

Thanks for supporting
the advertisers
who support
your local newspaper.



SPENCER NEW LEADER

©2026, Issue #10 Free by request to residents of
East Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield, Brookfield, Leicester and Spencer

SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS Friday, March 13, 2026

Spencer cancels dispatch contract as regionalization continues

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

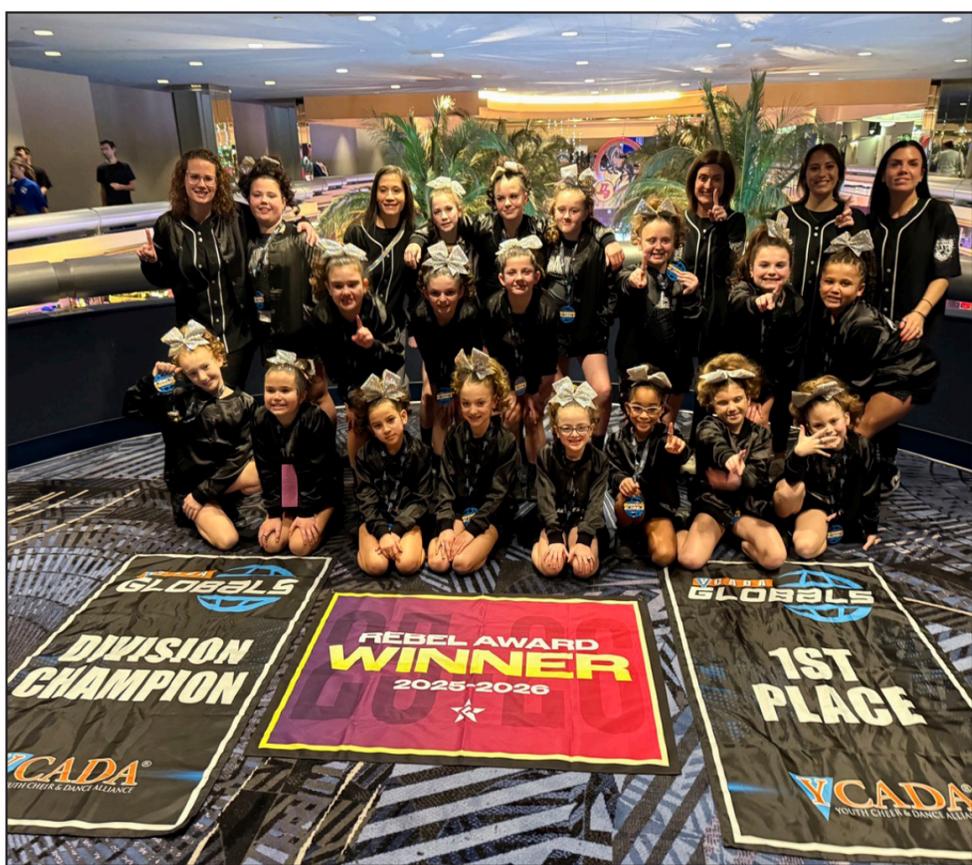
SPENCER — The Town of Spencer is ending its contract with a company that has been helping to develop and implement new dispatch software for the town's police department as they implement a transition to regional dispatch.

The Board of Selectmen approved terminating the contract with Central Square on Feb. 25, which would effectively end the ongoing rollout of a new computer-aided dispatch (C.A.D.) software. The police chief had recommended ending the contract early as Spencer recently joined a larger multi-town dispatch partnership that would utilize a different system making the C.A.D. software obsolete.

Town Administrator Jeffrey Bridges explained more about this decision.

"As with any new software it has a somewhat extensive and abusive annual maintenance fee. They've done about half the work to implement this, and, as we look at regional dispatch, this system will not be the preferred system for the regional dispatch center. So, it would be abandoned. We would use it, but it wouldn't be part of the overall regional dispatch," Bridges said.

The selectmen approved the request exercising an opt-out clause in the contract which requires a 30-day notice
Turn To REGIONALIZATION page A9



The U10 Leicester Spencer Raiders placed 1st in their level in competition last weekend, as well as Division 10 champs and Rebel Award winner for highest score of the day.

Courtesy

Leicester Middle School student leads pet supply drive for Second Chance Animal Shelter



LEICESTER — Sonya Potvin, an eighth-grade student at Leicester Middle School, is turning her love of animals into action through her National Junior Honor Society service project, collecting gently used and new pet items for Second Chance Animal Shelter.

Motivated by a desire to give back to the community, Sonya organized a donation drive to gather pet clothing, toys, and other much-needed supplies for animals awaiting adoption. The project, part of her commitment to service and leadership in the National Junior Honor Society, reflects both her compassion and dedication.

"I've always loved animals, and I wanted to do something that would really make a difference for them," she said. "The shelter does so much to help pets find new homes, and I wanted to support that."

The donation drive encour-

ages community members to contribute gently used or new items that can bring comfort and enrichment to shelter animals. From cozy sweaters to chew toys, each donation helps improve the daily lives of pets as they wait for their forever families.

Her connection to the cause is personal. At home, she cares for two dogs — Luna, a playful lab mix, and Stella, a spirited bulldog mix — along with a guinea pig named Cookie. Growing up surrounded by animals has strengthened her understanding of the responsibility and joy that come with pet ownership.

In addition to organizing the supply drive, Sonya has begun training at Second Chance Animal Shelter, where she is learning how to properly care for the animals. Through

Turn To PET SUPPLY page A9

Introducing The Wolverine Grill: A student-run culinary experience

LEICESTER — The culinary arts program at Leicester High School is proud to announce the grand opening of The Wolverine Grill, a student-run restaurant where aspiring chefs bring their creativity and skills to life in a professional, yet cozy, dining environment.

Opening Day: Thursday, March 12 | 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Regular Hours: Every Thursday thereafter | 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The Wolverine Grill offers an intimate dining experience with 48 seats, including six booths and seven tables, ideal for small groups, friends, or a double date. Seating is first come, first served, creating a welcoming atmosphere for the community to enjoy.

Guests will enjoy a refined and curated menu crafted by our talented students. Each

Turn To GRILL page A7

Leicester PD welcomes new officers



Jason Bleau

Police Chief Kenneth Antanavica led a ceremony on Feb. 17 where during which new officers Jacup Roberts and Christopher Ladou were officially presented with their department badges.



BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

LEICESTER — The Leicester Police Department and Select Board closed out February by honoring local officers for their handling of several incidents over the last few months and officially welcomed

two new officers to the ranks as part of a pinning ceremony.

Police Chief Kenneth Antanavica led the ceremony on Feb. 17, where he invited new officers Jacup Roberts and Christopher Ladou to officially be presented with their department badges. Massachusetts State Representatives Paul Frost and David LeBoeuf were on hand to help with the celebration. Antanavica acknowledged the pinning as a tradition in town, not only officially welcoming new hires to the department but presenting them to the public to introduce them to the larger community as well.

The day also gave Antanavica an opportunity to recognize the contributions of his department in handling several local incidents including a hostage situation in December and a local shooting in neighboring Spencer in February.

On Dec. 20, the Leicester Police Department was faced with a barricaded suspect situation involving a hostage. The incident involved an individual who had

Turn To OFFICERS page A9

Adventure tours of Warren
Share the Adventure with us!

TWO GREAT CRUISES ABOARD NORWEGIAN BREAKAWAY!

June 9-12	4-Day Boothbay Harbor Vacation from \$899
June 27	Lake George Cruise & Lunch \$185
July 11	Provincetown by Fast Ferry \$220
July 19	8-Day Bermuda & Halifax Cruise from \$1699
Aug. 30	8-Day Nova Scotia Cruise from \$1699

Share the Adventure with us soon!
For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357 or email adventuretours@att.net or visit www.adventuretoursofwarren.com for details

School District accepting applications for Kindergarten & Preschool

SPENCER — The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District is now accepting Kindergarten & Preschool applications for the 2026-2027 school year.

Kindergarten (for children who will reach the age of five years old by Aug. 31) Letters were mailed out last week to all families that listed their eligible child(ren) on the 2025 town census and emails were sent to all resident families that have a child currently enrolled in our Cubs' Corner Preschool program that will be of age by the cut-off date.

Kindergarten is offered at both Wire Village School in Spencer and East Brookfield Elementary School in East Brookfield. Students are enrolled at the school in their town of residence, in accordance with District policy. School hours are 8:25 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., Monday through Friday. There is no registration deadline.

Medical forms must be completed by a physician and must detail that your child has been given the following immunizations (including the dates the immunizations were given):

- 5 doses Diphtheria, Pertussis, and Tetanus (DTaP)
- 4 doses Polio
- 3 doses Hepatitis B

- 2 doses Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)
- 2 doses of Varicella Vaccine or Chicken Pox disease
- Proof of Lead Screening
- Vision and Hearing Screenings

Cubs' Corner Preschool The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District's Cubs' Corner Preschool will be relocated to the all-new preschool wing at David Prouty High School starting with the 2026-2027 school year. Our program is an integrated preschool with tuition-paying students, as well as special needs students. The resident rate is \$20/day for half days and \$40/day for full days. The non-resident rate is \$22.50/day for half days and \$45/day for full-days.

Sessions will be filled on a first come, first served basis. The following sessions are offered:

- Monday/Wednesday/Friday: AM, PM or Full Day
- Tuesday/Thursday: AM, PM or Full Day
- Monday-Friday: AM, PM or Full Day

Preschool Eligibility Requirements

Age requirement: Those attending a tuition-based preschool slot must be three (3) years old by the Aug. 31 cut-off date to be eligi-

ble to attend the current school year. District residents that qualify for Special Education services may attend once they turn three, regardless of the birth date cut-off.

Toilet Training: All tuition-based preschool students must be reliably toilet trained (no diapers or pull-ups) at the start of school. Children who do not evidence signs of reliable toilet training while in school will be found ineligible for enrollment.

Registration process All student registrations are done online. If you would like to register your child to attend, please complete the Pre-Registration Form to begin the registration process and select the 2026-2027 school year. Once your form has been approved, you will receive an email with further instructions to create your PowerSchool online parent portal account where you will complete all of the required enrollment forms and upload required documentation. Families must provide a birth certificate (original or copy with a seal), most recent physical/immunization records/lead test (dated within one year of school start date), and two forms of proof of residency from the accepted documents listed on the address form. Tuition-based preschool

families must submit a deposit equal to one week's tuition to secure their child's spot.

If you do not have access to the internet to complete the forms, we have a kiosk set up inside the Student Services office at David Prouty High School for families to use. An appointment is required to ensure that the kiosk will be available and a staff member is present to assist. The office is open for appointments Monday through Thursday, between the

hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Please call 508-885-8515 (opt. 0) with any questions, to schedule an appointment or to provide supporting documentation.

For more information about the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District and to stay up-to-date on the latest happenings across the district, please visit the website at www.sebrsd.org, follow us on Twitter and Facebook, and download the SEBRSD mobile app.

MLS
Aucoin Ryan Realty
Your Neighborhood Realtor

201 South Street
Southbridge, MA 01550
508-765-9155 1-800-784-0445
FAX 508-765-2698
www.AucoinRyanRealty.com
SpiroThomo@gmail.com



Spiro Thomo
Broker
Licensed 35+ years
508.765.0465
774.200.8043

Todd A. Ethier
B·U·I·L·D·E·R
774-230-3967

- REMODELING EXPERT
- PROFESSIONAL INSTALLED
- WINDOWS AND SIDING

774-230-3967
Quality Building Since 1985



◆ FINISHED BASEMENTS ◆ ADDITIONS ◆ KITCHENS ◆ BATHS ◆ GARAGES ◆ SIDING
◆ ROOFING ◆ DECKS ◆ WINDOWS ◆ DOORS ◆ AUTHORIZED HARVEY DEALER
◆ LICENSED & INSURED ◆ HONEST, CLEAN & DEPENDABLE

West Brookfield Historical Commission announces 2026 scholarship

WEST BROOKFIELD — The West Brookfield Historical Commission is pleased to announce its 2026, 15th annual scholarship in the amount of \$2,000. Qualified students must reside in West Brookfield and may attend Quaboag Regional High School, or be school-choice students, home schooled students, and independent school students.

This award is made possible through the J. Irving and Jane L. England Charitable Trust.

Application criteria:

The students must be planning to attend either a four-year college/university program or a two-year college with the intent to transfer to a four-year college. The Commission will show preference to study plans with concentration on History and History-related areas. Major or minors may include Political Science, Social Studies, Anthropology, Archaeology, Historical Preservation, Museum Studies, and Education in any of these related fields.

Applicants must submit a brief essay based on one of the Notable Persons or Significant Places listed on the application. All necessary information will be found on the West Brookfield Historical Commission website. <http://westbrookfield.org>

Essays are due no later than April 6.
E-mail- info@westbrookfield.org
Mail: West Brookfield Historical Commission, PO Box 372, W. Brookfield, MA 01585.

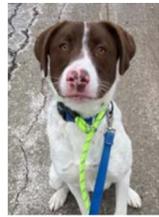
The application and details can be found on the Historical Commission Web site, <http://westbrookfield.org>.

P.E.T. of the Week

Sponsored by Leicester Veterinary Clinic, LLC

Meet Payton

Payton is a high-energy, bouncy boy who is full of enthusiasm and personality. He's still learning his manners and will need a committed adopter who can provide consistent training, structure, and guidance. Payton would thrive in an active home where daily exercise and positive reinforcement are part of the routine.



Because of his jumpy behavior and training needs, Payton is best suited for an adult-only home. In his previous home, he did not do well with children, so a kid-free environment is required to help him succeed. With patience and consistency, Payton has the potential to become a wonderful companion for the right person.

Second Chance Animal Services
www.secondchanceanimals.org
East Brookfield, MA • 508-867-5525

Leicester Veterinary Clinic, LLC

1205 Main St. Leicester, MA 01524
P: 508-892-9181 • F: 508-892-8791
www.leicesterclinic.com

- Wellness exams • Vaccinations • Cat Boarding
- Spays, neuters and routine soft tissue surgery
- Dentistry • Radiology (Digital)
- In-house diagnostic laboratory facilities (Icxx) • Pharmacy
- Prescription diets Hills, Royal Canin
- Domestic health certificates and much more!



Dr. Colm P. Scanlon
Veterinarian

For Advertising Information Call 774-200-7308 email: mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

What should you do in the new year? Get your "estate needs in order". No one likes to talk about death, that is why you should have everything done in advance. Make sure your hard-earned money and investments are left to those you want. Call me for a free consultation. Also, handling all types of real estate matters.



Cournoyer & Cournoyer, P.C.
Attorney Don Cournoyer, Jr.
Cell: 508-868-7943
don@cournoyerlaw.net



100%
Affordable™ Windows & Doors COMPANY, INC.

MARVIN

We Deliver Throughout New England








HOURS: MON. - FRI. 8-4:30 • SAT. 9-1

Thank You!

Retirement on the Horizon

After 39 years in business (and being 39 years older than when we started) one notices that there is now a shorter distance left to travel on life's journey than the distance that has already been traversed. That thinking led us to the decision to begin to wind down our business during the first quarter of this year and retire by the end of March 2026. This wind down period has allowed us plenty of time to honor and fulfill all our current customer special orders in progress. Due to some products' extended lead times, we will only be processing new orders that will be able to be shipped completely within the above-mentioned time. In the meantime, we have lots of super budget-friendly deals to be found as we draw down our inventory of windows, doors, patio doors, locksets, ..., and bargain-bay items. Also, our fully functioning, beautiful kitchen cabinets, windows & doors displays are being made available for sale as well.

We appreciate you and thank you for your patronage over the years.

Sincerely,
Andrea and Morgan,
AFFORDABLE WINDOWS & DOORS CO., INC.

MOST SOLD AT 65% OFF

PEPIN

WASTE SERVICE

Your Local Roll-Off Specialist

WINTER SPECIAL

10 yd. Rental 1 Ton

3 sizes available. Call for pricing.

\$340



Roll Off Containers

Weekend Dumpsters for the Homeowner Houses • Attics • Cellars Construction Sites

10-15-20 Yd.

508-892-4193 • Leicester, MA

Fully Insured






1 8 7 2 - 2 0 0 7



25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550
 Telephone (800) 367-9898
 Fax (508) 764-8015
 www.StonebridgePress.com

FRANK G. CHILINSKI
 PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
 EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Small improvements, lasting impact

Not every improvement in a town comes in the form of a large construction project or a major new facility. In fact, some of the most noticeable changes in a community often begin with smaller efforts that quietly improve everyday life.

A repaired sidewalk. A freshly painted building. A new business sign appearing along Main Street. A playground receiving updated equipment. A community organization organizing a cleanup day or planting flowers along a common area.

Individually, these changes may seem modest. Together, however, they shape the experience of living in a town.

Communities such as Spencer, Leicester, and the Brookfields have long benefited from residents who care about the appearance and vitality of their surroundings. That care shows up in many forms. Local officials work to maintain roads, parks, and public buildings. Business owners invest time and resources into their storefronts. Volunteers organize community events and beautification efforts.

These actions may not always receive widespread attention, but they contribute to a sense of pride that visitors and residents alike can feel.

Main streets across Massachusetts have experienced their share of challenges over the years, particularly as shopping habits have changed and economic pressures have shifted. Yet many smaller communities have demonstrated that steady, thoughtful improvements can make a meaningful difference.

When a building is renovated, a vacant storefront becomes occupied, or a public space is improved, it sends a message that the community continues to invest in itself.

That investment does not always require massive spending. Often, it involves cooperation between town government, local businesses, nonprofit groups, and residents who are willing to contribute time and energy to projects that benefit everyone.

The results can be surprisingly powerful.

A well-maintained park becomes a place where families gather. A lively downtown area encourages residents to shop locally and support their neighbors. Public spaces that are clean and welcoming help reinforce the sense that a town is cared for and valued.

These details shape how people experience their communities every day.

They also influence how younger generations view their hometowns. When towns maintain attractive public spaces and active local businesses, they become places where people want to remain connected and perhaps even build their futures.

None of this happens overnight. Improvements accumulate gradually, often through a series of small decisions made by residents, town leaders, and local organizations.

The important point is that those decisions matter.

Communities are not defined solely by large projects or major headlines. They are also shaped by everyday choices about maintenance, investment, and civic pride.

Across our local community, those choices continue to shape towns that residents care deeply about. And while the improvements may sometimes appear small, their impact can last for years to come.

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

Opaque or translucent?

To the Editor:

Trying to find the appropriate term for what the Trump administration calls transparency. If you really want to stem drug flow by blowing up little wooden boats, with unverified contents or persons, my thought is board them seize drug cargo, interrogate passengers/operators. Instead of committing a carrier group, it might well be cheaper and more efficient to eliminate the source. I am pretty confident no drug lords are in the boats, and that is questionable whether reward or blackmail, enticed the boat operators. Clarity on why we seized the Venezuelan president, but pardoned the drug dealing one from Honduras, is definitely opaque,

POTUS said he was sending a second carrier group to Iran, to strengthen his negotiation position. There are currently many recordings being played, suggesting Obama would go to war with Iran, because he is a poor negotiator. My recollection was that he had Iran nuclear ambitions curtailed, and negotiated it by returning their own money that the Shah had sent here to buy weapons. We delivered no weapons or refund, until forced to do so by the world court system, Obama leveraged that no option refund to seal the deal. Since Trump only values things he gets credit for, he threw it out.

Donald Trump and Bibi Netanyahu are a pair. Both under the gun for illegal behavior (although Trump exempt from prosecution while in office). Bibi has long been aware that Iran considers the existence of Israel illegal. As they have effectively been purveyors and financiers of terror back to overthrow of the shah, getting us to destroy them has been on Netanyahu's wish list forever. He realized at some point that he had found a patsy in

DJT, who stood by for their purge of the population of Gaza, and realized that alliance, utilizing munitions we supply, confirmed that we would back any act they undertook. Marco Rubio, our Secretary of State, is using double speak to claim we chose to attack Iran, after Israel had already attacked and had boots on the ground. Only a fool would think an attack by Israel would not prompt retribution on us Iran has even expanded beyond our bases to our arab allies, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Arab Emirates, Kuwait, etc. No matter how much denial, it is translucent, that the tail wagged the dog.

I am gratified that Noem was removed as head of DHS, but have no clue why just transferred to some other unqualified job and not fired. Bondi should be next, Congress passed and Trump signed the law requiring the release of the Epstein files by last Dec. 19. Because leaks are so common, it is already a known fact that the pages missing from the last release are the interviews of the 13 year old girl that Trump punished for not giving him adequate [stimulation]. We already know that he has 5 kids by three wives he cheated on, was fined and found guilty of assaulting E. Jean Carroll, and has more mentions in the files than anyone. They are deliberately outing the victims while protecting the men. I think I speak for most of us, that we are fed up.

I can add many paragraphs on his grifting, but will save that theft that he does not even try to hide. FYI- does not make the fact that ethics not being prosecuted less egregious. Transparent, in your face, theft.

KEN KIMBALL
 BROOKFIELD

President Trump says "feel good" as he takes America to war

To the Editor:

The quote in the title refers to direct recorded quotes of what the President and his Press Secretary said. This means without even the advice and consultation with Congress never mind approval or equally laying out honest truthful reasons, or plan to "we the people." Trump personally committed United States troops and treasure to war.

Think about that. Is it something that democratically elected leaders do?

Or something a long time ago a king would do?

Or something now a ruler with absolute power, like Russia's Putin — the man Trump so much admires — would do?

(Russia and Putin, by the way, now provide Iran with information about the location of our troops and resources.)

Now rather than "feelings" provision of some fact based reasons why Trump's present war on Iran does not serve America's or "we the people" best interests.

Estimates indicate that it costs America at least one billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000) a day. That works out to about \$3 a day for every man, woman and child in this country or for a family of four, \$12 a day. Is this something you need or want to buy?

And partly since Trump's "Big Ugly Bill," cut taxes for the mega rich, it means we will have to takeout loans to pay for this war — loans and interest payments that we, our children, and grandchildren will have to forever pay back

Petroleum costs have risen and likely will rise more. To take just one example, gas has already gone up about 30 cents a gallon. Likewise the "ripple effect"

means that for the very many, the "affordability" problem will get even worse.

As a result, we Americans face the risk of not only of inflation, but also economic recession.

Earlier, Trump told us he had destroyed Iran's nuclear war capabilities. Now he tells us that these same "capabilities" rank as a big reason why we have to attack Iran. Most experts disagree. They also point out that North Korea, China, and Russia, all of whom qualify as American adversaries are far more dangerous. But, of course, Trump admires these rulers and how they rule. Not only Russia, but in this war, China also supports Iran.

High quality weapons and ammunition both cost a lot and take extended time to manufacture. Both we and Israel have "burned" through a lot this and in fact we have begun rationing supplies. This also makes the United States less prepared and powerful in, for instance, Asia and Europe

Many experts think Netanyahu, for personal, political, Israeli right wing fanatical, and territorial expansion reasons "sweet talked" Trump into this war or in a phrase its' "the tail wagging the dog"

No concrete plan existed before or exists now, and

Most importantly, already, not only treasure, but Americans have lost there lives

What to do?

To begin, practice the "butterfly effect." By all the various means, let all know you oppose the Iran war and want its funding and bloodshed to stop.

Then thank and express support to U.S. our Congress and Senate representatives = especially McGovern and Neal. Then and military veterans like Moulton and Auchincloss oppose Trump's war and misuse of our troops and resources.

KEVIN KANE
 SPENCER

Take charge of your debt, one step at a time



FINANCIAL
 FOCUS

**TREVOR
 NIELSEN**

If you're dealing with debt, you're far from alone. More than 80 percent of U.S. households carry some form of debt (2025 Federal Reserve report), and since 2019, total household debt for Americans has increased more than 31 percent, to \$18.59 trillion.

While debt can help you achieve important goals, such as buying a home or getting an education, it can also create strain on your life and finances. If you only make minimum payments, for example, you'll hold debt longer and pay more in interest.

Having a clear debt reduction plan can help you take control, reduce anxiety, and even save money.

Know your debt. The first step is understanding what you owe. Make a comprehensive list of all your debts, including credit cards, mortgages, auto loans, student loans, and medical bills. For each one, note the total amount owed, the interest rate and your minimum payment requirements.

Next, add it all up to see your total debt load. Then calculate your debt-to-income ratio by dividing your total monthly debt payments by your gross monthly income. A good rule of thumb is to keep this ratio below 35 percent if you have a mortgage or 20 percent if you don't.

Manage what you owe. Now that you have the big picture, look for opportunities to reorganize your debt more effectively. Perhaps you can refinance existing loans at lower interest rates, consolidate multiple debts into a single payment, or transfer high-interest credit card balances to cards that offer lower or 0 percent introductory rates for up to 12 months.

These strategies won't reduce the total amount you owe, but they can make your debt more manageable and potentially save you money on interest. Just watch out for fees and make sure you understand new terms before making changes.

Set your payment target. Start by identifying your required minimum payments across all debts. Missing these can trigger fees and penalties and damage your credit score, so treat them as non-negotiable expenses in your budget.

Next, look at your budget to identify any funds available after covering all essential expenses. Consider how much of this surplus to put toward paying down debt versus saving for other goals. Remember that building an emergency fund and saving for retirement are also important priorities that shouldn't be sidelined.

If you have no surplus, you may need to cut back on things like eating out, clothes shopping, on-line subscriptions, entertainment, or expensive vacations while you bring your debt in line. Consider an additional part-time job for extra income to pay off your debt sooner.

Prioritize your debt. Finally, decide which debts to tackle first with any extra payments. One approach is to focus on paying off the debt with the highest interest rate first, which minimizes the total interest you'll pay over time. Alternately, you can target the smallest balance first to help you build momentum and motivation.

Taking control of your debt doesn't happen overnight, but with a clear strategy, you can make steady progress toward your financial goals.

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

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!

news@
 stonebridgepress.news



Spring sneaks in, one morning at a time

Every year about this time, I start noticing small things.

Not the big, dramatic signs of spring. Those come later, when the trees turn green all at once and people start dragging lawn chairs out of the garage. I mean the quiet little hints that winter is loosening its grip on Massachusetts.

It might be a patch of grass showing up along the edge of the driveway. Or that first morning when the sun comes through the kitchen window a little earlier than it did the week before.

You notice those things when you've lived somewhere long enough.

The other morning, I stepped outside to grab the newspaper, and the air felt different. Still cold, mind you. This is Massachusetts, after all. March has a habit of pretending to be spring one day and January the next. But the cold felt lighter somehow.

That's the best way I can explain it.

When I was younger, I used to think spring arrived all at once. One day, it was winter, and the next day, it was warm enough to play catch in the yard. But the older I get, the more I realize spring actually sneaks in quietly, one small sign at a time.

The birds know it before we do.

You start hearing them earlier in the morning, car-

rying on like they've got important business to attend to. I'm not sure what they're saying to each other, but they sound awfully cheerful about it.

Then there's the sunlight.

In February, the sun always seems tired, like it's putting in only a half day. By March, it sticks around longer, stretching across the sidewalks and warming the side of the house in the afternoon. My wife noticed it first the other day when she said the living room suddenly felt brighter.

I told her that happens every year.

Still, it's nice when it does.

Around town, you start seeing the early signs too. Someone has already swept the winter sand off their walkway. A neighbor is standing in the driveway looking thoughtfully at the snowblower, as if trying to decide whether to keep it out a little longer or finally push it to the back of the garage.

That's always a gamble in Massachusetts.

I've made the mistake before of putting away winter too early. The moment you do that, it seems like the weather hears about it and decides to send one last snowstorm just to keep you humble.

So I leave the shovel handy for now.

But even with that possibility hanging in the air,

there's a different feeling around town this time of year. People walk a little slower when the sun comes out. You see neighbors lingering a moment longer at the mailbox. Someone opens a car window for the first time in months just to let the air in.

None of this happens all at once. It unfolds gradually, the way most good things do.

When my kids were younger, the arrival of spring meant baseball gloves coming out of the closet and muddy sneakers by the back door. These days the house is quieter, though every once in a while I still catch myself noticing things the same way I did back then.

The smell of thawing earth.

The sound of melting snow dripping off the edge of the roof.

The first afternoon when you realize you don't need your heavy coat anymore.

I suppose that's the real magic of a New England spring. It reminds you that even after the longest winters, the world eventually wakes up again.

Not with a grand announcement.

Just a little sunlight on Main Street, a few birds singing before breakfast, and the quiet feeling that warmer days are on their way.

And after a long Massachusetts winter, that's usually enough.

Nomination papers for Brookfield town election due March 16

BROOKFIELD — Brookfield will hold its Annual Town Election Monday, May 4, with polls open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Town Hall, 6 Central St.

Nomination papers for the Brookfield Annual Town Election are available until the March 16 filing deadline at the Town Clerk's Office. The following offices and terms are open to candidates:

- Moderator (1 Year Term)
- Select Board (3 Year Term)
- Assessor (3 Year Term)

Planning Board (5 Year Term)

Planning Board (4 Year Term)

Elementary School Committee (3 Year Term)

Water Commission (3 Year Term)

Board of Health (3 Year Term)

Trustee For Merrick Public Library (2 - 3 Year Term)

Cemetery Commissioner (2 Year Term)

Cemetery Commissioner (3 Year Term)

Town Collector (3 Year Term)

Monday, March 16, 5 p.m. Last day to obtain and return nomination papers (49 days before election)

Monday March 30, 5 p.m. Last day for registrars to certify Nomination Papers: (35 Days before election)

Monday, March 30, 5 p.m. Last day for candidates to withdraw (Letter to the Town Clerk)

Please note you can now register to vote online at: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>.

Leicester Senior Citizens Club launches membership drive

LEICESTER — The Leicester Senior Citizens Club is a group of older adults that meets at the Leicester Senior Center twice a month. The club is looking to attract new members from all the area towns and cities.

The group meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Meetings begin at 10 a.m. At the conclusion of each meeting, there is a scheduled form of entertainment or informational presentation.

The Leicester Senior Citizens Club is linking older adults with each other, and to opportunities that improve their health, well-being, and sense of community. It is the club's way of reducing the effects

of isolation. We want to offer special programs beyond normal hours, and we need input and ideas from new members to help get us there. Membership is open to all individuals aged 60 and older. The cost to join is \$10 for an annual membership.

To learn more about the

membership drive or to sign up, please visit the Leicester Senior Center at 40 Winslow Ave., Leicester, during operating hours (Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.), or call David Wood, Program Director at the senior center, at (508)-892-7016.

Upcoming events at Leicester Senior Center

Ongoing new member registration, and fob distribution for My Senior Center computerized check-in Program Friday, March 13 -Diamond Art Presentation – 10 a.m. – Lyndsey Golparian

Tuesday, March 17 -Senior Citizens Club of Leicester – St. Patrick's Day Luncheon – 10 a.m., following bi-weekly meeting.



Community Connection

Charlton Oil
508-248-9797 Propane

Don't Pay Too Much for Propane

PROPANE	PRICE PER GAL	PROPANE	PRICE PER GAL
0-50	\$4.99	301-500	\$2.25
50-75	\$3.49	500 PLUS	\$2.10
76-150	\$2.95	Duel Fuel	\$3.75
151-300	\$2.55	Drop off Tanks	\$3.00

Tanks Filled to 80% Driver Discretion

DON'T PAY TOO MUCH FOR OIL!
Friday price 3/6/26 was **\$4.35** per gallon*
100 gallon minimum
ONLINE ORDERING NOW AVAILABLE AT www.charltonoil.com

"Call Us First!"
*prices subject to change

Morin JEWELERS
Fine Jewelry & Gifts
The Jewelry store where you buy with confidence

WE BUY GOLD

Specializing in Custom Designs
All types of Jewelry Repairs

MASTER JEWELERS
BRILLIANCE YOU DESERVE®

409 Main St. Southbridge, MA
morinjewelers.com • 508-764-7250
Located at CVS Plaza

For Advertising Information Call 774-200-7308 email: mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

PLUMBING

JOHN DALY PLUMBING
The Homeowners Plumber, SINCE 1988

Faucets, Toilets, Pipe Repair, Garbage Disposals, Sinks, Vanities, Shower Valves, Outside Hose Connections, New Kitchen Sink Strainers and Undersink Re-Pipes, Sump Pumps, Sink Drain Cleaning.

Buy What You Like And I Will Install.

Fully Licensed And Insured, License Number MPL-21763-J
Call 508 304 7816 • jdman714@aol.com

NORTHEAST PIZZA is OUR **Pizza Passion**

Fresh ingredients, time-honored recipes, and friendly service.
Since 1997

Open 7 Days a Week • We Deliver
MARCH SPECIALS

Mushroom Pizza Sm. \$6.99 Lg. \$9.99	Tuna Sub Sm. 8" \$5.99 Lg. 12" \$6.99 <small>Add Bacon for \$1 more</small>	Small Cheese Pizza EVERYDAY 11-4 only \$5.00! NO LIMIT!
---	---	---

Cannot be combined with other specials or coupons.

Leicester 1205 Main St. 508-892-9276
West Brookfield 208 W. Main St. 508-867-9567

~ Full bar & full liquor license at our Leicester Location ~
~ Serving Beer & Wine at both Locations ~
www.northeastpizza.com

Got Space? we do.

Contact Mikaela Today
774-200-7308
mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

Crooked Creek Farm
East Brookfield, Massachusetts

Stock up now!

Retail Cuts, Quarter, & Half sides of Beef Available!

To purchase your meat packages
CALL/TEXT: (774) 200-7308
www.crookedcreekfarmma.org

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY!

ALL WE KNOW IS LOCAL ~ StonebridgePress.com



Regional History Day sparks student pride at Leicester Middle School



LEICESTER — Leicester Middle School continued a growing tradition of academic excellence on Feb. 28, hosting the Central Massachusetts Regional History Day Competition for the fourth consecutive year.

The regional event, part of National History Day, brought together 193 students in grades 6–12 from 11 schools across Central Massachusetts. Leicester was one of four regional sites statewide, welcoming student historians who spent months researching topics tied to this year’s theme, “Revolution, Reaction, and Reform.”

Among the competitors were 44 Leicester students, with 19 Leicester Middle School students advancing to the Massachusetts History Day State Competition on April 11 at Winchester High School. Two Leicester groups also earned special recognition, receiving awards from the Springfield Museums and Central Rock Gym.

Principal Doug Daponte credited the school’s social studies department for both organizing the large-scale event and preparing students for success. Under the

guidance of Mr. Everett and Ms. Freeman, he noted, the program continues to grow each year — not only in participation, but in the number of students advancing. He added that students demonstrate pride in their school through their hard work and perseverance.

That dedication was evident throughout the building, as students presented exhibits, documentaries, performances, websites, and research papers to panels of judges. The competition structure begins at the school level — Leicester hosted its own contest on Feb. 12 — before progressing to regionals, states, and ultimately the national contest in June at the University of Maryland in College Park.

Superintendent Brett Kustigian said he was impressed by the overall quality of student work, praising the effort students invested in their research and presentations. Assistant Principal Christine Barbato echoed that sentiment, calling it an honor to host the regional event for the fourth straight year and highlighting the pride the school feels in its advancing students and

award winners.

For students, the experience was both nerve-wracking and rewarding. Sixth grader Ben Miller described advancing to the state level as a “meaningful accomplishment,” while classmate Tylor Moorghen said it felt “crazy” and exciting to be selected as a finalist among several strong projects.

Beyond awards, students emphasized the atmosphere of the day. Moorghen described the energy as a mix of excitement and nerves that created a positive mood throughout the competition. Seventh grader Logan Curren said one of her favorite parts of the experience was collaborating with her group and sharing their hard work with judges.

With participation and advancement numbers steadily increasing, Leicester Middle School’s National History Day program continues to reflect a culture of academic rigor, creativity, and student pride — qualities that will now be on display at the state competition in April.

JOY (Just Older Youth) Adventurers offers journey through Canadian Rockies & Pacific Northwest

PAXTON — This journey traces an unforgettable path from Canada’s Pacific Coast deep into the heart of the Rockies, blending vibrant cities with some of North America’s most awe-inspiring wilderness. Beginning in Vancouver, the adventure opens amid coastal mountains, historic neighborhoods, and lush green spaces before drifting across the Gulf Islands to the charming capital of Victoria. Here, manicured gardens, waterfront views, and rich heritage set an elegant pace.

The landscape soon transforms as the route climbs inland through British Columbia’s dramatic highways toward alpine terrain. Highlights include the soaring presence of Mount Robson and the pristine beauty of Jasper National Park, where glacier-fed lakes, rugged peaks, and serene wildlife encounters define each moment. A cruise on Maligne Lake and time along the iconic Icefields Parkway lead to the immense Columbia Icefield, offering rare access to ancient glaciers and sweeping mountain vistas.

Further south, the turquoise waters of Lake Louise and the storybook charm of Banff National Park deliver classic Rocky Mountain magic, balancing outdoor exploration with relaxed town life. Crossing into the United States, the journey continues through the untamed grandeur of Glacier National Park, where alpine passes, historic lodges, and cultural storytelling reveal the soul of the “Crown of the Continent.”

The experience concludes as forests and mountains give way to vineyards, lakes, and the energetic waterfront of Seattle. From coastal elegance to icy glaciers and iconic skylines, this trip weaves together nature, culture, and comfort into a richly layered exploration of western North America.

Pricing: \$7,625 per person (double) - includes 14 days with 20 meals, hotels, and all transfers within tour; but does not include airfare and transportation to airport. Pricing for airfare and ground transportation to airport will be finalized soon, but plan for under \$1,000 per person. For more information, contact Bill Murwin at whmurwin@gmail.com or by phone 508-756-3193.

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

LOCAL SERVICE PROVIDERS



ASPHALT PAVING

"Quality counts when no one is looking."

ACCREDITED BUSINESS
BBB
A MEMBER FOR 25+ YEARS

Asphalt paving for over 50 years!

Bill Keyes
ASPHALT PAVING INC.

SPENCER, MA.
774-261-5181

ESTABLISHED 1963

KeyesPaving.com | 508-347-7499
Fully Insured • Owner/Operator

AUTO & TIRE

Country Auto Body, Inc.

FULL DETAILING Inside & Out

Full Auto Body & Automotive Repair

Oil Changes | Brakes | Batteries | Tires
Check Engine Light

Interstate Batteries in stock

Batteries & Antifreeze Testing
Free w/oil change

Featuring: All Major Brand Name Tires

www.countryautobodyinc.com
69 Donovan Rd., North Brookfield, MA
508-867-9736

BOAT OWNERS

ONSITE CANVAS MARINE

Tops • Interiors • Covers
Marc Bouvier 508-867-8072

HOUSE CLEAN OUTS

CLEAN OUT SOLUTIONS

House Clean Outs • Junk Removal
Basements • Garages • Attics
Whole Houses • Hot Tubs, Pools,
Sheds Demo & Removal

Serving Central Mass
Call Skip Gervais
West Brookfield, MA
774-397-6500

TREE SERVICE

McNeely Tree Service
Insured • References
Workmans Comp Insured

- 101' Aerial Lift Rental
- Hazardous Tree Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Bobcat Rental
- Lot Clearing
- Storm Clean-up
- Astroturf \$265/cord (2 cord min)
- Astroturf For Sale
- Asian Longhorn Beetle Certified

H: 508-867-6119 C: 508-523-1175

TREE SERVICE

Young's Tree Service

"Specializing In Dangerous Trees"

35+ years' experience

Fully Insured
Free Estimates

John H. Young, Jr
508.885.TREE
1.800.660.5358

Leicester Elementary chorus performs at Worcester Railers game



LEICESTER — The Leicester Elementary School Chorus took center ice at the Worcester Railers game on Sunday, March 1, performing “God Bless America” as part of Leicester Town Take Over Day, sponsored by the Leicester Elementary School PTO.

Approximately 50 students in grades 2 through 4 proudly represented Leicester Elementary School, showcasing their musical talents in front of a large crowd at the DCU Center. The special performance was a highlight of the town-wide celebration and an exciting opportunity for the young singers.

The chorus is directed by music teacher Alyssa Hiltz, who expressed immense pride in her students and gratitude for the support behind the event.

“I am so incredibly proud of how talented our chorus students are,” said Hiltz. “I

feel very lucky to have such strong support from our PTO and the entire Leicester Elementary School community. Opportunities like this give our students the chance to shine beyond the classroom, and that is truly special.”

In the days leading up to the performance, excitement was building throughout the school. On Thursday, Feb. 26, the Worcester Railers’ mascot, Trax, made a special visit to Leicester Elementary to help drum up enthusiasm for the big day. Students were thrilled to welcome Trax, whose appearance added to the celebratory spirit surrounding the event.

Leicester Elementary School’s participation in Leicester Town Take Over Day highlighted both school pride and community spirit, making it a memorable experience for the young performers and their families.

Center for Living & Working transitions to Your Access Advocates, entering new era of empowerment and access for all

WORCESTER — In a step towards enhancing accessibility and support for people with disabilities, Center for Living & Working (CLW), located in Worcester, is proud to announce its rebranding as Your Access Advocates. This change reflects its ongoing commitment to listen to consumers and better represent the people it serves,

especially in today’s landscape where inclusivity is more essential than ever.

“As we celebrate our 50th anniversary, we recognize that the name ‘Your Access Advocates’ better encapsulates our mission and vision for the future. After engaging extensively with our community, we have designed this new identity to signify our

dedication to consumer-directed services and to empower individuals across all disabilities,” said Meg Coffin, CEO of Your Access Advocates.

Coffin further stated that, “This name change is not just a rebranding; it represents our evolution as an organization. We listened to the voices of our consumers. Our goal is to create an inclusive environment for all individuals.”

With the new name, the purpose of the organization is clearer, making it easier for people in need to find them. The new logo also helps to broaden their reach, without the visual reference to just one type of disability.

“Our team of dedicated professionals that the community has come to trust is intact, working tirelessly to ensure that every individual has the access they need to lead fulfilling, independent lives,” said Noelle Balutis, Independent Living Manager. “As Your Access Advocates, we will continue to offer the same comprehensive resources, advocacy, and support services that have become synonymous with what we represent.”

About Your Access Advocates

Your Access Advocates is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing advocacy and support for individuals with disabilities. With a rich history of 50 years, we are committed to empowering individuals to live independently and ensuring that they have access to essential resources and services within their communities.

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

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

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

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

If it’s easier, you may also complete the form on a classmate’s behalf—so long as you have their current contact details. Organizers emphasize that any help tracking them down is truly appreciated, as personal connections often succeed where digital outreach falls short.

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

the opportunity to join this milestone celebration.

- Peter Allain
- Beth Antonopoulos
- Marie Aperges
- Andrew Baca
- Austin Bailey
- David Beardsley
- Frank Belanger
- Carolyn Bembenek
- Richard Bernier
- Sheila Bialoncik
- Beth Bialy
- Jason Borski
- Doreen Bourget
- Eric Brisbois
- Kathleen Brown
- Paul Browning
- Paul Bugan
- Cindy Bullens
- Sandra Butt
- Mont Canterbury
- Stephen Carlson
- Daniel Chapdelaine
- Kelly Cobb
- Ken Cournoyer
- Timothy Decker
- Tammy Deschenes
- Aaron Dorcas
- Daniel Doyle
- Dorothy DusoSelina Fife
- James Gardner
- Jeffrey Gatto
- Tina Giakoumis
- Alicia Goudreau
- Richard Guerin
- Robert Hamm

S c o t t
H o r a n z y
J a n e
H o u l e
T o d d
H u f a u l t

- Joseph Hughes
- Melissa Jankowski
- Thor Johnston
- Nena Johnston
- Lisa Kozlowski
- Robert Krasnecky
- Jill Krause
- Michael Kryger
- Rick Lawson
- Deborah Leite
- Linda Lifer
- Patricia Majewski
- Renee Marchand
- Jennifer Marsh
- Jennifer Mason
- John Meagher
- Fumiyo Mochizuki
- Deborah Munsch
- Brett Napierata
- Wayne Parmentier
- Brian Poplawski
- Gary Poplawski
- Edward Powers
- William Radcliffe
- James Remy
- Debra Ross
- Collin Salmon
- Dale Schleis
- Theresa Sergel
- Henry Skiba
- Alan Standrowicz
- Jeffrey Surozenski
- Karen Toukonen
- Joseph Veronick
- Douglas Waldron
- Robert Wheeler
- Edward Zdrok

DURKIN & SONS
Trucking Co.

Trash Removal
Weekly Pickups
Cleanouts

~ Reliable ~

www.durkintrucking.com
Spencer
508-885-4499

308 LAKESIDE

CASUAL WATERFRONT DINING ON LAKE LASHAWAY

LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEK!

3/13 Stephen George
3/14 Lower Level Duo
3/15 St Patricks Day Celebration with Mike O'Meara

MUSIC BINGO EVERY THURSDAY 7 TO 9

WEEKLY SPECIAL
Check out our \$19.99
Three-Course Meal Deals
Available Every Tuesday, Wednesday, And Thursday.

Please call 774-449-8333 for reservations, take-out or reserve online 308lakeside.com

308 MAIN STREET EAST BROOKFIELD 774-449-8333 308LAKESIDE.COM

GRILL

continued from page A1

week, a student-inspired special will highlight seasonal ingredients and culinary creativity, reflecting the dynamic and evolving skills of our future chefs. As the restaurant grows, menu offerings will expand based on community preferences and ingredient availability.

Our students are thrilled to share their hard work and passion for cooking with the community.

We ask for your understanding and patience as The Wolverine Grill is a working classroom, and every guest supports our students in gaining invaluable real-world experience.

The Wolverine Grill is more than just a restaurant—it’s a unique opportunity to experience the innovation, dedication, and talent of the next generation of culinary professionals. Come for the food, stay for the passion!

DON'T BUY UNTIL YOU SEE US!!!

HUGE KITCHEN PACKAGE & LAUNDRY REBATES

- 32" HD Smart TV.....\$99.99
Regularly \$149.99
- 43" Smart TV.....\$199.99
Regularly \$249.99
- 50" HDTV Television...\$229.99
Regularly \$269.99
- 55" HDTV Television...\$229.99
Regularly \$349.99
- 65" HDTV Television...\$329.99
Regularly \$599.99
- 75" HDTV.....\$499.99
Regularly \$699.99

MATTRESS SALE!

TWIN: \$199
(REGULARLY \$299)

FULL: \$269
(REGULARLY \$499)

QUEEN: \$299
(REGULARLY \$599)

PRE-SEASON BIKE SALE!

1000's IN STOCK!

GE DELUXE DISHWASHER
Reg. \$499.99
\$399.99

G.E. DELUXE AIR FRY GAS RANGE
Reg. \$899.99
\$699.99

FRIGIDAIRE DISHWASHER
Reg. \$399.99
\$299.99

SAMSUNG TOP LOAD WASHER & DRYER
Pair - Reg. \$1199.99
\$999.99
AFTER REBATE!

G.E. 27 CU. FT. FRENCH DOOR REFRIGERATOR
Reg. \$1999.99
\$1399.99

5 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER
Reg. \$999.99
\$799.99

WHIRLPOOL 21 CU. FT. TOP MOUNT REFRIGERATOR
Reg. \$899.99
\$699.99

FRIGIDAIRE 18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR
Reg. \$699.99
\$599.99

FAMOUS MAKER OVER THE STOVE MICROWAVE
Reg. \$249.99
\$229.99

LG #3400 WASHER & DRYER
Front Load, Reg. \$1599.99
\$1399.99

MAYTAG DELUXE WASHER OR DRYER
Reg. \$599.99
\$549.99

WHIRLPOOL SIDE BY SIDE
Reg. \$1499.99
\$1199.99

WE INSTALL TELEVISIONS, MICROWAVES & DISHWASHERS!

INSTANT FINANCING UP TO \$10,000!

WHITCO

140 MAIN STREET, SPENCER, MA
508.885.9343
SEE WHITCOSALES.COM
FOR 100's OF DEALS!

Store Hours: Mon. thru Fri: 10am-8:30pm • Sat: 9am-7pm • Sun: 12 Noon-7pm

EAST BROOKFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

122 Connie Mack Dr.
508-8677928
ebplibrary@gmail.com
Carolann MacMaster,
MLIS
Library Director

eastbrookfieldlibrary.org

Library Hours

Monday 10-6
Tuesday 9-4
Thursday 9-5
Saturday 9-1

Library Staff: Carolann, Elyse, Sue, Ally, Hunter
Library Closed: April 4th, April 20th, May 23, and 25th

Story-time

Children ages 6 months to 6 years play games, listen to stories, and create art projects to take home. Thursday at 10:30, caregivers are required to stay with the child. One adult caregiver is required for every 2 children.

Knitting Group

Adult Knitting Group meets on Thursdays at 1:00. All skill levels are welcome! Bring a current project or check out our many pattern books for inspiration.

Library Book Talk Group

Meets the first Tuesday of every month, at 11:00. Stop by the library and pick up the book in advance. Patrons are welcome to pick up the book even if they are not attending the discussion.

Police Association Spring Egg Hunt Saturday, April 4th
Will be held at the Elementary School, please call the library for the time. The library will be on hand to give out special prizes. Please check the library Facebook page for more details.

Teen Volunteer Program

Interested in volunteering with us? We'd love to have you! Let us know when you are available. For ages 12 and up.

Sponsor An Author

Do you have a favorite author? Hate being on the waitlist to check out their newest book? Our "Sponsor an Author" program is for you! Sponsoring the newest book guarantees that you will receive the book first as soon as we get it in. Your price is what the library pays. See Carolann for details!

Friends of the Library

Want to help the library but don't know how? Join the Friend's Group!

Maker Space and Library of Things

Come visit our Maker Space area and Library of Things. There you will find cake pans, charcuterie boards, platters, small specialty appliances, tools, button maker and so much more. We are looking for items to add to our Library of Things and Maker Space, tools, small kitchen appliances, gardening supplies, baby monitor, DVD player. Let us know what you have and we will let you know if we can use it.

Food Shelf

Please bring new, unexpired food items to the library during our regular hours. Personal items can include items such as shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, laundry detergent, toilet paper, diapers, wipes, deodorant, barrettes, hair ties, socks, reusable plastic containers for food, aluminum foil, plastic wrap, trash bags, dish soap, and more. Food items suggestions: canned meat, canned vegetables, spaghetti sauce, mac and cheese that can be made without milk, baking supplies. The collected items will be distributed to local families and individuals in need. Our food shelf is always available during normal library hours.

Pokémon Go Club

Meets every Monday, at 3:30pm. Players must have their own device to play on. All children and adults are welcome. Children under 12 years old must be accompanied by an adult.

Drop in Craft

Every Monday in the children's room there is a self-directed craft project. Craft projects may have small parts. Children under 12 years old must be accompanied by an adult, with one adult for every 2 children. This project is available as long as the supplies are available.

Technology Tuesday!

Need help with technology? We're here for you!

We can teach you how to do things like use the library catalog to look for books and materials, place holds, add Libby to your e-reader or phone, and generally make the most out of the online resources we have available for you! We can also help with non-library related things like setting up an e-mail account. Note: If you would like help specific to your device, please bring it along.

Movie Time

Stop by the library with your lunch and enjoy a block buster movie, meet new friends. All shows are First Monday of the month 1:00 starting in May.

Homework Help

Staff members will be available to assist children with homework questions. This is NOT a tutoring session; this program is designed for children to ask for help on a specific question. Mondays at 3:00-6:00; children under the age of 12 must have a parent or guardian remain with them.

Puzzle Making / Adult Board Games

Join us in the library for an afternoon of games and snacks.

If you like to build puzzles or play board games, maybe meet new people from the community, this program is for you! Program is for adults 18 years or older.

Walk-ins are welcome but registration is preferred so we can plan accordingly for the snacks and number of games. First and Third Tuesday every month at 1:00

Saturday Board Games

All ages are welcome to come to the library and play a few board games. Saturday at 10:00

Baking Decorating Class

Come learn how to decorate cookies, cupcakes and cakes. We are looking for supplies for this program which include the following. Cupcake wrappers, cake decorating supplies such as decorating tips, bags, jimmies, cake mixes, cookie mixes, confection sugar, food coloring. This program will be held on the last Tuesday of the month at 1:30 starting in February. Donations for this program are greatly appreciated. Registration is required one week prior to the program. Please speak to Carolann for more details.

The library Wish List!

Cheap paper plates (the kind that you must use more than one or your food will spill off.)

Playdough	Bubbles	Large crayons
Ribbon		Card stock all colors
Purple glue sticks		
Small bags of chips	Sandwich bags	
Large zip lock bags	Cookies	Juice
Coloring books	Construction paper	
Googly eyes	Feathers	

Fiber Art Group

This group welcomes anyone who is interested in fiber arts, which includes but is not limited to, knitting, crocheting, embroidery, hand sewing and cross stitching. Stop by if you would like to spend the morning with a group of people who also love to stitch. We meet on Tuesday at 9:30

Seed Program Starts Tuesday, March 17th

Our seed program is back for another exciting growing year, either come or call the library with the number of the items you would like. Our seeds are re-bagged, so if you need growing instructions see Carolann. Did you know she was named Massachusetts Agriculturist of the year by the National Grange in 2000 and has won a number of vegetable growing competitions including the heaviest tomato contest and the heaviest pumpkin at the Big E. She has been named Grand Champion in the vegetable contest at the Big E 19 out of the 26 times she has entered! She knows her vegetables and is more than willing to answer any questions you may have.

Meet the Candidates

Monday, April 27th from 5:30 to 7:00

Candidates seeking election or write-in candidates seeking election for the town office on Tuesday, May 12 are welcome to attend. Each candidate will have 5 minutes to talk and answer questions. Please contact Carolann with any questions.

Donations needed for Community Baby Shower

LEICESTER — Organizers are seeking donations for the Leicester Regional Public Health Coalition's Community Baby Shower for expectant parents coming up May 7 from 1-4 p.m. at the Leicester Town Hall Gym, sponsored by Walmart, Hannaford, Deja New, and C.A.R.E. Leicester.

Items needed include diapers (newborn to size three), baby wipes, rash cream, clothing (onesies), sleepers, sleep sacks, hats, socks, and newborn outfits), hygiene & health items such as baby wash, shampoo, lotion, manicure sets, thermometers, and hand sanitizers), feeding equipment (bottles), formula, burping cloths, bibs, nursing pads, and pacifiers), gear & bedding (swaddle blankets, crib sheets, pack 'n plays, strollers, and car seats), and safety items such as outlet covers and cabinet locks.

Donation drop-off bins are located at the Leicester Public Library, Town Hall, Senior Center, and Deja New.

UMass Amherst announces Fall Dean's List

AMHERST — The following students were named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Students are appointed to the Dean's List at the end of a semester in which they have completed a minimum of 12 graded credits and have earned a grade point average of 3.500 or better.

Brookfield

Cody Aiden	Chen Earle
Michael Alan	Frey Genet
Misako Elizabeth	Genet Hildick
Abigail Grace	Hildick Lane
Gage Willem	Lane Lanne
Jakob Alexander	McGinty
Emma Anne	Melanson
Lily Marie	Messier
Ayla Margret	Murray
Sierra	Peterson
Jacob Michael	Reynolds
Eleanor June	Standrowicz
Joseph Leo	

Sydney Riley Warren Leicester

Jacob Vincent	George Huynh	Altman Nguyen
Matthew Bradford		Tomasino

Rochdale

Jillian Marie	Morrison
---------------	----------

Spencer

William Robert	Anderson
Zachary Edward	Hinman
Alexandra Marie	Holmes
Layne Michael	Perchak
Gabriella	Saint-Vil
Zachary	Soulor
Vincent William	Van Dam

West Brookfield

Anthony Alex	Renzo Michael	Fazzuoli Ingersoll
Ayla Josephine	Shae Grace	Iwaniec Landon
Derrick Alan	Shepherd	

Cornerstone Bank commits \$7,500 to support Abby's House 50th Anniversary Gala

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank has donated \$7,500 to support the Abby's House 50th Anniversary Gala, scheduled for May 29 at the Hogan Center at the College of the Holy Cross. The milestone gift builds on the bank's ongoing commitment to the organization, following donations in 2023, 2024 and 2025.

"Abby's House has been opening doors for women and children in Worcester for half a century, and we are proud to stand with them at this historic moment," said Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank. "Their impact is profound, and this contribution reflects our belief in their mission and our commitment to strengthening the communities we serve."

Abby's House provides shelter, affordable housing, advocacy and support services to women and children. Over the past five decades, the organization has helped more than 16,000 women and their children rebuild their lives and achieve stability and independence. It operates one of the first overnight shelters for women in the country and is now the largest provider of affordable, supportive housing in Worcester designed specifically for women and children.

The 50th Anniversary Gala will celebrate Abby's House's legacy, recognize key community partners and support the organization's continued work to meet the evolving needs of families across the region.

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone, which is a subsidiary of PeoplesBankCorp, MHC, operating independently under its own name and brand, provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities through a broad range of deposit and loan products and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank's personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstonebank.com or call 800-939-9103.



Family Dining & Gift Guide

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



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



Amazing Stuffed Crepes Everyday!

Breakfast & Lunch • BREAKFAST ALL DAY
Daily Specials • Homemade Soups

MONDAY-FRIDAY LUNCH SPECIALS

Mon: American Chop Suey w/salad
Tues: Homemade Meat Loaf Dinner
Wed: Yankee Pot Roast
Thurs: Corned Beef & Cabbage
Fri: Fish and Chips

31 Pleasant St., Spencer, MA
508.885.7705
Open 7 Days • 6:00am-2:00pm

CHARLIE'S

Diner • Bar • Grill • Functions

BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER

FRIDAY 3/13 & SATURDAY 3/14

SEAFOOD TRIO

AFTER 5PM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11- SUNDAY, MARCH 15TH

CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE

HOURS: Wed-Sat 8-9; Sunday 8-8
Closed Mon & Tue

5 Meadow Rd., Spencer, MA 01562

Gift Cards **508-885-4033**
www.charliesdiner.com

Breakfast All Day

Lunch

ALL MADE FROM SCRATCH



15 S. Main St., Leicester • 508-892-3222
Dine-In or Take-Out • Gift Certificates
Hours: Wednesday-Friday 5:30am-12:30pm
Saturday & Sunday 5:30am-11:30am

ONLINE ORDERING
FARMHOUSEDINERMA.COM

REGIONALIZATION
continued from page A1

to the company. Bridges confirmed that the town will be able to continue to use what has already been implemented of the C.A.D. system until the regional dispatch is finalized. Officials do not expect any disruption to services because of the canceled contract.

However, while this will save the town money by canceling portions of the project that had yet to be completed, it will not result in a reimbursement to the town for services already rendered. Bridges said it's unlikely they would receive any refund or recuperate any costs, and it's possible a final bill will be issued to the town once the contract cancellation is finalized.

In 2025, following a feasibility study, the Spencer Board of Selectmen approved joining the Central Mass Regional Emergency Communication Center (CMRECC), a regional dispatch system serving multiple towns, as part of the Central Massachusetts Regional 911 District. The town was officially accepted as one of six new members of the district in December and immediately began the integration process which is expected to continue throughout 2026.

PET SUPPLY
continued from page A1

hands-on instruction, she is gaining experience in feeding, cleaning, and safely handling pets. Once her training is complete, she plans to dedicate more volunteer hours to supporting the shelter's daily operations.

Shelter representatives say community-driven efforts like hers make a meaningful impact. Donations of supplies help reduce operating costs, allowing more resources to be directed toward medical care, rehabilitation, and adoption services.

Sonya's project highlights the core values of the National Junior Honor Society: scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. By combining her passion for animals with a commitment to service, she is not only helping local pets in need but also inspiring others to consider how they can make a difference in their own community.

Community members interested in contributing to the pet supply drive can contact Second Chance Animal Shelter for more information on donation guidelines and drop-off times.

Through her initiative, one student is proving that even small acts of kindness can create big change — especially for animals still waiting for a second chance.

OFFICERS
continued from page A1

hidden away inside his Leicester home after being involved in an early morning shooting that day in Worcester. He called the situation a compliment not only to his own department, but the teamwork embraced by other units throughout the region.

"Many officers responded from other communities, and this was a very volatile situation which no one expected but was handled with precision and is a perfect example of exemplary police work," Antanavica said.

More recently, several Leicester Police officers responded to assist in Spencer on Feb. 3, when an armed individual not only shot a victim but then barricaded themselves in a local Family Dollar. Antanavica commended his officers for their willingness to go above and beyond in helping a neighboring department handle a dangerous situation.

"All the assistants flew there without hesitation. Nobody held back. That's the kind of officers that we have. While everybody is going one way, we're going that way," said the chief.

The Chief also recognized Officer Paul Pepin specifically, a member of the drone team who responded to the Spencer situation while he was off duty. He is one of sev-

eral drone operators in town and was recognized in 2025 by the Central Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (CEMLEC) for Excellence in Drone Unit.

The Chief concluded the ceremony by providing an all-encompassing statement on the dedication of his officers to the town of Leicester.

"The bottom line is, police officers never know what to expect and they need to react quickly and concisely. I'm very proud of every one of our Leicester Police officers who strive for excellence," said the Chief.

The Select Board didn't let the night end without providing their own compliments. Board Chair Doug Belanger read a statement of support from the board at large.

"We extend our sincere gratitude to the Leicester Police Department and EMS personnel for the quick response and professionalism and heroic efforts during the recent shooting incident in Spencer," Belanger read. "Your courage, coordination, and unwavering commitment to public safety during an extraordinarily difficult and dangerous situation reflects the very best of public service. The actions taken by our public safety officials exemplify exceptional dedication, professionalism, and heroism, as well as an indisputable commitment to protecting lives both within our community and beyond."

Home Winter Auto

AUTO BODY / REPAIRS

KEARNS
COLLISION REPAIR

Since 1969
Always Going The Extra Mile For Our Customers

Free Written Estimates • Damage Appraisal
Color Matching Specialists • Rental Car Services
Warranted Work & Repairs
Diagnostics • A/C Repair
Tune Ups & Engine Repair
Brakes • Alternators • Starters • ABS
Alignments • Tires...and more

Major Insurance Referral Shop
Honoring All Insurance Estimates

1734 Providence Road (Rt 122)
Northbridge, MA 01534
Ph: 508-234-5211 • Fax: 508-234-2231
www.kearnscollision.com
Fully Certified • RS# 2678

BEST WINDOW COMPANY

Beautiful, Efficient, Affordable
WINDOWS & DOORS

KUBALA
HOME IMPROVEMENT
Your Window & Door Experts!

Award Winning High Performance
Windows & Doors

Lifetime Warranty

100% FINANCING AVAILABLE

CALL NOW FOR EXCLUSIVE SPRING SAVINGS
508-784-1550
MA CSL100114 | MA HIC150118 | CT HIC0619712

Cleaning Services

HOUSE CLEANING AVAILABLE

Reasonable rates.
Weekly, bi-weekly
or monthly times available.
~ Bonded ~
Fully Vaccinated
Call Wendy for a FREE estimate at:
774-262-9166

LAWNMOWERS

WORCESTER COUNTY LAWNMOWER
ALWAYS THE BEST SERVICE

**Snowblower & Generator Repair
Tractor Service
Tune-Ups & Repairs
Pickup & Delivery**

508-987-2775
492 Main St Oxford
WORCESTER COUNTY LAWNMOWER.COM

For Advertising Information, Call 774-200-7308
email:mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

MASONRY

C & J
MASONRY HARDSCAPE
RETAINING WALLS
OUTDOOR
LIVING CONSTRUCTION

Chimney Repair
Foundation Repair
Steps, Patios
Water Proofing
Walkways
Stone Veneer
Brick and Block Work
Cord Wood

Brian French
(413)222-5542
cjmasonryhardscape@gmail.com

GJ LEDUC PAINTING

Interior and Exterior

Power Washing
Wallpapering
General Repair
Fully Insured
Over 40+ Years Experience

508-764-8548
774-230-8373

Plumbing

MIKE LAMBERT'S PLUMBING & HEATING INC.
LIC: 06440-54

Commercial,
Residential,
New Construction

369 Main St,
Ste 4
Spencer, MA
1-833-969-4330
Fully Insured

MIKELAMBERTSPANDH
@GMAIL.COM

ROOFING

David Barbale ROOFING

Roofing/Gutters
Repair Work

Fully Licensed and Insured

MA LIC #CS069127
MA HIC. LIC #1079721
INS. # CAC032585
C: 508-397-6709
O: 508-248-6709
davidbarbale.com

Roofing

SAUNDERS & SONS ROOFING

Read our reviews at the Better Business Bureau. A+ rating and accredited member since 2009.

Call Bill Toll-Free
1-866-961-Roof
508-765-0100
Lifetime material warranty & 25 yr. labor warranty available

MA Reg #153955
CSL #095459
CT-HIC #0638641
Fully Insured, Free Estimates
Family Owned and Operated
Now Accepting All Major Credit Cards

ACCREDITED BUSINESS A+

Got Space?
we do.

Contact Mikaela Today
774-200-7308
mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

LEGALS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO26P0545EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Paul R LaRochelle
Date of Death: 09/12/2025

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Sara Spooner of Auburn 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: **Anita Palmaccio of Lancaster MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Personal Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/24/2026**. 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: March 03, 2026
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
March 13, 2026

THE TOWN OF EAST BROOKFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
A public hearing will be held in the Memorial Town Complex, 122 Connie Mack Drive, East Brookfield on Monday, March 16, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. on the application made by Ramkumar Algoo d/b/a East Brookfield Wine & Spirits, LLC, 104 Pleasant Street for an All Alcohol Package Store License
All interested parties are invited to attend.
Andrew Lynch, Chairman
Andrew Levasseur, Clerk
Robert Button, Member
cc: Town Clerk
cc: Ramkumar Algoo
March 6, 2026
March 13, 2026

New England Water Ski Collective to host State Slalom Championships at Buffumville Lake

CHARLTON — The New England Water Ski Collective (formerly known as the Webster Water Ski Collective) is proud to announce that it will host the Massachusetts State Slalom Championships on July 15 at Buffumville Lake, located on the Oxford/Charlton town line. A competitors practice session will take place on July 14 for this event.

This event marks the first time in many years that a Massachusetts State Slalom Championship tournament will be held in the Commonwealth. The New England Water Ski Collective is honored to bring this prestigious competition back to Central Massachusetts, where it will showcase the best water skiers from across the state and surrounding regional area.

How Slalom works
Slalom skiing is one of the most popular and recognizable disciplines in water skiing. Performed on a single ski, it is the skill that many beginners aspire to master — and what elite skiers make look effortless.

In competition, a slalom course is comprised of six fixed buoys positioned 11.5 meters (37.73 feet) to the left and right of the boat's centerline. The centerline itself is marked by boat guide buoys spaced 2.1 meters (6.89 feet) apart to ensure precise boat path alignment.

A successful pass requires the skier to:

Enter through the starting gates

Pass around the outside of all six buoys

Exit cleanly through

the end gates

Only after clearing the exit gates is the pass considered complete.

Depending on a skier's category and ability level, rope length begins as long as 18.25 meters (60 feet) and can shorten to an incredibly challenging 9.75 meters (32 feet). After each successful pass, the rope is shortened — increasing the difficulty — while boat speeds can increase up to a maximum of 36 mph depending on division.

As rope lengths shorten and speeds increase, the physical demands grow dramatically. Professional skiers are known to generate cross-course speeds between 60–75 mph across the wake as they accelerate from one buoy to the next.

Final scores are recorded based on boat speed, rope length, and the number of completed buoys. The skier who can complete the most buoys at the shortest rope length and highest speed earns the victory.

Competition will be conducted under the standards of the American Water Ski Association (AWSA), whose official rules govern sanctioned tournament slalom events.

Supporting conservation and accessibility

Tournament profits will be donated to support conservation efforts and improvements to the grounds at Buffumville Dam, maintained by the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

In addition, the New England Water Ski Collective plans to install accessible beach mats at

Buffumville Beach this summer to improve shoreline access for individuals with mobility challenges — ensuring more members of the community can safely enjoy the lake.

Built on partnership and community

The Collective's Slalom/Competition Team has worked diligently to build partnerships with regional ski teams, individual competitors, and the Army Corps of Engineers to bring this championship event to life. The coordination of athletes, officials, volunteers, and site logistics represents months of collaboration.

Led by director Joe Zmetra, the New England Water Ski Collective's competition team is especially excited to see many of its own members compete on home water as they pursue qualification for AWSA Eastern Regionals and Nationals.

Zmetra reflected on the athleticism required in the sport: "Slalom is as much about strength as it is about precision. The skier has to generate incredible power across the wake, maintain perfect form in and out of their cuts, and carry maximum velocity into each turn. At the buoy, you need the ability to stop on a dime, change direction instantly, and set up your next cut with total control. It's a balance of explosiveness and technique — and when it all comes together, it's an amazing thing to watch."

All abilities — one passion
The championship represents more than just com-

petition — it reflects the Collective's mission of "All Abilities — One Passion."

"Our team is incredibly excited to bring the Massachusetts State Slalom Championships back to Central Massachusetts," said Leonardo Topa, President of the New England Water Ski Collective. "All three divisions of our organization have worked together to make this event possible, while also supporting our other major initiatives this season — including our Learn to Ski programs and our traveling adaptive ski clinics. This tournament shows how our organization continues to grow while making sure everyone has the opportunity to get out on the water and enjoy the sport we love."

The New England Water Ski Collective is eagerly

awaiting the warmer weather as it prepares to begin a busy season that will see its members actively skiing and competing across the New England region.

About the New England Water Ski Collective

The New England Water Ski Collective is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization devoted to making water skiing and water sports accessible to all. Through its Adaptive, Competitive, and Recreational ski teams, the organization works to remove barriers to participation and grow the sport throughout the New England region.

As a nonprofit, the Collective relies on the generosity of donors, community partners, and sponsors to help expand programming, host events, and

provide opportunities for athletes of all abilities.

If you are interested in donating to support our Adaptive, Competitive, or Recreational ski teams, please contact our Sponsorship Coordinator, Juliet, at Juliet@NewEnglandWaterSki.org

By supporting the New England Water Ski Collective, you are helping ensure that more individuals — regardless of age or ability — have the chance to experience the thrill and community of water skiing.

For more information about the Massachusetts State Slalom Championships or the New England Water Ski Collective, please contact New England Water Ski Collective at (774) 495-0165 or comp@newenglandwaterski.org.

Open Sky Community Services earns two Clubhouse International accreditations

WORCESTER — Open Sky Community Services, a nonprofit behavioral health and human services organization, today announced that its Tradewinds Clubhouse and Crystal House Clubhouse have been awarded three-year Clubhouse International Accreditations for adhering to globally recognized benchmarks and providing the best quality clubhouse services possible.

Tradewinds Clubhouse and Crystal House Clubhouse are free employment and vocational rehabilitation programs utilizing evidence-based mental health recovery models for adults. Tradewinds Clubhouse is located at 309 Main St. in Southbridge and serves 15 surrounding communities. Crystal House Clubhouse is located at 55 Lake St. in Gardner and serves 13 surrounding communities. Both Clubhouses are two of 36 members of the Massachusetts Clubhouse Coalition.

"These Clubhouse programs are an exceptional piece of Open Sky's programming and have demonstrated the power of employment to open the doors to recovery

Ken Bates. "The Clubhouse International Accreditations signify the dedication of our staff to the recovery of the individuals we serve, as well as the courage and resilience that Clubhouse members demonstrate in their journeys. The accreditations are a remarkable honor and reminder of what is possible when people are given the tools to overcome challenges."

The Clubhouse International site survey is an in-depth, three-day process during which surveyors from strong Clubhouses around the world visit a center and observe operations. The surveyors also conduct confidential interviews with employees, board members, and persons served. Findings are translated into a formal report, outlining areas of strength and recommendations for improvement in adherence to each of the eight categories of International Standards for Clubhouse Programs.

In the Accreditation Report, Tradewinds Clubhouse was commended for its approach to transitional employment development, educational resources, diverse Advisory Board, support of members and culture

of respect and collaboration. Crystal House Clubhouse was recognized for broadening community member outreach, adding new community voices, and providing ample social opportunities to support mental health recovery.

About Open Sky Community Services

Open Sky Community Services is a 501(c)3 nonprofit agency based in Worcester that has been helping individuals in our community achieve more than they imagined possible. The agency provides services throughout the region for children, adults with mental health challenges, developmental disabilities, brain injury, homelessness and other complex challenges. Open Sky Community Services has more than 1,300 dedicated employees and nearly 150 programs throughout the region, supporting over 8,000 individuals annually. Open Sky is committed to equity and belonging and promotes a trauma-informed, whole-person care culture. For more information, please visit www.openskyservices.org.

Home Town Service, BIG TIME RESULTS
CLASSIFIEDS
774-200-7308
Place your ad today!

FOSTER PARENTS WANTED:
Seeking Quality Homes Throughout Central MA To Provide Foster Care To Children In Need. 24/7 Support Generous Reimbursement, \$1000 Sign-On Bonus. Call For Details.
Devereux Therapeutic Foster Care. (508)829-6769
Devereux ADVANCED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

WAR RELICS & WAR SOUVENIERS WANTED: WWII & EARLIER CASH WAITING!
Helmets, Swords, Daggers, Bayonets, Medals, Badges, Flags, Uniforms, etc. Over 40 years' experience.
Call David (508) 688-0847. I'LL COME TO YOU!

For Advertising Information Call 774-200-7308
email: mikaela@stonebridgepress.news



TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE TREASURER / COLLECTOR
The Town of Southbridge seeks qualified applicants for **Treasurer/Collector**. Position anticipated to become vacant March 11. Bachelor's degree required; 3–5 years financial/cash management experience preferred (municipal experience a plus). Ability to become bonded required. MA Treasurer/Collector certification preferred.
Apply online:
www.ci.southbridge.ma.us/Jobs
EOE.

Friday's Child

William is a funny, energetic, caring, and incredibly charismatic boy. He has an outgoing personality and warms up to new people quickly — in fact, he's rarely shy and is happy to strike up a conversation with just about anyone. His confidence and natural charm make him a joy to be around. William loves staying active and engaged. He enjoys playing with remote control cars, shooting hoops, building with Legos, and playing board games. He also has a hoverboard that he loves riding, always eager to show off his skills. When he's ready to relax, he enjoys watching TV and cheering on his favorite team, the New England Patriots — they're at the top of his favorites list! Using his creative mind and working with electronics are also among William's "top things" to do. He enjoys figuring out how things work, building, experimenting, and bringing his ideas to life. With his big personality, caring heart, and curiosity about the world around him, William has so many strengths that make him truly special.

William Age 15 Registration #7297

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/22545111574>

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.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!

Email Us @

news@stonebridgepress.news



REAL ESTATE



43 East Main Street Webster, MA 01570
Finest Realtor Associates to Serve You!

hope2own.com
508.943.4333

Sharon Pelletier - Owner Broker
Licensed in MA, CT & RI

**We Want
Your Listings!**



DUDLEY - 13 OXFORD AVE

2-FAMILY offers 2,354 SF of living area! 2 Large Apartments, 5 Spacious Rms, 2 BRs, 1 Bath each. Beautiful grand front entry foyer with the charm of yesteryear! double French doors & other unique features. Plenty of Natural light that flows into these apartments! 2nd flr apt has a private enclosed rear entry with it's own outside covered porch. Updates were done to electric & roof to accommodate Solar Panels. Property was family occupied **\$379,900**

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

Webster - 24 Cooper Rd
New Construction - Craftsman Style home



Tucked away on Cooper Rd. Webster Lake with access at Lakeside beach/boat ramp. 3rd of 4 homes being built at this site. Offers 2,155 sq. ft +/- of living area, 7 rms, 4 brs, 2 1/2 baths, 9ft ceiling, wood flooring throughout with ceramic tile baths. Spacious main BR Suite w/ walk-in closet, and private full bathr, double sink vanity, finished lower level walk-out w/ slider. Central AC, garage **\$649,900.00**



Two decades ago, Hope Real Estate Group opened its doors with a simple mission: to serve our community by helping our Clients navigate the real estate market! As we celebrate 20 years of success, we wish to express our sincere gratitude for the support of our amazing Clients ~ Past, Present & Future & the Communities we serve in MA, CT & RI!

Impressive view!
Spencer - 86 Jolicoeur Ave.



Impressive view! 1/2 acre overlooking Cranberry Meadow Pond! Nicely appointed Colonial, better than new! 3 bedrooms, 2-1/2 Bath! Master Bedroom Suite. 2 car garage Howe State Park close by. Deeded Beach Rights! a Must See! assisted sale **\$545,000**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagogmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake Waterfront Listing!!
On Indian Point # 10 "Private Rd"



Astounding Panoramic Views across mid-section of Webster Lake! Sun drenched from early morning sunrise till sunset! View the lake from all windows. Located on a peninsula providing 2 Shorelines. Fireplaced Living Room! Recent Kitchen & Bath! Primary Bedroom w/walk-in closet. Hardwood Floors. 2 Baths. FHW Oil Heat! Central Air. Garage. **\$ 900,000.**

Webster Lake - 302 Killdeer Island



Renovated + move-in ready lakefront home w/1,700+/- sq ft. Open kitchen/dining/living w/cathedral ceilings + wall of windows. Primary suite w/private bath! 2 add'l bedrooms, 2nd Full bath. Lower level family room w/walkout to water. Wraparound deck, new vinyl railings, terraced yard, sandy beach, professional landscaping. Many updates **\$775,000**

Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!



Panoramic View, from this absolutely lovely home. 2600 +/- SF, 3+ Beds, 2 full baths, 2 car detached garage! 63' +/- waterfront. .37 Acres! Sandy Waterfront! **\$1,100,000**



REAL ESTATE



PUT YOUR TRUST IN US
TEAMWORK AND EXPERIENCE
Jo-Ann Szymczak 774-230-5044
Diane Luong 774-239-2937
Maria Reed 508-873-9254
Bob Berk 508-367-9226
Vicki Bennett, Client Coordinator
RE/MAX Vision • 25 Union St., Worcester MA 01608
CALL FOR A MARKET ANALYSIS Licensed in MA & CT

CHARLTON- THIS OPPORTUNITY WON'T LAST!!!
Seller Offering \$7500 Buyer Concession Towards Closing Costs!!
Seller has found housing and can Close Quickly
*2 Full Baths * 3 Finished Rooms in Lower Level *Fireplace
* 2 Mini-Splits for A/C *1.3 Acres
50 Old Spencer Rd. \$525,000

DUDLEY- NEW CONSTRUCTION
7 ACRES
*2.5 Baths
*Private
Wooded Lot
* Gas Fireplace
*Central Air
*Hardwood Floors Throughout
126 Old Southbridge Rd \$798,500

RE/MAX 100% CLUB
#1 Producing Agent
RE/MAX Vision | Central Massachusetts
Diane Casey-Luong
RE/MAX Vision




MEET YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS

Perfect for Realtors, Mortgage Companies, Banks, Real Estate Attorneys, Home Inspectors, Chimney Inspectors, Lead Removal businesses, Insurance Companies, etc... any business involved in the buying or selling of real estate.

To join this section, please contact your local sales rep, 774-200-7308 or email mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

"I SOLVE REAL ESTATE PROBLEMS"
ReMax Professional Associates
Licensed in MA & CT
We need properties to sell - any type!
Conrad Allen
508.400.0438
callen1995@aol.com
RE/MAX
RE/MAX Professional Associates

Beat The Spring Market!!!
Call For A Market Analysis Now!!!
Interest Rates Are Declining.
Buyers Are Motivated
ReMax Vision
25 Union St., Worcester MA 01608
CALL JO-ANN FOR A MARKET ANALYSIS Licensed in MA & CT

Key Realty SERVICES
Donna Flannery Realtor®
508-612-6771
Donnaflanneryrealtor.com
Donnaflannery@erakey.net
OVER 30 YEARS SELLING LOCAL REAL ESTATE
NATIONAL ERA FINALIST TWICE FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE
TOP AGENT YEAR AFTER YEAR FOR # OF UNITS SOLD & SOLD DOLLAR VOLUME
ERA HALL OF FAME
415B Main Street Spencer, MA 01562

So Many Choices All just waiting for a buyer like you.
Find the home made for you. Let us work with you to find your dream home.
Lisa Caron Real Estate
42 W. Main Street, PO Box 447 Brookfield, MA 01506 Cell : 508-341-8299
Your Local Real Estate Professional, Broker Owner
GRI, ABR, LMC, CDPE, SRS, SRES, PSA, MRP, E-PRO, C2EX
Listing Specialist, Accredited Buyer Representative, Notary Public
Search Homes Instantly: <http://www.lisacaron.com>

Buying or Selling a home? Every move is a new beginning! Let me help you navigate the path through your next journey...

Bob Berk REALTOR
ReMax Vision
Worcester MA
508-367-9226
bobberrealtor@gmail.com
Call for a free market analysis!
MLS

Got Space?
we do.
Contact Mikaela Today
774-200-7308
mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

Sheriff's Office successfully brings Random Acts of Kindness initiative to Worcester County

REGION — Sheriff Lew Evangelidis and the Worcester County Sheriff's Office successfully carried out their Random Acts of Kindness Initiative (RAOK), spreading goodwill and encouraging thoughtful gestures during the nationally observed week of kindness, February 16–20.

Throughout the week, Sheriff's Office community teams traveled across the region, distributing more than 2,500 donated goody bags filled with snacks and bottled water at public locations, offering a visible reminder of the care, connection, and community focus of local law enforcement.

On Thursday, Feb. 19, Evangelidis joined staff in distributing bags throughout the City of Worcester, including a stop at Worcester Regional Airport, where teams shared bags with airport staff and travelers.

The initiative was inspired by the work of the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation, which promotes kindness as a means of strengthening communities nationwide. Founded in the mid-1990s amid concerns about rising violence, the organization helped spark a cultural shift toward promoting everyday kindness. Today, it serves as a leading force behind the observance of Random Acts of Kindness Week across the United States.

"Our role extends beyond enforcement to building trust and strengthening community relationships," Evangelidis said. "We were proud to spread positivity throughout Worcester County and remind residents that even the smallest act of kindness can make a lasting difference."

This year's effort was made possible through the support of CareOne at Millbury, Pepsi of Worcester, McCarty Companies, and Rockland Trust Bank, along with assistance from the Worcester County Reserve Deputy Sheriff's Association. Their generosity provided all 2,500 bags for staff to distribute.

The Sheriff's Office thanks residents, businesses, and community partners for helping make the initiative another success and for continuing to foster a spirit of kindness across Worcester County. The Office hosts community engagement events year-round; to learn more, visit www.WorcesterCountySheriff.com or follow the Sheriff's Office on social media for updates.



WCSO Worcester Regional Reentry Center Staff deliver RAOK bags to the Leicester Fire Department.

Where Everyone Goes For Their Piece Of The Earth!

SPRING IS COMING!
LANDSCAPING STONE
 Purple • Red • White
 Light Gray • Dark Gray
 Greige • Blue

- Construction Stone
- Title V Sand • Utility Sand
- Concrete Sand • Pool Liner Sand
- Chicken Coop Sand • Silt
- Stone Dust • Crushed Gravel
- Crushed Asphalt
- Crushed Concrete • Cold Patch

SELF PICK-UP OR CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR DELIVERY TODAY!

HOME OWNER FRIENDLY
 NO MINIMUMS

Bond 508-885-6100
 508-885-2480

Sand, Gravel & Asphalt

98 N. Spencer Rd., • Rte. 31N, Spencer, MA
www.bondsandandgravel.com

FOR PARTIES UP TO 6
 ENJOY **50% OFF** EACH ENTREE
 TUESDAY-THURSDAY 4:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Maxwell Luciano's

Inside Union Station
FREE PARKING
 2 Washington Square
 Worcester, MA 01604
 Good until April 17th, 2026



WCSO Community Teams deliver RAOK bags to the staff and patrons at Whitco Sales in Spencer.



QCC's director of community engagement receives Black Excellence award



Sean Harris

Improvement District for Downtown Worcester and Dress for Success. In 2023, he was recognized with the BIPOC Community Leader Award from the Diverse Professional Roundtable. Additionally, Harris was a founding member of the Worcester Youth Center and later served as its youngest executive director.

Harris has worked at QCC since 2021, becoming the Director of Community Engagement in 2023. In addition to fostering relationships and partnerships between QCC and the surrounding community, he co-chairs the Access to Opportunity Committee and serves as a member of the Advisory Council for Access & Opportunity.

"I'm deeply honored to be recognized among such dedicated leaders from across the state. Working within the Worcester community has always been rooted in unity and what we can accomplish together," said Harris.

The award winners were celebrated last week at a ceremony featuring remarks from Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll and keynote speaker Mechelle Brown, President of the Juice Foundation and mother of Celtic's star Jaylen Brown.

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College's Director of Community Engagement, Sean Harris, was recently named a 2026 Black Excellence of the Hill award recipient by the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus (MBLLC).

This annual honor celebrates Black and Latino Community leaders who are making a meaningful difference in their communities. Harris was nominated for the award by Massachusetts

State Representative David LeBoeuf.

"Sean embodies the best of QCC and the Worcester community. We are incredibly proud to see his impact recognized at the state level with this distinguished honor," said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja.

A longtime pillar of the Worcester community, Harris has supported local organizations and initiatives for decades. He is the founder of the Professional Men of Color Dinner Club and serves on the boards of the Business

LIVING ROOM SALE

Our finest lines will include Names like La-z-boy, Craftmaster, Best, Ashley and Lancer

We are in the process of selling out some Floor Samples! Come check them out at **BIG SAVINGS**

0% INTEREST - FOR 1 FULL YEAR!

www.sundeenfurnitureinc.com

Sundeen Furniture

241 Providence Rd., Whitinsville • 508-234-8777

FREE REMOVAL • FREE DELIVERY

M.T.W. 9:30-6:00; TH. & FRI. 9:30-7:00; SAT. 9:30-6:00; SUN 11-5