

SPENCER NEW LEADER

©2025, Issue #45 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, November 7, 2025



Courtesy

Cole Delage received the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's Founders Award of Excellence Saturday, Oct. 25. The Founders Award of Excellence was established in 1994 to honor students who embody the qualities of creativity, discovery, and leadership, and the values of pride and responsibility. The award consists of a special certificate, recognition by faculty, staff, and peers at the Honors Convocation ceremony, and a cash prize. Approximately 70 wonderful graduate or undergraduate students – about 1 percent of the student population – are honored each year as winners. Delage is a former graduate of Leicester High School's Class of 2023.

Cornerstone Bank sponsors Exchange Club of Spencer's fall food fest

SPENCER — Cornerstone Bank is once again supporting the Exchange Club of Spencer and its annual Fall Food Fest, contributing \$5,000 toward this year's event. This marks the third straight year the bank has sponsored the fundraiser.

The Fall Food Fest raises money for a designated community need each year. In 2025, proceeds will benefit the Prouty Boosters, a group that provides financial assistance to the athletic programs at David Prouty High School, serving students from Spencer and East Brookfield.

"Supporting local students and the programs that help them grow is an important part of strengthening our communities," said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. "The Spencer Exchange Club has a long tradition of uplifting local families, and we're proud to continue partnering with them to ensure student-athletes have the resources they need to thrive."

Earlier this year, Cornerstone Bank also donated \$1,000 to the Spencer Exchange Club's 18 Under 18 program, which recognizes exceptional youth leadership and community service.

The 2025 Fall Food Fest will take place on Saturday, Nov. 15 at the Spencer Country Inn. Local restaurants will feature tastings of their signature dishes, and attendees will enjoy raf-

fles, entertainment and opportunities to support local students. The event sells out annually, with tickets available at Sheena's Salon & Spa or through Exchange Club members.

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 cornerstone-bank.com or call 800-939-9103.

School District offers free meals to students in need

SPENCER — In light of the government shutdown, all schools in the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District will continue to provide one breakfast and one lunch each day to every student at no cost to families.

We understand this may be a challenging time for many, and we want to ensure that no child goes without a nutritious meal.

If you or someone you know is experiencing food insecurity in Massachusetts, please reach out to Project Bread's Food Source Hotline: <https://projectbread.org/food-source-hotline>.

Food Source Hotline counselors can assist in 180 languages and help families connect with additional resources such as the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program and local food pantries.

Together, we can make sure every child and family in our community has access to the support they need.

Spencer to hold Town Meeting tonight

SPENCER — The Town of Spencer will be holding a Special Town Meeting on Thursday, Nov. 6 at 7 p.m. in the Great Room, Town Hall, 157 Main St., Spencer.

A summary of the articles on the warrant is below:

ARTICLE 1:
DECREASE
APPROPRIATIONS FOR
FY 2026 VOCATIONAL
SCHOOL EXPENSES: A student has chosen to stay at David Prouty High School, making the appropriation for certain vocational school expenses unnecessary.

ARTICLE 2:
INCREASE
APPROPRIATIONS FOR
FY 2026 GENERAL
GOVERNMENT OPERATING
BUDGET: These are various adjustments, increases and decreases in the Fiscal Year 2026 General Fund Operating Budget.

ARTICLE 3:
AUTHORIZATION TO PAY
BILL OF A PRIOR FISCAL
YEAR: A bill was received for payment after the close of Fiscal Year 2025.

ARTICLE 4:
AUTHORIZATION FOR
THE PURCHASE OF NEW
SECURITY SYSTEM
FOR THE SPENCER FIRE
DEPARTMENT: This system would replace the current system which is at its end of life.

Turn To MEETING page A8

Susan Lyons named North Brookfield Town House Friends November Artist



Susan Lyons

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The Friends of the North Brookfield Town House are proud to introduce Susan Lyons as their November Artist of the Month. Lyons is originally from Washington, D.C., and currently resides in North Brookfield.

She has been playing music since she was a small child, beginning with percussion while accompanying her father on drums at age 10. When she reached her teens, her musical inspirations began to change from percussion to folk music and she taught herself to play acoustic and electric guitar. She learned folk songs by Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Woody Guthrie and others. She also became an avid Beatles fan as did most adolescents during that time. As years passed, Lyons performed as a solo folk singer/performer in the Washington area.

Her song sets are comprised of original songs, as well as blues, folk, country, and some jazzy arrangements of well-

known and fun songs everyone recognizes. Lyons' performances are geared to everyone of all ages and of all musical tastes. Her performances take the listener on a wonderful journey leaving them with their ears smiling as well as their faces.

Several of Lyons' songs may be accessed on the Friends' website Artist of the Month page by going to <https://nbtownhouse.com/featured-artists>.

The seed for Artist of the Month was planted at a Downtown Development Committee meeting during Covid, grew into a YouTube channel with the help of a Local Cultural Council grant for "Virtual Programming to Highlight the Local Arts Community," and finally blossomed as Artist of the Month on the Friends of the North Brookfield Town House Facebook and website pages.

Our premise always has been that by showcasing the work of area artists the Friends are emphasizing the rich cultural

Turn To LYONS page A8

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P.E.O. Chapter R to host informational meeting on educational funding for women

WORCESTER — Women seeking financial assistance for their educational goals are encouraged to attend an upcoming informational meeting hosted by P.E.O. Chapter R of Worcester. The event will focus on the variety of low-interest loans, grants, scholarships, and awards available through the Philanthropic Educational Organization (P.E.O.).

The P.E.O. Sisterhood is a U.S.-based international women's organization that was founded in 1869 by seven young women at Iowa Wesleyan College. Dedicated to its mission: "where women educate, motivate, and celebrate women," P.E.O. has grown to nearly a quarter of a million members across the U.S. and Canada, passionately committed to advancing women's education.

The organization's philanthropic work is extensive. P.E.O. proudly sponsors six international philanthropies that provide financial assistance to women at various



stages of their academic journey. These programs include:

- P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education (PCE): Provides need-based grants to women whose education has been interrupted and who must

return to school to improve their marketable skills.

- P.E.O. STAR Scholarship (STAR): A competitive scholarship for exceptional high school senior women entering post-secondary education.

- P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund (ELF): A low-interest loan program to assist qualified women

students in securing a higher education.

- P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship (IPS): A scholarship for international women students to pursue graduate study in the U.S. and Canada.

- P.E.O. Scholar Awards (PSA): Merit-based awards for women pursuing doctoral-level degrees.

In addition, P.E.O.

owns and supports Cottey College, an independent, baccalaureate-granting liberal arts and sciences institution for women in Nevada, Missouri.

Chapter R, led by Christine White (paws@townisp.com) invites the public to learn how these resources can provide opportunities for women pursuing various education-

al paths, including those returning to school, seeking career development, or continuing their academic studies.

Event Details

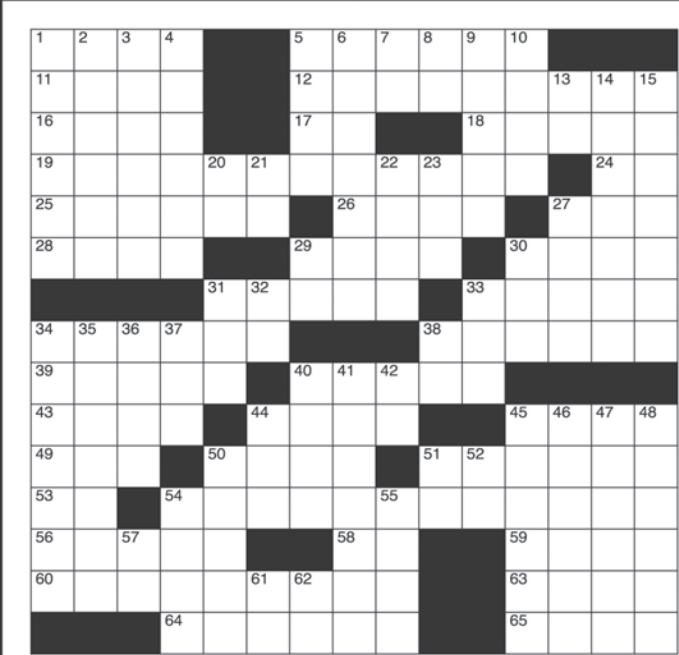
Attendees will receive details on eligibility requirements and the application processes for the organization's various financial programs. All P.E.O. financial projects require a recommendation from a local chapter, making this local information session a crucial first step.

What: Informational Meeting on P.E.O. Educational Funding
Who: P.E.O. Chapter R, Worcester
Where: Shrewsbury Public Library, Meeting Room A

When: Tuesday, Dec. 2, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Join the mission

Chapter R is also actively seeking new members who share their commitment to empowering women through education. The meeting offers a great opportunity for women interested in philanthropy and fellowship to learn more about the organization's work and how to join the local chapter in their mission to motivate, educate, and celebrate women.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Popular wine ___ Spumante

5. Greatly impressed

11. ___ and that

12. Uttered with passion

16. Boats

17. Veteran actor Harris

18. Casserole with game

19. Reprehensible acts

24. They precede C

25. Says under one's breath

26. Taxis

27. It transfers genetic info

28. NFL great Randy

29. Where college students sleep

30. Major European river

31. Taco condiment

33. -frutti

34. Polish city
38. Astronomy unit

39. Khoikhoi peoples

40. Bears QB Williams

43. Scrambled, fried, boiled

44. Price indicators

45. One-time world power

49. When you hope to get somewhere

50. Farm building

51. Choose carefully

53. Magnum was one

54. One who combines

56. Nursemaids

58. Partner to Pa

59. Notable river

60. Officially honors

63. Colorless compound

64. A fancy chair

65. Email function

CLUES DOWN

1. The central area in a building

2. Religion of Japan

3. Leggings

4. Officially distributes

5. Arabian Sea seaport

6. Spanish doctors

7. It cools your house

8. Currency of Poland

9. Slowly moves into

10. Days (Spanish)

13. Unit of volume

14. Emit

15. With two replaceable hydrogens

20. Title for a man

21. Equally

22. Scarlett's home

23. One-time tech titan

27. Subway dwellers

29. One-tenth of a liter

30. Central European river

31. Distress signal

32. Expression of sympathy

33. The bill in a restaurant
34. Football equipment

35. Dance music

36. Russian river

37. Cosmetics giant Mary ___

38. Gym class

40. Automobiles

41. Roman honorific

42. Losses in sports

44. Skin tone in summer

45. Distant planet

46. Critical humor

47. Illegally obtained

48. Go back over

50. Home appliance brand

51. Unit of radioactivity

52. Home of the Flyers

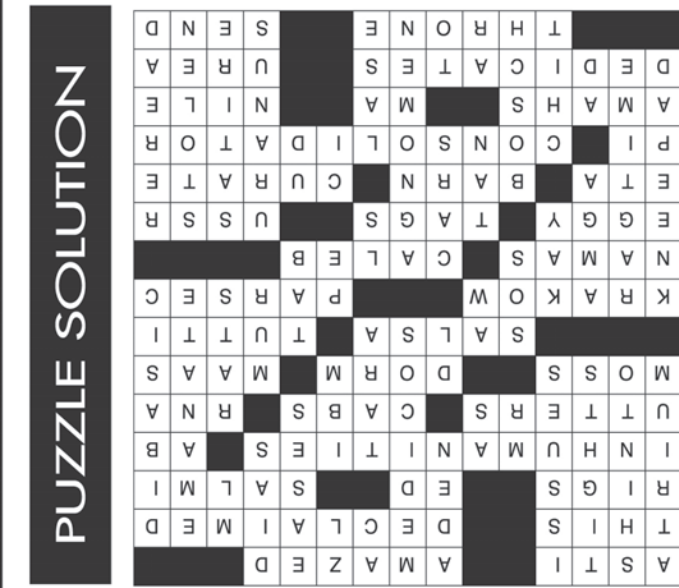
54. Short official note

55. Emit coherent radiation

57. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)

61. Most common noble gas (abbr.)

62. Toward



QCC receives \$106,000 TRAIN grant for PCA workforce program

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College was recently awarded a \$106,183 state grant for its Personal Care Assistant (PCA) workforce development program. The funding is part of approximately \$1.5 million in Training Resources and Internships Network (TRAIN) grants awarded by the Healey-Driscoll Administration. QCC has received over \$1.4 million in TRAIN grants since 2016.

QCC's PCA program will train 30 individuals as PCAs, providing an entry point to a career in healthcare. After successfully completing the PCA program, students will be prepared to work in entry-level positions in private residences, group homes and assisted living facilities, supervising and assisting

elderly, ill or disabled clients.

"This grant allows us to expand access to meaningful healthcare careers and meet a growing need in our community," said Director of Workforce Development Operations Kathleen O'Connor. "Personal Care Aides play a vital role in supporting older adults and individuals with disabilities, and demand for qualified caregivers continues to rise. Our PCA program not only prepares students for immediate employment but also opens doors to long-term career growth."

The PCA program is designed to equip students with the essential knowledge, skills and competencies required to provide high-quality care in various settings. The curriculum emphasizes hands-on

training, real-world scenarios and foundational healthcare knowledge to ensure students are well prepared for their roles.

All students will receive 80 hours of classroom training, including Basic Life Support (BLS) Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification training and workforce readiness training, as well as 16 experiential learning hours through an internship with employer partners. Students also have access to support services such as financial literacy assistance, family support services and transportation.

For more information on QCC's workforce development programs, visit QCC.edu/wfd.

WEEKLY POLICE BLOTTER

Leicester

The Leicester Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Oct. 23-29.

Salvatore Michael Venuti, age 40, of Worcester was arrested on Oct. 26 for Failure to Appear Upon Recognizance (Misdemeanor).

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Oct. 27 for Shoplifting By Asportation.

Cristalee Marianne Badillo Gonzalez, age 35, and Caridad Sanchez Pulido, age 60, both of Worcester, were arrested on Oct. 28 for Larceny Over \$1,200.

Nathaniel G. Griffin, age 26, of Worcester was arrested on Oct. 28 for Trespassing and Shoplifting By Asportation.

Spencer

The Spencer Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Oct. 22-28.

Fusheng Huang, age 36, of Fresh Meadows, N.Y. was arrested on Oct. 23 for Attempted Larceny by Single Scheme and Conspiracy.

Cheryl E. Herring, age 52, of Millbury was arrested on Oct. 24 in connection with a warrant.

James E. Woodbury, age 49, of Spencer was arrested on Oct. 24 for Trafficking in More Than 10 Grams of Fentanyl and Trafficking in 18 Grams or More of Cocaine.

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SPENCER ALMANAC

— REAL ESTATE —

BROOKFIELD
None

EAST BROOKFIELD
None

LEICESTER
\$349,000, 620 Henshaw St, Reeks, Dawn C, and 1900 Capital Tti, to 1900 Capital Tti, and Us Bank TNa Tr.

NORTH BROOKFIELD
None

SPENCER
NONE

WARREN
\$151,000, 38 Elm St, Warren Town Of, to Foote Jr, Myron D.

WEST BROOKFIELD
\$400,000, 25 Highland Trl, Cienciwa Jr, Frederick, and Cienciwa, Cynthia C, to Bsm Hsh LLC.
\$300,000, 67 Juniper St, Leblanc, Kelsei, to Jennings, Brian P.

DA hosts event highlighting holistic approaches to recovery



WORCESTER — On Oct. 23, Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr. welcomed community members, including recovery advocates, health and wellness professionals, and law enforcement personnel to Veterans Inc. in Shrewsbury for a half-day event organized by the Prevention and Support Network. This event focused on supporting individuals and families affected by substance use disorders (SUD) through holistic, mind-body approaches to recovery. Keynote speaker Linda Geraghty, a trauma-informed yoga instructor and family recovery specialist featured in the award-winning documentary Our American Family, spoke about the deep connection between trauma and substance use. Drawing from both professional expertise and her own experience, she emphasized how recovery requires attention to one's entire system — body, mind, and family — not just the symptoms of addiction. "Addiction is relentless. We often try to hide it while our families get sicker. Engaging in open conversations is crucial to truly understanding this disease, and that understanding is vital for the family's healing," said Linda Geraghty. Geraghty highlighted the ways in which stress and trauma can live in the body, and how practices like yoga, breathwork, and mindfulness can help release those patterns, restore regulation, and rebuild trust in oneself and others. Geraghty underscored the importance of supporting families, emphasizing that addiction affects loved ones as profoundly as those experiencing it firsthand, and that breaking generational cycles of trauma and addiction begins with compassion, communication, and consistent support. Her work integrates trauma-informed principles to help families navigate recovery with understanding, boundaries, and resilience — key themes that resonated with many in attendance. A panel of local wellness professionals expanded on these ideas, offering practical insights

into how holistic methods can complement traditional treatment and recovery pathways. Panelists included Kellie Hamilton, founder of A Better Path to Wellness; Phil George, clinical biochemist; Jacqueline Monteiro, wellness practitioner and recovery coach; Anthony Bizzotto, president and co-founder of Revive of the U.S.A., Inc.; and Heidi Moody, personal trainer and L3 CrossFit coach. Each spoke about the ways nutrition, movement, mindfulness, and community engagement contribute to sustainable recovery and overall wellbeing. Throughout the event, attendees also took part in guided mindfulness exercises and movement breaks, offering moments to practice the very mind-body techniques discussed during the program. These activities encouraged participants to experience firsthand how mindfulness and movement can support focus, stress relief, and emotional balance. District Attorney Early commended the speakers and attendees for their shared commitment to exploring new, compassionate approaches to supporting recovery throughout Worcester County. He noted that addressing addiction requires collaboration across every part of the community — treatment and health care providers, families, schools, clergy, law enforcement, and local organizations — working together to reduce stigma and create lasting change.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR NOVEMBER 7-14

Friday, Nov. 7
The air turns crisp, the sky turns gray, but cheer still brightens this November day! The Leicester Senior Center starts at ten, with coffee, cards, and chatter again. Over in Spencer, from six until nine, the Congregational Church serves dinner divine.
Saturday, Nov. 8
Bundle your coat, step out for a stroll, to the Brookfield Library — feed your soul! A used-book sale from nine to two, with paperbacks waiting just for you. In North Brookfield, crafts take flight, at the Town House fair from noon 'til night.
Sunday, Nov. 9
Church bells ring, the hymns resound, gratitude rising from town to town. At 2 p.m., in East Brookfield's square, the VFW gathers with flags to share. They'll honor all who served with pride — bring flowers, thanks, and hearts open wide.
Monday, Nov. 10
The weekend's gone, but don't feel blue, the Spencer Library has stories for you! At 3:30 sharp, the kids convene, for tales of courage, crisp and clean. And Leicester's scouts will meet at seven, planning wreaths for gates of heaven.
Tuesday, Nov. 11 — VETERANS DAY
Stand still a moment — let silence ring. Remember the freedom their service did bring. At Spencer's Doughboy statue, eleven o'clock, townsfolk gather, hearts unlocked. Then on to West Brookfield, green and wide, where flags salute from every side.
Wednesday, Nov. 12
Midweek hums with gentle pace, a quilting class at Leicester's Grace! The church hall fills with chatter and thread, from six to eight, as patterns spread. Meanwhile, the Brookfield Council on Aging hosts bingo rounds — quite engaging!
Thursday, Nov. 13
As frost paints lace on windowpanes, the East Brookfield cooks bake up sweet gains. At the Senior Center by half past five, a potluck supper comes alive. Bring your pie, your smile, your tune — we'll eat, we'll laugh, beneath the moon.
Friday, Nov. 14
Week's end calls, but one more treat — at Spencer Town Hall, a concert neat! Local voices, fiddles too, singing songs both old and new. A fitting close to nights grown cold — where friendship shines like autumn gold.

Household Hazardous Waste Day in North Brookfield

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The North Brookfield Recycling Center, located at 58 East Brookfield Rd., will hold a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day Saturday, Nov. 15, from 9 a.m. — noon.

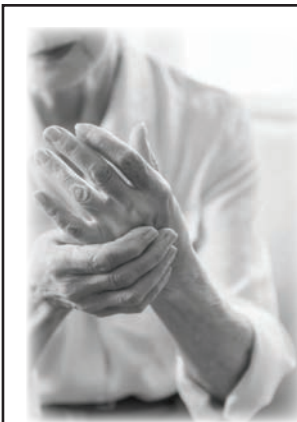
Residents of North Brookfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Spencer, Charlton, Warren, and Leicester may bring in the following:

Up to 10 gallons/10 pounds at no charge
10-24 gallons/pounds for \$35
25 gallons/pounds or more for a minimum of \$60 (charge determined on site)

All fees must be paid on the day of the event. Checks should be made payable to the "Town of North Brookfield."

The following is a list of all types of hazardous waste we WILL be collecting: Drain cleaners, metal polish, photo chemicals, dry cleaning fluids, rust preventatives, wood strippers, paint thinner, sealants, gasoline, engine and radiator flushes, old chemistry sets, herbicides, brake fluid, pool chemicals, creosote fertilizer, moth balls, ammonia, oven cleaners, arts and crafts supplies, floor cleaners, radiator cleaners, wood preservatives, oil-based paints, solvent degreasers, antifreeze, transmission fluid, pesticides, insect sprays, rodent killers, muriatic acid, kerosene, bleaches, cesspool cleaners, and mercury.

The following items will not be accepted: Latex paint, compressed gas cylinders, explosives or shock-sensitive materials and ammunition, unknown materials, radioactive materials, infectious or biologically active materials, dioxin, tri-, tetra-, and pentachlorophenol and their chlorophenoxy derivative acids, esters, ethers, amine, and other salts.



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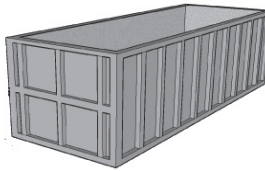


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BRENDAN BERUBE
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EDITORIAL

A season to remember and reflect

As November settles in across Central Massachusetts, the air takes on a quiet clarity. The fields are stubbled from harvest, Main Street is lined with flags, and the chill of early winter seems to sharpen our sense of gratitude. Veterans Day arrives, as it always does, not with fanfare, but with reflection.

Across Spencer, Leicester, and the Brookfields, the people who once wore the nation’s uniform still walk among us — in grocery aisles, at select board meetings, at youth soccer games. Many no longer speak much of their service, but the discipline, humility, and care they carry into everyday life continue to shape the character of our towns.

Each Nov. 11, ceremonies at small-town monuments remind us that freedom is not self-sustaining. It is carried forward by ordinary people who have shouldered extraordinary burdens — those who served in distant wars, and those who serve still, from the deserts of the Middle East to the skies above Europe. Their sacrifices are not abstractions. They are written in the steady hum of community life: the quiet volunteer firefighter who once patrolled a faraway base, the nurse who learned compassion in a field hospital, the teacher who first learned patience while training recruits.

To honor veterans means more than offering thanks once a year. It means continuing to build the kind of nation they believed in — one that prizes fairness, civic duty, and neighborly respect. It means supporting local veterans’ organizations, checking in on an aging neighbor, and teaching young people why those small bronze plaques downtown matter.

As the last leaves fall and the year turns toward its close, Veterans Day calls us to pause amid the noise, to look at the flag not as a backdrop but as a promise. The promise that we remember. The promise that we continue the work they began.

This week, may every small-town parade, every moment of silence, and every handshake offered to a veteran serve as more than tradition. May it be an act of gratitude that binds our communities — and reminds us who we are.

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

We remember them

To the Editor:

In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,
WE REMEMBER THEM.

In the opening of the buds and the rebirth of spring,
WE REMEMBER THEM.

In the blueness of the skies and the warmth of summer,
WE REMEMBER THEM.

In the rustling of the leaves and the beauty of autumn,
WE REMEMBER THEM.

In the beginning of the year and when it ends,
WE REMEMBER THEM.

When we are weary and in need of strength,
WE REMEMBER THEM.

When we are lost and sick at heart,

WE REMEMBER THEM.

When we have joys and special celebrations we yearn to share,
WE REMEMBER THEM.

When we see our nation’s young marching behind our flag or hear “TAPS” played,
WE REMEMBER THEM.

So long as we live, they shall live, for they are a part of us,
WE REMEMBER THEM.

And when we answer the final roll, we know that our brothers and sisters will fulfill their duty and greet us with the words of compassion and friendship and peace and love.

WE REMEMBER THEM.

HANK HOUGHTON
WEST BROOKFIELD

Alternate universe

To the Editor:

I think we all have been abducted by aliens. We have masked goon squads wandering our cities, ignoring the constitution, and habeus corpus rights of people they grab focusing mainly on color and language spoken. Because Western Mass. has so many Puerto Ricans, the focus elsewhere, knowing they are citizens, but still arrest and detain many. Back in the 1940’s, we were all ANTIFA (anti fascists). The loons currently in power says all Dems are Hamas or ANTIFA. Let me paraphrase that- Dems are all terrorists or good guys. John Bolton was right. They have aligned themselves with a liar and moron.

His treatment of “our” White House is appalling. Ripping out the Rose Garden to install a Mar-a-Lago patio was shocking. Demolishing the east wing of the Whitehouse, a 55,000-square-foot historic monument, to add a 90,000-square-foot ballroom is tasteless and defaces a national monument. The many hotel ballrooms they use for inaugural balls should be adequate to any event. Doing this during a government shutdown reeks, as does his outlandish claim that we owe him for investigating him. He stopped or delayed indictments, but has never won any case brought. I assure you, nobody is dumb enough to indict a past or sitting POTUS without having slam dunk evidence.

There can be no doubt that Trump is a pervert and sexual predator. Not only does he have 5 kids by three wives he cheated on, some he tried to payoff for silence. Only one of the several women he assaulted was willing to have their life destroyed for coming forward. After she won the case, he defamed her again, and lost again. Having won a large judgement, but being relegated to living as a

hermit, with fences and guards, more closely resembles prison than luxury, and explains why no others have come forward. Would finding proof that he got oral sex from a 12 year old, as stated by a 14 year old Epstein victim, lower your opinion of him? Do you think his inconvenience of being investigated, warrants us paying him \$230 million that he says he will then donate, during a government shutdown, when many cannot afford food, rent or healthcare?

Does anyone actually think the Dems voting for a re-opening would secure anything from the same people putting trillions on the debt, wasting money hand over fist, but cutting goods and services for we peons? If you think so, you do live in an alternate universe.

I must have overlooked some acts of Congress. When was the vote that gave POTUS tariff powers? When was the vote that took the power of the purse away from the house? Wasn’t messing with appropriated funds to defend Ukraine, the reason for his first impeachment? Was.t his involvement in the Jan. 6 insurrection, the reason for the second one? Does not Section #3 of the 14th Amendment ban supporters of insurrection from holding federal office unless that ban is lifted by a two thirds vote of both houses of Congress? When was that vote? Impeachment is not required to removed illegal office holder.

Our feckless SCOTUS ruled that Colorado could not remove his name from their ballot, “Leaving it up to Congress.” Since they did not ever lift the ban, no impeachment needed, just enforcement

KEN KIMBALL
BROOKFIELD

November 2025

To the Editor:

November is named after the Latin word ‘Novem.’ It means nine, because November was originally the ninth month of the Roman calendar, before January and February were added in the northern hemisphere.

November is a time for change. It’s also special because the month means so many things that are secular and non-secular. Let’s explore many of the special happenings and events in the month.

National Adoption Awareness Month — To raise public awareness about the number of children in foster care awaiting permanent adoption. The 2025 theme in America is “Honoring youth, strengthening for lasting bonds.”

November: during the month of November, an annual event for men to grow moustaches is to raise awareness and funds for men’s health issues; to participate in activities to support the cause and challenge the stigma surrounding men’s health.

Daylight Savings Time, ending Nov. 2, starting March 9 — the purpose is to make more efficient use of natural daylight.

National Native American Month: The observance honors the history, culture and achievements of Native Americans.

Advent — The period of Nov. 30 to Dec. 24. A time of waiting and preparation for both the celebration of Jesus’s birth at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming.

Nov. 1, All Saints Day. A day to thank all the saints for their dedication and

service. The celebration stems from the belief that the living are linked to those in heaven.

Nov. 2, All Souls Day, a time for solemn reflection and remembrance of those who have passed; also provides comfort and hope for eternal life.

Nov. 11, Veterans Day, signing of an armistice marking the end of World War I, which happened on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. To honor veterans and promote world peace. To all our veterans far and near, we are proud of your service. Let’s make that very clear. Your actions, bravery and sacrifices made allow us to honor you with a military parade.

Nov. 27, Thanksgiving Day. Americans give thanks and express gratitude for the year’s blessings.

Our first Thanksgiving was held in the year 1621. A harvest feast was shared in Plymouth, with the Pilgrims and Wampanoag Native Americans giving thanks for each other’s contributions. The purpose of Thanksgiving is to express gratitude, foster togetherness, promote generosity and family unity.

November focuses on the positive events in life. A month filled with history, activities, happenings and celebrations. It is a month of change, remembrance and gratitude. Take the time to enjoy your family and friends each and every day of the month.

DONALD L. GAUDETTE, SR.
SOUTH HADLEY (FORMERLY OF BROOKFIELD)

Smart financial moves to make before year-end



FINANCIAL FOCUS

TREVOR NIELSEN

As the year winds down, it’s the perfect time to make some smart moves before the calendar flips to 2026. Think of it as a financial tune-up that could help with saving money and setting you up for success in the months ahead. Here are some things to consider.

Don’t forget about required withdrawals. If you’re 73 or older, you’ll need to take your required minimum distribution from traditional retirement accounts to avoid a 25 percent penalty on any amount you should have withdrawn but didn’t. This rule also applies to some people who inherited retirement accounts, including certain Roth accounts.

Use your flexible spending money. Got money sitting in a flexible spending account at work? Remember, these accounts follow a “use it or lose it” rule. Check with your HR department about your plan’s specific deadlines for spending the money and submitting receipts. Whether it’s that dental work you’ve been putting off or new prescription glasses you need, now’s the time to use those funds before they disappear.

Boost your retirement savings. Consider ramping up your pretax retirement contributions before year-end. Not only will this help your future self, but it might also reduce your current tax bill. If your workplace plan allows it, you can even set up automatic increases for next year so you won’t have to remember to do it later.

Share the wealth through gifting. In 2025, the current tax rules let you give family or friends up to \$19,000 per person without affecting your lifetime gift tax exemption. Married couples can combine their allowances to give up to \$38,000 per person. Plus, you can pay someone’s tuition or medical bills directly without these payments counting against your gift limits at all.

Navigate new tax changes. The recently passed One Big Beautiful Bill Act has made several tax provisions permanent, including lower individual tax rates and higher standard deductions. However, it also introduces new changes that might affect your situation. It’s worth sitting down with a financial advisor or tax professional to understand how these updates impact your specific circumstances.

Examine your investments. Take some time to review your investment portfolio. Ask yourself: Did your investments perform as expected this year? Do they still match your goals and comfort level with risk? You might need to rebalance things to get back on track.

Build up your emergency fund. It’s ideal to have enough cash saved to cover three to six months of living expenses in an easily accessible account. This safety net can prevent you from having to raid your retirement savings when unexpected expenses pop up.

Review your estate planning documents. This is especially important if you’ve had major life changes like marriage, divorce or a new baby. Don’t forget to check the beneficiary designations on all your bank and brokerage accounts as well as life insurance policies – these often override what’s written in your will.

Taking care of these financial housekeeping tasks now can help you start the new year on solid ground.

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.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This country is a constitutional republic

To the Editor:

Kudos to Ms. Linda Buckley on her Viewpoint (“The Democratic Party is the enemy of America”).

A constitutional republic is a system where officials are elected by citizens and government power is limited by a constitution. This letter outlines the structure of government, defines its powers, and establishes individual rights.

The key features include the rule of law, where all are accountable under the law; it emphasizes the protection of individuals’ rights and liberties and the separation of powers among government branches. The structure prevents power concentration and safeguards against arbitrary rule.

The United States is best understood as a blend of both a representative democracy and a constitutional republic. The framers of the Constitution intentionally designed a system that incorporated elements from both forms of government. They sought to harness the benefits of popular participation while simultaneously guarding against the potential for “mob rule” or the tyranny of the majority.

The republican framework, characterized by the Constitution, the rule of law, and

limited government, provides the essential structure and safeguard. This framework ensures that governmental power is constrained and that individual rights are protected, elections and citizen participation, allow the will of the people to be expressed and shape governance. This dual nature creates a system where elected representatives govern within the constitutional limits, balancing the power of the people with the protection of fundamental rights and the stability of established law.

It is obvious to me, and should be to those who are reading this article; the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag is proof.

I, we, pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands; one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

I am neither Democrat nor Republican, I am Independent. I vote for the party, person, that will have the citizens’ best interest and live by God’s moral laws.

God instituted the government, law (Romans 13).

Dwell in peace!

ROLAND BLAIS
BROOKFIELD

A Veterans Day thank you

To the Editor:

In recognition of Veterans’ Day, the Cherry Valley American Legion extends its sincere gratitude to all men and women who have served and continue to serve our country.

We also wish to acknowledge the individuals and businesses whose generous monetary donations and volunteer efforts supported the Gold Star Square Project and the Soldiers, Scouts, and Students movement. Because of your support, we have been able to install solar-lit signs and QR codes, which tell the powerful story behind

each hero’s sacrifice. These squares are now further enhanced with new shrubs and flowers.

Our work is ongoing, and we remain dedicated to completing all 19 squares. Your help and donations have been invaluable, and we are grateful for your support.

Thank you, and May God Bless America.

MARY SMALL
CHERRY VALLEY AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY
LEICESTER

SNL understands the MAGA “smokescreens”

To the Editor:

Peter Wehner, a real Republican Conservative, worked for President George W. Bush. He recently wrote an article called “Trump’s Plan Is Now Out in the Open – It’s getting harder and harder to avoid connecting the authoritarian dots.”

Wehner ended the article with a quote from Victor Havel: “I have few illusions, but I feel a responsibility to work towards things I consider good and right. I don’t know whether I’ll be able to change certain things for the better or not at all. Both outcomes are possible. There is only one thing I will not concede. That it might be meaningless to strive in a good cause.”

(Havel led Czechoslovakia’s “Velvet Revolution” which overthrew the then Soviet Russia’s dictatorship in 1989. Putin worked for that dictatorship and now, an indicted war criminal, murderously tries to re-establish it in Ukraine and other countries. Trump greatly admires Putin and the “strongman” crimes he commits.)

Recently, Trump not only spoke out about the vicious terrorist group Boko Haram. It operates in Nigeria and other countries. He indicated that without any agreement from our government or Nigeria’s that he would invade it and wipe out that Boko Haram to protect “Christians” Boko Haram has existed for about 25 years. So why does Trump decide to go after with American soldiers now?

Instead why hasn’t Trump done something “real” about Putin and Russia’s murderous attacks on “Christians” in Ukraine and the hundreds of thousand or millions that have been killed, wounded, children kidnapped or forced to become refugees?

Recently too, the Trump administration has been blowing up very small boats and the people in them in international oceans again without seeking approval. His excuse to do this – the unproven case that the boats contained fentanyl and other drugs. In fact, Trump’s own administration says that over 90 percent of these drugs, mostly made in China, arrive by land or in large container ships. So what Trump needs to do is (a) boost inspections at those entry points and put maximum pressure on China to halt production (rather than saying “please” to another Trump admired “strongman”).

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Food security

When the stock market crashed in 1929, it didn’t just erase fortunes—it erased certainty. Factories went dark. Payrolls vanished. The hum of American industry fell to silence, replaced by the hollow echo of empty stomachs.

By 1933, unemployment had soared to nearly fifteen million—more than one in five workers. Families who once counted on a paycheck now counted pennies, or borrowed bread from neighbors who were just as poor.

In city after city, long lines snaked around corners, men in threadbare coats clutching tin cups and children holding out chipped bowls. Hunger had no party, no region, no mercy.

And then came the dust.

As if economic ruin weren’t enough, the early 1930s brought a second catastrophe. The Great Plains—once called the nation’s breadbasket—became a wasteland. Years of drought and over-farming tore the topsoil loose, and winds carried it east in storms so dense they turned day into night.

By 1934, one hundred million acres of farmland lay barren. Crops withered. Livestock suffocated. Entire families packed what they could onto rattling trucks and fled west, their lives reduced to dust and memory.

But out of that dust, compassion took root.

Ordinary citizens—neighbors, church groups, and volunteers—refused to wait for government relief that was still tangled in red tape. In living rooms and church basements, they poured kettles of soup, handed out bread loaves, and opened their

doors to strangers. These homegrown soup kitchens ran on donations, not directives.

In Detroit, Capuchin friars opened a humble kitchen that would serve thousands each day, surviving on faith and flour. Even Chicago’s most unlikely philanthropist, Al Capone, set up a soup line—not out of sainthood, of course.

Across the nation, gymnasiums became dining halls, union halls became food depots, and women’s auxiliaries became engines of mercy. The system was imperfect and chaotic, but it worked.

No one knows exactly how many Americans were starving, but by 1932, a quarter of all families had no wage earner at all. Hunger was not a number—it was a cold morning, an empty pot, a mother whispering to her child, “We’ll find something tomorrow.”

Out on the plains, where the dust blotted out the sun, the same story unfolded. Farm wives gathered wild berries. Neighbors shared seed and sugar. Churches turned barns into relief depots. At train stations, small-town committees left buckets of milk and bread for migrants heading west. And in California’s orchards, locals organized food drives for the endless wave of families who had lost everything but their will to survive.

By the late 1930s, those collective acts of kindness—migrant relief kitchens, church pantries, and conservation efforts—had begun to turn the tide. Fields were reseeded. Families found work. The wind still blew, but hope had returned to the soil.

Things may change by the time you read this, but as of now, the federal government shutdown has halted the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—known to most as food stamps or EBT. More than 42 million Americans rely on that card to buy groceries and feed their families. A judge has ordered the administration to make the payments, but delays mean refrigerators are empty.

Wherever you stand on the issue, I hope we can all agree that when the system pauses, the people must not.

Throughout our history, when hardship struck—whether in the breadlines of the Great Depression or the barren fields of the Dust Bowl—it wasn’t bureaucracy that saved us. It was we, neighbors, who refused to look away. Church volunteers stirring soup at dawn. Farmers who shared seed they could barely spare. Americans have always filled the gap with compassion and courage, long before any program or policy could.

That’s the tradition we inherit. That’s what makes this country strong.

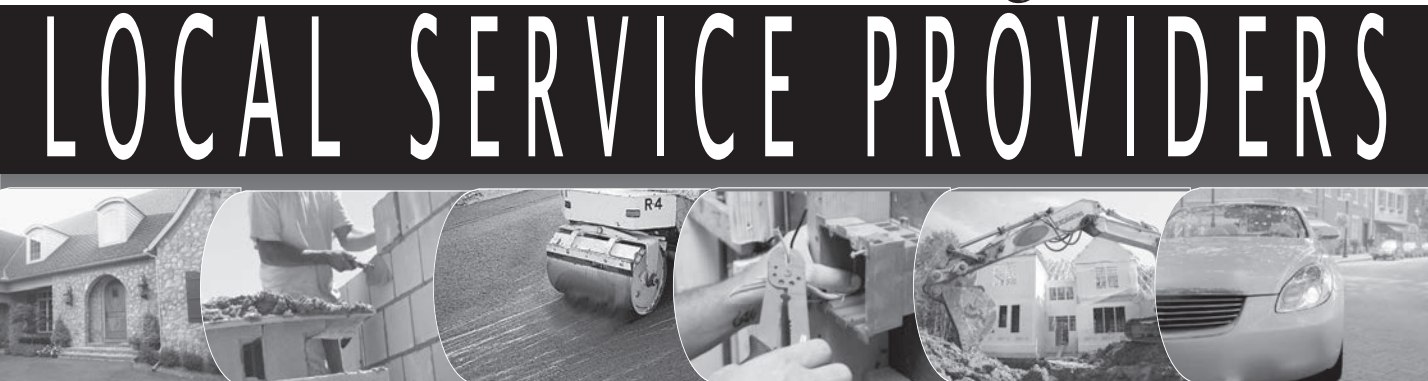
So go to the store. Pick up some rice, beans, noodles, pasta sauce, peanut butter, honey, and bread—whatever lasts and nourishes. Drop it off at your local food pantry. Share this with your friends and encourage them to do the same.

Please don’t wait for permission or for Washington to solve it. The United States is swimming in food; no one should go hungry.

America’s greatness has never come from government checks—it has come from human hands, and from hearts that move.

That’s the American way.

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Gretheline Bolandrina at the Sturbridge Big Y.

Courtesy

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy continues longstanding partnership with Big Y

CHARLTON — For more than a decade, Big Y Supermarkets has been a steadfast supporter of the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, contributing to the growth and success of future nurses through generous donations, scholarships, and community partnerships.

The partnership between Big Y and Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy reflects a shared commitment to education, community health, and service — values that have shaped both institutions for years.

In 2013, Big Y supported then Professor Gretheline Bolandrina's clinical group, as the nursing students gain real-world experience and complete the hands-on training essential for their licensure, at the end of term and last clinical night, Big Y provided snacks.

By 2016, their generosity extended to holiday cheer, with the Practical Nursing Academy receiving \$25 Big Y gift card and

packaged in a festive mug — a thoughtful gesture recognizing the hard work and dedication of a lucky student during a rigorous academic year.

The collaboration continued in 2019 when Big Y proudly awarded the Big Y Scholarship to Deanna Scaramangos, of Paxton, acknowledging her excellence and potential in the nursing field. Deanna completed the program, passed her NCLEX-PN on her first attempt, and was gainfully employed.

Big Y's involvement has not been limited to student recognition. In 2020, with Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services providing Mental Health First Aid Training, promoting awareness and resilience among healthcare students and professionals — a vital focus amid the growing need for mental health support in healthcare, again, Big Y provided snacks.

Throughout 2021, Big Y continued to show its support for Bay

Path Practical Nursing Academy's mission and the broader community. Most recently, in 2023, Big Y once again demonstrated its commitment to humanitarian efforts by encouraging customers to donate to the American Red Cross Hawaii Wildfires Relief, matching community compassion with corporate leadership, a project that the practical nursing students fully embraced.

From scholarships and student support to community outreach and disaster relief, Big Y's contributions exemplify what it means to invest in people — especially those preparing to serve others in nursing and healthcare.

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy extends heartfelt thanks to Big Y for its partnership and for nurturing a spirit of compassion, education, and community care that continues to inspire students year after year.

Sheriff's Office announces annual Winter Coat Drive distributions

REGION — With winter fast approaching, the Worcester County Sheriff's Office and Worcester County Reserve Deputy Sheriff's Association are preparing for their Annual Winter Coat Drive. Their goal is to distribute 4,000 brand-new warm winter coats to those in Worcester County who need them, helping them stay comfortable during the winter months.

Distributions are planned on Nov. 4 at 10 a.m. at the Webster Dudley Food Share, 4 Church St., Webster, and Nov. 6 at 10:30 a.m. at the El Buen Samaritano Food Pantry, 39 Piedmont St., Worcester.

During the first weeks of November, Sheriff Lew Evangelidis and his team will distribute thousands of coats directly to local service organizations and community members. These coats will help keep people



ple warm during the colder months and represent the support and care from local law enforcement.

The annual coat drive

attracts many community sponsors, including Saint Francis Community Health Care, The Gun Parlor, Mercadante Funeral Home,

Cliff & Susan Rucker Foundation, The Krock Family & Commerce Associates, CareOne at Millbury, The Overlook,

Diamond Auto Group, KAL Construction & Remodeling, Chop Chop Convenience, Falcone Enterprises, NEPBA Local

550 Worcester County Correction Officers, Pat's Service Center, Quality Companies, Rockland Trust Bank, and Pam Massad, in Memory of "Duddie" and Bette Massad. Many other community organizations and businesses have also stepped up to support the initiative.

"The Worcester County Sheriff's Office Winter Coat Drive aims to strengthen connections with law enforcement across different communities in Worcester County," Sheriff Lew Evangelidis commented. "When we distribute these jackets, the recipients express a tremendous sense of gratitude. This time of the year is special for the Sheriff's Department, and we are excited to connect with the community members we serve."

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Bay Path students receive InvenTeam grant to create technological solution to real-world problem



CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School (BPRVTHS) was recently awarded a Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam® grant in the amount of \$7,500 to create an invention geared towards helping people that are wheelchair-bound. This invention will allow them to visit areas that are otherwise inaccessible. BPRVTHS is one of only eight high schools nationwide to be selected as an InvenTeam this year. The BPRVTHS InvenTeam is inventing a solution to the inefficiency, compromised safety, and lack of comfort present in wheelchairs used to access sandy beaches. Through our invention, we seek to improve the beach-going experience, promote accessibility and independence for wheelchair-bound people with an efficient, safe, and comfortable wheelchair design. Kristine Wade, science teacher, at BPRVTHS initiated the InvenTeam application process during the summer and worked with the students to prepare the final proposal. A respected panel of university professors, inventors, entrepreneurs, industry professionals, and college students including former InvenTeam members now working in industry selected the grantees.

Over the next eight months, our BPRVTHS InvenTeam will develop a solution to the problem. Our team will build a working prototype that will be showcased at a technical review here locally in February, and then again as a final prototype during EurekaFest®, an invention celebration taking place in June.

"The InvenTeams initiative has been a grand MIT experiment and proven that all youth can invent when given the opportunity," says Leigh Estabrooks, Lemelson-MIT's Invention Education Officer. "Our 22 years of working with high school teams in their communities shows the extraordinary power of invention

education. Teams will work extremely hard throughout this entire school year becoming experts in their self-selected problems as well as the technological solutions. It's an honor to work with such empathetic young people who care about making our lives safer, healthier, and more accessible."

The InvenTeams grants initiative has enabled 214 students to be awarded U.S. patents for their high school inventions. Hundreds more students have patent pending designations for their inventions. Intellectual property education is combined with our invention education offerings as part of the Lemelson-MIT Program's deliberate efforts to remedy historic inequities among those who develop inventions, protect their intellectual property, and commercialize their creations.

The ongoing efforts empower students from all backgrounds, equipping them with invaluable problem-solving skills that will serve them well throughout their academic journeys, professional pursuits, and personal lives. The program has worked with over 4,000 students across 312 InvenTeams nationwide and has included:

Partnering with intellectual property law firms to provide pro bono legal support

Collaborating with industry-leading companies that provide technical guidance and mentoring

Providing professional development for teachers on invention and IP education

Assisting teams with identifying resources within their communities' innovation ecosystems to support ongoing invention efforts

Publishing case studies and research to inform the work of invention educators and policy makers and build support for engaging students in efforts to invent solutions to real-world problems thus fueling the innovation economy in the U.S.

The Lemelson-MIT Program (LMIT) is a nation-

al leader in efforts to prepare the next generation of inventors and entrepreneurs. Their work focuses on the expansion of opportunities for people to learn ways inventors find and solve problems that matter to improve

lives. Their commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion aims to remedy historic inequities among those who develop inventions, protect their intellectual property and commercialize their creations.

Jerome H. Lemelson, one of U.S. history's most prolific inventors, and his wife Dorothy founded the Lemelson-MIT Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1994. It is funded by The Lemelson

Foundation and administered by the School of Engineering at MIT, an institution with a strong ongoing commitment to creating meaningful opportunities for K-14 STEM education.

A legacy of leadership, a heart for nursing

BAY PATH HONORS RETIRING ACADEMY DIRECTOR



Courtesy

Superintendent Kyle Brenner with Dr. Gretheline Bolandrina.

CHARLTON — Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy and Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School bid a heartfelt farewell to its longtime leader, Dr. Gretheline Ramos Bolandrina, Academy Director, who retired on Thursday, Oct. 30. The

event marked the end of a remarkable 12-year tenure defined by leadership, compassion, and dedicated service to the nursing community.

Under Dr. Bolandrina's direction, the Practical Nursing program flourished, earning recognition

for its academic rigor and the signature human touch she infused into every aspect of the curriculum. Her influence shaped generations of nurses, inspiring them to lead with professionalism, excellence, and heart.

A heartfelt celebration of service

Colleagues, faculty, and administrators from Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School gathered to honor Dr. Bolandrina's contributions.

The celebration featured a special presentation by Superintendent Kyle Brenner, who unveiled the gift to Dr. Bolandrina an engraved Standard Chair of Gardner. This handcrafted piece from a renowned local family-owned company symbolized the respect and enduring legacy she leaves behind. Dr. Bolandrina was visibly moved by the thoughtful gesture.

A festive luncheon accompanied a beautifully designed cake that read: "Keep on Doing Amazing Things — Bay Path Will Miss You!" The atmosphere was filled with shared memories, laughter, and warm wishes, underscoring the deep affection colleagues hold for her. As the event concluded, Dr. Bolandrina's husband, Joseph, assisted in carefully packing her office belongings, including the commemorative chair, marking a poignant close to her time at Bay Path.

A nurse's final reflection In her farewell message via email, Dr. Bolandrina reflected on the essence of her nursing journey, emphasizing the importance of

compassion over confrontation: "Not every battle in nursing is meant to be fought with words. Some are won through silence, grace, and steadfast professionalism... Because in the end, nursing is not just about clinical skill or knowledge — it is about the heart."

She encouraged future nurses to embody this spirit: "We are not defined by how others treat us, but by how we continue to care, especially when it's hardest. Choose empathy. Choose growth. Keep moving forward."

Dr. Bolandrina expressed deep gratitude for her twelve years, calling Bay Path "a place where ordinary people became nurses and perseverance bloomed into purpose."

New adventures await While her chapter at the Academy closes, Dr. Bolandrina looks forward to exciting new adventures. She plans to spend time with her grandson, Tidus, visit her son Chef Gino's Worcester restaurant, KuruKuru Ramen, and tend to her extensive tropical and rare plant collection (@Gretheline_plants).

"Dr. Bolandrina's impact on the Academy and the nursing community will endure," said a PN faculty member. "Her leadership, kindness, and dedication leave a lasting legacy. The momentum she helped build will carry forward in every graduate who serves the community and the greater good. The best is yet to come."



Family Dining & Gift Guide

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MEETING

continued from page A1

ARTICLE 5:
AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER FUNDS BETWEEN CERTAIN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE ACCOUNTS: This transfer between accounts provides funds for the repair of the O’Gara Park Grandstand.

ARTICLE 6:
AUTHORIZATION TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TOWARDS THE O’GARA PARK GRANDSTAND PROJECT: These would be additional funds for the repair of the O’Gara Park Grandstand.

ARTICLE 7:
AUTHORIZATION

FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW PICK-UP TRUCK AND ASSOCIATED ACCESSORIES FOR THE SEWER DEPARTMENT: This truck would replace a 2009 vehicle.

ARTICLE 8:
AUTHORIZATION FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW HEATING AND COOLING “MINI SPLIT” UNIT AND ASSOCIATED COSTS FOR THE SPENCER FIRE DEPARTMENT: This unit would replace a failed unit at the Fire Station.

ARTICLE 9:
AUTHORIZATION FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW HEATING AND COOLING “MINI SPLIT” UNIT AND ASSOCIATED COSTS FOR THE SPENCER POLICE

DEPARTMENT: This unit would replace a failed unit at the Police Station.

ARTICLE 10:
AUTHORIZATION FOR THE LEASING OF TOWN-OWNED LAND: This article allows for the Town to lease out the site of the former Lake Street School located at 17 Lake St., Spencer.

ARTICLE 11:
AUTHORIZATION TO SELL TOWN-OWNED REAL ESTATE: This is the parcel of the former Pleasant Street School, 54 Pleasant Street, Spencer.

ARTICLE 12:
ADOPTION OF A BYLAW RELATIVE TO DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE AT THE TRANSFER STATION:

This bylaw provides penalties for people using the station without proper permits or use of town bags.

ARTICLE 13:
AUTHORIZATIONFOR THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS TO THE TREE WARDEN’S GENERAL EXPENSES BUDGET: This article adds funds to the Tree Warden’s Fiscal Year 2026 General Expense budget.

ARTICLE 14:
CITIZEN PETITION – LOCAL ELECTION BALLOT QUESTION – OVERRIDE FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT FUNDING FOR FIREFIGHTERS: This is a citizens petition requesting an election for a Proposition 2 ½ Override for funding for the Spencer Fire

Department.

ARTICLE 15:
CITIZEN PETITION – LOCAL ELECTION BALLOT QUESTION – OVERRIDE FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT FUNDING FOR CONTRACTURAL EXPENSES FOR THE

SPENCER RESCUE SQUAD: This is a citizens petition requesting an election for a Proposition 2 ½ Override Election for funding for the Spencer Rescue Squad.

For a full version of the warrant, please visit www.SpencerMA.Gov.

LYONS

continued from page A1

nature of our area and pointing out the possibilities that exist for programming when the Town House is restored and once again hosts workshops and performances.

For many years, our area has been celebrated as a haven for creators: The Back Roads Studio Tour has welcomed visitors into the workshops of skilled craftspeople, while Longview Farm has quietly worked with world renowned musicians.

Now, the Friends are spotlighting an area artist each month on their website, with the artist’s own page, telling their own story, and calling attention to their special talent.

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. WO25P3780EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
Richard L. LaPorte, Jr.
Date of Death:08/19/2025

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Lori A. LaPorte of East Brookfield MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that:
Lori A. LaPorte of East Brookfield MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**
IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/02/2025.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 30, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 7, 2025

Notice of Public Hearing– Planning Board
The Spencer Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on Tuesday November 18, 2025 in McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, , 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, and the hearing will be conducted in person and remotely on the following items starting at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard: Public Hearing: Scenic Road — As required by MGL Ch. 40, Sec. 15C of the General Laws of Massachusetts, a public hearing will be held related to tree work associated with tree removal on 20 William Casey Road, Map & Parcel: R10-18-1. The applicant is Albert Sandy owner of 20 William Casey Road and the work is located within the Rural Residential zoning district and on designated Scenic Roads.
October 31, 2025
November 7, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608**

**(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P3176EA
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**
Estate Of:
Robert J Catlow, Sr.
Date of Death: February 12, 2025
To All persons who have or may have some interest in the above-captioned estate and if interested to the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Veterans Affairs, notice is hereby given that the petitioner **Donna J. Viens of Spencer, MA** has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
November 7, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P3739EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
Shawn L Courville
Date of Death:02/21/2025

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Steven S Courville of Winchendon 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:
Steven S Courville of Winchendon MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**
IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/25/2025.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 28, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 7, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P3640EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
Donald J. Zelesky
Date of Death:02/07/2025

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Kristopher Zelesky of Weehawken NJ** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that:
Kristopher Zelesky of Weehawken NJ be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**
IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/18/2025.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 23, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 7, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P3640EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
Donald J. Zelesky
Date of Death:02/07/2025

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Kristopher Zelesky of Weehawken NJ** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that:

Kristopher Zelesky of Weehawken NJ be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**
IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/18/2025.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 23, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 7, 2025

PUBLIC AUCTION
The Leicester Water District will hold a public auction on November 18, 2025 at 9AM at 124 Pine Street Leicester MA 01524 for the sale of the following:
1. 2001 GMC Sierra 3500 Dump Truck with 9’ Fisher Plow. Not road worthy.
2. 2011 Ford Explorer 4WD. Not road worthy.
3. Ex Mark Mower 48-inch Deck. Not running.
4. Ex Mark Mower 48-inch Deck. Not running.
5. Trash pump. 6.5HP Briggs & Stratton engine. Not running.
6. Power washer. 13.0HP Honda engine. Not running.
7. Generator. 8.0HP Briggs & Stratton engine. Not running.
8. Formax Bill collating machine. Used. Condition of all equipment is poor, vehicles not road worthy. Equipment may be viewed thirty minutes before auction. Leicester Water Supply District may reject bids deemed not in the best interest of the District.
November 7, 2025

**A.C. 78A
Docket Number WO25P1184
THECOMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
WORCESTER, SS
PROBATE COURT**

To all persons interested in the estate of John Macintosh Sr of West Brookfield, in said county, person under conservatorship. A petition has been presented to said Court for authority to sell - private sale -certain real estate of said John Macintosh Sr for maintenance. If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney shall file a written appearance in said Court at Worcester before ten o’clock in the forenoon on the 18th day of November 2025, the return date of this citation.
Witness Leilah A. Keamy, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this 22nd day of October 2025.
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
November 7, 2025

Gardening gifts that keep giving

Gift the gardeners in your life with tools that are sure to make them smile as they put them to work throughout the coming years. No matter your budget, you are sure to find the perfect gift for your favorite gardener.

Help gardeners track the weather and rainfall in their backyard. You can find decorative and functional low- and high-tech thermometers in a wide range of prices. Consider giving them a rain gauge to help monitor rainfall so they know when and how much to water.

For the indoor gardener, paint a pot, preferably one with drainage holes, that they can use to display their favorite plant. If your budget allows, add potting mix and a plant or gift certificate so they can select a new or favorite plant from the garden center. Include a pair of snips to help them trim, groom and keep their indoor plants looking their best.

Purchase a fun watering can or decorate one with decoupage. This is a fun gift for kids and adults to make for family and teachers. Just

select a plastic or metal watering can, gather pictures, and secure and seal them to the watering can with a suitable material found at craft stores.

Dress up your favorite gardener's gear with colorful tools like the British Meadow Pruner & Holster Set endorsed by the Royal Horticultural Society. The pruners have a comfort grip and are perfect for cutting small branches and stems and the floral holster will keep them handy when gardening. This makes a great gift for gardeners that appreciate aesthetics as well as quality tools.

And what gardener doesn't need a good bypass hand pruner with two sharp blades to make clean cuts. Look for one with a large three quarter inch cutting capacity if your gardener does extensive pruning. Select one with narrow, comfortable nonslip grips like those on the ClassicCUT® Bypass Pruner for those with small- to medium-sized hands. Stuff one in their stocking,



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

combine it with a new garden book, or wrap it up as it makes a great gift on its own.

Don't forget the youngsters on your list. Research shows children exposed to the outdoors and gardening are more focused, do better in school, and have less severe ADHD symptoms. Girls raised in a landscaped environment are more confident and less subject to peer pressure. By encouraging them to garden you might be helping them acquire a lifelong skill and get help planning, planting and tending the garden.

Giving them their own kid-sized garden gear (coronatools.com) can make gardening more fun and easier as they garden by your side or in their own garden plot or con-

tainer. Look for tools designed to fit children's hands like Corona's kids 3-piece garden tool set that has everything a young gardener needs to dig, explore, plant and tend their garden. A kid-sized wheelbarrow is just the right size for hauling plants, soil and mulch.

Don't let the hustle of the holiday season put a damper on your gift giving. Keep in mind this act of kindness generates happiness in ourselves and others.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Corona Tools for her expertise to write this article. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



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OBITUARIES

Ann M. Tuttle, 89



Warren – Ann M. Tuttle, 89, of Warren, died Tuesday morning, September 9, 2025, in UMass Memorial Hospital – University Campus in Worcester. She leaves her husband of over 70 years, Robert B. Tuttle; three sons, R. Bradford Tuttle and his husband Steve of Bradenton, Florida, Mark Tuttle and his wife Gloria of Warren, and Richard E. Tuttle also of Warren. She also leaves two grandchildren, Tyler and Ariana Tuttle. She was born in and grew up in Ithaca, New York, daughter of the late James and Nell (McCarthy) Bedell. Ann met Bob at Cornell University, and together, they moved back to Warren. They owned and operated Breezeland

Orchards for many years, prior to their son Mark and his wife Gloria taking over the business. She and Bob enjoyed their winter home in Florida for over 36 years. She was active within the town of Warren. As someone who loved reading, she was a past-president and member of the Board of Trustees for the Warren Library. She was also a voting clerk for 40 years during the town elections. As a pastime, Ann learned the talented art of rug hooking and her works have been featured across the country. Her home is filled with rugs, and her children can attest to the rugs as gifts for any special occasion. A Celebration of Ann's life will be held on Monday, November 10, 2025, from 10:30 to 11:30am in the Varnum Funeral Home, 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield. An online tribute page is available at varnumfuneralhome.com

Dana B. Searah, 66



West Brookfield – Dana B. Searah, 66, of West Brookfield, died unexpectedly on Monday, October 27, 2025. He leaves behind his wife, Pamela (Vezina), of 42 years; his brothers, David Searah (Sue) of Boscawen, NH, Lindsay Searah of North Brookfield, Mark Searah (Kathleen) of New Braintree, Edward Searah (Sue) of Brimfield; his sisters, Constance Hollenbeck of Cape Coral, FL, Bernadette Beland of Worcester, Deborah Pyle (John) of Woodstock, CT, Frances Searah of North Brookfield, and Gayle LeDoux (Mark) of Greenville, TN; his mother-in-law, Mercedes Vezina; his brothers and sisters-in-law, Michael Vezina (Linda), Denise Vezina, Jeffrey (Tina) Vezina, Jason (Tina) Vezina, and Aimee Venturini, along with many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by sisters, Andrea Paladino, and Karen (Ellie) Rambin, and his brother, Norman. He was born in Ware, son of the late Rose M. (Busby) Searah and Andrew J. Searah. Dana also has an extended family from New York, James (Crystal) Ringwald, and their children, Jennifer (Tory), Jessie (Bree), and Jillian and all their children. Dana spent many summers camping and

visiting with them. He graduated from Boys Trade in Worcester and went on to be a machinist for over 40 years. He worked at Wyman Gordon, Norton Abrasives, and he retired from Boniface Tool & Die. Dana enjoyed using his tractors, camping, going on cruises and riding his motorcycle. He also had a great love for chocolate labs – and although three others came before, he devoted all his time to his most recent one, Harlee. He served for 35 years as a Volunteer Fire Fighter and had recently retired from the West Brookfield Fire Department where he enjoyed being a member. Calling Hours for Dana will be held on Saturday, November 8, 2025, from 9:30AM to 12:30PM in the Varnum Funeral Home, 43 E. Main Street in West Brookfield. A Funeral Service will be held in the funeral home immediately following calling hours. Burial will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to West Brookfield Fireman's Relief Association, PO Box 53, West Brookfield, MA 01585, or to Second Chance Animal Services, PO Box 136, East Brookfield, MA 01515. Varnum Funeral Home is honored to serve the Searah family. An online tribute page is available at www.varnumfuneral-home.com

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North Brookfield Council on Aging collecting donations for local seniors

NORTH BROOKFIELD — In response to the ongoing government shutdown, the Council on Aging will be accepting donations of non-perishables, household items (toilet paper, detergents, toiletries) and pet food. These items will be given out to any North Brookfield senior in need. Items can be dropped off at the Senior Center during business hours or left inside the pantry through the green door off the parking lot. Seniors can avail themselves of these donations 24/7. Be aware, there is video surveillance.

Create a pine cone garland at Richard Sugden Library

SPENCER — Adults and Teens are invited to create a Pine Cone Garland at the Richard Sugden Library, Spencer, on Nov. 13 from 6-7 p.m. Registration required. Sign up on the library Web site, www.spencerpubliclibrary.org, or call 508-885-75113, ext. 1. These garlands can be used for many seasons.

George Whitefield UMC hosting Holiday Fair

WEST BROOKFIELD — The George Whitefield United Methodist Church, 33 W. Main St., West Brookfield, will host its annual Holiday Fair Saturday, Nov. 22, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., featuring baked goods, hand knits and crafts, Jams, Fudge, Holiday décor and crafts, Thrift Store, and Lunch Room. For more information, you may call Heidi at 978-989-5736

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Friday's Child

Christopher ("Chris") is an energetic, sweet, and lovable young person with a big personality and a heart to match. He's known for his quick wit, sense of humor, and perfectly timed one-liners that always make the people around him laugh. Chris has a playful, sassy side and brings lighthearted energy wherever he goes. Chris loves being active and outdoors—whether it's swimming, shooting hoops, or tossing a football, he's always ready for a game. He enjoys trying new activities and thrives when he's part of a team. When it's time to relax, Chris can often be found playing video games or diving into a good book. He especially enjoys sports-themed stories and graphic novels, which combine his love for adventure and creativity. Those who know Chris describe him as kind, thoughtful, and full of life. He's a caring friend who enjoys connecting with others, sharing laughs, and showing his genuine personality. With his curiosity, humor, and warm spirit, Chris brightens any room he walks into and brings a smile to everyone he meets

Christopher Age 16 Registration #8213

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21179006879>

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If you're at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ+ singles and couples. As an adoptive parent, you won't have to pay any fees, adoption from foster care is completely free in Massachusetts. The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with. To learn more about adoption from foster care visit www.mareinc.org. Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster care.

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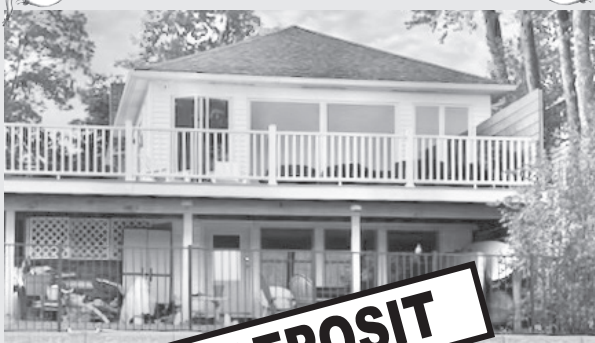
Featured Listing

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 \$399,900.

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

Webster Lake -
302 Killdeer Island
PANORAMIC VIEWS!



ON DEPOSIT

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

Featured New Listing!!!
WEBSTER - 19 FIRST STREET



Bring an open mind to this unique property & let your creative design ideas flow! This one level 1,040 sf, 3 BR home is reminiscent of an English Country Cottage! It evokes a cozy, rustic, lived-in vibe. The overall aesthetic is one of practical comfort, collected charm and a relaxed, slightly whimsical atmosphere. Key characteristics include spacious rooms, hardwood floors, a primary BR with sliders to a very private deck, retractable awnings, replacement windows, etc. Move right in!
\$304,900



WEBSTER - 24 COOPER RD
NEW CONSTRUCTION Craftsman Style Home! Tucked away on Cooper Rd, Webster Lake w/Access at Lakeside Beach/Boat Ramp. 3rd of 4 Homes being built at this Site. Offers 2,155 SF+/- of Living Area, 7 Rms, 4 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, 9' Ceilings. Wood Flooring Throughout w/Ceramic Tile Floors in the Baths. Spacious Main BR Suite w/ Walk-in Closet & Private Full Bath. Double-Sink Vanity! Lower level walkout w/ Slider. Basement-rough plumbed Central AC! Garage
\$649,900.

WATERFORD CT - 20 AVERY LN.



SORRY, SOLD!

Beautifully updated farmhouse - 5 min. to the ocean. Nothing to do just to move in!! 2 bed, 2 bath New Heating System, Central Air! Huge shed & deck! Oversized garage. 3/4+ acre, assisted sale **\$365,000**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg



ON DEPOSIT

Ready for your year round enjoyment. 4 bedroom, 2 bath home. Open floor plan. Garage w/ enclosed entry to mudroom. Open living room with spectacular views! 2 bedrooms - 3/4 bath, on main level. Central air. Lower level, additional 2 bedrooms, bath, bonus family room, summer kitchen! Boathouse! 51' of sandy beachfront!
\$799,000.



ON DEPOSIT

Panoramic View, from this absolutely lovely home. 2600 +/- SF, 3+ Beds, 2 full baths, 2 car detached garage! 63' +/- waterfront. .37 Acres! Sandy Waterfront!
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SORRY, SOLD!

Webster Lake - 53 Colonial Rd
WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT! JUST SIMPLY AN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY! OVER 31,000 SQ FT OF LAND! Summer Cottage on 9482 SF of land.. assisted sale **\$1,199,900**



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Webster Lake Waterfront 8 Long Island
Beautifully Updated Circa 1890s Classic Antique Island Cottage, with Rare Boat House Included! Extremely Unique, Clean & Well Maintained, Modern Conveniences w/ the Charm of Yesteryear! 1,240 SF, 6 Rms, 3 BRs, 2-1/2 Baths, Hardwood Floors! Fireplace w/Wood Pellet Stove, Wrap-Around Screened Porch, Lg Outbuilding w/Full Bath/Shower/Laundry & Workshop. Patio! Town Wtr/Swr + Private Well for Outdoor &/or Off-Season Water Use! 14,300 SF+/- Level Lot w/105+ of Shoreline.
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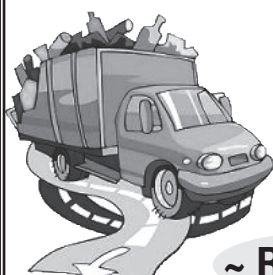
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Monarch Orchard celebrates grand opening



Alanna and Justin Tomer, the new owners of Monarch Orchard, formerly Charlton Orchard

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — It's been quite a few years now since the previous owners of Charlton Orchard sought to sell the property, resulting in a controversy that divided the town of Charlton. However, years after the dust settled, the orchard now officially has new life, but this time serving as a uniting force for the community. Like a butterfly emerging from its slow transformation in a cocoon, Charlton Orchard is now officially reborn as Monarch Orchard.

The venue held its official grand opening on Oct. 25, with new owners Alanna and Justin Tomer welcoming guests to a special celebration including music, vendors, games, and more. Speaking about his new business venture, Justin Tomer said he fell in love with the property from the start and eventually he and Alanna decided to take a chance and purchased the property to continue its legacy as an orchard producing numerous different kinds of produce.

"We've been just putting in as much work as we can to open it up and clear a lot more land and make it available for people to come in and enjoy," Justin Tomer said. "It's amazing to see the people and it gives you goosebumps. You see how happy everybody is, and it brings another life to the orchard. It feels like something that's been needed."

Alanna Tomer spoke about how special the grand opening was as she greeted guests during a ceremony which included appearances by elected officials from the state and Charlton's Select Board.

"It's been a long road to get here and a lot of hard work, but today we have so much to celebrate," said Alanna. "Monarch Orchards was once just a scribble on a piece of paper, an idea, a dream, and now we are here standing proudly on this land seeing it all come to life."

Before the Tomer's came along, the fate of Charlton Orchard proved divisive among the people of Charlton. Prior to 2020, the potential sale of the property for use as what would have been one of the largest canna-

bis growth sites in the country resulted in lawsuits and heated debates, although many simply wanted to see the property remain as an orchard.

This controversy was referenced by state and local lawmakers, who kept their statements vague enough to recall the struggle, but focused more on the positive and what the orchard has since become.

"We know in this community some years ago this might have been used for something else and that caused a bit of a stir to say the least," said State Rep. Paul Frost, whose territory includes part of Charlton, including Monarch Orchard. "To have this go back to what it was originally here for and have them nurture this land and make it a jewel of the community is a great endeavor."

Charlton Selectman Steven Koronis agreed noting that while he wasn't on the Select Board during the years of the controversy, he was keenly aware of how important preserving the property was to the townsfolk.

"There were so many people that were saying why can't someone buy up the orchard and keep it an orchard. That was the common thread. Regardless of which side of the argument you were on, everybody wanted that and this is proof that sometimes it takes just a matter of time before someone is brave enough to do it," said Koronis.

Now the future looks bright for Monarch Orchard. Even as the fall and winter months approach, the family is hard at work preparing for exciting springs and summers ahead in 2026 and beyond steeped in local tradition and a desire to preserve and build upon the small town, pick-your-own-food aesthetic that many loved about the orchard for so many years.

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