will celebrate ten years of helping farmers thrive and educating consumers on the importance of supporting local farms.

Central Mass Grown is a non-profit organization and one of several Buy Local organizations across Massachusetts tasked with encouraging consumers to support local agricultural businesses, especially farms and restaurants. Across Worcester County every year, more than fifteen hundred farms produce more than \$87 million in agricultural products. These farms are a vital part of our economy and our community. They protect open space from development, protect wildlife habitats and water supplies, and support local businesses in their community, contributing to a strong local economy. Our local farms produce food more sustainably than what you typically find in a supermarket, grow our economy, support our neighbors, and make Central Massachusetts a better place to live.

Since it was founded in late 2014, Central Mass Grown's network has grown to cover the entire region, tirelessly promoting the importance of protecting our farmers and farmland. CMG regularly hosts workshops to help farmers improve their business and use environmentally sustainable practices. It is also active in promoting local farmers markets, helping ensure more people in Worcester County have more access to the best, highest quality food and other products. It has advocated for our farmers, especially during the COVID pandemic and in the wake of the devastating weather of 2023.

As CMG looks toward the next ten years, the need for strong small farms and local businesses is clearer and more important than ever. As we've all seen, national and international supply chains can be disrupted by political events and natural disasters. By protecting our local food system, local agriculture is creating local food security and food sovereignty. We must continue to find more sustainable ways to protect our land, increase food access, and make access to land and food equitable to all. The mission of Central Mass Grown continues to be to support local farmers and local agriculture to create a healthier community and a better, more sustainable environment.

Central Mass Grown will hold their Annual Meeting celebrating their tenth year on Friday, May 2 at Deep Roots Distillery in Sturbridge. More information can be found on their Web site at [centralmassgrown.org](http://centralmassgrown.org).

## Safe boating certificate courses scheduled at Milford and Webster locations

Jet Ski (for 16 & 17-year-old operators), on all Massachusetts waters; in conjunction with the Mass. Environmental Police. Approved by National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) it will also cover the requirements to operate a vessel in most other states & many countries where boating safety education is mandatory, including Rhode Island and Connecticut.

The Hanson-Milone Boater Safety Act, signed into Mass. Law January 8, will now require all Mass. motorboat operators to complete an approved Safe Boating Certificate course before April 1, 2026 for anyone born after Jan. 1, 1998, and by April 1, 2028 for boaters born before Jan. 1, 1998. Enforcement of the new law will begin on September 1, 2026. This course meets the future Mass. requirement. Most boating insurance companies offer a discount

on premiums for successful completion of this course.

Participants 16 years old and under must be accompanied, in person, by a registered parent/guardian. Space is limited so register soon:

Milford High School -  
Saturdays - May 3 and  
June 7 - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Milford High School  
courses offered at 31 West  
Fountain St Milford

Registration is managed through the Milford Community School Use Program.

https://milfordcommunityprogram.activityreg.com/ss\_t2.wcs  
Adult-Winter-2024/2025  
and Spring 2025 –  
Educational - Boat  
America Certificate Class  
or call Laura Farrell  
(508) 478-1119, email lfarrell@milfordma.com:

The registration deadline is six days prior to course.

For additional  
USCGAux. information:  
phil.uscgaux@verizon.

net or (508) 478-3778.

Webster Fire  
Department – Saturday,  
May 17 – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Webster Fire  
Department Classroom,  
55 Thompson Rd.,  
Webster

Contact our Public Education Officer Phil Kubat for registration or additional

information: email  
phil.uscgauX@verizon.  
net or call (508) 478-3778.

To locate these and other USCG Auxiliary courses (BA and BS&S) that will meet certification requirements go to: [https://www.cgaux.org/boatinged/class\\_finder/index.php](https://www.cgaux.org/boatinged/class_finder/index.php).

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard and supports the Coast Guard in nearly all mission areas. The Auxiliary was created by Congress in 1939. For more information, please visit [www.cgaux.org](http://www.cgaux.org)



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A black and white illustration of a street scene. On the left, a tall clock tower with a large clock face stands on a sidewalk. A row of shops with awnings and flower boxes runs along the street. A large, stylized letter 'C' is on the right.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE  
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Identity politics is exhausting, and misses the point

Somewhere along the way, we were convinced that being politically aware means picking a side and sticking to it no matter what. Red team, blue team. Us vs. them. You’re either all in or you’re out. Here’s the thing no one wants to admit unless you’re an elected official, no one actually cares what “side” you’re on.

Your neighbor doesn’t care if you vote left or right — they care if you help them dig out after a snowstorm. Your community doesn’t benefit from your party loyalty, it benefits when you show up, vote on the issues that matter, and take action that improves real lives.

This performative, party-first mindset we’ve fallen into is exhausting. Frankly, it’s childish. Political parties were never supposed to be tribal identities, they were supposed to be tools. Temporary alliances to move policies forward. Instead, we’ve turned them into something resembling sports teams, where people root for their side no matter how bad the playbook gets.

What if we stripped away the party labels altogether? What if we voted on the issues themselves instead of accepting whatever bundle of policies a party wraps in its packaging? Most people don’t fit neatly into one ideological box and pretending we do has only divided us more.

We should be holding elected officials accountable, not treating them like mascots. We should be debating ideas, not defending party lines like we’re in some playground argument. And we should stop letting political branding override personal thinking.

Want to be a true patriot? Read up, show up and stop picking sides as though we’re all choosing a dodgeball team. Vote like it’s about the issues. Because it is. And like your own future, and that of the generations that will follow you, depends on it. Because it does.

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

Not rocket science

To the Editor:

Elon Musk’s company, Space X , recently made news for performing a safe round trip to the International Space Station that included a ride home for two astronauts whose eight-day trip got extended to three months due to equipment issues This actually was rocket science.

When you say something is not rocket science, you infer that it is just common sense, which, unfortunately, is no longer common. An example of lack of common sense was including the press on Houthi attack plans in Yemen. The response that all is well that ends well discounts a participant posting that they confirmed a target was on site. A true operative would wonder if such a statement might compromise the life or effectiveness of the source. Some people would serve us far better not getting into classified info, unnecessarily. One example would be a high government official extracting information stored in a bathroom, for dinner banter with an Australian billionaire. Discussing how close our subs can get to shore, without detection, which said billionaire then published in his country, is an example of poor judgement or security — not rocket science

Although many of the current President’s people have little national security experience, many of them being wealthy or even billionaires, would indicate that they know what sound judgement looks like. While I have little insight into what makes Musk’s DOGE 19-year-old audit crew, so much more efficient than the 100 cyber ninja’s it took 5 months to recount Arizona’s ballots, it does not seem like rocket science to me, that auditing multi-billion-dollar agencies, with less people, might take longer. While all I know about USAID is that JFK started it as outreach to famine and starvation, disease and pestilence, and that it also had the side effect of

thwarting terrorist recruitment that farms are over our corn belt fly signs saying “We Feed the World,” I don’t have to watch children dying, so hope it is worth it. May God have mercy on our souls.

Here are a couple of math problems I would like to see explained. 1) The Consumer Protection Agency cost us half billion a year to operate. It returned \$18 billion to consumers last year. Do we think this a waste of money, or that consumer fraud is over? 2) The National Park Service, created by Teddy Roosevelt and the jewel of all government owned land, had an operating budget of \$3.5 billion, that returned \$55 billion in revenue last year Every park, not yet in high season, is lamenting that the damage done bankrupted nursing homes, say come get gramma) will be irreparable.

DOGE is currently cutting the IRS, in high filing season, who already was short staffed Doing clearly ludicrous things at Social Security and Medicare. (Even the most ardent MAGA cult members my notice when bankrupted nursing homes, say come get gramma.)

Perhaps the most outrageous of all, cuts to an already understaffed VA after firing 121,000 government employees, of with many are disabled and/or vets

If there were actual fraud, funds should be clawed back, and indictments issued. When all is said and done, a real audit and connect the dots consequences computed, my guess is no savings, only costs. And that’s not rocket science

If you want to punish Elon, who only owns 12 percent of Tesla, do not buy one. Burning his or customers for replacement is profit and increased insurance costs Want him gone, write Congress and flip seats to blue.

KEN KIMBALL  
BROOKFIELD

If this isn’t grounds for impeachment, what is?

To the Editor:

The President’s threat to revoke the security clearance of law firms like Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison unless they provide him with millions of dollars’ worth of free legal services going forward, and their acceptance of those terms, should have anyone and everyone who is concerned about this country, the preservation of the rule of law, and our individual security gravely concerned.

Certainly, Paul, Weiss and the other firms were put in a bad position. Nonetheless, their quick capitulation to Donald Trump and his threats was shameful. Given an opportunity to take a stand against this blatant criminality and for the rule of law, they chose instead to provide pro bono legal services to the Extortionist-in-Chief, presumably including defending him when he is challenged by others who might oppose actions of this nature. It’s like a lawyer saying to a serial robber, “Hey, if you don’t rob me, I’ll defend you for free if you go rob somebody else.”

With his threat to revoke the secu-

rity clearance of these law firms, the President is apparently implying that they are a threat to our national security. If so, by all means, revoke their clearances. But to say in the next breath that such revocation, and the harsh economic consequences that would accompany it, can be prevented by simply paying up — that’s something else. Something that has all the appearance of extortion.

The Supreme Court, when it conferred criminal immunity on the President for official acts while in office, left impeachment as the only recourse for felonious conduct by a president under the guise of official action. If using the presidency as a front for running a shakedown racket is not criminal conduct, what is? The ball is therefore in the Congress’ court to do its sworn duty to defend the rule of law and the Constitution. Anything short of presenting articles of impeachment is an abdication of their civic responsibility and a renunciation of their oath of office.

ROGER BANKS  
SPENCER

Vote no on the Sapphire Anniversary

To the Editor:

Attention, homeowners of Spencer. This year marks the sapphire anniversary of Proposition 2 ½, the property tax cap passed by voters in 1980. Prop 2 ½ limits municipal governments to a 2.5 percent increase in assessed property taxes each year!

The Spencer selectmen have agreed that you do not pay enough property taxes! Please assess your tax bills for fiscal 2025. They did not go down, and the selectmen want them to go up and up!

The average tax bill for fiscal 2025 has increased \$500, and the school override is not yet included in tax bills! When you cannot afford your property taxes, what will you do? Maybe move to Leicester, Palmer or East Brookfield, towns that believe that government must be constrained! The cost of fuel, insurance, food and

utilities is astronomical, the highest they have ever been!

It is in our best interest to keep local government small and affordable, as we don’t aspire to be Newton, Cambridge or Framingham!

Bigger government is not better government! Ever expanding government yields ever expanding budgets and bloated bureaucracies that siphon more and more tax dollars from the working class!

The override racket will be discussed and debated and of course justified with threats of less local services but don’t be duped by their scare and shame tactics! You must be prepared to vote no!

Vote no Tuesday, May 13 at the local annual town election, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.!

JEN GAUCHER  
SPENCER

How to cope with market volatility



FINANCIAL  
FOCUS

TREVOR  
NIELSEN

The financial markets always go through periods of instability. And we may see more of that now, given concerns about tariffs, inflation and the economy. As an investor, how can you deal with this volatility?

Some investors try to take advantage of market ups and downs by attempting to follow the age-old advice to “buy low and sell high” — that is, they seek to buy stocks when they feel prices have bottomed out and they sell stocks when they think the market has reached a high point. In theory, this is a great idea, but in practice, it’s essentially impossible, because no one can really predict market highs and lows.

Rather than trying to anticipate highs and lows, your best strategy for coping with the price fluctuations of the financial markets is to diversify your investment portfolio by owning a mix of stocks, bonds and other types of securities. Different types of financial assets can move in different directions at any given time — so, for example, stocks may be up while bonds are down, or vice versa. If you only owned one of these types of assets, and the market for that asset class was down, your portfolio could take a bigger hit than if you owned a variety of asset types.

And you can further diversify within individual asset categories. Stocks can be domestic or international, large-company or small-company — and these groupings can also move in different directions at the same time, depending on various market forces. As for bonds, they too don’t always move in a uniform direction, or at least with the same intensity — for instance, when interest rates rise, bond prices tend to fall, but longer-term bonds may fall more than shorter-term ones, which are closer to maturity with fewer interest payments remaining. Conversely, when rates are falling, longer-term bonds may be more attractive because they lock in higher yields for a longer time. Consequently, one diversification technique for bonds is to build a “ladder” containing bonds of varying maturities.

Some investments, by their nature, are already somewhat diversified. A mutual fund can contain dozens, or even hundreds, of stocks, or a mixture of stocks and bonds. And different mutual funds may have different investment objectives — some focus more on growth, while others are more income-oriented — so, further diversification can be achieved by owning a mix of funds.

Furthermore, some investors achieve even greater diversification by owning alternative investments, such as real estate, commodities and cryptocurrencies, although these vehicles themselves are often more volatile than those in more traditional investment categories.

While a diversified portfolio is important for every investor, your exact level of diversification — the percentages of your portfolio devoted to stocks, bonds and other securities — will depend on your individual risk tolerance, time horizon and financial goals. You may want to consult with a financial professional about creating the diversified investment mix that’s right for your needs.

Ultimately, while diversification can’t guarantee profits or protect against all losses, it can help you reduce some of the risks associated with investing and better prepare you to deal with the inevitable volatility of the financial markets — two key benefits that can help you over the many years you’ll spend as an investor.

*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](mailto:trevor.nielsen@edwardjones.com). You must evaluate whether a bond or CD ladder and the securities held within it are consistent with your investment objectives, risk tolerance and financial circumstances. Including callable bonds may increase the interest rate risk of a bond ladder. Bonds may be called prior to maturity, which could result in lower yields with new investments.*

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Kudos

To the Editor:

Many thanks to Ken Kimball, Kevin Kane and David Brown for their intelligent, informative and well written letters over the past several months.

Their letters have given me the strength and push I needed to get me through the pain of what is happening in the world right now.

My husband and I, as well as sever-

## What does 'merit' mean to Trump?

To the Editor:

Many people who voted for Donald Trump voted for a person they thought would run this county like a business — not just any business, but a business focused on profit and efficiency. What better way than to put the government under the control of wealthy businessmen? Away with D.E.I.! Away with "woke" attitudes, whatever they are! Critical jobs should be held on the basis of merit!

Merit! That sounds like a reasonable idea. But recent hires by Donald Trump suggest that merit, in his eyes, is the willingness to abandon the rule of law and promote policies that would weaken the balance of power, enabling Trump in his goal of staying in power as long as he wants and punishing those who would get in his way.

USAID? Why waste money trying to feed starving children abroad? Put America first, and just eliminate the whole agency! National Weather Service? Why waste money on an agency that promotes climate change "propaganda!" Department of Education? Eliminate it! More mind control leading to Woke ideas and the questioning of sound business policies? What science and history do our children really need to know? Who really won the 2020 election?

I can understand why people might be drawn to a businessman who promises low taxes and the elimination of wasteful spending. But Donald Trump? Six bankruptcies with his casinos, a fraudulent university forced to repay students \$25 million, a charity scam closed by the government, a trail of lawyers and other employees punished for doing his illegal bidding, and over 30 criminal indictments! This history is a role model for running any business? But changing the name of taxes to tariffs - what a great idea! Adding an average yearly cost of over \$3,000 in tariffs to the average family budget is so much more acceptable.

It has been a few months since Christmas, but I still clearly remember the message of one of my favorite Christmas stories, Charles Dickens's "A Christmas Carol." In one scene, Ebenezer Scrooge tells the ghost of his old business partner, Jacob Marley, that he always thought of Jacob as a good man of business. Jacob wailed in response "Business! Mankind was my business! The common good was my business!" In another scene, the Ghost

of our friends, will be going to our first-ever protest this week, and we are proud to be doing it.

We can't be silent! We need to do and say whatever it takes to save our democracy and our beautiful country.

Take America back!

NOREEN FERNANDES  
WEST BROOKFIELD

of Christmas Present opened his robes to show Scrooge two children huddled against him. He told Scrooge that one child was hunger, and the other was ignorance. He warned Scrooge to be concerned about both, but especially the child called ignorance. Unfortunately, Trump appears to have little concern for either child.

Personally, I think we all would fare better under the leadership of a person who was less the "good man of business" and more simply the good man, a skilled parent who is caring and concerned for all members of the family. How does Trump fare on that standard? Cheating on his third wife while she is nursing his youngest child! I count myself lucky that I don't have Donald Trump in my family tree.

So it has been two and a half months, and what has Trump accomplished? Unfortunately, quite a bit - and our image as a beacon for freedom and our reputation as a land of opportunity has become severely tarnished. The U.S. is changing, and not in a good way. America first! Who cares what happens to the rest of the world! Just as a "me first" mentality is not conducive to maintaining lasting relationships, greedy and selfish national policies can quickly result in the loss of allied support. And what country would want to share critical information with an ally who stores top secret classified information in a bathroom or who discusses "battle plans" in an insecure chat room atmosphere?

D.E.I. Diversity, equity, inclusion. Actually, those values could help form a powerful work force by greatly expanding the opportunity of gifted individuals to demonstrate their merit. But the apparent MAGA interpretation of D.E.I. is dumb, extreme, insane, or divisive, exclusive, insensitive? Threatening trade wars and forced occupation of our neighbors! I certainly did not see that coming. What else are we going to see in Trump's first 100 days in office? I'm not sure how you define "Woke," but I certainly hope that enough of us become "awake" to the perilous situations that we are facing in order to prevent our democracy from becoming another autocracy of billionaires siding with tyrants like Putin rather than supporting democracies throughout the world and preserving our planet for future generations.

DAVID W. BROWN  
NORTH BROOKFIELD

## I look forward to serving the people of North Brookfield

To the Editor:

My name is Ralph Kay. I am running for the two-year term on the Board of Selectmen in North Brookfield. My wife and I moved here about five and a half years ago. We have been married for 44 years. We have three grown children and six grandchildren with number seven on the way. Previously, we lived in Spencer and in East Brookfield for 16 years.

I am a retired high school math teacher. Prior to that, I was an executive in an insurance company. I made the career change in order to better serve my community while also providing for my family. I earned a Bachelor's degree at Nichols College and a Master's degree at Western New England University. I have also served many years as a successful coach. I coached girls' and boys' soccer at David Prouty, Women's and Men's soccer at Anna Maria College, as well as softball coach at both Bay Path and Quabbin. I also served as Athletic Director in North Brookfield. As a coach, I instilled the necessity of working together toward a common goal. This trait is vital for bringing North Brookfield together and helping the town to flourish.

I want to be able to help my community. I was appointed to the School Committee recently. However, when the selectman position became available, I feel that my skills are best suited for

the responsibilities of selectman. The skills that I have attained over the years that make me a good fit for a selectman position include: public speaking, leadership, giving direction, and organizing. I have a high degree of integrity and a strong work ethic. I am a morale builder and a team builder.

I have no special interest topic to push through nor do I have an axe to grind. I am running purely to be able to serve our community. We like this town. As an observer, the town has experienced little growth, a large tax demand on residents, and not a great degree of vision for the future. My desire to serve in this position is to reverse these trends.

What can you expect from me? I take a no-nonsense approach to problem solving. I am certain to perform due diligence when making decisions. I use common sense combined with an analytical, data based process. I find that solutions based on feelings, emotions, or lacking facts do not work. I am readily approachable, I am a good listener, and I will work for the best interest of the town.

I look forward to serving the people of North Brookfield, and I would greatly appreciate your trust and your vote.

Sincerely,

RALPH KAY  
NORTH BROOKFIELD

## Dangerous MAGA times

To the Editor:

After less than three months of the Trump Presidency, it very much seems that our beloved 250-year-old United States has suffered more damage than at any time since the 1860s. Than we fought a Civil War against one another.

Like every other country, we do not stand as perfect. However, we have stood as the world's best hope, a model to others and as the leader of the "free" world.

Similarly, as we turned into 2025, our economy, though unequal, functioned as the best in the world. Economic growth ranked as the best, jobs creation was at a high, and our Constitution and laws government systems, people and public and private institutions functioned well. They contributed to this success.

Now, much of this success, and the reasons for it, face extreme danger. Some examples of this follow.

To quote the richest person in the world, Trump supporter Elon Musk, our government departments and agencies and our public servants have been "Chains Sawed" or if not destroyed made much less effective. While I have almost never worked in a U. S. government organization I have often worked with some under contract or otherwise. Likewise I have done the same with other governments and similar organizations around the world. Until the beginning of 2025 I could say that including faults, ours ranked among the best and well above most. Now Trump, Musk, and Project 20205 ultra-right wingers have by, chain saw, crippled them and us.

Social Security stands as a good example. First, they said the Social Security system was awash with fraud and cost too much to run. Both are known to be lies. Overpayments of any kind are very few, and its operating costs, by any measure, are very low. Then they badly damaged the computer systems

that it needs to make monthly payments and adjustments. Then they cut staff and forced out many senior experienced staff. Some experts think the payment and other systems may fall apart in the next few months.

Now, like with Social Security, with Medicaid and Medicare, the MAGA controlled Congress moves toward cutting funding.

Let's discuss a second example, Trump tariffs. The President has said he wants to go the time around 1900, when tariffs. not income taxes, mostly funded the government. In contrast, he never talks about the 1950's, when, under Republican Eisenhower and a time of great economic growth, the income tax rate for the wealthy was about 70 percent.

Over the years since World War II, the United States, both in self-interest and for the greater good, has developed and operated an imperfect but generally good international "free trading system." Last week, with his ignorant and destructive tariff system, the Trumps have also "chain sawed" our own global trading system. Not only the stock markets, but our important trading partners have strongly reacted from the massive mistake. In it, we are again "America alone."

In addition to other massive damage, we need to realize that these tariffs will basically function as a sales tax added to our bills. They will mostly effect ourselves - the middle and working classes - and especially those who rely on Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare because this "sales tax" will never equal income taxes collections so cuts in them will happen.

We need to push back.

KEVIN KANE  
SPENCER

Additional Letters To The Editor,  
See Page A-10

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# The secret of Socrates

Picture this: a man in a suit, contracts in hand, marching down a hallway like he's heading into battle.

He swings open the office door, eyes locked on his business partner. He's angry. He's certain. He's ready to set the record straight.

"This is outrageous," he says, slamming the folder on the desk. "You agreed to these terms. You're backing out now?"

The partner, calm but resolute, folds his hands. "No, I didn't agree to that."

"Yes, you did," the man in the suit snapped.

"No, I didn't," his partner replied, calm as ever.

The conversation spirals. The angrier the businessman gets, the firmer his partner digs in. No progress. No compromise. A Stalemate; nowhere to go. And that

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was it—just one word, over and over: No.

When the man walks out, nothing changes except his blood pressure.

Now pause here. Let's talk about what just happened.

The problem wasn't the disagreement. The problem was the approach. He came in swinging—accusation first, challenge second. He backed the other person into a corner. And people don't make deals when they feel cornered. They defend themselves. They harden.

The second someone says "no," it's like concrete drying. Fast. Solid. Tough to crack.

Dale Carnegie called this The Secret of Socrates in "How to Win Friends and Influence People."

He wrote: "In talking with people, don't begin by discussing the things on which you differ.

Begin by emphasizing—and keep on emphasizing—the things on which you agree... Get the other person saying 'yes, yes' at the outset. Keep your opponent, if possible, from saying 'no.'"

Socrates mastered this. He didn't argue. He asked questions. Obvious ones. Undeniable ones. Questions that showed both sides were aligned. Only differing in the method. One yes, then another. And slowly, the tension faded. The resistance dropped. The conversation shifted. They weren't on opposite sides anymore. They were on the same page.

Let's come back to our world.

Instead of walking into a room with fire and a point to prove, try starting with this: "You want what's best for the team, right?" "You care about this project like I do, right?" "You want this to work."

Get agreement on the big picture before diving into the details. Because once someone's in "yes mode," they're far more likely to stay there.

The truth is, "no" is more than a word—it's a wall. And once it's up good luck getting through. But "yes" is a bridge. It connects people. It opens doors.

Now, picture a good salesman talking to a potential customer—not the pushy kind, but the thoughtful, sharp kind.

He doesn't start with, "So, are you ready to buy?" He starts with questions so obvious they're effortless to answer: "You're looking for something reliable, right?" "Yes." "You want to make sure you're getting the best value for your money?" "Yes." "And I'm guessing you don't want to waste time shopping around forever?" "Exactly."

Three yeses, right out

of the gate!

What just happened? The customer started nodding—not just physically, but mentally. They felt understood. They felt like the salesperson was on their side. And now, the next sentence—"Let me show you what I think is a great fit"—doesn't feel like a pitch. It feels like teamwork.

The beauty of this isn't that it tricks people. It's that it meets them where they are. We don't move forward when we feel forced. We move forward when we feel seen.

And this isn't just for sales or business.

A parent asks a teenager, "You want your room to feel peaceful, right?" A coach saying to their team, "You want to win just as badly as I do." A

teacher calming a classroom: "You want to enjoy this time together, don't you?"

Shared goals, voiced early, dissolve resistance before it ever shows up. They create alignment, and alignment creates momentum.

So next time you need to persuade someone—whether in a boardroom, a negotiation, a relationship, or just a conversation—remember the Secret of Socrates.

Lead with agreement. Start with what's obvious. Find common ground. Get the nods early.

Because anyone who leads, teaches, builds, or negotiates will tell you—once they're nodding, you're already halfway home.

## Coloring Easter Eggs Naturally

Easter is right around the corner, and for many, the annual ritual of coloring eggs is an anticipated yearly tradition. But there's no need to run out and buy a fancy egg coloring kit, as you likely have the ingredients to make up a rainbow of colorful eggs right in your kitchen cupboard!

The following ideas are fun and easy to do family egg coloring projects.

Note: Eggs that are to be eaten should always be refrigerated after coloring.

Quick and Easy Classic Food Coloring Dye

This homemade mixture rivals the basic egg coloring kits. Use empty egg cartons to dry the eggs.

Mix three quarters of a cup warm water with one tablespoon white vinegar. Add one quarter teaspoon of (no artificial dye) food coloring. Note: gel food coloring works best.

Make individual batches of color in wide mouth mugs or small bowls. Dip and soak hard boiled eggs in mixture to color:

\*\*

Natural Egg Dyes

Note: Patience is the key to bright colors as it could take a while to achieve.

Red: Save the skins from onions and boil for one half to one hour. The more skins you use and longer you soak, the darker color will be. A small amount of skins will produce a light lavender color.

\*\*

Pink: Soak hard boiled eggs in a mug or cup of cranberry juice or pickled beet juice with ½ tsp of vinegar until desired hue is reached.

\*\*

Lavender: Soak hard boiled eggs in a mug or cup of grape juice and ½ tsp of vinegar until color is to your liking.

\*\*

Blue: Soak hard boiled eggs in a mug or cup of grape juice and ½ tsp of vinegar. Soak overnight in the refrigerator if you want a dark, rich color.

\*\*

Yellow: To a cup of hot water, add one and a half teaspoons of tumeric and one half teaspoon vinegar.

\*\*

Golden Tan: Save skins from yellow onions. Add to water when hard boiling eggs.

\*\*

Brown: Add one tablespoon of instant coffee and one half tsp. vinegar to a cup of water. Drop in hard boiled egg and allow to sit until desired color is reached.

\*\*

Pastel Hues: Rub blueberries and cranberries directly on the shells for soft blues and pinks.

\*\*

Waxed eggs

Here is a super idea for creating waxed eggs that are truly impressive!

Ingredients: Wax crayons; paper towels; egg dyes in different colors; cooking oil.

Instructions: Draw a heavy crayon pattern on hard boiled egg. Dip egg in egg dye, preferably a dark color. Leave in dye until desired color is reached. Remove with slotted spoon and place in 200 degree F oven for a few minutes until wax is melted. Wipe with paper towel and dip again in lighter dye to fill in pattern where wax was. Polish finished eggs with cooking oil and soft cloth.

\*\*

Reader Hint: This hint from reader Donna Lewandowski was received after last week's reader hint column was submitted— but it is timely for making Easter dishes with eggs:

To remove eggshell fragments from your bowl, use a piece of eggshell. The sharp edge of an eggshell helps to remove the fragment.

\*\*

Reminders to extend the life of Easter lilies long beyond this season:

Prolong Potted Plant: Easter lilies are gorgeous plants, and with a few tricks you can prolong their life as a potted plant way past the Easter holiday.

If you are purchasing the plant yourself, choose a healthy looking plant with a few flowers in full bloom but with most unopened. Keep potted soil moist and place in a cool 60 to 65 degree room where it can get some indirect sunlight. Avoid direct heat and direct sunlight. Be sure the pot is on a saucer, and if it is wrapped in foil be sure the foil doesn't trap any water in the bottom of the pot. Help your lily last even longer by snipping off the pollen laden anthers from the center of the blooms.

\*\*

Longer Lilies: When your Easter lily has seen better days, don't toss it out! Your potted lilies can last for years to come if you plant them outside. To do: When leaves and stems turn yellow and or brown, trim them back and plant the bulb directly into the garden after the threat of frost



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# LHS senior receives Superintendent's Scholar Award



Courtesy

LHS senior Kayla Bouchard is congratulated by Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Brett Kustigian.

LEICESTER — School leaders congratulate senior Kayla Bouchard on receiving the Leicester High School 2024-'25 Superintendent's Scholar Award. Bouchard was honored by Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Brett Kustigian during a recent banquet. Held by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, the program took place at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. Bouchard is currently ranked first in her class. She plans to pursue a career in education.

# DA's Victim Witness Advocate recognized with award



REGION — The Worcester County District Attorney's Office congratulates Kylie O'Rourke, who serves as the office's Victim Witness Advocate. Last week, the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association presented O'Rourke with this year's Gerald D. Downing Advocate of the Year Award. "Kylie is a passionate and empathetic advocate for some of our most vulnerable victims, making sure their voices are heard and they have the support they need," read a statement released by the DA's Office.

# East Brookfield Library hosting Meet the Candidates event

EAST BROOKFIELD — The East Brookfield Public Library team invites residents to attend a Meet the Candidates program this month. The event is set for Monday, April 28, from 5:30-7 p.m. "Candidates seeking election or write-in candidates seeking election for the town office on Tuesday, May 13, are welcome to attend," read a statement released by library officials. Each candidate will have five minutes to present and answer questions. The library is located at 122 Connie Mack Dr.

# North Brookfield residents invited to meet town office candidates

NORTH BROOKFIELD — A pre-election "Meet the Candidates Night" will be held on Friday, April 11, at 6 p.m. at the Senior Center. All candidates who are on the ballot for the May 5 Annual Town Election have been invited to share their positions on issues of importance to North Brookfield. Town Moderator Jim Caldwell will preside over the event, asking questions designed to allow candidates to introduce themselves to the community, talk about their experiences, and express what inspired them to run for office. The event will be broadcast by LPAC on YouTube.

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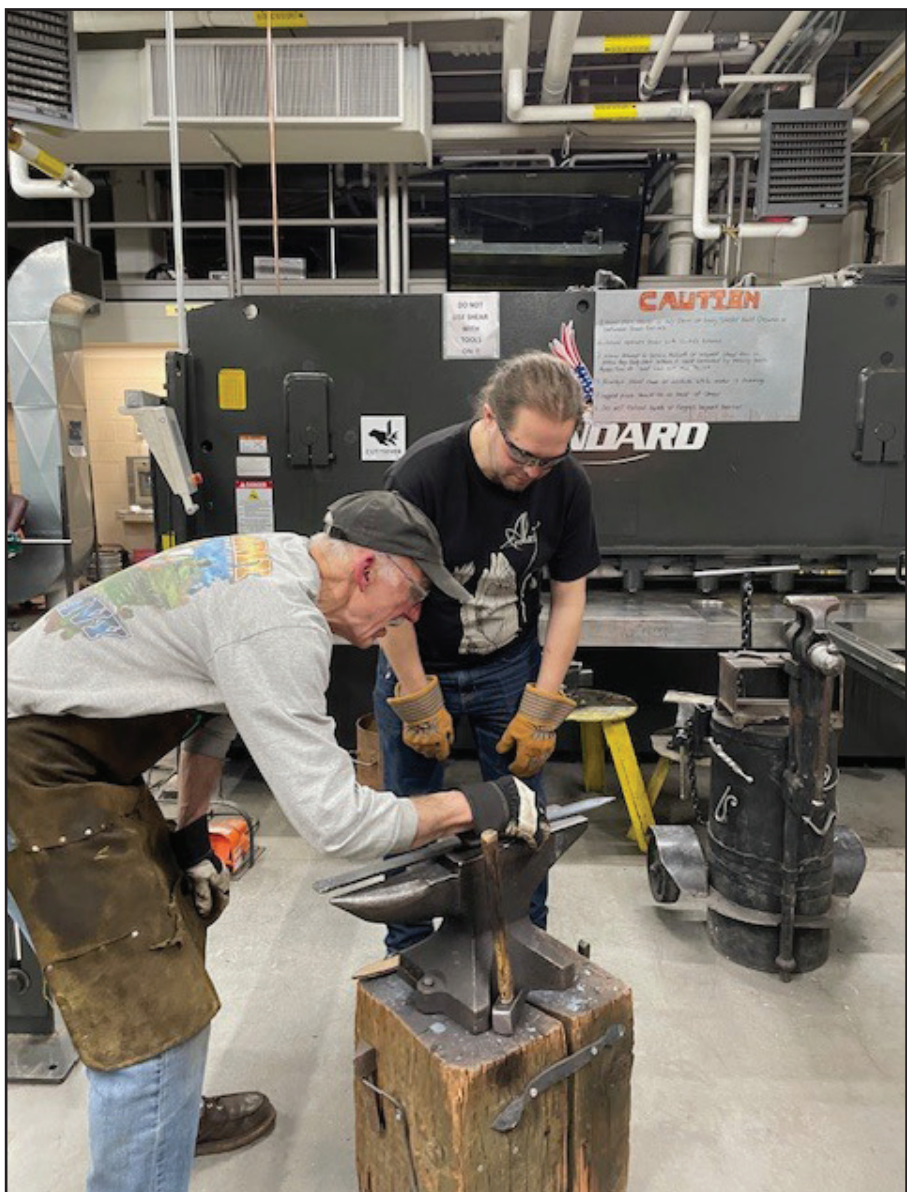
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# OBITUARIES

## Kitty Ostrout, 93



**E A S T**  
BROOKFIELD- Kitty (Dumas) Ostrout, of East Brookfield, passed peacefully at Harrington Memorial Hospital on February 8, 2025 after 93 years of living her life to the fullest.

Born Annie Holmes in Whitinsville MA in 1931, Kitty lived most of her life in the Brookfields where she proudly raised her family and worked a variety of jobs throughout the area, most notably at Wright's in West Warren and The Fair in Spencer.

Kitty's strong, independent streak was evident to all who loved her and all who knew her. Whether knitting, sewing, travelling widely to hear country music stars and collect autographs, playing cards, visiting friends across the country, or spending time with family, she never hesitated to call it like she saw it. She was home to many, many people.

She is survived by four children, Fay Worthington of East Brookfield, Dana Dumas of Spencer, Sharon Bolduc of Whitinsville, Penny Peluso of Englewood, OH; 3 step-children Rick Ostrout of East Brookfield, Angela Giza and Anita Korzec, both of Warren; her 14 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren, who adored her and David Larkham of West Brookfield was like a 4th son to her. Kitty was predeceased by her first husband, Dennis Dumas in 1970, and most recently by her second husband Reynold Ostrout in 2024. She was also predeceased by two of her six children, Edward Dumas in 1996 and Clyde Dumas in 2021 and a stepson Reggie Ostrout.

A graveside service will be held on May 9, 2025 at 11:00AM in Evergreen Cemetery in East Brookfield. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 3 West Brookfield Rd Brookfield. Pillsburyfuneralhome.com

## Martha W. Giguere, 80



Warren – Martha Wright Giguere of Warren, Massachusetts died suddenly, but peacefully at her home on Wednesday, March 26th, 2025. Her unexpected departure leaves an immense void in the lives of those who knew and loved her.

She leaves behind her seven children, William and Barbara of Charlton, Marie-Louise Marco of Belgium, Joseph and Elizabeth Giguere of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Lise-Anne and Frederic Marsal of Paris, France, Angela Einstein and Shane Brooks of Burnham, Maine, Thomas Dooley and Jacqueline Giguere of Sturbridge, and Monique Giguere and Dustin Lima of Charlestown, Rhode Island. Martha was one of five children of William R. and Ruth G. Wright, both of whom are deceased. She is survived by her sister and brothers, Susan Hight, David Wright, Peter Wright and Seth Wright; as well as fifteen grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her beloved husband of fifty years, Dr. Leandre W. Giguere, just this past February.

Martha graduated from Bancroft School in Worcester, Massachusetts

and then went on to study at Cazenovia College in New York. She also had the opportunity to study at the University of Guadalajara in Mexico and the University of Madrid in Spain. Martha was never one to sit still and was extremely active. She was an accomplished equestrian, sailor, and gardener; and loved the satisfaction of a well-tended lawn. She also loved her visits to China Lake in Maine and regularly traveled to the Bahamas and Paris. But most of all she enjoyed the times she spent with her family and friends.

A funeral service to honor and celebrate Martha's life will be held on Friday, April 25th, 2025, at 11:00am in the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, 36 North Main St., in West Brookfield, Massachusetts. Prior to the service, a reception will be held at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall of the church.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that memorial donations be made to The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, P.O. Box 371, West Brookfield, MA 01585.

Varnum Funeral Home, 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield is assisting her family with arrangements. An online tribute page is available at [www.varnumfuneralhome.com](http://www.varnumfuneralhome.com) for those who wish to share their condolences and memories of Martha.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Remember the words of Edmund Burke

To the Editor:

"All that is essential for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."  
— Edmund Burke

Given the atmosphere in this country, someone advised me to "keep my head down and don't attract attention to myself" or I could be in danger.

Isn't that what the Germans did as Hitler attained power? They didn't speak up as he hastened his agenda, and people didn't speak up out of fear and ignorance. That feels like what this country is going through now with Trump's second time in office with his minions including the unofficial co-president, Musk. Of course there is waste in our government, but a policy of slash and burn is ridiculous.

Some of the benefits and jobs slashed involve our veterans who have given so much. But it doesn't matter because they are just "suckers and losers" per Mr. Trump. And his daddy got him out any service because of a bone spur in his foot. Awww, so sad; it doesn't seem to keep him off the golf course. The golf course is where he was this week while four servicemen's bodies were being returned home to the United States. Instead of overseeing their return to the States, he was entertaining millionaires and billionaires at one of his golf courses since that is what is important to him.

He is also alienating our allies by instituting tariffs. When he has angered our allies, who will be there to support us when Russia, China, or Korea attack us? Who will trust this compulsive liar. I lost track of the lies during that last time he was in office. Now he thinks he has a mandate to lie, lie, lie. Oh, they are not lies, they are "alternative truths." Try that with your children.

As for USAID being slashed, if I was in one of the poor countries being affected by these cuts, when someone offered me food for my family, that is where my allegiances would be. China knows that.

Now he wants to obtain Greenland, the Panama Canal, and the Gaza Strip. We must have extra money in the till for that instead of helping the people in the Carolinas and people in California who lost so much this year, and are still struggling to recover. Priorities. Priorities. I'm sure the world needs a Trump wonderland in the Gaza strip. I'm sure the many thousands killed in the fighting including many children will like that. Maybe he could donate one of his gold toilets!

As for getting rid of illegal immigrants, Trump et al are not even ensuring that they are illegal. The main problem for these people seems to be

that they are brown or black or other non-whites. A member of my family is a permanent legal alien in this country. But he need not worry about getting grabbed up on the sidewalk...he is white. To label all immigrants felons, rapists, and criminals is so disgusting when Trump himself is a convicted rapist and felon.

When there was a plane crash in D.C., the first thing Trump had to say was not concern for those killed and their families, he said the cause was probably because of inclusion programs, there again, if you are not white, you are no good. Hitler! He is also attempting to remove the names of non-whites from various places in our history. That is what Russia does. Russia treats it as though you never existed.

I really think I will vomit if I hear Trump again go on about how people are picking on him: "Oh, the question was rude, the statement was insulting, they are being mean to me." Wah, wah, wah. Such a poor excuse of a man. He insists the press was against him when he ran for office. Well, maybe it's because they had observed his wheelings and dealings over the years and how he treated people. Even I had heard about how he treated an elderly woman because he wanted her property and she didn't want to sell.

I could go on and on and already have but I want to go back to another issue. I never have gotten an answer as to how many people died from COVID because he wouldn't be honest with the American people about how severe this infection was. He said it was just the flu and would be over by Spring. He said to an esteemed reporter that he didn't think we could handle the truth. Meanwhile, people died and died. How many died because he wouldn't tell the truth?

There is so much more. I was born during World War II, and have done a lot of studying about Hitler and the holocaust and always wondered how Hitler could have gained the power he did and used it to kill over 6 million because they were not white. I feel that is where we are now. We have a pseudo-Hitler in charge of our country. Do you feel safe? Do you trust this compulsive liar? Do you think he embodies the kind of person who should be in charge of the nuclear codes? This pathetic, sociopath, bully, rapist, racist, unhinged, evil man should not be in charge of cleaning the litter boxes in an animal shelter.

Please, I beg you, read up on Hitler and see the comparisons to our current government leaders. Speak out, stand up. Don't let this happen to our country.

JUDY ROSE  
EAST BROOKFIELD

### Town government is no laughing matter

To the Editor:

Two weeks ago, I answered a letter written by Mark Robillard where he wrote a letter expressing his negative feelings about a possible override vote in the upcoming May election. My letter corrected a few facts. This past week, he responded with more misinformation, including his inability to correctly state my first name. He refers to me as "Charlie" Hicks. Never mind that I served on the SEBRSDC for 15 years when I was a young man in the 1970's and '80's. I am in my 14th year as a selectman, and have served on a variety of appointed committees in between. My correct name was even at the end of the letter I wrote. No wonder he gets his facts wrong!

Mr. Robillard has an obvious dislike of any and all Democrats, and he continues to try to bring them into nonpartisan town elections and government. He makes wild accusations about me and the Democratic Party. Yes, I am a Democrat, as many Spencer voters know. I have always kept my role as a member of the Democratic State Committee and my own local public office far apart from each other. He also states that all Democrats are corrupt and thieves. This is ridiculous!

He writes that I, and I quote him "...hates Trump and any voters who live in our community who voted for him." Please bear in mind that I have never met Mr. Robillard, and would not know him if he walked in front of me. My entire life I have done and continue to do business with many Republican businesses and craftsmen in town. I would never think of letting party or candidate support as a reason not to do business with a local business. I also have many friends and relatives who are Republican Trump supporters. Life is too short to let things like that control your life.

In town elections, my concern has always been to get the best candidates elected to town offices, not their party affiliation.

Mr. Robillard blames Democrats

for high electric costs, even though increased fuel cost is the primary culprit. He also fails to mention that I was at the forefront of supporting the Municipal Electricity Aggregation Plan that will soon give all Spencer residents a choice (Spencer Electric Choice) to have their Kilowatt Hour cost go down to as low as \$0.13540 if they choose to enroll.

He also blames former President Biden for the increases in local school budgets even though most people realize that school districts' budgets are determined by local elections, town meetings or city councils.

As for the school assessment part of the question, the bottom line is that for years the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) have forced many Massachusetts communities to pay their share of the increases in school assessments in an amount that exceeds the amount of money that is far less than the community can raise in property tax increases under Proposition 2 ½. Their board has both Democratic and Republican members. In past years the Spencer Board of Selectmen has covered these increases by using free cash to make up the difference. Free cash is basically a town's savings account. When it's gone, it's gone! This has to end, or we will have to make budget cuts that will affect staff that is already stretched thin.

It comes down to this — if you care about the level of town services, and you can afford it, vote yes. If you really can't afford the increase, or you just don't want to pay for it, vote no! The choice is yours, as this is the way we operate in America.

Lastly, if Mr. Robillard tries to cover his name mistake by claiming he was being funny, I have this to say to him: There is nothing funny about town government. All government is serious business, and does not exist to make people laugh.

RALPH E. HICKS  
SPENCER

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# Christian Community Choir presents Easter musical

EAST BROOKFIELD — The Christian Community Choir presents "Redeemer: An Easter Musical" Sunday, April 13 at 3 p.m. at East Brookfield Baptist Church, 262 East Main St., and Sunday, April 27 at 3 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 131 Blaine Ave., East Brookfield.

# Transfer Station stickers available April 14

SPENCER — Town of Spencer 2025-2026 Transfer Station stickers will be on sale at the Water Department beginning April 14 during regular business hours: Monday to Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sticker fee is \$75. Second stickers for same household cost an additional \$30. Renewals can be paid online at [www.spencerma.gov](http://www.spencerma.gov) or by mailing your completed form with check/money order.

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# POLICE REPORTS

## Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, MARCH 27  
4:35 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 4:58 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 5:28 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), verbal warning; 5:51 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:36 a.m.: arrest warrant service (Main Street, Spencer), Pablo Luis Cartagena Rivera, 52, 148 Main Street, #3, Spencer, straight warrant, arrest; 7:46 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), citation issued; 9:14 a.m.: transport prisoner (Main Street), transported; 9:22 a.m.: ambulance (Deer Pond Road), transported; 10:37 a.m.: assist citizen (Folsom Street); 11:33 a.m.: welfare check (Sargent Street), services rendered; 1:25 p.m.: ambulance (Deer Pond Road), transported; 1:52 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 2:10 p.m.: keep the peace (Pine Street), services rendered; 2:21 p.m.: assist citizen (Tanglewood Road); 4:51 p.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 5:02 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 5:32 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), citation issued; 5:47 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), resolved; 6:33 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:03 p.m.: assist other PD (Charlton Road, Charlton), resolved; 8:24 p.m.: suspicious mv (Mannville Street), spoken to.

FRIDAY, MARCH 28  
1:42 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 1:55 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, speeding, criminal application issued; 8:48 a.m.: investigation (South Main Street), report taken; 9:38 a.m.: suspicious mv (Carleton Road), unable to locate; 10:24 a.m.: search warrant service (South Main Street), mv towed; 10:40 a.m.: investigation (Main Street, Worcester), report taken; 11:01 a.m.: hit/run accident (Main Street), report taken; 12:19 p.m.: restraining order service (Pleasant Street), unable to serve; 12:40 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 12:43 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 12:44 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 1:11 p.m.: assist other agency (Green Street, Worcester), services rendered; 2:15 p.m.: restraining order service (Peter Salem Road), served; 2:40 p.m.: welfare check (Lillian Avenue), assisted; 3:09 p.m.: neighbor dispute (Main Street), assisted; 4:16 p.m.: suspicious person (Water Street), Yeris Lopez Lanuza, 32, 75 Vine Street, #2, Bridgeport, CT, unlicensed operation, arrest; 5:47 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 6:32 p.m.: restraining order service (Pleasant Street), unable to serve; 7:41 p.m.: ambulance (Auburn Street), services rendered; 8:55 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), citation issued; 9:40 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:01 p.m.: disturbance (Towtaid Street), spoken to; 11:30 p.m.: disturbance (Town Beach Road), spoken to.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29  
1:25 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 2:22 a.m.: ambulance (Cricklewood Drive), transported; 2:50 a.m.: welfare check (Main Street), assisted; 8:30 a.m.: welfare check (South Main Street), resolved; 9:13 a.m.: animal complaint (Siani Road), referred; 11:55 a.m.: ambulance (Woodland Road), transported; 1:30 p.m.: family problem (Denny Place), report taken; 2:57 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 3:30 p.m.: restraining order service (Pleasant Street), served; 3:32 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 7:09 p.m.: suspicious activity (Mulberry Street), unable to locate.

SUNDAY, MARCH 30  
12:26 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Lam Ha Luu, 61, 48 Wilkinson Street, Worcester, OUI liquor, negligent operation, marked lanes violation, child endangerment while OUI, arrest; 7:04 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 9:04 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 9:10 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:33 a.m.:

mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:24 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 10:38 a.m.: mv stop (Main Streer), verbal warning; 10:40 a.m.: ambulance (Soojians Drive), transported; 11:07 a.m.: ambulance (Waite Street), transported; 11:46 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:33 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:41 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 1:08 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:15 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:19 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:42 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:46 p.m.: RV complaint (Stafford Street), juvenile arrest, unlicensed operation, failure to stop for police, uninsured mv, walking/riding on railroad track, unregistered mv, failure to stop/yield, marked lanes violation, arrest; 2:30 p.m.: ambulance (Greenville Circle), transported; 4:30 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), Marcos Welch, 30, 70 Glenwood Avenue, Southbridge, unlicensed operation, arrest; 5:45 p.m.: RV complaint (Pleasant Street), services rendered; 6:10 p.m.: ambulance (Pine Street), transported; 8:35 p.m.: ambulance (Westminster Street), transported; 8:47 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:14 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 9:28 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 9:29 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:57 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 10:22 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 10:27 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued.

MONDAY, MARCH 31  
9:41 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 9:45 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 10:14 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, lights violation, criminal application issued; 10:26 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 10:40 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:54 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 12:18 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), Wyatt J. Caron, 29, 36 Lake Street, Spencer, OUI liquor, negligent operation, marked lanes violation, arrest; 12:37 p.m.: illegal dumping (Soojians Drive), report taken; 1:04 p.m.: disturbance (Main Street), peace restored; 3:37 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 4:05 p.m.: lobby service (Peter Salem Road), report taken; 4:53 p.m.: investigation (Folsom Street), report taken; 6:54 p.m.: ambulance (Woodford Street, Worcester), transported; 8:13 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:48 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), Junita Sanchez, 33, 148 Canterbury Street, Worcester, op w/suspended license, arrest.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1  
2:22 a.m.: noise complaint (Denny Place), call canceled; 4:46 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), citation issued; 5:20 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:38 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), peace restored; 8:35 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:41 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 9:20 a.m.: mv stop (River Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, no inspection sticker, criminal application issued; 9:21 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 9:38 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 10:06 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 10:16 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 10:44 a.m.: assist other PD (Stafford Street), unable to locate; 10:46 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 11:13 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 11:30 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 12:12 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 12:31 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 12:33 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), Jesus Alfonso Meza Bravo, 26, 2 Eureka Street, Worcester, unlicensed operation, arrest; 2:08 p.m.: ambulance (Charlton Street), transported; 2:53 p.m.: disturbance (Baldwin Street), report taken; 2:58 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report

taken; 5:43 p.m.: investigation (Spring Street), report taken; 4:52 p.m.: threats (Boutilier Road), services rendered; 5:35 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), Nicole Prizio, 46, 59 Lafayette Street, #1, Worcester, op w/suspended license, shoplifting by asportation/over \$250, larceny under \$1200, arrest; 10:07 p.m.: assist other PD (Cemetery Road), services rendered.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2  
2:36 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 8:55 a.m.: mv stop (McNeil Highway), written warning; 10:17 a.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 10:25 a.m.: lobby service (Green Street), report taken; 10:48 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 12:01 p.m.: fraud (Pine Street), assisted; 12:08 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 12:22 p.m.: fraud (Deer Pond Road), report taken; 12:54 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 1:45 p.m.: school incident (Main Street), spoken to; 1:52 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), transported; 3:00 p.m.: erratic operator (Stafford Street), gone on arrival; 3:21 p.m.: larceny (Mulberry Street), report taken; 4:47 p.m.: suspicious person (Pine Street), gone on arrival; 5:18 p.m.: suspicious mv (Pine Street), resolved; 5:32 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 6:19 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), citation issued; 7:37 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 7:45 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 9:16 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:59 p.m.: welfare check (Towtaid Street), assisted.

## Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26  
12:34 a.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), wallet lost; 12:52-1:45 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:55 a.m.: 911 call (Cherry Street), resolved; 12:59 a.m.: disturbance (Cherry Street), noise complaint; 2:55 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), assist State Police; 4:34 a.m.: medical/general (Ash Street); 5:00 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), assist Leicester PD; 6:12 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Leicester PD bolo; 9:04 a.m.: medical/general (Charlton Road); 9:10 a.m.: animal complaint (Paxton Road), loose dog; 9:20 a.m.: officer wanted (South Spencer Road), spoken to; 9:51 a.m.: mutual aid (Route 49), poss. disabled mv; 9:53 a.m.: fraud (West Main Street), report taken; 10:18 a.m.: disabled mv (Mechanic Street), assisted; 11:15 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 11:17 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village), req. welfare check; 11:50 a.m.: parking violation (Maple Street), ticket issued; 12:00 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 1:02 p.m.: restraining order service (Donnelly Cross Road); 1:31 p.m.: medical/general (Church Street); 1:49 p.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 1:55 p.m.: fire alarm (Ash Street), referred; 1:55 p.m.: disturbance (Ash Street), re: disruptive parent; 6:02 p.m.: citizen complaint (Lake Street), re: activity in back of school; 9:45 p.m.: mv theft (Longview Drive), Brett T. Cordeiro, 29, 17 Town House Court, Spencer, receiving stolen mv, larceny of mv, arrest; 9:52 p.m.: fire (Clark Road), referred; (total daily mv stops – 0).

THURSDAY, MARCH 27  
12:27-12:49 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:16 a.m.: 911 call (Richland Avenue), open line; 7:04 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:31 a.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), fed'l firearms application; 11:35 a.m.: 911 call (Howe Village), no emergency; 12:01 p.m.: officer wanted (Donnelly Cross Road), ofc. assistance requested; 1:01 p.m.: hit/run accident (Main Street), report taken; 1:06 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 2:30 p.m.: medical/general (Pleasant Street); 2:43 p.m.: fire alarm (Ash Street), referred; 3:04 p.m.: mv repossessed (Lloyd Dyer Drive), info rec'd; 3:30 p.m.: animal complaint (Smithville Road), worried about horse; 4:17 p.m.: restraining order ser-

vice (Bixby Road); 4:21 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 4:30 p.m.: juvenile matter (West Main Street), re: earlier incident; 4:49 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 9:04 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (High Street), no response recorded on police log; (total daily mv stops – 3).

FRIDAY, MARCH 28  
1:07 a.m.: disabled mv (Valley View Drive), assisted; 1:10-1:53 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 7:10 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 7:25 a.m.: animal complaint (Mechanic Street), dog lost; 7:37 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Oakham PD bolo; 8:49 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:28 a.m.: intelligence/drugs (West Main Street), info taken; 11:30 a.m.: disturbance (Adams Street), verbal argument; 1:35 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Brookfield PD bolo; 1:45 p.m.: citizen complaint (Roys Drive), c/o leaking water pipe; 4:06 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Sterling PD bolo; 4:21 p.m.: residential fire (Main Street), referred; 6:48 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Cherry Street), no response noted on police log; 6:51 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), no response noted on police log; 7:33 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 7:56 p.m.: officer wanted (Marble Road), req. welfare check; 8:48 p.m.: 911 call (Cherry Street), accidental; (total daily mv stops – 7).

SATURDAY, MARCH 29  
1:58-3:27 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:45 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), rep. threats; 7:29 a.m.: fire alarm (Charlton Road), referred; 8:20 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), del. msg. for Worcester PD; 9:09 a.m.: arrest warrant service (Chestnut Street), Steven Herbert Delisle, 65, homeless, Spencer, warrant/2, failure to register as sex offender/subsequent offense, arrest; 10:07 a.m.: residential fire (Greenville Street), referred; 10:23 a.m.: illegal dumping (Main Street), debris in roadway; 11:02 a.m.: fire alarm (Charlton Road), referred; 11:16 a.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 11:21 a.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), tool box lost; 11:55 a.m.: mv complaint (Sherwood Drive), c/o aggressive operator; 12:51 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: harassment prevention order; 1:30 p.m.: 911 call (Cherry Street), open line; 5:13 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 6:03 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), emergency pull cord activation; 7:27 p.m.: mv lockout (Main Street), assisted; 8:17 p.m.: suspicious persons (Mechanic Street), investigated; (total daily mv stops – 2).

SUNDAY, MARCH 30  
1:19-3:07 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:11 a.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 9:03 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 9:44 a.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), req. welfare check; 9:59 a.m.: 911 call (Church Street), call fr. elevator; 1:53 p.m.: 911 call (Temple Street), no contact; 2:19 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Brookfield PD bolo; 2:42 p.m.: parking complaint (Adams Street), resolved; 2:52 p.m.: mv lockout (Smithville Road), assisted; 4:20 p.m.: suspicious mv (Greenville Street), info taken; 5:00 p.m.: accident (Paxton Road), report taken; 7:58 p.m.: officer wanted (Cherry Street), spoken to; 9:15 p.m.: mutual aid (Meadow Road), assist State Police; (total daily mv stops – 0).

MONDAY, MARCH 31  
12:30-2:42 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:02 a.m.: mv repossessed (Maple Street), info rec'd; 6:37 a.m.: animal complaint (Cherry Street), rep. stray dog; 7:34 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 7:52 a.m.: accident (R. Jones Road), report taken; 8:22 a.m.: mutual aid (McDonald Street), assist Biddeford, ME PD; 8:33 a.m.: DPW call (Ash Street), utility pole snapped; 10:13 a.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), DL left at Town Hall; 11:03 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), child w/phone; 3:03 p.m.: officer wanted (Gold Nugget Road), question re: property; 3:12 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), LTC change of address; 3:51 p.m.: officer wanted (West



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# POLICE REPORTS

Main Street), friend won't ret. dog; 3:51 p.m.: restraining order service (G.H. Wilson Road); 4:08 p.m.: animal complaint (McCormick Road), loose dog; 5:22 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 6:46 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 7:31 p.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), investigated; 8:04 p.m.: fire alarm (Howe Village), referred; 10:14 p.m.: mv repossessed (North Brookfield Road), info rec'd; 11:10 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 11:50 p.m.: fire alarm (Debbie Drive), referred; (total daily

mv stops – 3).  
TUESDAY, APRIL 1  
2:40 a.m.: medical/general (Vista Lane); 2:40-3:20 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:08 a.m.: mv repossessed (Main Street), info rec'd; 7:24 a.m.: animal complaint (Cherry Street), c/o barking dogs; 9:48 a.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), investigated; 11:00 a.m.: restraining order service (West Main Street); 11:04 a.m.: intelligence/drugs (Brown Street), info taken; 11:05 a.m.: suspicious persons (South Spencer Road), re: email rec'd; 11:08 a.m.:

mutual aid (West Main Street), assist Deerfield PD; 12:20 p.m.: disturbance (Water Street), noise complaint; 12:30 p.m.: medical/general (Lake Street); 1:01 p.m.: medical/general (Briarcliff Lane); 1:10 p.m.: arrest warrant service (Elm Street), Jessica L. Thomas, 50, 23 Pearl Street, Spencer; warrant, arrest; 2:06 p.m.: mv lockout (West Main Street), assisted; 2:53 p.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), re: loose cat; 3:12 p.m.: juvenile matter (West Main Street), spoken to; 3:14 p.m.: fire alarm (Thompson Pond Road), referred; 3:18

p.m.: fraud (Temple Street), report taken; 5:40 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Leicester PD bolo; 7:16 p.m.: officer wanted (Lake Street), rep. poss. theft from school; 9:41 p.m.: officer wanted (Clark Road), re: runaway daughter; 9:51 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), Auburn PD bolo; 10:09 p.m.: officer wanted (Meadow Road), req. welfare check; 11:02 p.m.: 911 call (Old East Charlton Road), accidental; (total daily mv stops – 1).

# # #

## Be a waterwise gardener

Too much or not enough water, and never when your garden needs it. This is a common complaint of gardeners no matter where they live. Make a few changes in your plant selection and garden care to help manage water use while growing healthy plants.

All plants need sufficient moisture after planting and for several months to a year or two to develop a robust root system. Those labeled as drought tolerant are better able to tolerate periods of drought once established. Always water the area surrounding new plantings thoroughly when the top few inches of soil are crumbly and moist. Gradually reduce the frequency, and once the plants are established, you'll need to water less often.

Moisture-loving plants are good choices for areas receiving sufficient and consistent moisture throughout the growing season to meet their needs. In locations where this is not the case, consider grouping moisture-loving plants together so you use less water and can concentrate watering efforts to just one or two locations in your landscape.

Fluctuating periods of excessive and insufficient rainfall add to the chal-



GARDEN MOMENTS  
\*\*\*\*\*  
MELINDA MYERS

lenge. Many native plants, once established, tolerate periods of wet and dry soil and can be found on lists of rain garden plants suited to your area.

Keep water in the garden, out of the storm sewers, and reduce the risk of flooding while improving your garden. Adding several inches of compost to the top 8 to 12 inches of soil increases the soil's ability to absorb and retain water. It also improves drainage in heavy soils.

Top dress existing gardens by spreading an inch of compost over the soil surface. Soil organisms will help move it into the soil to improve plant growth. Lend nature a hand by using an auger bit on a drill to aerate compacted soil. This pushes some compost into the top four to six inches of soil.

Mulching the soil with leaves, evergreen needles, or other organic matter also helps. This task has many benefits, including conserving moisture, reducing the risk of erosion and compaction, suppressing weeds, and as the mulch decomposes, improving the soil. A one-to-three-inch layer over the soil surface is all you need. The finer the mulch material, the thinner the layer of mulch that is needed.

Collect rainwater in rain barrels or cisterns when it is plentiful and store it until needed. Use this to water ornamental containers and plantings. Always check with your municipality first, since some restrict this practice while others offer rebates or rain barrels at a discounted price.

You won't need to worry about mosquitoes breeding inside your rain barrel if you place an organic mosquito control product like Mosquito Dunks® (SummitResponsibleSolutions.com) in rain barrels and other water features. Mosquito Dunks provide 30 days of control, are natural and organic, and won't harm pets, fish, wildlife, or children.

Periods of heavy rainfall create another challenge. Covering the soil with plants and mulch helps protect your soil from compaction and erosion that often happens during these events. Planting trees, shrubs, and groundcovers will slow the flow of rainwater, increase the amount of water that stays in your landscape for plants to use, and help filter dust and pollutants out of rainwater before it enters groundwater.

Rain gardens are another strategy for managing water in your yard. These are designed to capture excessive rainfall, drain within 24 to 36 hours, tolerate dry and wet periods, and filter pollut-



Melinda Myers

**Leaf mulch conserves moisture, reduces the risk of erosion and compaction, suppresses weeds, and improves the soil as it decomposes.**

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 and DVD series* and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Summit for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

## LEGALS

**ORDER OF NOTICE BY PUBLICATION**  
**DOCKET NUMBER**  
**2585CV0416 A**  
**Trial Court of Massachusetts**  
**The Superior Court**  
**Worcester**  
**Worcester Superior Court**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**CASE NAME:**  
**Nationstar Mortgage LLC**  
**D/B/A Mr. Cooper**  
**V.**  
**Terrence Paris**

**TO:**  
**Terrence Paris**  
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 ( et seq):  
**Nationstar Mortgage LLC D/B/A Mr. Cooper**  
**claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Spencer, numbered 23 Pleasant Street, given by Terrence Paris to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Residential Mortgage Services, Inc., its successors and assigns, dated July 20, 2020, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 62839, Page 95, as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated November 1, 2021, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 66434, Page 357 and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has filed with this court a complaint to foreclosure said mortgage by entry and exercise of the power of sale.**

**If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this Court at 225 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01608 on or before May 7, 2025 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.**  
Witness, MICHAEL D. RICCIUTI Chief Justice of this Court, at Worcester, Massachusetts, this 26th day of March, 2025  
April 11, 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. WO25P0399EA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Estate Of:  
**Molly L High**  
**Also known as: Molly Lee High**

**Date of Death: 09/04/2024**  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Kristina R Vickstrom of Worcester 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: **Kristina R Vickstrom of Worcester 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 04/29/2025.**

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: March 28, 2025  
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate  
April 11, 2025

**Town of Spencer**  
**Conservation Commission**  
**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
In accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, MGL c. 131, s. 40 and the Spencer Wetlands By-Law:  
**Tom Pelletier** has filed an **RDA** with the Spencer Conservation Commission for an addition located at **52 Browning Pond Circle, Spencer, MA.**  
**CSX Transportation, Inc.** has filed an **RDA** with the Spencer Conservation Commission for Vegetative treatment located along the railroad tracks from Charlton Town line to Route 49, Spencer, MA.  
Applications can be reviewed at the Office of Development and Inspection Services, Town Hall. A public hearing regarding these filings will be held by the Spencer Conservation Commis-

sion in McCourt Social Hall at Town Hall, 157 Main Street, on Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at which time all persons having an interest may be present or call in remotely to participate. Conservation Commission meetings open at 6:15 p.m.  
Mary McLaughlin  
Mary McLaughlin, Chairwoman  
April 11, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Division**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**(508) 831-2200**  
**Docket No. WO23P0081EA**  
**Estate of:**  
**John S Czapla**  
**Also known as: John Czapla**  
**Date of Death: 08/09/2022**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT**

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **Maria Koziol-Guerra of Florence MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including a determination of heirs at law, the allowance of a final account , 1st and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/29/2025.**  
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.  
Witness, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court  
March 31, 2025  
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate  
April 11., 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Probate and Family Court**  
**225 Main Street**  
**Worcester, MA 01608**  
**(508) 831-2200**  
**Docket No. WO25P1175EA**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
**Joseph A. Kularski, Jr.**  
**Also known as: Joseph A. Kularski**  
**Date of Death: 08/11/2024**  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will**

**with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Carol Mulrain of North Brookfield MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: **Carol Mulrain of North Brookfield MA** 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 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 05/06/2025.**

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

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

**WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: April 02, 2025  
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate  
April 11, 2025

**Town of Spencer, MA**  
**Tree Public Hearing**  
In accordance with MGL Ch 87 §3, The Town of Spencer, MA Tree Warden will hold a public hearing in-person or remote on **Monday, April 14, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.** at 3 Old Meadow Road, Spencer, MA. (Water Dept.) to consider the proposed removal of one tree: Clark Road.  
The Remote meeting may be accessed by:  
Dialing in from your phone: 1 (224) 501-3412  
Enter Access Code: **928-904-381**  
Or join from your computer: <https://meet.goto.com/TownofSpencerUF/meeting-room>  
Information pertaining to these particular trees may be viewed at [spencerma.gov](http://spencerma.gov)  
April 4, 2025  
April 11, 2025



FUNDS
continued from page A1

and schools,” Healey said. “This action is jeopardizing mental health care and math tutoring for our students, as well as projects that are already underway to enhance school security and ensure that the air in our school buildings is clean.”
In the years since pandemic shutdowns and hybrid learning severely disrupted education systems from 2020-’21, school officials nationwide have seen a rise in behavioral and mental health struggles for students at all levels.
Looking ahead, state officials warn that the loss of federal funding

could have lasting negative effects on students.
“Massachusetts has been making important progress helping students recover from the pandemic, but President Trump is trying to take us backwards,” Healey said.
Although the state is scrambling to find stopgaps, officials said the loss of federal funds will prevent students from accessing several planned programs and mental health supports.
“The federal government and states should be working together to invest in capital projects that improve the learning environments for our students and support their education and well-being,” said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. “Massachusetts

does not have the resources to replace all of the funding that President Trump is terminating. These are more devastating terminations that impact our students and schools today and well into the future.”
Federal funding was intended to support a host of statewide efforts to address the impacts of the pandemic on learning, with a focus on literacy, math, and science.
“We are not back yet from the pandemic. We know that many students in Massachusetts and across the country are still experiencing pandemic-related learning loss and mental health challenges,” said Secretary of Education Dr. Patrick Tutwiler, who visited

several local schools this past fall, including East Brookfield Elementary School. “The federal government had repeatedly reaffirmed these extensions in acknowledgment of continued supply chain issues, labor shortages, and to ensure continuity in learning acceleration efforts. Projects funded by these grants are underway. The Trump Administration’s outrageous and cruel decision, in which we received notice of a new arbitrary deadline, will have real harm to our students and their learning and wellbeing.”
Officials said the funding was slated to address critical gaps by supporting mental health services; math tutoring; and

the purchases of instructional materials with a focus on science.
Additionally, funds would have supported building upgrades across 20 school districts to improve air quality through HVAC installations. Moreover, some projects were planned to enhance security in schools, including the purchasing of cameras, door alarms, and emergency response technologies.
Further funds were committed to supporting professional development programs for educators. These include the state’s Learning Acceleration Network, as well as five regional licensure centers that help emergency teacher license

holders obtain provisional or initial licensure to stay employed in Massachusetts public schools.
“Trump’s decision to cut off money already promised to school districts will have drastic negative effects on Massachusetts communities,” said Senate President Karen Spilka. “This administration clearly does not care about damaging our education system or hurting our children, leaving local officials scrambling to pick up the pieces when they should be fully focused on supporting our schools. It’s all part of the federal administration’s unconscionable hacksaw approach to governing.”

OVERRIDE
continued from page A1

ranks have been depleted. In 2024, the department posted a ten-year low for total rostered call firefighters.
“Fires don’t burn from seven to three only. You need to have 24-hour coverage,” Hicks said.

Contractual obligations with the Rescue Squad are also expected to see a funding request in the final iteration, per selectmen.
For the latest information and announcements regarding the override, visit the town Web site, www.spencerma.gov.

FESTIVAL
continued from page A1

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out the region and supplies food trucks to corporate clients, private businesses, breweries, academic institutions, and local municipalities.

LHS
continued from page A1

agement experience.
“He’s managed staff of over 100 full-time employees, and overseen annual revenues up to \$10 million,” read the statement issued by school leaders. “With his decades of experience in business, he has the ability to ensure students in the Business and Finance program receive the necessary instruction to prepare them for a future evolving economy.”
During each class, Lauer aims to provide students with both the knowledge and skills they’ll need when they transition into their professions. Even if they never run a business of their own, the habits and skills they learn in each class can apply to all aspects of professional growth.
“The purpose is to get students in the mindset of thinking like a business professional. Our curriculum is project-based, and we work in teams, which is vital to succeed in industries outside of high school,” Lauer explained. “It is an intense program with sky-high expectations. The best part is seeing it click for students who may not be used to working so hard, but when they cooperate and build teamwork, the sky is the limit.”
School leaders are thrilled with Lauer’s leadership and ability to connect with students.
“Andrew Lauer is the perfect person to run the Business and Finance IP,” said Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Brett Kustigian. “His extensive experience and outstanding rapport with students will sling-shot the program into the stratosphere.”
A recent project saw teams of students work-

ing together on a business plan with a slight twist. The budget had to be converted to a foreign currency using the most current exchange rates.
“A global perspective is crucial because it fosters economic growth, expands markets, drives innovation, and promotes cultural exchange, benefiting businesses and countries worldwide,” read the statement issued by school leaders. “At LHS, students are incorporating multidisciplinary approaches to learning business and finance fundamentals.”
Additionally, LHS has partnered with Lynn Benoit, of Finn’s Foundation, to expand the program to include the day-to-day operations of a school store. Students will learn about the processes of market analysis, products and services, marketing strategies, organizational structures, and funding sources.
Benoit donated \$4,000 to start the newest branch of the program. LHS then purchased materials to personalize shirts, hats, mugs, and other items that will be sold at the school store.
Students will run the LHS school store through multiple disciplines.
“Having a school store to print personalized working gear for our CTE programs saves money and will add to an already strong school culture,” said LHS Principal Ted Zawada. “The Business and Finance IP gives LHS students a leg up on the competition.”
Finn’s Foundation is a nonprofit organization founded by Benoit, an LHS alumnus.
School officials thank everyone who has stepped up to provide LHS students with business management education and experiences.

BY CHRISTOPHER MALLON
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, PROGRAM MANAGER
LPL REGISTERED PRINCIPAL, THE CAPSTONE PLANNING GROUP
LOCATED AT CORNERSTONE BANK
In light of current market volatility and uncertainty around tariffs, many investors are naturally worried about their portfolio and questioning the outlook for stocks. We are, after all, emotional creatures, and this is especially true when it comes to investing.
Imagine, for a moment, we build a time machine and decide to go back in time to study investor behavior throughout a litany of disasters.
First, we travel back to May 9, 1940. Sadly, we see that Germany just defeated France and WWII is ramping up. Global tension and fear is rampant. The stock market drops over 18 percent in less than a month. It won’t be long before the Attack on Pearl Harbor takes place, effectively pulling the United States into WWII. The stock market drops another 7 percent over a five-day period. It justifiably feels like the world is ending.
We decide it’s time to move on, so we hop back in our time machine and enter June 23, 1950. It’s the outbreak of Korean War. Within a month, the first U.S. ground troops arrive in South Korea. The stock market is down over 11 percent. With war fresh in their minds, American’s are naturally scared. Investing money is the last thing anyone wants to do.
Enough with the wars. Let’s check out Oct. 16, 1987. We now witness the historic “Black Monday Crash,” when the stock market plunges over 22 percent in just one day. We watch panicked investors pull their money from the market and run for the proverbial safety of cash. Given the circumstances,

### Crisis and recovery: How the S&P 500 Index performed during and after historic events

Event	Event reaction dates	Percent of gain/loss during event	S&P 500 percentage of gain/loss after last reaction date			
			1 month later	1 year later	5 years later	10 years later
Fall of France	5/9/40-6/21/40	-18.2%	3.1%	5.2%	15.9%	13.2%
Attack on Pearl Harbor	12/5/41-12/10/41	-6.9	4.5	16.0	18.1	17.1
Outbreak of Korean War	6/23/50-7/13/50	-11.1	9.5	42.0	27.6	18.4
U.S. invades Cambodia	4/29/70-5/26/70	-15.0	6.4	49.0	9.3	9.3
Nixon resigns	8/9/74-8/29/74	-13.4	-6.8	30.6	14.6	14.6
1987 stock market crash	10/16/87-10/19/87	-20.5	7.1	27.9	17.0	18.9
September 11 terrorist attacks	9/10/01-9/21/01	-11.6	11.3	-11.1	8.3	3.9
Collapse of Lehman Brothers	9/12/08-11/20/08	-39.6	18.3	48.8	21.5	15.8
U.S. debt downgrade by S&P	8/4/11-10/3/11	-8.1	14.9	35.0	17.0	17.1
U.K. Brexit referendum	6/23/16-6/27/16	-5.3	8.5	23.5	18.7	—
Covid-19 pandemic	2/19/20-3/23/20	-33.8	25.2	77.8	—	—
Mean gain/loss		-16.7	9.3	31.3	16.8	14.3
Median gain/loss		-13.4	8.5	30.6	17.0	15.8

we understand their reaction.
Intrigued by the crash of ‘87, we decide to revisit an even worse financial crash... the Financial Crisis of 2008. We watch as the subprime dominos begin to fall. Lehman Brothers collapses, AIG is nearing bankruptcy, Wall Street firms and even some banks are begging to be rescued. The housing market is crashing. The stock market? Down a massive 38 percent for the year. We ask a few folks how they’re feeling. One gentleman responds, “I’ll never go back into the stock market... ever.” We try to tell him, “Wait! Don’t panic! The market will actually recover and go on to make new highs!” He tells us we’re wrong and walks away.
We have just one more stop to complete our study, and so we travel to Feb. 19 of 2020. It’s the start of Covid-19, and the entire global economy is being shut down. The fear, uncertainty, and panic are palatable. The stock market drops a whopping -33% in roughly one month. People are fighting over toilet paper and question if the economy and markets will ever be the same again. We’ve seen enough.
Now that we’re done with our research let’s analyze a few numbers. Let’s look at how the stock market performed DURING AND AFTER these events.

The average 1YR return? +31 percent. The average 5YR return? +16 percent. Our conclusion: history has proven the United States and corporate America are incredibly resilient and persevere. Markets do indeed bounce back and go on to make new highs. Staying invested can help investors benefit from market rebounds. People who gave up investing (or tried to “time” the market) missed out on significant long-term wealth creation. Our study is complete.
The next time you’re watching talking heads on CNBC try to predict the near-term future, remember no one has a crystal ball. And that is precisely why being a “day trader” is so difficult. But if you’re an investor, it becomes easier to deal with short term volatility because you’re focused on the long-term results. Remember: history may not always repeat itself, but it often rhymes.
Yes, today’s markets hate the uncertainty over tariff implications, and so we should expect continued price volatility. But don’t panic. Volatility is normal. It’s like a “toll” investors must pay on the road to attractive long-term returns. On average, the stock market corrects once per year (a drop of 10-19 percent) and has still achieved a 13 percent annualized return including dividends since 1980.
If you indeed have lingering concerns about your portfolio, its best to check in with a qualified Financial Advisor to discuss how your portfo-

lio is positioned.
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The event reaction periods begin with the stock market close prior to the events. Historical references do not assume that any prior market behavior will be duplicated. Past performance does not indicate future results. There are risks associated with mutual fund investing including the possibility that share prices will decline. Since investment return and principal value will fluctuate, investments may be worth more or less than their original cost. The S&P 500® Index is an unmanaged index of common stock performance. You cannot invest directly in an index. Indexes are unmanaged and used as a broad measure of market performance. Data sources for this article include Putnam Investments and LPL Financial.

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# DESE recognizes SEBRSD with Green Ribbon award

EVERETT — The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is honoring Spencer-East Brookfield and Cohasset High School for their Green Ribbon Schools recognition. These exemplary districts are reducing environmental impact and costs, improving students' and staff's health and wellness, and delivering effective environmental and sustainability education that incorporates STEM, civics, and green career pathways.

For more information on these nominees and their great work, please see DESE's Green Ribbon School Web page at [doe.mass.edu](http://doe.mass.edu).

# NEPBA names Durant Legislator of the Year



Representatives from the New England Police Benevolent Association present State Sen. Peter Durant (pictured second from left) with the Legislator of the Year Award.



State Sen. Peter Durant addresses members of the NEPBA after being named Legislator of the Year.

SPENCER — State Sen. Peter Durant (R—Spencer) was recently named Legislator of the Year by the New England Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA).

Durant was presented with a plaque during the organization's meeting last month in Worcester.

"I am incredibly humbled to receive this honor," Durant said. "This plaque will serve as a constant reminder of those who selflessly work to keep us safe every day. This award is something I am extremely proud of."

NEPBA represents more than 4,000 law enforcement officers across Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. More than 3,000 of those members comprise local bargaining units in Massachusetts.

"The group operates on the belief that its members need to be properly trained, accurately equipped, and well compensated. Their health and wellbeing are paramount to the success of the organization," read a statement released by the NEPBA.

Durant looks forward to continuing his advocacy for legislation that protects first responders.

The

# Leicester Women's Club meets Wednesday

LEICESTER — The Leicester Women's Club will hold a meeting on Wednesday, April 16, at Pine Ridge Country Club.

The program will take place at 6 p.m. The cost of dinner is \$25 per person.

To reserve your spot, please call Linda at 508-330-9250 by Friday, April 11. New members are always welcome.

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