

ATTENTION
WEST BROOKFIELD RESIDENTS
Hydrant Flushing



The West Brookfield Water Department will be flushing hydrants 10/19 through 10/30 during the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Flushing will cause some disturbance in the water mains. The water may appear cloudy but will eventually dissipate. *Please plan water use accordingly.*

St. Aloysius-St. Jude Church to host St. Jude Feast Day of Prayer Oct. 25

LEICESTER — St. Aloysius-St. Jude Church will hold a special St. Jude Feast Day of Prayer on Sunday, Oct. 25, from 2 to 3 p.m. at the church, located at 401 Pleasant St. in Leicester.

The afternoon observance will include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, prayers to St. Jude, the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and a blessing for those in good health.

St. Jude Thaddeus, one of the Twelve Apostles, is traditionally recognized in the Catholic Church as the patron saint of hopeless causes and difficult situations. His feast day, celebrated annually on Oct. 28, provides an opportunity for Catholics to seek his intercession through prayer.

The Leicester observance will offer an opportunity for reflection, prayer and spiritual support, particularly for those facing illness or other personal challenges.

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is offered within the Catholic tradition to those experiencing serious illness or health challenges, while the blessing for those in good health will provide an additional opportunity for prayer.

The St. Jude Feast Day of Prayer is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 25, from 2 to 3 p.m. at St. Aloysius-St. Jude Church, 401 Pleasant St., Leicester.



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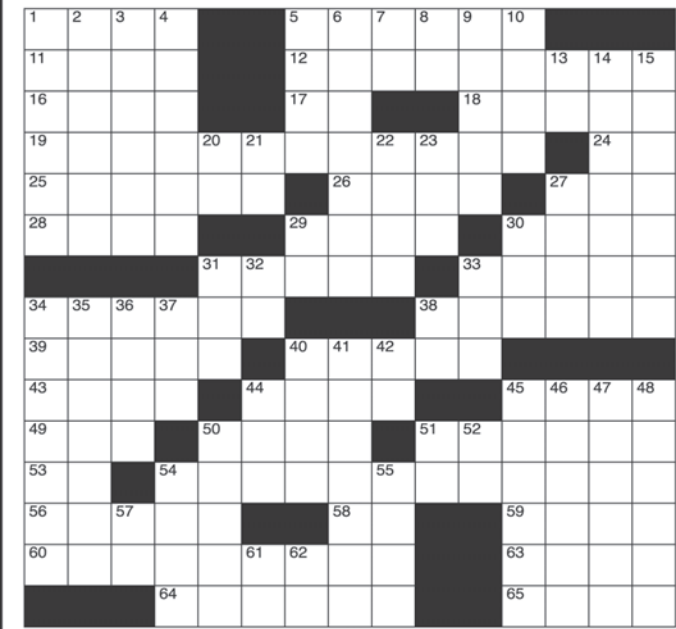
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- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Nocturnal rodent
5. Requesting
11. Give temporarily
12. Frivolousness
16. Military arm
17. "Westworld" actor Harris
18. Persian Gulf port city
19. Air hostesses
24. Partner to "Pa"
25. Percussion instrument
26. Raincoats
27. Lower the light
28. Asian mountain range
29. Every one of two or more
30. Lack of difficulty
31. A public announcement of a proposed marriage
33. Reduces in size
34. Make an impact
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Colorless part of blood
2. Of a main artery
3. Photog's tool
4. Blues Traveler hit "But ___"
5. Grew older
6. Not the leader
7. ___ Lang: country singer
8. A driver's license is one
9. Nests of pheasants
10. Antelopes
13. One quintillion bytes
14. Japanese lute
15. A type of cat
20. It cools your home
21. Dorm official
22. Pouches
23. German trigraph
27. Form of Persian
29. ___ route
30. Upper body part
31. Bridge building degree
32. Indicates position
38. Serviceman
39. A French river
40. Prehistoric people
43. Messenger ribonucleic acid
44. "Layla" singer Clapton
45. Ancient Greek sophist
49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
50. "Top Gun: Maverick" actor Powell
51. A way to disentangle
53. Atomic #93
54. Manifesting approval
56. Indigo bush
58. Larry and Curly's pal
59. Off-Broadway theater award
60. Fencers
63. Masses of fish eggs
64. Passerine birds
65. Arrange systematically

33. Political action committee
34. Edible nuts
35. Front part of a quadruped
36. Locate
37. Geological time
38. Of I
40. Northern Utah city
41. They work in the trenches
42. Hammer is one
44. Tall deciduous tree
45. Performers
46. Slang for mistake
47. More open
48. Most slick
50. Provokes
51. Home of the NCAA's Flyers
52. Sodium
54. Large fish of the mackerel family
55. Not one
57. ___ and behold
61. Atomic #21
62. "The Great Lakes State"

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Spencer Exchange Club to present 18 Under 18 Youth Leadership awards

SPENCER — For the sixth consecutive year, the Exchange Club of Spencer will in November announce the recipients of their 18 Under 18 awards to those under the age of 18 who reside in the towns Spencer or East Brookfield. The Exchange Club membership has annually been made aware of young men and women whose impact on their communities may have gone unnoticed. They are not necessarily the highest academic achievers, star athlete or the most popular among their peers. They are those unassuming young adults who demonstrate attributes of leadership, passion, a caring and supportive nature, selflessness and citizenship. They are making a difference to others and their communities.

The Exchange Club has acknowledged and awarded nearly 100 young adults with the 18 Under 18 award over the past five years who were nominated by their teachers, employers, school counselors or others who felt they made a difference in their communities. Award recipients were recognized with citations and presented with monetary awards. This year's award ceremony will be held during a Worcester Railers game at the DCU Center in Worcester on Sunday, Nov. 22.

The Exchange Club membership is purposefully invested in the present and future of the Spencer and East Brookfield communities. They wish to highlight the innate talents that our youth exhibit unselfishly every day in what sometimes seems like the simplest of actions of caring and the ability to relate to others. They believe that curiosity, analytical thinking, dependability and a strong work ethic make the greatest difference where we all live, work and play. The club's vision of the future is that these young men and women will carry on the Exchange's mission of "Unity for Service."

Application and nomination forms may be accessed on the Facebook pages of the Spencer Exchange Club, Spencer Bulletin Board or at www.spencerexchange-club.org. Sponsorship forms may also be accessed at those locations.

WEEKLY POLICE BLOTTER

Spencer
The Spencer Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Sept. 30 to Oct. 6.

Timothy A. Roberts, age 36, of Spener was arrested on Sept. 30 in connection with a warrant.

Gerald George Condo, age 54, of Leicester was arrested on Oct. 3 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license, Operating Under the Influence (Liquor), and Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

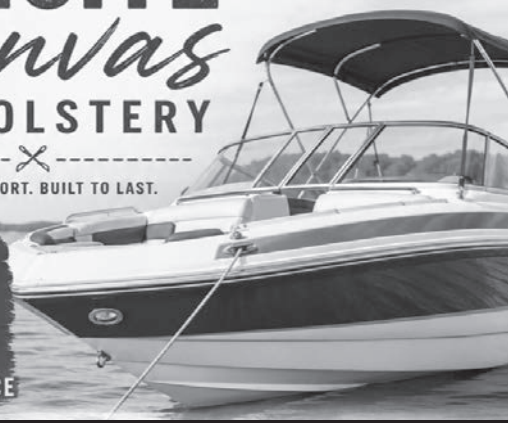
Michael Patrick Day, age 35, of Spencer was arrested on Oct. 4 for Disorderly Conduct (subsequent offense), Disturbing the Peace, and Resisting Arrest.

Leicester
The Leicester Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Oct. 1-7.

Daniel B. Thomas, age 47, of Leicester was arrested on Oct. 1 in connection with a, straight warrant.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Oct. 1 for Shoplifting By Asportation.

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HYDRANT FLUSHING
TOWN OF SPENCER



The Town of Spencer Water Department will be flushing fire hydrants throughout the eastern part of the distribution system starting October 13th thru October 30th 2026. Flushing removes sediment from the water mains to help maintain water quality. When the Water Department staff is in the immediate area, residents could experience loss of pressure and short periods of rusty water. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. A daily list of the flushing locations will be posted on the Spencer town website www.spencerma.gov each day by 8:00AM (click on Departments, then click Water Department, then click Hydrant Flushing 2026). If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact the Spencer Water Department office at 508-885-7525. Thank you.

SPENCER ALMANAC
REAL ESTATE

BROOKFIELD
None

EAST BROOKFIELD
None

LEICESTER
\$445,000, 306 Pleasant St, Donais, Amy L, and Norton, Zachary, to Norton, Makenzie.
\$340,000, 12 Denny Pl, Byrnes, Barndon P, and Byrnes, Katherine A, to White, Hailey.

NORTH BROOKFIELD
None

SPENCER
\$749,400, 37 Marble Rd, D Lussier Builders LLC, to Levine, Steven, and Levine, Karen Veronica.
\$479,000, 10 Highland St, Mts Rlty & Development LL, to Morrill, Robert K, and Morrill, Tonva.
\$450,000, 22 Delude Ave, SI First Realty LLC, to Cape, Ethan.
\$406,000, 3 Lake Ave, Stoll, Peter, and Stoll, Michael, to Crocker, Jeremy.
\$350,000, 22 Smithville Rd, Thurlow, Jeanne S, to Stevens, Joyce.

WARREN
\$575,000, 84 Burbank Ave, Long, Mark A, to Kopacko Ft, and Kopacko, Raymond C.

WEST BROOKFIELD
\$700,000, 38 Warepoint Rd, Paul & Donna Lassistant P, and Lapenas, Cara L, to Deforest, Elizabeth, and Deforest, Kevin S.
\$520,000, 15 Oak Dr, Corriveam, Benjamin M, to Herbert, Jessica Lee, and Herbert, Eric T.
\$415,000, 240 W Main St, Bergeron John G Est, and Bergeron, James T, to Kallio, James, and Kallio, Nicole.

Richard Sugden Library offers support group for widows

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

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

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

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

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

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

com. Sponsor: Friends of the Library.

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

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

**Town of Spencer
is seeking private snow plowers
for the 2026-2027
Winter Season.**

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**or on the Town website
www.spencerma.gov**

**Applications should be
submitted as soon as possible.
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equal opportunity employer.**

Open poetry reading series coming to Merriam-Gilbert Library

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

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

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

contemporary poets.

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

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

The series is intended to foster a creative community of writers and readers while exposing participants

to poets and styles they might not otherwise encounter.

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

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

The series is open to the Central Massachusetts community.

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

Spencer announces early voting, state election and Special Town Meeting dates

SPENCER — Spencer residents will have several important civic dates to keep in mind this fall, with in-person early voting beginning in October, the state election scheduled for Nov. 3 and a Special Town Meeting following two days later.

The Town of Spencer has announced that in-person early voting for the 2026 state election will begin Saturday, Oct. 17, and continue through Thursday, Oct. 29.

Early voting will take place at Spencer Town Hall, 157 Main St. The hours will vary during the early voting period, and residents are encouraged to consult the town’s website for the complete schedule before heading to Town Hall.

The early voting period

gives registered voters an opportunity to cast their ballots before Election Day rather than visiting the polls Nov. 3.

Election Day itself is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 3. Spencer voters will cast ballots in the Great Hall at Town Hall, with polls scheduled to be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Town officials are encouraging eligible residents to participate in the election.

The November election will be followed closely by another important date on Spencer’s municipal calendar.

The town will hold a Special Town Meeting on Thursday, Nov. 5, beginning at 7 p.m. Town Meeting provides registered voters with the opportunity to con-

sider and vote on municipal matters placed on the meeting warrant.

Additional information about the Special Town Meeting, including the warrant and matters scheduled for consideration, is expected to be available through the town as the meeting approaches.

The Town Clerk’s Office oversees election and voter records in Spencer. Town Clerk Sandra Fritze’s office is located at Town Hall and can be reached at 508-885-7500, ext. 150. Regular Town Clerk’s Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and 7:30 a.m. to noon Thursday.

Residents seeking the latest election information, including the complete schedule of early voting hours, should check the town’s website as the dates approach.

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

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

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

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

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

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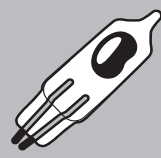
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PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Leicester’s school decision is about more than the price tag

Leicester voters are approaching a decision that will shape their community for decades. With a special town meeting scheduled for Oct. 27 and a debt exclusion question appearing on the Nov. 3 ballot, residents must decide whether to support a nearly \$50 million renovation of the former Becker College campus to create a new Leicester High School.

It is a significant undertaking, and the financial commitment deserves careful consideration. But it is equally important to recognize that the decision involves more than the immediate cost of construction. It concerns the future of public education, the responsible use of existing buildings and Leicester’s ability to remain an attractive community for families and businesses.

The latest financial figures presented by Superintendent Brett Kustigian offer an encouraging development. With the Massachusetts School Building Authority potentially covering nearly 70 percent of eligible costs, along with an additional \$3 million state grant, Leicester’s projected responsibility has fallen to approximately \$13 million.

That is a considerable improvement over the original projections and represents an opportunity that should not be dismissed lightly.

Still, \$13 million is hardly pocket change for a small community. The estimated property tax increase of \$207 annually for an average home will be meaningful to many households, particularly seniors living on fixed incomes and families already struggling with rising expenses.

Those concerns deserve respect, not dismissal. Supporters of the project should resist the temptation to characterize opposition as a lack of commitment to education. Residents can value their schools deeply while remaining concerned about their ability to afford additional taxes.

At the same time, voters should consider the costs of doing nothing. The former Becker College buildings will require maintenance and improvements regardless of the outcome. Rejecting the proposed financing arrangement would not eliminate those obligations. It could instead leave Leicester responsible for necessary work without the same level of outside financial assistance. That distinction matters.

The proposal also carries potential benefits beyond providing students with improved classrooms and facilities. District leaders believe the renovated campus could help retain Leicester students who might otherwise attend schools elsewhere while attracting tuition-paying students from neighboring communities.

Kustigian has projected that the district could generate as much as \$3.2 million in revenue by fiscal 2030. Such projections offer reason for optimism, but they should be treated as forecasts rather than guarantees. Enrollment patterns, operating expenses and the actual demand from outside communities will ultimately determine whether those expectations are realized.

Residents deserve a clear explanation of those assumptions, along with an honest accounting of the risks if anticipated revenue falls short.

There is also a broader civic consideration. A strong public school system benefits more than the families currently sending children to class. Schools influence property values, community identity and the willingness of young families to establish roots in a town.

Leicester has an opportunity to transform an existing educational campus into a long-term public asset. That possibility is worth serious consideration, particularly when substantial state assistance may be available.

Yet public confidence must be earned through transparency. Before voting, residents should understand the proposed borrowing terms, the anticipated tax impact, the condition of the existing buildings and the financial consequences of rejecting the project.

The Oct. 27 special town meeting provides an important opportunity to ask those questions. The Nov. 3 ballot provides the opportunity to make a decision.

Whether residents ultimately support or oppose the proposal, the choice should be based on a complete understanding of the costs, benefits and alternatives. Leicester’s future deserves that level of attention.

A decision of this magnitude should not be driven by fear of higher taxes alone, nor by enthusiasm for a new school without examining the financial details. It should reflect a thoughtful judgment about what the town can afford, what its students need and what kind of community Leicester hopes to be 30 years from now.

The strongest outcome will be one in which voters enter the polling place informed, engaged and confident that they have considered both the immediate financial responsibility and the long-term consequences of their choice.

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What lengths will Trump go to in order to win?

To the Editor:

It seems pretty clear that The Donald is a sociopath: someone who cares only for himself, someone who must win at all costs, someone who must be number one, someone who needs constant adulation and congratulations, someone who must not lose.

Since he allegedly passed the cognitive tests, surely he knows that the GOP (used to be the “Grand” Old Party) may lose in the elections that are imminent.

This is my question: what is to stop him from hiring/sending some goons into some of these states that have close races and have them foment some riots? Then he can declare a State of Emergency and call off the elections for safety reasons.

Just a thought. I’m scared about what lengths he could go to win, since a socio-path must not lose.

JUDY ROSE
EAST BROOKFIELD

Dementia gone viral

To the Editor:

Donald, just being Donald, has reached a new low. Remember when he told us that sleepy Joe was too old for the job? Biden passed more popular legislation, than anyone since LBJ. He got shut down championing a bipartisan immigration bill, that I still thing made more sense than the untrained masked ICE army. We can only hope there is no attempt at an unconstitutional deployment on election day. Whether you prefer Republican or Democratic programs or values, neither is currently in charge. The choice in the coming election will be between democracy and continued fascism.

Remember when Obama secured a nuclear deal with Iran by returning the Shah’s money we had received to buy arms, but did not fill the order? The stable genius walked away from that deal, because his name was not on it. If you think where he has brought us, on advice from his realtor/peace negotiators, at a final cost that likely will exceed a trillion dollars, burning down the relationships with our allies, punishing American consumers with high penalties for buying foreign goods (tariffs), out of control inflation, not just on insurance and bor-

rowing rates, but all fossil fuels, especially diesel, impacting anything farmed or transported., you need to vote to get your country back , before worrying about greatness.

In my 78 years of life, I never thought any president could use so much vulgarity and vitriol about his country. What kind of traitor, even in jest, would suggest Iran should bomb LA or San Diego (our largest naval base)? A lot of what he says is just blather. The promised \$5,000 bribe for winning is over a trillion and pure bovine dung, but his stating a plan for boots on the ground, post-election, is scary.

This week he sold off the Steinway concert pianos from the Kennedy Center. He is still doing all he can to memorialize himself. Like Hitler, he will not be forgotten.

A quick reminder of the guy who said he never heard of project 2025, but implemented most of it, who promised no wars, lower costs, to reduce or eliminate deficit, to make us more respected, and prosperous. If you are fine with what he delivered, he is not the only one suffering from dementia

KEN KIMBALL
BROOKFIELD

Vote yes on Question 3 for a broader slate of candidates

To the Editor:

If you follow the politics of some of the most liberal, one-sided political party states in the country, like California, New York, and even Massachusetts, one can easily see the problems & issues with one party control of government. California with their multi-BILLION-dollar high speed rail system that doesn’t even have any tracks in place yet but is already billions over budget. New York with their stifling high taxes & cost of living forcing their rich residents to flee to lower tax states not looking to punish them just for being wealthy, & Massachusetts with their over-ripe political corruption taking place like the \$2B Springfield courthouse deal, the Mass Pike service plaza deal, & Beacon Hill’s refusal to be audited, in spite of a voter approved ballot question that received over 72 percent votes to be done.

Now ,some in Massachusetts want to try to do away with political party voter primaries and have just one top two voters-take-all primary, with the top two winners going to the main election, even if they belong to the same political party.

Take a common sense approach to state ballot questions

To the Editor:

At the election on Nov. 3, there are nine state ballot questions, and a tenth (10th) in Leicester to be answered by voters. This letter is intended to provide readers with my opinion on answers to five of these questions and my reasons why.

Question 3 – State Primary Elections
Vote No on Question 3.

Vote No to maintain a two-party system in Massachusetts.
Vote No to allow Republicans to have a fighting chance at being elected in Massachusetts.
Vote No to stop Democrats from total rule in Massachusetts government.
Vote No to keep the one-party (Democrat) domination of government of states like California and Washington out of Massachusetts.

Question 7 – Single Family Homes
Vote No on Question 7.

Vote No to allow cities and towns to maintain their own subdivision and zoning rules as they always have.
Vote No to keep the cities as high-population urban centers and the towns as low-population rural communities.

Vote No to maintain privacy between neighbors.

Vote No to maintain a person’s right to choose a dense residential environment or a suburban sprawling lifestyle.

Question 8 – Repeal of Recreational Marijuana
Vote Yes on Question 8.

Vote Yes to reduce the pot smell on the roadways on your way to work.
Vote Yes to avoid sharing the roadways with persons under the influence of drugs.
Vote Yes to protect children from experiencing public pot use on our streets and in our parks.
Vote Yes to stop the smell of pot on Route 56 in Rochdale.

Question 9 – Repeal of Firearms Regulations
Vote No on Question 9.

Vote No to repeal the excessive firearms regulations put in place in 2024 in Massachusetts.
Vote No to protect the rights of responsible gun owners in Massachusetts.
Vote No to protect the Second Amendment Right to Bear Arms under

The family conversation

your estate plan is waiting for



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Finishing your estate plan is a big step, but failing to notify the people involved can lead to confusion and complications when it’s time to use it. Since the events that bring those plans into action, such as an accident, serious illness or hospitalization, rarely come with a warning, talking with your family about your estate plan before a crisis occurs can provide clarity and help reduce uncertainty, conflict, and stress later

Would your loved ones know what to do?

About half of Americans turning 65 today will need some form of long-term care, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. If you became unable to make medical or financial decisions, documents such as powers of attorney and advance directives can help ensure someone you trust can step in. Just as important is making sure your loved ones know those documents exist and where to find them. Without access to them, even close family members may be unable to access bank accounts, pay bills or make medical decisions on your behalf without going through a court.

Who should be included in an estate plan conversation?

When you’re ready to talk with loved ones, start with anyone named in a formal role in your estate plan, such as a financial power of attorney, health care proxy, trustee, or executor. You may also want to include family members who are likely to be involved in your care or inherit assets.

Think about the dynamics of your family as you plan the conversation. Some families are comfortable discussing everything together, while others communicate more effectively through smaller group discussions or one-on-one conversations.

What should your family know about your estate plan?

Start with your values and the goals behind your decisions. Explaining what matters most to you can help family members better understand your wishes.

From there, review practical details, including who serves in key roles, where important documents are stored and how to contact your estate-planning attorney. You may also want to discuss your care preferences if you were to lose independence and any decisions that family members might find surprising. For example, if inheritances will not be divided equally, sharing your reasoning now may help prevent misunderstandings later.

Most importantly, leave time for questions. The goal is not to cover every possible scenario in a single meeting. It’s to create understanding and give loved ones confidence about what matters to you.

If a single conversation feels overwhelming, consider breaking it into a few shorter discussions over time.

Need help starting the conversation?

Many people worry about how family members will react or feel unsure about where to begin. A financial advisor can help you prepare for the conversation and, in some cases, facilitate it. Having a neutral third party involved can help keep discussions productive and ensure everyone leaves with greater clarity about your wishes.

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@edward-jones.com. Edward Jones, Member SIPC.

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The fine art of doing nothing

There was a time when a man could sit on his front porch for half an hour without anybody assuming something was wrong with him.

He didn't need a book. He didn't need a telephone. He certainly didn't need a device strapped to his wrist reminding him that he hadn't taken enough steps. He could simply sit.

LANTERNS
ALONG
MAIN
STREET
By CHARLES

I was thinking about this the other afternoon when I found myself with an unexpected hour to spare. The lawn didn't need mowing, the laundry was caught up, and there was nothing particularly urgent demanding

my attention.

Naturally, I became suspicious. At my age, an empty hour usually means I've forgotten something.

I wandered around the house looking for a task. I straightened a picture that wasn't crooked. I opened the refrigerator despite having eaten lunch twenty minutes earlier. I checked the weather, although I could have obtained essentially the same information by looking out the window.

Finally, my wife asked what I was doing. "Nothing," I said.

"Well, you're making an awful lot of noise doing it."

She had a point.

Somewhere along the way, we've developed the peculiar belief that every waking minute ought to be productive. If we're not working, we should be improving ourselves. If we're not improving ourselves, we should be exercising. If we're not exercising, we should be cleaning something, fixing something or planning something.

Even relaxing has become a competitive sport.

People now keep track of how well they sleep. Imagine explaining that to your grandfather.

"How'd you sleep last night, Grandpa?"

"Fine."

"Yes, but what was your sleep score?"

I suspect the conversation would end right there, possibly with an invitation to go split some firewood.

When I was younger, the older men in the neighborhood seemed to understand something we've largely forgotten.

They could sit outside and watch the world go by without feeling obligated to participate in every passing moment.

One fellow I remember used to spend summer evenings in a lawn chair near his driveway. He'd wave at passing cars, occasionally offer an opinion about the weather, and otherwise appear perfectly content.

As a boy, I couldn't understand it. There were bicycles to ride, baseballs to throw and entire afternoons to fill with adventures. Why would anybody choose to sit still?

Now, some 40 or 50 years later, I think that man may have been the smartest fellow on the street. He wasn't bored. He was paying attention. There's a difference.

These days, we seem almost frightened of

silence. Sit in a waiting room and everyone reaches for a phone. Stop at a traffic light and somebody is checking a screen. Even a walk through the neighborhood can become an opportunity to listen to a podcast about becoming a more efficient human being.

I have nothing against technology. I appreciate being able to find directions without unfolding a road map the size of a bedsheet. And I rather enjoy knowing the answer to a question without spending three days looking through encyclopedias.

But I wonder whether we've traded away something valuable in our determination never to be idle. So, that afternoon, I conducted a little experiment. I took a chair outside, sat down and decided not to accomplish anything. At first, it was surprisingly difficult. I noticed a branch that needed trimming. Then I remembered a loose hinge on the shed door. A few minutes later, I started mentally composing a grocery list. I resisted.

Eventually, I began noticing other things. A squirrel was engaged in what appeared to be a bitter territorial dispute with another squirrel. A neighbor was teaching a young child to ride a bicycle. Somewhere down the road, a dog barked three times and apparently decided he'd made his point. The breeze shifted. A few leaves skittered across the driveway. The afternoon sun moved slowly across the yard.

Nothing extraordinary happened. And that was rather nice.

After a while, my wife came outside and asked whether I was feeling all right.

"Perfectly fine," I told her.

"What are you doing?"

"Practicing."

"Practicing what?"

"Doing nothing."

She considered this for a moment.

"Well, don't overdo it."

Then she went back inside.

I sat there another 20 minutes, enjoying the rare sensation of not being behind schedule.

The world continued turning without my assistance. Nobody called to ask why I hadn't completed a task. No great catastrophe resulted from my failure to be productive. Eventually, I got up and went inside.

I can't say the experience changed my life. The bills still need paying, the lawn will eventually need mowing, and that shed hinge isn't going to repair itself. But I did come away with a modest realization.

We've become so accustomed to measuring our days by what we get done that we sometimes forget to appreciate the days themselves.

There ought to be room for an occasional afternoon that produces absolutely nothing except a little peace of mind.

I'm thinking of making this a regular habit. Perhaps 20 minutes every afternoon, weather permitting.

Of course, knowing me, I'll probably start keeping track of how much nothing I accomplish. And then I'll have to figure out whether I'm getting better at it.

East Brookfield library plans annual craft fair, Halloween movie

EAST BROOKFIELD — The East Brookfield Public Library will welcome local artisans for its Annual Craft Fair on Saturday, Oct. 17, while families can also look forward to a special Halloween-themed movie event later in the month.

The Annual Craft Fair will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the library, 122 Connie Mack Dr.

Organizers are emphasizing that items offered at the fair must be completely handcrafted. Those interested in participating are required to submit photographs of their work for review by emailing cmacmaster@cwmarso.org. Prospective participants may also bring one or two samples of their work to the library for review.

Later in October, the library will get into the Halloween spirit with a special installment of its Movie Time program.

On Thursday, Oct. 29, at 3:30 p.m., children and families are invited to the library for a screening of the Charlie Brown Halloween special featuring the Great Pumpkin.

Children are encouraged to attend in costume. Following the movie, youngsters will have an opportunity to continue their Halloween celebration by heading to Town Hall for additional festivities.

The movie program is also intended to provide an informal opportunity for residents to meet others in the community. Guests are welcome to bring a snack to enjoy during the screening.

Both programs will be held at the East Brookfield Public Library, 122 Connie Mack Dr. in East Brookfield.

Something new is coming to North Brookfield this October

NORTH BROOKFIELD

— For many years town organizations have worked individually to meet the needs of various segments of the community — seniors, veterans, business owners, youth and faith-based groups, neighbors in need of food and fuel assistance. Now we have an opportunity to join together in a town-wide effort to identify North Brookfield's strengths and weaknesses, form a consensus, and put our efforts toward meeting the most pressing needs of the entire community.

If you care about your town and the people in it come join us on Oct. 21, 6 – 7:30 p.m. at the North Brookfield Junior Senior High School Kiva Room as we launch North Brookfield's Community Heart & Soul initiative. Come learn about the CH&S program, share your ideas, and see what you can do to help chart the future of North Brookfield.

Over the course of our Community Heart & Soul project, which is expected to take up to two years to complete, we will attempt to reach every resident in North Brookfield

to gather their stories. From these stories, we hope to find common themes of what residents love most about the area and their hopes for the future. These themes will become our guide and be used to identify needs, improve connections, and develop a long-term action plan for the future of our community. In this way North Brookfield residents

will be directly involved in shaping their town's future and working together to achieve it.

We hope to see you at the Junior Senior High School Kiva Room at 6 p.m. on Oct. 21.

Come meet your neighbors and talk about your town. Bring your ideas and enthusiasm. We will bring pizza, salad and fall treats.

Take your puzzle game to the next level at Leicester Public Library

LEICESTER — Calling all jigsaw puzzle enthusiasts -- take your puzzle game to the next level. Grab a few friends or family members and see if you can complete a jigsaw puzzle faster than your friends and neighbors. Each team will receive the same 500-piece puzzle provided by the library.

The team that finishes first or completes the most before time is called wins! If you don't have a team, email the library at library@leicesterlibrary.org and ask if there is room on the library team. Adults, teens, and families with children aged 8+ are welcome to participate. Registration is required- only one person from each team should register. Teams can have up to four members. Register through the calendar at www.leicesterlibrary.org.

Upcoming Puzzle Races are Thursday evenings, Oct. 22, Nov. 12 and Dec. 10 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. at the Leicester Public Library, 1136 Main St.

LETTER

continued from page A4

the United States Constitution.

Question 10 – Approve Debt Exclusion Spending on High School Buildings and Programs in Leicester
Vote Yes on Question 10.

Vote Yes to enable Leicester to advance its plan to effectively renovate four former Becker College buildings for appropriate school use.

Vote Yes to receive a 68 percent (\$34 million) construction cost reimbursement of state funds from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA).

Vote Yes to support the High School's Continuing Technical Education (CTE) program, expanding useful programs for students in the much-needed trades sector for jobs.

Vote Yes to save money from Town payments to vocational schools outside of Leicester.

Vote Yes to receive payments from other communities to provide vocational education to their students.

It is my hope that this letter will spark a common sense approach in voters when they head to the polls on Nov. 3.

WAYNE LeBLANC
ROCHDALE

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.



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New support group offered for people with physical disabilities

LEICESTER — A new support group for people living with physical disabilities has been developed by two women who know the challenges that come with physical impairments. Peg Erickson, from Spencer, and Trish McCormick, from Leicester, are each living with physical disabilities. They have experienced the challenges of completing everyday tasks, difficulty accepting their altered bodies, and the fear of what the future may hold. Believing that others with physical disabilities may face the same issues, they decided to join forces to begin a support group.

Their purpose is to create a place where people with physical disabilities can meet and express their feelings, share their experiences, and provide mutual support for each other in a private environment. The intention is to offer an opportunity to feel accepted, share effective coping skills, exchange practical information and resources that will improve their daily lives, and to socialize in a welcoming environment.

Anyone with a physical disability is welcome to attend. The first meeting will be held at the Leicester Public Library, 1136 Main St., Leicester, on Oct. 29 at 5 p.m. The accessible entrance is located at the rear of the building. Contact Peg Erickson at racerpeg@charter.net with questions.

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Leicester Agricultural Commission to host “Massachusetts Health Update” presentation

LEICESTER — The Leicester Agricultural Commission invites local area Agricultural Commissions, Conservation Commissions, Boards of Health, Garden Clubs, Land Trusts, Scout groups, and all interested citizens to a “Massachusetts Forest Health Update” presentation.

Felicia Hubacz, a forest health specialist with

the state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), will update attendees as to the health of Massachusetts’ forests. She will concentrate on three of the emerging threats to the state’s forests – the emerald ash borer, beech leaf disease caused by nematodes, and white pine needle damage complex and what can be done to help control these

invasives.

Hubacz will also speak briefly about the spotted lantern fly invasion. The presentation will take place on Monday, Oct. 19 at the Leicester Senior Center, 40 Winslow Ave., Leicester, at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. There will be a question-and-answer session after the presentation. Light refreshments will be served.

Wildwood Acres Farm hosting Enchanted Forest Winter Faire

WEST BROOKFIELD — Wildwood Acres Farm & Forest School in West Brookfield is hosting a free, family-friendly Enchanted Forest Winter Faire Saturday, Nov. 14 (rain date Sunday, Nov. 14) from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Wildwood Acres Farm & Forest School invites families to the Enchanted Forest Winter Faire, a wintry Renaissance faire where kids take center stage. Wander a forest village filled with skilled artisans

and traditional vendors, plus the Kids Medieval Makers Market, where young merchants sell goods they made themselves. Wandering characters, storytellers and performers bring the woods to life throughout the day, and King Winter will be holding court. Children can try hands-on crafts and make their own magical and medieval treasures, visit the Winter Wish House and toast s’mores by the fire. Food and drink will be available. Costumes HIGHLY encouraged!

Kings, queens, fairies, jesters and every kind of magical creature are welcome.

Event page: <https://wwoodacres.com/events>
Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/920945574118394>
Poster (download): https://drive.google.com/file/d/1a__tH0cA3Md-NXwUqLVkoIo-7ihYt_QRI9/view
Contact: coop@wwoodacres.com



Courtesy

The First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, UCC announces a series of jazz concerts that will be performed in October, December and in the spring of 2027. The first in the series will be held on Friday, Oct. 30, at 7 p.m. Please join us for this rare opportunity to listen in depth to jazz piano by Stephen Page. Stephen has performed up and down the eastern seaboard, with top names in the jazz world. Experience the delight of the music, the excitement of his playing, and songs to entertain and inspire you. All of these concerts are free of charge, sponsored by a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The second concert in the series is scheduled for Dec. 21. The church is wheelchair accessible. For more information, call the church at 508-867-7078.

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Friday's Child

Jeremiah
Age 14
Registration #8413

Jeremiah is an easygoing and friendly boy who enjoys staying active and loves all kinds of sports. Football is one of his favorites, and he especially enjoys shooting hoops and spending time playing basketball with his friends. When he wants some quiet time to himself, Jeremiah enjoys playing video games. Jeremiah is described by his friends and teachers as funny, kind, and a natural leader. He is a positive role model to those around him and enjoys making others laugh. His easygoing personality and ability to connect with others make him a great friend and someone people enjoy spending time with.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21182352036>

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

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OBITUARY

Carol Smith McPherson, 87



Carol Smith McPherson of Spencer died September 28, 2026 at the age of 87 She was married to Robert “Bob” McPherson, who was her best friend and love of her life, for 59 years until his death in 2019. She leaves with much love her daughter, Elizabeth McPherson, her son, Bruce McPherson and his wife Roberta as well as her sister-in-law, Mary Smith, and her nephew, Stephen Smith, his wife Mary and their son, Paul. Her beloved brother, Donald Smith, pre-deceased her. After graduating from Clark University, she taught fifth grade for two years and much later worked at the Massachusetts State House as a zoning research analyst for several years. Her real joy was the volunteer work she did for over 60 years. It

ranged from merit badge counselor to state certified court mediator and everything in between. She and Bob raised \$4000 for the Vietnam Memorial when they put on the stage show, “Feelin’ Good About Spencer. They also ran the Spencer Cable Access studio for 12 years as volunteers. Their portrait was hung in the Leadership Hall of the Spencer Town Hall in recognition of their service to the town. One of her favorite quotes was as follows: “I want to be an outrageous old woman who never gets called old lady, I want to be sharp edged and earth colored until I fade away from pure joy”. In her memory, be kind to everybody. Instead of having a memorial service we will be sending a donation to The Friends of the Library, Richard Sugden Library, 8 Pleasant St. Spencer MA 01562. We hope you will join us in memory of her.

How to Submit an Obituary

Guidance in Your Time of Need.

Posting an obituary is a meaningful way to honor the life of someone who has passed, share the loss with the community, and support the grieving process. It celebrates their life, family, memories, and accomplishments while bringing people together in remembrance. An obituary also helps loved ones find comfort and closure during a difficult time preserves the individual's story as an important part of the family's history and legacy.

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FUNDING

continued from page A1

ovated regardless. Kustigian presented an updated look at the financials during a School Committee meeting on Oct. 5, one of the final large-scale public meetings before the proposal goes to a special town meeting on Oct. 27. According to the Superintendent, their initial town investment has decreased substantially thanks to grant funding and a projected increase in the MSBA's share of the cost. “At the start of this project, we said that we were going to get a 59 percent reimbursement rate. We found out that we can get reimbursement up to 69.74 percent. If you round up, it is 70 percent,” said Kustigian. “If you look at the town’s share, it’s a mere \$13 million to renovate four buildings. That’s remarkable.”

The cost breaks down like this – The \$50 million price tag would mostly be covered by \$34 million from the MSBA and a \$3 million grant from the state. The town would incur roughly \$13 million of the total project costs. However, this financing plan requires approval at the special town meeting on Oct. 27 by a two-third majority

and a simple majority vote on the ballot during the mid-terms on Nov. 3. If one or neither of them passes, the school cannot proceed with this arrangement. The estimated tax impact is \$0.46 per \$1,000. That means an average home would see an addition \$207 a year on their taxes. The proposed loan term would be 30 years with no tax increase until fiscal year 2028. Part of Kustigian’s presentation was the financial benefit of proceeding with the project. The investment includes the renovation of four buildings, Fuller Campus Center, Borger Academic Building, Swan Library and Lenfest building, which would create new amenities serving the high school. District leaders say this will help retain local students and earn income by welcoming students from outside towns. Looking at figures dating back five years, Kustigian noted that the district paid \$1.5 million in 2022 to send students to outside districts. That number has steadily decreased and taking into consideration projected income from the renovations Kustigian predicted by fiscal year 2030 the district would bring in as much as \$3.2 million in revenue which offsets the district’s impact to the town budget.

Select Board Chair Doug Belanger appeared before the School Committee during the Oct. 5 presentation to urge them to educate the public about the benefits of the project for everyone, not just parents and students. “We’ve got to show the townspeople that don’t have kids, that don’t have grandchildren, that they have a vested interest in this, both in the revenue that we take in as opposed to send out and the constant future whether it’s the value of property or whatever it is,” Belanger said. John Higgins, a member of the School Committee and School Building Committee, called the project a “no brainer” especially considering the town will be responsible for the full routine maintenance of the buildings regardless. “When you look at all the maintenance we have to do anyway, the question really becomes do we want to pay 100 percent of the maintenance and get nothing else, or do we want to pay 30 percent of it and get a lot more,” he said. Leicester’s Special Town Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 27 at 6 p.m. at the Leicester High School gym. The ballot question will be Question 10 when voters go to the ballots on Nov. 3.

MIDTERMS

continued from page A1

Republican John J. Marsi is challenged by Democrat Jeanne Renaud Costello. The Seventh Worcester District, which includes part of Leicester, sees a three-way contest between incumbent Republican Paul K. Frost, Democrat Nicholas Lazzaro, and perennial challenger and Independent candidate Terry Burke Dotson. The Seventeenth Worcester District, which also includes part of Leicester, sees Democrat David Henry

Argosky LeBoeuf unopposed for his seat. For State Senate, Republican Peter J. Durant seeks to retain his seat, contested by Democrat Shannon M. Teabo. The mid-terms will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 3. Voters should refer to their respective Town Clerk offices for voter information and sample ballots. Information in this story regarding the mid-term elections was collected through the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Web site.

LEGALS

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Camille I. Koss and Camilia Koss
Date of Death: May 1, 2026
To All persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Nadine C. Wojcik of West Brookfield MA** Petitioner **Kevin Koss of Palmer MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
October 16, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26P3252EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
John E. Mattison
Date of Death: 02/06/2021
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Christine A. St. Laurent of West Warren MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: .
Christine A. St. Laurent of West Warren MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **supervised administration.**
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/03/2026.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 05, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
October 16, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
Premises: 97 East Charlton Road, Spencer, MA 01562
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Jared L. Armstrong to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for loanDepot.com, LLC, and now held by **loanDepot.com, LLC**, said mortgage dated August 10, 2022 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68071, Page 127, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for loanDepot.com, LLC, its successors and assigns to loanDepot.com, LLC by assignment dated May 1, 2025 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 71936, Page 222; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold

at **Public Auction** on November 5, 2026 at 11:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit: *BEGINNING at an iron pipe in the easterly line of East Charlton Road at a point which is one hundred twenty-two (122.00) feet, measured along the easterly line of said East Charleton, Road, from the southerly end of a curve connecting said line with the southerly line of Bacon Hill Road; Thence from the point of beginning as defined above N. 27° 58' E. along the easterly line of said East Charleton Road, one hundred and twenty-two (122.00) feet to a point; Thence by a curve to the right having a radius of 22.95 feet, and length of 26.57 feet to a point in the southerly line of Bacon Hill Road; Thence 8. 85° 42' E. by the southerly line of said Bacon Hill Road, three hundred and forty-six (346.00) feet to an iron pipe at a stone wall; Thence 8. 9° 04' W. along said stone wall and by land now or formerly of William V. & Alta M. Cambell, four hundred and sixty-seven (467.00) feet to an iron pipe; Thence N. 56° 15' W. by a wall, seventy-one and 43/100 (71.43) to an angle; Thence N. 44 degrees 08' W. still by said wall, one hundred and sixty-three and 13/100 (163.00) feet to an angle; Thence N. 51 degrees 00' W. still by said wall, one hundred and ninety-two and 55/100 (192.55) feet to an angle; Thence N. 10 degrees 12' W. still by said wall eighty and 11/100 (80.11) feet to an angle; Thence N. 53 degrees 21' W. seventeen and 30/100 (17.30) feet to the point of BEGINNING. Meaning and intending to convey said premises as described in deed dated July 30, 2019 and recorded August 6, 2019 with Worcester South Registry of Deeds in Book 60837, Page 23.*

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication. Upon information and belief, the third and fourth bounds above should state S. and not 8. due to a typographical error. For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated July 30, 2019 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 60837, Page 23. **TERMS OF SALE:** Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage

above described.
FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale. Other terms to be announced at the sale.
Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for loanDepot.com, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701
October 2, 2026
October 9, 2026
October 16, 2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO24P2597PM
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT
Estate of:
Sandra Nichols
A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by **Alison Bartlett-O'Donald of Holyoke MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account , 2nd and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/10/2026.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 07, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
October 16 2026

Informational meetings planned on Leicester school building project

LEICESTER — In an ongoing effort to share facts on the planned School Building Project and subsequent Special Town Meeting and Ballot vote, the following additional meetings will be held:

- Monday, Oct. 19: School Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Oct. 20: Cherry Valley American Legion Post #443; 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Oct. 21: Leicester Housing Authority Community Room, 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, Oct. 27: Town Meeting, Leicester High Gym (former Becker gym). Meeting starts at 6 p.m., WRTA bus service from Town Hall and High School parking lots starting at 5 p.m.
- Friday, Oct. 30: Wolverine Grill and Winslow Auditorium, 11 a.m.
- Tuesday, Nov. 3: Question #10 on state election ballot.

Christ Memorial Church hosting Tag Sale Saturday

NORTH BROOKFIELD —Christ Memorial Episcopal Church, 133 North Main St., will host a Tag Sale Saturday, Oct. 17 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m, rain or shine! Plants, puzzles, books, clothes, kids’ stuff, kitchen and household items, treasures, and more. Name your own price. Help support the N.B. Food Collaborative; bring non-perishable items. Use the Spring Street door should the weather force us inside.

Worcester Chamber announces 12th Startup Worcester cohort

WORCESTER — The Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the 10 companies and organizations selected for the 2026–2027 cohort of StartUp Worcester, marking the 12th year of the entrepreneurship program.

StartUp Worcester is a joint program of the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce and WorLab designed to help launch and grow new businesses while supporting entrepreneurs in Central Massachusetts. Presented with support from program sponsors M&T Bank and Millstone Law, participants receive a complimentary membership to the Chamber and WorLab, access to coworking space, and opportunities for mentorship via the program and SCORE, networking, fundraising, and other programming designed to help early-stage ventures develop and scale.

Since its launch, StartUp Worcester has supported entrepreneurs across a wide range of industries, from technology and professional services to food, health, transportation, and social enterprise. Alumni have gone on to secure funding, expand their operations, earn regional and national recognition, and continue growing their businesses in Central Massachusetts.

The members of the 2026–2027 StartUp Worcester cohort are:
 Artist Health Coverage: Led by Magdelene Barjolo, Artist Health Coverage is a nonprofit initiative in the early validation phase that helps freelance creatives access affordable healthcare through enrollment assistance, venue partnerships, and member-owned coverage models.
 Avanza Ability Partners Inc.: Founded by Mayerling De La Rosa and two partners, Avanza Ability Partners provides bilingual navigation and culturally responsive support for

families of individuals with developmental disabilities while preparing for state agency contracting.

Born For More: Founded by Michaelangelo Shavies, Born For More is a youth-empowerment social enterprise that pairs mentorship with a gamified mission platform, aiming to generate up to \$25,000 this year through curriculum licensing and pilot programs.

Dewar Performance: Founded by Melissa Dewar, Worcester-based Dewar Performance provides transparent SEO and website strategies for local contractors and service providers, aiming to establish repeatable systems and recurring retainer revenue.

Golden Transportation and Logistics LLC: Founded by Navy veteran Maxwell Adu-Boakye, this pre-launch non-medical transit service leverages 13+ years of healthcare contracting experience to provide dignified, dependable transportation for Worcester County veterans, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.

Greenhouse Bread: Founded by head baker Vanthara Hill with technical support from David Hill, Greenhouse Bread is a bootstrapped Millbury bakery finalizing its municipal licensing to bring sustainable, artisan sourdough directly to local markets and pop-ups.

Lexagy LLC: Founded by Raymond Carville, Lexagy LLC is a bootstrapped, Worcester-based software company currently in beta testing for its subscription-based family reading and community-sharing platform ahead of a November 2026 launch.

My Collective: Founded by Crystal McGlynn, My Collective blends mindfulness, movement, and art through proprietary wellness frameworks at its Sturbridge studio while actively working to scale B2B corporate wellness packages.

Vanguard Insight: Co-founded by Andrew and Jacqueline Swenson,

Vanguard Insight is an early-stage, self-funded Worcester consulting firm utilizing StartUp Worcester to scale its operations and workforce development services for local businesses and nonprofits.

Wuoti Law LLC: Founded by Amanda Wuoti, Wuoti Law LLC provides accessible, unbundled contract legal services across Massachusetts and Rhode Island, having generated \$45,000 in its first year while serving roughly 30 active clients.

“The 12th StartUp Worcester cohort reflects the breadth of entrepreneurship taking place across Central Massachusetts,” said Mike Kane, of the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce. “These founders are tackling challenges in areas ranging from transportation and healthcare access to technology, professional services, food, and youth development. We look forward to connecting them with the resources, mentors, and relationships that can help them take their businesses to the next level.”

The 2026–2027 cohort begins programming this month. Throughout the program year, participants will have opportunities to connect with fellow entrepreneurs, business leaders, mentors, and members of the region’s broader startup ecosystem while developing the skills and relationships needed to strengthen their ventures.

StartUp Worcester alumni include companies and founders that have achieved milestones ranging from significant outside funding and facility expansion to national startup recognition. Alumni of the program include: Petricore, Solvus Global, HydroGlyde Coatings, Munq, Wicked Wheels, Wake the Way, the Jewelry Co-Op, and EZBusy.ai.



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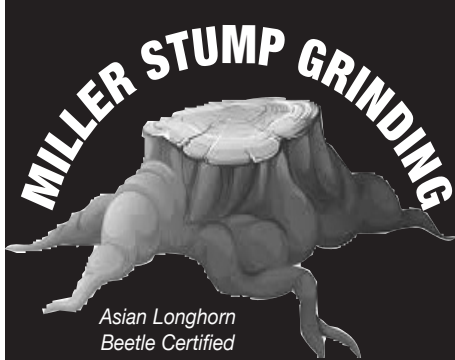
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Bay Path named 2026 School of Recognition by Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School is the only regional vocational technical school in Massachusetts named a 2026 School of Recognition by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The annual honor goes to a small group of schools for progress toward state accountability targets, especially improved achievement in English language arts and math. This year, 56 public schools statewide made the list.

Bay Path met 60 percent of its state accountability targets this year, up from 49% in 2025. That moved the school into DESE's "substantial progress"

category and placed it in the 76th percentile of Massachusetts high schools. The gains came while Bay Path's roughly 1,200 students also trained across 23 vocational programs. The students come from Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, North Brookfield, Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Southbridge, Spencer and Webster. Bay Path is the only school from those ten towns on this year's list.

"As a school community we are very proud of this accomplishment," said Kyle Brenner, Superintendent/Director. "Over the past several years, we have been intentional about building strong systems of learning. We've raised academic rigor, strengthened curriculum and instruction, and brought our academic and vocational programs into closer alignment. This recognition reflects the work of our entire school community."

Bay Path students demonstrated measurable academic growth in the following areas:

- English Language Arts achievement increased 3.4 points.
- Mathematics achievement increased 3.8 points.
- English Language Arts growth exceeded typical growth.
- Mathematics growth exceeded typical growth.
- Four-year graduation reached 98.9 percent.
- The annual dropout rate was 0 percent.
- Chronic absenteeism

decreased from 11.1 to 10.2 percent.

"These numbers represent real progress for our students," said Dean Packard, Bay Path principal. "This is what happens when educators collaborate around student needs, when students take ownership of their learning, and when adults across our building refuse to settle for what was good enough yesterday."

About Bay Path

Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School prepares students for both college and careers through a rigorous blend of academic coursework and hands-on technical training. Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Bay Path serves ten Southern

Worcester County communities: Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, North Brookfield, Oxford, Paxton, Rutland, Southbridge, Spencer, and Webster. Opening in 1972 atop Muggett Hill, the school has spent more than five decades offering 23 career areas alongside its academic program.

A special event in partnership with Mechanics Hall – Club 321 meets WICN’s Brian Barlow Concert Series

WORCESTER — Experience an unforgettable evening with blues and R&B legend Greg Piccolo and Heavy Juice at Club 321 on Oct. 22 at 7 p.m.

Join us at Club 321 for an unforgettable night with blues and R&B legend Greg Piccolo.

With a career spanning more than six decades, Greg Piccolo has helped define the sound of American rhythm & blues with his unmistakable tenor saxophone tone and powerhouse vocals—evoking the golden era when “sax was king.” From forming his first band at just 13 in Westerly, R.I., to becoming one of the most respected voices in the genre, Piccolo has spent a lifetime dedicated to groove, grit, and timeless musical storytelling.

As a longtime leader and key creative force behind the acclaimed Roomful of Blues, he helped shape the band’s signature horn-driven sound, leading them to international recognition, Grammy nominations, and worldwide touring success over a celebrated 25-year run. In 1994, he launched Heavy Juice, a more intimate and flexible project that opened the door to deeper artistic exploration. Since then, Greg has continued to tour, record, and evolve—delivering music rooted in tradition but alive with energy and swing.

This Club 321 performance is a rare chance to experience a true master of blues and R&B in an intimate setting. Expect big tone, deep groove, and a night of music that moves from the first note to the last. Join us for an extraordinary night in the heart of downtown Worcester. Experience a different side of Mechanics Hall, in our intimate Washburn Hall, transformed one Thursday night a month into your favorite club. Club 321 offers cabaret-style seating, handcrafted cocktails from the full bar, and an inviting atmosphere that brings audiences closer to the music. Come sip handcrafted drinks

from our full bar and enjoy cabaret-style seating. An unforgettable evening in the heart of downtown Worcester!

General Admission Tickets: \$30
VIP Ticket: \$50

Enhance your Club 321 evening with premium reserved table seating and one complimentary drink per ticket. Enjoy the best views of the performance while relaxing in one of Worcester’s most unique listening rooms. VIP Ticket and Drink Ticket can be picked up at Will Call on the night of the performance, beginning at 6:15 p.m.

Mechanics Hall Members: 10 percent discount off a single ticket
Time: Doors 6:15 p.m. | Show 7 p.m.
Cash bar and refreshments available for purchase

Support for the WICN Brian Barlow Concert Series comes from Westboro Toyota, Duquette Law Group and Gorman Richardson Lewis Architects.

About WICN Public Radio

WICN Public Radio 90.5 FM is an independent, nonprofit public radio station serving Central Massachusetts and beyond. Through award-winning jazz, roots, blues, world music, and locally produced programming, WICN connects listeners with the arts, culture, education, and conversations that enrich the region. WICN’s mission is to inspire, entertain, and engage diverse audiences while supporting the cultural vitality of the communities it serves. Broadcasting throughout Central New England and streaming worldwide, WICN brings exceptional music and local voices to audiences wherever they are.

The Brian Barlow Concert Series and Emerging Artist Series is dedicated to the memory of WICN’s late General Manager and his legacy of supporting emerging talent and live music.

Healing Heroes Foundation launches equine-assisted recovery program

WHITINSVILLE — Responding to the growing need for mental health resources for first responders across Massachusetts, the Healing Heroes Foundation announced the launch of its Equine-Assisted Recovery Program.

The skills-based program utilizes horses as a bridge to mindfulness and grounding to combat high stress and post-traumatic stress disorder that heavily impact firefighters, EMTs, law enforcement officers, military veterans, and other first responders. Healing Heroes Foundation is a Massachusetts-based nonprofit dedicated to fostering community, connection, and camaraderie across first responders, military members, veterans, and their families.

"This experiential, relationship-based program provides the space, community, and support for first responders to ground themselves and engage with one of nature's most empathetic creatures," says Jaime Nicholas, Co-Director of Healing Heroes Foundation. "First responders across the country are facing significant mental health and

wellness challenges, and we felt a responsibility to help address that need here in Massachusetts by introducing a unique program that fosters meaningful connection and mental well-being so first responders don't have to navigate life's challenges alone."

Hosted in Whitinsville, the eight-week Equine-Assisted Recovery Program is made possible through partnerships between the Healing Heroes Foundation, Cornerstone Community Care, and Superior Stables. At the end of the program, participants will be connected with financial health resources through a partnership between Healing Heroes Foundation and First Responders Credit Union.

The program is led by Christina Cronin, LICSW, President and Clinical Director of Cornerstone Community Care. Participants will engage in structured interactions with the horses through activities such as observing, grooming, leading, and other groundwork designed to support mindfulness, self-regulation, communication, and connection. Among the horses participating in the program

is one cared for by a U.S. Army veteran and current psychiatric registered nurse, further reflecting the program's connection to the communities it serves.

The Healing Heroes Foundation has filled two cohorts of participants for its Equine-Assisted Recovery Program, showing a regional demand for this innovative resource. With a focus on solidifying the curriculum and measuring outcomes with its inaugural cohort, the organization's long-term goal is to grow the program's impact and geographical reach so this critical resource can be available to first responders across the state. It is currently in talks with additional Massachusetts stables.

Equine-assisted approaches have proven to meaningfully complement clinical therapy, exposing participants to a more active, relationship-based setting. Interactions with horses such as approaching, handling, leading, and caring can make abstract concepts like consent, trust, self-regulation, and communication more tangible.

October programs at Blackstone River Greenway Visitor Center

WORCESTER — The Blackstone River Greenway Visitor Center at Worcester will offer a series of free interpretive programs throughout October, giving visitors opportunities to explore the region's industrial history, wildlife, waterways and environmental recovery.

Programs are free and open to the public, and registration is not required. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Every Saturday, the Visitor Center will offer an Exhibit Tour from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Participants will explore the Heritage Center's exhibit hall and learn how the Blackstone Canal helped transform Worcester from a county seat into a major industrial center and destination for immigrants.

The tour examines the canal's role in Worcester's growth and the innovation that accompanied the region's industrial development. The program is recommended for ages 6 and older.

The natural environment takes center stage during Woodlands and Waterways, scheduled for Saturdays, Oct. 10 and 31, from 2 to 3 p.m.

Participants will walk along the banks of the Blackstone River while looking for signs of wildlife and learning about the plants and animals supported by the river and its surrounding habitat. The program will also examine ways residents can help protect the watershed and keep local waterways clean.

The approximately one-mile walk will take place over a paved surface with slight inclines. Participants should meet at 205 North Main St. in Millbury rather than the Worcester Visitor Center. Bathrooms and drinking water are not available at the site. The program is recommended for ages 12 and older.

Those who prefer exploring on two wheels can participate in Bike the Blackstone on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 2 to 3 p.m.

The approximately six-mile ride will follow the Blackstone River Greenway, combining recreation with opportunities to observe wildlife and scenery along the river. The route is paved and includes slight inclines and declines.

The ride will also begin at 205 North Main St. in Millbury. Riders younger than 16 are required to wear helmets. Bathrooms and drinking water will be available at the midpoint of the trip. The program is recommended for ages 12 and older.

The month's programs will also examine how a former industrial property has been reclaimed for a new generation.

Mill to Meadow will be held Saturday, Oct. 24, from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Worcester Visitor Center. The land surrounding the center was once home to the largest factory complex in Worcester, although none of its buildings remain today.

During a short walk, visitors will learn about the site's transformation through brownfield reclamation and how the project fits into the broader environmental recovery of the Blackstone Valley. The approximately quarter-mile walk will take place over paved surfaces and is recommended for ages 12 and older.

Unless otherwise noted, programs begin at the Blackstone River Greenway Visitor Center at Worcester, 3 Paul Clancy Way. Participants should dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear.

Programs are subject to change or cancellation. For updated information, call 508-373-7056. Reasonable accommodations are available with advance notice. Accommodation requests may be made by contacting Moneesha Dasgupta at 617-645-0358 or moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov.

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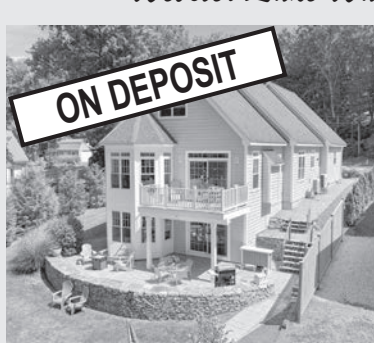
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*Featured New Listing!
24 Laurelwood Dr
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On the shores of prestigious Webster Lake! Experience ultra-luxury lakefront living with direct water access. This young modern craftsman lake home is masterfully designed to maximize panoramic Western views through a two-story architectural tower. The home boasts 3,790 +/- square feet of sophisticated, three-story living space, complete with multilevel waterside decks, a radius stone faced patio, and a tiered landscape with its own waterfall. From morning coffee to sunset gatherings, you will enjoy every minute overlooking your waterfront. The 1,735 +/- square feet main level features a spacious open floor plan, welcoming you into a kitchen, dining, and living area tailored for intimate social hosting. The living room flows seamlessly onto an expansive open deck and into an exquisite sun-drenched sitting room. A magnificent primary bedroom suite offers a private full bath, double sink vanity, walk-in closet and dressing room. The purposely designed lower level delivers effortless, large-volume entertainment, featuring a full second kitchen and a sprawling recreation room that opens to a substantial lakeside patio. With 2 additional bedrooms and bath, this level easily serves as a private guest floor. This Lake property is designed to create long-lasting memories! **MLS#73563787 \$1,750,000**

Webster ~ 33 Slater Street



Sprawling fieldstone faced Ranch! Located on a +/- 0.5-acre, 2 car garage. Offers: 1,860 sf main level plus 1,000 sf +/- finished lower level, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 2 stone fireplaces-FHW BB heat. Open floor plan kitchen, living rm, dining rm, breezeway w/ sliders to rear deck, and 3 season sunroom **MLS # 73500183 \$464,900**

Webster - Douglas Rd (Rt 16) A/R Lot # 2



Building Lot, 2.01 +/- acres, 154' road frontage, Surveyed and portioned out of a larger tract of land, Zoned ASFR (Agricultural Single Family Residential) Located near State Land
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*Featured New Listing!
Webster Lake Waterfront - 86 Bates Point Rd*

This Beautifully Maintained Two-Level Waterfront Panoramic WATER VIEWS from almost every Single Window!! 50 Ft of Sandy Shoreline!! Front-row Northwest-facing Sunsets !!... Offering a sweeping Wall of Windows to enjoy watching Mother Nature at her Finest!! Wood Flooring!!... This Main Level has an Effortless Layout adding a Roomy Convenient Bedroom & Large Closet, Full bath, 1/2 Bath & Laundry!!... Downstairs, the Walk-out Lower Level Transitions into a phenomenal Guest Retreat with 2 Bedrooms, Living space, and Full Bath!!... 2 Car Garage! **MLS#7356983 \$1,050,000.**



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*Webster Lake Waterfront
22 Union Point Snug Harbor Villa*



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*Webster Lake ~
60 Wakefield Ave ~ Corner Lot!*

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Go To MLS # 73582966 \$277,500.



Webster Lake ~ 0 Wakefield Ave



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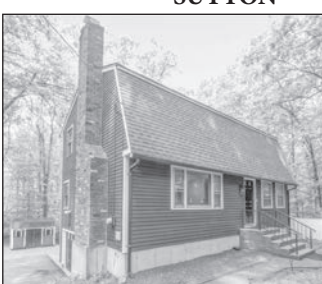
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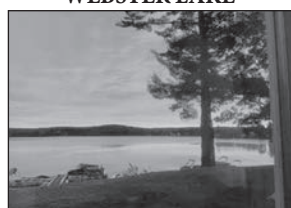
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Neurologist and author Priya Anand to speak at Worcester Senior Center



WORCESTER — On Wednesday, Oct. 21, from 10:30-11:30 a.m., author and neurologist Priya Anand will discuss her book “The Mind Electric: a neurologist on the strangeness and wonder of our brains.” This program will take place at the Worcester Senior Center, 128 Providence St., Worcester. Books will be available after the program for sale and signing. Registration is required. To register for the program only, call 508-799-1232. To register for the program and reserve a lunch, call 508-799-8070.

Anand reveals—through case study, history, fable, and memoir—all that the medical establishment has overlooked: the complexity and wonder of brains in health and in extremis, and the vast gray area between sanity and insanity, doctor and patient, and illness and wellness, each separated from the next by the thin veneer of a different story. Moving from the Boston hospital where she treats her patients, to her childhood years in India, to Isla Providencia in the Caribbean and to the Republic of Guinea in West Africa, she demonstrates again and again the compelling

paradox at the heart of neurology: that even the most peculiar symptoms can show us something universal about ourselves as humans.

Dr. Priya Anand is an Assistant Professor of Neurology at the Boston University School of Medicine and the winner of the PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award for her book, The Mind Electric. She is the Director of the Neurology Residency Program and the Chief of the Division of Hospital Neurology, and her academic work primarily focuses on neuro-infectious diseases and neuro-

logic health equity. Dr. Anand’s writing has appeared in Time Magazine, The Boston Globe, The Washington Post, The New York Times, Ploughshares, and elsewhere. She lives in the Boston area with her family.

This program is hosted by the Worcester Talking Book Library, Worcester Senior Center, and Dementia Friendly Worcester. Additional sponsorship provided by AARP Mass. and RegalCare Worcester. Books available for sale by TidePool Books.

Healing Heroes Foundation launches equine-assisted recovery program

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WHITINSVILLE — Responding to the growing need for mental health resources for first responders across Massachusetts, the Healing Heroes Foundation announced the launch of its Equine-Assisted Recovery Program.

The skills-based program utilizes horses as a bridge to mindfulness and grounding to combat high stress and post-traumatic stress disorder that heavily impact firefighters, EMTs, law enforcement officers, military veterans, and other first responders. Healing Heroes Foundation is a Massachusetts-based nonprofit dedicated to fostering community, connection, and camaraderie across first responders, military members, veterans, and their families.



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facing significant mental health and wellness challenges, and we felt a responsibility to help address that need here in Massachusetts by introducing a unique program that fosters meaningful connection and mental well-being so first responders don’t have to navigate life’s challenges alone.”

“First responders across the country are

Hosted in Whitinsville, the eight-week Equine-Assisted Recovery Program is made possible through partnerships between the Healing Heroes Foundation, Cornerstone Community Care, and Superior Stables. At the end of the program, participants will be connected with financial health resources through a partnership between Healing Heroes Foundation and First Responders Credit Union.

The program is led by Christina Cronin, LCSW, President and Clinical Director of Cornerstone Community Care. Participants will engage in structured interactions with the horses through activities such as observing, grooming, leading, and other groundwork designed to support mindfulness, self-regulation, communication, and connection. Among the horses participating in the program is one cared for by a U.S. Army veteran and current psychiatric registered nurse, further reflecting the program’s connection to the communities it serves.

The Healing Heroes Foundation has filled two cohorts of participants for its Equine-Assisted Recovery Program, showing a regional demand for this innovative resource. With a focus on solidifying the curriculum and measuring outcomes with its inaugural cohort, the organization’s long-term goal is to grow the program’s impact and geographical reach so this critical resource can be available to first responders across the state. It is currently in talks with additional Massachusetts stables.

Equine-assisted approaches have proven to meaningfully complement clinical therapy, exposing participants to a more active, relationship-based setting. Interactions with horses such as approaching, handling, leading, and caring can make abstract concepts like consent, trust, self-regulation, and communication more tangible.

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