

SPENCER NEW LEADER

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Free by request to residents of

East Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield, Brookfield, Leicester and Spencer

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Friday, July 4, 2025

Leicester Soccer Club's U12 boys shine at state tournament



Courtesy

The Leicester Soccer Club's U12 boys team has enjoyed a dream season, which continued last week at the state tournament.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — After posting an undefeated regular season and then emerging victorious from the Central Mass. Youth Soccer League (CMYSL) playoffs, Leicester Soccer Club's U12 boys team headed to the state tournament this past weekend.

Comprised of fifth and sixth graders, the squad completed a perfect 8-0 regular spring season campaign in Division 2. Along the way, only one opponent (Charlton) managed to score against the near flawless team, which finished top in its flight and earned a first-round playoff bye.

"At our first practice, myself and Stu Loosemore, my co-coach, sat the players down and told them that our goal for the season was to make the playoffs," said Coach Joseph Roche. "To finish first in our flight and get a first-round bye was an unbelievable achievement." To qualify for the

Massachusetts Tournament of Champions (MTOC), the team first needed to continue its success in the CMYSL playoffs.

During this initial playoff tournament, the team won a nailbiter game in a shootout against Grafton and then

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New Principal prepares to take reins at DPHS

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — In a few short months, the David Prouty High School community will begin an exciting chapter of new facilities, new opportunities, and even a new principal.

When students and staff members return to campus for the start of classes, they'll not only be introduced to a newly built academic wing,

but also incoming Principal Mary LaFreniere.

Having served as principal of Narragansett Middle School in Templeton since 2018, LaFreniere previously spent four years as principal of Quaboag Regional Middle-High School.

She also worked as dean of students and assistant principal at QRMHS. Before her time in administration, she spent more than 15 years as a

high school Earth and Space Sciences teacher.

LaFreniere told the New Leader it's both an honor and a great responsibility to be named Principal of DPHS.

"I look forward to building upon the great work that's been done, and to helping faculty, staff, and students realize their potential and get as much out of their time at David Prouty as possible," LaFreniere said. "I have a

great passion for a school culture that allows all students to thrive and participate and enjoy these important years, working with a faculty and staff that feels supported and valued. It's a true team effort to successfully educate students."

School leaders are thrilled with the range of experiences and skills LaFreniere

Turn To **LEFRENIERE** page **A10**

LES students meet senior pen pals



Courtesy

Leicester students and seniors celebrate a successful pen pal program.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER — Local seniors and students recently celebrated with a pizza party after spending the school year as pen pals.

Last month, area seniors gathered with 23 Leicester Elementary School fourth grade students for a celebration at the Senior Center. The annual pen pal tradition is always a favorite intergenerational program for students and seniors alike.

"Students, teachers, sup-

port staff, Senior Center staff, and the older adults came together, once again, to demonstrate how they foster this intergenerational community," read a statement released by the Senior Center's leadership team.

Senior Center Director Rachelle Cyr initiated the pen pal activity many years ago. The tradition continues to create strong relationships between seniors and students, who enjoy learning about each other's lives and sharing common interests.

"Our entire community benefits in numerous ways when senior citizens connect with students," said Leicester Public Schools Superintendent Brett Kustigian. "Our students learn valuable life lessons from positive role models who have so much to offer. In turn, our seniors' mental and physical health improve when interacting with the next generation of students."

Officials thank several people who teamed up to

make the program a success.

"A tremendous thank you must be given to Anne Marie Walsh-Pierozzi, who led this year's program," read the statement issued by Senior Center leaders. "Anne Marie herself has had a career in teaching for more than 30 years, with her last years as principal in Worcester. As the secretary to our COA Board, she stepped up this year to embrace this tremendous endeavor to keep our

Turn To **PEN PALS** page **A10**

DPHS earns key designation

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

SPENCER — The Early College Joint Committee recently voted to approve David Prouty High School and Worcester State University for the "Early College Designation."

The announcement marks a major achievement for Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District officials, who are committed to augmenting the high school experience for area students.

"David Prouty High School has worked diligently with key stakeholders over the years to redesign the high school experience for southern Worcester County students, and today earned Early College Designation with Worcester State University," said SEBRSD Superintendent Paul Haughey. "On behalf of all of us within the district, we are honored and thrilled to announce our participation in the transformative Early College Initiative, a program championed by the Healey-Driscoll Administration to expand access to higher education across Massachusetts."

The most recent approval phase of the statewide initiative creates 18 new early college partnerships, unlocking several opportunities for students.

"Early College programs are a game-changer for our students. By enabling them to earn college credits at no cost while still in high school, this initiative removes significant financial and accessibility barriers to higher education," read a statement released by the Superintendent.

The newly approved partnerships will allow an additional 1,400 Massachusetts high school students to enroll in Early College programs. David Prouty High School is now officially a part of this movement.

"Southern Worcester County and central Massachusetts have long sought innovative solutions to bridge opportunity gaps for students from underserved communities," read the statement issued by the Superintendent. "Early College programs align perfectly with our district mission to ensure every student is prepared for the college and career challenges of the future. For David Prouty High School families, this means students will gain confidence, college experience, and academic tools, without the financial strain often associated with higher education."

Through Early College programming, students are not only earning credits but are also exploring college majors and career pathways early. This head start helps provide clarity on their aspirations, while saving both time and money as they progress toward their degrees, school offi-

Turn To **DPHS** page **A10**

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Cornerstone Bank donation helps fund essential supplies for emergency incidents



WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, has donated \$15,000 to the Central Massachusetts Sparks Association. The organization aids Central Massachusetts firefighters and police officers through the Rehab-7 Incident Support. Cornerstone's donation will help pay for a trailer stocked with water, blankets and protective essentials that will travel to every incident.

“Our heroes on the front lines deserve

our full support,” said Cornerstone CEO Todd Tallman. “We know firefighters and police will be there for us whenever we need them. We want to reciprocate and empower them to continue their important work as safely as possible in our community.”

The Central Massachusetts Sparks Association and Rehab-7 were recently created to support first responders. Organizers plan to outfit the trailer with shelving, storage containers and supplies such as disposable wipes to remove potential carcinogens from skin. They will

bring it to fire and police incidents in Southbridge, Charlton, Sturbridge, Oxford, Spencer, Leicester, Holden, Rutland and Monson. The trailer will also provide supplies incident victims might need until the American Red Cross or other help arrives.

“We think this is a great concept,” said Tallman. “It has the potential to help countless people, from those putting their lives on the line, to victims going through some of the worst moments of their lives. We hope our contribution goes a long way.”

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

“Bon Voyage, Forever!” at Spencer American Legion

SPENCER — The Delvena Theatre Company will be presenting “Bon Voyage, Forever!” at the Spencer American Legion, 175 Main St., Spencer, on Thursday, July 17, at 6 p.m.

“Bon Voyage Forever!” is an exciting, live, comedy murder mystery performance set on a cruise of a lifetime featuring three actors in multiple roles. Complete with costumes, props and token prizes, there will be much audience interaction allowing the audience members to become super sleuths searching for the murderer. Lots of excitement and fun along the way!

The Delvena Theatre Company was founded in 1992 and has performed at various venues, most often at the Boston Center for the Arts. The company was nominated for five Independent Reviewers of New England awards. Its production of “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?” was on Theatre Mirror’s Best List for acting, directing and production. Presentations of “Anna Weiss” and “Beyond Therapy” were included on Theatre Mirror’s best playlist and ‘Blue Heart’ was placed on Aisle Say’s best list.

Bon Voyage Forever! is supported in part by a grant from the Spencer Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. For more information, call the Library at (508) 885-7513, ext. 1.



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SPENCER ALMANAC

REAL ESTATE

BROOKFIELD

None

EAST BROOKFIELD

\$900,000, 111 Maple Way, Varney Sylvia A Est, and Varney, Richard W, to Hingston, Paul A, and Hingston, Laura M.

\$900,000, 112 Maple Way, Varney Sylvia A Est, and Varney, Richard W, to Hingston, Paul A, and Hingston, Laura M.

\$519,900, 770 Podunk Rd, Vandale, Mark R, and Vandale, Laurie A, to Miller, Corey.

LEICESTER

\$415,000, 3 Virginia Dr, McGinn, Joseph M, and McGinn, Debra E, to Palmuti, Erica L, and Paulo Jr, Mario P.

\$371,000, 121 Pleasant St, Kobel, Denise, to Cloutier, Cassie, and Corey, Caitlyn.

\$200,000, 39 Burncoat Ln, Goerge-Dolan, Rose M, and Dolan, Peter M, to Whitlock, Richard.

\$26,000, Burncoat Ln, Doane, Peter, and Doane, Karla, to Brigham, Benjamin R, and Brigham, Kelsey A.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

\$415,000, 3 Virginia Dr, McGinn, Joseph M, and McGinn, Debra E, to Palmuti, Erica L, and Paulo Jr, Mario P.

\$371,000, 121 Pleasant St, Kobel, Denise, to Cloutier, Cassie, and Corey, Caitlyn.

\$200,000, 39 Burncoat Ln, Goerge-Dolan, Rose M, and Dolan, Peter M, to Whitlock, Richard.

\$26,000, Burncoat Ln, Doane, Peter, and Doane, Karla, to Brigham, Benjamin R, and Brigham, Kelsey A.

WARREN

\$580,000, 727 Brimfield Rd, 727 Brimfield Road LLC, to A-Z 727 Warren Hldg LLC.

\$469,000, 143 Coy Hill Rd, Muheim, Karen, to Segawa, Edward.

\$364,900, 96 South St, Daigle, Scott N, and Daigle, Dawn M, to Desilets, Zackary D.

\$260,000, Main St, Rainka Ronald R Est, and Rainka, Anthony S, to Carreiro Jr, Renato.

\$238,000, 58 Nelson St, Macdougall, Pattimarie, to Sharma, Douglas J.

WEST BROOKFIELD

\$480,000, 120 Tucker Rd, Hart, Sheila A, to Marrone, Austin, and Crevier, Ashley.

\$197,500, 42 Oak Dr, Bliss Jr, Kenneth J, to Dorman, Kevin.

\$28,000, Gilbertville Rd (off), Harder, Joel J, to Legacy Land Co LLC.

P.E.T. of the Week

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Exciting classes from Bay Path Community Education Program

CHARLTON — The Bay Path Community Education Program is thrilled to present a selection of classes taught by their talented instructors, many of which are brand new, as they kick off their Fall Term in September.

Registration details
Start Date: Registration opens on Monday, July 7
Ways to Register:
Online at <http://www.baypath.net/bpce>
By calling their office at 508-248-5971 ext. 1715
In-person at 57 Old Muggett Hill Rd., Charlton, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday to Friday (summer hours)
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Classes beginning Monday, Sept. 8:
Electrical Journeyman Tiers - Ends Dec. 17. Class fee: \$629. Instructor: Various

New! Introduction to Songwriting - Ends Oct. 20. Class fee: \$129. Instructor: Tim Harrington.

New! Introductory Watercolors: - Monday, Sept. 8. Class fee: \$149. Instructor: Art Furtado.

MA State Plumbing License Exam Preparation Course Tiers - Ends Dec. 17. Class fee: \$999. Instructor: Various

Massachusetts Real Estate Salesperson's Course - Ends Oct. 30. Class fee: \$459. Instructor: Joann Szymczak.

Classes Beginning Tuesday, Sept. 9:
Come Dancing! - Ballroom for Beginners Dance Package (Combined) - Ends November 25th. Class fee: \$129/couple Instructors: Ronda Bertrand & Tony Miloski.

New! Electrical- Basic Motor Control Self Paced Learning Lab - Ends Oct. 14. Class fee: \$499. Instructor: Kevin Anctil.

New! En Plein Air (Outdoors) Watercolors- Location: Ferjulian's Farm, Hudson. Tuesday, Sept. 9. Class fee: \$69. Instructor: Victoria Chapman.

Interested in Becoming an Electrical Apprentice? Join our Hands-On Training Program Semester 1 - Ends Dec. 18. Class fee: \$2,250. Instructor: Kevin Anctil.

Introduction to 3D CAD; The SolidWorks Way - Ends Oct. 14. Class fee: \$299. Instructor: Glen LePage.

Classes beginning Wednesday, Sept. 10:

New! Acrylic Painting- Ends Oct. 15. Class fee: \$175. Instructor: Laura Cenedella

Introduction to Blacksmithing- An Ancient Trade. Ends Oct. 15. Class fee: \$299. Instructor: Brian O'Coin.

New! Yoga for All- Ends Nov. 12. Class fee: \$149. Instructor: Marie Hills.

Classes beginning Thursday, Sept. 11:

New! Adult/Child (8+) Kid Zone; Pizza Pasta. Thursday, Sept. 11. Class fee: \$85. Instructor: Camella Sherry.

Auto Body for Beginners - Ends Dec. 4. Class fee: \$329. Instructor: Scott DesRoches.

CPR: 2 Year AHA Certification - Thursday, Sept. 11. Class fee: \$109. Instructor: Elizabeth Peppel.

Exam Prep: MA Construction Supervisors Unrestricted License (CSL) - Ends Oct. 16. Class fee: \$899. Instructor: Michael Giampietro.

Explore a Career in Bookkeeping - Ends Nov. 20. Class fee: \$199. Instructor: John Hedly.

New! Sweet and Savory Bao Bun Making - Thursday, Sept. 11. Class fee: \$85. Instructor: Zonya Dawson.

The Miracle of the Voice: Technique & Performance - Ends Nov. 6. Class fee: \$159. Instructor: Alida Rohr.

Classes beginning Monday, Sept. 15:
New! Autumn Floral Sunflower Design - Monday, Sept. 15. Class fee: \$85. Instructor: Dawn Bagocius.

Business Owner Exit Planning: Start with the End in Mind - Monday, Sept. 15. Class fee: \$29. Instructor: Trevor Nielsen.

Classes beginning Sept. 16:
Discover How to Become a Successful First Time Homebuyer - Tuesday, Sept. 16. Class fee: \$39. Instructor: Michael Gorman.

Classes beginning Sept. 17:
Budgeting for Beginners: Get Confident with

Your Money - Ends Sept. 24. Class fee: \$59. Instructor: Donna Kondracki.

New! Evening Delights: Feast of the Harvest Charcuterie Crafting Night- Thursday, Sept. 18. Class fee: \$29. Instructor: Donna Kondracki.

New! Sopresa! (Surprise) - Lina's Choice. Thursday, Sept. 18. Class fee: \$55. Instructor: Lina D'Annunzio.



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PUBLIC NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS IT SUPPORT SERVICES

The Town of Brookfield, in accordance with M.G.L. c 30B, which governs the procurement of supplies and services, hereby invites sealed proposals from qualified firms for "IT SUPPORT SERVICES." The requested IT support services for the Town is required for up to three years commencing upon award of Contract.

Qualification and bid proposal forms are available from June 16, 2025 through July 7, 2025 and may be obtained at: www.Brookfieldma.us or during regular business hours at:

Town Hall
6 Central Street
Brookfield, MA 01506

Sealed proposals, clearly marked "IT SUPPORT SERVICES" must be received at the Town Administrator Office, Brookfield Town Hall, 6 Central Street, Brookfield, MA 01506 by July 7, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. All bids submitted must be in conformity with all pertinent statutes and regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Town Administrator will make a recommendation to the Select Board for the award of the contract. The Town reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to waive any defects, informalities, and minor irregularities; and to award contracts or cancel this RFP if it is in the Town's best interest to do so.

Ronald E. Aponte
Town Administrator

American Legion kicks off second softball season

LEICESTER — American Legion Softball kicked off its second season during a recent ceremony.

The inaugural season last year saw Cherry Valley Post #443 win the title with an undefeated 8-0 record.

This year, two more teams joined the program. Post #443 hosted the opening ceremony at its home field, just off Route 9.

The celebration started with the Honor Guard leading a group of members from the American Legion #443 Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders.

Master of Ceremonies and team manager, Sue Sears, welcomed guests and the visiting team from Webster/Dudley's Post #184.

Remarks were then offered from Post #443 Commander Andrew Marc-Aurele. The Commander spoke about the growing program that offers young women ages 13-19 the opportunity to play competitive summer softball while promoting leadership, community service, and patriotism.

Scott Connor, American

Legion Massachusetts Department Commander, congratulated all members and parents involved with the program.

"Supported by local American Legion Posts, the league builds on the proud 100-year tradition of American Legion Baseball, now offering the same experiences to female athletes across Massachusetts," read a statement released by event supporters.

In addition to Cherry Valley Post #443 and Webster/Dudley Post #184, participants and sponsors include last year's

teams from Franklin, Post #75, Framingham Post #117, and newly added Oxford Post #58 and Sturbridge Post #109.

The game was dedicated to the memory of longtime community activist, town employee, and Post #443 Auxiliary member Kelly McCue, who passed away last year. Mark McCue, Kelly's husband, then threw out the game's first pitch.

The ceremony concluded with the playing of the National Anthem by Fallyn Pedersen on her guitar.

Local residents earn Dean's List honors from MassBay Community College

WELLESLEY HILLS — The follow residents have been named to the MassBay Community College Dean's List, earning this academic honor for the Spring 2025 semester.

Tiffany Trask of Brookfield, who studies Accounting

Jacqueline Robidoux of Rochdale, who studies General Studies

To be eligible for the MassBay Dean's List, students must complete at least six credits of college-level courses, earn a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher, and be in good standing with the College.

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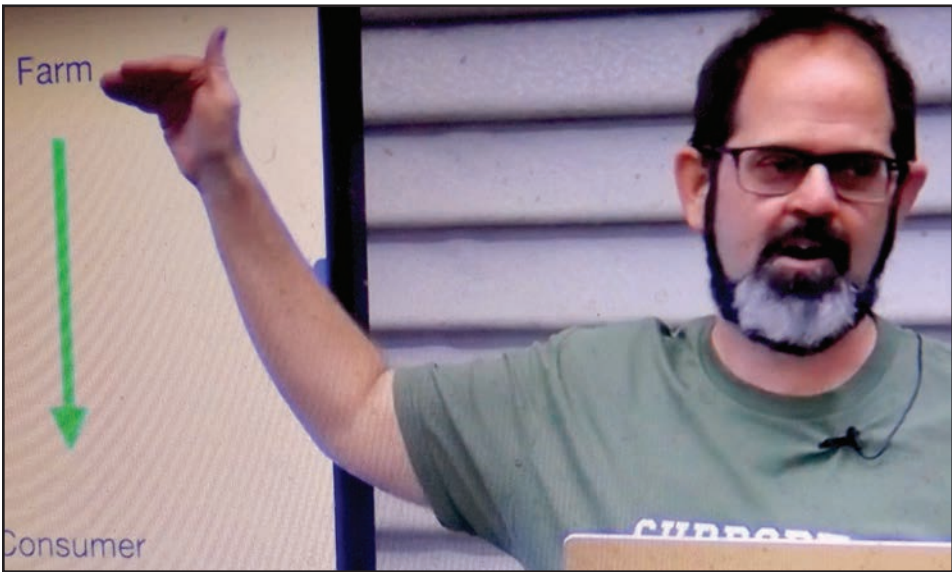
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Local farms are “food security,” say experts



Courtesy
Central Mass Grown Director David Reed describes how much simpler local agriculture's farm to consumer system is than that from giant corporate farms.

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBIDGE — Not long ago, local farmers' markets kicked off their seasons around the area. A little before then, David Reed of Central Mass

Grown highlighted why it's important to support local farms and grown your own food, if you can. Speaking at Jacob Edwards Library, Reed noted some of the food we find in supermarkets “has seen more of

the world than I have.” That's because, while “[almost] everything starts on a farm” somewhere, commercial food goes through a complex growing, processing, packaging and distribution system “that can take days, weeks, months, who knows how long ... and that food can travel thousands of miles,” he said.

Look at any commercial food label. It's not at all unusual to see a package containing ingredients from multiple nations or traveling through several to get to you.

“There's a simpler and easier way to do this,” Reed said. “You get stuff from a [local] farm and it ends up on your table. There's very, very little that should be between those. ... Once you get into the strange travels of commercially, industrially-produced food, you have no idea where that food comes from anymore.”

By contrast, the much shorter farm-to-table chain from local farms makes it possible for you to get fresher food with “higher nutrient density.” That's for a couple reasons. First, most local farms are not corporate monocultures that grow the same thing repeatedly for years over thousands of acres, pumping them full of artificial fertilizers and pesticides. Such chemicals do not replace the many micro-nutrients the soil also contains, and large-farm practices “start to wear out the soil” and create “huge dead zones” in the ocean downstream.

The average Central Mass farm is 66 acres, but they range from less than one to a few hundred. Many practice some form of regenerative agriculture, integrated pest management, and/or crop rotation. Since all crops draw nutrients from the soil, the small-



Charlton Farmers' Market director Eric Willard talks to a marketer one recent Wednesday.

farm practices (which are actually very ancient) treat “the soil as a living organism,” Reed noted.

“The difference is, if I get a tomato from the store, there's absolutely no one I can ask ... who's going to know anything about it,” he observed.

At a local farmers' market or directly from a farm, though, a buyer can ask how it was grown, and the farmers are often very willing to talk, he added.

Beyond such relationship building, supporting local agriculture keeps money in the local economy, which helps keep the farmers on the land, rather than selling it for development. While big ag tends to funnel money to Wall Street, local farmers are “going to try, as much as possible, to patronize other small businesses” for their needs, with the money circulating locally, Reed noted.

For many people, though, the economics pale to taste – “fresher food just tastes better.” Local farmers pick it when it's ripe, usually in season. That means their customers and CSA share members typically get wider variety and higher quality for shorter periods of time, while big ag grows year-round, typically picking well before ripeness so the food will survive transport.

Such transport often also involves lots of packaging, something that's largely unnecessary at a farmers' market or farmstand. Large scale ag is also more likely to experience contamination and disease small farms don't see – “the industrial food system breaks down on a kind of regular basis ... but the local food system is still there. It's stronger, more resilient; it's there to help us have food when we need it.”

For example, Reed noted last year's bird flu “hit the flocks of the industrial farms. It didn't hit the flocks of local farms.” For a while, supermarket egg costs exceeded local egg costs. Similarly, there are periodic recalls for various kinds of contamination (salmonella, E. coli, listeria, etc) from large suppliers than didn't affect small farms.

“That's food security,” Reed said. “That's what local farms can do for us.”

In part, that's because local ag avoids what Reed termed “everything they're doing to cut corners on the industrial scale.” Among them are heavy chemical use, low worker salaries and abuses, and extensive mechanization; he didn't mention the fact corporate farms also tend to get large tax subsidies.

Reed gave a few brief examples of CMG's 100 member farms, noting they “all have their own story to tell.” Many, like Free Living Farm in Petersham grow organically, but can't use that label officially because they don't want to go through the federal “organic” certification process. One, Rattle Root Farm in Princeton, was started by three friends and practices regenerative no-till agriculture; instead of plowing, put compost on last-year's crop rows and plant right atop them.

Others, including Sutton's Whittier Farm and Dudley's Walnut Lane Farm, are multi-generational farms. Reed noted “a farm that's been here for generations and is in a position to be here for generations to come – that's what we want to see.”

To make that happen, he added, there need to be

young farmers who can learn from and replace the retiring ones. There also need to be legislative advocacy, something CMG does. Reed noted he's gone to Beacon Hill to support continued SNAP and HIP funding, bills that promote more farming, a bill giving up to \$25,000 as a tax break to farmers who donate to food banks and pantries, and efforts to create more agricultural education programs.

Among his top 10 ways to support local ag, Reed mentioned “Grow your own food, even on a very, very small scale.” That will help you realize “how much better fresh food is, and you'll start to realize how much work goes into it.”

He also advocated for joining a farm's CSA program. In those, farmers provide customers shares of whatever's ripe at the time. “Farmers love them because they're getting that money right away; they know they have that revenue” and their clients “get a great mix of things.”

Naturally, his list including shopping at farmers' markets. Southbridge has two – Big Bunny on Saturdays from 10-2 and the REC Mobile Market in the Central Street Lot Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m.-noon. Almost all area towns also have at least one – Sturbridge, on the common every Sunday; Charlton, on the Common every Wednesday; Webster, at the Housing Authority every Tuesday. See www.centralmassgrown.org for times; also go there for a long list of member farms and related organizations.

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

Summer Concert Series continues with Acoustic Sunday lineup

SPENCER — The Spencer Parks & Recreation Commission's 2025 Summer Concert Series continues on Sunday, July 6 from 2 to 5 p.m. at Powder Mill Park, corner of Smithville and Meadow Roads, Spencer with an Acoustic Sunday featuring Adams & Perry, Never Say Never and special guest Kylie Harris.

Harris is a country artist originally from New Zealand who spent years performing and hosting her own television show in Nashville, Tennessee. She was inducted into the Gold Guitar Hands of Fame, January 4th, 2023 at a ceremony held at NZ's Capital of Country Music in Gore. Kylie won the Gold Guitar in 1990 and 1992 and the induction is recognition of her contribution to country music in her native land. In addition to the Gold Guitar, Kylie is a four-time winner of New Zealand's Tui, including Country Music Album of the Year, Song of the Year and the Rising Star Award.

Rob Adams and Jim Perry have a special musical bond that captivates the listeners. Their soaring harmonies and intricate fingerpicking combine to form one beautiful sound. Rob spent many years in She's Busy, and continues to perform solo and duo shows all around Massachusetts. Beginning in the 1970s, Jim Perry has been in various bands, including Albatross, Down East, The Ed Sullivans and The Silverbacks.

Never Say Never is a musical duo composed of married couple Jared Fiske and Jessica Adams. Their style draws from the harmony-rich, acoustic sounds of artists like Gillian Welch, Sturgill Simpson and Brandi Carlisle. Their renditions of popular and original songs have drawn praise across New England.

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Gundersen Studio of Dance celebrates 50th anniversary

WEST BROOKFIELD — The Betty Gundersen Studio of Dance celebrated its 50th anniversary over Father's Day weekend with a Golden Jubilee recital at the Cultural Center at Eagle Hill, in Hardwick. The recital included more than forty dance routines choreographed by the studio's accomplished faculty at both an afternoon and evening performance to a capacity crowd of family, friends, and studio alumni.

During the recital, a series of short videos were shown in which founder and director Betty Gundersen, affectionately known as "Miss Betty" by her students, and her husband, Larry, reflected on their journey in building the studio from the ground up over the last fifty years.

"I've always just wanted to pass along to my students the joy you get from dancing," Betty remembered. "It doesn't matter what's going on in your life, but, boy, you get in that dance class and life is good."

"One thing with the studio, when I think back," she continued, "it has brought so many beautiful people into my life that I never would have met, and friendships that I treasure. And the kids! Oh my gosh. How many hugs have I gotten through the years?!"

Hugs were in generous supply a week before the recital when about sixty former students and alumni parents arrived from around the country for a surprise lawn party in Betty's honor. Many of those alumni now



Courtesy

Thank you's all around from Betty Gundersen and her granddaughter, Avree, at the finale of the Gundersen Studio of Dance's 50th anniversary recital.

enjoy successful careers throughout the industry – teaching, performing, and choreographing. The gathering was arranged by Miss Betty's grandchildren, Avree, Simone, and Raphael, each of whom grew up in and around the studio and have now pursued careers in dance and music. Simone lives in New York where she works as a creative producer for live events. Raffi lives in Los Angeles where he is pursuing his passion for film, sound mixing, and live music performance. Avree is a member of a professional dance troupe, an instruc-

tor at the studio where she also helps with the management of the studio. Building and maintaining the studio, along with many recital props throughout the years, has been a labor of love for Larry. "At first, it was just a small studio in a converted garage," he recalled. "Before that, we rented the school, then the church, and later we rented the town hall." He remembered Betty saying, "you've got to build me a bigger studio."

"We were standing out in the yard, and I said, 'I'll walk out this way

and you tell me when to stop. That'll be the end of the building.' So, I kept walking," he joked, "and I said to myself, maybe she didn't see me. How far are we going?"

Larry, who had a lengthy career of his own as a member of the Massachusetts State Police, says there have been many occasions across the years when studio commitments took priority over their social lives, "but, I've had a good life being married to a dance teacher."

And Miss Betty says she has no plans to retire anytime soon.

"The children are what keep me going," she smiled. "I don't know a life without them, and I don't ever want to. I've been so blessed with great kids, and wonderful dance parents."

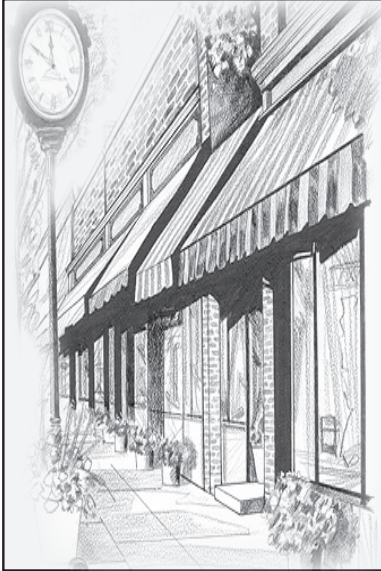
Each year, the studio awards two scholarships to deserving students. This year's recipient of the Kerri Ann Coleman Memorial Scholarship is Nora Burgess. Recipient of the Louise C. Gundersen Scholarship given by the Gundersen children in memory of their mother is Lauren Tutlis.

Five graduating seniors

were also recognized during the recital: Ellen Barkoskie, who will be attending Quinsigamond Community College, Morgan McNally, who will be attending Bridgewater State University, Samantha Hoyle, who will be attending Springfield Technical Community College, and Grace Kates and Morgan Kates, who will both be attending Boston College.

The Betty Gundersen Studio of Dance competition team will be competing at the Sheer Elite Nationals in Nashua, New Hampshire in July, supported by a very active Parent Dance Association. Competition team dancers include Violet Atwood, Lilly Bachand, Mallory Bachand, Lilian Benkert, Addison Bibinski, Emerson Blount, Ellie Blount, Vivien Burch, Samantha Carr, Bella Dixon, Emma Louis, Ellie Matt, Aspen-Rose Marshall, Sedona Marshall, Andrea Nzouda, Nora Roth, Alexis Savary, Bennett Skowrya, Caroline Stevens, Lauren Tutlis, and Emmaly Waugh.

The studio will be offering a series of summer classes for four levels of students from June 24 through Aug. 21. Details are available on the studio website at bettygundersendance.com. Registration for fall classes will be held at the studio on Tuesday, Aug. 12, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 16, from 10 a.m. to noon. Classes resume on Monday, Sept. 8.



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Make the most of your summer

This past weekend’s wet weather aside, summer has finally arrived with its warmth and vibrant energy. As we step into this long-awaited season, it is crucial that we seize the opportunity to embrace the outdoors, bask in the sun’s rays, and make the most of these few precious summer months.

The transitional period from spring to summer has been marked by an uncharacteristic gloom, with the dreary weather dampening spirits and limiting outdoor activities. But as the days grow longer and the sun regains its strength, let us reinvigorate our spirits with the bright prospects of summer.

There is an inherent enchantment that comes with this season, leading us to explore and indulge in the myriad of activities that the warmer months offer. It is the time to relish in the simple pleasures that nature provides, to feel the grass beneath our feet and to savor the coolness of a refreshing dip in the water.

Embracing summer not only renews our connection with the natural world but also nurtures our mental and physical well-being. Studies have consistently shown the positive impact of spending time outdoors, from reducing stress and anxiety to improving overall mood and cognitive function. It is during these sunny months that we have the opportunity to recharge our batteries, to foster a sense of balance, and to enhance our overall quality of life.

Summertime presents us with a golden chance to reconnect with our communities. Festivals, concerts, and outdoor events are resuming, offering opportunities for shared experiences and the celebration of the arts and culture that make our society thrive. By participating in these activities, we not only support local economies but also foster a sense of unity and togetherness that can heal the wounds inflicted by recent hardships.

Moreover, summer offers an array of recreational pursuits that cater to everyone. Whether it is hiking, picnicking in scenic spots, trying out water sports, or simply lounging in the sun with a captivating book, there is something for everyone. These leisurely activities allow us to create lasting memories, deepen relationships, and inspire a sense of adventure within us.

As we immerse ourselves in the joys of summer, remember to do so responsibly. Climate change is an ever-present threat, and our actions must reflect a commitment to the environment. As we embrace outdoor activities, let us also prioritize sustainable practices, such as reducing waste, conserving water, and protecting natural habitats. By doing so, we can ensure that future generations will have the privilege to enjoy the beauty of summer as we do today. Let us make this one summer to remember!

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author’s name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author’s name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Constitution

To the Editor:

The USS Constitution is a Revolution era ship based in Boston. Some of you may think I was referring to the document from that era, on which we swear in presidents, elect appointed officials, base many of our laws, and was created to include a listing of our rights.

While the USS Constitution is still commissioned, and part of our Navy, the document appears to have been essentially decommissioned. The section known as the Bill of Rights is no longer observed, except when various courts choose to uphold them, and a recent decision by the Supreme Court has overruled even the most basic of those rights the founders thought unimpeachable.

Lincoln would be appalled to find that the government of, by and for the people, is now only for the elite few, and the designed checks and balances, have been methodically removed or suspended. Our federal court system has been voided by a packed supreme court, that once commonly upheld or rejected to hear appeals from other federal courts, has made it clear by ignoring section #3 of the 14th Amendment, banning people who support or participate in insurrection, from holding federal office, making the president immune from prosecution for violations while in office, and granting him unlimited pardon power. “Banana Republic” comes to mind.

DOGE, an unofficial “agency” initially headed by Elon Musk, ostensibly to save us money by making us more efficient, and rooting out waste, was the epitome of actual government waste, consisting of 19 year old cyber ninjas, whose rudimentary audits allowed them to close and eliminate congressionally approved and funded agencies. After the appeals made their way through the courts, I think must are back, back pay issued, and, except for the 300,000 deaths resulting from stopping US Aids sending our surplus to starving people, an actual audit would prove cost, not savings.

Another of those constitutional rights, now gone are those that guarantee free speech, right of assembly, and to be heard, up to, and including, in a court of law. On the savings

front, the 4000 national guard and 700 Marines deployed to California and not needed, at a cost that exceeds the cancelled meals on wheels program. They did assist in pounding a Mexican landscaper to the ground and taking him into custody. He generally works alone, because his three sons are in the US Marines. Don’t those masked men make you proud?

When VP Vance was asked if we had declared war on Iran (the constitution says only congress can do that), he said only on their nuclear program.

It turns out that when Japan bombed Pearly Harbor, they only wanted to destroy our military assets. I may not be the sharpest pencil in the box, but dropping bombs and firing rockets at a country, sure looks like war. Are the rest of you amused that Putin warned us and wants us sanctioned as aggressors? Trump has claimed the war is over and Iran and Israel have agreed to a ceasefire, which he noted has already been violated, and that upset him greatly. Where was the outrage when Putin violated his declared ceasefire in 30 minutes?

I would mention that third branch called Congress (the ones who can declare war or levy tariffs), but they occupy themselves with wasting time doing hearings and trying to pass the Bogus Bill. I call it the RRH (Reverse Robin Hood) bill, that takes from the poor and gives to the rich. Trump was also responsible for the current record deficit, in his first term. His tax cuts that went 83 percent to millionaires expire this year. Warren Buffett says if billionaires paid their share, nobody making less than half million need pay a dime.

Eisenhower built our national highway system, when the top rate was 90 percent. Trump cut the top rate from Clinton era balance budget rate, down to 23 percent. Trump claims letting the cuts expire, would impact 300 million people. What he fails to mention is, by not extending it for the top 2000 earners, costs half as much, and you can cancel cuts to snap and Medicare. Although this is not rocket science, just logic and equity.

KEN KIMBALL
BROOKFIELD

How Trump’s ‘Great for Billionaires but Bad for Us’ budget destructs America

To the Editor:

This Trump budget bill contains the MAGA Plan for the next four years. If approved by the MAGA controlled Congress, here’s what it gives to billionaires and takes from not only us, but our children and grandchildren.

By reducing taxes for the richest it raises their disposable income and money to invest. At the same time, it reduces benefits for the not well off, including defenseless children and older adults. Along with being kind and caring, we need our - through no fault of their own - less well off children to grow up healthy and well educated. We need them to can help our America grow and stay powerful. We do not need more mega-yachts or million dollar weddings.

Many of the massive tax cuts only benefit the very rich. One has the name of “pass through” business income tax. It mainly benefits next to and actual millionaires and billionaires by dividing their income into “personal” and “business”. Similar “Estate” or inheritance tax cuts also would only benefit the very wealthy - just one of every 1,000 Americans . Meanwhile food support programs needing children and infants. Likewise college grants and loans for our children would fall or face near total elimination.

Cuts to the Internal Revenue Service

staff would again lower taxes paid by the wealthy. Estimates indicate the Trump, who always tries - at times against the law - not to pay taxes wants the staff cuts. This will mainly result in the rich not paying \$2.4 trillion in their share of taxes over the next decade. This creates a budget deficit that we, our children and grandchildren will have to pay, with interest.

Finally because of this ugly, awful for the rich only budget bill, to partly “pay” for the tax cuts, Trump MAGA will reduce by \$11 to \$16 million the numbers of benefitting from health insurance. One false MAGA argument for these (and others) says that the cuts will mainly affect people who don’t want to work. However, studies show that the health insurance cuts will not increase the number employed. Instead, most those cut off health care will be because of paperwork, having a disability or being too old to work. So once again robbing the poor so the rich can eat cake.

What can we do about it? Scream loud about it to good Republicans like conservative Sen. Tillis, who refuses to vote for the Trump MAGA ugly budget bill. And organize for free and fair 2026 election whose results begin to reverse what Trump tries to destroy.

KEVIN KANE
SPENCER

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Investing with heart: Find a financial advisor who shares your values



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When it comes to managing your money, there’s more to consider than just the bottom line. For many people, investing isn’t only about building wealth or reaching goals — it’s about making sure their dollars support charitable causes and principles that are in line with their closely held values.

Whether your focus is on protecting the planet, aligning with your faith or giving back to your community, a financial advisor who understands your values can help you build a portfolio that reflects what matters to you. Here’s how to help find a good fit.

Know what you stand for

Before you start searching for a financial advisor, take a moment to reflect on your own values. Are you passionate about sustainability? Do you want your investments to avoid companies that conflict with your faith? Is charitable giving a big part of your life and something you want to incorporate into your financial strategy?

Make a list of your top priorities. Understanding what drives you can help make it easier to find a financial advisor who shares and respects your vision.

Do your homework

Once you’ve clarified your goals, start looking for financial advisors who focus on values-based investing. Terms like “socially responsible investing” (SRI), “faith-based investing,” “impact investing” or “ESG” (which stands for environmental, social, and governance) are good keywords to use during your search.

Browse financial advisor websites and check their credentials. Some may highlight their experience with sustainable funds or philanthropic planning. Look for signs that they’re comfortable helping clients invest with a conscience.

Ask the right questions

After narrowing your list, schedule a few introductory discussions, which can be done in person or remotely, depending on your preference. These chats are your chance to learn more about how the financial advisor works and whether they’ll be a good fit.

Ask about their investment approach:

Do they offer portfolios with a focus on ESG or faith-based filters?

Have they worked with clients who have similar values to yours?

How do they assess charitable giving strategies or donor-advised funds?

Do they know the complex tax rules associated with charitable giving?

Listen closely to the questions they ask of you. Are they truly interested in what matters to you? Do they understand your values and priorities?

Also, consider their communication style. Will they keep you updated regularly? Are they open to collaboration when you want to adjust your plan?

Trust your instincts

Choosing a financial advisor is a personal decision. Beyond their professional qualifications, you want someone who listens well and respects your goals. Don’t hesitate to meet with several financial advisors before making your choice. The right person will make you feel understood and supported, both financially and personally.

Ideally, you and your financial advisor will forge a long-term relationship that spans the changes and milestones in your life. As the details of your financial strategy may change, you’ll still want to hold onto your values in your investments.

Investing with purpose

Whether you’re hoping to reduce your carbon footprint, stay true to your faith or make the world a better place through giving, you don’t have to choose between your values and your financial future. Many good financial advisors can help you do both.

Taking the time to find someone who shares your vision can help you feel confident that your investment strategy can align with your personal beliefs.

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.

Retro Backyard BBQ Recipes

Retro suburbanites elevated backyard barbecues to a new level that's worth imitating today! Want to host the perfect patio party? Put up the badminton net, set the picnic table with retro linens, mix up some South Seas cocktails and fire up the charcoal grill. Don't forget to serve authentic retro recipes. Here are some that baby boomers are sure to love (and remember)!
**

Chile Con Queso Dip
The ultimate retro cheese dip uses, what else? Velveeta cheese!
Ingredients: One pound Velveeta cheese; one medium can tomatoes with chiles; 1/4 cup milk.
Directions: Cut cheese in cubes. Add tomatoes and milk. Microwave on medium/high for two minutes. Stir and repeat until cheese melts and dip is well blended. Serve with Fritos corn chips and tortilla chips.



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

**
Barbecued Spareribs, Circa 1956
This recipe was the standard of backyard barbecues in 1950s suburbia.
Ingredients: Four pounds spareribs, cut into serving pieces; two tablespoons salt; 1/2 cup melted butter; 1/2 cup chili sauce; two tablespoons vinegar; one tablespoon Worcestershire sauce; 1/2 teaspoon garlic salt; 1/2 teaspoon chili powder; 1/4 teaspoon pepper.
Directions: Rub meat with salt. Place in shallow roasting pan. Bake one hour in moderate oven 350 degrees, baste three and four times with meat drippings. In sauce pan, combine melted butter, chili sauce, garlic salt, chili

powder, pepper, blend well; cook ten minutes over low heat. Remove meat from oven; place on grill; broil, basting with sauce frequently. Turn only once. Allow 30 minutes for well done steak. Yield: four servings.
**
Ham and Pineapple Kabobs
Shish Kabobs were the fare of choice for "outdoor gourmets" in the early 1960s. This simple vintage recipe has a Hawaiian twist.
Ingredients: three tablespoons brown sugar; two tablespoons distilled white vinegar; one tablespoon vegetable oil; one teaspoon prepared mustard; 3/4 pound cooked ham, cut into one inch cubes; 1 (15 ounce) can pineapple chunks, drained; skewers, presoaked.
Directions: Preheat grill for high heat. In a medium bowl, mix together brown sugar, vinegar, vegetable oil, and mustard. Thread

ham and pineapple chunks alternately onto skewers. Lightly oil grill grate. Place skewers on the prepared grill, and brush liberally with the brown sugar mixture. Cook for 6 to 8 minutes, turning frequently and basting often. Serve when heated through and richly glazed.
**
Hawaiian Dessert Salad
The South Seas influence is merged with typical 1960s convenience in this favorite dessert, which has been making the cookout and Luau rounds for 60 years.
Ingredients: one small can Mandarin oranges, drained; one can crushed pineapple; 8 ounce package sour

cream; small package orange Jell-O; two cups mini marshmallows; one container of Cool Whip
Directions: Stir dry orange Jell-O and orange sections into sour cream. Stir in pineapple. Add marshmallows and Cool Whip. Chill well before serving.
**
Hawaiian Mai Tai Cocktail
Every self respecting hostess in the 1960s knew how to serve up a decent cocktail. After all, it often took a few strong ones to keep dad on grill duty all afternoon.
Ingredients: two jiggers light rum (3 ounces); one jigger dark rum (1 1/2 ounces) ; 1/2 jigger

orange liqueur (3/4 ounce); 1/2 cup pineapple juice; 1/3 cup orange juice; one tablespoon lemon juice; three ice cubes; Maraschino cherries or fresh pineapple spears.
In a blender container combine rums, liqueur and fruit juices. cover; blend to mix. Add ice cubes, one at a time; blend after each till chopped. Pour into glasses; garnish with cherries or pineapple. Makes 2 (6 ounce) servings.
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Leicester deserves better

To the Editor:

To say that I'm proud of the three years I served on the Leicester School Committee is an understatement. We inherited a mess left by years of egos and empire-building by those who had been allowed to run rampant in part by the apathy of our town's voter base. To those who stood up at that point and said enough? You all help lay the groundwork for us to try and climb out of that pit. I can only hope that the work that was done over the last three years to try and make things better validated the faith you placed in me when I stood up and put my name on the line.
But we cannot pretend that the school committee has been the only problem, historically speaking. Personalities and power trips have been a common occurrence in town government across the board for the better part of 30 years, if not more. Loose definitions of integrity and truth are the concerning norm, and those inside the walls of government normally fall into two camps. Wanting to ensure they stay within the halls of power for various personal and political reasons is one, the other is recognizing what seems to be a futility in addressing many major problems for any variety of reasons

and decide to try and go for a quiet exit.
But for all of that, you can only tackle one major problem at a time. And you can't hope to affect any change without people finally getting sick and tired of the same old problems. It took the disasters shepherded under Marilyn Tencza with the school department to finally lead the public to say "enough!" To that end, the biggest present problem I see has a name. David Generoux.
Going back as far as his time in Uxbridge, he seems to understand how to use the system itself to defend against criticism, including from the few within the system who are willing to go to the proverbial mat and try to duke it out. There's a list of issues I have with him. All of which add up, in my estimation, to one conclusion. David Generoux is not the proper fit for our town hall, and he needs to go. If the public could bring the pressure to bear when it came to Marilyn Tencza and the various disasters she shepherded? We can do it with David Generoux. It's high time that the public starts demanding a resolution. Leicester deserves better.

DYLAN LAMBERT
LEICESTER

Time is moving faster!

Is time moving faster? That's what Terrence McKenna thought.

He asked the question, "What lasts longer: a million years with nothing happening or ten seconds packed with fifty thousand moments?"

He postulated that in the universe's early days, so little was going on that time itself felt slow. Back then, the cosmos was almost empty—few particles, few forces, few events—and now, there seem to be countless events and moments happening at an exponential rate. More and more events are piling up in our days. Which makes one feel as if time is speeding up.

McKenna saw this acceleration on a universal scale—but we feel it every day in our own lives. The average morning now contains more stimuli than a whole week used to. We're living in a digital downpour.

Everything we see is designed to pull at our attention. One sensational headline after another—storm warnings, market crashes, political scandals—but that's just the beginning. Every screen you look at flips to a new commercial, a pop-up ad, a push notification begging you to shop, a sponsored post in your feed, a "limited-time offer" email, or an autoplay trailer for the next hot show. Each one a mini-event in an avalanche of distractions.

With so many things happening at once—our days feel overloaded. Time seems to slip through our fingers.

Is there anything we can do about it? We could run away to a cabin in the woods and hide from all the screens.

Short of doing that, there is no escape.

We are trapped in an ever-accelerating timeline—more events, and more noise happening faster and faster each day. If you let it. It can take you from your destiny.

We stand at a crossroads. One path leads us deeper into distraction, a life dictated by alerts, ads, and headlines we didn't choose. Another tempts you toward total escape—setting off for a remote cabin to become a hermit in the woods.

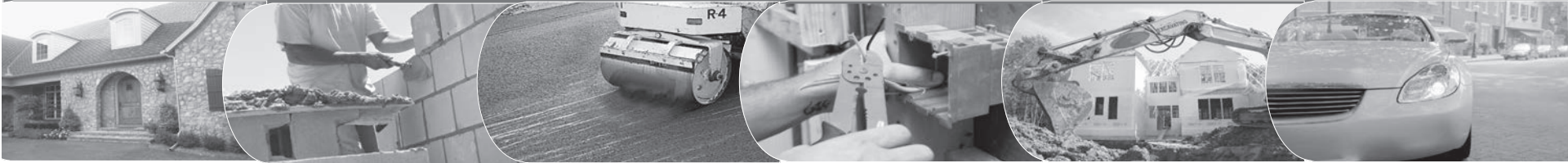
There is a third way, the most powerful of all: to become the navigator of your own timeline. You don't need to run from the storm. You just need to grab the wheel and live with intention.

It's easy to become like a leaf blown around in the wind and tossed this way and that by every notification, every breaking story, every flash of someone else's success. When we make those outside events our priority, we're not living our own dream but chasing pieces of someone else's. It's not wrong to stay informed or enjoy a viral moment, but when our attention is always pulled toward the next big thing, our own purpose gets lost in the whirlwind.

Living intentionally means waking each morning with a clear sense of where you want to go. It starts by naming your biggest dream—writing that book, launching that project, getting that promotion, mastering that skill. Keep that vision at the front of your mind as you move through your day. When a notification tugs at you, ask

Turn To **POSITIVELY** page **A10**

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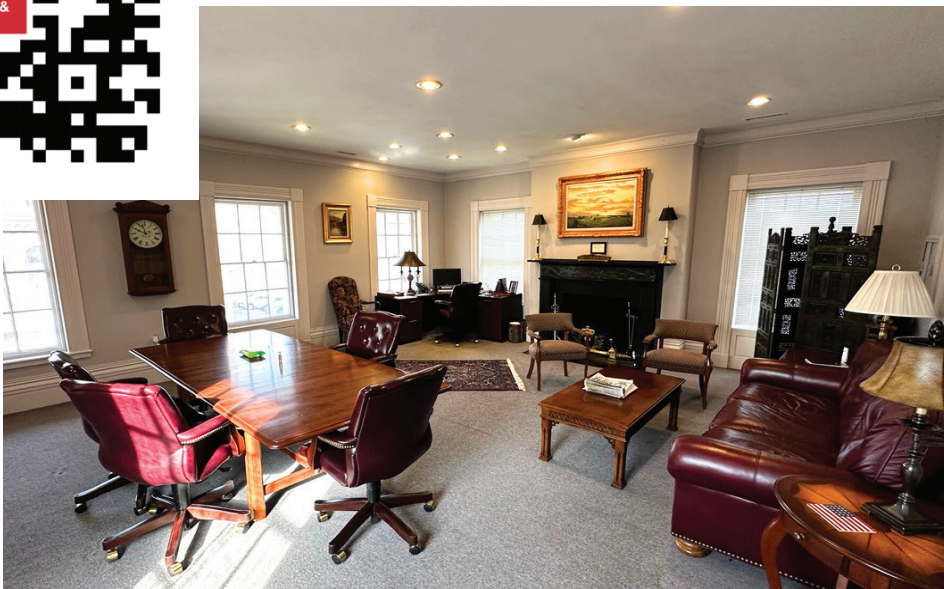
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Courtesy

Among the 2025 graduates from the HVACR program at Technology Learning Center in Oxford were Owen Bond of Leicester, Xavier DeJesus of Spencer, and Zachary Nutting of North Brookfield.

Urban parks “really have super powers”

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

REGION — A Boston school-park project could be a model for providing access to nature in Webster, Southbridge and other small urban areas. At least, that’s what the Trust for Public Land hopes from its recent Mass Association

of Conservation Commissioners’ online “lunch and learn.” “There’s an incredible wealth of research ... that proves just how important parks are” in reducing urban heat islands, protecting against flooding, connecting people and cleaning the air, said TPL’s Associate Climate

Director Taj Schottland. “... Parks and open space really have super powers.” But some of those studies have also found that around 100 million US residents, including 28 million kids, don’t have a park within a 10-minute walk of their homes, TPL State Director Jodi

Valenta added. Often, the parks that do exist aren’t well maintained, unsafe and “generally unwelcoming or uninviting.” To help address both sides of that coin, TPL has 199 projects statewide covering 14509 acres, with several focused on urban, lower-income communities. TPL has projects in 15 US cities and partnerships with over 100 smaller communities in the Climate Smart Cities Program, which began in Boston. In general, the agency’s goal is to “address climate equity” for areas “disproportionately affected by climate threats,” Schottland said.

They aim to do such things as reduce the “massive amount of impervious surface” in such areas. Schottland said pavement sends 55 percent of rain as runoff and just 15 percent into the soil, while green spaces basically reverse that – 10 percent runoff and half into soil.

Likewise, greenery’s “cooling benefits extend up to a half mile.” A Baltimore study found parks make the air 17 degrees cooler, which can be important given that “heat waves in the US have tripled compared to the long-term average,” he said.

A big part of the park is getting the community involved in creating the park. While that often starts with local officials like Boston city recreation planner Kate Oetheimer, it expands to include forums of residents who actually explore what they want in the park.

In the case they highlighted, Chittick School in Hyde Park, the city had its eyes on that parcel for some time. Boston’s Open

Space plan saw a potential park there based on the fact its neighborhood was identified as a gap in the 10-minute-walk from greenspace criteria. Oetheimer said the site “scored really highly in terms of climate resilience and access.”

Valenta said TPL used a “participatory design process” including the school’s students, community groups, and other residents as well as city and state agencies. They particularly sought student input because “they’re invested in the long-term success of the schoolyard ... and feel they’re contributing to the solution.”

“This promotes a keen sense of pride and achievement,” she said, later noting the same process “can be applied to any community,” although it’ll look a little different everywhere. Valenta said Chittick is one of several representatives of the “Parks for People Program,” which aims to develop parks “across the gateway cities” statewide. Another example is a “food forest with fruit trees” in Radcliffe Park, also in Boston.

Chittick’s redevelopment funding, \$1.5 million, came mostly from Boston’s acceptance of the Community Preservation Act, which has provided \$4.5 million to an Open Space Acquisition Fund over four years. Valenta noted towns without CPA may also be able to tap various state grants, but only rarely will one fund the entire project from concept to construction. She noted TPL is also seeking “private sources that will cover capital expenses” like this.

Additionally, the Legislature is considering a bill (H.901/S.597) to set aside \$100 million a year for land acquisition, trail development and related conservation efforts. That bill calls for funding to be from existing sporting goods sales taxes.

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.



Nichols College to host the Intergenerational Workforce Summit

DUDLEY — The Graduate School at Nichols College will host the Intergenerational Workforce Summit, bringing together regional business leaders, HR professionals and early-career employees for a unique, action-oriented event focused on the future of work across generations. The event addresses one of today’s most pressing business challenges: managing and motivating a multigenerational workforce. The summit will take place from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 6 on the Nichols College campus in Dudley. Registration opens June 17, and space is limited.

With five generations now active in the workforce - Traditionalists, Boomers, Gen X, Millennials and Gen Z - many employers are facing increased friction, communication gaps and challenges in employee engagement and retention. This summit transcends awareness and stereotypes to foster shared understanding, inclusive leadership and collaborative action.

“At Nichols, we are committed to helping both organizations and individuals thrive. This summit is not about telling young professionals how to behave or asking leaders to lower expectations - it’s about creating space for mutual listening and collaboration,” said Robin Frkal, dean of the Graduate School at Nichols. “Our goal is to equip participants with real tools and ideas they can take back to their workplaces to build stronger, more inclusive teams.”

The summit is part of Nichols’ executive education series and will feature: An intergenerational panel discussion

Facilitated breakout sessions focused on practical solutions and inclusive leadership practices

Networking to strengthen community and employer connections

A Nichols-branded digital badge recognizing participation in this groundbreaking summit

The event is co-hosted by Visions Internships, which is led by intergenerational workforce expert and CEO & Founder Amy Mosher Berry, who will moderate the panel and facilitate breakout sessions alongside Kim Krumsiek, associate professor of human resource management.

“Today’s young professionals are particularly purpose-driven. Most people crave meaningful (as opposed to menial) work and want to know that their efforts are making the world a better place,” said Berry. “I can’t wait to help unpack some of the common intergenerational challenges and offer insights and tools to empower professionals of all ages at this unique event.”

For media inquiries or more information on the event, contact rfrkal@nichols.edu or 508-213-2254.

About Nichols Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols College transforms today’s students into tomorrow’s leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations. www.nichols.edu

Fitchburg State announces Dean’s, President’s List

FITCHBURG — Fitchburg State President Donna Hodge has announced the students who qualified for inclusion on the Dean’s List and President’s List for the Spring 2025 semester.

A student is placed on the Dean’s List for the semester if an average grade of 3.20 or better is attained, and the student is attending the university full time.

The President’s List honors students for consistently high academic achievement. A student is named to the list after achieving a 3.75 average in each of three successive semesters.

Dean’s List

Brookfield: Zachary J. Sweet

Leicester: Madison K. Theriault, Paige L. Ward

Spencer: Braeden M. White

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BOYS
continued from page A1

defeated Mendon-Upton, 2-0, which clinched an MTOC berth.

“Qualifying for MTOC is a massive achievement. I am so happy for each of these boys that they’ll get a chance to play in the tournament,” Roche told the New Leader ahead of the MTOC.

The oldest player on the team is 12 years old, with the youngest checking in at 10. Their coaches have been thrilled to watch them develop their skills while also building camaraderie and leadership.

With a defense-first

mentality, each member of the team has bought into a system that sty-mied opponents through-out the spring.

“I have been very fortunate, along with Coach Loosemore, to have coached the core of this group for a number of seasons,” Roche said. “Our philosophy has always been to build the team through a strong defense, and this season that strategy really paid off. We were incredibly difficult to score against, and our goal-scorers really stepped up this year, which has made us a very difficult team to beat.”

Unlike many top-heavy youth teams dominated

by a handful of players, the Leicester squad has seen clutch performanc-es spread throughout its roster.

“The thing about this group that has been truly special is how they’ve held each other to a standard of success, and they’ve done this togeth-er. There are 13 players on this team, and every single one of them has contributed at some point this season to our suc-cess,” Roche said. “We are a team that is built not on tremendous individual talent, though we do have some of that as well, but on the collective ability of the whole. They each bring something unique

to the team, and those pieces have fit together in the best team that I have ever had the privilege of coaching.”

The MTOC is set up in a format similar to that of the World Cup, with a group stage followed by a knockout round. This year, ten affiliate orga-nizations within Mass. Youth Soccer sent a champion to MTOC, plus two wild cards.

Each team was guaran-teed three games in the state tournament. After the initial games, the top team in each group, plus one wild card, advanced to a knockout stage semi-final, followed by the final.

The Leicester boys were set to open their state tournament on June 27 against the South Shore Soccer League Champion. Their second game featured a match-up against the Berkshire Soccer champion, and their final group stage contest was a June 28 battle against the Essex County Youth Soccer Association champion.

All of the games took place at Progin Park in Lancaster. Stay tuned to next week’s edition of the New Leader for results.

Despite having faced programs with consid-erably larger player enroll-ment pools this spring, the Leicester squad was

propelled to the state tournament by hard work, solid leadership, and belief in the system.

“We are a true town team in every sense of the word. There are no tryouts, and there are no cuts from this team,” Roche said. “This does not diminish the incred-ible work of the other CMYSL representatives at MTOC, but what our boys have achieved is truly impressive. They’ve gone toe to toe with giants, and come out on the other side. I cannot wait to see how they stack up against the best the state has to offer.”

DPHS
continued from page A1

cials said.

“These programs are particularly impactful for low-income students, significantly increasing their likelihood of per-sisting through college and successfully graduat-ing,” the statement read.

The Healey-Driscoll Administration joins state education lead-ers in congratulating

the SEBRSD and other districts with recently approved Early College partnerships.

In total, 69 high schools and 32 higher education institutions statewide will support approx-imately 10,000 students as part of the 2025-26 pro-gram.

“Early College is an important and effective tool for making higher education more acces-sible and affordable for

every Massachusetts stu-dent,” said Gov. Maura Healey.

Early College pro-grams are also a key part of the administration’s Reimagining High School Initiative.

“We’re seeing firsthand how these programs make a difference and set students up for long-term college success,” said Massachusetts Education Secretary Patrick Tutwiler, who

visited the SEBRSD last year. “By expanding Early College, we’re mak-ing good on our prom-ise to open more doors, remove financial barriers, and ensure our edu-cation system works for everyone.”

The recent approvals build on the 16 designa-tions the Healey-Driscoll Administration made over the last two years, increasing the number of participants by 3,700

since the spring of 2022-23.

Additionally, the administration awarded \$8 million throughout this past school year to support schools and high-er education institutions as they design new Early College programs and expand existing ones.

“Early College is a proven, game-changing, educational equity pro-gram for Massachusetts high school students,”

said Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Chair Katherine Craven. “Our Board, working with the Board of Higher Education, has ambitious plans to grow access to Early College to as many high school stu-dents in Massachusetts as possible over the next few years.”

For more information about Early College pro-grams, visit www.mass.gov.

LAFRENIERE
continued from page A1

brings to Prouty. Having worked in both the class-room and at administra-tive levels, she under-stands the operations and teamwork needed throughout the building to ensure student success.

“Mrs. LaFreniere brings a wealth of expe-rience and a strong track record of educational leadership, making her a valuable addition to the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District community,” read a state-ment released by SEBRSD Superintendent Paul Haughey.

Although many area districts were seeking experienced, skilled administrators to lead their schools next year, LaFreniere immediately knew Prouty was the right place to begin the next chapter of her career. She looks forward to joining students and staff in wel-coming a new dawn for

DPHS, as the doors to its new academic wing open for class.

“What struck me about David Prouty was the rich diversity of experiences students have for a rela-tively small high school, the pride from all stake-holders that was obvious through my research and site visit, and the ded-ication the faculty and staff obviously has in the students,” LaFreniere said. “I love the idea of being part of something that can really impact the lives of students in a positive way.”

LaFreniere is also pre-pared to help students and staff continue to nav-igate the ongoing addi-tion-renovation project, which presents a unique-ly dynamic learning envi-ronment.

As new academic and athletic facilities have gone up, old structures are being taken down. Additional projects will take place on campus throughout the upcoming school year, as the con-

struction team brings the Prouty community ever closer to completing a long journey.

“The ongoing building project certainly adds a degree of complexity that I am excited to help real-ize for everyone who has worked so hard to make it happen,” said LaFreniere, who highlighted the importance of the DPHS leadership team remain-ing organized, transpar-ent, and informative.

“The community should be proud of the project, and I am honored to be part of such an important achievement for the entire Spencer-East Brookfield School District.”

Over the summer, LaFreniere looks forward to meeting more commu-nity members and help-ing her team get ready for an important year.

“In the short term, I am focused on getting to know the people at David Prouty, and look-ing forward to hitting the ground listening,” LaFreniere added. “Once

I have been able to get into the role and really under-stand the people, I can start to understand their needs, and then work alongside them to fulfill goals toward greater proficiency in what we pro-vide for students.”

Added LaFreniere, “I believe my job is, first and foremost, creating a climate of trust and pos-itivity that makes people want to come to school and work every day, and that means strong, con-sistent support for faculty and staff, and observable investment in the stu-dents’ experience.”

LaFreniere also plans to spend plenty of time in classrooms and at school events, supporting students and immersing herself in the learning community.

“I still miss teaching, and enjoy every opportu-nity I get to be in class-rooms, watching these craftspeople at work and seeing students’ minds opening to new worlds of learning,” LaFreniere

said. “I enjoy the conver-sations around the work teachers do, and what-ever I can contribute to enhancing or improving that experience is so ful-filling.”

Looking ahead to the start of school, LaFreniere has high expectations not only for herself and the Prouty staff, but also for student engagement and success.

“The communities that support the school deserve to see a strong, vibrant, and success-driven envi-ronment,” LaFreniere said. “I will work my hardest to contribute to an environment that allows everyone to feel connected, to thrive, grow, and succeed in everything that David Prouty can offer them toward their dreams.”

LaFreniere took over in her new role on July 1. District officials are excit-ed to welcome an admin-istrator with a strong track record of success.

“Under her leadership, Narragansett Middle

School expanded its cur-riculum offerings, intro-duced new support pro-grams for students placed at-risk, and strengthened community relations through innovative pro-grams and events,” read the statement released by Superintendent Haughey. “Mrs. LaFreniere’s lead-ership improved the school’s overall perfor-mance, particularly in the post-pandemic period.”

While serving as principal of QRMHS, LaFreniere supervised the curriculum and instruc-tional work at the school, which saw significant growth in math, science, and English Language Arts. Additionally, Quaboag saw increases in Advanced Placement course offerings, enroll-ment, and qualifying scores.

“My goal is to inspire and lead the DPHS com-munity to ensure that all students feel safe, sup-ported, and prepared for their future endeavors,” LaFreniere said.

PEN PALS
continued from page A1

pen pal program alive.”

Students and seniors wrote to their pen pals at least once per month. All participants were thrilled each time they were able to catch up with their pals and learn about new develop-ments in their lives.

“A thank you must also go to Mrs. Katie Ford, Interim Assistant Principal, and a prior fourth grade teacher,” the statement read. “In the class-room, thank you to Ms. Caitlynn Morris, who stepped up to the plate this year to be the fourth-grade teacher for this program. She did an awe-some job in continuing to support these letters.”

Paraprofessionals Hailey Gershman and Natalie Frantz are also thanked for their support, as well as instructional assistant Lisa Cooper.

Finally, LES students are thanked for their hard work and dedication to the program.

“Intergenerational partnerships are a win-win, and our schools will continue to foster these mutually beneficial partnerships in the future,” Kustigian added.

POSITIVELY
continued from page A7

yourself: “Is this help-ing me get closer to my goal?” If not, let it go and steer back to your course.

Chart your journey in small, steady steps. Block out time on your calendar for your high-est priority—twenty minutes of writing, fifteen minutes of practice, half an hour of research. Whatever it is that you choose. Protect these pockets of purpose like sacred appointments.

As you return to

them day after day, you’ll see your time-line bend in your favor. The hours you invest become deep rivers of progress rather than shallow puddles of distraction.

Along the way, cele-brate each mile marker. Did you apply for that job? Did you send that first email? Each success, no mat-ter how small, proves you’re charting the right course. Adjust as needed—if a path grows rocky, try a new route—but never lose sight of your horizon.

Even if the pace of life keeps accelerat-

ing, your path doesn’t have to. Time, like clay, is shaped by the hands that hold it. Don’t let it be mold-ed by algorithms, ads, and someone else’s agenda. Choose your moment. Chart your course. And let each small, steady step become the story of who you’re becoming and advancing toward the life you’ve always imagined.

Toby Moore is a columnist, the star of Emmy - Nominated A Separate Peace, and the CEO of Cubestream Inc.

Local students earn President’s List honors at Nichols College

DUDLEY — Nichols College is proud to recognize the academic accomplish-ments of students on the spring 2025 President’s List.

President’s List recognizes those stu-dents who achieve high grades during a single semester. Students whose semes-ter grade point average is 3.85 or high-er for at least 12 undergraduate cred-it-hours and no grades below B- will receive President’s List honors.

The following local students have achieved President’s List honors:

Timothy Charette of Spencer
Dylan Clark of Brookfield
Stephen Comtois of Brookfield
Brennan Ogert of Spencer
Jett Reilly of Spencer

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GARDEN
MOMENTS

MELINDA
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The recent heat wave that swept across much of the country is a good reminder to take extra care of our plants and ourselves as temperatures climb. Extreme temperatures can take their toll even on plants normally suited to the growing conditions.

Many plants suffer when short- or long-term temperatures exceed 86 degrees Fahrenheit. You will see withering, leaf and flower drop, stunting and more on heat stressed plants. The longer the heat wave persists the greater the risk of damage.

When daytime temperatures rise above 90, and night temperatures remain above 70, blossoms drop, and poor fruit development may occur on tomatoes.

Temperature extremes also impact pepper productivity. When temperatures climb to 95°F or higher the pollen is sterile, and flowers may drop. Small fruit may also fall from the plant during such hot spells.

We can't change the weath-

er, but we can help our plants cope when temperatures soar. Provide some midday and afternoon shade for plants struggling with the heat. Move containers to a shady location and use a patio umbrella or shade cloth suspended on hoops or stakes to provide your permanent plantings with a bit of relief.

Mulch the soil to conserve water, keep plant roots cooler, suppress weeds, and improve the soil as it decomposes. Spread a one-to-three-inch layer of leaves, evergreen needles, woodchips and other organic matter on the soil surface surrounding plants. The coarser the material, the thicker the layer of mulch needed. Pull mulch away from the trunk of trees and the stems of shrubs and other plants. You obtain multiple benefits from this one task while burning a few calories and strengthening your muscles.

Water plants thoroughly when the top few inches of soil are crumbly and moist. Plants will develop deeper roots able to access water from a larger area, making them more drought tolerant and pest resistant. Avoid frequent light watering that encourages shallow roots more susceptible to

drought stress. Make sure new plantings, moisture lovers, and stressed plants are the first to receive a good, long drink.

Don't overlook established trees and shrubs that need a helping hand during extended periods of hot, dry weather. Soak the area under the tree's dripline when the top four to six inches of soil are crumbly and slightly moist. Provide ten gallons of water per inch diameter of tree trunk measured at 4.5 feet high.

Water early in the day, when possible, to reduce moisture loss to evaporation. Use soaker hoses and drip irrigation whenever possible. You'll use less water by applying it right to the soil where it is needed.

Check container gardens daily. Water thoroughly when the top inch or two of soil is dry.

Take care of yourself when gardening especially during hot weather. Try to work in the garden when temperatures are cooler and in the shady spots in your landscape. Take frequent breaks and drink plenty of water.

Cover up your skin with brightly colored, loose-fitting clothing made of densely woven fabrics. Wear a broad-brimmed hat to protect your



Photo Melinda Myers

Soaker hoses and drip irrigation save water by applying it directly to the soil where it is needed.

skin and UV-blocking sunglasses for the health of your eyes.

Apply a broad-spectrum UVA & UVB sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher every day. Apply it 30 minutes before going outdoors and every two hours. You'll prevent sunburn and skin damage while making it easier to return to the garden each day.

With proper care, you and your plants will be better able to withstand the summer heat.

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

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POLICE REPORTS

Leicester Police Log

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18
9:08 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 11:19 a.m.: summons service (Main Street), unable to serve; 11:25 a.m.: debris in road (Main Street), referred; 11:39 a.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 11:59 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, op w/suspended registration, unlicensed operation, criminal applications issued; 12:14 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 3:22 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), mv towed; 3:22 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 5:30 p.m.: mv stop (Dale Street), spoken to; 5:38 p.m.: mv stop (Dale Street), spoken to; 6:07 p.m.: welfare check (Brown Street), transported to hospital; 6:23 p.m.: assist citizen (Stafford Street), call canceled; 6:23 p.m.: disturbance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), spoken to; 6:38 p.m.: assist other PD (out of town, no location noted on police log), services rendered; 8:28 p.m.: suspicious person (Hillside Road), gone on arrival; 11:00 p.m.: erratic operator (South Main Street), gone on arrival; 11:11 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning.

THURSDAY, JUNE 19
1:29 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 1:58 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:26 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 5:59 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 6:27 a.m.: ambulance (Salminen Drive), transported; 10:24 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 11:02 a.m.: ambulance (Deer Pond Road), transported; 12:53 p.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 1:55 p.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), report taken; 3:43 p.m.: investigation (Main Street), report taken; 5:15 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), spoken to; 5:30 p.m. disturbance (Folsom Street), resolved; 5:54 p.m.: accident (Marshall Street), report taken; 6:44 p.m.: assist other PD (Hemlock Street), investigated; 7:13 p.m.: welfare check (South Main Street), assisted; 7:25 p.m.: trespassing (Rawson Street), services rendered;

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Amythist
Age 11
Registration # 8831

Amythist is a smart, sweet, and creative young girl who enjoys a variety of fun activities. She loves gymnastics, dancing, music, riding her bike, and doing arts and crafts. She attends elementary school and enjoys being around her peers, especially during social or creative activities. Though she can be a bit shy at first, Amythist opens up as she becomes more comfortable and shows a fun, caring personality. She enjoys indulging in girly things and shares a special connection with her social worker over their shared love of Bath & Body Works products. Amythist thrives when she feels safe, supported, and encouraged to be herself.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21181269057>

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

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

☂☂☂☂☂☂

7:35 p.m.: ambulance (Marshall Street), transported; 8:15 p.m.: harassment (Rawson Street), report taken; 8:57 p.m.: disturbance (Boyd Street), investigated; 11:29 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:39 p.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), investigated.

FRIDAY, JUNE 20
12:08 a.m.: mv stop (McCarthy Avenue), verbal warning; 12:12 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), services rendered; 12:33 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/license revoked as habitual traffic offender, report taken; 1:09 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:24 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 1:36 a.m.: mutual aid (Forest Street, Oxford), services rendered; 1:51 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:55 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 2:20 a.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), verbal warning; 2:29 a.m.: mv stop (Clark Street), verbal warning; 2:30 a.m.: suspicious person (Atwood Terrace), unable to locate; 2:52 a.m.: assist other PD (McCarthy Avenue), services rendered; 3:46 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 4:43 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:13 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, uninsured mv, unregistered mv, registration not in possession, arrest; 8:55 a.m.: parking complaint (King Street), services rendered; 10:40 a.m.: animal complaint (Lakeview Drive), referred; 1:05 p.m.: debris in road (Paxton Street), services rendered; 1:53 p.m.: assist citizen (Locust Street); 3:22 p.m.: ambulance (Reservoir Street), transported; 4:11 p.m.: accident (Main Street), report taken; 5:29 p.m.: commercial alarm (Memorial School Drive), false alarm; 7:07 p.m.: commercial alarm (Wind in the Pines Way), false alarm; 8:52 p.m.: ambulance (Exeter Drive, Auburn), call canceled.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21
12:30 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, op w/suspended license, speeding, criminal application issued; 3:05 a.m.: assist citizen (South Main Street); 5:49 a.m.: commercial alarm (Main Street), false alarm; 7:00 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 7:07 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 7:13 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 7:21 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 7:22 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 7:30 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:43 a.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), citation issued; 7:44 a.m.: assist citizen (Main Street); 9:19 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:25 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 9:37 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), citation issued; 10:02 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:10 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:18 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:33 a.m.: shoplifting (Soojians Drive), report taken; 12:54 p.m.: mv stop (Main

Street), verbal warning; 1:22 p.m.: assist citizen (Deer Pond Road); 1:30 p.m.: assist other agency (Reservoir Street), services rendered; 1:49 p.m.: disturbance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), spoken to; 3:22 p.m.: ambulance (Paxton Street), transported; 4:48 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 5:12 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 5:20 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 5:33 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 5:45 p.m.: disturbance (Paxton Street), report taken; 6:43 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:28 p.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 8:31 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 8:39 p.m.: mv stop (Mill Street), spoken to; 8:50 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), spoken to; 9:02 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:03 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:11 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 9:19 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:29 p.m.: mv stop (Pleasant Street), verbal warning; 9:35 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, unregistered mv, uninsured mv, criminal application issued; name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, no inspection sticker; criminal application issued; 9:43 p.m.: ambulance (Flint Way), transported; 11:23 p.m.: suspicious mv (Hemlock Street), spoken to.

SUNDAY, JUNE 22
12:15 a.m.: assist other PD (East Main Street, Spencer), services rendered; 1:07 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:16 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 2:52 a.m.: mv stop (South Main Street), verbal warning; 3:15 a.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), no action required; 9:04 a.m.: welfare check (Main Street), assisted; 11:03 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 11:22 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 1:27 p.m.: ambulance (Craig Street), transported; 1:32 p.m.: suspicious activity (Main Street), services rendered; 1:59 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), written warning; 2:13 p.m.: ambulance (Parker Street), transported; 2:47 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 3:51 p.m.: disturbance (McCarthy Avenue), spoken to; 4:22 p.m.: hit/run accident (Soojians Drive), report taken; 4:36 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:18 p.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), verbal warning; 5:22 p.m.: ambulance (May Street, Worcester), transported; 5:24 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 5:32 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 5:35 p.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), verbal warning; 5:41 p.m.: mv stop (Marshall Street), verbal warning; 5:58 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 7:11 p.m.: mv stop (Paxton Street), verbal warning; 7:42 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 7:52 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 8:02 p.m.: welfare check (Tobin Road), peace restored; 8:54 p.m.: welfare check (Towtaid Street), assisted; 9:05 p.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), services rendered; 9:14 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:15 p.m.: suspicious mv (Soojians Drive), resolved; 9:19 p.m.: mv stop (Soojians Drive), verbal warning; 9:49 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 9:54 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), written warning; 10:09 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning.

MONDAY, JUNE 23
12:10 a.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), assisted; 5:17 a.m.: accident (South Main Street), report taken; 7:44 a.m.: ambulance (South Street), transported; 8:30 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 8:47 a.m.: mv stop (Auburn Street), spoken to; 9:04 a.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), call canceled; 9:45 a.m.: suspicious mv (Main Street), resolved; 9:50 a.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 10:03 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 10:18 a.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), name and address redacted from police log, unlicensed operation, no inspection sticker, criminal application issued; 11:49 a.m.: ambulance (South Ludlow Street, Worcester), transported; 12:07 p.m.: ambulance (Stafford Street), transported; 12:25 p.m.: welfare check (Reservoir Street), services rendered; 1:02 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), spoken to; 1:27 p.m.: mv stop (Church Place), spoken to; 4:30 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 5:12 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 5:49 p.m.: welfare check (Huntoon Memorial Highway), unable to locate; 7:22 p.m.: family problem (Stafford Street), resolved; 9:15 p.m.: suspicious mv (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:57 p.m.: family problem (Stafford Street), Gage Elisha Bard, 23, 659 Stafford Street, Rochdale, op w/suspended license, uninsured mv, op w/suspended registration, arrest; 10:07 p.m.: mutual aid (Paxton Road, Spencer), transported to hospital; 11:34 p.m.: ambulance (Sunset Drive), transported.

TUESDAY, JUNE 24
12:29 a.m.: threats (Soojians Drive), call canceled; 10:02 a.m.: ambulance (Sargent Street), transported; 10:12 a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), services rendered; 10:22 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 10:39 a.m.: mv stop

(Main Street), spoken to; 11:00 a.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 11:15 a.m.: harassment (Sargent Street), report taken; 11:30 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 12:00 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street), transported; 12:23 p.m.: assist other PD (Main Street), services rendered; 12:32 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), spoken to; 12:51 p.m.: welfare check (Stafford Street), transported to hospital; 2:44 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 5:26 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Laurelwood Avenue), resolved; 6:17 p.m.: ambulance (Huntoon Memorial Highway), transported; 7:10 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 7:54 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 8:32 p.m.: mv stop (Huntoon Memorial Highway), written warning; 8:49 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 9:02 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:11 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning; 9:44 p.m.: mv stop (Stafford Street), verbal warning; 10:19 p.m.: mv stop (Main Street), verbal warning.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25
2:26 a.m.: welfare check (Whittemore Street), assisted; 10:09 a.m.: welfare check (Marshall Street), report taken; 10:32 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 11:11 a.m.: lockout (Clark Street), assisted; 6:24 p.m.: ambulance (Main Street), transported; 9:49 p.m.: ambulance (Brickyard Road), transported; 11:00 p.m.: suspicious mv (Chapel Street), resolved.

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Spencer Police Log

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18
1:01 a.m.: medical/general (Pearl Street); 1:22 a.m.: parking complaint (Pearl Street), FD rep. parking issue; 1:36 a.m.: building checked, secure; 7:23 a.m.: animal complaint (Donnelly Road), loose dog; 8:15 a.m.: sex offender registration (West Main Street), assisted; 10:06 a.m.: fire alarm (Linden Street), referred; 10:33 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (West Main Street), no contact; 11:00 a.m.: animal complaint (Bixby Road), re: cat; 11:42 a.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), unwanted party; 2:42 p.m.: RV complaint (Cherry Street), c/o speeding mc; 3:30 p.m.: medical/general (Old Farm Road); 4:24 p.m.: parking complaint (Ash Street), services rendered; 5:15 p.m.: warrant service (Elm Street), Alvis Gitaka, 33, 24 Elm Street, Spencer, warrant, arrest; 5:20 p.m.: lost/found (Pleasant Street), re: items at library; 6:29 p.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 8:35 p.m.: suspicious persons (Lincoln Street), re: adult male interaction w/children; 10:00 p.m.: animal complaint (Gold Nugget Road), dog found; 10:35 p.m.: medical/general (Pearl Street); 10:47 p.m.: building checked, secure; (total daily mv stops – 0).

THURSDAY, JUNE 19
1:55-2:40 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:24 a.m.: burglary (Howe Village), rep. attempted break-in; 6:48 a.m.: medical/general (Chestnut Street); 10:42 a.m.: animal complaint (Polar Springs Road), re: dead rabbit; 11:12 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), spoken to; 12:51 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 1:33 p.m.: school alarm (Ash Street), services rendered; 1:45 p.m.: disabled mv (South Spencer Road), resolved; 3:03 p.m.: medical/sudden death (Howe Road); 3:11 p.m.: commercial alarm (Ash Street), services rendered; 4:15 p.m.: animal complaint (Cranberry Meadow Road), rep. dog bite; 5:54 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 7:08 p.m.: suspicious persons (Paxton Road), rep. hearing scream; 7:11 p.m.: medical/general (Browning Pond Road); 7:23 p.m.: officer wanted (Howe Village), req. welfare check; 8:47 p.m.: animal complaint (Sullivan Street), found cat; 9:32 p.m.: medical/general (South Spencer Road); 9:46 p.m.: medical/general (Wm. Casey Road); 10:33 p.m.: mutual aid (Charlton Road), assist Charlton PD; (total daily mv stops – 0).

FRIDAY, JUNE 20
12:15 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Worcester PD bolo; 12:27 a.m.: medical/general (Main Street); 12:46-2:59 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:05 a.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), spoken to; 8:19 a.m.: animal complaint (Lake Street), fax re: wound; 8:26 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 9:04 a.m.: medical/general (Northwest Road); 9:06 a.m.: officer wanted (High Street), spoken to; 9:59 a.m.: medical/general (Temple Street); 10:00 a.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); 10:04 a.m.: commercial alarm (Maple Street), services rendered; 10:09 a.m.: animal complaint (East Charlton Road), bear in area; 10:30 a.m.: officer wanted (Chickering Road), re: water usage; 11:19 a.m.: medical/general (Meadow Road); 11:20 a.m.: accident (Clark Street), report taken; 11:33 a.m.: restraining order service (Ash Street); 11:56 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Howe Village), resolved; 12:05 p.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), c/o theft of flowers from grave; 2:37 p.m.: 911 call (Chickering Road), accidental; 4:27 p.m.: illegal dumping (Main Street), mattress in road; 6:19 p.m.: medical/general (Prospect Street); 6:25 p.m.: warrant (Brown Street), Travis James Patchen, 37, 19 Brown Street, Spencer; possession Class A drug, arrest; Christina C.

Spencer library offers full slate of programs for children this summer

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER**
SPENCER — The Richard Sugden Library team invites local youngsters to take part in several programs this summer. On July 7, the Community Gaming Coalition will visit the library to lead kids in grades 6-12 in a variety of tabletop games. This program will take place from 5-7 p.m. at the library. On July 8, Big Truck Day returns to the Spencer Highway garage. Children of all ages are

invited to see the trucks and meet the people who drive them. Always popular with the entire family, this program will take place from 3-4 p.m. at the Spencer Highway garage (7 Meadow Rd., Spencer). On July 9, “Improv with Paul Gleason” will enable students in grades 6-12 to watch and participate in improvisation scenes with actor Paul Gleason. This program is set for 3-4 p.m. at the library. A July 14 “Hands on Nature” program will

take place at the Spencer Fish and Game Club from 6-7 p.m. (155 Mechanic Street, Spencer). “Learn about local birds and how to identify them, and end with a craft. All ages are invited to this program sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council,” read a statement released by the library. On July 15, toddlers, Pre-K students, and their families are invited to a music and movement program with Deb Hudgins. Held at the library, this

program will take place from 10-10:45 a.m. On July 21, Reptile Nook will be at the Spencer Fish and Game Club from 6-7 p.m. Officials will bring several reptiles for guests to learn about. Youngsters of all ages are invited to attend this program. A July 22 puppetry program will take place at the library from 10-11 a.m. Youngsters and their families are invited to meet the puppets and share stories. On July 23, toddlers and their families are invited to attend a music and movement program with Julie Stepanek Murray held at the library from 10-10:45 a.m. On July 29, a bub-

ble party for toddlers, Pre-K students, and their families will take place from 10-11 a.m. at Powder Mill Park (located at 43 Smithville Road, Spencer). A July 30 face painting program will provide fun for students in grades K-12 (3:30-4:30 p.m.). An Aug. 6 program will allow toddlers and their families to enjoy a music and movement session at the library from 10-10:45 a.m. On Aug. 11, One Up Games will return to the library, bringing their glow in the dark mini-golf to all three floors of the building (3-6 p.m.). On Aug. 12, the children’s summer reading finale will be held at

Powder Mill Park. Guests will beat the heat thanks to Juniper Farms Ice Cream Truck, which will stop by the park at 2:30 p.m. The celebration will also include Awesome Robb’s Magic Show at 3 p.m. The Massachusetts Statewide Summer Library Program is funded by the Massachusetts Library System, the Boston Bruins, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. To learn more about upcoming library programs, or to register for an activity, visit www.spencerpubliclibrary.org.

Faith Lamonda of Spencer achieves Dean’s List honors at Nichols College

DUDLEY — Faith Lamonda of Spencer has achieved Dean’s List honors for the spring 2025 semester at Nichols College. Dean’s List recognizes those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. To be included on the Dean’s List, a student must have a minimum grade point average of 3.5 for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and must have received no grades below B- during the semester.

About Nichols College
Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols transforms today’s students into tomorrow’s leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations. www.nichols.edu

Leicester resident named to Dean College’s Spring Dean’s List

FRANKLIN — Dean College is pleased to announce that Caitlyn Varnum of Leicester has earned a place on the Dean’s List for the Spring 2025 semester. Students named to the Dean’s List have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College. Founded in 1865, Dean College is a private, residential college located in Franklin, 45 minutes from Boston, and Providence, R.I. Dean College offers baccalaureate degrees, associate degree programs, as well as a robust schedule of part-time continuing and professional education credit and certificate programs throughout the calendar year.

POLICE REPORTS

Brown, 33, 135 Stafford Street, Charlton, warrant, arrest; 6:30 p.m.: juvenile matter (Park Street), kid moving buoys; 8:12 p.m.: DPW call (Greenville Street), tree in road; 10:11 p.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 10:15 p.m.: disturbance (Woodside Road), noise complaint; 10:16 p.m.: commercial alarm (South Spencer Road), services rendered; (total daily mv stops – 2).
SATURDAY, JUNE 21
12:09 a.m.: disturbance (Bixby Road), noise complaint; 12:44-1:07 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:08 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 3:42 a.m.: officer wanted (Northwest Road), rep. alarm sounding; 7:06 a.m.: medical/general (Irving Street); 7:09 a.m.: suspicious persons (North Spencer Road), investigated; 7:53 a.m.: juvenile matter (Park Street), services rendered; 10:42 a.m.: officer wanted (West Main Street), rep. poss. drunk male; 10:58 a.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), Worcester PD bolo; 11:05 a.m.: animal complaint (South Spencer Road), young bear in area; 11:23 a.m.: fire alarm (Cedar Road), referred; 12:31 p.m.: medical/general (Northwest Road); 1:08 p.m.: disturbance (Chestnut Street), verbal altercation; 2:31 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), pkg. del. to wrong address; 2:38 p.m.: school alarm (Main Street), services rendered; 2:40 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), re: person passed out on bench; 3:11 p.m.: residential alarm (R. Jones Road), services rendered; 3:14 p.m.: medical/general (Meadow Road), lift assist; 4:02 p.m.: animal complaint (Charlton Road), re: dead possum; 6:55 p.m.: mv

complaint (Clark Road), c/o speeding; 6:57 p.m.: medical/general (Greenville Street); 7:29 p.m.: officer wanted (Main Street), male exposing self in mv; 7:43 p.m.: disturbance (Park Street), rep. male yelling; 8:15 p.m.: medical/general (Ash Street); 8:55 p.m.: RV complaint (Maple Street), scooter in roadway; 10:21 p.m.: RV complaint (Mechanic Street), 4-wheeler speeding/noise complaint; 11:50 p.m.: disturbance (Mechanic Street), fight; 11:54 p.m.: 911 call (Maple Street), open line/dispute heard; (total daily mv stops – 1).
SUNDAY, JUNE 22
12:02 a.m.: disturbance (Main Street), services rendered; 12:49 a.m.: medical/general (Howe Village); 1:33 a.m.: disturbance (Chestnut Street), c/o group of drunks; 8:42 a.m.: suspicious persons (Main Street), poss. drug use; 10:20 a.m.: officer wanted (Paxton Road), broke pinkie; 11:19 a.m.: lost/found (Pleasant Street), backpack lost; 11:23 a.m.: residential alarm (R. Jones Road), services rendered; 1:41 p.m.: fraud (Tom Casey Road), report taken; 2:55 p.m.: medical/general (Starr Street); 4:03 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), req. welfare check; 5:15 p.m.: animal complaint (Chestnut Street), rep. aggressive raccoon; 5:31 p.m.: animal complaint (Donnelly Cross Road), loose dog; 10:11 p.m.: fire alarm (Cherry Street), referred; 11:28-11:53 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; (total daily mv stops – 0).
MONDAY, JUNE 23
2:07-2:08 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 4:06 a.m.: abandoned 911 call

(Pearl Street), hang-up; 6:08 a.m.: disabled mv (Paxton Road), TT in roadway; 6:56 a.m.: fire alarm (Main Street), referred; 8:03 a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:13 a.m.: officer wanted (Bellevue Drive), spoken to; 8:54 a.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 9:13 a.m.: DPW call (Main Street), rep. ept. in e-bound lane; 10:14 a.m.: harassing calls (West Main Street), report taken; 10:49 a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), services rendered; 10:57 a.m.: fraud (Main Street), report taken; 12:43 p.m.: medical/general (Pioneer Valley Drive); 12:57 p.m.: 911 call (Bixby Road), resolved; 1:06 p.m.: medical/general (North Spencer Road); 1:13 p.m.: vandalism (Lake Street), report taken; 2:09 p.m.: officer wanted (Maple Street), unwanted parties; 3:24 p.m.: restraining order service (Meadow Road); 5:42 p.m.: fire alarm (Ledge Avenue), referred; 6:08 p.m.: warrant (Temple Street), Adam A. Sandakli, 33, 31 Temple Street, Spencer, warrant, arrest; 7:23 p.m.: officer wanted (Greenville Street), rep. fallen oak tree; 7:36 p.m.: officer wanted (Mechanic Street), neighbor issues; 8:40 p.m.: suspicious mv (Lakeview Drive), investigated; 9:49 p.m.: medical/general (Ash Street); 10:01 p.m.: medical/general (Paxton Road); (total daily mv stops – 5).
TUESDAY, JUNE 24
12:00-12:53 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 12:08 a.m.: disturbance (Temple Street), noise complaint; 12:30 a.m.: mutual aid (Main Street), assist State Police; 6:59 a.m.: accident (Starr Street), rep. previous property damage; 7:00

a.m.: LTC issued (West Main Street), assisted; 8:26 a.m.: mv complaint (Main Street), erratic operator; 8:51 a.m.: disabled mv (Main Street), assisted; 9:06 a.m.: medical/general (Smithville Road); 10:36 a.m.: officer wanted (R. Jones Road), re: social media post; 10:42 a.m.: animal complaint (West Main Street), re: info on cat; 11:27 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (Cranberry Meadow Road), status not noted on police log; 11:41 a.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), open line; 11:56 a.m.: fraud (Marble Road), report taken; 12:01 p.m.: medical/general (Valley Street); 12:24 p.m.: medical/general (West Main Street); 12:24 p.m.: 911 call (Fairview Drive), accidental; 1:45 p.m.: mutual aid (Salem Street), assist Sturbridge PD; 3:04 p.m.: fraud (Lakeshore Drive), report taken; 3:05 p.m.: disturbance (Woodside Road), neighbor dispute; 3:40 p.m.: disabled mv (West Main Street), no action required; 5:38 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Irving Street), open line/hang-up; 5:46 p.m.: medical/general (Howe Road); 6:02 p.m.: mutual aid (West Main Street), West Brookfield PD bolo; 6:43 p.m.: 911 call (West Main Street), hang-up; 6:49 p.m.: medical/general (Clark Road); 7:00 p.m.: mutual aid (Ash Street), Southbridge PD bolo for hit/run; 8:42 p.m.: medical/general (Lakeshore Drive); 11:15 p.m.: residential alarm (Pine Avenue), services rendered; 11:58 p.m.: building checked, secure; (total daily mv stops – 4).
#

LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P2031 EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
Frances G Broden
Also known as: Frances Broden
Date of Death: 04/26/2025
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Carol Tomlin of West Brookfield MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:
Carol Tomlin of West Brookfield MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/22/2025.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection

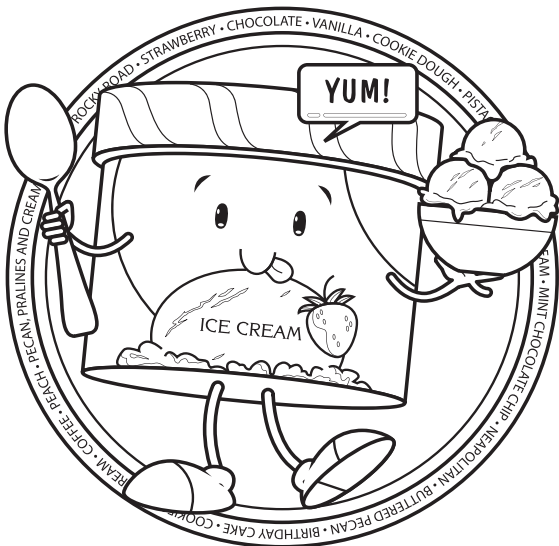
followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 23, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
July 4, 2025
**Town of Spencer
Conservation Commission
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**
In accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, MGL c. 131, s. 40 and the Spencer Wetlands By-Law:
Tom Lynch has filed an **NOI** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to construct a septic system located at **72 Thompson Pond Road, Spencer, MA.**
Peter Boria has filed an **NOI** with the Spencer Conservation Commission for roadway, sidewalk & drainage improvements located at **Valley & Mill Street, Spencer, MA.**
Patrick Taturo has filed an **NOI** with the Spencer Conservation Commission to

construct a septic system located at **R25 44-1 Greenville Street, Spencer, MA.**
Applications can be reviewed at the Office of Development and Inspectional Services, Town Hall. A public hearing regarding these filings will be held by the Spencer Conservation Commission in McCourt Social Hall at Town Hall, 157 Main Street, on Wednesday, July 9, 2025 at which time all persons having an interest may be present or call in remotely to participate. Conservation Commission meetings open at 6:15 p.m.
Mary McLaughlin
Mary McLaughlin, Chairwoman
July 4, 2025
**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P2142EA
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**
Estate Of:
James O. Smith
**Also Known As:
James Owen Smith**
Date of Death: March 7, 2025
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner
Melissa Emerson-Greene of Virginia Beach VA
a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Melissa Emerson-Greene of Virginia

Beach VA has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve **without** Surety on the bond.
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
July 4, 2025
**Town of West Brookfield
Zoning Board of Appeals**
A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, July 8, at 6:00 p.m. at the West Brookfield Town Hall, to act on an application for a Special Permit, for the property located at 39 Foster Hill Road, West Brookfield. The applicant wishes to construct a building on an undersized lot. A special permit is required.
June 27, 2025
July 4, 2025



Creative Colouring
Colour in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



CANADA
MONTH
HISTORY
1866

The colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia are united, bearing the Mainland's name as the Colony of British Columbia. The Island capital, Victoria, is set as the seat of government for the colony.

Food
FACT:

This is believed to be the first ice cream flavor.

Answer: Nectar/honey

Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the words to reveal the sentence.

OPSCO

1 2 3

NECO

4

ERFZEE

5 6

SATE

7

I 1 2 6 4 7 M 5 3 6 I 2 4

2 6 4 7 M

Answer: I scream for ice cream

NEW
WORD
CUSTARD

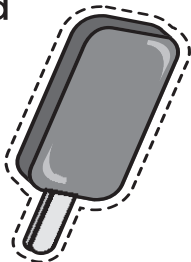
a dessert made with cream and egg

How they say that in...

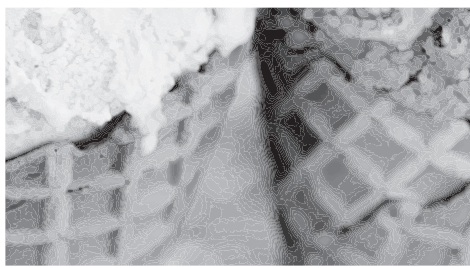
- English: Freezer
- Spanish: Congelador
- Italian: Congelatore
- French: Congélateur
- German: Gefriertruhe

Did You Know?

The countries that consume the most ice cream are the United States, Australia and Norway.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Ice cream cones

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to the beach.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 10 = S)

A. 10 9 7 23

Clue: Granular material

B. 10 8 4 16 15 25 20 7 15

Clue: Where ocean meets sand

C. 5 9 2 15 10

Clue: Swells of water

D. 10 8 15 25 25 10

Clue: Protective coatings of sea creatures

Answers: A. sand B. shoreline C. waves D. shells

SUDOKU

3		6						7
			4		5			8
				6		4		
								1
		3	9				8	
9	6	1		4		2		
			1			9		
	8	4	7	9		5		
	9							2

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

2	8	4	3	6	9	5	1	7
3	5	2	7	9	8	4	6	1
6	8	4	1	5	8	9	3	7
9	6	1	8	4	7	2	3	5
5	2	3	9	1	6	7	8	4
4	7	8	5	2	3	6	9	1
8	5	7	3	6	1	4	2	9
2	1	9	4	7	5	3	6	8
3	4	6	2	8	9	1	5	7

ANSWER:



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


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JULY 3RD
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AT 9PM!





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*4 Rooms * 1 Bedroom * Updated Roof and Windows * Easy Commuting Location
54 Hill St \$379,900



LAND- 4.69 ACRES
RTE. 20 Commerical
1500' Frontage on Rte. 20
Worcester Rd/ Rte. 20 \$1,000,000



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Bestselling author to host program on history of Quabbin Reservoir

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER
WARREN — New York Times bestselling author Michael Tougas, who wrote “Quabbin: A History and Explorers Guide,” will offer a narrated slide presentation about Quabbin Reservoir this month at Warren Senior Center.
Set for Wednesday, July 16, at 6:30

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p.m., the program will focus heavily on the demise of the four “Lost Towns” that were flooded to create the Quabbin. Guests will also learn about the construction of the massive reservoir, as well as how it works today.

Tougas has been hiking and researching the Quabbin for over 30 years, interviewing multiple people along the way. He looks forward to sharing the area’s fascinating history with local guests.

“I first fell in love with the solitude and the beauty of this special place,” Tougas said. “Later, the history captured my attention, and I set out to interview all the former residents of the lost towns I could locate. Although many were just children when the state took their towns, they have incredible stories of how this huge project changed so many lives.”

Added Tougas, “My book and this presentation is a way for me to share my passion for the area and encourage fellow explorers to visit this region of Massachusetts.”

The author’s slides feature before-and-after images of the lost towns. These include photos of workers building the dams and aqueduct; the grand opening of the reservoir; wildlife of the Quabbin; unique natural places; and favorite trails and entrance gates.

Tougas also discusses in his presentations three fascinating events from the region which he describes as “forgotten history.”

Before the reservoir was constructed in the 1920s and 1930s, four towns were disincorporated, causing 2,500 residents to be displaced to surrounding communities. Approximately 7,500 graves were moved, generations-old homes and businesses razed in preparation of the systematic flooding.

Today, Quabbin Reservoir provides water for Boston and 45 other communities, serving over 2.5 million

people. Quabbin and the surrounding forests represent the largest tract of open space in southern New England, home to nesting loons and bald eagles, coyotes, porcupines, and moose, among countless others.

Tougas is the author or co-author of 30 other books, including four books about true survival-at-sea stories. His book, “The Finest Hours,” has since been adapted into a Disney movie.

He has also written a book about his adventures at his remote cabin in Vermont titled, “There’s a Porcupine in My Outhouse.” His latest books are “Above & Beyond: JFK and America’s Most Dangerous Spy Mission”, plus a memoir titled, “The Waters Between Us: A Boy, A Father, Outdoor Misadventures, and the Healing Power of Nature.”

Tougas regularly delivers slide presentations on the topics covered in his books. To learn more about the author and his works, visit his website at: www.michaeltougas.com.

When not writing or exploring various sites of interest, Tougas donates his time to protecting open space.

The July 16 program is sponsored by the Warren Public Library, with a grant from the Warren Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



Courtesy
Bestselling author Michael Tougas will lead an upcoming program at Warren Senior Center.

Leicester School Committee looks ahead to busy summer

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER
LEICESTER — Following their reorganization meeting last month, School Committee members are focused on a busy summer ahead.

At the School Committee’s June 16 reorganization meeting, members voted 4-0 (Paul Messier was absent from the meeting) to retain Donna McCance as Chair.

Jim Reinke was selected as the committee’s new Vice Chair, while members voted to keep member Nicholas Packard in the Secretary role.

As the district continues to build momentum through new and expanded programming, committee members are looking forward to McCance serving as Chair for a fourth year.

“I am happy to continue with the momentum that the School Committee and Dr. [Brett] Kustigian have developed toward expanding educational opportunities for our students so they are career and college ready,” McCance said. “These are exciting times of growth for our students and our school community. We have an exemplary Superintendent and an outstanding School Committee, proving that teamwork does make the dream work.”

School officials have been thrilled with the many developments in programming since Leicester High School transitioned to the former Becker College campus.

Among other exciting accomplishments at LHS in recent years, the district’s leadership team significantly expanded Chapter 74 and Innovation Career Pathway programs that are preparing students for career opportunities while still in school.

“Consistency is key in any organization, and School Committee Chair Donna McCance has been that consistent force to provide and propel our school district to create new and exciting opportunities for students,” Kustigian said. “Her track record from the past three years as Chair – and the turnaround of Leicester’s schools – speaks

volumes of her leadership.”

In addition to other recent achievements, the district’s leadership team earned a \$966,561 grant for LPS. The monies will support an electrical lab and classroom space under the Electrical Chapter 74 application, updating the building with new construction and improved drainage.

Community leaders and parents thank all School Committee members for helping to turn around the district in recent years after a period of struggles under the previous superintendent’s administration. Officials particularly appreciate McCance’s commitment to transparency and communications, as well as her experience as an educator that she applies to leadership on the School Committee.

“Donna’s background as a teacher makes her a perfect match for School Committee Chair, and I am grateful for the opportunity to work with such an outstanding educator,” Kustigian added.

Salve Regina University announces Dean’s List

NEWPORT, R.I. — The following students were named to the Dean’s List during the spring 2025 academic semester at Salve Regina University. To qualify for the Dean’s List, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 for full-time students completing at least 12 graded credits, or a semester grade point average of 3.8 for part-time students completing at least six credits.

Molly Miarecki of W. Brookfield
Payton Prouty of Spencer
Jacob Stolberg of Rochdale
Greenly Waugh of Spencer

Salve Regina University is a Catholic, coeducational institution of higher education founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1947. For more than 75 years, Salve has offered rigorous, innovative academic programming in the liberal arts tradition that prepares students to be global citizens and lifelong learners. More than 2,700 undergraduate and graduate students from around the world are enrolled at Salve in 48 undergraduate majors, 13 master’s degree programs, combined bachelor’s/master’s programs, and doctoral programs.

Every undergraduate student engages in Salve Compass, a four-year transformational framework through which they develop the experience, skills, and wisdom required for a fulfilling career and to make a positive difference in the world. The University is also home to the Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy, a multi-disciplinary research center focused on the intersection of politics, policy, and ideas. For more information, visit salve.edu.

4th OF JULY SALE!

We are in the process of selling out some of our current stock to make room for new Fall Models. Because of this, we are offering savings throughout the store!

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