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Friday, December 19, 2025

Timberyard Brewing to hold Christmas Day meal

**BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT**

EAST BROOKFIELD — Timberyard Brewing Company will be ringing in the holiday with a special Christmas Day meal, complete with a food drive to benefit a local food pantry.

Owner Matthew Zarif said they've considered the idea of a Christmas Day community meal for a while and were finally able to coordinate resources and planning to make it happen this year. Zarif and his family will celebrate their holiday morning then move to the company's brewery at 555 E Main St., East Brookfield, to serve a free feast that will include ham, chicken, potatoes, green beans, candied sweet potatoes, rolls, salads, and assorted desserts.

"We thought it would be great to have a Christmas dinner that anyone could come to whether it's people who are in need or alone on Christmas or who just want to come hang out," said Zarif. "Everyone is welcome. We decided to keep it free and just accept donations."

The second element of the day will be a food drive to help support East Brookfield Baptist Church's food pantry. While the meal is free, visitors are encouraged to bring a nonperishable food item to benefit those in need.

"We wanted to make sure we offered this for free, but we thought if people did have the means and wanted to make a donation, we wanted it to go to a good cause," said Zarif. "The food pantry was the most appropriate choice we could think of to keep it in the community and help people who need assistance."

The family also wanted to use the day to inspire a sense of community while celebrating the holiday. Due to limited space, those planning to attend are asked to preregister through Eventbrite. The dinner begins at 2 p.m. on Christmas Day.

Santa and Timberyard dog Nugget meet with visitors during a Santa meet and greet at Timberyard Brewing Company. The brewery will host another major holiday event with a community Christmas Day meal on Dec. 25.

Courtesy

Leicester man receives Quilt of Valor

LEICESTER — On Sunday, Nov. 16 Staff Sgt. Roland Langlois was presented the Quilt of Valor by Sharon Bouchard from The Blue Star Mothers and the Daughters of the American Revolution at Spencer Country Inn.

SSG Langlois a 10 year veteran with the United

states Army from 1966 to 1977. He served in the Cold War in Germany until 1969, re-enlisted, changed his MOS, then was sent to Vietnam from 1969 to 1970. He returned and was sent to Fort Bragg from 1970 to 1977, where he raised his family before returning to Massachusetts and joined

the NG 181st INF out of Southbridge.

After getting out, he seemed lost for a few years just trying to fit in, But 15 years ago, he joined the Disabled American Veterans West Brookfield as the chapter's Adjutant, then became the Commander of Chapter 59, and also

became a Service officer with the DAV, helping veterans and their families with their claims. To this date, he has helped more than 300 Veterans with claims and assistance. SSG Langlois also joined the American Legion Post 138 out of Spencer, where he is also doing claims.

Massachusetts Funeral Directors Association honors Varnum & Charbonneau Funeral Homes for decades in business

WEST BROOKFIELD/WARE — Varnum & Charbonneau Funeral Homes was recently honored for its 32 years in West Brookfield and 125 years in Ware of continuous business operation by the Massachusetts Funeral Directors Association at its annual Funeral Service Appreciation Night held in Newton, Massachusetts.

This past year, Varnum & Charbonneau Funeral Homes has partnered with Milestone Funeral Partners to ensure the firm's financial stability and to maintain its high level of service quality for years to come. The management, decision making, and community engagement remain here at the local level as they continue to care for families the way they always have. Managing Partner and Funeral Director Peter N. Masuzzo, Funeral Director Ryan C. Ricci, and Advance Planning Specialist and Funeral Director Kristen Russell-May, as well as the entire funeral staff are continually committed and honored to serve families with the highest level of respect, dignity, and care.

The Massachusetts Funeral Directors Association is the funeral directors' professional community. It is the recognized voice and resource for information on issues impacting the funeral service profession and the bereaved communities in the many cities and towns throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Cherry Street Fire Station to be converted to apartments

Courtesy — Spencer Fire Department

Developers plan to convert the retired Cherry Street Fire Station to apartments.

**BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT**

SPENCER — The former Cherry Street Fire Station in Spencer is at the center of a new project seeking to renovate the property into apartments. The proposal recently earned support from both the Building and Property Re-Use Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

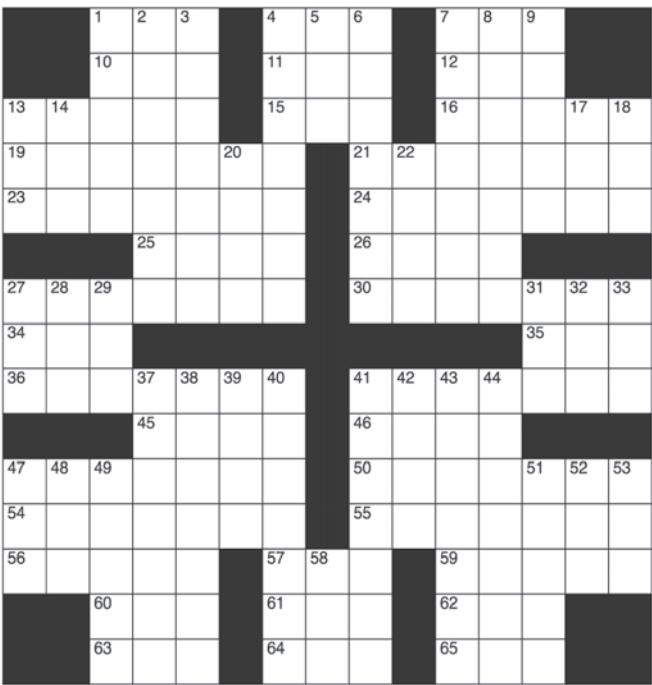
A request for proposals for the sale or reuse of the retired fire station as 11 Cherry St. was issued in September. The town

received one bid. At the Board of Selectmen's meeting on Dec. 8, the bidding developers Gjergi Disho and his son Patrick Disho presented their plan for the property.

"Our proposal is short and sweet. Two Floors, two units on each floor. A two-bedroom and one bath and a one-bedroom and one bath on each floor," Patrick Disho told selectmen.

The pair also own 17 Cherry St., next door to the station, which would allow

Turn To STATION page A12



CLUES ACROSS

1. American automotive titan

4. Tire term

7. Two-year-old sheep

10. Indigenous people of Thailand

11. Anti-Soviet Cold War group

12. Actress de Armas

13. Not moving

15. Cool!

16. Plants of the arum family

19. Connected with touch

21. Pen stain

23. Monetary units

24. School kids' art project

25. Early Bell Canada executive

26. Sword

27. Hates

30. Fixed in one place

34. Pie __ __ mode
35. Moved swiftly on foot

36. Carrier on vehicle

41. A path to get through

45. "Rule, Britannia" composer

46. Spiritual leader

47. Flowing

50. Respectful compliments

54. Cure

55. Soft, lightweight fabric

56. Building material

57. Japanese delicacy

59. A way to cause to be swollen

60. One and only

61. You might get one in summer

62. Wreath

63. Thus far

64. They __

65. Employee reference number

CLUES DOWN

1. Policemen (French)

2. Toy dog

3. Intestinal condition

4. Muscular weaknesses

5. Helps little firms

6. Alphabetical lists

7. Takes down

8. Facilitates

9. Ethnic people of Ethiopia

13. Engine additive

14. Explorers group

17. Written account

18. Consumed

20. Opposite of first

22. No (slang)

27. Government lawyers

28. NY Giants great

29. Small amount

31. A way to save for your future
32. Fall behind

33. Midway between northeast and east

37. Head pain

38. Wildly popular sport

39. "Princess Diaries" actress

40. Boat race

41. About fish

42. Nursemaid

43. Able to be marketed

44. Not as large

47. Parts per billion (abbr.)

48. Paddle

49. Oneness

51. Bitter chemical

52. Not around

53. Very fast airplane

58. Main tributary of the Rhine



Webster Five collects more than 600 items during food drive supporting local veterans and military families



Courtesy

AUBURN — The Central Massachusetts community recently came together to support local Veterans and Military families, donating more than 600 food and household items during a holiday food drive hosted by Webster Five in partnership with Project New Hope Inc.

Donation bins at Webster Five branches across the region quickly filled with nonperishable items and essentials, all of which were delivered to Sully’s Pantry, Project New Hope’s program providing year-round food assistance to Veterans, Service Members and their families.

The drive is part of Webster Five’s ongoing partnership with Project New Hope, supported through its relationship with United Way of Central Massachusetts, which fosters year-round engagement and support for local Military and Veteran families.

About Webster Five
Established in 1868, Webster Five offers consumers, businesses and nonprofits not only a wide range of products and services but also stability and community support that can’t be matched by their larger counterparts. To learn more about Webster Five, visit web5.com.

About Project New Hope Inc.
Project New Hope Inc. has been empowering Veterans, Service Members, and their families for over 14 years through transformative retreats, essential resources, and holistic support services. To learn more about Project New Hope’s mission and programs, visit <http://www.projectnewhopema.org/>.

The holiday food drive organized by Webster Five and Project New Hope collected more than 600 food and household items. From left to right: Jefferson Auger, Webster Five; Rebecca Jalbert, Webster Five; Bill Moore, President, Project New Hope Inc.; and Raymond Robidoux, Volunteer, Project New Hope Inc.

SPENCER ALMANAC
REAL ESTATE

- BROOKFIELD

\$265,000, 10 Prouty St, Berndt, Cory A, and Dolan 3rd, Walter J, to Roussin, Desiree.
- EAST BROOKFIELD

None
- LEICESTER

None
- NORTH BROOKFIELD

None
- SPENCER

\$579,000, 18 N Spencer Rd, Mfb Realty Consulting LLC, to Riggs, Richard D.

\$185,000, 11 Gauthier Rd, Matte, Daniel E, to Rockaway Rt, and Gauthier, Ronald.

\$372,500, 123 Charlton Rd, Croteau, Stephan V, and Croteau, Ann M, to Davis, Kristin.
- WARREN

\$650,000, 18 North St, New Eng Landholdings LLC, to Invest Invest Into Invs L.

\$539,000, 24 North St, Queens Management LLC, to Invest Invest Into Invs L.

\$452,250, 562 Old West Brookfield Rd, Choquette, Alan G, and Choquette, Heather L, to Thomas, Dexter W.

\$410,500, 100 Burbank Ave, High Molly Lee Est, and Vickstrom, Kristina R, to Gancorz, Melissa.

\$303,030, 44 Mill St, Lsf9 Master Part T, and U S Bank TNa Tr, to Paradiso, Adam T.

\$36,500, Reed St, Browne, Dean, to Paine, Christopher.
- WEST BROOKFIELD

None



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Cornerstone Bank honors employees for milestone years of service



W O R C E S T E R
— Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, recently honored 25 employees who reached milestone anniversaries in their tenure in 2025. The Years of Service Awards were presented on Thursday, Dec. 4, at the Barn at Wight Farm in Sturbridge. Cornerstone employees are recognized for every five years of service.

“The longevity of our employees is very important to us,” said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. “We’re proud to have such a dedicated and passionate team whose commitment to our customers and communities defines who we are as an organization.”

40 Years
• Karen Largesse

25 Years
• Jason Main
• Colleen Lord

20 Years
• John Jawor
• Jamey Mekal
15 Years
• Michael Pacheco

• Kyle Bourque
• Sara Seaver
• Susan Wilcox
10 Years
• Heather Dumais
• Thomas Moschos
• Rebecca Field
• Johanne Mahon
• Lisa Tucker
• Laura Pimental

5 Years

• Denise Steeves
• Erin McGinnis
• Sophie Descoteau
• Alycia Rozzen
• Makenna Obuchowski
• Caralyn Stevens
• David Harmon
• Alan Whitney
• Bonnie Kinsman
• Nicole Gaylord

“Congratulations to this year’s honorees,” Tallman added. “We’re grateful for your dedication, enthusiasm and outstanding service. You make Cornerstone stronger every day, and we look forward to celebrating many more milestones together.”

About Cornerstone Bank
Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and provid-

ing 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.

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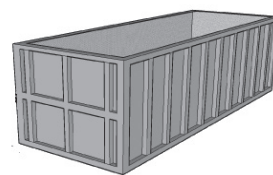
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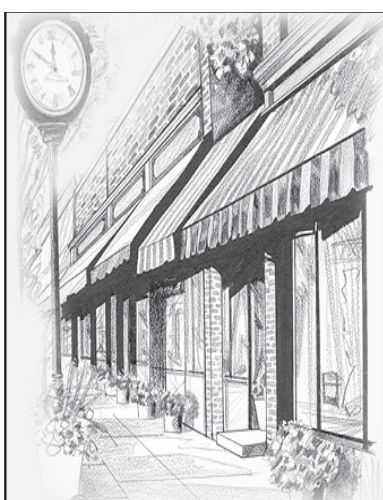
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EDITOR

EDITORIAL

A week that asks us to slow down

These last few days leading up to Christmas have a distinct character in towns like ours. They carry a sense of anticipation, but also a quiet weight. It is a time when routines loosen, expectations rise, and the year itself seems to pause, if only briefly, before moving on.

In the days leading up to Christmas, life often feels compressed. There is a sense that everything must be wrapped up, finished, or resolved before the holiday arrives. Work deadlines, family obligations, and personal traditions all compete for attention. Yet at the same time, winter pushes back against that urgency. The daylight fades early. The cold encourages people indoors. The season itself seems to suggest that slowing down is not only acceptable, but necessary.

In our communities, this contrast is especially noticeable. These are towns built on steady rhythms, not constant motion. People here understand the value of showing up consistently, whether that means checking in on a neighbor, volunteering quietly, or simply being present when someone needs support. That does not stop during the holidays. If anything, it becomes more important.

It is also a week that highlights how differently the season is experienced. For many, this is a joyful time marked by familiar traditions and gatherings. For others, it can be complicated. Loss, distance, financial strain, or changes in family circumstances do not take time off for the holidays. In small towns, those realities are often understood without being spoken aloud. There is a shared awareness that not everyone is celebrating in the same way, and that kindness does not always need to be announced to be felt.

This is where community shows its quiet strength. Not through grand gestures, but through small, thoughtful acts. A conversation that lingers a little longer. A willingness to listen. A bit of patience when tempers are short or stress is high. These moments rarely draw attention, yet they are what hold towns together through long winters and changing years.

There is also value in allowing this week to be reflective. As the calendar nears its end, many people naturally take stock of the year behind them. What worked. What did not. What was lost, and what was gained. That reflection does not need to be heavy or judgmental. It can simply be honest. Another year has passed, and like every year, it carried both challenges and moments of grace.

Winter has a way of reminding us that rest matters. That not everything needs to be decided immediately. That there is dignity in pausing, in appreciating what is stable and familiar. In towns like ours, that familiarity often comes from place itself. Streets walked a thousand times. Faces known for decades. Traditions that change slowly, if at all.

As Christmas approaches, it is worth remembering that the season’s lasting impact is not found in how much was done or how perfectly plans unfolded. It is found in how people treated one another during a busy and emotionally charged time. Whether there was room for understanding. Whether neighbors felt seen. Whether kindness outweighed impatience.

The holiday will come and go quickly. The decorations will be packed away. The routines will return. What remains is the tone we set for the weeks and months ahead.

Carrying a bit of this season’s thoughtfulness forward into the new year may be one of the simplest and most meaningful ways to strengthen our communities.

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What is the meaning of Christmas?

To the Editor:

Christmas is a celebration, happy birthday to Jesus Christ (the Savior/Anointed). Many have lost sight of what Christmas actually means. Some see Christmas as a winter holiday about family togetherness. Others view it as a celebration of generosity and kindness. Many celebrate it without understanding its origin at all.

So, what is the original meaning of Christmas? The answer is simple, profound, and found clearly in Bible, Scripture. Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, God becoming human in Jesus to rescue humanity from sin and death. We need to give this serious consideration. God originally created mankind, the man and the woman, Adam and Eve. They were deceived by Satan and fell into sin, separating themselves from God. God’s love redeemed mankind through incarnation, God coming to earth as the child Jesus. Does anyone have any doubt that God loves us?

If anyone would like to read the facts of Christmas: Isaiah 7:14, Micah 5:2, Zechariah 9:9, Matthew 1:2, Matthew 2:10-11, Luke 1:30-31.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas season and healthy New Year!

Dwell in peace!

ROLAND BLAIS
BROOKFIELD

Donald Trump does not want to be our king!

To the Editor:

I think those who believe that Donald Trump wants to become our “King” make a big mistake. Please consider this evidence.

England has a king named Charles. Recently, he appeared on television to explain in some detail his cancer condition and treatment. He also spent time thanking the researchers, doctors, and nurses for the work they do. Than he urged people to be tested and make use of his country’s relatively inexpensive medical services

Now ask yourself, does Donald Trump like to talk about his medical conditions, fund research, promote health care, have our government provide inexpensive medical care, prevent disease, or appoint qualified persons to manage our health organizations?

Before Charles, England had a female “King” or Queen named Elisabeth. During her time, England - mostly peacefully, granted its colonies in Africa, Asia, the Pacific and the Caribbean independence. However rather than push them away, England formed the “Commonwealth of Nations” to help them develop. Queen Elisabeth was front and center in this effort, for decades visiting, encouraging and promoting the new countries and their people after another.

Does Donald Trump want to help such countries and their people? Or does he cut funding for them for development or even for their basic health and other needs? And does he call them “hole” countries and tell the people from them – even American citizens — to go back to those “Holes” where they “belong?”

About 50 years ago, Spain had a king named Juan Carlos. First, he helped his people and country to overturn “Franco” style fascist rule — that is, a political system headed by a very powerful leader, strong state control over society and the economy,, extreme and exclusive national and racial pride and suppression of opposition. Then a few years later, when the Franco’s tried, by insurrection, to overthrow the democratically elected government, Juan Carlo intervened in successful support of democracy.

If you asked this question to our former Vice President, Mike Pence, and others who defended and supported our centuries-old successful democracy during our 2017 Insurrection attempt this question: “Which side would have Donald supported supported in Spain, the Franco Fascists or, like Juan Carlos, the supporters of Spain’s democracy ?” how would Pence and others answer?

Finally, in countries around the world like Sweden, Holland and Japan, there exist in some good democracies “Constitutional” Monarchs. In these countries, the people choose the leaders of government and mostly well qualified civil servants serve the people while the “Kings” serve loyally as symbols of national unity, continuity and tradition.

Unlike today’s Kings, Donald Trump has said, “I rule America, I rule the world.”

For all the above reasons, I think that I have shown that “Donald Trump does not want to be America’s King.”

KEVIN KANE
SPENCER

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Monetary Donations may be sent to: Spencer Toys for Kids, P.O. Box 186, Spencer, MA 01562.

New, unwrapped toys can be dropped off at: Spencer Fire Dept & ERA Key Realty Services (415B Main St), Cornerstone Bank (Spencer office), Choice Physical Therapy.

If you would like to sponsor a child, please contact Donna at donnaflannery@erakey.net or call 508-885-6336. If you are in need of assistance, applications can be picked up at: Spencer Post Office, Mary Queen of the Rosary Food Pantry, Town clerk’s office in the town hall, or ERA Key Realty Services (outside mailbox). You can see updates on Facebook at Spencer Toys for Kids.

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.

AI in personal finance: The promise and the limits



FINANCIAL FOCUS

TREVOR NIELSEN

Your smartphone buzzes with an alert: Your budgeting app has spotted an unusual spending pattern and suggests transferring \$50 from your savings account to your checking account. Later that day, a robo-advisor automatically rebalances your investment portfolio. Welcome to the age of artificial intelligence (AI) in personal finance, where technology is reshaping how we manage money.

What AI can do for your wallet. From tracking every latte to forecasting next month’s bills, AI-powered tools are making financial management more accessible than ever. Some apps categorize transactions automatically, while other platforms offer conversational financial advice through text messages. These tools can monitor your credit score, suggest budget adjustments, and even negotiate lower bills on services like cable and internet.

The investing landscape has transformed as well. Robo-advisors use algorithms to build diversified portfolios, automatically rebalance holdings and apply strategies to minimize tax bills. Educational tools powered by AI can explain complex concepts through interactive games and simple question-and-answer formats, making financial literacy more accessible.

Where AI falls short. Here’s what the algorithms can’t do: understand what truly matters to you.

AI doesn’t know whether you value sustainable investing over maximum returns. It can’t weigh the emotional complexity of saving for a child’s education versus retiring early. When sudden illness strikes or a job change upends your plans, AI lacks the context and empathy to guide you through those human moments.

Technology can crunch numbers brilliantly, but it can’t offer wisdom. It can’t replace human judgment, experience, or ethical reasoning. Robo-advisors’ predetermined algorithms may not suit investors with complex financial needs like estate planning or comprehensive tax planning.

The human touch still matters. This is where human financial advisors remain indispensable. They provide what technology can’t:

Long-term perspective: Help you maintain focus when markets get volatile, and emotions run high

Goal coordination: Balance competing priorities, help partners merge their financial visions and remind you of goals you’ve tucked away and didn’t know still mattered

Accountability: Keep you on track with your financial strategy through life’s inevitable changes

Emotional support: Offer reassurance and wisdom during major financial decisions

Research validates it: Those who regularly work with a financial advisor and have a financial strategy are more likely to feel optimistic about their financial future than those who manage finances on their own, according to 2025 research from Edward Jones and Morning Consult.

Find the right balance. The future likely lies in a hybrid approach: combining data-driven AI insights with the human wisdom of a financial advisor who understands your values, priorities, and life’s inevitable curveballs. Think of AI as a powerful calculator and your financial advisor as the mathematician who knows which equations to use.

As these technologies evolve, the key is treating AI as a tool, not a guide.

Stay curious about what technology can do for your finances. Stay critical of its limitations. And remember: What matters most in your financial life is something only you can define.

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.

Lanterns Along Main Street

Winter has a way of turning simple errands into minor expeditions. You leave the house thinking you will be gone for fifteen minutes. Milk. Bread. Maybe one other thing you forgot to write down. An hour later, you are still out, wearing a coat that feels too bulky indoors and not quite warm enough outside, wondering how you managed to pick the slowest line in the store. I have come to accept that winter errands operate under a different set of rules. In warmer months, we move quickly. We duck in and out of places with purpose. But winter slows us down whether we intend it to or not. Boots squeak on tile floors. Coats get draped

over shopping carts. Gloves vanish into pockets and reappear in unexpected places. Everyone looks slightly uncomfortable, including the people who work there and have been standing under fluorescent lights for hours. The grocery store in winter becomes its own little community. You see neighbors you have not run into since autumn. There is a nod of recognition, sometimes a brief conversation about the weather that both parties know is unnecessary but feels polite anyway. There is a shared understanding that no one is at their best

right now. What fascinates me most is how patient people become, at least on the surface. Someone blocks an aisle with a cart and does not notice. Someone else reaches for the same loaf of bread. A register freezes, and the line grinds to a halt. In summer, these moments might cause irritation. In winter, they are met with sighs and shrugs. We have all been on the other side of it. There is also a rhythm to winter errands that I did not notice when I was younger. The list is shorter, but the trip feels longer. The conversations are fewer, but they linger. The goal is not speed. The goal is completion without aggravation. At this stage of life, I find myself more aware of how

small interactions set the tone for the day. A cashier who takes an extra moment to ask how you are holding up. A stranger who helps reach an item on a high shelf. Someone holding the door while cold air rushes in behind them. None of this is remarkable, and that is precisely the point. We spend a lot of time talking about community as if it only exists at meetings or events or organized gatherings. But most of it happens quietly, in places like grocery stores, pharmacies, and hardware aisles, where people are just trying to get through the day. Winter makes those moments unavoidable. You cannot rush past them as easily. You are bundled up, slowed down,

forced to share space. You notice things you might otherwise miss, like how many people shop alone, or how often someone pauses to reread a label because they are no longer certain what they came in for. I see a bit of myself in that. There was a time when errands were something to get through as quickly as possible so I could get back to the next obligation. Now, they feel more like markers in the day. A reason to step outside. A reminder that life still moves forward, even when the days are short and the weather discourages enthusiasm. By the time I load the bags into the car and wrestle the cart back into place, I am usually ready to go home. Ready for warmth,

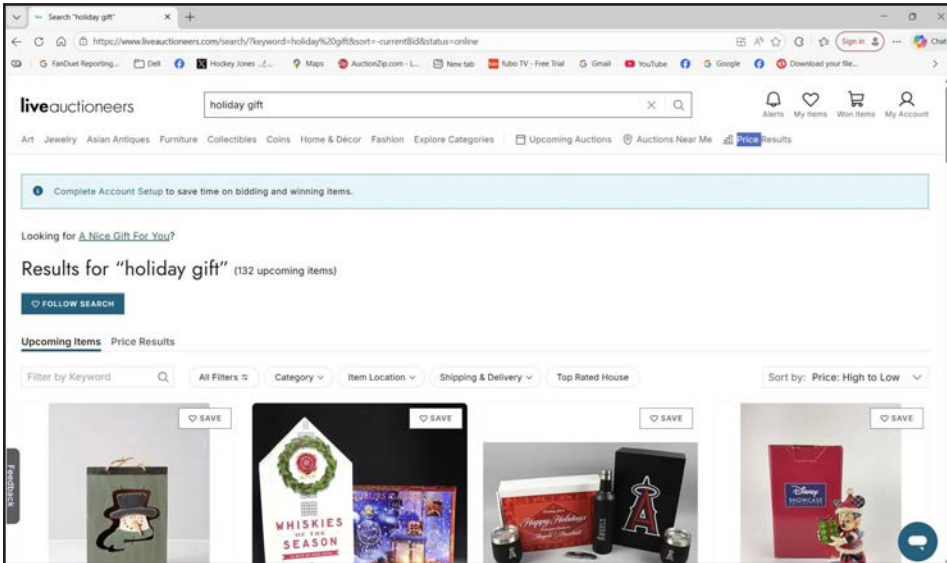
for quiet, for the comfort of familiar routines. But I am also aware that I have just participated in something small and shared. We all did. Winter will keep testing our patience. The lines will stay slow. The aisles will stay crowded. The errands will keep taking longer than planned. But there is something grounding in knowing that everyone around you is navigating the same small inconveniences. It is not grand. It is not poetic. It is simply life in winter, Massachusetts style, carried out one errand at a time. And somehow, that feels like enough.

Last minute antique and collectibles holiday gifts

If you typically are shopping at the mall on Christmas Eve or ordering one day delivery for gifts on Amazon on Dec. 23, you still may have time to buy that special gift for the collector in your life. We run our auctions on LiveAuctioneers, so I'll start by discussing their platform. There are over 5,000 auction houses running auctions on liveauctioneers.com. No matter what you are looking for, you can probably find it there. As an example, I searched "oil lamp" and found 233 auction listings currently running. You can narrow your search to a 20-mile radius from your location or expand it to search around the world. Many auction houses allow local pick up so you can get the item right away. You can also search for auctions that are ending soon. You will want to check the auction house's shipping policy. Some auctioneers may ship in-house

quickly after an auction, and others may contract outside shippers, and it can take longer. Other online auction options include HiBid. Their website also touts having thousands of auctioneers on their hibid.com platform. Invaluable is United Kingdom based with their website claiming "over 5,000 premier auction houses and dealers globally." If you search invaluable.com you will find many United States auction houses based there. With time running out before the holidays you may want to attend a live local auction. You can find both live and online auctions on auctionzip.com. You can search for auctions in your area by entering your zip code in the search bar. The default is 30 miles

but can be expanded further. You can also search by date and narrow your results down to auctions in New England and even to individual New England states. If you want to purchase something online right away TIAS (The Internet Antique Shop) tias.com has been in business since 1995. I used to sell on there when they first went online. Ruby Lane (ruby-lane.com) offers antiques from around 1,500 dealers, according to their website. They were formed in 1998. Also, check individual sellers shipping policies with these sites. You may also find that gift you've been looking for online locally on Facebook Marketplace. I did the same "oil lamp" search and found hundreds of listings throughout New



England. There are also Facebook groups for people selling antiques locally and you can also search on Craigslist. An estate sale is another option. Estate sales may be listed in newspapers along with the websites estate-sales.net and estatesales.org. Serious buyers get there early, sometimes the day before the sale to sign lists to be one of the first admitted into the sale.

Of course, there are plenty of local antique shops where you can search for gifts. You can walk in and buy a gift and make sure you still have plenty of time to wrap it for the holidays. Happy Holidays! The single-collector Civil War auction is starting soon. Following that, we'll have a major auction with fine jewelry, sterling silver, art, and other antiques and collectibles. There is still

time to consign items for that sale. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events. Contact us to consign items or for auction information at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services info@centralmassauctions.com or (508-612-6111).

KNOX TRAIL MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

SPENCER — The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District is a community committed to teaching and learning with purpose. To these ends, we wanted to celebrate our Knox Trail Middle School scholars who earned honor roll for Q1 of the 2025-2026 academic year. The first quarter runs from August 26th, 2025, to October 31st, 2025, with progress reports sent in early October. The honor roll for Knox Trail Middle School will be calculated at the conclusion of each marking period for Grades 5 - 8. All courses in which students earn credit and receive a numerical grade will be used in determining the honor roll. The honor roll is based on the average a student achieves each marking period. The following averages will be used to calculate the honor roll: High Honors - an average of 90 percent or greater Honors - an average of 85 percent or greater Knox Trail Middle School uses an unweighted average: the exact numerical average a student receives for each class in a marking period will be used to determine honor roll. High Honors (Grades 5-8) Blessed Assurance Nana Adwa Asensoh, Taya Jhae Barry, Patrick Joseph Bauce, Hudson Jack Belton, Max William Berthiaume, Elsie Ana Bilz, Silas Eric Michael Boivin, Iara Braga Ramos, Daxon Kade Cadarette, Karissa Lynne Cormier, Aidan Nikos Doyle, Juliana Cassidy Gillespie, Zuzanna Gladek, Allison Paige Granger, Jackson Hunter Green Cayer, Annabelle Grace Hanbury, Luke Olguera Hickey, Lilliam Melissa Lavallee, Abigail Rose Leary, Amelia Lyn Lusignan, Ashtin Rose Masterson, Ryder Joseph McGill, Ana Maria Medina, Cole Dennis Milgate, Emmaline Allison Milgate, Yusuf Mohdi Alaoui, Ella Marie Monette, Alexander Christian Naji, Emma Nokeo, Grace Hathaway Olivo, Emma Lee Reilly, Anthony Francis Rigiero, Omayra Dennise Rivera, Benjamin James St. Cyr, Katherine Annabelle St. Laurent, Isaac James St. Louis, Londyn Hope Tatro, Alayna Marie Theurer, Wesley Kristopher Threlkeld, Hunter Alan Viens, Catherine Dee Warren, Hunter Howard Wilder, Bridget Avery Wilson

Honor Roll (Grades 5-8) Londyn Skye-Elizabeth Agyeman, Madison Marie Anderson, Valentina Marie Armenti, Michael Quentin Bailey, Abigail Faith Barre, Tia Jayde Barry, Harleigh Rae Bartkus, Cameron Asher Bartone, Sophia Blondell Bennett, Luke Allan Bergstrom, Madelyn Faith Bjork, Augustus Black, Andrew George Blanchard, Jackson Daniel Brown, Trente Jeffree Bulak, Quintin Victor Burnett, Lilianna Nicole Caputo-Welch, Jonni Nicholas Carofaniello, Arya Natalie Chhem, Adrian Clark, Lydia Avery Clark, Javian Noah Colon Winters, Julius Omar Corrado, Brayden Richard Day, Emmett Alexander Edwards, Zahraliz Esteras, Daniella Laurimar Estrella-Morales, Michael Wyatt Galalgher, Jane Alexandra Gately, Karlee Mae Girouard, Madalynn Denise Goparian, Abigail Grace Graves, Emma Sophia Graves, Mariah Ann Hackett,

Landon David Hoyt, Carleigh Angel Huard, Jaxson Brady Huard, Arianna Olivia Hultquist, Chloe Elise Keenan, Cooper Matthew Keenan, Chace Winthrop Kennen, Brayden Michael Laliberte, Isabella Susan Denise LeBlanc, Emery Richard Leveillee, Mason John Lusignan, Padraig Thomas Maloy, Arianah Mya Martinez, Lavinia Josephine Mayou, Jackson Brian McGill, Nataly Marie Melendez, Vanessa Emilia Morales, Isabella Nicole Morazzini-Bolden, Jonathan Navarro, Emmarose Wanjiru Njenga, Lily Anne O'Malley, Wes William Obrzut, Aleidy Evette Ortiz Estevez, McKenan Riley Padden, Jodene May Palmer, Xadrian Ace Papp, Shelby Anne Parsons, Logan Patrick Pelchat, Abigail Rose Plouffe, Chloe Lee Prashaw, Gavin Leo Prater, Julia Cassanelli Pride, Noah Mark Racicot, Stella Irene Racicot, Wesley James Richardson, Mia Rose Rocha, Sophie

Esmerelda Rodriguez Sanchez, Brayden Roy Roldan, Blake Joseph Roy, Anya Margarita Sarita, Ezekiel Dagba Jonah Saydee, Jonah Roan Schold, Tanner James Simonovitch, Luciano Gabriel Tamez, Brayden Michael Tetreault, Brayden Armand Theurer, Javieliz Debora Torres Santos, Jesus Torres, Juliana Isabel Torres, Madilyn Lily Tretheway, Caleb David Trinidad, Barbara Catalina Vasquez Guacaran, Isaiah Joseph Vega, Gabriella Jailee Velazquez, Cailyn May Verity, Ayden Edward Viens, Lilly Rose Walker, Everly Robin Burdett Walsh, Chloe Evelyn Whitcomb, Allyson Dianne Wilder, Jack Francis Wilson, Leo Christopher Wilson, Solomon Allen Alexander Wood, Colton Joseph Zwirko Please join us in extending heartfelt congratulations to all of our Knox Trail Middle School scholars who made the 2025-2026 Q1 High Honors and Honor Roll!



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QCC Police Chief Sheriff’s office partners with Amazon first collegiate to combat holiday package theft member of Central MA board of directors



Stephen DiGiovanni

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College Chief of Police Stephen DiGiovanni has been sworn in as a member of the Board of Directors for the Central Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, marking a historic first for the organization. He is the first collegiate chief to hold an officer position within the association.

DiGiovanni was nominated to fill a vacant three-year term and was elected by his peers during the association’s November 2025 meeting and started his tenure on December 9, 2025.

The Central Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association represents more than 75 police departments across the region. Its mission is to promote effective law enforcement, support education and professional development, and foster collaboration among public and private agencies concerned with law enforcement.

DiGiovanni has worked at QCC since 2008, becoming the college’s first full-time detective in 2014, Deputy Chief of Police Operations in 2015 and Chief of Police in February 2024.

“I am humbled and honored to be trusted in this position, and I am fortunate to be among some of the best police chiefs in the Commonwealth,” said DiGiovanni. “It’s inspiring to be part of a network of leaders who support and learn from one another.”

WORCESTER — Sheriff Lew Evangelidis and the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office are partnering with Amazon this holiday season to help residents safeguard their deliveries from package theft. With more people shopping online than ever before, porch piracy continues to be a growing concern nationwide, especially during the busy holiday months.

This initiative is part of a broader nationwide effort led by the National Sheriffs’ Association to raise awareness about simple, proactive steps customers can take to prevent theft and help law enforcement focus on higher-priority calls during the holiday season.

“Package theft is more than an inconvenience during a season meant for celebration. It diverts valuable law enforcement resources,” said Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis. “When residents take simple steps to safeguard their deliveries, it helps us focus our efforts on the emergencies and critical calls that matter most.”

Keeping your packages safe
In partnership with Amazon, the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office

recommends the following strategies to help reduce the risk of package theft:

Track Your Packages: Use Amazon’s real-time Map Tracking feature on Amazon.com or the Amazon app to see exactly when a delivery will arrive.

Choose Hidden Drop-Off Spots: Provide delivery instructions through the Amazon app or website to have packages placed in a discreet location.

Use Pickup Locations: Amazon offers more than 25,000 secure package pickup sites nationwide, allowing customers to choose delivery to home, work, Amazon Lockers, or partner locations.

Share Tracking: Amazon’s Share Tracking tool allows you to share delivery details with trusted friends or family who can retrieve packages if you’re not home.

Check Delivery Photos: Review the confirmation photo provided by Amazon to verify where your package was placed.

Select a Delivery Window: In areas where Same-Day Delivery is available, customers may choose a specific delivery window that best fits their schedule.

“While the vast majority of packag-

es make it to customers without any issue, we know how frustrating it can be when criminals get in the way,” said Gilad Solnik, Amazon’s Director of Worldwide Security Operations. “Amazon has many features and technologies built into the delivery experience to help keep packages secure this holiday season and throughout the year.”

If you experience package theft

If you believe your package has been stolen, we encourage you to take the following steps:

Report the theft to your local police department.

Contact Amazon Customer Service through the app or website for 24/7 assistance.

Check with neighbors to see if they received your package by mistake or noticed any suspicious activity.

The Worcester County Sheriff’s Office remains committed to keeping our community safe this holiday season and year-round. By working together with residents and partners like Amazon, we can reduce theft and help ensure a happier, safer holiday season for everyone.

WEEKLY POLICE BLOTTER

Spencer
The Spencer Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Dec. 3-9.

Nicholas J. Merrill, age 26, of Spencer was arrested on Dec. 3 for multiple counts of Possession of Child Pornography (second offense).

Leicester
The Leicester Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Dec. 4-10.

Nicholas A. Snow, age 33, of Rochdale was arrested on Dec. 6 for Use of a Motor Vehicle Without Authority and Wanton Destruction of Property.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Dec. 9 for Leaving the Scene of Property Damage.

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SOPHOMORES NAMED TO BAY PATH HONOR ROLL

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School congratulates the following Grade 10 students on being named to the honor roll for the first quarter of the 2025-2026 school year.

High Honors
Madeline Candice Adugyamfi, Yaniel Aviles, Caterina Beverlianna Boon, Morgan Lynn Brooks, Claire Elizabeth Calnan, Derek Alexander Campos, Cassidy Lynn Chickering, Sydney Faustina Chisholm, Noah James Cole, Alyssa Marie Cuevas, Aaron Justin Desautels, Ayla Rose Drisco, Christopher Jeremy Feliciano, Madelyn Helena Frost, Melody Starr Fuentes, Vanessa Diane Gordon, Shaylan Rose Hesselton, Emma Mae Jalbert, Max Everett Landry, Isabella Grace Leatham-Wright, Ginely Shantel Molina, Adalynn Jane Nietzsche, Giavanna Bella Orsi, Saverio James Palaia, Julian Thomas Papierski, Jacob Louis Pecore, Kurtwood Russell Pettiford, Ava Sophia Reed, Alexia Grace Rondeau, Thomas Francis Shivick, Grace Autumn Shoblom, Paul Joseph Skarzinski, Tatiana Maria Smolynsky, Nelson Tobias Sorto, Olivia Ruth Torres, Thomas Earl Welch, Spencer Thomas Wisniewski

Honors
Azhan Nasir Ahamd, Davian Alexander Alicea Aponte, Arlind Aliu, Chase Michael Anthony, Matheus Holanda Antonelli, Nyahlise Lillian Aviles, Isabella Elizabeth Barrell, Zachary Barry Barsalou, Gianna Rae Bedard, Elizabeth Susan Bennington Lynch, Addam James Bergeron, Cody James Blair, Austin Gordon Brodeur, Benjamin Robert Brooks, Brian Bui, Julia Rose Bukowski, Collin Edward Burt, Andrew Mason Carter, Sydney Rae Cavan, Keegan Jack Champlin, Julie Elizabeth Chenier, Sadie Ann Cleary, Raymond Joseph Clouthier IV, Ayva Marie Coffey, Jackson Murray Coughlin, Addyson Kaeleigh Coutu, Esmee Elizabeth Cyr, Holly Marie Dailey, John Michel Rousseau Daniel, Tavish McKinley Davis, Norah Abigail Dean, Arielle Grace Deauseault, Tristan Nichole Defazio, Oliver Gage DeLorge, Nicolas James DiGoia, Ava Marie Dufault, Fable Dufresne, Rylie Anne Dwyer, Dominik John Dzibasik, Brian Thomas Finnegan, Madyson Riley Fitzgerald, Kylee Marie Fournier, Anthony Joseph Fredette, Charlotte Susan May Fredette, Tyler Blake Friend, Mehki Styles Fuentes, Jayden Robert Afolabi

Giwa-Bello, Matthew Donald Graves, Colton Philip Hall, Marcus Roy Hamilton, Addison Katie Harrington, Kasey Lee Harris, Yadiel Enrique Hernandez Navarro, Fatima Edilene Herrera, Chloe Rose Hosley, Veronica Mae Jansrud, Colin Henry Joyce, Jannie Mahoney Kabba, Victoria Rose Kaiser, Brooke Marie Kasprzak, Cadence Gillian Kilderry, Alana Dianne Kowalewski, Brayden Albert Kruas, Jordyn Kate Labrecque, Brianna Ashleigh Laforest, Andrew Arthur Lashua, Wesley Patrick Lawless, Ryan Khai Lima, Valentina Medeiros Lima, Juliano Ligeniale Lopez, Kaitlin Angela Lulu, Emily Ann Macko, Amelia Layne Magorian, Cynthia Kagan Marc, Julia Danielle Marini, Aydan Michael Marsh, Sherlyn Mazariegos Hernandez, Madison Grace McKinstry, John Steven McMahon, Ashlyne Emily Monsen, Derek Omar Morales, Jesus Morel, Bryton Favor Mosong, Shea Alfred Mulligan, Mia Angell Navedo, Raider Keith Newton, Nathaniel Leif Noyes, Teagan Patrice O'Halloran, Landen Spencer Olszta, Anthony Jadon Ribeiro Ortiz, Gabriella Olivia Pace, Matilda Cecile Paradis, Mason D. Michael Parker, Michael Thomas Payson, Jocelyn Rose Peck, Aleya Jeanne Pereira, AJ Jesse Perron, Parker Jonathan Piehl, Tyler Garcia Procino, Joseph Lewis Pretty, Brady Leonard Reilly, Randall Roland Richard, Christopher Jeffrey Richardson, Bo Carl Riley, Shaye Patricia Riley, Camden David Rockwood, Danna Paola Rodriguez Lopez, Emilyanis Joan Rodriguez, Ethan Vance Rodriguez, Riley Sebastien Rodriguez, Sylah Diane Rodriguez, Ava Victoria Rondeau, Keomar Arnaldo Rosario Sanchez, Esmerelda Rosario Tirado, Isabella Roszkowski, Aiden Lee Rubito, Rianna Gathoni Ruu, Jayden Jose Santos, Kayla Elizabeth Shepard, Brianna Jingchen Shi, Alejandro Javier Sierra Varas, Liam Charles Sirmans, Victor Manuel Sobinski, Heather Holiday Starr, Jade Antonia Stien, Angela Sofia Suarez Pineros, Victoria Marie Sullivan, Gavin Joseph Thompson, Shafick Yamal Vasquez-Grande, Gina Grace Vautour, Angelina Marie Vazquez, Colin Anthony Vega, Logan James Verity, Sadie Mckenna Villegas, Sione Flynn Villegas, Ella Violette Wall, Robert Charles Welch, Colby Deary Wells, Madison Elizabeth Wells, Riley John West, Sydney Alexandra Winer, Julianis Paola Zayas Rivera

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EAST BROOKFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

EAST BROOKFIELD — The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District is a community committed to teaching and learning with purpose. To these ends, we wanted to celebrate our East Brookfield Elementary School scholars who earned honor roll for the first trimester of the 2025-2026 academic year.

The honor roll for East Brookfield Elementary School will be calculated at the conclusion of each marking period for Grades 5 - 6. All courses in which students earn credit and receive a numerical grade will be used in determining the honor roll. The honor roll is based on the average a student achieves each marking period. The following averages will be used to calculate the honor roll:

High Honors - an average of 90 percent or greater
Honors - an average of 85 percent or greater

Grade 5
Honor Roll
Lacey Delong
Mason Merlo
Reese Wetherbee
Grade 6
High Honor Roll
Janessa Turcios
Honor Roll
Lilliana Blom
Emmalyn Cosner
Alina MacLeod
Fiona Molloy
Amelia Schryer
Asher Zwirko
East Brookfield Elementary School utilizes an unweighted average, which is the exact numerical average a student receives for each class in a marking period, to determine honor roll.

Please join us in extending heartfelt congratulations to all of our East Brookfield Elementary School scholars who earned 2025-2026 first-trimester High Honors and Honor Roll recognition!

East Brookfield Library collecting donations for Mitten Tree

EAST BROOKFIELD — The East Brookfield Public Library has its Mitten Tree up!

We are collecting hats, mittens, scarves, gloves, socks for adults and children, ChapStick, new sweaters for all ages and sizes. If you or anyone you know needs any of these items, please come to the library and visit our Mitten Tree.

Donations can be dropped off at the library during normal business hours.

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OBITUARIES

Kenneth R. Wirf, Sr., 72



West Brookfield – Kenneth R. Wirf, Sr., 72, of West Brookfield, passed away on December 5, 2025, at UMass Harrington Memorial Hospital in Southbridge. Born in Worcester on October 23, 1953, he was the son of the late George O. and Claire C. (Desroches) Wirf and was predeceased by his brother, Brian Wirf.

Ken is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Sandra M. (Foote) Wirf; four sons, Kenneth R. Wirf, II, Thomas R. Wirf, John A. Wirf, and Joshua R. Joubert; one daughter, Michelle L. Joubert; and eleven grandchildren. He is also fondly remembered by Adam Macmillan, who looked to him as an adopted grandfather. Ken will be deeply missed by his family and all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Ken's dedication to community service began early. At 16, he joined the West Brookfield Fire Auxiliary and became a call firefighter at 18. After moving to Ware, he served with the Ware Fire Department before continuing his work in Leicester with the Fire Department, Ambulance, Rescue Squad, and Dive Team. As an EMT, he was especially proud to have assisted in delivering a baby boy and a set of twins.

His commitment to public service continued when he moved to Florida, where he enjoyed a successful career as a Transportation Supervisor with the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority before

retiring. Retirement, however, did not keep him from his passion. Upon returning to West Brookfield, he rejoined the West Brookfield Fire Department, serving faithfully until age 70. He also contributed as a fire photographer, always cheering on his brothers and sisters from the sidelines.

Beyond firefighting, Ken was an active and dedicated member of several community organizations. He participated in the Central Mass Sparks, Rehab 78, and the Brookfield Rod & Gun Club, where he became known for cooking Sunday breakfast during turkey shoot competitions. He was also a proud member of the Red Knights Motorcycle Club and served as a Men's Class C & D World Series umpire for USSSA at Walt Disney World in 2001 and 2002.

Calling hours for Ken will be held Friday, December 19, 2025, from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the Varnum Funeral Home, 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield. A Funeral Service celebrating his life will follow on Saturday, December 20, 2025, at 11:00 AM in the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the West Brookfield Firefighters Association, P.O. Box 372, West Brookfield, MA 01585, the West Brookfield Rescue Squad, PO Box 540, West Brookfield, MA 01585, or the Leicester Firefighters Association, Attn: Donations, PO Box 377, Leicester, MA 01524.

An online tribute page is available at varnumfuneralhome.com.

Randy C. Streeter, 57



ROCKPORT / LEICESTER: Randy C. Streeter, 57, of Rockport, Massachusetts, formerly of Leicester, passed away tragically on December 2, 2025. Born in Worcester on September 5, 1968, he was the cherished son of the late Clarence and Phyllis Streeter of Rochdale.

A graduate of Leicester High School, Randy proudly followed in the footsteps of his father and uncles by serving in the United States Navy. Over the course of 20 years, he was stationed in Sicily, Guam, Japan, and Diego Garcia, and served aboard the USS Kearsarge and USS Cape Cod. His military service was a source of deep pride and fostered the adventurous spirit that defined his life.

A true New Englander, Randy was a devoted fan of Boston's sports teams—the Red Sox, Patriots, Bruins, and Celtics. He also had a lifelong love of film, embracing both modern cinema and classic works.

Randy is survived by his sister, Sue Mercer, and her husband, Robert; his sister-in-law, Susan Streeter; and many nieces and nephews—Robert Mercer III, Michael Mercer, Pamela LaFleur, Andrew Streeter, Kathryn Streeter, and Jeffrey Streeter—

along with their families and numerous great-nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother, Bill Streeter. He also leaves behind his cousin, Deb McAdoo, with whom he shared a special bond, and his lifelong friend, Tom Navaroli, both of whom were like family.

After retiring from the Navy, Randy worked in several roles, most recently with Americold, where he was admired and respected by colleagues. He will be remembered for his patriotism, devotion to family and friends, and his zest for life.

In keeping with his wishes, there will be no calling hours. Burial with Military Honors will take place on Tuesday, December 30th in Greenville Baptist Cemetery, 674 Pleasant St., Rochdale, MA at 12:00 PM followed by a celebration of life at Hillcrest Country Club, 323 Pleasant St., Leicester, MA. Donations in Randy's name may be made to Veterans Inc., 69 Grove St., Worcester, MA 01605.

The MORIN FUNERAL HOME, 1131 Main St., Leicester is assisting the family with arrangements.

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LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Eva Adjoian to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for HarborOne Mortgage LLC, dated November 26, 2019 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 61494, Page 1, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for HarborOne Mortgage LLC, its successors and assigns to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., recorded on December 1, 2023, in Book No. 69952, at Page 104 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. to NewRez LLC DBA Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, recorded on February 7, 2024, in Book No. 70172, at Page 364

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 PM on January 12, 2026, on the mortgaged premises located at 132 North Brookfield Road, East Brookfield, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT:

The land in East Brookfield, Worcester County, Massachusetts, with the buildings thereon, situated on the easterly side of the State Highway leading to North Brookfield and bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point in the easterly line of said State Highway at land now or formerly of one Snay;
THENCE northeasterly by said Snay land 162.25 feet to land of the North Brookfield Railroad Company;
THENCE northwesterly by said railroad land 77.35 feet to land now or formerly of one Balchunas;
THENCE southwesterly by said Balchunas land 181.25 feet to said highway;
HENCE southeasterly by said highway 75 feet to the place of beginning.

Containing about 12,881 square feet of land, and being the premises shown as Lot No. 5 on a plan of House Lots in East Brookfield, owned by Arthur Ledoux", which said plan is recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 41 Plan 54. For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County

(Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 61493, Page 394.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
28366
December 12, 2025
December 19, 2025
December 26, 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. W025P4205EA
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

Estate Of:
GEORGE C. HOWLAND JR
Also Known As:
GEORGE C HOWLAND
Date of Death: July 5, 2025

To All persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of **JAMES C. HOWLAND North Brookfield MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

JAMES C. HOWLAND of North Brookfield 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.

December 19, 2025

Notice of Public Hearing– Planning Board

The Spencer Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on Tuesday January 20, 2026 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: Stormwater Permit– Applicant/Owner: Bedrosian Realty Trust, Location: 49 William Casey Road, Spencer Assessor's Map R01-17-2. The applicant is looking for a Stormwater Permit under the Spencer Stormwater Management Bylaw (Article 14 of the Spencer General Bylaws) to build a new single-family home with well/ septic system, and driveway. The property is located within the Rural Residential (RR) zoning

district. 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 build a new driveway to a new single family home at 49 William Casey Road, Map & Parcel: R01-17-2. The applicant is Bedrosian Realty Trust and the work is located within the Rural Residential zoning district and on designated Scenic Roads. Stormwater Permit– Applicant/Owner: Bedrosian Realty Trust, Location: 47 William Casey Road, Spencer Assessor's Map R01-17-1. The applicant is looking for a Stormwater Permit under the Spencer Stormwater Management Bylaw (Article 14 of the Spencer General Bylaws) to build a new single-family home with well/ septic system, and driveway. The property is located within the Rural Residential (RR) zoning district.

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 build a new driveway to a new single-family home at 47 William Casey Road, Map & Parcel: R01-17-1. The applicant is Bedrosian Realty Trust and the work is located within the Rural Residential zoning district and on designated Scenic Roads. Stormwater Permit– Applicant/Owner: Bedrosian Realty Trust, Location: 45 William Casey Road, Spencer Assessor's Map R01-17. The applicant is looking for a Stormwater Permit under the Spencer Stormwater Management Bylaw (Article 14 of the Spencer General Bylaws) to build a new single family home with well/ septic system, and driveway. The property is located within the Rural Residential (RR) zoning district.

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 build a new driveway to a new single-family home at 45 William Casey Road, Map & Parcel: R01-17. The applicant is Bedrosian Realty Trust and the work is located within the Rural Residential zoning district and on designated Scenic Roads.

December 19, 2025

Santa and the Grinch coming to East Brookfield Library

Legacy Showdown Game at DPHS Dec. 27

EAST BROOKFIELD — Santa and the Grinch will be coming to the East Brookfield Library Thursday, Dec. 18 at 10:45 a.m.
Come to the library on Thursday, Dec. 18 and bring your camera to take pictures with Santa and the Grinch. All ages are welcome and also well-behaved dogs!
Story time starts at 10:30 a.m., and is for ages six months to six years, followed by Santa and The Grinch. Caregivers must stay with children and one caregiver is required for every two children.

SPENCER — Get ready for an epic clash between the Legends and the Rising Stars at the David Prouty High School Gymnasium! Join us for a night of hoops, alumni pride, and an alumni cheerleader performance Dec. 27 at 6 p.m. Tickets: \$5 at the door
DPHS fans — this is your moment! Dig out your vintage gear or rock your freshest swag and come cheer loud for your team. Let’s show the players what school spirit really looks like!
Whether you’re backing the past, the future-or both, this is a showdown you won’t want to miss. Let’s pack the gym and celebrate the legacy of DPHS Basketball!



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Friday's Child

✿✿✿



Jailianne

Age 14

Registration #7402

Jailianne, lovingly called “Jai,” is a bubbly, joyful, and energetic girl who lights up every room she walks into. She has a deep love for animals and nature, especially cats and dogs, and shows her compassionate side by looking out for little critters she finds outside—she even builds tiny homes for frogs using natural materials.

Creative and expressive, Jai enjoys singing, dancing, and performing, often using these outlets to share her bright personality. Her social worker believes she would flourish in a chorus or acting class, where she could showcase her talents and build her confidence. With her warmth, playfulness, and imagination, Jai is a child who brings joy and creativity wherever she goes.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/22533922820>

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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kids'

corner



Food

FACT:



This dessert is made from dough that is either rolled, cut or pressed into shape.

Answer: Cookie

“How they say that in...”

English: Dough

Spanish: Masa

Italian: Impasto

French: Pâte

German: Teig

Crossword Puzzle

1				2			3
4							
5				6			
	7						

ACROSS

1. Chocolate powder

4. Fruit growing areas

5. Outside of a place

7. Eats

DOWN

1. Handheld desserts

2. Not at home

3. Sweet treats

6. Fish eggs

Answers:

Across

1. Cocoa 4. Orchards 5. Exterior 7. Ingests

Down

1. Cookies 2. Away 3. Desserts 6. Roe

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

DEC

19

1777:

The Continental Army goes into winter quarters at Valley Forge.

1924:

The last Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost is sold in London, England.

1941:

Adolf Hitler appoints himself as head of the Oberkommando des Heeres.

NEW

WORD

CHIP

a small piece of solid chocolate

Did You Know?



Twisting the cookie cutter when cutting out the cookie dough can prevent the dough from rising properly and create inconsistent shapes.



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Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

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The Spencer Housing Authority has an opening for a Full-Time Maintenance Laborer

The Spencer Housing Authority is seeking a qualified full-time Maintenance Laborer. The individual hired for this position must have general knowledge of property maintenance, carpentry, floor repairs, minor plumbing, and electrical repairs. Applicant should also have experience with painting, cleaning, plowing, shoveling, and snow removal. Individuals must be available for rotating on-call shifts as well as being available for any weather-related emergencies. Must be able to lift 50 pounds or more. General knowledge of maintenance systems, building equipment and small tools a plus. This is a full time (40 hours) benefited position. Retirement is through the Worcester County Retirement Office. Must possess a valid driver's license and be insurable under Housing Authority insurance. The selected applicant must be able to pass a criminal background check (CORI), and pre-employment physical. Base wage rate is determined by the current Department of Labor (DOL) wage rates in effect at the time of hire. Additional compensation is paid for on-call and after-hours' service. Incumbents will be required to obtain a valid Pesticide Certification/License within one year of hire. The Spencer Housing Authority offers a generous benefits package including health, dental and vision insurance.

Applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to: Spencer Housing Authority 13 McDonald Street Spencer, MA 01562 Attn: Kimberly Hurlbrink

You may also email cover letter and resumes to Kimberly Hurlbrink: kim.hurlbrink@spencerhousing.org

Resumes will be accepted until 2:00PM on December 19, 2025. Spencer Housing Authority is an equal Opportunity Employer

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DUDLEY - 13 OXFORD AVE

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

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

*Webster Lake -
302 Killdeer Island*



SORRY, SOLD!

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

Just in Time - For The Holidays!!

Featured New

Webster Lake Waterfront Listing!!

On Indian Point # 10 "Private Rd"

OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 11 - 2



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



WEBSTER - 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! Finished Lower level walkout w/Slider. Basement-rough plumbed Central AC! Garage \$649,900.

WEBSTER - 19 FIRST STREET



ON DEPOSIT

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

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg



**WEBSTER LAKE
WATERFRONT LISTING! KILLDEER RD**
SORRY, SOLD!

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 view! 2 bedrooms - 3/4 bath, on main level. Central air. Lower level, additional 2 bedrooms, bath, bonus family room, summer kitchen! Backhouse! 51' of sandy beachfront! \$799,000.



Webster Lake Waterfront - 31 Bayview!!
SORRY, SOLD!

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



Webster Lake - 53 Colonial Rd
SORRY, SOLD!

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WATERFRONT!**
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LAND! Summer
Cottage on 9482
SF of land..
assisted sale
\$1,199,900



**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/100' +/- of Shoreline. \$995,000

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The holiday season and cookies go hand-in-hand



The holidays are synonymous with many things, including various foods and beverages. Foodies know the holiday season is a time when baked goods, and cookies in particular, take center stage. Celebrants can keep that in mind and prepare a batch of these “Iced Cinnamon Star Cookies” from Lines +Angles this holiday season.

Iced Cinnamon Star Cookies

Makes 24 Servings
For the cookies:
2 1/2 cups almond flour
1 1/4 cups powdered sugar
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon salt
2 large egg whites
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

For the icing:
1 cup powdered sugar
3 tablespoons milk, more if needed
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

For the cookies:
1. In a large bowl, whisk together almond flour, powdered sugar, cinnamon, and salt. Add the egg whites and vanilla and mix until a soft dough forms.
2. Wrap dough in plastic wrap and refrigerate for 30 minutes.
3. Preheat oven to 300 F. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper.
4. On a surface dusted with powdered sugar, roll the dough to 1/3-inch thickness. Cut out stars using a 3-inch star cookie cutter and transfer to the prepared cookie sheet.
5. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes until edges are lightly golden. Let cool on baking sheets for 5 minutes, then transfer to wire racks.

For the icing:
1. Using a fork, combine the powdered sugar, milk, and vanilla. Use a whisk to continue to stir the icing, adding more milk, in teaspoon increments if needed, to reach desired consistency.

2. Once cookies are completely cooled, spoon the icing on top of each star and spread with the back of the spoon or a toothpick. You also can use a squeeze bottle or piping bag. Enjoy cookies immediately or let icing set at room temperature 6 to 8 hours.

STATION
continued from page A1

them to use a shared driveway for both properties. Town officials welcomed the plan, pleased with the prospect of bringing new life to the long-neglected building. The old fire department was built in 1883 and closed in 1975. The building is 3,616-square-feet and will require significant renovations as it has long stood unused, falling into disrepair over the decades. Town Administrator Jeff Bridges said the town is lucky to have a developer finally committed to the project. “I think we’re very grateful to have a proposal such as this,” said Bridges. “I think they’re going to do a great job and it’s going to put that building not only back in productive use, but it will be an honorable use for that building.” The Board of Selectmen accepted the proposal and authorized Bridges to negotiate a purchase and sale agreement and a development agreement which would include a timeline for the project.

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Decorative cookies Santa can’t resist



Kids know that cookies are a vital component of the holiday season. Come bedtime on Christmas Eve, youngsters want to make sure Santa Claus gets all the nourishment he needs to continue delivering presents to kids all over the globe. That sustenance is often provided in cookie form. With that in mind, families who want to be certain Santa won’t leave their homes hungry this Christmas can whip up a batch of these “Chocolate Star Christmas Decorations,” courtesy of Lines+Angles.

Chocolate Star Christmas Decorations

Makes 4 dozen
2 cups flour
1/2 cup Dutch processed cocoa powder, unsweetened
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup unsalted butter, softened
3/4 cup sugar
1 large egg yolk
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
1 large egg white
1 pinch cream of tartar
2 cups confectioners’ sugar
Sprinkles, for decorating

1. Whisk together flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, and salt in a bowl.
2. Beat butter and sugar in a separate bowl with an electric mixer until pale and fluffy, about 2 minutes, then beat in yolk and vanilla. On low speed, beat in flour mixture just until a dough forms.
3. Divide the dough in half, flatten each piece into a disc and then chill them, wrapped in plastic wrap, until firm, for 2 to 3 hours.
4. Preheat oven to 350 F with racks in top and bottom thirds. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. Roll out 1 piece of dough between sheets of parchment paper into a 14-by-10-inch rectangle (1/8-inch thick). Cut out as many stars as possible, reserving and chilling scraps, then quickly transfer cookies to the baking sheet, arranging them 1/2-inch apart. (If dough becomes too soft, return it to the freezer until it is firm.)
5. Bake until firm and slightly puffed, about 10 minutes. Cool cookies on baking sheet for 5 minutes, then transfer to a rack to cool completely. (Cookies will crisp as they cool.) Make more cookies with remaining dough and scraps, rerolling scraps only once.
6. To make the icing, in an electric mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, beat egg white and cream of tartar until foamy. Sift in half the sugar and beat until smooth, about 1 to 2 minutes. With mixer running, gradually add remaining sugar and beat on high speed until icing is smooth and thick. Icing should be thick, but not too thick to be pressed through a pastry bag. Adjust consistency with more confectioners’ sugar or water.
7. Transfer icing to a pastry bag with a small round tip. Pipe icing onto cookies and add decorations of your choice before icing hardens.

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