

# SPENCER NEW LEADER

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SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS Friday, August 22, 2025



Courtesy

North Brookfield's Brooke Buzzell has enjoyed national success in competitive weightlifting.

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS**  
**STAFF WRITER**  
N O R T H  
B R O O K F I E L D  
— Having soared to national dominance after only a few years in the sport, a local high school standout athlete is inspiring the next generation to check out competitive weightlifting.

Entering her senior year at Tantasqua Regional High School, North Brookfield's Brooke Buzzell began lifting during her freshman year. Her hard work and dedication to training rapidly propelled her through several levels of competition, culminating with a roster spot on Team

USA.  
"I started with CrossFit, but I didn't like running, which proved to be a problem for that sport, so I decided to focus on lifting," Buzzell told the New Leader. "Getting onto Team USA requires you to be both in the top eight in the country and top two in your weight class for females 17 and under."  
Currently ranked third overall in the country, Buzzell took part in Youth Worlds in Peru in 2024 and 2025. She finished twelfth during her first competition, improving to seventh

place this year.  
"I went to Youth Pan Ams in Ecuador last year and came in third. Later this year, I will be competing in my second Youth Pan Ams in Mexico," said Buzzell, who is also on the national development team and just returned from a week-long training camp at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.  
A typical weightlifting meet includes three attempts at each of the two Olympic weightlifting lifts. These are called "the snatch" and "the clean and jerk."  
"Your highest made

attempts for each lift are combined for a total, and the highest total wins," Buzzell explained.  
Buzzell's max lifts in each category are 187 pounds for the snatch and 240 pounds for the clean and jerk.  
Looking forward to a promising senior season, Buzzell is excited to keep working hard to reach her dreams while also inspiring other athletes to get involved in the sport.  
In addition to her athletic goals, Buzzell is eager to take the next steps toward her even-  
*Turn To BUZZELL page A11*



Courtesy

West Brookfield Police Department Lt. Matthew Letendre was recently promoted during a ceremony.

## West Brookfield officer's promotion celebrated

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS**  
**STAFF WRITER**  
WEST BROOKFIELD — The community recently came together to congratulate West Brookfield Police Department Lt. Matthew Letendre on his promotion.  
Held at the Senior Center, the Aug. 5 pinning ceremony marked Letendre's transition from sergeant to lieutenant. He was surrounded by family, friends, colleagues, and local police leaders.  
"Matt is the longest tenured officer with the West Brookfield Police Department. He has built strong relationships at all levels of the community," said Police Chief Nathan Hagglund. "His experience, leadership, and strong communications with community members make him a tremendous asset to the department."  
Town and police leaders were thrilled to celebrate Letendre's achievements during a lengthy career with the WBPD. Area legislators and other officials join the WBPD team in recognizing his hard work and community impacts.  
"Congratulations to Lt. Letendre. He has been the backbone of this department for many years," said State Rep. Donald Berthiaume, of Spencer. "With this well-deserved promotion, the town can look forward to many more years of Matt's leadership."  
*Turn To LETENDRE page A11*



Courtesy

Guests take part in the annual "Wild Bill Swim" fundraiser.

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS**  
**STAFF WRITER**

BROOKFIELD — Participants from throughout the region beat the heat earlier this month at the fourth annual Wild Bill Swim and Paddle Challenge fundraiser.

Held on Aug. 9, the event took place at Lake Quacumquasit (South Pond). Another strong attendance included repeat supporters and new participants, as well as several local families.

Established by Jennifer Yorzyk-Triger in honor of her late father, Olympic gold medalist Dr. William "Bill" Yorzyk, the event continues to draw more excitement each year.

"This isn't just any race. It's a celebration of community, courage, and the incredible legacy of Dr. Bill Yorzyk, an Olympic gold medalist, Springfield College legend, and pioneer of the butterfly stroke," read a statement released by organizers. "The event honors not only his incredible achievements, but his deep

love for the outdoors and belief that everyone deserves to feel safe and confident in the water."  
The Wild Bill Swim featured offerings for every age and ability level, including open water swim races; a community novelty swim; and the Cornerstone Community Float.  
"Whether you're a seasoned open water swimmer or just love cheering from a float shaped like a duck, there's something for everyone," the promotional statement read.  
Every dollar raised by the event will support the "Just Get in the Water" safety program for local third graders. Over the past two years, 200 kids have learned lifesaving water skills thanks to support from the community.  
"Feeling at home in the water gives every person a new way to move, think, and breathe. We want every child to decide for themselves whether they like the water—not let fear decide for them," Yorzyk-Triger said.  
"Wild Bill" Yorzyk earned the gold medal at the 200-meter  
*Turn To WILD BILL page A11*

## DPHS staff prepare to welcome back students

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS**  
**STAFF WRITER**

SPENCER — As the final days of summer vacation click off the calendar, staff members are almost ready to welcome students to the new-look David Prouty High School.  
With construction work proceeding on schedule over the summer, Prouty's new gymnasium and classroom wing are ready for the first day of school.  
Several projects took place this month to finalize the facility for the start of classes. These include work on the pre-K playground, as well as the final paving of the parking lots.  
"I am happy to report to the community that Phase One of our David Prouty High School building project met all codes and inspection expectations, and is ready to be occupied," said Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District Superintendent Paul Haughey. "Since the walk-through by inspectional services on August 8, we have been learning the building with all of its systems – all while trying to set up and prepare for the first day of classes. It has been an incredibly busy summer."  
In recent weeks, crews also performed abatement and demolition work on the school's old academic wing. This will allow for further work on the site to take place.  
Nick Pimentel, a construction representative for Colliers Engineering and Design (the project's OPM), detailed several final projects that were completed throughout the summer. These include the installation of wood athletic flooring in the gymnasium; the completion of tile flooring throughout the corridors; the installation of lockers; the addition of rubber treads at the stairwells; and the painting of track running lanes surrounding the football field.  
DPHS staff members have been equally busy this summer, hard at work to prepare for the first chapter at the new facility.  
"As furniture began to arrive recently, it went from a quickly-evolving construction site to a recognizable, impres-  
*Turn To DPHS page A11*

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# QCC’s Scholar-in-Residence leveraging AI tutoring

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College is empowering faculty to pursue research, while inspiring campus-wide academic excellence and community belonging through its Scholar-in-Residence program. QCC Professor of Computer Science Hao Loi was selected as the 2025/2026 Scholar to conduct research on how artificial intelligence tutoring tools impact student success in computer programming courses.

The Scholar-in-Residence program is a faculty development initiative that selects one faculty member each academic year to conduct a research project, foster a research community through presentations, and integrate their findings into the existing curriculum.

Loi’s research project examines the integration of Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s LLM Tutor, known as PyTutor, in QCC’s Introduction to Python Programming course. The

study specifically focuses on how AI-assisted learning affects first-generation college students and non-traditional learners, who often balance work, family responsibilities and academic demands.

According to Loi, early observations suggest that PyTutor, combined with peer tutoring and additional support sessions, helps level the playing field for students who might otherwise struggle with programming concepts.

“I have already heard from students that it makes them feel like they belong in the class and that they really can succeed. They are more willing to try things out and work through problems on their own,” commented Loi.

PyTutor provides students with instant feedback on coding problems, offering hints and guidance without simply providing answers. The tool allows students to work through programming challenges at their own

pace and on their own schedule, a critical feature for community college students who often have time constraints.

“The key is using AI in ways that support real learning without replacing important thinking and interaction. When used thoughtfully, AI can make learning more accessible and more inclusive,” Loi said. “But we have to stay focused on what is best for students.”

The mixed-methods research study will assess PyTutor’s effectiveness in improving student comprehension, boosting retention rates and fostering success in STEM pathways for community college students.

Findings from the study will inform curriculum enhancements across QCC’s Data Science Certificate program, Computer System Engineering

Technology and Computer Science degree tracks. The research aims to align course offerings with current industry trends and workforce development needs.

“Our faculty are uniquely gifted teachers and scholars. QCC’s Scholar-in-Residence program fosters faculty engagement and support for their academic research. Faculty members develop or expand upon their academic research with the intent to publish or present at a regional or national conference as well as on our campus,” said Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Kathy Rentsch. “I am incredibly proud of the breadth and depth of scholarly work going on across our campus and look forward to promoting Dr. Loi’s work in the coming academic year.”

Loi plans to publish the results in peer-reviewed educational technology journals, as well as hold monthly faculty workshops focused on AI integration in education. He will cover topics such as ethical considerations and hands-on implementation strategies.

“These kinds of opportunities are huge for teaching faculty like me,” Loi said. “We don’t always get a lot of time to step back and dig into a project or really explore something new in our teaching.”

The Scholar-in-Resident program started in 2022. Previous scholars were Professor of English Michael Gormley, Professor of History Dr. Benjamin Wendorf, Professor of English Dr. Mark Bates and Professor of Sociology Dr. Teresa Varriale-Gonzalez.

## Hands-on training classes equip future electricians

CHARLTON — In a bid to meet the growing demand for skilled workers in the electrical industry, Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School’s hands-on training course offers students the chance to acquire essential skills needed in the field. With employers actively seeking apprentices with practical experience, this course provides invaluable training across a wide range of areas.

The curriculum includes comprehensive modules such as wire splicing, conduit bending, res-

idential wiring, and three/four-way switching. Students will also gain expertise in service installation, motor control, grounding/bonding, and fire alarm systems. The course further covers solar installation, snaking wires, basic multi-meter use, circuit troubleshooting, and load center/panel wiring. Additional skills taught include GFCI/AFCI installation, low voltage projects, lock out/tag out (LOTO), smart home installation, using the NEC, rigid pipe threading, basic Ohm’s Law, and ladder & safety harness use.

Spanning 150 hours of immersive training, the course is divided into two 75-hour semesters. Successful completion of both semesters and fulfillment of all course requirements, as determined by the instructor, are necessary to obtain a final certificate. This class is taught by Kevin Anctil, who is a Master Electrician and Licensed Journeyman. Kevin has more than 30 years in the electrical industry. He has been an Electrical Instructor with Bay Path Continuing Education since 2015, and he started this hand on training class a couple years ago. Prospective students should note that a list of necessary hand tools will be provided on the first night of class, but these are not included in the course fee. To ensure the course can proceed, a minimum enrollment of 10 students is required. Interested individuals are encouraged to register early, as the course will be canceled if this number is not met one week prior to the start date. Class starts Sept. 9, 5:30-8:30 p.m., and runs every Tuesday and Thursday until Dec. 18. To learn more and/or enroll, visit: [augusoft.baypath.net](http://augusoft.baypath.net) and search on class ID 42213.

## Family Literacy Festival brings free, all-ages learning & fun to Worcester Common Oval

WORCESTER — SCENSOB Foundation is thrilled to announce the Family Literacy Festival 2025, a free community celebration of books, culture, and hands-on learning, set for Sunday, Sept. 7, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Worcester Common Oval. The festival removes financial barriers so every family can participate—no tickets, no fees, just show up and read, play, and learn.

Families will enjoy book giveaways, story corners, STEM and maker stations, family crafts and games, live music & dance performances, a cultural fashion show, bounce houses, and a bustling vendor/author marketplace. There will also be food trucks selling their culinary creations. Community partners will offer literacy resources, back-to-school supplies (while supplies last), and wellness and safety demonstrations.

Literacy isn’t a luxury; it’s a launchpad. We designed this day so families don’t have to choose between paying a bill and building a child’s love of reading. Our goal is simple—Open the door wider—to books, to culture, to opportunity—and welcome every family through it.

SCENSOB Foundation welcomes sponsors, exhibitors, performers, and volunteers. Support helps keep the festival completely free and expands book and supply giveaways.



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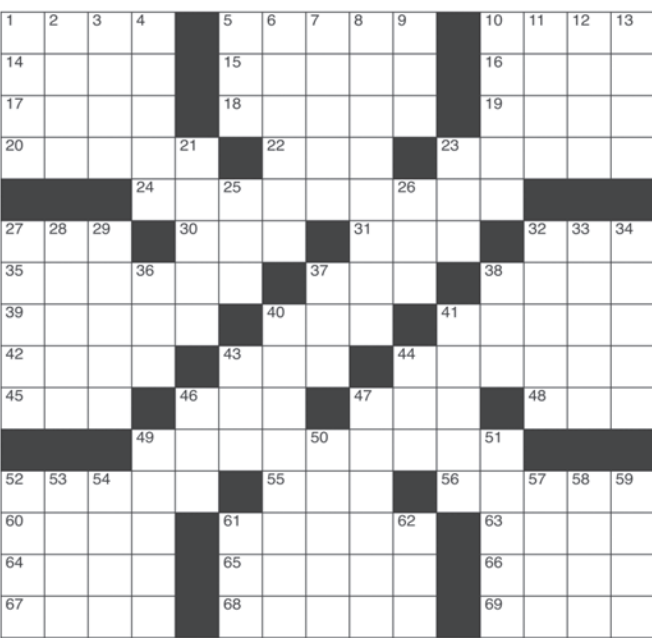
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### CLUES ACROSS

1. Mongolian politician
5. Coconut palms
10. Rounded knob
14. Japanese city
15. Covers in soft material
16. Walk around
17. Ancient region in Syria
18. French painter
19. Grandmother
20. Cow part
22. Rocky peak
23. Secret plan
24. Sings to one's lover
27. More (Spanish)
30. Father
31. Chinese philosophical principle
32. Hat
35. In agreement
37. A person's brother or sister
38. Evil spirit
39. Monetary units
40. Partner to cheese
41. About Sun
42. A place to dance
43. Performer \_\_\_ Lo Green
44. Beach accessory
45. Recipe measurement (abbr.)
46. Partly digested food
47. Pooch
48. Honorific title added to family name
49. Salts
52. Lichens genus
55. Lowest point of a ridge
56. Type of sword
60. Albanian language
61. Gold measurement
63. Italian seaport
64. Longtime late night host
65. Extremely angry
66. U. of Miami mascot
67. Mid-month day
68. Omitted from printed matter
69. Upper body part

### CLUES DOWN

1. Two-toed sloth
2. Cooking ingredient
3. Iranian city
4. Publicly outs
5. Steep-sided hollow
6. Spoke
7. General law or rule
8. Extravagantly theatrical
9. Very fast airplane
10. Arm bones
11. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
12. \_\_\_ fide; legitimate
13. Gemstone
21. Counsels
23. Top exec
25. Cool!
26. Touch lightly
27. Extract money via taxation
28. Dyes
29. Cloying sweetness
32. Soft drinks
33. Capital of Guam
34. Chemical compound
36. The bill in a restaurant
37. Car mechanics group
38. Late comedian Newhart
40. Health care for the aged
41. Wise individuals
43. A passage with access only at one end
44. Trim
46. Former OSS
47. The upper surface of the mouth
49. Edible lily bulbs
50. Type of reef
51. Vaccine developer
52. Mottled citrus fruit
53. A place to store lawn tools
54. Rare goose native to Hawaii
57. Hollywood pig
58. Musician Clapton
59. Take a chance
61. Spanish soldier
62. Mark Wahlberg comedy

## PUZZLE SOLUTION

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# Finding “solutions through compromise” on immigration

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBIDGE — To Regina Edwards, a simple lesson from immigration comes in the form of one short question: “Who’s an immigrant, and aren’t we all?”

Edwards is a member of Grassroots Central Mass, several members of which came to Jacob Edwards Library to talk about the “very complex dimensions to this whole question of immigration” in an effort to “connect and bond” with other people in the community.

One of those dimensions is war, presented as a brief video of local resident Phoutasone (“DJ Phou”) Ketnouvang. He related the fact he came to the US from Laos as a child in 1980, with his mother having to bribe a VietCong soldier with his father’s gold watch to let them cross the Thai border. They eventually made it to Southbridge, where the local Hispanic community “took me in and gave me a home ... where I didn’t live in fear,” he said, noting they “rallied with us, getting us furniture, clothes and food.”

A member of that Hispanic community, Jasmin Rivas, asked listeners to think about why people leave their homelands.

Reading a poem, she noted, “No one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark.”

The poem listed several kinds of atrocities refugees faced in their homelands and insults some receive when here, but noted “the insults are easier to swallow than <seeing> the body of your child.”

Her poem elicited a variety of responses. One woman said her family’s been here since the 1960s from Ontario, Canada, and came because they thought “there wasn’t so much snow here” since her father worked for the railroad and wanted to transfer here. But when they got here, they also saw “snow up to the telephone poles.”

While that sparked a little laughter, another man said his father left Germany under Hitler in 1938 because he “didn’t know what would happen” there. A third man had a reverse story – his father’s family was here, but went to France when he was five because their Judaism was “much more acceptable” there. (He came back for college and stayed.)

Edmonds noted some people opine “Why don’t they get in line and do it the right way?” In fact, most do – but the “right way” is very complex, with several different paths, some that lead to citizenship and some that don’t. Refugees often take eight to 10 years to go through the process, and the Constitution grants people born here citizenship, while some people brought here as children by their parents can work but don’t have a path to citizenship.

She said the law has many categories based on social class, profession,

nation of origin, marital status and other details; some can get the documents, some can’t. Lately, she added, some people who have been following the rules are getting arrested while at court hearings and during immigration interviews.

Later, Edmonds said there have been recent cases where the US government is denying people already here the right to family reunification by bringing kin from overseas. One friend has kin in Ghana and has been seeking such a visa for 15 years now. Such family sponsorships are generally being disallowed now, while corporate sponsorships are happening. Rivas, however, noted those are quite costly (about \$10,000 for both the company and the person).

One audience member said he’d worked with Nepalese people born in and expelled from Bhutan. The US had allowed about 100,000 to come here legally, but he knew of about 50 who have recently been deported by ICE. They were sent back to Bhutan, who immediately expelled them again; they’re now stateless in India, he said.

To Erick von Bleicken, such issues are unfortunately not new. He summarized a history of various ways the law has targeted certain groups of immigrants – most notably the Asian Exclusion Act and laws against Africans. The latter nearly caught his own father, born in what was then the German colony of Tanganyika (now Tanzania). At first, the US wanted to exclude him sight unseen, but let him in when he proved to be white.

“Even the idea of America is entirely the product of immigration,” he said, noting everyone who’s not Native American or the descendant of slaves came as an immigrant.

He attributed some of the fear and prejudice surrounding immigration to “some of our own religious convictions,” and pointed out many groups “have wrestled this ball back and forth” over the years. But he argued knowing the facts can help us find “solutions through compromise.”

To Dave Niles, two major myths dominate the discussion of immigration: the ideas that illegal immigrants are negative for the economy and commit crimes. He put up a slide showed federal tax data from 2022 that undocumented people paid \$96.7 billion in state, local and federal taxes that year. The six states benefiting most from that money are California, Texas, New York, Florida, Illinois and New Jersey.

By contrast, the estimated cost to deport all roughly 11 million undocumented people would be about \$967.9 billion, and it’d take about a decade to do, he said.

Regarding crime, Niles noted a Texan study found that undocumented people commit crimes “at a far lower rate” than either naturalized or native-born citizens. He attributed that to one simple fact: if you’re undocumented, “you don’t want to call attention to yourself.”

He also observed that our laws do not just grant “due process” rights to citizens, but to everyone who’s here.

Niles said he’s known two undocumented people over the years, both in the same situation – their student visas expired. One was from Canada, the other from Malaysia; the latter became a notable player in the Providence art scene, where he helped organize the Waterfire events.

“We can chart the tax contributions of undocumented immigrants ... but it’s difficult to quantify how they truly contribute to their communities,” he said, urging people to “not throw away our humanity” in today’s climate of animosity.

Edmonds encouraged people to explore their own ancestry and family experiences with immigration. She said she worked with the Women’s Oral

History Project, which included a look at immigrant stories. Among the people she interviewed, she found several who spoke “four or five languages, just not English,” when they arrived here, and were “passionate” about learning it.

Edmonds said there are at least six immigration-related bills now before the state Legislature, and urged people to “tell them we want to protect those who are more vulnerable.” Five of them are pro-immigrant, but she singled out one with the “misleading name” of the Shield Act (S 1096/H 2009) for opposition on the grounds it would “protect ICE agents.” By contrast, she supported one (HD 4886) that would require ICE agents to take off their masks and ID themselves as law enforcement.

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

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## Local leaders celebrated during WooSox Town Takeover

WEST BROOKFIELD — Local leaders were recently celebrated during a Worcester Red Sox game honoring the Brookfields communities.

The program was part of the team’s Town Takeover competition, which offers local communities an opportunity to shine during their own individual showcase games at Polar Park.

Prior to the game recognizing community leaders across the Brookfields, the ceremonial first pitch was thrown by newly promoted WBPB Lt. Matt Letendre.

Joining him for the ceremony were WBPB Officer Kendall Perrault and Officer Alexander Green.

“Two months ago, C8 Dispatch received a report of a structure fire on Ware Street. Officer Perrault and Officer Green were on duty, and Sgt. Letendre had just completed his shift when the call came in,” read

a statement released by the municipal leadership team. “All three officers immediately responded to the scene, along with the fire department and the West Brookfield Rescue Squad.”

The statement continued, “Upon arrival, officers observed smoke coming from the residence. Without hesitation, they grabbed fire extinguishers and approached the home. Sgt. Letendre made entry first and was able to knock down the kitchen fire before it could spread. Officers Perrault and Green ensured that no one else was inside, safely evacuated two dogs, and even rescued a pet gecko.”

Thanks to the swift and coordinated actions of the officers, significant damage to the residence was prevented. Responders were able to ventilate the home, and the residents were not displaced.

Additionally, special recognition at the base-

ball game was given to the West Brookfield Elementary School PTO, which has been hard at work in fundraising for their new K-2 playground.

“West Brookfield Elementary School, a small but vibrant community school in western Worcester County, has been working hard to create a safe and engaging playground for our Kindergarten through Grade 2 students,” read a statement released by officials. “For several years, our dedicated Parent Teacher Organization has been fundraising tirelessly to bring this dream to life. Thanks to their monumental efforts, we’re almost there—but we still need your help. We are currently \$40,000 short of completing the final phase: the surfacing of the playground.”

To learn more about how you can support the project, contact school officials.

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# Estate planning in Massachusetts

There is a common misconception that estate planning is only necessary for the ultra-wealthy, but in reality, estate planning is something that should be addressed by most Americans. The recommended planning strategies may change based on a person's net worth, but even modest estates should still address the basics. This article will discuss some of these considerations, as well as the Massachusetts estate tax, which is unique to its residents.

For starters, it may be helpful to review what an estate actually is. An estate is simply a legal term which refers to the "total sum of a person's assets minus debts at their time of death". This includes everything that person owns such as real estate, bank accounts, investments, personal items, and outstanding debts such as mortgages and credit card balances. If you don't know the total size of your estate, a qualified Financial Planner can help. They should have software to aggregate these items and help calculate your total net worth. This is typically the first step before mapping out any suggested action items. Once you have a clear picture of your assets and liabilities, you'll want to decide how your assets should be distributed upon death. The goal is to determine "who should receive what" and deliver it in the most tax efficient manner possible. Proper planning can also help reduce some of the undoubted stress for your loved ones. Even if you have a "modest" sized estate, it is better for you to make these decisions rather than leaving it to state laws. If your assets do not



**BY CHRISTOPHER J. MALLON**  
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have a beneficiary attached, and if there is no will, a probate court will need to make the determination. This can be a costly and time-consuming process which involves attorney fees, court fees, and potential appraisal fees. The average cost of probate as a percentage of the estate's value typically falls between 3 and 7 percent. When evaluating your estate planning needs, some of the common items you'll want to review include:

**Beneficiaries:** ensure beneficiary designations on retirement accounts like 401(k)s, 403(b)s, IRAs, annuities, and life insurance policies are up to date

**TOD Registrations:** consider utilizing a Transfer on Death registration for non-retirement assets

**Last Will and Testament:** a document which outlines how assets and personal items are distributed and names an executor to handle the process

**Trusts:** legal structures which can help manage and distribute assets

**Power Of Attorney:** a legal document that allows someone to manage your financial affairs if you become incapacitated

**Health Care Proxy:** a legal document which allows someone to make health related decisions if you become incapacitated

**Estate Taxes:** depending on the total size of your estate it may/may not be subject to Federal (or Massachusetts) estate taxes

An estate tax is sometimes referred to as a "death tax," which is applicable only if your total value exceeds certain thresholds. While most Americans are well under the federal estate tax levels (in 2025 its \$13.99 million per individual or \$27.98 million for married

couples), Massachusetts has its own estate tax which has a much lower threshold. Massachusetts imposes a tax on estates that exceed \$2 million per person. This tax is progressive, ranging from 7.2 percent to a top rate of 16 percent. If you're a married couple in Massachusetts, you might think you'd automatically get to shield \$4 million in assets (i.e. \$2 million per person). The reality? When the first spouse dies, his/her \$2 million exemption is not portable to the other spouse. With this in mind, married couples in Massachusetts should pay careful attention to their total estate value. For those with estates valued over \$2 million, there are advanced planning strategies available which involve the use of Credit Shelter (or Bypass

Trusts. These trusts are designed to utilize the \$2 million exemption when the first spouse dies (essentially allowing a couple to shield up to \$4 million in combined assets). Yes, \$2 million is a lot of money and not everyone will be impacted by this issue. But when you factor in soaring real estate values, a couple 401(k)s, and (possibly) a vacation home and/or business, there are more and more families whose total net worth exceeds \$2 million. The bottom line is that regardless of your total net worth, estate planning should not be overlooked, and it should be one part of your comprehensive financial plan. An experienced Financial Planner can help get you started, identify potential issues, and determine when to involve an attorney or CPA in the process. This article was actual-

ly written by the author. About The Capstone Planning Group The Capstone Planning Group is an experienced wealth management team conveniently located at Cornerstone Bank. The team offers comprehensive financial planning, investment management, and insurance analysis. To learn more about the team and schedule a courtesy consultation please visit [www.thecapstone.group](http://www.thecapstone.group) or call 508-764-0046. This information is not intended to be a substitute for specific individualized tax or legal advice. We suggest that you discuss your specific tax issues with a qualified tax advisor and legal questions with an attorney. Securities and advisory services are offered through LPL Financial (LPL), a registered investment advisor and broker-dealer (mem-

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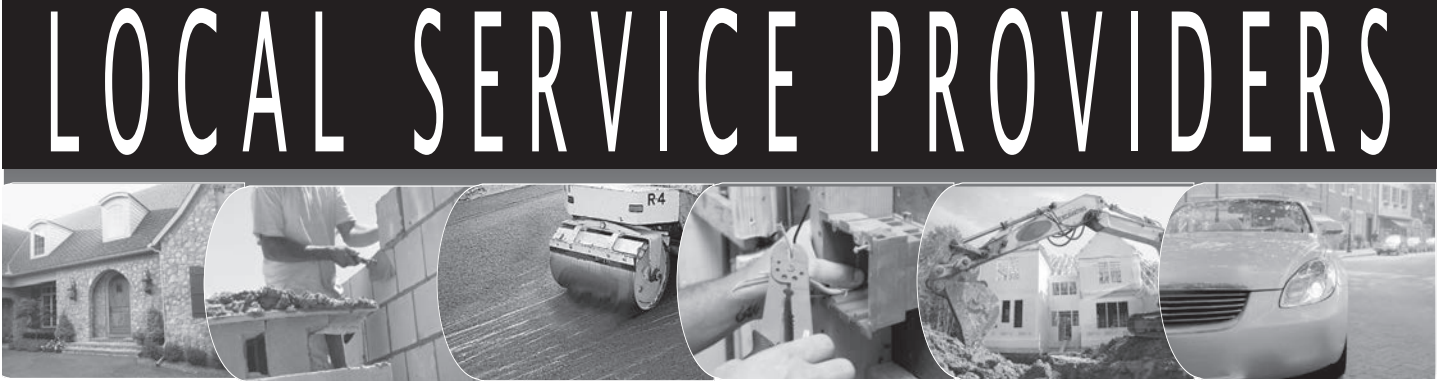
## Scams targeting seniors on the rise

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

REGION — The recent bust of an elaborate elder fraud ring serves as the latest reminder of an expanding crisis that is costing seniors millions. Last week, 13 suspects were charged in connection with a transnational elder fraud scheme that investigators say involved call centers in the Dominican Republic. The goal of the complex operation, according to investigators, was to trick hundreds of elderly victims across the U.S. into believing that their grandchildren or other close family members were in trouble and needed money. In total, the investigation identified more than 400 victims, with an average age of 84. These included at least 50 victims in Massachusetts. The scheme cost victims a total of more than \$5 million in losses. According to the charging documents, the suspects, led by Oscar Manuel Castanos Garcia, ran a sophisticated call center operation in the Dominican Republic. Once the suspects obtained money from victims, they laundered their illicit proceeds back to the Dominican Republic, investigators said. Castanos Garcia allegedly oversaw multiple call centers in the Dominican Republic, where he employed co-conspirators who carried out what are commonly known as "grandparent scams."

These scams would often begin with an "opener" employee, who would call victims and pretend to be a grandchild who was in an accident, investigators said. Later in the process, a "closer" would allegedly follow up with another call, pretending to be an attorney representing the victim's grandchild, asking for a sum of money to pay fees related to the accident. Castanos Garcia allegedly ran the call centers with the help of several managers who supervised, instructed, and paid employees. In many cases, suspects from the call centers allegedly made follow-up calls to victims and asked for additional funds to assist their grandchildren. Members of the public who believe they may be victims of this scheme, or other elder fraud scams, should contact investigators by email at: [USAMA.VictimAssistance@usdoj.gov](mailto:USAMA.VictimAssistance@usdoj.gov). You may also call 1-800-225-5324 to speak with investigators. The following agencies and officials are thanked for their involvement in the investigation: the Justice Department's Office of International Affairs; the Dominican National Police; and Assistant U.S. Attorney David Holcomb. Locally, law enforcement leaders continue to expand educational programs to warn residents about the prevalence of scams. In recent

years, Worcester County police departments have been forced to investigate a sharply rising number of incidents. Meanwhile, the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is cautioning the public to be aware of text messages falsely presented as notices sent from the RMV. These messages often request payments or personal information. The RMV scams fall under the umbrella of the increasingly popular "smishing" strategy, which involves the sending of fraudulent text messages intended to trick victims into providing personal information. In the case of the RMV scams, messages typically warn residents that the RMV will take action against them due to unpaid fees. RMV scam attempts have been made in Massachusetts and several other states, causing victims to share credit card numbers and other sensitive information. The messages also direct victims to fraudulent websites to pay bogus outstanding balances. "If you receive any kind of message telling you to make a payment, or that you need to act quickly, do not click the link. The RMV will never text you looking for payment," said Registrar of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie. Additionally, scam text messages are warning residents of traffic ticket enforcement, indicating that immediate action must be taken to avoid license suspension and vehicle registration revocation that can impact one's credit score. To learn more about ways to avoid scams, visit [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov).



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# "This place is your playground"

AUBURN'S A GREAT NOTION BRINGS REAL BOOKS TO THE SOCIAL MEDIA ERA

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

AUBURN — After years of being a school mental health counselor, Courtney Galicia got tired of crying at home over her students' trauma and not being to help them enough. So she started a bookstore.

A Great Notion, the two-and-a-half-year-old store she runs with husband Tyler, is now the kind of job she says "when you're doing what you love, it's not work" and is "a really cool way to get back in touch with the community."

Her husband, Tyler, isn't quite in the same position yet. He's still teaching full time, but is totally on the same page, noting, "I want to make a life out of this."

They decided to go for what he dubbed their "pipe dream retirement plan" when "I realized I could get hit by a bus someday," he said. She partly attributed it to her mom's early death five years ago, noting she didn't want to have any regrets if she departed this world early.



Courtney and Tyler Galicia

Gus Steeves

which can afford to lose money on books to control the market and make it difficult for small stores to get local authors they control, the Galicia's said.

They have a shelf of local authors who are either self-published or went through small publishers and thus still have the rights to their own work, but don't presently have direct contact with such publishers. They also use their front window as space for a variety of locally-sourced crafts, art and other items, noting many people are tired of the chain stores.

"In five years, I'd love to build my own space and have outdoor space to do events," Courtney said when asked what they plan for the future.

"So far, so good," Tyler added. "We just need to keep going that way."

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



READER'S  
JOURNEY

GUS  
STEEVES

Walking into their 65 Southbridge St. space gives you a sense of openness and welcome, especially as one or both of the Galicia's greets you. A screensaver of jellyfish plays on the TV screen when it's not being used for other things, their baby daughter Cooper sits in a crib by the register, and, of course, people browse and chat about books.

"This place is your playground," Courtney added.

It felt the same way last year, but looked fairly different. Outside it was the same – a space in a sprawling red wooden building shared by a church, realty office and other things. But inside, its bookshelves were packed much tighter; today, the space is more open, and they aim to use it to "host events as a main attraction."

One such event represents what they're hoping to do. In May, Jersey Shore star Mike Sorrentino brought his book talk to A Great Notion. Courtney recalled having 500 people show up (many more than the space can hold). A line went around the building, with people sampling a food truck and Auburn Police presence ensuring peace.

Given where they are now, it's a little ironic that Courtney admits she wasn't much of a reader in school.

"I was one of those kids in high school who wondered 'Why are we doing this?'" when it came to reading assigned books. "It was challenging for me." Later, in college, she became a history major, but found a lot of the books dull.

It was Tyler who loved reading, and later instilled that in Courtney, encouraging her, his students and others to "start with something you enjoy." The store's name comes from his favorite novel, Ken Kesey's "Sometimes a Great Notion."

For Courtney, that starting point was graphic novels. She said she "thinks graphic novels are very helpful" for getting kids to dive into reading even though some teachers "hate them."

Although there have always been comics, graphic novels are a recent phenomenon, and the Galicia's are more than willing to tap into other such tools to encourage reading. Courtney said online presence via Booktalk, Bookstagram and other hashtags go a long way to promote their brand. They even have their own online influencer in Emma Christian, who created an Instagram account as "a great opportunity for a booksore I love."

"The community's huge online, and they're really into supporting each other," Emma said, noting the store's followers have grown from 120 to 500 in three weeks.

Courtney also noted they're working with another local social media site which goes by the name "Wicked Creatiff" after its owner's first name, Tiffany.

All of them are consciously tapping into the fact that many younger people are focused on shopping local. That's especially critical for small bookstores who face the monopoly of Amazon,



This is a normal scene at "A Great Notion" highlighting the store's family-like community sensibility. Courtney Galicia, left, takes care of her daughter Cooper while Tyler Galicia helps a customer and Emma Christian, right, uses her phone to promote the store online.



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EDITORIAL

# Seize the waning days of summer

Oh, no! Summer is coming to an end; however, we know the weather will stay warm likely through September, then it's on to what we New Englanders affectionately call "Sweatah weathah." But for now, let's focus on making the most of what we have left of our coveted New England summer days.

Time passes so quickly that we forget we had meant to do this, or go here and see that, or visit this old friend. The good news is that there is still time for a no regrets summer.

The most fulfilling thing we can do is to reconnect with friends. Plan a night out having appetizers, or a last-minute summer grill session. Even planning a short meet up for a walk or a hike is a great idea. Find a lake or a river with some nice rocks and just relax and catch up, taking in all that summer has to offer.

Nostalgia tells us that time spent with friends on our bikes until the lights came on were the best carefree times during the summer months. Why not take a night and watch old movies to bring you back, and escape from the go, go, go that is adulthood. Our favorite blasts from the past include "Field of Dreams," "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure," "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom," "Crocodile Dundee," and anything with Steve Martin and Martin Short.

Spending time outdoors during late night hours is always a treat. Look up at the stars, even if it's from your own porch and enjoy a peaceful moment, listening to the crickets and the frogs have a chat.

That book sitting on your coffee table that's been staring at you all summer? Pick it up, and give yourself a goal to read at least five pages...just do it, before you know it, you'll be engrossed in it.

Get outside and go for a run, bike ride or a hike in a new place. Find places that you can revisit when the snow falls! Snowshoes and Nordic skis, heck even moon boots do the trick! But alas, let's stay focused on summer.

Take a refreshing swim in a nearby lake or river. Pop yourself onto a floaty and just bob as all of your cares float away.

Try to cook as many meals as possible outdoors on your grill. Soon it'll be too cold to wait to flip your burgers and dogs.

We love all seasons, and every time one ends, we get excited for the next. One of the benefits of living in New England is enjoying a solid four-season year. Pretty soon it will be pumpkin everything, apples and crisp fall leaves, but for now...let's stay in summer mode!

## 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

### Who will prevail?

To the Editor:

It is our steadfast adherence to the rule of law, our guiding principles, sound morality and being willing to put our talent and treasure on the line in defense of those pillars, that have sustained this experiment in democracy, to inspire the world, for over 250 years. Like Rome, which fell when its leadership tried to extend its leaderships ego, beyond the things that made it great in the first place.

Our forefathers did their best to create a constitution and system of laws, that also acknowledged the opportunity to enact revisions and updates, as needed. Their safeguards included three co-equal branches, to assure that should any branch overstep, the other ones would act to correct it. The weakness in the system, was expecting these branches to be led by people of integrity and high moral character, and tried to assure that the uneducated and great unwashed population, would be limited by rules like the peoples house, elected only by property owning men, would be balanced by a senate, appointed by state legislature, and presidents could only be chosen by an electoral college (of responsible men).

In my last employment, I worked for multiple different state contractors, who oversaw the state's vehicle inspection program. Our first order of business, before each new program rolled out, was to try to figure out how to defeat the system and issue valid stickers to invalid vehicles. The earliest schemes were issuing passing stickers on the first, then storing them all month, so you could claim passed a month ago. When we started testing emissions, we corrected for probes lain in the floor and manufacturers help our cause, by showing VINs when plugged it, so testing other vehicles did not work. I retired just as the new system that incorporates cameras and photos was started.

The point that I am trying to make is that the state inspection program has done a far more effective job with that system than our federal government has. We are currently seeing the effects of how extensively bad actors can pervert a system where honesty, honor and integrity were expected, without adjustments made to address when they are not.

Setting aside that the grifter in chief, virtually ignores the oath he took with no Bible (because they disallowed the Chinese one he sells), he and his minions g, have done a masterful job, at every level, with having built a court, that instead of banning him

from office, under the clear wording of section #3 of the 14th Amendment, instead made him exempt from prosecution, enabling him to ignore emoluments and other constitutional provisions, with abandon. He could give lessons to the Godfather in how to enforce your will.

Do you remember when he wished Ghislaine Maxwell well? I did see a post from one of the girls on Epstein's island, claiming t-o have seen two young girls pleasuring Trump, but post7 came down quickly. Epstein's co-conspirator pervert, sentenced to 20 years in secure prison, is now transferred to a low security prison with work release daily. Isn't it great that he has called out the guard in D.C., where their crime rate was already down, but not only did not on Jan. 6, while capitol police were being assaulted, but pardoned those attackers?

The man is a felon, so we should not be surprised when he acts like one. The list of reasons he should be impeached, stands in stark contrast to his altering the history in the national archives, along with any other history he dislikes. To quote former NY Senator6 Moy8nihan "Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but nobody is entitled to their own facts"

Can you imagine what MAGA or the GOP reaction, would have been to a Dem's blatant disregard for laws, norms and morality? As I write this, Trump plans to meet Put0in in Russia tomorrow. Since both are well versed in "The Art of the Deal", where neither party will actually perform as promised. Putin's record is 25 and 0 with Ukraine, including the one we also signed under Bush #43 guaranteeing her borders for giving up nukes. Trump does tend to think of himself as a dictator because he has seized those powers, but says dumb things, Zelensky had the power to declare war but not peace, on his own.

Anyone remotely aware knows Putin attacked Ukraine. Like us, they have no attention of yielding invaded territory.

Because of their history, it is already illegal in Ukraine to negotiate with Putin. Why should they accept Trumps deal when we never enforced Bush's deal? It is my expectation that the traitor in chief, will punish Ukraine for not accepting his deal and yielding ground. This is who we have become, and I could not be more disappointed to think any rational moral person would accept it.

KEN KIMBALL  
BROOKFIELD

## I don't hate Trump – I hate the damage he has done

To the Editor:

Sylvia Little has expressed concern that hate is appearing in the letters to the Editor section of the Spencer New Leader. I do not hate Trump, but I am very concerned about the hateful things that are happening under his presidency. And I don't hate you. I just think you are terribly misguided by a colossal conman.

When he lost the election in 2020, he harassed poll workers Ruby Freeman and her daughter Wanda Moss, claiming falsely that they had entered suitcases of ballots for Biden. He supplied their addresses and phone numbers, and they were threatened. In the investigation Ms. Freeman expressed dismay that a president of the United States would do something so harmful. I agree. To this day, he continues to claim the election was stolen. Trump harassed these poll workers endangering them to the point that they had to move. Is this what Trumpers voted for?

ICE officials enter neighborhoods and detain people without regard for the rule of law or due process. Hundreds were sent to El Salvador without due process. Who decided their guilt? Trump? And El Salvador was paid \$6 million. Disregard for due process has happened here in Massachusetts. Rumeysa Ozturk, a grad student at Tufts, wrote a letter in the college newspaper urging support for Palestinians. She was arrested and taken to jail in Louisiana claiming she was supporting Hamas. Free speech was totally disregarded. I think she is now in Vermont, but should she even be in jail? A teenage student in Milford was on his way to volleyball practice when he was stopped. He was driving his father's car. When it was discovered they didn't want the son, he was jailed for six days anyway. Students from Milford High School picketed the Milford Police Department. Is this what Trumpers voted for?

ICE officials enter towns masked and bearing no ID to take people into custody. Alligator Alcatraz and other deplorable facilities are housing people ready for deportation. Fear is becoming widespread, and many are afraid to go to work, graduations and even church. Is this what Trumpers voted for?

Trump has been convicted in three jury trials, with a total of \$545 million levied in fines. He has not paid a penny of these fines, but he has been recently reminded to pay the first \$5 million. Is he above the law? Not!

Trial 4 — Trump was convicted unanimously by the jury on 34 felony counts. Jurors were given numbers so their names and phone numbers would not be given out to prevent Trump from harassing them as has happened in the past. Jail time could have resulted from this conviction. By this time Trump was president-elect thereby nullifying jail time. Felony charges were dropped. Are Trumpers okay with this?

Over the years, my candidates have not always won the election but I have been able to recognize the winner and move on. However, for the election of 2024, I was astounded that millions would vote for a criminal to be president of the United States. Trump is making money from being president. He claims he is doing it on his own time. I have news for him. Being president is a 24/7 job. There is no "own time!"

I repeat, I do not hate Trump, but I am concerned over what destruction he is doing and can do to our country. I cited things above but they are only the tip of the iceberg. And I am so concerned that so many voters have been taken in by him. It may take years to undo his destruction. It is not hate. It is deep concern for our country

PATRICIA JACKMAN  
NORTH BROOKFIELD

## Planning your business exit: Start with the end in mind



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If you own a business, you've probably spent countless hours thinking about how to grow it, manage daily operations and serve your customers. But have you thought about how you'll eventually step away from it? While it might seem premature, planning your successful exit from your business is one of the smartest moves you can make as an owner.

The reality is that most business owners have 80 to 90 percent of their net worth tied up in their companies, according to the Exit Planning Institute. That's a significant investment that deserves careful planning to protect. Unfortunately, 70 to 80 percent of businesses put on the market don't sell, and about half of all business exits are involuntary due to unexpected circumstances like health issues, family emergencies management disputes or economic downturns.

Exit planning is more than preparing for retirement. It's taking control of your future and ensuring you can transition away from your business when and how you choose. You can start with the end in mind – a proactive approach that can inform your current business decisions and help increase your company's value and marketability.

Begin by articulating your personal goals for both the transaction and your life afterward. Maybe you want to sell only a portion of your business, stay on as a paid consultant or use the proceeds to start your next venture. Understanding your vision helps shape everything else.

You'll want to calculate how much money you'll need to fund your desired retirement lifestyle, accounting for expenses that may be currently covered by the business, like your cellphone, vehicles, travel and health care. Don't forget about your legacy goals too – what you want to leave for your family or charitable causes.

Getting started requires building a strong professional team. At the center should be a financial advisor who can help you through the planning, execution and post-sale phases. You'll likely also need a tax professional, legal advisor, commercial banker and business valuation expert. Depending on your exit strategy, you might later add specialists like business brokers, investment bankers or employee stock ownership plan advisors.

Understanding your business's current value is crucial. It's a good idea to get a calculation of value at least three to five years before your planned exit. This isn't as formal or expensive as a qualified appraisal, but it gives you a realistic range of what your business might be worth.

This step may reveal a gap between what you need financially and what your business could sell for. If so, don't panic. You have several options: work longer, adjust your spending expectations, save more outside the business or focus on increasing your company's value. You can boost value by increasing profits through higher market share, new products, better pricing or reduced costs. You can also improve intangible assets like employee expertise, operational systems and customer relationships.

Finally, consider who your successor might be. Selling your interest to family members, business partners or employees often provide more control over timing and lower transaction costs, though they may result in lower sale prices. Selling the business to third parties typically bring higher proceeds but less control over the process.

The key message is simple: it's never too early to start planning your exit. Whether you're thinking about stepping away next year or in the next decade, taking proactive steps now puts you in control of your business's future and your own financial security.

*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).*



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The disgrace of the Putin – Trump Alaska Summit

To the Editor:

Thanks to my father and teachers like Rochdale’s Ralph Leonard, all my life, I have had an avid love of history and current events. With American presidents, this began with two great ones, Harry Truman and Dwight Eisenhower. It continues on today with a President historians (and I) rank, after his first term, as one of the very worst.

From the time of Truman and Eisenhower to the time Presidents Ronald Reagan and HW Bush, our Presidents saw Russia (or, as it was then called, the Soviet Union) as our and the “Free World’s” greatest enemy. (For a good example of this read about the Cuban Missile Crisis). During that time Russia not only killed and imprisoned its own people, it ruled and did similar things throughout Eastern Europe - as my childhood Polish and Lithuanian neighbors, with specifics, explained to me.

Vladimir Putin grew up in Soviet Russia. in 1975, he joined the KGB - Russia’s spy agency and worked in Eastern Germany until the fall of the Soviet Union. As a result of that defeat,

Putin hates Western democracies, especially the United States.

Last Friday in Alaska our current President did something no President (Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan or HW Bush) who knew about the Russia-Soviet Union Putin wants recreate would ever have done or agree to.

In a fawning “Red Carpet” ceremony, Donald Trump welcomed Vladimir Putin, the war crimes indicted Ukraine Invader and America and democracy hater to the United States. Then self-centered, ignorant and unprepared, Trump allowed Putin to roll over him and our America. He essentially gave him permission to continue his war crimes and vicious attack on democratic Ukraine. He also provided an opening for similar aggression in other Eastern European countries – in other words, Putin’s dreams come true. Unless Europe and Ukraine - instead of the USA – push back.

In Trump’s Alaska - to paraphrase another great American president - “A Day of Infamy.”

KEVIN KANE  
SPENCER

For the love of golf

To the Editor:

Hmmmm! While Trump should be dealing with problems in our country due to flash flooding, deportation, illness, bigotry, starvation, hate, etc., etc., he is instead thinking of where and when he will be playing golf next. He has gone golfing 40 times out of his first 169 days of this presidency, to the tune of \$56 million of taxpayers’ money.

Let’s also not forget the elaborate birthday parade he threw for himself costing \$45 million of the taxpayers’ money. He needed to combine it with the 250th birthday celebration of the US Army so he could be assured someone would attend. Most were not there for him!

It was about our veterans — you know, the “suckers, losers and cowards” who served to protect our country and democracy while Trump was pampering his alleged “bone spurs”...coward!

I used to think the ASPCA (animal cruelty) TV commercial was the most horrific thing I had ever seen, but after

seeing pictures of the babies and young children in Gaza unnecessarily dying before they had a chance to live and mothers watching helplessly as they died from the painful and grueling death of starvation, that is the most horrific, inhumane and sickening thing that I have ever seen.

By the looks of Trump, he has never missed a meal or longed for a sip of water.

Trump’s answer to helping people in distress is probably no different than it was when he went to Puerto Rico and threw paper towels at people who had just lost loved ones and their homes. Notice that Trump and his immigrant wife showed up “dressed to the 9’s” so they didn’t have to get their hands dirty by helping in any way. Donald, don’t open your short, your heart will fall out...oops, I forgot — you don’t have a heart.

NOREEN FERNANDES  
WEST BROOKFIELD

What is it about money?

What is it about money? At first glance, it is nothing but paper, or digits on a screen, or the shimmer of gold, silver, or crypto code. It seems to hold no intrinsic value—and yet it governs nearly every movement of our world.

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psychiatrist, taught that when money aligns with our values and purpose, it stops being just currency—it becomes a mirror, a symbol, a servant of the Self.

its, but as energy—a collective symbol, created by society and invested with psychic weight. To him, money’s value was never inherent but symbolic, reflecting what we project onto it: security, power, or even self-worth.

We pursue it because we must: to feed our families, to build our dreams, to secure the lives we long for. In this society, money is a necessity. And yet, it slips through our fingers like water. One can possess it in abundance, only to watch it vanish overnight. It is a teacher disguised as currency—revealing what we value, fear, and chase. A balancing act of spirit and matter. For what does it profit a person to gain all the money in the world if, in doing so, they lose their soul—their inner compass, their true Self.

It can express who we truly are, fueling work that brings meaning and relationships that nourish life. But when we separate money from our purpose, or never discover one outside of accumulation, money begins to work against us.

When we chase it for the shimmer of cars, clubs, houses, and status, it’s just a mask. Yet behind that mask, nothing is there.

Society tells us this chase is typical, even noble. Careers are chosen, lifestyles built, identities forged on its foundation. But deep down, the psyche knows the truth: money without meaning is hollow. It leaves us restless, dissatisfied, still searching for something we cannot name.

And it is a double-edged sword, because money not only shows up in greed—it also hides in fear. Fear of financial instability can bind us just as tightly as the lust for wealth. It can stop us from risking, from creating, from offering the gifts of our soul. In that fear, we trade potential for safety, burying our talents in the ground. The shadow of money lies not only in hoarding gold, but also in the person who never becomes what they could be because of the fear of instability.

It seems that Jung saw money not simply as coins, paper, or dig-

At its best, it can serve as a tool for expression, growth, and care. But when money becomes the measure of meaning, when we pursue it for its own sake, it can easily slip into darkness - confusing worth with wealth.

The endless chase for wealth and status leaves us mistaking accumulation for wholeness; we try to patch inner wounds with outer excess. In truth, Jung thought, the only wealth that endures is the journey of individuation—the slow, lifelong work of becoming who you truly are.

Money, then, should serve the soul—not the other way around. In hands guided by purpose, it expands creativity and generosity. In hands ruled by fear or greed, it magnifies insecurity and imbalance.

And so the real question is not how much you can make, but whether your relationship with money is rooted in alignment with who you are.

If you find yourself trapped in fear or endlessly chasing status, Jung would call you back inward: discover your purpose, and let money serve that higher calling.

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

Carl Jung, the famous



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# Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Director marks 12 years as dedicated Pan-Mass Challenge volunteer



Dr. Gretheline Bolandrina

CHARLTON — Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Director of the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, recently marked her 12th year as a committed volunteer for the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) — one of the most impactful athletic fundraising events in the nation. On Aug. 2 & 3, the PMC community came together from all corners of the world with one mission: to raise funds for cancer research and treatment at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Since 2013, Bolandrina has served as a volunteer for PMC. She started as a medical volunteer and became the Signs and Supplies Manager at the PMC's Monument Finish shortly thereafter, where she ensures smooth logistics and safety by managing crucial signage and distributing materials to support other volunteers, riders, and staff. With 3500+ volunteers, their efforts help guide thousands of cyclists through their final miles, culminating in an emotional and inspiring finish line experience.

The Pan-Mass Challenge raises critical funds for cancer research and treatment at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and relies on a vast network of volunteers like Dr. Bolandrina. Her long-term service exemplifies her passion for community health and her unwavering support for causes that extend beyond the classroom and clinic.

"Volunteering with the Pan-Mass Challenge has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life," Bolandrina shared. "Along with my family, my husband Joseph, our children, and their significant others, it's an honor to be part of something that brings hope, healing, and support to so many."

Her role in the PMC reflects the values she promotes at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy: leadership, service, and compassion—both professionally and personally.

# Community thanked for support of school district's Summer Eats program

SPENCER — The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District thanks community members for their support of the Summer Eats program.

In total, the program's multiple locations combined to serve 7,800 meals to the community this summer. District staff members are thanked by the SEBRSD leadership team for making the program possible.

"We're already looking forward to seeing what we can improve next year," read a statement released by the SEBRSD.

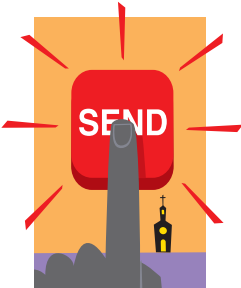
# Leicester Women's Club meets Sept. 17

LEICESTER — The Leicester Women's Club will hold their September meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 17 at 6 p.m. at Pine Ridge Country Club.

If you would like to come for a good meal, entertainment and socializing, contact Linda Monahan at 508-330-9250 by Tuesday, Sept. 9 to make a reservation.

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# Spencer Summer Concert Series continues with The Chain

SPENCER — The Spencer Parks & Recreation Commission's 2025 Summer Concert Series concludes from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 24 at Powder Mill Park, corner Smithville and Meadow Roads, Spencer with a rain-out make up performance by The Chain.



## From São Paulo to Massachusetts

### A NURSE'S JOURNEY TO COMPASSIONATE CARE

CHARLTON — In the heart of Massachusetts, a dedicated nurse is celebrating a major milestone. Maria de Amorim Hentschke, a recent graduate of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, has passed the NCLEX-PN on her first attempt, officially becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) in the state. This accomplishment is a testament to her hard work and the rigorous training she received at the academy.

A strong foundation in education de Amorim Hentschke's journey to becoming an LPN is a story of international experience and local dedication. Before her nursing education in Massachusetts, she earned a post-graduate degree in Family Medicine from the Universidad de São Paulo in Brazil. There, she worked with the Brazilian Federal Government, gaining valuable experience managing patients with chronic conditions like hypertension and diabetes. This hands-on experience has shaped her philosophy of providing compassionate, holistic care.

When asked about the strengths of the nursing program, de Amorim Hentschke credited the instructors.

"Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy's biggest strength is the dedication of the instructors," she said. "They truly care about students' success and take time to explain difficult topics."

She also praised the well-organized clinical placements at facilities like Quaboag Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center and Harrington UMass Memorial Health, which provided her with a wide range of real-world experience.

A commitment to excellence de Amorim Hentschke dedication extends beyond her core education. She has earned certifications in Dementia Care, Mental Health First Aid, and Stop The Bleed, and has completed training in Domestic Violence and Narcan Administration. She is also a proud member of the UNICEF Club and the Mock Code Team. She was inducted to the National Technical Honor Society. Her commitment to the community is clear through her volunteer work, which includes health screenings at Shepherd Hill High School and the Charlton Senior Center. For her efforts, she was nominated for The Dr. Adelina Healy Clinical Excellence Award and received the Random Act of Kindness Award.

After a well-deserved trip to Brazil, she plans to apply for nursing positions in October. With her strong background in chronic disease management, a wide range of certifications, and fluency in Portuguese, English, and Spanish, she is poised to make a significant impact on the local healthcare community. She is eager to contribute her skills and compassionate approach, delivering safe, evidence-based care to patients in Worcester and beyond.



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# National Watermelon Month

It's fat free, low calorie, sweet and delicious. As if that isn't enough, watermelon is high in lycopene, an antioxidant that helps reduce the risk of cancer. All that and it's fun to eat too!

In celebration of the virtues of summer's favorite fruit, the Watermelon Promotion board has designated August as National Watermelon Month!

Undoubtedly millions of cookouts have included watermelon this month, and will continue to be on the menu long after August! In celebration of summer's favorite fruit, here are some tips and tricks for picking, storing and eating wonderful watermelon:

**\*\***

**Picking a Perfect Melon:**

An ideal candidate should be firm and symmetrical, free of bruises, cuts and dents. Check out the bottom of the melon. The underside should have a creamy yellow spot from where it sat on the ground and ripened in the sun. Select melons that are heavy for their size. Watermelons are 92% water, which obviously accounts for most of their weight. A good rule of thumb is to buy the melon size that will satisfy your needs, so you don't waste

any.

Did you ever wonder what the grades on the watermelon stickers mean?

- U.S. Grades
- U.S. Fancy - Very few defects are permitted.
- U.S. No. 1\* - Greater number of defects permitted compared to the U.S. Fancy Grade.
- U.S. No. 2 - Greater areas of defects are allowed compared to higher grades; of-shape is permitted

**\*\***

**Ripen and Store:**

Melons will ripen after they are picked but their sugar content won't increase. To ripen, store melons at room temperature. It shouldn't take more than a few days for them to ripen.

Don't refrigerate melons unless they become too ripe or have been cut. Watermelons don't like frigid temps.

Watermelons that are stored long lose flavor and

texture. Melons cannot be successfully frozen, as it causes rind to break down and produces a mealy, mushy texture. Once a melon is cut, it should be wrapped and stored at 37°-39° F. Cut watermelons should be loosely covered in plastic wrap or stored in plastic containers before refrigerating.

According to the USDA:

- Watermelon stored at 50 to 60 °F with a relative humidity of 90% will be acceptable for up to 3 weeks.
- Watermelons held in dry storage below 75 °F will have approximate shelf life of up to 10 days. If dry storage temperatures are above 75 °F, shelf life will decline to 5 days.
- At temperatures between 32 and 45 °F, watermelons are subject to chilling injury that may result in pitting, off-flavors, and color loss.
- Watermelons may become mushy and shelf life may be reduced when exposed to ethylene gas producing fruit such as Apples, stone fruit or grapes.

**\*\***

**Watermelon Freeze**

A twist on Italian Ice, this frozen treat is a refreshing summertime dessert.

**Ingredients:** Three cups watermelon juice; one third cup granulated sugar; one quarter cup lime juice

**Directions:** In large shallow pan, stir all ingredients together until sugar is dissolved; place pan in freezer. Stir watermelon mixture every 20 minutes until frozen, about two hours. Cover; store in freezer. To serve, break mixture up with fork. Makes four servings.

**\*In blender, process chunks of seeded watermelon until liquefied.**

**\*\***

**Watermelon Fun Facts:**

- More watermelons are sold during the Independence Day weekend than the rest of the entire year.
- Over four billion pounds of watermelons are produced in the United States each year.
- Americans consume more watermelons than in any other country.
- The seeds of a watermelon can be white, spotted, brown, striped, black, pink, or red, and range in size from 5 to 15 millimeters.

• Watermelon's official name is Citrullus lanatus and it is a vegetable. It is related to cucumbers, pumpkins and squash.

• The first recorded watermelon harvest occurred nearly 5,000 years ago in Egypt.

• A watermelon was once thrown at Roman Governor Demosthenes during a political debate. Placing the watermelon upon his head, he thanked the thrower for providing him with a helmet to wear as he fought Philip of Macedonia.

• Early explorers used watermelons as canteens.

• The word "watermelon" first appeared in the English dictionary in 1615.

• The watermelon is one of the most varied of all melons, with some two hundred varieties grown in fortyfour states.

• Every part of a watermelon is edible, even the seeds and rinds.

**\*\***

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TAKE THE HINT  
KAREN TRAINOR

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

**\*\***

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

## Freshen up your late season gardens and containers with strawflowers

As summer is winding down and fall approaches, your thoughts may turn to mums, asters, and pansies. Consider changing things up this year by adding deer-resistant strawflowers to your late summer and fall containers and gardens.

Grow strawflowers (Xerochrysum bracteatum formerly Bracteantha) in full to part sun and moist well-drained soil. They are heat and cold tolerant, grown as annuals in most areas, and short-lived perennials in zones 8 to 10. You'll enjoy continuous blooming and visiting pollinators from spring through summer and into fall until frost. Plant some now to replace fading summer annuals, freshen up your late season garden or create fall containers. The range of flower colors makes them easy to include in your late season displays.

Plant strawflowers in the garden or a container with drainage holes and fill with a quality potting mix. Select a pot, at least 12 inches in diameter to avoid the plant becoming rootbound and drying out too quickly. Although the flowers look dry, the plants prefer moist well-drained soil. Check containers daily and water thoroughly as needed. Those growing in the garden should be watered thoroughly when the top



GARDEN MOMENTS  
.....  
MELINDA MYERS

few inches of soil are crumbly and moist.

Strawflowers unique blossoms look and feel dry to the touch, making them extra fun for kids to grow. This straw-like texture of the flowers inspired the common name. You may also hear them referred to as everlasting flowers since they don't wilt readily when picked and retain their shape and color for years once dried.

Granvias (suntory-flowers.com) are larger, vigorous plants with much bigger blooms than other strawflowers, making them excellent thrillers in containers and showy in the garden. You can find these supersized strawflowers in gold, pink, white, Crimson Sun, Harvest Orange, Peachy Keen and Orange Flame.

Set a pot of colorful strawflowers among your pumpkins, ornamental squash and other fall décor. Combine them in containers and garden beds with other fall favorites like ornamental kale and cabbage, grasses, ornamental peppers, pansies, calibrachoa,

and more.

Grow plenty so you'll have enough to enjoy as cut flowers and even more to dry for crafting wreaths, garland, flower spheres, and adding to dried arrangements. Harvest strawflowers when two to three layers of their petal-like bracts have unfolded but the center is still tightly closed. The flowers will continue to open as they dry so waiting too long results in a more open bloom. Harvest regularly to encourage even more flowers.

Recut the stems at an angle and place the strawflowers in fresh water and condition them in a cool, dark place for a few hours or overnight when using in fresh arrangements.

Hang the stems in bundles upside down in a warm, dry place when preserving them dried. You may opt to remove the stem and replace it with florist wire if you plan on using the dried strawflowers in a wreath or an arrangement where a stem is needed. As the flower dries, it secures the wire in place. Remove the flowers from the stems once dried if you plan on using just the flowers in crafting projects.

Discover the beauty and many uses of strawflowers this fall. Then next season, start early and grow even more to enjoy all season long.



Suntory Flowers — Courtesy

**Peachy Keen, Pink and White Granvia strawflowers combine nicely creating a colorful container garden.**

Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD and instant video series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Suntory Flowers for her expertise in writing this article. Myers' Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The

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Help Wanted



**LETENDRE**

continued from page A1

Letendre began his career as a part-time officer in New Braintree and Hubbardston before joining the WBPd. In 2022, he helped the police department ensure a smooth transition of leadership by serving as acting chief following the retirement of former police chief Thomas O'Donnell.

Having spent nearly 20 years on the WBPd force, Letendre has been

involved in several projects and initiatives. The department was one of the first in the state to introduce body-worn cameras, serving as a model for other local agencies to follow in its footsteps.

Additionally, during his time as acting chief, Letendre oversaw the launch of a code red community alert system featuring text notifications.

"It's a great small town, and the residents support us," Letendre told

the New Leader during a previous interview upon accepting the position as acting chief. "Our officers do a great job of getting to know the residents and taking part in community events."

Letendre was recently honored by the community during a Worcester Red Sox game celebrating local leaders in the Brookfields towns.

In a special congratulatory moment, Letendre threw the game's ceremonial first pitch.

how you can support the cause of introducing youngsters to water safety, please visit [www.wild-billswim.org](http://www.wild-billswim.org).

**BUZZELL**

continued from page A1

tual career.

"I'm most excited to intern this year with a local physical therapist, as well as continuing to work as a CrossFit coach," Buzzell said. "As for weightlifting, I plan on continuing to lift and see where it takes me."

Buzzell plans to study exercise science in college and explore career opportunities in physical therapy.

**WILD BILL**

continued from page A1

butterfly during the 1956 summer Olympics in Melbourne, Australia, only a few years after he learned to swim as a freshman at Springfield College.

Now, the annual event held in Yorzyk's memory continues to help introduce the next generation of swimmers to the water.

"Bill's story is living proof. He couldn't swim when he entered Springfield College at 16. Five years later, he won Olympic gold, helped define the modern butterfly stroke, and co-created the very first training

videos for CPR and stroke technique. If he could do that, anyone can swim," the promotional statement read.

The Aug. 9 event also included music and a raffle. Organizers thank all local sponsors for their support of the event.

Funds raised at the program will help purchase swimsuits, goggles, and transportation to water safety lessons for local students.

"Your swim supports a big mission: bringing swim and water safety lessons to kids in our community," read a statement posted to the event Web site.

To learn more about

**DPHS**

continued from page A1

sive school building. The thought of it filling up with students, faculty, and staff is making the remaining weeks of summer extremely exciting," said DPHS Principal Mary LaFreniere.

School leaders anticipate that Hurley Field at the Archambeault Complex will be ready for games by Oct. 1, 2025. DPHS athletes are looking forward to hosting the first games in the new facility's history.

"This will allow us as a district to host games for soccer, cross country, and football after that date. That is our collective goal as a school building team," Haughey said. "I am really excited for the fields and athletic complex to come online so our high school student-athletes get to host homecoming once again – in front of their community."

School officials thank leaders with Jones Whitsett Architects, Inc. (architect for the project);

Fontaine Bros., Inc. (general contractor); Colliers Engineering and Design; and the rest of the construction team for helping to keep the community informed throughout the process.

Students and staff members are also thanked for their cooperation during the construction phases.

"I am so proud and humbled by everyone's commitment to this building project. I cannot thank everyone enough for their work to bring Phase One to a close so we can be ready for the opening of the 2025-26 school year," Haughey added.

Phase Two of the project is well underway, with several projects having begun over the summer.

"Footings for the addition are being formed and reinforced. A wing select demo is complete, and structural improvements have started," Pimentel said.

For further information about the project, visit [www.sebrsd.org](http://www.sebrsd.org). Photos and other updates are available on the district's social media pages.

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LEGALS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Worcester Probate and Family Court  
225 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608  
Docket No. WO25P0722GD  
NOTICE AND ORDER:  
Petition for Appointment  
of Guardian of a Minor  
In the interests of  
Ky’Anah Ahmyah McNeill  
of Spencer, MA  
Minor  
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED  
PARTIES

**1. Hearing Date/Time:** A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 02/28/2025 by Tupac W McNeill of Spencer, MA will be held **09/15/2025 09:00 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing** Located **Worcester Probate & Family Court**  
**2. Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.  
**3. Counsel for the Minor:** The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.  
**4. Counsel for Parents:** If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.  
**5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing:** A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.  
ORDER TO PETITIONER(S)

**IT IS ORDERED THAT** copies of this Notice and the Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served in hand on the minor, (if 14 or more years of age and not the petitioner), the guardian, the parents of the minor, and any other person if ordered by the Court, at least **fourteen (14)** days prior to the hearing date listed above. **Service must be made by the sheriff, constable, or other person approved by the Court.**

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**THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE:** An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice.  
Date: June 26, 2025  
Stephanie K. Fattman  
Register of Probate  
August 22, 2025

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
ATTENTION SPENCER WATER USERS  
A PUBLIC HEARING WITH THE WATER COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD TO DISCUSS WATER RATE FEES  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2025 @ 5:00 P.M.  
SPENCER WATER DEPARTMENT  
3 OLD MEADOW RD.  
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August 15, 2025  
August 22, 2025

A.C. 78A  
Docket Number 24P0361PM  
THECOMMONWEALTH  
OF MASSACHUSETTS  
WORCESTER, SS  
PROBATE COURT

To all persons interested in the estate of Margaret M. Pataky of Brookfield, in said county, person under conservatorship. A petition has been presented to said Court for authority to sell - private sale -certain real estate of said Margaret M. Pataky for maintenance. If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney shall file a written appearance in said Court at Worcester before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the Second day of September 2025, the return date of this citation. Witness Leilah A. Keamy, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this Thirty First day of July 2025.  
Stephanie K. Fattman  
Register of Probate  
August 22, 2025

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 131, Section 40 of the Wetlands Protection Act, the North Brookfield Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on September 9, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Offices, 215 No. Main St., No. Brookfield for an NOI filing and associated activities on 12 Smith Hanson Road, North Brookfield. Any person interested in this matter is invited to attend the hearing.  
August 22, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Worcester Probate and Family Court  
225 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608  
Docket No. WO25P0719GD  
NOTICE AND ORDER:  
Petition for Appointment  
of Guardian of a Minor  
In the interests of  
Andreyah Charlie McNeill  
of Spencer, MA  
Minor  
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED  
PARTIES

**1. Hearing Date/Time:** A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 02/28/2025 by Tupac W McNeill of Spencer, MA will be held **09/15/2025 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing** Located **Worcester Probate & Family Court**  
**2. Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.  
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Date: June 27, 2025  
Stephanie K. Fattman  
Register of Probate  
August 22, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Worcester Probate and Family Court  
225 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608  
Docket No. WO14P1553GD  
NOTICE AND ORDER:  
Petition for Appointment  
of Guardian of a Minor  
In the interests of  
Andreyah C McNeill  
of Spencer, MA  
Minor  
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED  
PARTIES

**1. Hearing Date/Time:** A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed by Tupac W McNeill on 02/28/2025 of Spencer, MA will be held **09/15/2025 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing** Located **Worcester Probate & Family Court**  
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Date: June 27, 2025  
Stephanie K. Fattman  
Register of Probate  
August 22, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Worcester Probate and Family Court  
225 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608  
Docket No. WO14P1551GD  
NOTICE AND ORDER:  
Petition for Appointment  
of Guardian of a Minor  
In the interests of  
Ky’Anah M McNeill  
of Spencer, MA  
Minor  
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED  
PARTIES

**1. Hearing Date/Time:** A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed by Tupac W McNeill on February 28, 2025 will be held **09/15/2025 09:00 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing** Located **Worcester Probate & Family Court**  
**2. Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.  
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Date: June 26, 2025  
Stephanie K. Fattman  
Register of Probate  
August 22, 2025

**Public Hearing Notice**  
**Brookfield Zoning Board of Adjustment**  
**August 26, 2025**  
**6:00 pm**  
On Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at 7:00 pm, in the Brookfield Town House, located at 267 Wentworth Road, the Brookfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing to consider an Application for Variance regarding a hunting cabin located on Tax Map 43, Lot 1, owned by Timothy and Jennifer Dinges, 41 Copplecrown Rd, New Durham.  
Thank you,  
Zoning Board of Adjustment, Town of Brookfield  
August 22, 2025



# Safe Boating certificate & paddlecraft course offered at Bay Path in Charlton

CHARLTON — The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla, Massachusetts will be instructing two upcoming boating safety classes. “The Paddler’s Guide to Safety,” a class for novice paddlers covering basics like: equipment required and advisable for kayaks, canoes, paddleboards, etc.; also, safety concerns, situational awareness, and practice skills. Scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 18 from 6 till 8 p.m.

The Boat America Course that meets current and future state mandated educational requirements is offered in a two-night format developed to provide the skills and confidence needed to explore the coast and inland waters by boat. Basic knowledge and skills are needed to have safe and enjoyable boating experiences. This course is perfect for families that have just purchased any type of boat or are planning to in the future, and for the boater keeping up with changes to boating regulations and laws. Basic marlinespike seamanship (knots etc.) will also be included. Scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 7 and Thursday, Oct. 9, from 5:30 to 9 p.m.

Successful completion of the BA course will certify any minor, from 12 to 16 years of age, to operate a powerboat, including a Personal Water Craft / 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 require-

ments 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 Jan. 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 Sept. 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:

Both courses will be offered at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School, 57 Old Muggett Rd., Charlton.

Register online at [www.baypath.augusoft.net](http://www.baypath.augusoft.net) via Fun & Play/Sports & Leisure links.

By calling Sheri Dreitlein (508) 248-5971 or email [sdreitlein@baypath.net](mailto:sdreitlein@baypath.net)

You can also contact our Public Education Officer Phil Kubat for registration or additional information: email [phil.uscgaux@verizon.net](mailto:phil.uscgaux@verizon.net) or call (508) 478-3778.

To locate these and other USCG Auxiliary courses, go to: [https://www.cgaux.org/boatinged/class\\_finder/](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).

News Publications, Local Cable Access Channels, and Organizations:

We would appreciate coverage in your next issues covering ALL locations or posting as soon as possible on your website, channel, or bulletin board!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT  
Phil Kubat - Public Education Officer – USCGAux. 10-2

The following is for copy/paste use by Cable Access Channels to ensure the print is legible as posted in your system....

If posting the full press release body, please adjust font size or split on two pages/screens...

also, the artwork could be used in posting...

The following pages can also be printed and used for posting at your location to help us reach the local boating community.

BOAT AMERICA  
One-Day Boating Safety Course for State Cretifications

Milford High School  
Three Saturdays in 2025: March 15, May 3, and June 7

BOAT AMERICA  
Two-Night Boating Safety Course for State Certifications

Bay Path Reg. Voc. Tec. High School  
57 Old Muggett Road, Charlton, MA

Tuesday October 7 and Thursday October 9, 2025  
5:30 till 9 PM

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

Course offered by your local  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla, Massachusetts

Register online at [www.baypath.augusoft.net](http://www.baypath.augusoft.net)

[augusoft.net](http://augusoft.net) via Fun & Play/Sports & Leisure links.

By calling Sheri Dreitlein (508) 248-5971 or email [sdreitlein@baypath.net](mailto:sdreitlein@baypath.net)

You can also contact our Public Education Officer Phil Kubat for registration or additional

information: email [phil.uscgaux@verizon.net](mailto:phil.uscgaux@verizon.net) or call (508) 478-3778.

For these and other USCG Auxiliary courses go to: [https://www.cgaux.org/boatinged/class\\_finder/index.php](https://www.cgaux.org/boatinged/class_finder/index.php)

REGISTER SOON AS SPACE IS LIMITED

PADDLERS GUIDE TO SAFETY  
Bay Path Reg. Voc. Tec. High School  
57 Old Muggett Road, Charlton, MA

Thursday September 18, 2025...from 6 till 8 PM

A great class for novice paddlers covering basics like: equipment required and advisable for kayaks, canoes, paddleboards, etc.; also, safety concerns, situational awareness, and practice skills.

Course offered by your local  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla, Massachusetts

Register online at [www.baypath.augusoft.net](http://www.baypath.augusoft.net) via Fun & Play/Sports & Leisure links.

By calling Sheri Dreitlein (508) 248-5971 or email [sdreitlein@baypath.net](mailto:sdreitlein@baypath.net)

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REGISTER SOON AS SPACE IS LIMITED

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR TRSD/Union 61 PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS SY 2025 - 2026

### TRSD/UNION 61 PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT - Offers Meals at No Cost for All Students

TRSD / UNION 61 Public Schools participates in the **National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program**. As part of this program, **Burgess Elementary School** offers healthy meals every school day. The Commonwealth is supplementing National School Lunch Program funds to ensure all students have access to healthy school meals in Massachusetts, regardless of household income. We ask that families complete a Meal Benefit Application as this provides data for school funding and community resources. The results from each Meal Benefit Application are used to ensure sustainability for this program.

Qualifications for children to receive free or reduced-price meals include belonging to a household whose income is at or below the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines, belonging to a household that receives public assistance, or if the child is homeless, migrant, runaway, foster, or participates in a Head Start or Even Start Pre-K program.

Household size and income criteria are used to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits if the household does not receive assistance or the children are not in the other categories mentioned above. Children can get free or reduced-price meals if the household's gross income falls at or below the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guideline chart.

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART For School Year 2025-2026						
Household size	Maximum Household Income Eligible for Free Meals			Maximum Household Income Eligible for Reduced Price Meals		
	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$20,345	\$1,696	\$392	\$28,953	\$2,413	\$557
2	27,495	2,292	529	39,128	3,261	753
3	34,645	2,888	667	49,303	4,109	949
4	41,795	3,483	804	59,478	4,957	1,144
5	48,945	4,079	942	69,653	5,805	1,340
6	56,095	4,675	1,079	79,828	6,653	1,536
7	63,245	5,271	1,217	90,003	7,501	1,731
8	70,395	5,867	1,354	100,178	8,349	1,927
Each additional person:	+7,150	+596	+138	+10,175	+848	+196

To apply for free or reduced-price meals, households can fill out the application and return it to the school unless the household has already received notification that their children are approved for free meals this year. Application forms are being distributed to all households with a letter informing households of the availability of free and reduced-price meals for their children and what is required to complete on the application. Applications are also available at the principal's office in each school, and on the school's website.

Only one application is required for all children in the household and the information provided on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and verification of data. Applications may be verified at any time during the school year by the school or other program officials. An application for free or reduced-price benefits cannot be approved unless it contains complete eligibility information as indicated on the application and instructions. In the operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age, or disability.

Families can apply for benefits at any time. If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the Federal Guidelines. Contact your child's school principal's office at any time to request an application.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price policy, determining officials will review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the official may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. Parents wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to your child's school to the hearing official.

When known to TRSD / UNION 61 SCHOOL DISTRICT, households will be notified of their children's eligibility for free meals if they are members of households receiving assistance from the:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR); or
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) if the State program meets Federal standards.

An application is not required for free meal benefits for Assistance Program participants and all the children in the household are eligible for free meal benefits. If any children were not listed on the notice of eligibility, or if a household does not receive a notice of eligibility, the household should contact the school to have free meal benefits extended to them. Participants in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals, but they will need to turn in an application including household size and total income.

When known to TRSD / UNION 61 PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT households will also be notified of any child's eligibility for free meals if the individual child is considered "Other Source Categorically Eligible", because the child is categorized, as defined by law as:

- Foster
- Homeless,
- Migrant,
- Runaway,
- Enrolled in an eligible Head Start, or
- Enrolled in an eligible pre-kindergarten class.

If any children were not listed on the notice of eligibility, the household should contact the school about their eligibility through the list above or should submit an income application.

Households notified of their children's eligibility must contact the school if the household chooses to decline the benefits.

#### Community Eligibility Provision

TRSD / UNION 61 PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT participate in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. As part of these programs, **Tantasqua Sr. High School, Tantasqua Vocational High School, Tantasqua Jr. High School, Brimfield Elementary, Brookfield Elementary, Holland Elementary and Wales Elementary are implementing CEP**, offering healthy meals every school day at NO COST to the students due to the benefits of the Community Eligibility Provision for school year 2025-2026. Students are able to participate in these meal programs without having to pay a fee or submit a household application.

#### Non-Discrimination Statement:

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. **mail:**  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. **fax:**  
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:**  
[program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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



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**Elvin  
Age 13  
Registration #9084**

Elvin is a unique and thoughtful child. He is naturally shy and prefers to avoid confrontation, finding comfort in calm and familiar environments. Although he loves sports, Elvin chooses not to join sports teams, enjoying physical activity in his own way. He has a special love for toys, especially locks and keys, and always carries a heavy set of them with him. Along with his locks and keys, Elvin also treasures a set of walkie-talkies that he enjoys using. When he grows up, Elvin hopes to become a custodian, inspired by the custodian at his school. Elvin attends an after-school program where he takes Taekwondo classes, an activity he truly enjoys and looks forward to. His quiet strength, unique interests, and dedication make him a remarkable child with a lot to offer.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/22664085795>

**Can I Adopt?**

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

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





POLICE REPORTS

Leicester Police Log

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7,  
8:45 a.m.: ambulance (Harding Street), transported; 11:59 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 2:28 p.m.: animal complaint (Soojians Drive), referred; 3:19 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 4:20 p.m.: summons service (Main Street), served; 6:49 p.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), resolved; 8:11 p.m.: disturbance (Stafford Street), resolved; 8:39 p.m.: ambulance (Elmwood Avenue), transported; 8:44 p.m.: trespassing (Memorial School Drive), spoken to; 11:53 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8  
12:24 a.m.: trespassing (Main Street), Shawn M. Busker, 28, 25 Queen Street, Worcester, straight warrant, arrest; 6:09 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 8:39 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 8:57 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 9:28 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 9:44 a.m.: vandalism (Stafford Street), report taken; 10:41 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), written warning; 12:26 p.m.: animal complaint (Pleasant Street), referred; 12:46 p.m.: harassment (Henshaw Street), restraining order served; 12:55 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), written warning; 1:13 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 1:22 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 1:43 p.m.: mv stop (Soojians Drive), spoken to; 2:04 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 2:12 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 2:34 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), peace restored; 3:30 p.m.: restraining order service (Chapel Street), unable to serve; 3:41 p.m.: disabled mv (South Main Street), assisted; 3:51 p.m.: disabled mv (South Main Street), assisted; 4:44 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 5:02 p.m.: stolen mv (Pitcairne Avenue), report taken; 5:15 p.m.: restraining order service (Chapel Street), unable to serve; 5:58 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 6:31 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 6:43 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 6:51 p.m.: investigation (Pitcairne Avenue), report taken; 8:49 p.m.: ambulance (Vine Street, Spencer), transported; 9:31 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), spoken to; 10:28 p.m.: noise complaint (Henshaw Street), resolved.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9  
12:00 a.m.: ambulance (Deer Pond Road), transported; 12:16 a.m.: welfare check (Pleasant Street), transported to hospital; 12:25 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 12:32 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 12:53 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:56 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:09 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:01 a.m.: ambulance (Crestwood Road), transported; 6:21 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 8:26 a.m.: ambulance (Brooks Pond Road, Spencer), transported; 9:07 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 9:34 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 10:09 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 10:12 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 10:39 a.m.: mv stop (Broad Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, speeding, criminal application issued; 11:25 a.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 12:53 p.m.: family problem (Main Street), peace restored; 1:12 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:23 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:29 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:34 p.m.: suspicious activity (South Main Street), unfounded; 1:42 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, unregistered mv, unin-

Memorial Highway), transported; 3:27 p.m.: restraining order service (Chapel Street), served; 4:03 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 4:07 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 4:14 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 4:21 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 4:37 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:38 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 4:59 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 5:13 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 5:39 p.m.: mv stop (Soojians Drive), verbal warning; 6:01 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 6:09 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 6:38 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:00 p.m.: erratic operator (South Main Street), gone on arrival; 7:24 p.m.: ambulance (Howe Village, Spencer), transported; 8:07 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 8:22 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 8:37 p.m.: mv stop (Washburn Square), verbal warning; 8:37 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 8:43 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 8:59 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 9:12 p.m.: parking complaint (Burncoat Street), resolved; 9:17 p.m.: welfare check (Main Street), assisted; 9:40 p.m.: assault/battery (Soojians Drive), name and address redacted from police log, assault, disorderly conduct, criminal application issued; 11:59 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10  
12:06 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 1:12 a.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 2:04 a.m.: suspicious person (Eleanor Terrace), unfounded; 2:58 a.m.: disturbance (Henshaw Street), unfounded; 3:35 a.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), resolved; 5:31 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 6:30 a.m.: vandalism (Sconset Avenue), report taken; 7:41 a.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 7:44 a.m.: ambulance (Paxton Street), transported; 8:37 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), William Joseph Pusateri, 58, 72 Pacella Drive, Dedham, op w/suspended license, driving while using an electronic device/1st offense, failure to signal, arrest; 10:06 a.m.: lost/found (South Main Street), resolved; 10:30 a.m.: investigation (Towtaid Street), report taken; 12:26 p.m.: ambulance (Soojians Drive), transported; 12:31 p.m.: ambulance (Paxton Street), call canceled; 1:31 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 1:37 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 2:09 p.m.: welfare check (Soojians Drive), call canceled; 3:46 p.m.: assist other PD (Laurelwood Avenue), call canceled; 3:58 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 4:20 p.m.: erratic operator (White Birch Street), spoken to; 5:06 p.m.: welfare check (Henshaw Street), assisted; 10:04 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), services rendered; 10:23 p.m.: assist other PD (South Main Street), service rendered.

MONDAY, AUGUST 11  
3:03 a.m.: welfare check (Marshall Street), spoken to; 5:51 a.m.: accident (Rawson Street), mv towed; 8:53 a.m.: fraud (Birch Lane), report taken; 10:19 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Paxton Street), resolved; 10:47 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:54 p.m.: ambulance (G.H. Wilson Road, Spencer), transported; 12:56 p.m.: summons service (Chapel Street), message delivered; 12:58 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:13 p.m.: disabled mv (Mill Street), gone on arrival; 1:54 p.m.: disabled mv (Baldwin Street), assisted; 1:56 p.m.: investigation (Baldwin Street), report taken; 1:58 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), spoken to; 2:11 p.m.: mv stop (River Street), spoken to; 3:05 p.m.: welfare check (South Main Street), resolved; 3:23 p.m.: investigation (Flint Way), report taken; 4:45 p.m.: restraining order service (Auburn Street), unable to serve; 5:10

p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 5:41 p.m.: investigation (White Birch Street), report taken; 11:15 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 11:36 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 11:56 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12  
12:17 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:23 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 12:31 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:01 a.m.: assist other PD (Henshaw Street), resolved; 1:43 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:30 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 4:47 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 5:20 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford street), citation issued; 5:32 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 5:37 a.m.: mv stop (Mill Street), verbal warning; 5:53 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, criminal application issued; 6:30 a.m.: investigation (Soojians Drive), report taken; 9:45 a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 10:00 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 11:43 a.m.: ambulance (Edward Street), transported; 12:42 p.m.: suspicious activity (Cricklewood Drive), spoken to; 2:29 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 2:42 p.m.: lost/found (Rawson Street), report taken; 3:12 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street, Worcester), transported; 3:20 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 3:48 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:52 p.m.: suspicious person (Auburn Street), resolved; 3:59 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 4:20 p.m.: animal complaint (Soojians Drive), referred; 4:40 p.m.: welfare check (Victoria Drive), report taken; 5:06 p.m.: ambulance (Victoria Drive), transported; 9:50 p.m.: welfare check (South Main Street), unable to locate; 10:20 p.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), gone on arrival; 10:34 p.m.: restraining order service (South Main Street), served; 10:44 p.m.: assist other PD (Mannville Street), services rendered; 10:55 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 11:36 p.m.: assault/battery (South Main Street), report taken.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13  
1:22 a.m.: assist citizen (Pleasant Street), resolved; 1:46 a.m.: arrest warrant service (Spencer), no details of arrest included in police log; 3:35 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 3:51 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 3:58 a.m.: mv stop (McNeil Highway), verbal warning; 4:12 a.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), resolved; 5:12 a.m.: suspicious mv (Pine Street), Rawkeem Sayquan Perry, 31, 25 Queen Street, Worcester, possession of Class B drug w/intent to distribute/subsequent offense, arrest; 9:49 a.m.: fraud (Main Street), report taken; 10:02 a.m.: welfare check (Mulberry Street), assisted; 10:21 a.m.: welfare check (Henshaw Street), assisted; 10:42 a.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 11:37 a.m.: suspicious person (Crestwood Road), unable to locate; 11:50 a.m.: suspicious mv (Brookside Drive), unable to locate; 1:42 p.m.: ambulance (Paxton Road, Spencer), transported; 2:44 p.m.: ambulance (Siani Road), transported; 3:42 p.m.: ambulance (Marshall Street), transported; 5:01 p.m.: family problem (Stafford Street), report taken; 6:06 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), report taken; 9:24 p.m.: ambulance (Mason Street, Worcester), transported.

Spencer Police Logs

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6  
2:05 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 6:26 a.m.: mv repossessed (Chickering Road), info rec'd; 7:21 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), resolved; 7:39 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:36 a.m.: parking complaint (Thompson Pond Road), truck parked wrong way; 10:19 a.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 11:12 a.m.: medical/general (Cherry Street); 11:22 a.m.: RV complaint (Ash Street), re: dirt bikes; 11:46 a.m.: intelligence/criminal (West Main Street), info taken; 1:00 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), items fell from mv; 2:12 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 2:53 p.m.: parking complaint (Mechanic Street), re: abandoned mv; 4:25 p.m.: building checked, secure; 5:38 p.m.: suspicious mv (Cherry Street), investigated; 6:43 p.m.: officer wanted (Charlton Road), spoken to; 7:47 p.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), welfare check; 7:49 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 8:52 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 11:34 p.m.: disabled mv (North Spencer Road), assisted; (total daily mv stops – 8).

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7  
8:44 a.m.: hit/run accident (Pope Street), report taken; 8:52 a.m.: officer wanted (Church Street), re: property taken; 9:17 a.m.: animal complaint (Pioneer Valley Drive), lg. cat in yard; 9:34 a.m.: FID card issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:56 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 10:12 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), re: theft of peaches; 10:31 a.m.: fraud (Main Street), report taken; 10:38 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 10:39 a.m.:

animal complaint (Northwest Road), rep. injure cat; 10:46 a.m.: animal complaint (Church Street), loose turkeys/chickens; 11:07 a.m.: suspicious persons (Cooney Road), info taken; 11:07 a.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), rep. break-in; 11:20 a.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), req. escort/retrieve belongings; 11:24 a.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 12:49 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Sturbridge PD bolo/restraining order violation; 2:16 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 2:19 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Dudley PD bolo/welfare check; 2:28 p.m.: medical/general (Grove Street); 4:08 p.m.: officer wanted (Elm Street), re: RMV immediate threat; 4:37 p.m.: commercial alarm (West Main Street), services rendered; 4:52 p.m.: officer wanted (Cherry Street), req. speeding patrols; 4:53 p.m.: disturbance (High Street), services rendered; 5:25 p.m.: citizen complaint (Park Street), young kids on lake/no life jackets; 5:52 p.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), found kitten; 7:22 p.m.: medical/general (Ash Street); 7:22 p.m.: fire (Pine Acres), referred; 7:28 p.m.: disturbance (Pleasant Street), family dispute; 9:05 p.m.: school alarm (Ash Street), services rendered; 10:08 p.m.: 911 call (Mechanic Street), drunk male; 10:38 p.m.: animal complaint (Maple Street), mv hit cat; 10:49 p.m.: officer wanted (Elm Street), RMV immediate threat; (total daily mv stops – 2).

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8  
12:06 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 12:17-1:02 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:06 a.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), assisted; 2:13 a.m.: medical/general (South Spencer Road); 2:48 a.m.: building checked, secure; 5:08 a.m.: medical/general (Vine Street); 5:57 a.m.: parking complaint (Cherry Street), SUV blocking d'way; 7:00 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 7:39 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:03 a.m.: 911 call (North Brookfield Road), resolved; 9:05 a.m.: commercial alarm (Water Street), services rendered; 9:29 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), rep. dog in hot mv; 9:50 a.m.: medical/general (Hastings Road), lift assist; 10:19 a.m.: lost/found (Paxton Road), c/c found; 10:36 a.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 11:06 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Southbridge PD bolo; 1:15 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), rep. truck leaking oil; 2:18 p.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road), lift assist; 4:05 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), req. interpreter; 4:42 p.m.: medical/general (Lloyd Dyer Drive); 4:58 p.m.: officer wanted (Lake Street), req. welfare check; 5:16 p.m.: debris in road (Thompson Pond Road), removed; 6:05 p.m.: 911 call (Church Street), child w/phone; 6:10 p.m.: officer wanted (McDonald Street), rep. abuse; 6:55 p.m.: debris in road (Main Street), removed; 7:03 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 7:31 p.m.: vandalism (Valley Street), report taken; 7:42 p.m.: disturbance (Pope Street), ex retrieving belongings; 7:56 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 8:10 p.m.: medical/general (Bellflower Lane); 8:36 p.m.: medical/general (Vine Street); 9:55 p.m.: animal complaint (Taylor Drive), c/o constant barking; 10:03 p.m.: fire/woods/grass (Bixby Road), illegal fire; 10:05 p.m.: juvenile matter (Mechanic Street), re: young child on street; 10:55 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; (total daily mv stops – 0).

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9  
12:03 a.m.: disturbance (Temple Street), noise complaint; 12:37 a.m.: suspicious mv (Donnelly Cross Road), investigated; 12:59-1:48 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:52 a.m.: residential fire alarm (Cherry Street), referred; 2:44 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 3:34 a.m.: medical/general (Thompson Pond Road); 6:27 a.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 8:11 a.m.: medical/general (Brooks Pond Road); 8:21 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 10:22 a.m.: disturbance (Temple Street), noise complaint; 12:40 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 12:46 p.m.: animal complaint (North Spencer Road), rep. injured cat; 1:22 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), rep. erratic operator; 2:07 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 2:17 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), rep. theft from apt.; 2:55 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 3:25 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), c/o merchandise blocking sidewalk; 3:51 p.m.: animal complaint (Prospect Street), c/o dog in cage/constant barking; 3:56 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 4:02 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 5:25 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 5:48 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Main Street), no response recorded in police log; 6:09 p.m.: medical/general (Smithville Road); 7:20 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 7:44 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 8:31 p.m.: fire alarm (Church Street), referred; 8:34 p.m.: officer wanted (South Spencer Road), protective custody/adult fem.; 9:16 p.m.: suspicious persons (Chestnut Street), investigated; 11:12 p.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; (total daily mv stops – 1).

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10  
12:50 a.m.: disturbance (Mechanic Street), noise complaint; 2:08-2:09 a.m.:

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buildings checked, secure; 5:01 a.m.: 911 call (High Street), accidental; 5:22 a.m.: medical/general (Northwest Road); 6:42 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Town House Court), child w/phone; 9:11 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 11:55 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 12:38 p.m.: lost/found (Wire Village Road), wallet found; 12:53 p.m.: medical/general (Meadow Road); 1:32 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 6:18 p.m.: officer wanted (Pearl Street), rep. phone hacked; 7:23 p.m.: RV complaint (Woodside Road), RVs racing on street; 7:29 p.m.: lost/found (West Main Street), cell phone found; 7:50 p.m.: suspicious mv (Howe Road), investigated; 9:10 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Pleasant Street), no response recorded in police log; 9:59 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Webster PD bolo/att. child abduction; (total daily mv stops - 0).

MONDAY, AUGUST 11

1:15 a.m.: officer wanted (Lakeshore Drive), req. welfare check; 2:17-2:21

a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:51 a.m.: parking complaint (McCormick Road), re: truck in lot; 9:01 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:02 a.m.: FID card issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:35 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 9:56 a.m.: animal complaint (Northwest Road), ACO may have cat; 10:34 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street), rep. escaped ferret; 11:59 a.m.: intelligence/drugs (West Main Street), info taken; 12:09 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 12:30 p.m.: mutual aid (Pearl Street), DCF req. assistance; 12:51 p.m.: medical/general (G.H. Wilson Road); 1:48 p.m.: animal complaint (Wilson Street), loose dogs; 2:01 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), re: tx lights; 2:11 p.m.: mutual aid (Bixby Road), MassDOT suspension notice; 3:35 p.m.: animal complaint (Franklin Street), req. pick up dog; 4:38 p.m.: medical/general (Maple Street); 4:55 p.m.: animal complaint (East Charlton Road), loose dog; 5:25 p.m.: 911 call (Cherry Street),

# POLICE REPORTS

accidental; 5:26 p.m.: medical/general (Lloyd Dyer Drive); 6:20 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 6:55 p.m.: medical/general (Salem Street); 7:23 p.m.: officer wanted (North Spencer Road), spoken to; 9:50 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; (total daily mv stops - 1).

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12

12:13-1:50 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:59 a.m.: FID card issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:15 a.m.: medical/general (Wall Street); 8:31 a.m.: disabled mv (Route 49), assisted; 8:50 a.m.: officer wanted (Grant Street), question re: summons rec'd; 10:10 a.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), req. welfare check; 10:53 a.m.: medical/general (Grove Street); 11:18 a.m.: 911 call (Main Street), open line; 11:25 a.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), unwanted party; 12:33 p.m.: animal complaint (Lincoln

Street), loose dogs; 1:23 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 2:20 p.m.: medical/general (Marble Road), lift assist; 2:45 p.m.: medical/general (Pleasant View Road); 3:41 p.m.: accident (West Main Street), report taken; 4:08 p.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), c/o speeding; 4:22 p.m.: officer wanted (Pleasant Street), malfunctioning tx light; 5:03 p.m.: 911 call (Northwest Road), hang-up; 5:13 p.m.: disabled mv (Meadow Road), no action required; 5:20 p.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 5:49 p.m.: juvenile matter (Pleasant Street), family issue; 6:04 p.m.: suspicious persons (Park Street), c/o aggressive male/poss. drunk; 6:29 p.m.: animal complaint (North Spencer Road), poss. injured hawk; (total daily mv stops - 2).

###

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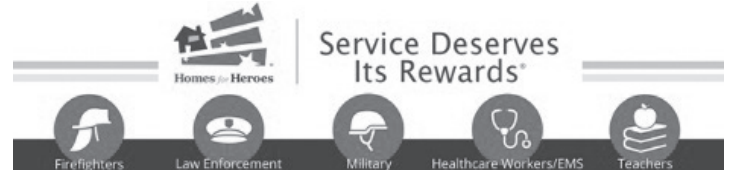
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# Local police team up with DOT to promote road safety

BY KEVIN FLANDERS  
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Several area police agencies, including the Leicester Police Department, are partnering with MassDOT officials to help promote road safety for all users.

Each week, the LPD is posting to social media various tips and information on new laws meant to protect vulnerable road users (VRUs). These include walkers and runners; dog walkers; bicyclists; landscapers and construction workers; and mobility device users, among several other groups.

The state legislature recently passed new laws meant to protect VRUs. To help educate drivers on the legislation, local police departments and MassDOT leaders are joining forces to spread the word on social media.

Additionally, several other educational tools are being launched by police departments and transportation leaders to promote safety.

“We all have a part to play, as far as keeping VRUs and the motoring public safe,” read a statement released by the LPD.

Each year, MassDOT publishes a VRU safety assessment, a federally mandated report that every state submits to the

Federal Highway Administration.

The safety assessment provides detailed data to help officials better understand the causes of VRU crashes. This enables law enforcement agencies, legislators, and transportation experts to team up to make roads safer.

“Legislation, which took effect in April 2023 focusing on vulnerable users, is expected to contribute to safer roads, safer users, safer speeds, and improvements in data collection to enhance analyses,” read a statement released by the MassDOT leadership team.

Recently passed by the state legislature, “An Act to Reduce Traffic Fatalities” requires drivers to provide a safe passing distance of at least four feet when passing VRUs. This law applies to all roadways allowing VRUs, not just those with marked pedestrian lanes or breakdown lanes.

Additionally, the law mandates that bicyclists use a front white light and rear red light, as well as a rear reflector, when riding at night.

Moreover, state-owned and contracted heavy trucks are now required to be equipped with convex mirrors, cross-over mirrors, and sideguards.

According to state data, last year saw a total of 105,796 crashes in Massachusetts,

including 1,434 wrecks involving pedestrians and another 1,105 crashes involving bicyclists.

State leaders recognize that, while it’s crucial to educate drivers on new measures meant to protect non-motorists, it’s equally important to inform pedestrians and other VRUs about their obligation to adhere to road safety rules.

Looking ahead, new educational materials will be made available to both drivers and pedestrians.

To learn more about various traffic safety initiatives, visit [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov).

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Distribution is the 1st Thursday of the month from 5:00-6:30PM  
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Any questions should be directed to the Rectory office 508 867-6469.  
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