NOW OPEN
BREEZELANDS ORCHARDS
APPLES

Visit The Farm For:
• Just Baked Pies
• Cider Donuts • Cheese
FREE
with this coupon and $8 purchase
Tues. thru Thurs. Only
1/2 Dozen Cider Donuts
Southbridge Rd., Warren, MA • 413-436-7122
Open 10am, - 6pm
5 min. from Sturbridge - 148 N. Follow signs

SPENCER NEW LEADER
©2026, Issue #47
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 20, 2026

Leicester High School hosts inaugural dinner theater production



LEICESTER — Leicester High School brought a little mystery to the dinner table this past weekend, as the Drama Club and Culinary Arts program teamed up to host the school's first-ever dinner theater production. The collaborative event combined an evening of dining and entertainment, showcasing the talents of students from two different programs while bringing the school community together for a unique experience.

The event was met with an enthusiastic response from the community. Friday evening's performance sold out, while the other two performances came very close to reaching capacity. The strong turnout demonstrated the community's excitement and support for this new collaborative venture between Leicester High School's performing arts and culinary programs.

The Leicester High School Drama Club presented Craig Sodaro's murder mystery comedy, "Till Death Do Us Part," a story about a wedding celebration that takes a darkly humorous turn when mysterious guests begin turning up murdered. The production kept audiences entertained with plenty of laughs, audible gasps, and interactive moments as guests were invited to help solve the mystery.

The evening culminated in a surprising revelation: Mother G, the grandmother character brilliantly portrayed by Liana LaFlamme, was responsible for all three murders in the production. The unexpected twist made for an unforgettable conclusion to an evening filled with suspense and laughter.

For Theater Director Ms. Alexis Phillips, the event was an opportunity to bring students and programs together in a new way.

"This experience was such a joy to bring together with our students. I learned so much about food service and hosting from the culinary chefs. Their expertise is unmatched, and I cannot wait to collaborate with them on other events in the future," Phillips said.

The collaboration also received high praise from Leicester High School's Career and Technical Education (CTE) Director,

Turn To DINNER page A10

Spencer voters preserve gun ban in town buildings

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

SPENCER — The Town of Spencer held a special town meeting on Nov. 5, where much of the debate focused squarely on the right to bear arms in town buildings.

Of the 21 articles up for discussion, a proposal to exempt Spencer from a state law prohibiting firearms in administrative buildings was the most debated topic of the evening, receiving the closest margin in its final vote tally. The proposal would have allowed individuals to legally carry firearms in town buildings; however, voters narrowly defeated the measure in a vote of 25 for and 35 against.

Massachusetts State Law Chapter 135, passed in 2024, designates municipal and government buildings as prohibited areas for carrying firearms, requiring municipalities to vote independently to be exempt from the law. An attempt to repeal the law during the statewide mid-term election failed to earn support.

Arguments for the exemption leaned heavily on preserving Second Amendment rights and the belief that criminals would not follow the law, leav-

Turn To BAN page A10

Early deadlines for Thanksgiving week



With the offices of the Spencer New Leader set to be closed Thursday, Nov. 26 in observance of Thanksgiving, the submission deadline for any press releases and letters to the Editor intended for publication that week has been moved up to Thursday, Nov. 19 at 4 p.m.

Submissions can be e-mailed to news@stonebridgepress.news.

The staff of the New Leader thanks our readers for their cooperation with this scheduling change, and wishes one and all a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

North Brookfield forming working group to explore economic development

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

NORTH BROOKFIELD — The Town of North Brookfield is establishing a new working group to drive local economic development initiatives.

During the Nov. 3 Board of Selectmen meeting, Selectman Ralph Kay presented a strategic initiative soft-titled "North Brookfield: A Welcoming Home for Enterprise and Local Growth," aimed at attracting businesses to town. While emphasizing that North Brookfield takes pride in its small-town character, Kay noted rising operational costs and observed that the town is "scraping by" due to a limited commercial and industrial tax base to help offset municipal expenses.

According to research cited by Kay, commercial and industrial properties generate only 5 percent of the town's annual revenue, while North Brookfield's per capita income sits 24 percent below the state average. He added that among neighboring communities, North Brookfield records the lowest per capita income alongside the second-highest tax rate, underscoring the need for industrial growth to alleviate the residential tax burden.

The proposal places economic development at the forefront, detailing plans to market North Brookfield effectively to prospective commercial tenants.

"I have a proposed objective, and it is to develop a coordinated strategy to attract new commercial and industrial investments to North Brookfield, expand our nonresidential tax base, create local employment opportunities, and help to moderate the property tax burden on residents over time. There's a lot to be gained if we can bring some more industry and commercial business into this town," said Kay.

The strategy outlines a 90-day execution frame-

Turn To DEVELOPMENT page A10

Troop 238's Miles Oprica earns Eagle Scout rank



EAST BROOKFIELD — East Brookfield Scouts BSA Troop 238 recently celebrated Miles Oprica's achievement of earning the rank of Eagle Scout at his Eagle Scout Court of Honor on Nov. 1. Miles officially earned Scouting America's highest rank on Aug. 24, becoming Troop 238's 44th Eagle Scout and marking a significant milestone in his years of Scouting, leadership, and service.

For his Eagle Scout Service Project,Oprica led a team in removing a deteriorating footbridge and replacing it with a new bridge over the wetlands along the Quaboag Plantation Pathway in Brookfield, behind the elementary school. During project workdays in November 2025, Oprica and his team also cleared and re-blazed sections of the trail, repaired informational signs, and installed a geocache to encourage visitors to explore the pathway. Together, these improvements enhance the trail experience and make the area more accessible and engaging for the community.

Oprica began his Scouting journey in first grade as a Tiger Cub with Brookfield Cub Scout Pack 159 before joining Troop 238 in May 2021. Since then, he has taken on several leadership roles, serving as Scribe, Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, and currently Senior Patrol Leader. He has earned 37 merit badges, completed National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT), and later returned to serve as a youth staff member. He is also a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow, Scouting America's national honor society.

Treasure Valley Scout Reservation (TVSR) in Rutland has been an important part of Oprica's Scouting experience. Over the past nine summers, he progressed from Cub Scout day camp and Webelos overnight programs to Scouts BSA summer camp, Counselor in Training (CIT), and camp staff. During TVSR's 100th anniversary season this past summer, Miles served on the Project COPE (Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience) and Climbing staff. His contributions earned him both "Rookie of the Year" and "Most Valuable Server" recognition.

Other Scouting highlights include a high-adventure trek to Sea Base in the Florida Keys and two separate 50-mile backpacking trips along the Midstate Trail.

Outside of Scouting, Oprica is a junior at Tantasqua Regional High School, where he is a member of the National Honor Society. He competes on the school's swim and math teams, as well as the Tri-Community YMCA swim team. In his free time, he enjoys skiing and mountain biking. After graduating from high school, Miles plans to attend college and pursue a career that combines his interests in leadership, outdoor recreation, and hands-on work.

Miles is the son of Marie and George Oprica of Brookfield, both of whom have served in leadership roles with Cub Scouts and Troop 238. His brother, Simon Oprica, is also an active member of Troop 238 and currently holds the rank of Star Scout.

Founded in 1982, East Brookfield Scouts BSA Troop 238 is part of the Heart of New England Council of Scouting America. The troop serves youth ages 11 to 17, emphasizing character development, citizenship, leadership, and personal fitness through outdoor adventure and community service. For more information about Troop 238, contact the troop at t238eb@gmail.com.

East Brookfield library announces December holiday programs and activities

EAST BROOKFIELD — The East Brookfield Public Library is celebrating the holiday season with a variety of programs throughout December, including wreath making, a visit from Santa Claus, children›s crafts, holiday movies and its annual Mitten Tree collection to benefit local families in need.

The month's activities will begin Thursday, Dec. 3, at 2 p.m. with an adult wreath-making program. Participants will learn how to create a holiday decoration using wire ribbon and a wire frame. All necessary supplies will be provided, and no materials are required from participants. The program is intended for adults only, and advance registration is requested.

Santa Claus and a few of his friends will make a special appearance at the library Thursday, Dec. 17, at 10:45 a.m. Families are invited to attend the holiday visit, and friendly, well-behaved dogs are also welcome to come along for pictures.

Children will have an opportunity to get creative during a Pine Cone Snow Owls craft program Tuesday, Dec. 29, at 2 p.m. The activity is open to children of all ages and will provide a chance to make a seasonal craft during the school vacation week.

The library will also offer a series of holiday movies throughout the month. Visitors are welcome to bring their lunches, enjoy a film and spend time with other community members.

The movie schedule includes "White Christmas" on Monday, Dec. 21, at 1 p.m.; "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" on Thursday, Dec. 24, at 11:30 a.m.; and "It's a Wonderful Life" on Monday, Dec. 28, at 1 p.m.

In addition to its holiday programming, the library is once again organizing its Mitten Tree collection, an annual effort to provide clothing and essential household supplies to local residents who could use additional assistance.

Community members are encouraged to donate new mittens, hats, gloves and scarves for people of all ages. The collection also welcomes personal care products and everyday household necessities.

Requested items include shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, laundry detergent, toilet paper, deodorant, barrettes, hair ties, socks, aluminum foil, trash bags and dish soap, among other essentials.

All collected donations will be distributed to local families and individuals in need.

The Mitten Tree provides residents with an opportunity to share some holiday generosity while helping neighbors obtain items that are often overlooked during seasonal charitable collections.

With activities ranging from hands-on crafts to classic holiday films and opportunities to help others, the library's December schedule offers several ways for residents of all ages to participate in the season's festivities.

Residents interested in the adult wreath-making program are reminded to register in advance.

Todd A. Ethier

B•U•I•L•D•E•R

774-230-3967

Quality Building Since 1985

LICENSED & INSURED

♦ REMODELING
♦ DECKS ♦ SIDING
♦ DOORS ♦ WINDOWS
♦ FINISH BASEMENTS
♦ HANDYMAN SERVICES
♦ WE DO SMALL JOBS

Spencer community prepares for holiday fairs, Scout fundraiser

SPENCER — The holiday season is approaching, and several local organizations are preparing to welcome residents for a series of community events, including craft fairs, a spaghetti dinner fundraiser and a Christmas faire.

Looking ahead to December, Mary Queen of the Rosary Parish is preparing for its annual Christmas Faire, scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 5, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Organizers are seeking donations to help make this year's event a success. Gently used Christmas ornaments, holiday decorations and themed raffle baskets are among the items being requested.

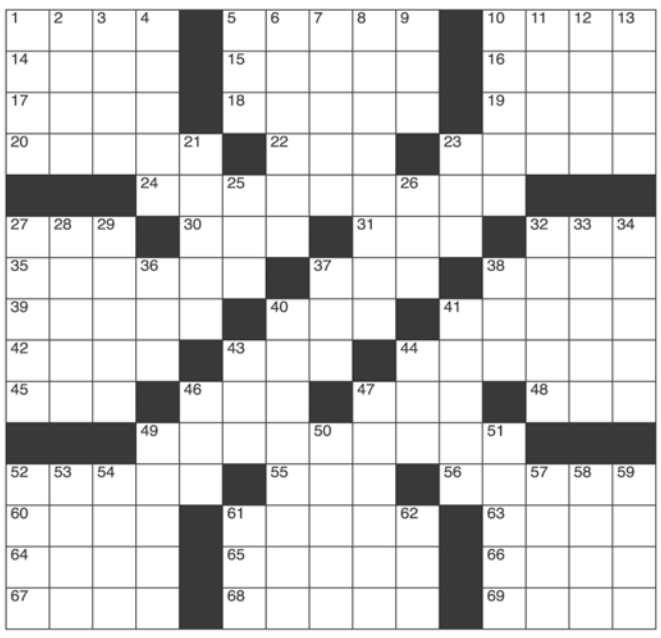
Donations of Christmas ornaments, decorations and themed raffle baskets may be dropped off at the parish hall from Nov. 8 through Nov. 21.

The parish is also seeking gift cards and lottery tickets for its raffle trees. Those contributions may be delivered directly to the parish office.

Local vendors interested in participating in the Christmas Faire can obtain table applications at the church entrances, the parish office or through the parish website.

The three events offer opportunities for residents to support local organizations, enjoy community gatherings and prepare for the upcoming holiday season.

Additional information about the Christmas Faire and vendor applications is available at maryqueenoftherosary.org.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Perceive a sound
5. Pretends to be
10. Type of guitar
14. Actor Idris
15. A citizen of Iran
16. Creative
17. Keep under control
18. Weight unit for precious stones
19. You better call him
20. Fanatical
22. Male cat
23. Jewish spiritual leader
24. One who takes risks
27. A way to nail
30. Cool!
31. Progressive policy supporter
32. "Losing My Religion" rockers
35. Step-shaped recess
37. Round globular seed
38. Somewhat
39. Butterhead lettuces
40. Color at the end of the spectrum
41. Lines where fabrics are sewn together
42. Dodgers great Hershiser
43. Floor covering
44. Traveled aimlessly
45. Rocker Stewart
46. Body art
47. Congressman (abbr.)
48. No seats available
49. Categorizes
52. Iraq-Syria border town
55. Ballplayer's tool
56. Type of sword
60. Baseball team
61. Upper bracts of grass
63. Italian seaport
64. Ancient city in Syria
65. Shoelace tube
66. U. of Miami mascot is one
67. South American nation
68. "Nebraska" director Alexander
69. Upper body part

CLUES DOWN

1. German courtesy title
2. Ancient Greek City
3. Skin care manufacturer
4. A long-legged frog
5. Photo
6. Delivered a speech
7. Lute in northern Indian music
8. Decorated
9. Take a seat
10. Bottom layer
11. Type of horse
12. Ticket part
13. Defunct currency of Guinea
21. Challenges
23. Popular BBQ food
25. Subway rodent
26. By way of
27. Shady garden alcove
28. City in Egypt
29. __ and flowed
32. Large quantities of paper
33. Eurasian wheat
34. Act incorrectly
36. Layer of water right above sediment (abbr.)
37. Al Bundy's wife
38. Ocean
40. Large, round root
41. Sound units
43. Knock
44. Soak in water
46. Hot drink
47. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
49. Rumanian city
50. Come back from being down
51. Vaccine developer
52. Canadian law enforcers
53. Wings
54. "Perry Mason" actor Raymond
57. Small fry
58. __ Clapton, musician
59. Gamble
61. Semi-liquid food
62. Consumed food

PUZZLE SOLUTION

H	E	A	R	■	P	O	S	E	S	■	B	A	S	S
E	L	B	A	■	I	R	A	N	I	■	A	R	T	Y
R	E	I	N	■	C	A	R	A	T	■	S	A	U	L
R	A	B	I	D	■	T	O	M	■	R	A	B	B	I
■	■	■	D	A	R	E	D	E	V	I	L	■	■	■
A	C	E	■	R	A	D	■	L	I	B	■	R	E	M
R	A	B	B	E	T	■	P	E	A	■	S	E	M	I
B	I	B	B	S	■	R	E	D	■	S	E	A	M	S
O	R	E	L	■	R	U	G	■	R	O	A	M	E	D
R	O	D	■	T	A	T	■	S	E	N	■	S	R	O
■	■	■	S	E	P	A	R	A	T	E	S	■	■	■
R	A	B	I	A	■	B	A	T	■	S	A	B	E	R
C	L	U	B	■	P	A	L	E	A	■	B	A	R	I
M	A	R	I	■	A	G	L	E	T	■	I	B	I	S
P	E	R	U	■	P	A	Y	N	E	■	N	E	C	K

Leicester library announces upcoming events for adults

LEICESTER — December is very busy at the Leicester Public Library!

The Friends of the Leicester Library will be holding their annual Cookie Sale at the library on Thursday, Dec. 17, from 2 to 8 p.m. The public is invited to come and choose from a wonderful selection of cookies baked by members of the Friends and others! The event has been a very successful fundraising project and is a fantastic way to purchase-at super prices-holiday and Christmas cookies for your family or work holiday parties!

If you would like to help the Friends by baking, please drop your cookies off at the library on Tuesday, Dec. 15, Wednesday, Dec. 16, or Thursday, Dec. 17 (by 2 p.m. on the 17th).

Visit the library and pick up your Central Mass Library Passport! The Passport lists many of the libraries in the region and invites patrons to visit all the libraries in the area and let us know what you liked at each one. You are also invited to share photos with the Leicester Library via scanning, or by sharing them on Facebook and tagging the Leicester Library!

On a monthly basis, the library holds many other educational and /or family fun events. Puzzle races are held almost every month, and teams can include families or friend groups or club groups. Several book clubs hold their meetings at the library or work with the library to obtain books for their club members.

A number of organizations conduct meetings at the library, and you can often find opportunities to meet with government officials or representatives at regularly scheduled times or at special presentations.

Please visit the library's calendar at www.leicesterlibrary.org on a regular basis to see what's coming up next! See you at the Cookie Sale!

Upcoming Leicester Public Library children's activities

LEICESTER — The Children's Room at the Leicester Public Library is a wonderful place to bring your children throughout the year, and every month Children's Librarian Kae Hart plans special programs and events.

Every Tuesday afternoon from 4 to 5 p.m., children of all ages are welcome to participate in programs that change monthly. For instance, during the month of November children can learn about coding at Intro to Coding. Using Ozobots, children develop skills like pattern making and recognition which helps them jumpstart their coding skills. Ozobots use markers and paper to code for a screen-free lesson.

On Nov. 21, the library will host a Birthday Party for Arthur Read! Arthur is a popular character created by author Marc Brown which was turned into a PBS show in 1996. Arthur is beloved for his reliability and heavily relied on friendships. The party will include Arthur crafts and activities and lots of snacks to celebrate and is open to all ages!

Every month, the Children's Room hosts Homeschool Hangout. Families who homeschool are welcome to attend, provide an opportunity for their children to meet and play games and with toys along with other children who are also homeschooled. Please check the calendar at: www.leicesterlibrary.org for the date and time in December.

The library is a fabulous place to arrange to meet other parents or caregivers along with your children! The Children's Room has many toys and educational toys, board games, card games, computers, and resources (including books and DVD's) appropriate for children from 6 months to about 11 years of age, and the library also has a terrific space upstairs for pre-teen and teens!

Also every month, Miss Kae runs a number of additional special programs! Please regularly check out what's coming up weekly at: www.leicesterlibrary.org!

SPENCER NEW LEADER

TO PLACE AN AD:
MIKAELA VICTOR
(774) 200-7308
mikaela@stonebridgepress.news
LEGAL NOTICES:
(508) 909-4127
SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES:
KERRI PETERSON
(508) 909-4103
kerri@stonebridgepress.news
TO PRINT AN OBITUARY:
E-MAIL
obits@stonebridgepress.news
CALL: 508-909-4149
OR send to Spencer New Leader
P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550
TO SUBMIT A LETTER
TO THE EDITOR:
E-MAIL: news@stonebridgepress.news
OR send to Spencer New Leader
P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

SPENCER NEW LEADER
PUBLISHED BY
STONEBRIDGE PRESS

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
FRANK G. CHILINSKI
frank@salmonpress.news

BUSINESS MANAGER
RYAN CORNEAU
860-928-1818 EXT. 102
ryan@salmonpress.news

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
JIM DINICOLA
508-764-6102
jim@stonebridgepress.news

EDITOR
BRENDAN BERUBE
508-909-4101
news@stonebridgepress.news

PRODUCTION MANAGER
JULIE CLARKE
508-909-4105
julie@villagernewspapers.com

The Spencer New Leader (USPS#024-927) (ISSN 1945-6603) is published weekly by Stonebridge Press, Inc., PO Box 90., Southbridge, MA 01550. Periodical postage paid at Southbridge, MA and additional mailing office(s). POSTMASTER: Send address changesto Spencer New Leader, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

SPENCER ALMANAC

REAL ESTATE

BROOKFIELD

$190,000, 30 Rice Corner Rd, Hammond, Mark D, to Sharma, Douglas Jonathan.

EAST BROOKFIELD

$450,000, 123 Park St, Cep Real Estate LLC, to Talbot, Lynnea.

LEICESTER

$530,000, 65 Virginia Dr #69, Williams, Vernon Charles, and Williams, Myra Jean, to Prince Living T, and Prince, Allen H.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

$485,000, 44 W Brookfield Rd, Allen, Troy E, to Pienik, Kyle, and Pienik, Cara Elizabeth.

SPENCER

$315,000, 142 W Main St, Iannoli, James, and Iannoli, Elvira T, to Bukow, Berin.

$275,000, 56 Ash St, Jolicoeur Ave Inc, to Senko, Fuat.

WARREN

$390,000, 1226 Brimfield Rd, Bho Realty LLC, to Berry, Zachery, and Berry, Peggy.

WEST BROOKFIELD

$603,000, 15 Birch Hill Rd, Bettencourt, Patricia, to Marrero, Raphael A, and Buelow, Sarah R.

AA Transportation to host 11th annual 'Stuff the Bus' toy drive Nov. 28

SPENCER — AA Transportation is preparing to spread some holiday cheer throughout the region with its 11th annual "Stuff the Bus" toy drive, scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 28, at three locations in Leicester, Spencer and North Brookfield.

The annual campaign brings together AA Transportation employees, local police and fire departments, businesses and community organizations to collect toys for children and families in need during the holiday season.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., AA Transportation buses will be stationed at participating businesses in all three communities, where residents are encouraged to drop off new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages.

In Leicester, AA Transportation will partner with Walmart, the Leicester Police Department, Leicester firefighters and the Leicester Teachers Association. A school bus and Leicester fire trucks will be parked outside Walmart from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to accept donations.

Following the event, the collected toys will be delivered to Maureen Doyle, who will coordinate their distribution to Leicester families in need.

In Spencer, the campaign will take place at Klem's, 117 West Main St., where AA Transportation will be joined by the Spencer Fire Department, Spencer Police Department and Klem's employees.

Residents can bring their donations to the bus parked outside the store between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. After the collection concludes, the toys will be delivered to Donna Flannery, who will oversee their distribution to local families in need.

In North Brookfield, AA Transportation will team up with the North Brookfield Police Department for a collection at Hannaford Supermarket, also from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Toys collected at that location will be turned over to the North Brookfield Police Department, which will arrange for their distribution to area families.

Organizers emphasize that all donated toys must be new and unwrapped. Gifts suitable for children of all ages are welcome, allowing the campaign to assist families with children ranging from infants to teenagers.

For residents unable to attend the Nov. 28 collections, donations may also be dropped off in advance at the Spencer Fire Station, North Brookfield Police Department, Leicester Police Station or any AA Transportation bus yard.

Donations can also be given directly to AA Transportation bus and van drivers, providing another convenient way for families to participate.

Now entering its 11th year, the Stuff the Bus campaign has become an annual holiday tradition for AA Transportation employees and the communities they serve.

The effort reflects the company's commitment to supporting local families while providing an opportunity for residents, businesses and public safety personnel to work together for a common cause.

AA Transportation organizers say their drivers at every location are enthusiastic about the upcoming collection and hope to make this year's campaign the most successful yet.

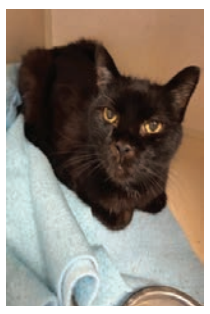
With the holiday season approaching, organizers are encouraging anyone who is able to contribute to stop by one of the three locations and help fill the buses with gifts that will brighten the holidays for local children.

The 11th annual Stuff the Bus campaign will take place Saturday, Nov. 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Walmart in Leicester, Klem's in Spencer and Hannaford Supermarket in North Brookfield. All toys collected will remain in the communities served by the campaign.

P.E.T. of the Week

Sponsored by Leicester Veterinary Clinic, LLC

MEET BAKEY



Bakey is a sweet senior gentleman looking for a quiet forever home where he can relax and enjoy his golden years. He has plenty of personality and, like any good senior cat, he can have a little catitude!

Bakey is an independent guy who doesn't enjoy being held, but when he wants attention, he'll come to you! He knows what he likes and isn't shy about letting you know when he wants some alone time. He would do best with a family who understands and respects his boundaries.

Bakey would prefer a home without young children.

If you're looking for a laid-back senior cat with a big personality who enjoys affection on his own terms, Bakey might be the perfect addition to your home!

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



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

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



Dr. Colm P. Scanlon
Veterinarian

West Brookfield to honor veterans with Wreaths Across America ceremony Dec. 19

WEST BROOKFIELD — The community will come together Saturday, Dec. 19, at noon for its fourth annual Wreaths Across America ceremony, honoring the men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces and ensuring their sacrifices are never forgotten.

The ceremony will take place at the Veterans' Monuments on the West Brookfield Common, joining a nationwide effort to remember fallen veterans, honor those who serve and teach future generations about the value of freedom.

West Brookfield is the only scheduled Wreaths Across America location in 2026 among the communities of Brookfield, East Brookfield, North Brookfield, Warren, New Braintree, Oakham, Hardwick, Spencer, Sturbridge and Charlton, according to local organizers.

Now in its fourth year, the local observance has become an opportunity for residents to recognize the military service and sacrifices of veterans whose final resting places are in West Brookfield.

Organizers are seeking community support to sponsor wreaths for the nearly 600 servicemembers buried in town. Each wreath sponsorship costs $17, with 100% of the proceeds supporting West Brookfield's Wreaths Across America event.

The goal is to ensure that every veteran laid to rest in the community is remembered with dignity and gratitude during the holiday season.

The local ceremony is part of a much larger national remembrance effort. According to information provided by organizers, last year's Wreaths Across America observance involved more than 5,594 participating locations and approximately 4 million volunteers nationwide, who placed nearly 3.1 million wreaths in honor of veterans.

The annual tradition serves as a reminder that the sacrifices made by military personnel remain an important part of the nation's history, whether those individuals served during wartime or in peacetime.

For West Brookfield, the ceremony also provides an opportunity to recognize the generations of local residents who answered the call to serve their country. Through the placement of wreaths, the community pays tribute to those individuals while helping preserve their memory for future generations.

Organizers hope residents, families and community organizations will participate in the Dec. 19 observance and consider sponsoring wreaths to support the local effort.

Those interested in learning more about the ceremony or sponsoring a wreath may contact Nadine Morin at 774-200-3396 or by email at 01585wreathsacrossamerica@gmail.com.

Additional information about the national program is available at Wreaths Across America.

THRESHOLD DECKS
FAMILY AND VETERAN OWNED
OUTDOOR LIVING, BUILT BETTER.
DECKS PORCHES SCREEN ROOMS
(508) 735-9671 Info@ThresholdDecks.com
THRESHOLDDECKS.COM

Saint Nicholas Fair
Location: Christ Church
527 Pomfret Street • Pomfret, CT
Christchurchpomfret.org • 860.315.7780
Saturday, Dec. 5th, 10am - 1pm
(Snow Date: December 12)
Holiday gifts, yummy treats & more!
Online Auction Nov. 21 - Dec. 2
new.biddingowl.com/ChristChurchPomfret
NEW! Thank You Basket Raffle
Drawing on 12/5 @ 1PM
Each $5 donation = 15 tickets.
Use this QR code to donate.
Benefits Local Outreach

Workshop13 invites you to take art Off the Wall

WARE — Come join the fun and support Workshop13 and local artists at this whimsical fundraising event where you can take art right off the wall. "Off the Wall" will take place in Workshop13's ArtWorks Gallery at 69 Main St., Ware, on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 7-9 p.m. Each ticket entitles the holder to appetizers and drinks, live music, and an eight-by-eight-inch work of original, one-of-a-kind art made by a local artist.

Mix and mingle with artists and art-lovers. Enjoy a live musical performance by Paul Provost. Savor gourmet appetizers, signature cocktails and mocktails, and Treehouse beer. Try your luck at our raffle featuring fabulous, curated prize baskets. You can also purchase additional paintings by the participating artists or grab exclusive Workshop13 merchandise like sweatshirts and mugs. And, most importantly, take home a unique piece of art of your own choosing!

General admission (The Andy Warhol) tickets are $88 each, entitling you access to all of the above. Premiere tickets are also available, receiving priority in selecting the 8x8" works of art. The Leonardo ($888) grants the holder the exclusive first choice of the night. Five people can purchase The Dali at $350 to be in the second group to select their artworks, and ten people can purchase The Van Gogh tickets at $175 to be in the third group to select. Tickets are limited in supply.

Every ticket purchased directly helps Workshop13 continue providing creative programming, classes, and resources for our community. Support this vibrant local arts center, have an unforgettable evening, and take a piece of art off the wall to bring home and hang on your own.

About Workshop13

Workshop13 is a dynamic center where arts, culture, and community converge—expanding access to the arts and nurturing creativity and self-expression in our rural region. For more information visit workshop13.org, or call 413-277-6072.

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

WANTED TO BUY
Antiques & Old Stuff
•Bottles • Crocks •Jugs •Costume Jewelry • Pottery •Toys • Pewter • Glassware •Sterling Silver • Coins • Gold • Silver Plated Items •Watches •Typewriters •Sewing Machines • Tools • Radios • Clocks • Lanterns •Lamps • Kitchenware • Cookware •Knives •Hunting • Fishing • Military • Masonic • Video Games • Advertising Signs & Much More
CALL DONALD ROY 860-874-8396

www.StonebridgePress.com

PEPIN WASTE SERVICE
Your Local Roll-Off Specialist
FALL SPECIAL $375
10 yd. Rental 1 Ton
3 sizes available. Call for pricing.
Roll Off Containers
Weekend Dumpsters for the Homeowner
Houses • Attics • Cellars
Construction Sites
10-15-20 Yd.
508-892-4193 • Leicester, MA
Fully Insured

1872-2007

SPENCER NEW LEADER

PO Box 90 Southbridge, MA 01550
Telephone (800) 367-9898
Fax (508) 764-8015
www.StonebridgePress.com

FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

EDITORIAL

A recipe for success at Leicester High School

There is something particularly encouraging about seeing students take what they have learned in the classroom and turn it into something that the entire community can enjoy. That is exactly what happened at Leicester High School last weekend, when the Drama Club and Culinary Arts program joined forces for the school's first dinner theater production.

The result was more than an evening of good food and entertainment. It was a demonstration of what can happen when educators look beyond the boundaries of individual programs and give students the opportunity to work together toward a common goal.

The production of Craig Sodaro's murder mystery comedy, "Till Death Do Us Part," offered audiences an entertaining combination of suspense, humor and audience participation. Meanwhile, the culinary students helped create the dining experience that made the event different from a traditional school play.

The community clearly appreciated the effort. Friday evening's performance sold out, and the remaining two performances came close to capacity. That kind of response is encouraging for any school production, particularly one attempting something new.

But the most important part of this story is not the ticket sales or even the success of the performances. It is what the students gained from the experience.

Putting together a dinner theater requires an impressive range of skills. Actors must learn their lines, develop their characters and respond to an audience. Culinary students must prepare food, coordinate service and work within the demands of a schedule. Behind the scenes, other students must manage countless details that most audience members never see.

When those responsibilities come together, students learn lessons that cannot always be measured by a test or a report card. They learn that preparation matters. They discover that communication is essential, especially when different groups are depending on one another. They experience the pressure of meeting expectations and the satisfaction of seeing their efforts rewarded. Perhaps most importantly, they learn that their individual contributions are part of something larger.

That is one of the great strengths of career and technical education, and it is equally true of the performing arts. Both provide opportunities for students to develop confidence, solve problems and discover abilities they might not otherwise recognize.

Too often, conversations about education focus almost exclusively on academic performance, graduation requirements and standardized assessments. Those measures have their place, but they do not tell the complete story of what makes a successful school.

A student who discovers a talent for acting may develop the confidence to speak in public. A student working in a kitchen may discover an interest in hospitality or restaurant management. Someone coordinating backstage activities may find an aptitude for organization and leadership.

Those discoveries can influence future careers, but they also help young people become capable, adaptable adults.

The Leicester dinner theater offered another valuable lesson: Different talents deserve equal recognition. Not every student is comfortable standing in a spotlight. Some excel at preparing a meal, organizing an event or making sure everything runs smoothly behind the scenes. A successful production depends on all of them.

The collaboration also offered an opportunity for residents to see firsthand what students are accomplishing. When schools invite the public to experience student work, they strengthen the connection between education and the community that supports it.

The enthusiasm surrounding this first production suggests that Leicester residents

Turn To EDITORIAL *page* A10

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Suckers and losers

To the Editor:

This being Veterans Day [as I write], and having thanked my friends and family for their service, it occurred to me that this being how Trump describes our people in the military, that this is also an apt description of the MAGA faithful. The stable genius, knowing full well he would get trounced in blue states, now claims that the cheating only occurred in the red states, and specifically because, changing laws so that early votes and mail ins, no longer go uncounted until the polls close, created an insurmountable deficit that could not be overcome. When decoded to reality, he is saying he was already a loser and only suckers would vote for his agenda.

Intelligent and rational elected officials would heed the message on the will of the people that the blue tsunami delivered. The fact that those who survived it are likely ending the Republican party by flexing their weak muscles by promoting Steven Miller, the ICE and immigration ignorance architect. (Bear in mind, he initiated the Muslim ban concept, which also explains no action in rescue of Afghan allies, but also accepting "too expensive to fly and maintain" flying palace from Qatar, main funder of the Muslim Brotherhood) It cannot be any clearer that his continued support of inept unqualified Cabinet members ,Hegseth, Blanche, RFK, Patel, are anything but acknowledgement of why even those he campaigned for, were trounced.

Replacing butt kissing Mikey with Gym Jordan, is not only signaling no reach across the aisle, but confrontational in your face ignoring of the law. He has still never responded to a congressional subpoena and not been punished for it. How do you think your newly elected Congress ,that has a mandate to investigate and punish corruption, will fare with Trump's personal lawyer led DOJ, ignoring laws in favor of political attacks?

Even when the violations are as clear as they can be, does anyone think the guy who wields the veto pen and sells federal pardons, will not obstruct and promote lies as usual? How about the guy who overstayed his student visa and now holds big contracts and tries to buy elections? Do you fantasize any justice there?

While I was gratified by the blue wave, only actually grabbing the purse strings prevents us continuing to be suckers and losers until the cancer is completely cured.

KEN KIMBALL
BROOKFIELD

Leicester School Building Committee lays out construction process

To the Editor:

Thank you, voters of Leicester. You have taken a giant leap of faith. We, the leadership teams of the community represented on your SBC (School Building Committee) appreciate your trust and intend on delivering on what we have promised.

The most frequently asked question we all get since the vote is "when do we start the renovations/construction?" We will endeavor to answer that very understandable inquiry in this article.

First, a summary of the state required process:

The voters' approval at both Town Meeting and a Ballot vote, was considered a "show the MSBA (Massachusetts School Building Authority) that your community will finance their portion of the total cost". (You did that in record numbers…. twice!)

Now, our full School Building Committee, working with our engineers, architects, and project managers, must confirm all code requirements, finalize cost estimates, adjust plans when and where necessary, and submit those to the MSBA .

That state agency will once again review those plans and perform site visits and inspections. They will scrutinize our estimates with their resources to confirm that ours are up to code, accurate, and realistic in today's market.

They will respond with their comments and suggestions accordingly and the full Town Committee will make any required adjustments to the plans. MSBA will once again review any adjustments or changes to the previous submission.

(As a reminder, your town's School Building Committee is in full agreement, that regardless of any required changes or increases in estimates, we will not allow the cost to exceed what we have presented to the community even if we have to scale back some of the project.)

Upon completion of the previous steps, the plans go through an additional review by the State and upon approval, we put the project out to bid.

All bidding contractors will know in advance what our maximum costs are and the specific building requirements including materials, fixtures, infrastructure, and site and safety challenges. (after all this is an active campus).

The bids will be scrutinized by the SBC and MSBA.

As the Committee has demonstrated, we will stay transparent, keep you informed, and notify you as we get more specific dates and timelines.

Our hope, (and it's just that) is to have our kickoff ceremony in early spring next year. The entire review and bidding process is likely to take all of 2027, with the most substantial construction occurring in 2028.

At this time, with so many variables, including New England weather, completion dates cannot honestly be determined. As the process continues and we get confirmations, we will keep you informed with periodic updates.

Again, we thank you for your support and trust.

Your Leicester School Building Committee

KEVIN MENARD
DOUG BELANGER
DAVID GENEREUX
KRIS LAUZON
JIM REINKE
BRETT KUSTIGIAN
JOHN HIGGINS
TED ZAWADA
RICHARD LIND
NICK PACKARD

Happy Thanksgiving 2026

T Turkey, centerpiece for our dinner table today
H Happy time of the year with family and friends.
A Appreciation, enjoying all that is good in our lives.
N November, the month Thanksgiving is celebrated.
K Kindness shown to everyone we meet.
S Stuffing for this wonderful bird prepared for us.
G Gathering to watch football games.
I Inspiring conversations we all enjoy.
V Vegetables, a great addition to all the food on display.
I Improving our quality of life, a great goal.
N Nap, a tradition for us to take.
G Giving Thanks and prayers for this special day.

We pray for our family and friends today and give thanks we live in a free country, the USA.

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

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



news@stonebridgepress.news

Donor-advised funds: A smart way to give



FINANCIAL FOCUS

TREVOR NIELSEN

While there are many ways to make charitable gifts, a donor-advised fund (DAF) offers multiple tax benefits and an efficient platform for ongoing giving.

Once you open a DAF, you can contribute many types of assets, including cash, publicly traded stocks, bonds, CDs, or non-cash items such as closely held business interests, art or collectibles. Then decide how to invest the money, potentially following a strategy your DAF sponsor suggests. Next, choose which charities to support, how often to give and how much. You can direct the money to any IRS-approved charitable organization.

Tax deductions

The standard deduction was raised in 2025 and has now been indefinitely extended.

Taking the standard deduction: A new provision in 2026 lets you deduct up to $1,000 in charitable cash contributions ($2,000 if filing jointly) made directly to qualified charitable organizations. However, contributions to DAFs are specifically excluded. You can still receive other DAF advantages, including tax-free growth and capital gains avoidance, just not a deduction for the DAF contribution itself.

Itemizing deductions: A new 2026 rule limits what's deductible: only aggregate charitable contributions exceeding 0.5 percent of your adjusted gross income (AGI) are deductible. If you don't give enough in a single year to clear that floor, a DAF's "bunching" strategy may be effective. You combine several years of giving into one DAF contribution and distribute funds at your own pace, making the 0.5 percent AGI floor easier to clear.

In the 37 percent federal marginal tax bracket: Your itemized deduction tax benefit is now capped at 35 percent, applied after any other deduction-specific limits such as the 0.5 percent AGI floor. Factor this into your charitable giving strategy with your tax professional.

Tax-free growth of earnings

Once you contribute an asset to a DAF, any earnings growth is not taxable to you, the DAF or recipient charities. This means charitable assets can grow, potentially increasing what recipient organizations receive.

Avoidance of capital gains taxes

When you donate appreciated stocks or other investments — or virtually any appreciated asset — to a DAF, you can avoid the capital gains taxes that would be due if you sold the asset and donated the proceeds. Charities benefit because they receive the full appreciated value rather than after-tax sale proceeds. And you can still take a tax deduction for your donation.

Tradeoffs to consider

While these tax benefits can make a DAF attractive, it's worth understanding the tradeoffs. Once you contribute assets to a DAF, that gift is irrevocable. Your investment options are also limited to what's available in the DAF program you've chosen, and DAFs can incur administrative costs in addition to fees charged on the underlying investments.

A good next step

Because DAFs can have significant implications for your tax situation, consult with your tax professional before acting. Your financial advisor can also help you evaluate DAF benefits and tradeoffs and compare sponsors, since programs offer different features.

If a DAF is appropriate, it can be a meaningful and efficient way to support charitable giving for years to come.

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

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors, cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

When did everybody get so young?

LANTERNS ALONG MAIN STREET
By CHARLES

I had an unsettling experience the other day. I was watching a television interview with a fellow who was being introduced as one of the country's leading experts in his field. He was articulate, confident and obviously knew what he was talking about. He also looked like he ought to be asking permission to borrow the family car.

I mentioned this to my wife, who glanced at the television and informed me that the gentleman was probably in his early 40s.

"Forty?" I said. "He looks about 25."

"That's because you're getting old."

There are certain things a man doesn't particularly enjoy hearing over his morning coffee. That was one of them. But the more I thought about it, the more I realized she's right. Somewhere along the way, the entire adult population seems to have gotten younger. Doctors are younger. Police officers are younger. The people managing banks and running businesses are younger. Even the people delivering the evening news look as though they should be studying for final exams.

I remember when a doctor was a distinguished-looking gentleman with gray hair, serious glasses and the sort of expression that suggested he'd personally witnessed the discovery of penicillin. Now, I occasionally find myself sitting across from a physician who looks younger than my son. And I have to resist the urge to ask whether his mother knows he's out practicing medicine.

Of course, the fellow probably has more education than I could accumulate in three lifetimes. But that doesn't change the fact that I remember when people his age were asking me for advice.

That's another strange part of getting older. For much of your life, there's always somebody ahead of you. Somebody who knows more, has seen more and can explain how things work. When you're 20, the 50-year-olds seem to have everything figured out. When you're 30, you assume the people in their 60s possess some special wisdom that comes with age. Then one morning, you realize you're approaching the age of those supposedly wise people, and nobody has delivered the instruction manual.

I still occasionally feel like the same fellow who was trying to figure out how to pay his first electric bill. The only difference is that now the electric bill is considerably larger, and people sometimes expect me to know what I'm doing. That's a dangerous assumption.

The other day, a younger acquaintance asked me a question about a problem he was having at work. He listened carefully while I offered my opinion, nodded thoughtfully and thanked me for the advice. I walked away feeling rather pleased with myself. Then it occurred to me that he'd probably come to me because he considered me an older, experienced gentleman. An elder statesman, if you will. I nearly had to sit down.

I used to be the young fellow asking questions. Now, apparently, I'm the fellow people ask. And I don't recall anybody consulting me about the promotion.

The funny thing is, I don't feel particularly old. Oh, there are mornings when my knees have a different opinion. And I admit that reading the tiny print on a medicine bottle has become something of a competitive sport. But inside, I still recognize the fellow I was at 25.

He's a little more cautious now. He doesn't stay up quite as late. And he's learned that certain home improvement projects are better left to professionals. But he's still in there. I suspect that's true of most people.

We look at somebody who's 75 or 80 and see an older person. What we sometimes forget is that the person looking back at us probably still remembers being 19 as clearly as we do.

They remember their first car, their first paycheck, their first heartbreak and the ridiculous things they did when they thought they knew everything. And somewhere inside, they're probably wondering how they ended up being the oldest person at the table.

Maybe that's one of the more interesting surprises of growing older. You discover that age doesn't necessarily bring a completely different personality. It brings a longer collection of experiences to the person you've always been. You also discover that younger people are perfectly capable of knowing things you don't.

My children have taught me plenty over the years. Some of it involves technology, naturally, but much of it has nothing to do with computers or phones. They see certain problems differently. They question assumptions I've carried around for decades. And every so often, they make a point I can't argue with.

I find that encouraging. After all, somebody has to take over eventually. And judging by the age of the people appearing on television these days, they've already started.

I suppose the sensible thing is to accept that the world is going to keep producing capable young people, whether I'm ready for it or not.

Still, I have one request. Could somebody please explain why the high school principal looks younger than the students' parents? Because I distinctly remember when principals were at least 70 years old. And I'm beginning to suspect they weren't.

St. Joseph-St. Pius X to host sixth annual Christmas Bazaar Dec. 5

LEICESTER — The holiday season will be in full swing Saturday, Dec. 5, when the St. Joseph-St. Pius X New 2 You Thrift Store & Furniture Gallery hosts its sixth annual Christmas Bazaar, offering a day of shopping, family activities, food and holiday festivities.

The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 759 Main St. in Leicester, with activities planned for visitors of all ages.

The annual bazaar will feature a variety of unique gifts and holiday merchandise, providing shoppers with an opportunity to find presents for family and friends while enjoying the festive atmosphere. The New 2 You Thrift Store & Furniture Gallery will also offer extended shopping hours, along with special purchases and discounts throughout the event.

Visitors will have several opportunities to try their luck with raffles, including a 50/50 drawing, a raffle table featuring assorted prizes and a scratch ticket raffle.

Children will have plenty to enjoy as well, with face painting, games, crafts and a balloon artist among the activities planned for younger visitors.

One of the day's highlights will be a special appearance by Santa Claus and his helper, giving children and families an opportunity to share in the excitement of the Christmas season.

A selection of food and refreshments will also be available throughout the bazaar. The menu will include sausage, pepper and onion subs, pizza, macaroni and cheese, hot dogs, popcorn, desserts and other treats.

Now in its sixth year, the Christmas Bazaar brings together holiday shopping, entertainment and seasonal activities in one location, offering residents of Leicester and surrounding communities an opportunity to celebrate the season.

The event is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the St. Joseph-St. Pius X New 2 You Thrift Store & Furniture Gallery, 759 Main St., Leicester.

East Brookfield Elementary School to host holiday craft fair Dec. 5

EAST BROOKFIELD — East Brookfield Elementary School will welcome the holiday season with its annual holiday craft fair on Saturday, Dec. 5, offering an opportunity for residents to shop for handmade gifts, enjoy seasonal treats and support local students.

The fair will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and will feature a variety of handmade merchandise, small business vendors and activities for children and families. Proceeds from the event will support the school's sixth-grade class spring trip.

Among the attractions will be a children's market featuring student vendors, giving young participants an opportunity to showcase and sell their creations. The fair will also feature local small businesses offering merchandise for holiday shoppers.

Visitors can browse a selection of handmade gifts while enjoying baked goods, seasonal treats and warm beverages. Face painting and craft activities will also be available, providing entertainment for younger attendees.

The event offers families an opportunity to get a head start on their holiday shopping while supporting the sixth-grade students as they prepare for their spring trip.

Admission to the craft fair is free, although separate charges will apply for food, face painting and certain crafts and vendor purchases.

The annual holiday craft fair will be held Saturday, Dec. 5, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at East Brookfield Elementary School. The event is open to the community.

WEEKLY POLICE BLOTTER

Spencer

The Spencer Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Nov. 4-10.

Leonard K. Robinson, age 59, of Pawtucket, R.I. was arrested on Nov. 4 for Indecent Assault & Battery on a Person age 14 or Over and Failure to Register as a Sex Offender.

Pamela M. Donovan, age 61, of Spencer was arrested on Nov. 5 in connection with a warrant.

Kamron Jordan Routhier, age 23, of North Brookfield was arrested on Nov. 7 for Operating Under the Influence (Liquor), Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and a Motor Vehicle Lights Violation.

Hugo Leoneo Solano, age 38, of Spencer was arrested on Nov. 10 for Misdemeanor Breaking & Entering.

Leicester

An arrest log for Leicester had not been made available as of this week's press deadline.



Community Connection

Burdett's Trash Pickup LLC
"Why pay more it's only trash"
508-612-8093
burdettstrashpickupllc.com
Family owned/operated servicing our community for 15+ years - Spencer, Leicester, Ware, Warren and all of the Brookfields.

Morin JEWELERS Fine Jewelry & Gifts
The Jewelry store where you buy with confidence
WE BUY GOLD
Specializing in Custom Designs
All types of Jewelry Repairs
MASTER JEWELERS™ BRILLIANCE YOU DESERVE®
409 Main St. Southbridge, MA
morinjewelers.com • 508-764-7250
Located at CVS Plaza

NORTHEAST PIZZA is OUR Passion
Fresh ingredients, time-honored recipes, and friendly service.
Since 1997
Open 7 Days a Week • We Deliver
NOVEMBER SPECIALS
Meatball Pizza Sm. $7.99 Lg. $10.99
Small Cheese Pizza EVERYDAY 11-4 only $5.00! NO LIMIT!
Sausage Sub Sm. 8" $6.49 Lg. 12" $7.49
Make it a ballpark, sauteed onions, peppers, cheese, mustard $1 more
Cannot be combined with other specials or coupons.
Leicester 1205 Main St. 508-892-9276
West Brookfield 208 W. Main St. 508-867-9567
~ Full bar & full liquor license at our Leicester Location ~
~ Serving Beer & Wine at both Locations ~
www.northeastpizza.com

Crooked Creek Farm
Warren, Massachusetts
Stock up now!
Retail Cuts, Quarter, & Half sides of Beef Available!
To purchase your meat packages CALL/TEXT: (774) 200-7308
FREE LOCAL DELIVERY!

PLUMBING
JOHN DALY PLUMBING
The Homeowners Plumber, SINCE 1988
Faucets, Toilets, Pipe Repair, Garbage Disposals, Sinks, Vanities, Shower Valves, Outside Hose Connections, New Kitchen Sink Strainers and Undersink Re-Pipes, Sump Pumps, Sink Drain Cleaning,
Buy What You Like And I Will Install.
Fully Licensed And Insured, License Number MPL-21763-J
Call 508 304 7816 • jdrainman714@aol.com

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

Leicester Knights of Columbus to hold annual Turkey Raffle

LEICESTER — Leicester Knights of Columbus, 91 Manville St., will hold their annual Turkey Raffle on Sunday, Nov. 22. Doors open at noon. Games begin at 1 p.m. Prizes include turkey and gift cards. Also included are a 50/50 raffle, gift basket raffle, Thanksgiving basket raffle and lottery ticket raffle.

Nativities From Around the World exhibit returns to North Brookfield Dec. 3-6



NORTH BROOKFIELD — The Christmas season will be celebrated with an international perspective when the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints hosts its "Nativities From Around the World" exhibit Dec. 3-6.

The four-day event will take place at the church, located at 108 New Braintree Road (Route 67), approximately 2.2 miles north of North Brookfield Town Center. Admission is free, and the public is welcome to attend.

The exhibit will feature Nativity scenes representing Christmas traditions from around the world, offering visitors an opportunity to appreciate different artistic and cultural interpretations of the birth of Jesus Christ.

The event will be open Thursday, Dec. 3, from 4 to 8 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 4, from 4 to 6 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 6, from 12:30 to 6 p.m.

A special musical performance by the Weir River Concert Band is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 4, at 6 p.m., with refreshments to follow. The concert will provide an additional opportunity for visitors to enjoy the holiday season through music and fellowship.

The exhibit is open to individuals and families throughout the surrounding communities, with no admission charge.

For more information about "Nativities From Around the World," contact 508-246-5887.

Common Ground Land Trust celebrates 20 years

LEICESTER — Common Ground Land Trust (CGLT) is a non-profit organization working diligently to protect and conserve open space in Spencer and Leicester. On Saturday, Oct. 24, the land trust held its annual meeting and celebrated the 20th anniversary at Swan Tavern-Leicester Historical Museum. Thanks to the generosity of a land trust member sharing his catering skills, participants enjoyed a delicious buffet breakfast served in historically quaint surroundings. Land trust President Mary Baker-Wood conducted the annual meeting, held Board of Directors elections, and introduced a special guest speaker.

Many who are reading this article are likely very familiar with the guest speaker's name and role in state and local politics, but may not know a special fact about her role in the Spencer and Leicester communities. Anne Gobi is a founding board member of Common Ground Land Trust! While speaking at the annual meeting, Gobi shared a brief history of the environmental movement in New England and how it continues to grow as a bipartisan effort in Massachusetts.

Common Ground Land Trust's movement began in 2006 and continues to evolve thanks to fledgling members like Anne Gobi as well as many supporters throughout the past 20 years. Membership drive opens November 2026 and continues throughout 2027. Please consider becoming a member or donator. Help us carry on the legacy of founding members and find common ground for all in Spencer, Leicester, and surrounding communities for another 20 years. Informational brochures are available at Spencer and Leicester libraries.

Web: CommonGroundLT.org
Email: info@CommonGroundLT.org
Phone: 774-371-0156
Common Ground Land Trust, PO Box 400, Leicester, MA 01524

Music & Movement program returns to Merrick Public Library

BROOKFIELD — The Merrick Public Library is once again inviting young children and their families to enjoy music, dancing and interactive fun with the return of its popular Music & Movement with Julie program.

The program takes place Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m., and is recommended for children from birth to age five.

Led by Julie, the weekly sessions feature familiar children's songs, stretching, movement, singing and dancing. The activities are designed to provide an entertaining experience while helping young children develop important early literacy skills through music and rhythm.

Music and movement activities can help children build listening skills, recognize patterns and sounds, develop coordination and become more comfortable expressing themselves. Singing familiar songs also provides opportunities for children to develop language skills while interacting with other youngsters and their caregivers.

The program offers families an opportunity to introduce their youngest children to the library in a relaxed, welcoming setting while encouraging a lifelong interest in learning.

Music & Movement with Julie is free and open to the public, and no advance registration is required. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to bring their little ones for a morning of songs, dancing and fun.

For more information about the program and other library activities, contact the Merrick Public Library in Brookfield.

Giving Thanks
Wishing the Happiest of Thanksgivings to all of our Friends!
FROM ALL OF US AT LAMOUREUX FORD.
LAMOUREUX Ford
Rt.9 366 E. Main Street, East Brookfield, MA 01515
508-885-1000
"Where friends send their friends!"
LAMOUREUX Ford
SALES HOURS:
Mon-Thurs: 8:30am-6pm • Fri: 8:30am-6pm • Sat: 8:30am-3pm
SERVICE HOURS:
Mon-Fri: 8am-5pm • Sat: 8:30am-12pm • Sun: Closed
www.lamoureuxford.com

Courtesy

Five local Scout troops and packs participated in the annual flag retirement ceremony on Veteran's Day. The ceremony was held at the Cherry Valley American Legion. Participants included Scouts from: Girl Scout Troop 65062, Girl Scout Troop 65232, Girl Scout Troop 65568, Cub Scout Pack 123, and Scouting America Troop 123, along with members of the American Legion Post.











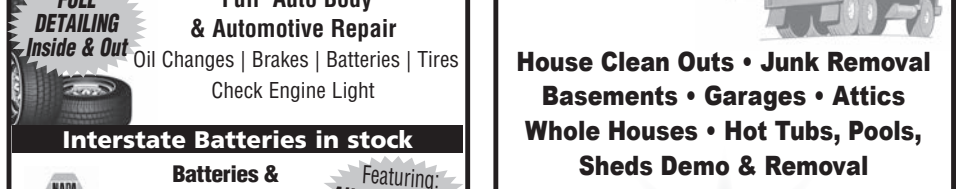








LOCAL SERVICE PROVIDERS



AUTO & TIRE

Country Auto Body, Inc.

FULL DETAILING Inside & Out

Full Auto Body & Automotive Repair
Oil Changes | Brakes | Batteries | Tires
Check Engine Light

Interstate Batteries in stock

NAPA AUTOCARE CENTER

Batteries & Antifreeze Testing Free w/oil change

Featuring: All Major Brand Name Tires

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

HOUSE CLEAN OUTS

CLEAN OUT SOLUTIONS

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

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

Family Dining & Gift Guide

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

giftcard

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

CHARLIE'S
Diner • Bar • Grill • Functions
BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER
FRIDAY 11/20 & SATURDAY 11/21
TUNA STEAK
AFTER 5PM
HOURS: Wed-Sat 8-9; Sunday 8-8
Closed Mon & Tue
5 Meadow Rd., Spencer, MA 01562
Gift Cards
508-885-4033
www.charliesdiner.com

Breakfast All Day
Lunch
ALL MADE FROM SCRATCH
Farmhouse Diner
15 S. Main St., Leicester • 508-892-3222
Dine-In or Take-Out • Gift Certificates
Hours: Wednesday-Friday 5:30am-12:30pm
Saturday & Sunday 5:30am-11:30am
ONLINE ORDERING
FARMHOUSEDINERMA.COM

TREE SERVICE

McNeely Tree Service
Insured • References
Workmans Comp Insured

- 101' Aerial Lift Rental
- 60 ton Crane
- Bobcat Rental
- Lot Clearing
- Storm Clean-up
- Log Length Firewood
- Asian Longhorn Beetle Certified
- Hazardous Tree Removal

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

TREE SERVICE

Young's Tree Service
"Specializing In Dangerous Trees"
35+ years' experience
Fully Insured
Free Estimates
BBB
John H. Young, Jr
508.885.TREE
1.800.660.5358

Friday's Child



Alexander
Age 11
Registration #8542

Alexander, who goes by Alex, is a considerate, kind, and involved young person who enjoys finding ways to build, create, and help others! He loves working on projects, especially when LEGO is involved, and is always excited by the opportunity to bring an idea to life. Alex has a thoughtful side and particularly enjoys creating things that can make a difference for others. He also loves staying active and spending time outside with friends. Whether he's participating in family projects, enjoying outdoor activities, or taking part in community events, Alex appreciates opportunities to stay engaged and be part of something meaningful. His caring nature, creativity, and enthusiasm make him a wonderful person to get to know!

https://www.mareinc.org/child/21188078961

Can I Adopt?

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

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

OBITUARY

Elizabeth S. (Rice) Taylor Stevens



Brookfield, CT – Elizabeth S. (Rice) Taylor Stevens, 87, passed away peacefully on November 9, surrounded by her loving family. She is survived by her husband of 40 years, Andrew C. Stevens Jr.; her children, Richard Taylor (Ann), Dean Taylor (Cheryl), Douglas Taylor (Janice), and Susan Yurcisin (Joshua); stepdaughter Linda Stevens; her brother, Lloyd Rice (Judith); nine grandchildren;

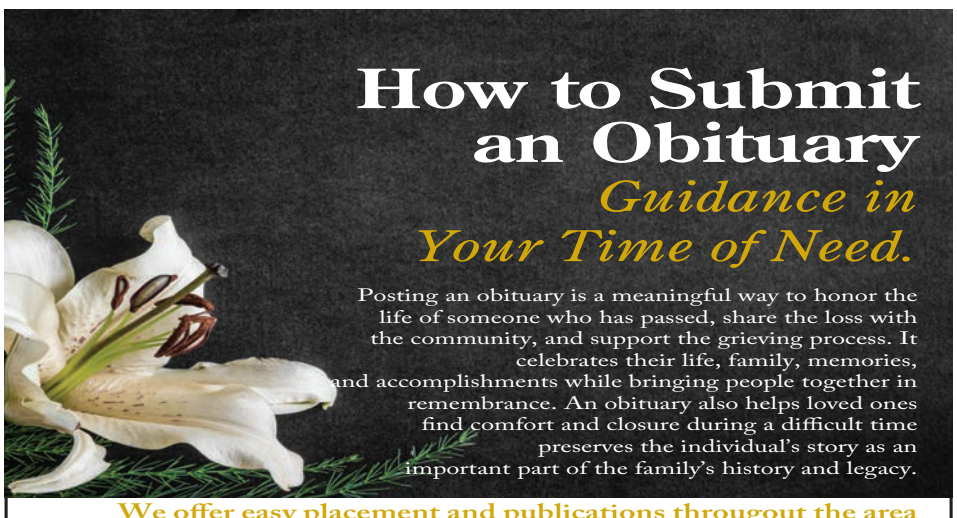
and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her first husband, Harold W. Taylor Jr., and stepson Brian Stevens.

Born in Ware, Massachusetts, Elizabeth was the daughter of Norman and Madeline (Hawkes) Rice. She graduated with honors from Warren High School and earned her nursing degree from Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Worcester in 1960 on a full scholarship.

Elizabeth devoted her life to caring for others. Her nursing career included positions at New England Baptist Hospital, Memorial Hospital in Worcester, and the Odd Fellows Home. She later spent 23 years with the Worcester Head Start Program before retiring. She also participated in the Harvard Health Study for more than 40 years and volunteered at a clinic in Venice, Florida.

She loved playing piano, gardening, and spending time outdoors. Most of all, she cherished her family and grandchildren. She enjoyed summers on Cape Cod and winters in Venice, Florida.

Calling hours 12p-2p followed funeral services on Nov 20 at Varnum Funeral Home in West Brookfield, MA. Donations may be made to George Whitefield United Methodist Church or Boston Children's Hospital.



We offer easy placement and publications througout the area
Just drop us an email, be sure to include a photo if you would like.
Inlcude your publication choice and provide a contact number for prepayment.

Deadline is Monday at noon for this week's edition.
Our Rates: $ 250 per newspaper for 400 words or less.
Photos and symbols included at no extra charge.
For obituaries over 400 words, the charge is $ 250 for each additional 400 words or less.
Please note this price is per newspaper.

Send all Obituaries to obits@stonebridgepress.news
If you have any question please call Julie at 508-909-4105

Stonebridge Press Newspapers
Your Local News. In print and online.
PO Box 90 | Southbridge, MA 01550
508-909-4105 | www.stonebridgepress.com

LEGALS

At the Zoning Board of Appeals public meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 08, 2026, in the McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, a public hearing will be held on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:

Notice of Public Hearing – Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals

Public Hearing Special Permits– Applicant: New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC d/b/a AT&T; Owner: Town of Spencer: Location: 17 Lake Street and 42 Highland Street, Spencer, MA, Assessor's Map U15-01. The applicant is seeking Special Permits under section Article 4, Section 4.2 (H)(5) and 4.8.5 (Wireless Data Transfer Facilities) and Article 7, Section 7.2 and 7.4 to install, operate, and maintain a 150' wireless data transfer facility (monopole) on the property. The property is located in the Village Residential (VR) zoning district.

November 20, 2026
November 27, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 131, Section 40 of the Wetlands Protection Act, the North Brookfield Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, November 24, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the North Brookfield Board of Health office, 215 No. Main St., No. Brookfield for an NOI filing and associated activities at the New England Power Company E5/F6 transmission line right-of-way, extending approximately 4.22 miles across North Brookfield from the East Brookfield town line at Lake Lashaway (near Shore Road) to the West Brookfield town line near Smith and Hanson Road. Any person interested in this matter is invited to attend the hearing.

November 20, 2026
November 27, 2026

Notice of Public Hearing
Town of Spencer
Tax Classification

The Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing on November 23, 2026, at 6:00 pm in the McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, to discuss the percentage of the tax levy to be borne by each class of real and personal property for Fiscal Year 2027, pursuant to MGL Chapter 40, Section 56, relating to classification and taxation of property according to use.

Interested taxpayers may present their views verbally or in writing to the Board of Selectmen at Memorial Town Hall prior to or during said hearing.

If you are not able to attend in-person, you may dial in from your phone:

1 866 899 4679 Enter Access Code: 479-429-349

Or join from your computer, tablet, or smartphone:

https://www.gotomeet.me/TownofSpencerMA/boardofselectmen

November 13, 2026
November 20, 2026

THE TOWN OF EAST BROOKFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held in the Memorial Town Complex, 122 Connie Mack Drive, East Brookfield on Monday, December 7, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. on the application made by KMB PROPERTY, LLC, 155 Adams Road for a Bulk Storage License.

All interested parties are invited to attend.

Andrew Lynch, Chairman Robert Button, Clerk Amber Kowalczyk, Member cc: Town Clerk
cc: Kim Bercume
November 20, 2026

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Shannon M. Toomey to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Security First Mortgage Funding, LLC, its successors and assigns, dated March 6, 2017 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 56827, Page 189, subsequently assigned to Fifth Third Bank, National Association by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Security First Mortgage Funding, LLC, beneficiary of the security instrument, its successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 63701, Page 36, subsequently assigned to Fifth Third Bank, National Association by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Security First Mortgage Funding, LLC, its successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 74186, Page 279, subsequently assigned to Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc. by Fifth Third Bank, National Association by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 71214, Page 234, subsequently assigned to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for RCAF Acquisition Trust, its successors, transferees and assigns by Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc. by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 72286, Page 91 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 PM on December 4, 2026 at 21 Roys Drive, Spencer, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

The land in Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts, situated on Roy Drive and being Lot No. 5 on a plan of land owned by Norman U. and June E. Vaudreuil dated April 17, 1976 made by John E. and Francis Dowgielewicz Surveyors, Spencer, Mass. And recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 427 Plan 103 and to which plan reference can be made for a more particular description.

Said Lot No. 5 containing 26,000 square feet, more or less.

BEING the same premises conveyed to the Grantors by Deed of Norman U. Vaudreuil and June E. Vaudreuil dated August 29, 1977 and recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 6280 Page 195.

The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS ($10,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.

FinCEN reporting will be required of all successful purchasers, absent a lawful exemption.

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

U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for RCAF Acquisition Trust
Present Holder of said Mortgage,
By Its Attorneys,
ORLANS LAW GROUP PLLC
PO Box 540540
Waltham, MA 02454
Phone: (781) 790-7800
24-002790
November 13, 2026
November 20, 2026
November 27, 2026

At the Zoning Board of Appeals public meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 08, 2026, in the McCourt Social Hall of Memorial Town Hall, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA, a public hearing will be held on the following items starting at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard:

Notice of Public Hearing – Spencer Zoning Board of Appeals

Public Hearing Special Permits– Applicant: EQUIPX, LLC; Owner: Edwin Nowak: Location: 15 South Spencer Road, Spencer, MA, Assessor's Map U10-08. The applicant is seeking Special Permits under section 4.3.23 (Automobile repair shop, autobody shop) of the Spencer Zoning Bylaw to operate a vehicle repair shop that provides services and inspections, with mobile capabilities on the property. The property is located in the Industrial (I) zoning district

November 20, 2026
November 27, 2026

Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club to meet Nov. 24

WEST BROOKFIELD —The Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club (QVARC) will hold its upcoming club meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 24, at the Senior Center in West Brookfield at 73 Central St. Doors open at 6 p.m. with the meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Attic Antennas». The presentation will be done by one of our club members, Kelly, KC1ZDH. For many aspiring amateur radio operators, an attic antenna can provide an effective and neighborhood-friendly way to get on the air. Installed indoors and protected from the weather, attic antennas can offer reliable performance while remaining virtually invisible from the outside, making them an attractive option for hams with limited outdoor antenna space.

QVARC warmly welcomes area hams and anyone curious about amateur radio to reach out and get involved. Whether you're a licensed operator, a lapsed one looking to get back on the air, or simply curious what ham radio is all about, there's a place for you in the club as it heads toward its 40th year.

For more information about QVARC, upcoming events, or how to get involved, visit www.qvarc.com or find the club on Facebook at Quaboag Valley Amateur Radio Club.

New support group offered for people with physical disabilities

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

Their purpose is to create a place where people with physical disabilities can meet and express their feelings, exchange practical information and resources that will improve their daily lives, and to socialize in a welcoming environment.

Anyone with a physical disability is welcome to attend. Caregivers are also welcome. Meetings will be held at the Leicester Public Library, 1136 Main St., Leicester. The accessible entrance is located at the rear of the building. The November meeting date is Thursday, Nov. 19, at 6 p.m. Contact Peg Erickson at maete1961@gmail.com for additional information.

Operation Undercover begins a new season!

SPENCER — Now in its 35th year, Operation Undercover is still going strong. Founded by citizens Robert and Carol McPherson Operation Undercover provides donated new men's and women's underwear to the Veterans Shelter, Jeremiah's Inn and Abby's House each year at Christmas time. From Nov. 23 to Dec. 17 unwrapped packages can be dropped off at the hamper left on the porch of 125 Pleasant St, or at the Spencer Town Hall rotunda or the Richard Sugden Library.

Coordinator Beth McPherson thanks all who have donated so generously in the past, and wishes all who do so again a happy and healthy holiday season.

Additionally, Laura Torti reminds residents that the mitten tree is also available in the Town Hall Rotunda to be decorated with donated hats and mittens which will be distributed to the Spencer East Brookfield school children at Wire Village and Knox Trail Schools. Sponsored by the Office of the Town Clerk, the mitten tree has been a tradition since 2012 and has donated hundreds of warm hats and mittens over the years to needy children.

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

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

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

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

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



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

LAWNMOWERS

WORCESTER COUNTY LAWNMOWER
ALWAYS THE BEST SERVICE

Snowblower & Generator Repair
Tractor Service
Tune-Ups & Repairs
Pickup & Delivery
508-987-2775
492 Main St Oxford
WORCESTERCOUNTY LAWNMOWER.COM

AUTO BODY / REPAIRS

KEARNS COLLISION REPAIR
Since 1969
Always Going The Extra Mile For Our Customers
Free Written Estimates • Damage Appraisal
Color Matching Specialists • Rental Car Services
Warrantied Work & Repairs
Diagnostics • A/C Repair
Tune Ups & Engine Repair
Brakes • Alternators • Starters • ABS
Alignments • Tires…and more
Major Insurance Referral Shop
Honoring All Insurance Estimates
1734 Providence Road (Rt 122)
Northbridge, MA 01534
Ph: 508-234-5211 • Fax: 508-234-2231
www.kearnscollisioncom
Fully Certified • RS# 2678

Cleaning Services

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

Stump Grinding

MILLER STUMP GRINDING

Asian Longhorn Beetle Certified
Fully Insured • Free Quotes
REASONABLE RATES
PROMPT SERVICE
ROD MILLER • NICK MILLER
OWNERS / OPERATORS
508-688-2159

CHIMNEYS/MASONRY

CHIMNEY CLEANINGS
Starting at $99
ALL KINDS OF MASONRY & CONCRETE WORK
New & Repairs, Repointing, Rebuilding, Re-lining, Waterproofing, Foundation & Chimney Repair, New & Stair Repair, Concrete Walkways, Stonewalls, New Roofs, Construction & Carpentry.
Need to get it done? Call me!
-FREE Estimates-
Quality Chimney
(508)752-1003

GJ LEDUC PAINTING
Interior and Exterior
Power Washing
Wallpapering
General Repair
Fully Insured
Over 40+ Years Experience
508-764-8548
774-230-8373

MASONRY

C J
MASONRY HARDSCAPE
RETAINING WALLS
OUTDOOR LIVING CONSTRUCTION
Chimney Repair
Foundation Repair
Steps, Patios
Water Proofing
Walkways
Stone Veneer
Brick and Block Work
Cord Wood
Brian French
(413)222-5542
cjmasonryhardscape@gmail.com

Roofing

SAUNDERS & SONS ROOFING
When you need a new roof hire a roofing company .We are the only local company dedicated to roofing only .We install roofing only everyday
Read our reviews at the Better Business Bureau. A+ rating and accredited member since 2009.
Call Bill Toll-Free
1-866-961-Roof
508-765-0100
Lifetime material warranty & 25 yr. labor warranty available
MA Reg #153955 CSL #095459
CT-HIC #0638641
Fully Insured, Free Estimates
Family Owned and Operated
Now Accepting All Major Credit Cards

ROOFING

David Barbale ROOFING
Roofing/Gutters Repair Work
Fully Licensed and Insured
MA LIC #CS069127
MA HIC. LIC #1079721
INS. # CAC032585
C: 508-397-6709
O: 508-248-6709
davidbarbale.com

GUTTERS

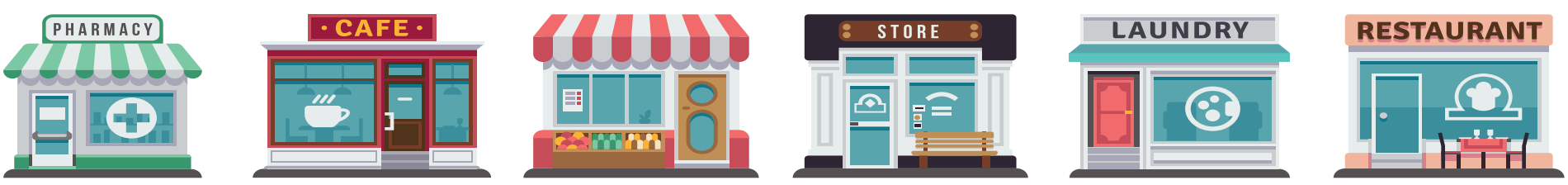
GUTTER CLEANINGS
30+ years exp Licensed & Insured
508-867-2877
508-754-9054
A. Eagle Gutters
aeaglegutters.com

Plumbing

MIKE LAMBERT'S PLUMBING & HEATING INC.
LIC: 16641-14
Commercial, Residential, New Construction
369 Main St,
Ste 4
Spencer, MA
1-833-969-4330
Fully Insured
MIKELAMBERTSPANDH @GMAIL.COM

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

ALL WE KNOW IS LOCAL ~ SalmonPress.com



DINNER

continued from page A1

Billy May, who attended the sold-out Friday evening performance with friends and family.

"I am incredibly proud of the collaboration between our Leicester High School Theatre Arts Program and the Wolverine Grill. The 'Till Death Do Us Part Murder Mystery Dinner' was a wonderful example of what can happen when talented educators, students, and staff come together with a shared vision," May said.

May added that the event demonstrated the value of providing students with authentic, hands-on learning experiences while creating opportunities to connect with the community. He described the evening as a tremendous success and a reflection of the talent, dedication, and collaboration taking place at Leicester High School.

Behind the scenes, students played an important role in making the interactive mystery come to life. Stage Manager Sabrina Wright helped coordinate the audience participation by creating, organizing, and distributing clues throughout the evening.

"I liked how we really involved the audience. Everyone seemed to have a good time being involved in 'solving' the murders. All in all, it was a high-energy show," Wright said.

The production also provided an opportunity for students to experience both sides of the event. Haylee Reynolds, a Grade 11 student who portrayed Lotus Blossom in the production, is also a member of the Culinary Arts program.

"It was so much fun! Really enjoyable for all of us to come together and put on a show that benefited the community. I can't wait to do it again next year!" Reynolds said.

The success of the first dinner theater event has opened the door for future collaborations between Leicester High School's performing arts and culinary programs, demonstrating how students can apply their classroom skills in creative, real-world settings.

What's next at Leicester High School?

The Wolverine Grill continues to welcome guests for student-run dining experiences. The Culinary Arts Department is generally open on Tuesdays for breakfast from 9–11 a.m. and Thursdays for lunch from 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Meanwhile, the LHS Drama Club is already preparing for its next production, Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella!" The musical will take the stage at the Leicester Middle School Fine Arts Center on March 18 and 19 at 7:00 p.m. and March 20 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are $5 for students and senior citizens and $10 for adults.

With one successful collaboration behind them and another production on the horizon, Leicester High School students continue to demonstrate that the arts, career and technical education, and community spirit make a wonderful combination.

BAN

continued from page A1

ing citizens defenseless. Several speakers cited recent events in Oregon where an armed citizen intervened during a school shooting. Conversely, those opposed to the exemption felt firearms were inappropriate in civic spaces and argued that permitting concealed carry could place neutral parties at risk if a public dispute escalated.

Spencer Selectman Jared Grigg spoke in favor of the measure, identifying himself as a firearm carrier who desired the ability to defend himself and others if necessary.

"I don't get to decide when bad actors are going to show up. That's a concern for me; it's always been a concern for me," said Grigg. "If you look out way west in Oregon, somebody just stopped a school shooting because they were carrying. Those things happen. Bad people are out there. I like to carry and protect myself. I like to protect the people around me. That is the choice I've made. If I'm not allowed to do that, I can't act, I can't help people, I can't save anybody."

Grigg wasn't the only one to speak in favor of the measure, with others sharing similar sentiments and arguing that laws should punish the criminals, not law-abiding gun owners.

An opposing argument was presented by resident Lynette Powell, who stated she would feel more uncomfortable in a public assembly where firearms were present.

"I am much more concerned that we would end up in a wild west show - the good guys versus the bad guys where everybody has guns and all the people in the middle are more likely to be victims," said Powell. "The principle of a town meeting, of a democracy, is to be able to talk with our voices and our opinions from research that we have done, and we should be able to do that in a public setting and the public buildings we pay for, maintain, and support without having to be looking over our shoulder to see who might be carrying not knowing their state of mind."

The outcome of the vote upholds the restriction on carrying firearms in municipal buildings. Possession of firearms on school property, at the town library, and voting locations are not affected by this legislation.

In addition to the firearms vote, the town meeting addressed multiple financial measures and approved a temporary moratorium on data centers, granting officials time to evaluate zoning bylaws prior to reviewing formal development proposals. Attendees also approved measures converting the Town Treasurer/Collector position to an appointed role and adopting provisions of the HERO Act to expand local veteran benefits and tax options.

DEVELOPMENT

continued from page A1

work divided into three 30-day phases. In the first 30 days, municipal staff will work to catalog vacant commercial properties, developable parcels, and relevant zoning constraints. The second phase involves assembling recruitment packages, while the final 30 days will focus on outreach and collaboration with regional and state development agencies to promote North Brookfield as an enterprise destination.

"Whatever we do is going to take some time to get businesses in the air and start being able to contribute, but we really can't delay trying to do something on a more aggressive scale than we have been," Kay stated.

Following the presentation, the Board of Selectmen voted to approve the creation of the working group that will lead efforts to implement the economic strategy in alignment with established priorities from the town's Master Plan, focusing on responsible business growth that preserves North Brookfield's local character and community quality of life.

All Saints Academy honors our veterans – not just one day, but all year long!



WEBSTER — Over the past few years, All Saints Academy has come to realize that Veterans Week is an especially busy time for our local veterans, who are invited to numerous activities and celebrations in their honor. In place of hosting our annual breakfast, we began changing our approach last year, and we are continuing that tradition this year.

At ASA, we believe our veterans deserve to be honored and recognized throughout the entire year, not just during one week in November. Whether it is helping with an everyday chore, offering a helping hand, or welcoming them to special ceremonies in September, January, and May, we want our students to understand that gratitude is best demonstrated through action.

This year, the All Saints Academy 8th grade students spent time volunteering at the Veterans Home in Webster, helping with their fall cleanup. Students worked together raking leaves, filling bags, and emptying them into the disposal pile. It was a wonderful opportunity to show our appreciation through service and a helping hand.

Our Grade 4 students also enjoyed a wonderful Question & Answer session with some of our veterans and active-duty military members! Students had the opportunity to hear firsthand what inspired these men to serve, how their military experiences shaped their lives, and how their service influenced their future career paths. It was an engaging and meaningful opportunity to ask questions, learn from their experiences, and gain a deeper appreciation for those who serve our country.

Our students love finding ways to honor our veterans, and we are proud to help them understand that service, gratitude, and respect should extend far beyond a single day. To all of our veterans and active-duty military members, thank you for your service, your sacrifices, and the stories you share with the next generation. We are grateful for you today and every day and look forward to seeing you in January at our next celebration.

Come to give blood, experience the magic of Trans-Siberian Orchestra

WORCESTER — The American Red Cross and Trans-Siberian Orchestra invite eligible donors to make an appointment to give blood, platelets or plasma and enjoy a special opportunity to experience the magic of the holiday season while helping save lives.

When donors hurry in to give blood, platelets or plasma, they can earn at least 100 points through the Red Cross Donor Rewards program, which can be used to redeem two tickets to select performances of Trans-Siberian Orchestra's The Ghosts of Christmas Eve: The Best of TSO and More, while supplies last. Trans-Siberian Orchestra will perform in Worcester on Nov. 28, for the 7:30 p.m. show at the DCU Center. (To learn more about Donor Rewards, visit RedCrossBlood.org/rewards.)

"The Red Cross is in constant need of blood donations, and it's so important that we all step up," said Trans-Siberian Orchestra's Al Pitrelli. "You give blood to support a wonderful cause and in exchange, you come spend the holidays with us. It's a win-win!"

Quantities are limited! To make an appointment, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS or download the Blood Donor App.

The holiday season can be a challenging time to ensure the blood supply remains stable, even as busy schedules may prevent regular donors from giving. "Blood donors make a profound difference in the lives of patients every day," said Darren Irby, executive director of brand partnerships for the Red Cross. "This special Donor Rewards offer is a meaningful way to thank those who come to roll up a sleeve to help others while giving them the chance to enjoy an unforgettable holiday experience, thanks to the generosity of TSO."

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information about our work, please visit redcross.org/MA or CruzRojaAmericana.org, or follow us on social media.

EDITORIAL

continued from page A4

are eager for more opportunities of this kind.

With the Drama Club preparing for its spring production of "Cinderella" and the Wolverine Grill continuing its student-run dining experiences, there are already opportunities for the community to remain involved. It would be wonderful to see the dinner theater become a recurring tradition, and perhaps inspire additional partnerships among programs throughout the school.

The real achievement of this first effort was not solving a fictional murder mystery. It was showing students what they can accomplish when their different talents, interests and skills are brought together. That is an educational experience worth applauding, and one that deserves an encore.

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

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

FOR RENT
SOUTHBRIDGE
3 bedroom apartment
first floor
All appliances included
With garage
$950/MONTH
508-764-6425

Advertise Here

East Brookfield Library to celebrate Thanksgiving with Charlie Brown smovie and feast

EAST BROOKFIELD — The East Brookfield Public Library will celebrate the Thanksgiving season with a special screening of "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving" on Thursday, Nov. 19, at 3:30 p.m.

The holiday program will feature the classic Charlie Brown Thanksgiving movie, followed by a Charlie Brown-themed feast for attendees.

The event offers an opportunity for community members to enjoy a seasonal favorite and celebrate the upcoming holiday together at the library.

The movie and feast are scheduled to begin at 3:30 p.m. at the East Brookfield Public Library.

Those interested in attending can contact the library for additional information.

Turkey Bingo returns to Gaudette-Kirk Post 138 Nov. 22

SPENCER — A favorite Thanksgiving-season activity returns to the Gaudette-Kirk Post 138 Spencer American Legion on Sunday, Nov. 22, with the Post's Annual Turkey Bingo.

The fun begins at 1 p.m. at 175 Main St., Spencer, with 20 rounds of bingo and plenty of chances to take home a prize. Winners can receive turkeys, hams or gift certificates, making the afternoon a perfect way to kick off Thanksgiving week.

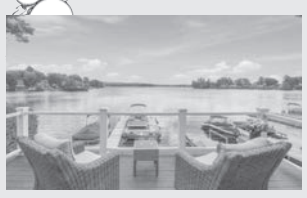
Cards are just $1 each, and hot dogs and snacks will be available for purchase throughout the event.

Friends, families, neighbors and community members are welcome to join Post 138 for an afternoon of bingo, prizes and community spirit.

Mark the calendar for Sunday, Nov. 22, and come take a chance at bringing home a Thanksgiving winner!

HOPE REAL ESTATE GROUP
43 East Main Street Webster, MA 01570
Finest Realtor Associates to Serve You!

hope2own.com
508.943.4333
Sharon Pelletier - Owner Broker
Licensed in MA, CT & RI
We Want Your Listings!

Webster Lake ~ 93 Birch Island Rd

Expansive water views! Beautiful, completely remodeled home on scenic Webster Lake! Combines effortless modern luxury with lakefront living. It boasts a spacious, sunny open-concept layout, designed for both relaxation & entertaining! Swim off your private dock, warm up in your personal sauna, share stories around the firepit on chilly nights ~ everyday feels like a vacation!
MLS# 73589032 NEW PRICE $1,150,000

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

Webster - 106 East Main St (Rte 12) Commercial Opportunity!


Corner Lot, 275' +/- Road Frontage, Extremely High Traffic Count, 6,200 SF (75x80) Commercial Building, Currently 2 Units -> Potential for More. Economical, Efficient Natural Gas FHA Heat & Cooling. Its close proximity to Successful National Franchised Businesses generates Significant Commerce at this Location. Convenient Access. MLS #73512426 $ 615,000

24 Laurelwood Dr Webster Lake Waterfront

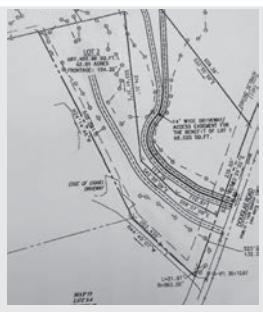

On the shores of prestigious Webster Lake! Experience ultra-luxury lakefront living with direct water access. This young modern craftsman lake home is masterly designed to maximize panoramic Western views through a two-story architectural tower. The home boasts 3,790 +/- square feet of sophisticated, three-story living space, complete with multilevel waterside decks, a radius stone faced patio, and a tiered landscape with its own waterfall. The living room flows seamlessly onto an expansive open deck and into an exquisite sun-drenched sitting room. A magnificent primary bedroom suite offers a private full bath, double sink vanity, walk-in closet and dressing room. The purposely designed lower level delivers effortless, large-volume entertainment, featuring a full second kitchen and a sprawling recreation room that opens to a substantial lakeside patio. With 2 additional bedrooms and bath, this level easily serves as a private guest floor. This Lake property is designed to create long-lasting memories!
MLS#73563787 $1,750,000

Webster ~ 33 Slater Street


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

Woodstock ~ 500 Route 169

Historic Woodstock Hill! Distinctive 1800 Vintage ~ 2,500+/- sq ft home blends period charm with panoramic views. Features 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, multiple living areas, and a scenic sitting porch. It includes two furnished guest suites with strong booking history near Woodstock Academy and Pomfret School. Lush grounds boast established flower gardens and a flower stand, offering potential for a studio or business (subject to approval). Own a rare piece of Woodstock history!
CT MLS# 24209434 $779,000


Webster - Douglas Rd (Rt 16) ANR Lot # 2
Building Lot, 2.01 +/- acres, 154' road frontage, Surveyed and portioned out of a larger tract of land, Zoned ASFR (Agricultural Single Family Residential) Located near State Land
~ A Great Value at $69,900.

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg


Webster Lake Waterfront
22 Union Point
Snug Harbor Villa
Open House UNday 12-2
Most Luxurious & Largest on the Lake!
Presenting a distinguished condo residence that will provide an exceptional waterfront lifestyle! Offers an expansive 4600 sf+/ featuring 4BRs, 4-1/2 baths, 3 frplcs & more, all designed for relaxation & convenience! Nothing quite compares! Priced to Sell.
VIEW REALTOR MLS # 73507605 FOR MORE DETAILS $948,000

Webster Lake ~
60 Wakefield Ave ~ Corner Lot!
Rare Lake Residential Building Opportunity! 1 of 2 build-ready level, landscaped lots ~ each with 1/3 ownership of a private, prime waterfront lot, swimmable & boatable, where you will enjoy a sun drenched sandy shoreline & boat dock ~ just baby steps away from your NEW home! You will have direct lake access, low off-Lake taxes, access to municipal water/sewer services and an established neighborhood. Build now or build later BUT enjoy Webster Lake IMMEDIATELY!

Go To MLS # 73582966 $277,500.

Webster Lake ~0 Wakefield Ave

Rare Lake Residential Building Opportunity! 1 of 2 build-ready level, landscaped lots ~ each with 1/3 ownership of a private, prime waterfront lot, swimmable & boatable, where you will enjoy a sun drenched sandy shoreline & boat dock ~ just baby steps away from your NEW HOME! You will have direct lake access, low off-Lake taxes, access to municipal water/sewer services and an established neighborhood. Build now or build later BUT enjoy Webster Lake IMMEDIATELY!
Go To MLS # 73582967 $247,500




PUT YOUR TRUST IN US
TEAMWORK AND EXPERIENCE
Jo-Ann Szymczak 774-230-5044
Diane Luong 774-239-2937
Maria Reed 508-873-9254
Bob Berk 508-367-9226
Deb Listewnik 508-847-0872
ReMax Vision • 25 Union St., Worcester MA 01608
CALL FOR A MARKET ANALYSIS Licensed in MA & CT

WEBSTER- 2 UNITS

*Potential Business Use *One Level Living
*Updates Include: Furnace, Electric, Oil Tank
*Fireplace * 1st Floor Laundry
92 Worcester Road $499,000

BUYERS-
GREAT FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES
CALL FOR A CONSULTATION
ABOUT 3,5,7,10YR.
ADJUSTABLE MORTGAGES
VA FINANCING
FHA LOW DOWN PAYMENT PROGRAMS

THOMPSON, CT $349,500

NEW- Great Condition
*300' Deep Yard
*Country Kitchen
3 Bedrooms Garage
133 Church Street

CHARLTON-
NEW HOME ON 1.5 ACRES

*Move Right In
*No Closing Costs * 3 Full Baths
*7 Rooms
*Family Room
95 A.F. Putnam Rd $675,000

SUTTON-
MOTIVATED SELLER!

*3 BR *1.5 Baths
*First Floor Family Room
*1.4 acres
9 Colonial Rd $530,000


MEET YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS
Perfect for Realtors, Mortgage Companies, Banks, Real Estate Attorneys, Home Inspectors, Chimney Inspectors, Lead Removal businesses, Insurance Companies, etc… any business involved in the buying or selling of real estate.
To join this section, please contact your local sales rep, 774-200-7308 or email mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

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


Donna Flannery Realtor®
508-612-6771
Donnaflanneryrealtor.com
Donnaflannery@erakey.net
Kayleen Flannery Sauvageau
Realtor®
508-612-9843
Kayleen00@aol.com
ERA Key Realty Services
OVER 30 YEARS SELLING LOCAL REAL ESTATE
NATIONAL ERA FINALIST TWICE FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE
TOP 5% YEAR AFTER YEAR FOR # OF UNITS SOLD & SOLD DOLLAR VOLUME
ERA HALL OF FAME
415B Main Street Spencer, MA 01562


When Experience and Commitment Matter
Mary Vigliatura Stolarczyk
ABR, GRI, CRS, C2EX RE/MAX Hall of Fame
508.612.1382
MESRealty.com
Mary@WillSellit.com
RE/MAX Vision


VA BUYER CLASS
Location: 3 Elm St., Oxford
Date: Nov. 21 @ 11am-12 noon
Reservations Suggested
Call Jo-Ann 774-230-5044
Jo-Ann (Nedoroscik) Szymczak
CRS, GRI, SRES
508-943-7669
774-230-5044
ReMax Vision
25 Union St., Worcester MA 01608
CALL JO-ANN FOR A MARKET ANALYSIS Licensed in MA & CT

Leicester Middle School honors veterans during special celebration

LEICESTER — Leicester Middle School faculty, staff, and students came together on

Thursday, Nov. 12, to honor and celebrate the brave men and women who have served

our country during a special Veterans Day celebration held in the school's Fine Arts Center.



Organized by Ms. Kristina Looney, LMS Band Director, the ceremony featured a musical tribute by the LMS Symphonic Band, which performed patriotic selections in recognition of the sacrifices and service of our nation's veterans. The students' performances provided a meaningful backdrop to an afternoon dedicated to honoring those who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

More than twenty veterans attended the celebration, many accompanied by family members who are current Leicester Middle School students. In a special tribute to their loved ones, students escorted their family members to their seats, creating a touching connection between the veterans being honored and the next generation of Wolverines.

The ceremony was also attended by Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Kustigian, who personally escorted his father, Mr. Harry Kustigian, a Navy veteran, into the auditorium.

School Committee Chair Mr. James Reinke, a United States Coast Guard veteran, was also in attendance to participate in the celebration.

Leicester Middle School is proud to recognize several members of its own faculty and staff who have served our country. These individuals include Dr. Kerry Walsh, Health Teacher; Mr. Timothy Goodwin, Paraprofessional; Mr. Scott Brooks, School Resource Officer; and Mr. Doug Daponde, School Principal.

The celebration reminded students that the freedoms and opportunities they enjoy today have been protected by generations of men and women willing to serve something greater than themselves. It also gave the LMS community an opportunity to express its gratitude and ensure that the sacrifices of our veterans are never forgotten.

The Leicester Middle School community is grateful to all veterans, past and present, for their courage, dedication, and unwavering commitment to our country.

On behalf of the entire Leicester Middle School community, we thank you for your service!

Buck Hill Studio to host Holiday Open House Dec. 6

Courtesy

Among the prints available for purchase will be Buzzell's pen-and-ink drawing of the historic Brookfield Inn, which now serves as the home of Willowbrook Academy.



NORTH BROOKFIELD — Artist and illustrator Russell "Russ" Buzzell will welcome visitors to a Holiday Open House on Sunday, Dec. 6 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Buck Hill Studio, 25 Tucker Hill Rd., North Brookfield.

Visitors can meet Buzzell, browse his work and shop for gifts inspired by the landscapes, wildlife and history of rural New England. Signed prints, paintings and note cards will be available, with subjects ranging from farm animals and woodland wildlife to familiar buildings and country scenes.

Joining him will be his sister-in-law, Diane Buzzell, author of The Artist, the Farmer, the Hunter, and the Good Guy. Signed copies of her book will be available for purchase. The book tells the story of Russ and his brothers growing up in North Brookfield, offering a glimpse of the family and farm life that have influenced much of his artwork.

Among the prints available for purchase is Buzzell's pen-and-ink drawing of the historic Brookfield Inn, the first in a planned series depicting Massachusetts taverns, or "ordinaries," as they were commonly known during the colonial period. The series reflects his interest in preserving the buildings and stories of the region through art.

Buzzell grew up on his family's North Brookfield farm, milking cows, driving tractors and helping with daily chores. Art was his first love, encouraged by a close family friend and artist known as "Uncle Louie." A 1960 graduate of North Brookfield High School, Buzzell graduated from the Art Institute of Boston in 1966.

His professional career included several years illustrating publications for the Massachusetts Audubon Society. His book credits include Ronald Rood's Animals Nobody Loves, the Massachusetts Audubon Society's The Farm Book and William G. Sheldon's The Wilderness Home of Giant Panda. His illustrations have also appeared in Gray's Sporting Journal and Wisconsin Sportsman, and he has freelanced for the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Working in oils, watercolors, pen and ink, and scratchboard, Buzzell has devoted much of his career to commissioned paintings and drawings of New England farms, landscapes and wildlife. His best-known works include Sunday Afternoon on the Buzzell Farm and Wheeler's Surprise, his historical depiction of the 1675 ambush of Capt. Thomas Wheeler's company during King Philip's War.

The Holiday Open House offers an opportunity to meet the artist and author, explore their shared North Brookfield roots and find gifts with a local connection.









