



# SPENCER NEW LEADER

©2026, Issue #8

Free by request to residents of

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

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Friday, February 27, 2026



Congratulations to the David Prouty High School Winter Cheerleading team as they placed first in the CMAC championships at Auburn High school. Photo courtesy of the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District's Facebook page.

## Spencer officials explore safety improvements for Camp Marshall crosswalks

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

SPENCER — The Board of Selectmen in Spencer has instructed town officials to examine the steps required to enhance pedestrian safety along the property of Camp Marshall.

The move came after Lorraine Kiritsis, President of Camp Marshall Board of Directors, presented concerns regarding a crosswalk used by campers to get to different parts of the property. In recent years, the road has seen heavier traffic with commuters showing a disregard for speed limits. Kiritsis said their hope is to increase awareness of the childrens' presence and implore drivers to take the safety of the campers into account. The camp sits along McCormick Road, which became a popular shortcut during a bridge closure in recent years.

Kiritsis acknowledged that the town has been supportive of the camp, including helping procure grants to focus on safety within the camp itself. But now the camp needs the town's help to ensure the roadway is safe for campers as well.

"We found last summer as the numbers are increasing again is that generally the evening program are on the Andrews Hall side of the road and then when they cross the street to go down to the cabin area to go to bed the cars come really fast," Kiritsis explained.

She clarified that nobody has been hurt yet, but that the camp is trying to be proactive. A main concern is that vehicles don't slow down even with the existing signage currently visible along the roadway. Their hope is to create more visible crosswalk lines, lighting, or signage that will urge drivers to slow down and be aware of the risks of speeding on that road.

"It's not urgent, but as we're seeing an increase in campers, we do want to make sure that we're cognizant of safety," Kiritsis said.

However, the selectmen did consider it an urgent issue. Selectman Gary Woodbury said this is a matter of public

Turn To CROSSWALKS page A9

## N. Brookfield Fire Department prioritizing vehicle repair needs

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

NORTH BROOKFIELD — As the current slate of interim leadership at the North Brookfield Fire Department has made themselves comfortable since their appointment in December, a focus has been put on getting the fleet of vehicles in proper full working order.

During the North Brookfield Board of Selectmen's Feb. 10 meeting, Interim Fire Chief Keith Marshall and Interim Deputy Chief Thomas Bessette provided a brief but detailed update on the condition of the department's vehicles confirming that several apparatuses are in need or have recently received at least some work. The department is working from a prioritized list and consulting with the appropriate town departments and boards as needed to help fund the repairs.

Chief Marshall explained that the current fleet contains ten vehicles and while several of them have needed at least some attention,

they are making progress. One vehicle recently needed a battery replaced while another had to be repaired due to body rot. Engine 1 has leaking power steering, and the heating system doesn't work making it difficult for firefighters during the harsh winter nights. Another vehicle, described as a Hummer, is in dire need of new tires which would be costly leading department officials to consider completely replacing the wheels, a more expensive option on paper but realistically more cost effective when considering the price of just the tire alone. The department's hovercraft also recently saw some repairs.

"These vehicles are essential. Any one of those vehicles has their own functions, and we respond to numerous emergencies every month," said the Chief. "For the safety of all of the citizens and the emergency personnel operating them, we have to keep them consistently ready."

Marshall confirmed they work from a priority list focusing on the most essential vehicles first. Deputy

Chief Bessette explained this strategy in more detail.

"We're trying to take the approach of going vehicle by vehicle. Last month we went through the rescue (vehicle). We went to the town, to the Finance Committee, to get the reserve funds to do the necessary emergency repairs but when it was down, we also did the preventative maintenance as well so now that truck is squared away so then we move to the next one. We'll get Engine 2 squared away and then we'll move on to Engine 1 and be systematic about it as our funds allow, as time allows," said Bessette.

While the department tries to use local businesses as much as possible for repairs like mechanical issues, the firefighting elements of the vehicles often have to go through specific vendors. There was no timeline as to when the department expects to have the fleet fully repaired, and there was no indication that these repair needs have interrupted service. The idea is to fix the problems before they become larger

issues when going on calls.

During the meeting, the selectmen also consulted with the interim leaders, including interim Assistant Chief Don Mailing, on their comradery. All three were appointed in December after the resignation of Chief Darren Anderson. Their positions are expected to be reevaluated by the selectmen after six months.

## Leicester Public Health Coalition hosting opioid listening session

LEICESTER — Are you affected by opioids? The Leicester Regional Public Health Coalition invites you to an Opioid Listening Session March 10 from 4-6 p.m. at the Town Hall gym.

Your voice matters! Help guide how opioid settlement funds are used in our communities. Opioid abatement funds are settlement dollars provided to Massachusetts communities to support prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction efforts related to the opioid crisis. Come share your ideas and help us explore prevention strategies and programs to address the opioid crisis.

This event is open to everyone — youth, adults, families & friends, loved ones, and those with lived experience. For more information, please call (508) 892-7008.

## John John Brown brings songs, stories, & art to Workshop13

WARE — Workshop13 welcomes award-winning songwriter John John Brown for a performance of his emotionally rich live show, Songs, Stories, & Art: Lessons From Strangers. This all-ages event takes place in Workshop13's Grand Hall at 13 Church St., Ware, on Saturday, Feb. 28. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the performance begins

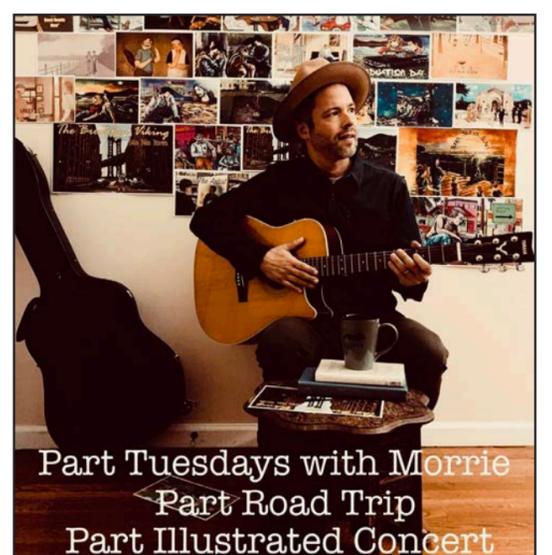
at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and are available at [www.workshop13.org](http://www.workshop13.org).

In recent years, John John Brown has been chosen as a Kerrville New Folk winner and an Emerging Artist at the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival. Most notably, in concert, he is known for mixing storytelling songs with the visual arts creating "an imaginative musical

performance woven into a unique visual experience." With only a guitar, a projector, and a storyteller's heart, Brown guides audiences through 14 compelling character portraits—each one brought to life with original hand-drawn comics and narrative-driven songs. It's part concert, part illustrated story hour, and unlike anything else on

stage today.

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



Part Tuesdays with Morrie  
Part Road Trip  
Part Illustrated Concert

# Brookfield Democrats to caucus March 4

BROOKFIELD — The Brookfield Democratic Town Committee (DTC) will gather Wednesday, March 4, at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Brookfield Police Department, 7 Prouty St., Brookfield, to elect two delegates and one alternate to represent the town at the

Massachusetts Democratic Party's 2026 Nominating Convention. "This being an election year for our statewide candidates, there will be many opportunities to meet and join candidates and campaigns," said Brookfield DTC Chair Danielle Kane. "Caucus season is often the

first opportunity to learn about and build excitement for these campaigns. We hope you'll come on out, meet some folks, and consider getting involved." At the Convention, to be held May 29 and 30 at the DCU Center in Worcester, locally elected delegates will vote to nominate and

endorse candidates for statewide seats including United States Senate, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of the Commonwealth, State Treasurer, and State Auditor. To appear on the September 2026 Democratic primary ballot, a candidate must

earn at least 15 percent of the delegate vote at the Convention. A candidate earning a majority receives the Party's endorsement. "If you want to see change in the political landscape, your local caucus is a great place to start," said Kane. Anyone may attend the

caucus. Only those registered or pre-registered to vote as a Democrat in Brookfield may run for a delegate seat or vote in the caucus. Check or change your voter status online: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/OVR/>. To learn more, please email [brookfield.dtc@gmail.com](mailto:brookfield.dtc@gmail.com).

# Leicester Democratic Town Committee to hold 2026 Democratic Caucus

LEICESTER — The Leicester Democratic Town Committee (LDTC) will hold its 2026 Democratic Caucus on Monday, March 9, at the Leicester Public Library, located at 1136 Main St., Leicester.

The caucus will begin promptly at 6 p.m., with doors opening at 5 p.m. Registration will open at 5:30 p.m. and close at 6:15 p.m. All eligible Democrats are encouraged to arrive early to ensure timely registration and participation.

Democratic caucuses are an important part of the party's grassroots process, allowing registered Democrats to participate in the selection of delegates and alternates to Democratic conventions and to engage directly in party governance at the local level.

The Leicester Democratic Town Committee welcomes community members who are interested in civic engagement, democratic participation, and helping shape the future of the Democratic Party in Leicester and across the Commonwealth.

Individuals requiring other aids are encouraged to contact the Leicester Democratic Town Committee in advance at [ldtcmass@gmail.com](mailto:ldtcmass@gmail.com) so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

For additional information or questions regarding the caucus, please contact the Leicester Democratic Town Committee at [ldtcmass@gmail.com](mailto:ldtcmass@gmail.com).

The Leicester Democratic Town Committee welcomes community members who are interested in civic engagement, democratic participation, and helping shape the future of the Democratic Party in Leicester and across the Commonwealth.

For additional information or questions regarding the caucus, please contact the Leicester Democratic Town Committee at [ldtcmass@gmail.com](mailto:ldtcmass@gmail.com) or other auxiliary aids, are encouraged to contact the Leicester Democratic Town Committee in advance at [ldtcmass@gmail.com](mailto:ldtcmass@gmail.com) so that appropriate arrangements can be made.



## ARTHRITIS?

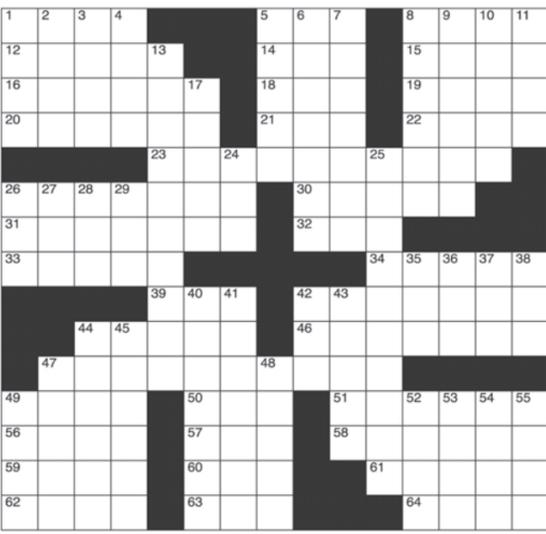
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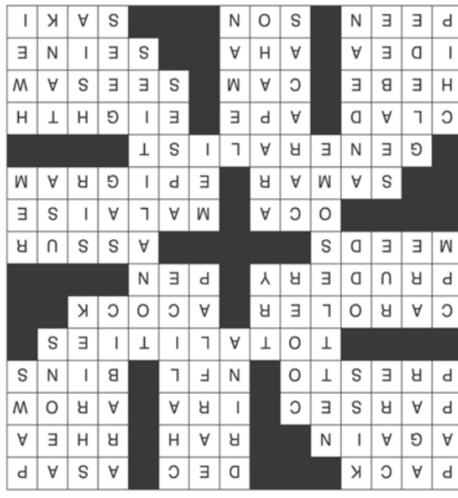
### CLUES ACROSS

- What travelers must do
- Calendar month
- Hopefully quickly
- Once more
- Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- "Cheers" actress Perlman
- Astronomy unit
- Savings vehicle
- Get your ducks in this
- Right away
- Popular sports league
- Containers
- Entireties
- One who wassails
- Turned-up position
- Extreme modesty
- Writing utensil
- Rewards (archaic)
- Ancient capital
- S. American wood sorrel
- General discomfort
- Philippine island
- A witty saying
- One who summarizes
- Covered in
- Mimic
- Henry was a notable one
- Daughter of Hera and Zeus
- Retired NFLer Newton
- Playground equipment
- Concept
- Satisfaction
- Fishing net
- Hammer end
- A father's male child
- Japanese drink

### CLUES DOWN

- Off-Broadway figure
- Gelatinous substance
- Concern
- "Lick It Up" rockers
- Serbian river
- Part of a hat
- Bowl-shaped drinking vessel
- Semitic language
- Utter a shrill cry
- Long times
- Animal parts
- Causing annoyance
- Amorous talker
- Attempt
- Harmonic effects
- Cost per mile
- They \_\_\_
- Bitterly regret
- Not even
- A way to drop
- Title of respect
- World leader
- Georgia rockers
- National capital
- Great Plains people
- Duck-sized dinosaur genus
- Architectural recesses
- Member of U.S. Navy
- Mountainous
- Kite bird
- Sweetheart (archaic)
- Popular snack made of potato
- 70s songsters The Bee \_\_\_
- SE China port \_\_\_men
- Something to fill up
- League of Legends character

## PUZZLE SOLUTION



# Leicester Senior Citizens Club launches membership drive

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

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

The Leicester Senior Citizens Club is linking older adults with each other, and to opportunities that improve their health, well-being, and sense of community. It is the club's way of reducing the effects of isolation. We want to offer special programs beyond normal hours, and we need input and ideas from new members to help get us there.

## Music & Movement at the Merrick Public Library in Brookfield

BROOKFIELD — Every Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., join Julie at the Merrick Public Library in Brookfield for songs kids know and love! Stretch, move, sing, and dance, all while developing early literacy skills through music and rhythm! Recommended for ages five and under, but all ages are welcome. Drop in--no registration necessary. This program is sponsored by the Jeppson Memorial Grant and the Friends of the Merrick Public Library.

Membership is open to all individuals aged 60 and older. The cost to join is \$10 for an annual membership.

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

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CALL: 508-909-4149

OR send to Spencer New Leader  
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## P.E.T. of the Week

Sponsored by Leicester Veterinary Clinic, LLC

### Meet Gingerbread



Meet Gingerbread! This sweet older guy came to us when his previous owner could no longer care for him. He is a friendly boy, and a staff favorite! He has gotten along with other respectful cats and dogs in the past, so may be ok living with one again. Shortly after he came into our care he was diagnosed with diabetes. Fortunately, he is currently in remission which means he does not currently need insulin injections but he does need to stay on a consistent diet. He was also diagnosed with a heart murmur that will need to be monitored every 6 months by a vet. Gingerbread is currently in a foster home, but if you would like to meet him give us a call at 508-867-5525 to schedule an appointment

**Second Chance Animal Services**  
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## SPENCER ALMANAC

### REAL ESTATE

**BROOKFIELD**  
\$65,000, 7 Tupelo Dr, Maneggio, Michael A, and Maury, Janet, to Nielsen, Hannah, and Nielsen, Trevor.

**EAST BROOKFIELD**  
\$559,000, 99 Tarbell Dr, Brown, Jason A, and Brown, Ashley R, to Marvonek, Colton.  
\$395,000, 149 Dunnbrook Rd, Casavant, Nicholas, and Casavant, Abby, to Valente, Michael.

**LEICESTER**  
None

**NORTH BROOKFIELD**  
\$729,900, 11 Brickyard Rd, Lashaway Homes LLC, to Brown, Jason A, and Brown, Ashley R.

\$440,000, 62 School St, Bas Spencer LLC, to Prestige Partners LLC.  
\$290,000, 326 N Main St, Hames, Craig G, to 123 Kids LLC.

**SPENCER**  
\$265,000, 2 Crestview Dr #52, Perry 3rd, Joseph E, to Messenger, Sydney I.  
\$159,000, 130 Paxton Rd, Dow, Peter E, to Henrique, Gerson.

**WARREN**  
\$400,000, 261 Little Rest Rd, Mathieu, Jill, and Oday, Darryl N, to Bresse, Trevor H, and Bresse, Patricia J.  
\$52,000, 29 Bacon St, Sarpong, Kwasi, and Resource Capital LLC, to Resource Capital LLC.  
\$47,500, School St, Antoniazzi Re LLC, to Sutter, Steven A, and Woytowicz, Susan M.

**WEST BROOKFIELD**  
\$1,250,000, 92 W Main St, Wisniewski, Dean W, and Wisniewski, Laurie A, to Branded Rlty Group Cm LLC.  
\$600,000, 28 N Main St, Cahill, Kathleen M, and Cahill, Thomas F, to Griffin, Geraldine.  
\$315,000, 68 Stagecoach Rd, Morris, Doreen, and Findlay, Mark, to Mossman, Melanie F.

# Spencer Democratic Town Committee to hold 2026 caucus

SPENCER — The Spencer Democratic Town Committee (SDTC), will hold its 2026 Democratic Caucus on Thursday, March 5 at the Spencer McDonalds at 7 p.m. Caucus will welcome attendees with registration beginning at 6:30 to 7 p.m. Caucus will begin promptly at 7 PM. All eligible Spencer Democrats are encouraged to attend and participate in this important part of the party's grassroots process, which allows all registered Spencer

Democrats to participate in the selection of delegates and alternates to the Massachusetts State Convention, which will be held in Worcester on May 29 & 30.

Participants must be registered Democrats in the town of Spencer and meet all eligibility requirements as outlined by the Massachusetts Democratic Party. Same day Party registration may be available in accordance with party rules, or voters may check with the Town

Clerk's office to make sure they are currently registered as Democrats or change their registration to become a registered Democrat if they desire to do so. The Caucus location is ADA accessible. Individuals requiring other aids are encouraged to contact the Spencer Democratic Town Committee in advance at spencerdemsma@gmail.com so that appropriate arrangements can be made. There is a virtual option for attendees and guests to

attend via Google Meet at <https://meet.google.com/kpu-eqrs-dqu>

If you are a concerned voter, we welcome you to join us as a registered Spencer Democrat and help with the work needed to empower Democrats and contribute to positive, progressive action in Massachusetts and across the country. For any additional information regarding our committee or this caucus, please contact the Spencer DTC at spencerdemsma@gmail.com.

**Todd A. Ethier**



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



**Cournoyer & Cournoyer, P.C.**  
Attorney Don Cournoyer, Jr.  
Cell: 508-868-7943  
[don@cournoyerlaw.net](mailto:don@cournoyerlaw.net)



# West Brookfield Historical Commission announces 2026 scholarship

WESTBROOKFIELD — The West Brookfield Historical Commission is pleased to announce its 2026, 15th annual scholarship in the amount of \$2000. Qualified students must reside in West Brookfield and may attend Quaboag Regional High School, or be school-choice students, home schooled students, and independent school students.

possible through the J. Irving and Jane L. England Charitable Trust.

Application criteria: The students must be planning to attend either a four-year college/university program or a two-year college with the intent to transfer to a four-year college. The Commission will show preference to study plans with concentration on History and History-related areas. Major

or minors may include Political Science, Social Studies, Anthropology, Archaeology, Historical Preservation, Museum Studies, and Education in any of these related fields.

Applicants must submit a brief essay based on one of the Notable Persons or Significant Places listed on the application. All necessary information will be found on the West Brookfield

Historical Commission website. <http://westbrookfield.org>

Essays are due no later than April 6.

E-mail- [info@westbrookfield.org](mailto:info@westbrookfield.org)

Mail: West Brookfield Historical Commission, PO Box 372, W. Brookfield, MA 01585.

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

## WEEKLY POLICE BLOTTER

**Spencer**  
The Spencer Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Feb. 11-17.

Jose A. Feliz, age 41, of Spencer was arrested on Feb. 17 for Operating Under the Influence (Liquor), Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and a Marked Lanes Violation.

**Leicester**  
The Leicester Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Feb. 12-18.

Sean Hagerty, age 42, of Worcester was arrested on Feb. 12 for Shoplifting By Asportation.

Hannahmarie C. Henschel, age 26, of Leicester was arrested on Feb. 12 for Operating Under the Influence (Liquor) and Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication received a summons in lieu of arrest on Feb. 14 for a Number Plate Violation to Conceal ID, and for operating an Uninsured and Unregistered Motor Vehicle.

Carli Ann Doreen Kerns, age 27, of Spencer was arrested on Feb. 16 for Operating Under the Influence (Liquor-Second Offense), Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and driving at a rate of speed exceeding the posted limit.

Melvin Gabriel Garcia, age 33, of Southbridge was arrested on Feb. 17 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after suspension of license (subsequent offense) and operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle.

## Brookfield Council on Aging presents informational program on Tri-Valley Inc. services

BROOKFIELD — Area residents are invited to attend an in-person presentation with Tri-Valley, Inc. on Tuesday, March 10 at 10 a.m. at the Brookfield Council on Aging (located at the Brookfield Congregational Church).

This informational session will provide an overview of Tri-Valley's programs and services available to older adults, caregivers, veterans, and individuals with disabilities, including nutrition services, caregiver support, health insurance assistance, and more.

Attendees can expect a brief presentation, discussion, and free giveaways. All are welcome, and questions are encouraged.

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## TOWN OF EAST BROOKFIELD HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT INVITATION TO BID

The Town of East Brookfield Highway Department requests sealed bids for Full Depth Pavement Reclamation, Bituminous Concrete, Milling 1.5" and more. Contact for the full work scope. The work is located in East Brookfield, Massachusetts.

Specifications and bid documents may be obtained from the East Brookfield Highway Department during regular business hours.

Sealed bids shall be clearly marked "Full Depth Pavement Reclamation and Related Work" and delivered to the East Brookfield Highway Department, Attn: Michael Olson, Highway Superintendent, 424 East Main Street, East Brookfield, MA 01515, until March 3, 2026, at 9:00AM at which time they will be publicly opened and read.

MassDOT prequalification of contractors with the class of work as Paving Surfacing for the project with an estimated value of \$884,588.00.

The Town of East Brookfield reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive informalities, and to award the contract in the best interest of the Town.

For further information, contact:  
Michael Olson  
East Brookfield Highway Superintendent  
Phone: 508-867-6575  
Email: [ebhighway@eastbrookfieldma.us](mailto:ebhighway@eastbrookfieldma.us)

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**Call 774-200-7308**  
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**mikaela@stonebridgepress.news**

## Friday's Child

**Heily**  
**Age 16**  
**Registration #5217**

Heily is a bright and engaging teenager who demonstrates remarkable resilience and an im-

pressive ability to adapt to new environments. She brings creativity into many aspects of her life and is able to express herself thoughtfully and confidently. Heily enjoys creative activities such as arts and crafts, baking, and experimenting with hair paint, which allows her to showcase her individuality and imagination. Music is another important outlet for Heily, and she enjoys listening to her favorite songs to relax and express herself. She also enjoys being out in her community and appreciates opportunities to stay connected and involved. Heily has a deep love for animals and is especially caring and gentle with them, often showing compassion and responsibility in their care. She is a personable and warm young person who cares deeply about the people in her life and values meaningful relationships. With the right support and encouragement, Heily has the potential to continue thriving, growing her creativity, and building strong connections with a loving, permanent family.

<https://www.mareinc.org/child/22549428086>

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](http://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.



## Donations needed for Community Baby Shower

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

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

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

## Seth D. Larson of Leicester named to Fall Dean's List at Saint Michael's College

COLCHESTER, Vt. — Seth D. Larson of Leicester was named to the Dean's List at Saint Michael's College for the Fall 2025 semester. Students who complete at least 12 credits of classes and achieve a grade point average of at least 3.5 in a particular semester are cited on the Dean's List for that semester.

### About Saint Michael's College

Saint Michael's College, founded in 1904 on principles of social justice and leading lives of purpose and consequence, is a selective, Catholic college just outside Burlington, Vermont, one of the country's best college towns. Located between the Green Mountains and Lake Champlain, our closely connected community guarantees housing all four years and delivers an internationally respected liberal arts education, preparing students for fulfilling careers and meaningful lives. Young adults here grow intellectually, socially, and morally, learning to lead with empathy and professionalism, and to be responsible for themselves, each other, and their world.

## Local resident attends Saint Anselm College's Blessing of the Hands ceremony

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — Rianna Ortiz of Spencer was celebrated ahead of their clinical experience at Saint Anselm College's annual and treasured Blessing of the Hands ceremony.

The Blessing of the Hands ceremony is a special tradition and major milestone for second-year nursing students at Saint Anselm. Family, friends, and faculty gather in the college's Abbey Church to support nursing students as they prepare to enter a clinical environment for the first time. The ceremony marks the beginning of their clinical practice, a halfway point to pinning, and a step towards an impactful future in healthcare. Members of the monastery preside over the blessing and present each student the medal of Saint Raphael, patron saint of nurses.

Founded in 1889, Saint Anselm College is a nationally-ranked four-year liberal arts college providing a 21st century education in the Catholic, Benedictine tradition. Located in the greater Boston region in southern New Hampshire, Saint Anselm is well known for its strong liberal arts curriculum, the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, commitment to inclusiveness, a highly successful nursing program, and a legacy of community service.

## Saint Joseph School Student Council puts faith into action with winter drive



Courtesy Student Council Officers from Saint Joseph School present donated coats, hats, scarves, and gloves to Webster Police Chief Michael Shaw. The items will be distributed through the Webster-Dudley Food Share.

WEBSTER — At Saint Joseph School, Student Council is designed to help students become thoughtful leaders who serve their community. Elected annually by their peers, Student Council members represent the voice of the student body and support school life through outreach projects, student-led initiatives, spirit activities, buddy programs, and school dances. The goal is not only to build leadership skills, but also to form students who understand that leadership includes responsibility and service.

Student Council members are guided by Beth Boudreau, Principal, Mary Ann Weaver, Teacher Moderator, and Rev. Richard Polek, Pastor and Headmaster.

That mission was especially visible

when the Student Council partnered with the Webster Police Department for its annual coat, hat, and glove drive. With support from school families, the Council collected 40 coats, 48 hats, 36 scarves, and 90 pairs of gloves, making it the most successful drive the school has held to date. Students presented the donations to Webster Police Chief Michael Shaw. The items will be distributed through the Webster-Dudley Food Share to help local families stay warm during the winter months.

School leaders noted that the drive's success reflects both the generosity of families and the commitment of students who organize and lead service projects that benefit others.

## Webster First Federal Credit Union achieves top rankings in 2025

WORCESTER — Webster First Federal Credit Union has been recognized as a leader in Massachusetts lending, earning multiple top positions in Banker & Tradesman's "Top Lenders of 2025" rankings. These achievements highlight the institution's strong contributions to both commercial and multi-family lending statewide.

- 2025 Rankings Highlights
  - #1 in Number of Commercial Loans
  - 31 commercial loans closed
  - #1 in Multi-Family Lending – Dollar Volume
  - \$37,141,050 in multi-family loans
  - #1 in Multi-Family Lending – Number of Loans
  - 22 multi-family loans closed
  - #2 in Commercial Lending – Dollar Volume
  - \$45,544,150 funded
  - #4 in Non-Purchase Consumer Loans – Dollar Volume
  - \$67,264,864 in HELOCs and refinances
  - #8 in Non-Purchase Consumer Loans – Number of Loans
  - 205 non-purchase transactions processed
- Senior Vice President of Commercial Lending, Bryan Regele, credited the lend-

tion's ongoing success, commenting, "These achievements reflect the support of our leadership, the collaboration of our team, and a shared commitment to serving our members with practical, thoughtful solutions. We look forward to continuing this work and strengthening the value we provide to our members and the communities we serve."

Webster First's recognition comes as the credit union continues to expand its services and support for local businesses and homeowners. The institution's consistent performance across a range of lending categories demonstrates its reliability and unwavering commitment to meeting the financial needs of its members.

About Webster First Federal Credit Union Webster First is a member-owned financial institution serving communities across Massachusetts. With a focus on outstanding service and comprehensive financial solutions, the credit union offers a variety of personal and business banking products, including checking accounts, mortgages, and commercial loans. Webster First is dedicated to member satisfaction and community support.

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# School District accepting applications for Kindergarten & Preschool

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

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

Kindergarten is offered at both Wire Village School in Spencer and East Brookfield Elementary School in East Brookfield. Students are enrolled at the school in their town of residence, in accordance with District policy. School hours are 8:25 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., Monday through

Friday. There is no registration deadline.

Medical forms must be completed by a physician and must detail that your child has been given the following immunizations (including the dates the immunizations were given):  
 5 doses Diphtheria, Pertussis, and Tetanus (DTaP)  
 4 doses Polio  
 3 doses Hepatitis B  
 2 doses Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)  
 2 doses of Varicella Vaccine or Chicken Pox disease  
 Proof of Lead Screening  
 Vision and Hearing Screenings

Cubs' Corner Preschool The Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District's Cubs' Corner Preschool will be relocated to the all-new preschool wing at David Prouty High School starting with the 2026-2027 school year. Our

program is an integrated preschool with tuition-paying students, as well as special needs students. The resident rate is \$20/day for half days and \$40/day for full days. The non-resident rate is \$22.50/day for half days and \$45/day for full-days.

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

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

Preschool Eligibility Requirements

Age requirement: Those attending a tuition-based preschool slot must be three (3) years old by the Aug. 31 cut-off date to be eligible to attend the current school year. District residents that qualify for

Special Education services may attend once they turn three, regardless of the birth date cut-off.

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

Registration process All student registrations are done online. If you would like to register your child to attend, please complete the Pre-Registration Form to begin the registration process and select the 2026-2027 school year. Once your form has been approved, you will receive an email with further instructions to create your PowerSchool online parent portal account where you will complete all of the required enrollment forms

and upload required documentation. Families must provide a birth certificate (original or copy with a seal), most recent physical/immunization records/lead test (dated within one year of school start date), and two forms of proof of residency from the accepted documents listed on the address form. Tuition-based preschool families must submit a deposit equal to one week's tuition to secure their child's spot.

If you do not have access to the internet to complete the forms, we have a kiosk set up inside the Student Services office at David Prouty High School for families to use. An appointment is required to ensure

that the kiosk will be available and a staff member is present to assist. The office is open for appointments Monday through Thursday, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Please call 508-885-8515 (opt. 0) with any questions, to schedule an appointment or to provide supporting documentation.

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

## Nomination papers for Brookfield town election due March 16

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

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

- Moderator (1 Year Term)
- Select Board (3 Year Term)
- Assessor (3 Year Term)
- Planning Board (5 Year Term)
- Planning Board (4 Year Term)
- Elementary School Committee (3 Year Term)
- Water Commission (3 Year Term)
- Board of Health (3 Year Term)
- Trustee For Merrick Public Library (2 - 3 Year Term)

- Cemetery Commissioner (2 Year Term)
- Cemetery Commissioner (3 Year Term)
- Town Collector (3 Year Term)

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

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

Monday, March 30, 5 p.m.  
 Last day for candidates to withdraw (Letter to the Town Clerk)  
 Please note you can now register to vote online at: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## West Brookfield Democrats to elect delegates to State Convention

WEST BROOKFIELD — A caucus, open to any Democratic voter registered in West Brookfield, will be held at the West Brookfield Town Hall on Tuesday, March 10 at 6 p.m. to choose delegates to attend the Democratic State Nominating Convention on May 29 and 30 at the DCU Center in Worcester.

Any member of the community may attend, but only registered Democrats may vote. Youth (age 16 to 35), people with disabilities, people of color and members of the LGBTQ+ community

not elected as delegates or alternates, are encouraged to apply to be add-on delegates at the caucus or by visiting [www.massdems.org/massdems-convention](http://www.massdems.org/massdems-convention). Registered but unenrolled town voters are welcome to

change registration ahead of the caucus and fully participate upon enrollment verification.

Voter registration information will be provided. If you would like to attend the Democratic Caucus

for West Brookfield and/or need further information, please feel free to send an email to [wbdtc01585@gmail.com](mailto:wbdtc01585@gmail.com), or call Eric von Bleicken at 212-316-5349

## UTampa student Ryan Cunningham of Brookfield earns Dean's List honors

TAMPA, Fla. — Ryan Cunningham, of Brookfield, earned dean's list honors at the University of Tampa for the Fall 2025 semester. Cunningham is a Freshman majoring in Allied Health BS. Students must maintain a GPA of 3.75 or higher to be eligible for the dean's list.

The University of Tampa is a private, comprehensive university located on 110 acres on the riverfront in downtown Tampa. Known for academic excellence, personal attention and real-world experience in its undergraduate and graduate programs, the University has about 200 programs of study and serves more than 11,500 students from 50 states and most of the world's countries.

## Local nursing student receives Blessing of the Hands

BOSTON — Megan Bokis, of North Brookfield received the Blessing of the Hands on February 6 at Emmanuel College. This meaningful ceremony is a long-standing tradition at the Maureen Murphy Wilkens School of Nursing & Clinical Sciences for second-year nursing students as they prepare to begin their first clinical.

This semester, 72 students participated in the ceremony. Hosted in collaboration with Emmanuel Mission & Ministry in the campus chapel, the Blessing of the Hands recognizes nursing students' hands as instruments of care, comfort, and respect. The ceremony affirms nursing as a commitment to skilled practice, compassion, and respect for the dignity of every person as students enter clinical practice.

With more than 80 majors and areas of study, Emmanuel College combines outstanding classroom instruction and real-world experience to prepare students for lives of professional achievement, lifelong learning, and purpose. Voted the #1 college location in America in 2025 by Niche.com, Emmanuel offers ready access to world class medical, cultural, and business organizations in the Heart of Boston, all with a tight-knit 17-acre campus and 13:1 student-to-faculty ratio. Learn more at [Emmanuel.edu](http://Emmanuel.edu).

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 EDITOR

## EDITORIAL

# Keeping our young people rooted here

Every small town eventually faces the same quiet question.

Will the next generation stay?

In Spencer, Leicester and throughout the Brookfields, that question is more than philosophical. It touches everything from school enrollment numbers to housing demand to the future of Main Street storefronts. It shapes how we think about zoning, recreation, economic development and even sidewalks.

For decades, young people here have grown up in close-knit neighborhoods, attended local schools, played on town fields and formed friendships that feel permanent. Yet after graduation, many leave for college, military service or work opportunities elsewhere. Some return. Many do not.

It is not because they lack affection for their hometowns.

It is because the path back is not always clear.

Housing is one piece of the puzzle. Starter homes in Central Massachusetts have become harder to find at prices young families can afford. Rental options are limited in some of our communities. Accessory dwelling units, smaller-scale developments and thoughtful zoning conversations are no longer abstract planning concepts. They are part of whether a young teacher, firefighter or small business owner can afford to live in the town they serve.

Employment is another factor. Local businesses remain the backbone of the area's economy, from trades and manufacturing to retail and professional services. Supporting those businesses is not only about preserving character. It is about sustaining jobs that allow residents to build lives here.

Schools play a critical role as well. Families consider the strength and stability of school districts when deciding where to settle. Investment in education is an investment in long-term vitality. Strong academic programs, extracurricular opportunities and vocational pathways help prepare students for success, but they also send a signal that a community values its future.

Quality of life matters too.

Young adults often look for walkable areas, community events and places to gather. They want safe neighborhoods and reliable services, but also a sense that something is happening. Farmers markets, concerts on the common, youth sports leagues, library programs and civic celebrations are not luxuries. They are part of what makes a town feel alive.

This does not mean every town must try to become something it is not.

The charm of Spencer, Leicester and the surrounding towns lies in their balance. They are close enough to Worcester and other employment centers to offer opportunity, yet far enough to maintain open space and a quieter pace. Preserving that character is important. Growth for its own sake rarely ends well.

But standing still carries risks as well.

If housing remains out of reach, if young professionals cannot find viable work nearby, if civic life feels closed rather than welcoming, then the demographic trend becomes predictable. Schools shrink. Volunteer boards struggle to recruit members. Local businesses lose customers.

Communities that thrive tend to be those that adapt thoughtfully. They examine zoning rules with fresh eyes. They consider infrastructure improvements that make daily life easier. They invite young residents into the conversation rather than assuming they will return later.

None of this happens overnight. It requires planning, public input and careful budgeting. It requires balancing tradition with practical realities.

Most of all, it requires a shared belief that these towns are worth investing in, not only for today's residents but for those who will raise families here tomorrow.

Keeping our young people rooted does not mean preventing them from exploring the world. It means ensuring that when they look back home, they see possibility.

If we can provide that, the future of our communities will not feel uncertain at all.

# VIEWPOINT

OPINION AND COMMENTARY FROM SPENCER, LEICESTER AND THE BROOKFIELDS

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Pledge of Allegiance

To the Editor:

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

Why is it always the same stuff, truth or fiction, one sidedness in the paper? Opinion is not truth, facts are truth. There are three sides to a story; your side, my side, and the right side. No half truths.

Who should be held accountable for the assassination of President Kennedy? The Democrats? Billionaires? Years ago, our leaders at the time gave us the excuse that it would be known in the future. Well,

here we are in 2026, still with no accountability. It seems to me that the "higher ups" in government are immune to prosecution. Where is the "justice for all?"

We used to say the Pledge of Allegiance in the beginning of class. Now, some stay loyal and stand by our flag. Those that do not are future protestors against our laws. Loyal Americans are our future champions for God and country.

My fellow Americans, I say to you: It is time to come back to the truth, justice and the American way.

A Brother in Christ,

DENIS LEO  
 SPENCER

### The useful beauty of the "Butterfly Effect"

To the Editor:

More and more of we Americans know that Donald Trump is terrible, damaging president whose cares not about us, but rather himself and those close to him.

As a result, the question becomes "What can we do about Trump and those that support his efforts?"

As a start, consider using the simple and effective "Butterfly Effect." In brief, its use offers the possibility that the small things we do, especially when combined with the contributions of others I can produce big changes. A few "Butterfly" examples follow.

In a polite way, letting family, friends, neighbors etc. know how much you disagree with what Trump does to our country and the damage it does to ourselves, and our children and grandchildren. Not only will your and other voices have an effect on those who directly hear you, but through those listeners it could ripple on to those they talk to and so on. This could not only effect public overall public opinion, but down the line votes in key

Congressional states like New Hampshire and Maine.

For similar application, however painful, keep up with current events and new examples of the uncaring and viscous chaos and disaster Trump creates

Join visible public events, like meetings, demonstrations and marches. Not only do they show the size of the opposition to Trump, they generates togetherness, commitment, enthusiasm and publicly the enormous opposition to Trump

Volunteer to assist candidates likely to win against Trump's, and/or work on ensuring free and fair 2026 certified elections across the country and

Contribute to highly respected candidates in key battleground congressional districts and similar well-respected organizations' which work for free and fair certified elections results.

KEVIN KANE  
 SPENCER

### Show me the money

To the Editor:

I have been encouraging everyone to follow the money, and wanted to take the opportunity to see if your figures matched mine. Today and unsurprisingly, SCOTUS shot down Trump's "pull numbers out of my butt" tariffs. The attorney who filed the brief, successfully argued that if we did not allow a former king to tax imported tea, why would we allow a president, who only thinks he is a king, from arbitrarily place taxes on anything we import. Even Fox has cited that importers paid just 10 percent, while businesses and consumers paid 90 percent. I am waiting for the other shoe to fall and define what happens to the \$175 billion already collected.

The man who swore to preserve, protect and defend our constitution (and, apparently, his lawyers), do not appear to grasp the separation of powers whereby, the house of representatives controls the purse. It is their job to levy taxes and pass appropriation of funds. Now that the taxation portion has been clarified, we need to look at the spending portion where a POTUS cannot just send Billions to Argentina or to any Trump charity. The courts have already banned him operating a charity, because he thinks he is one.

I have often proposed paying congress a million a year and getting better people (Meaning those who do not overspend in trillions). People like to brag that Trump donates his half-million-dollar salary. Whether he does or not, the expenses for his golfing alone exceed that. Why are we spending a billion to outfit a "gift" plane Qatar says is too expensive to fly or maintain, that will not be finished until part of his library?

Should we be concerned that his net worth in office has gone up \$1.6 billion? If you were Putin or Xi and wanted everyone to accept expansion by force, could you write a better script than seeing the USA break every convention in that regard?

Setting aside the fact that both Obama and Biden deported more people than Trump, using tools like tracking people down on computers, then going and getting them, instead of the Gestapo tactic of stop and frisk, demand IDs from non-white people. Imagine if your idea of enforcement was sending 4,000 masked, untrained in normal law enforcement thugs, into cities with combined police presence of 1200, that you figured had time to protect them and do their day job. Among my faves — ICE had Mexican for lunch, then later that day, arresting everyone who worked there. They were especially hard on first amendment advocates, killing two of them, then disappearing like Zorro. Trump claimed this was ridding us of the worst of the worst. After all, the accounting was done, most picked up had only broken immigration illegally law, a few thousand had parking tickets, moving violations and minor scrapes with law enforcement Your net cost for each of the 30 felons nabbed ran us about \$175,000 each.

We operate the most expensive military in the world. Not only is using carrier groups to illegally blow up little wooden boats costly; we now have two carrier groups off Iran's coast. The chairman of the agency for peace has already bombed then once. The ayatollah is threatening to sink a carrier. My guess is that an attempt would end peace bigly.

The largest deficit this country ever had was under Trump #45, being exceeded by Trump #47. Let's make sure those billionaires on Epstein's list do not get out or pay their fair share. Setting aside the moral bankruptcy of the guy on the banner outside the DOJ, he is showing you exactly how

he has enjoyed running deficits that failed him in six bankruptcies before, including casinos. Just think how DOGE is saving us not publishing true figures.

KEN KIMBALL  
 BROOKFIELD

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Your 401(k) is one of the most powerful tools for securing your financial future. The question is: Are you using it to its full potential?

Here are some strategies to help you maximize its benefits:

Earn your employer's match. It's a good idea to contribute as much as you can afford to your 401(k) plan. (In 2026, you can put in up to \$24,500, or \$32,500 if you're 50 or older. If your plan allows, there's also a «super catch-up» contribution of \$11,250 for people aged 60 to 63, for a total contribution limit of \$35,750). At least put in enough to earn a matching contribution if one is offered. Otherwise, you're shortchanging yourself. For example: Your employer matches 50 percent of your contribution up to \$5,000. If put in \$8,000, your employer's 50 percent match is \$4,000, and you're leaving \$1,000 "on the table."

Give your plan a raise. When your income increases, consider increasing contributions to your 401(k). When you get a bonus or a tax refund, you could use some or all of that to boost your retirement savings.

Evaluate the Roth option. When you invest in a traditional 401(k), you contribute pre-tax dollars, lowering your taxable income that year. Your earnings grow tax-deferred and are taxed when you withdraw. If your employer offers a Roth 401(k), you contribute after-tax dollars, so your taxable income doesn't drop that year. However, withdrawals in retirement, contributions, and earnings alike, are generally tax-free. (Employer matching contributions and related earnings remain taxable.) If you expect a higher tax bracket in retirement or want to diversify tax treatment for flexibility in retirement, consider the Roth option. In 2026, the Roth option must be used for catch-up contributions if you earn more than \$150,000 and you are 50 or older. Consult your tax advisor before deciding.

Build an appropriate investment mix. You may have multiple investment options in your 401(k). The driving principle early on is growth so your plan can fund a long retirement. But growth-oriented investments are naturally riskier than fixed-income vehicles. When starting your career, you may prefer a portfolio weighted toward aggressive growth, as you have years to recover from downturns. Nearing retirement, though, consider shifting to a more conservative mix. A financial advisor can help you choose an appropriate mix at different stages, based on your risk tolerance, time horizon and goals.

Keep your plan intact. At times, you may feel a financial pinch that leads you to consider taking out loans or early withdrawals from your 401(k). However, this can cause you to incur taxes and penalties and will likely slow the growth needed to help reach your retirement savings goals. Taking steps to prepare for unexpected expenses, such as building an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, can help you avoid dipping into your 401(k). You may also be able to find other ways to access cash.

By following these steps, you can unlock the full potential of your 401(k) and position it as a cornerstone of your retirement income.

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

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# The knowledge that never makes the manual

There is a certain kind of knowledge that never makes it into a manual.

You learn it by watching. By listening. By standing quietly off to the side while someone who has done a thing for a long time does it without explanation. No checklist, no diagram. Just habit, muscle memory, and a rhythm built over years.

I think about that kind of knowledge more now than I used to.

It shows up in ordinary places. The person who knows exactly how much force it takes to close a stubborn door without

**LANTERNS  
ALONG  
MAIN  
STREET**  
By CHARLES

slamming it. The clerk who can tell, just by the sound, whether a register is about to jam.

The neighbor who can look at the sky and know, with surprising accuracy, whether you ought to bring the chairs in tonight.

These are not skills anyone brags about. They are simply carried, quietly, until one day they're gone.

I noticed this recently while trying to fix something simple. Simple, that is, for the person who used to handle it. I followed the instructions. I watched a video. I did everything

“right,” and still ended up with a result that worked, but not well. It functioned, but it lacked the ease of the original.

That's when it occurred to me that what was missing wasn't information. It was judgment.

In small towns, we are surrounded by people who carry that kind of judgment. They know when to tighten something just a little more, and when to leave it alone. They know when to speak up at a meeting, and when silence does more good. They know which traditions matter, and which ones we only keep because we always have.

Much of this knowledge

never gets passed along formally. It transfers sideways, through example. A younger person watches an older one. A newcomer notices how things are done. A habit forms, not because it was required, but because it made sense.

The trouble is, this kind of knowledge doesn't announce when it's about to leave. One day the familiar person retires. Or moves. Or simply stops showing up. And only then do we realize how much was being held together by someone's steady presence.

I don't think this is something to panic about. Towns have been losing and gaining quiet experts forever.

What matters is whether we notice them while they're still around.

There's value in paying attention to how things are done, not just that they get done. In asking why a process works the way it does. In recognizing that experience has a texture that can't always be replicated by instructions alone.

At home, this shows up, too. We all have ways of doing things that make sense to us but might look odd to someone else. Over time, households develop their own unwritten rules. You don't realize how many there are until someone breaks one accidentally. Living alongside other

people, whether in a family or a town, means learning these invisible systems. It also means being patient when someone hasn't learned them yet.

I suppose what I'm really saying is that wisdom often arrives quietly and leaves the same way. If we're too busy, we miss it entirely. If we're paying attention, we can catch pieces of it before it goes.

And maybe pass a little of it along, not in a lecture, but in the way we do things day after day. That's usually how it's been done around here, and it's worked pretty well so far.

## Worcester County Sheriff's Medical named Wellpath Facility of the Year

Courtesy

Sheriff Lew Evangelidis presents a congratulatory plaque to the WCSO Medical Team for being named 2025 Wellpath Facility of the Year.

### Public invited to Opacum Land Trust's Annual Meeting Breakfast



Opacum member Jim Newland and Opacum Vice President Toni Uliana, both of Monson, share a laugh during last year's annual meeting.

PALMER — Do you enjoy hiking, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, or other outdoor recreation? Are you interested in protecting local land, water, and wildlife? Are you curious about Opacum Land Trust, land conservation, or how you could get involved? Join Opacum Land Trust for their Annual Meeting Breakfast. All are welcome to this free event! This free breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 21 at Pathfinder High School, Panek St, Palmer, from 10 a.m. to noon.

In addition to local conservation updates, attendees will hear from guest speaker and Director of Rural Affairs of Massachusetts, Anne Gobi. Director Gobi will speak about her involvement with the MILUS (Massachusetts Integrated Land Use Strategy) Project and PILOT (Payments in Lieu of Taxes) commission and how they relate to conservation in the state.

Please RSVP by March 6. You can RSVP on our Web site at <https://www.opacumlt.org/events>, through the Facebook event, or call the Opacum Land Trust office at (508) 347-9144.

About Opacum Land Trust  
Opacum Land Trust is a regional, non-profit land conservation organization that protects land, water, and wildlife for current and future generations. Founded in 2000, Opacum currently protects over 4,000 acres of land and is actively working to protect more land across south-central Massachusetts.

Reach out to us at Opacum Land Trust, PO Box 233, Sturbridge, MA 01566; [info@opacumlt.org](mailto:info@opacumlt.org), (508) 347-9144 and check out our website for events, properties you can visit, and ways to get involved at [www.OpacumLT.org](http://www.OpacumLT.org)

WORCESTER — The Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) is proud to announce that the Worcester County Sheriff's Office Medical Team, the Office's subcontracted medical provider, has earned the title of Facility of the Year by its parent company, Wellpath. The award recognizes excellence in leadership, innovation, and the delivery of high-quality correctional healthcare.

Sheriff Lewis Evangelidis noted that shortly after taking office in 2011, he decided to privatize the WCSO Medical Department, believing that it was one of the best decisions of his tenure.

"Subcontracting medical services through Wellpath significantly reduces liability for the Commonwealth while allowing us to provide a higher level of care to those in our custody," Evangelidis said.

The recognition reflects a year of sustained progress under the leadership of Anjuli Richard, Health Services Administrator, and Kayla Carlo, Assistant Health Services Administrator. Together, Richard and Carlo built upon the facility's strong foundation by strengthening workplace culture, refining clinical and operational processes, and expanding access to care through enhanced interdisci-

plinary coordination.

Anjuli Richard commented, "This award highlights the hard work, resilience, and teamwork demonstrated every day by our staff, as well as the strong collaboration with the Sheriff's Office in supporting a safe, respectful, and effective environment for care."

Wellpath is an international provider of contracted healthcare services for correctional facilities and other high-risk environments. The company employs more than 8,000 professionals and serves nearly 300 facilities across the United States and Australia, providing care to approximately 200,000 patients each day.

The WCSO medical team includes physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, and other healthcare professionals who provide 24/7 medical coverage. The medical unit is housed within the Sheriff's Office Intake and Medical Unit, a modern, purpose-built facility that opened in 2021 and was designed to centralize intake, medical screening, and long-term care.

Key accomplishments contributing to the Facility of the Year designation include securing a \$25,000 UMass Medical School grant to expand ophthalmologic services and vision care, as well

as partnering with MCPHS University to enhance dental health education through student involvement. The facility also prioritized workforce development by establishing a nurse-led onboarding committee, implementing shift huddles and a staff Idea Board, achieving zero first-year staff turnover, and maintaining 100 percent compliance with annual training requirements.

Additional partnerships with Anna Maria College allowed 27 Bachelor of Science in Nursing students to complete clinical observation hours. Collaboration with UMass hospital case managers further improved continuity of care for patients returning from hospital stays. Operational enhancements included the creation of an Infirmity Committee to support compliance with updated NCCCHC standards and the launch of regular interdisciplinary meet-

"This award affirms the meaningful progress we have made over the past decade to strengthen the operations of the Worcester County Sheriff's Office," said Lew Evangelidis. "I'm especially proud of the strong partnership we have built with our healthcare team and the professionalism our corrections staff demonstrates in working alongside them to support those in our care."

Through consistent results across patient care, workforce engagement, partnerships, operational processes, and performance outcomes, Worcester County Jail Medical exemplifies Wellpath's Five P's and is a deserving recipient of the Facility of the Year award.

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

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## Cornerstone Bank announces three executive promotions



Daniel D'Amico



Donna Tibbetts



Tracey Jeffries

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank has promoted three senior leaders whose expanded roles will directly support business customers, strengthen internal operations and enhance the employee experience across the organization. Daniel D'Amico, Donna Tibbetts and Tracey Jeffries have each assumed new responsibilities aligned with the bank's strategic priorities.

"These promotions reflect our commitment to strong leadership in every part of the organization," said Todd Tallman, president and CEO of Cornerstone Bank. "Dan, Donna and Tracey play critical roles in how we serve our customers, support our associates and position the bank for continued success."

Daniel D'Amico has been promoted to Senior Vice President, Commercial Services Manager. With nearly 13 years at Cornerstone Bank and 20 years in the banking industry, D'Amico leads the Commercial Services team and works closely with business clients to deliver tailored banking and lending solutions that support growth and long-term success. In his free time, he enjoys travelling with his wife; their goal is to visit all 50 US states before they turn 50 years old. D'Amico also serves on the board of the Rainbow Child Development Center, is the former President of the Worcester Young Businessmen's Association and on the Business Partners Committee at the Worcester Art Museum.

Donna Tibbetts has been promoted to Vice President, IT Service Delivery. With 32 years at Cornerstone Bank and more than 40 in the banking industry, Tibbetts provides strategic oversight of technology service delivery, ensuring secure, reliable and efficient systems that support customers, associates and regulatory requirements. In her free time, she is a loving and devoted grandmother to five grandkids. Tibbetts enjoys volunteering at the Habitat for Humanity Playhouse Build and

Jacob Edwards Library. She has also worked with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program.

Tracey Jeffries has been promoted to Vice President, Talent and People Strategy. With eight years at Cornerstone Bank and 20 years of experience in human resources, Jeffries leads talent acquisition, development and people programs that strengthen the workforce and reinforce the bank's culture. In her free time, Jeffries enjoys spending time with her family, camping and watching her daughter play soccer. Jeffries volunteers often at St. Johns and El Buen Samaritano food pantry. She also attends multiple financial literacy events throughout the year.

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

# OBITUARY

Marie (Tetreault) Fontaine  
October 27, 1940 – January 30, 2026



SPENCER, MASSACHUSETTS—Marie Fontaine, 85, a lifelong resident of Spencer, Massachusetts, passed away peacefully at home on January 30, 2026, surrounded by her loving family.



Born on October 27, 1940, Marie was a 1958 graduate of David Prouty High School in Spencer. She dedicated much of her working life to various roles in the community, including positions at the Federal Milk Market in Worcester, and Spencer Wire Products, Beacon Pharmacy, and CVS Pharmacy in Spencer.

Marie is survived by her devoted husband of 63 years, Donald Fontaine of Spencer; her daughter, Karen Fontaine and her partner Steven Worringham of

Spencer; her son, Craig Fontaine and his wife Beth of Oakham, and Beth's daughter Chloe; and her grandchildren, Liam and Julia. She was predeceased by her beloved daughter, Elizabeth Fontaine.

Marie found great joy in homemaking, creating a warm and welcoming home for her family. She loved browsing flea markets and tag sales, traveling with her daughter Karen, and enjoying trips to the casino. In quieter moments, she cherished reading and lounging in the summer sun.

A faithful member of Mary, Queen of the Rosary Catholic Parish in Spencer, Marie lived a life centered on family, faith, and simple pleasures.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Mary, Queen of the Rosary Parish, 46 Maple Street, Spencer, MA 01562, or to the Spencer Rescue Squad (Spencer EMS), 6 Bixby Road, Spencer, MA 01562.

Funeral arrangements will be held at a later date for the immediate family.

Send all obituary notices to Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail to [obits@stonebridgepress.news](mailto:obits@stonebridgepress.news)



### CROSSWALKS

continued from page A1

safety that the town needs to take seriously.

"I think this makes perfect sense. It is a town owned road – That falls on us," Woodbury said later stressing his point further by noting how many conversations they've had around street signs and how this may be one of the most important. "This is more public safety than anything

we'll ever bring up."

Other selectmen also supported the initiative, going so far as to stress that if any studies needed to be done to improve the crosswalk the town should foot the bill instead of the camp. There was also discussion about approaching the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) which manages property near the camp to determine any assistance they would be

willing to provide.

With camp preparations starting the last week in June and campers arriving just after the 4th of July, it's unclear if any improvements would take place before the new season starts. Selectmen instructed the Town Administrator and others to work together to determine the next steps and how they should proceed, including seeking a proposal for evaluations of the crosswalks at the camp.

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# 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. WO26P0419EA  
INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION NOTICE**  
Estate Of:  
**Annamay Zabek**  
**Date of Death: April 25, 2025**  
To All persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of **Anthony D Zabek of Waynesville MO**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.  
**Anthony D Zabek of Waynesville MO** 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.  
February 27, 2026

**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. WO26P0342EA  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR  
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Estate Of:  
**Leandre W Giguere**  
**Also known as: Leandre Giguere**  
**Date of Death: 02/05/2025**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Monique T Giguere of Charlestown RI** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:  
**Monique T Giguere of Charlestown RI and Lise-Anne Elizabeth Marsal of Paris France** 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 04/07/2026.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
**WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: February 11, 2026  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
February 27, 2026

**TOWN OF SPENCER  
MASSACHUSETTS  
NOTICE TO BIDDERS  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR  
MANAGED INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**

The Town of Spencer will be accepting proposals for managed information technology services. The deadline for submitting proposals is Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 11:00 AM. Interested parties must access the full Request for Proposal by visiting the

Town's website [www.SpencerMA.gov/Bids.aspx](http://www.SpencerMA.gov/Bids.aspx). Questions can be sent to Jeff Bridges, Town Administrator at [JBridges@Spencerma.gov](mailto:JBridges@Spencerma.gov).  
February 27, 2026

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE**

Premises: 65 Maple Street, Units 1 & 2 a/k/a 65 Maple Street, Spencer, MA 01562

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Joan Namboira Katulege to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as mortgagee, as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, and now held by **Village Capital & Investment LLC**, said mortgage dated June 30, 2023 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69339, Page 132, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as mortgagee, as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation to Village Capital & Investment LLC by assignment dated October 27, 2025 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 72741, Page 349; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction on March 26, 2026 at 01:00 PM Local Time** upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

*A certain parcel of land and buildings situated in Spencer, Worcester County, Massachusetts, being shown as "Lot 43" on a plan of land entitled "Plan of Land of Assessor's Map U04, Lots 41 & 43 Owners: Carl A. & Constance Leinonen & George N. Gouin, 19 McDonald Street & 65 Maple Street, Town of Spencer, Worcester County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, dated September 21, 2021, Scale 1" = 40'. By Levesque Geomatics, Inc., 43 Glendale Road, Sturbridge, MA 01518 which plan is recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 961, Plan 104 and which plan reference can be made for more particular description. Said Lot contains 12,564 square feet of land +/- according to said plan. For title reference See Deed recorded herewith.*

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated June 30, 2023 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69339, Page 130.

**TERMS OF SALE:** Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

**FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00)** Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale. Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC  
23 Messenger Street  
2nd Floor  
Plainville, MA 02762  
Attorney for Village Capital & Investment LLC  
Present Holder of the Mortgage  
(401) 217-8701

February 20, 2026  
February 27, 2026  
March 6, 2026

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

Sealed bids for furnishing the project will be received at the Brookfield Town Hall, 6 Central Street, Brookfield, Massachusetts, 01506 until the time specified below at which time the proposals will be publicly opened in the Brookfield Town Hall- Banquet Room and read:

**ITEM Bid: Rice Corner Cross Road Culvert (RCCR) Replacement BID OPENING**

**March 4, 2026 @ 2 P.M.**  
(Project includes the removal of the existing pipe, installation of the proposed 12' WIDE 10' DEEP (ID) 3-sided box culvert, wingwalls, associated work and all materials necessary to backfill, pave and complete work shown on the Contract Drawings.)

**All specifications concerning the Scope of Work for this project are shown on the Drawings as prepared by Comprehensive Environmental, Inc., (a/k/a; CEI) dated February 2026 and as specified or referenced herein.**

**Notice to Proceed (NTP) will precede the April 1<sup>st</sup> street opening moratorium to allow for precast**

**element design and shop drawing approval with physical work within RCCR allowed after April 1<sup>st</sup> and must be fully complete by June 23, 2026.**

Specifications and bid forms may be obtained via email from CEI, 41 Main Street, Bolton, MA 01740, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. electronically by emailing a request to [fcarrigan@ceiengineers.com](mailto:fcarrigan@ceiengineers.com).

Bids shall be addressed to Attn. Bob Ayers, Town Administrator, Brookfield Town Hall, 6 Central Street, Brookfield, MA 01506 and will be opened in the Town Hall Banquet Room on **March 4, 2026 at 2 p.m.** Each Bid must be accompanied by a bid security consisting of a **BID BOND**, or **CERTIFIED CHECK** issued by a responsible bank or trust company in the amount of 5% of the bid price.

A Performance Bond in an amount equal to 100 percent of the total amount of the bid, with a surety company qualified to do business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, will be required for the faithful performance of the Contract, as well as a Labor and Materials Payment Bond in an amount equal to 100 percent of the total amount of the bid. The Contractor is responsible for paying for these bonds. Cost of all bonds must be included in your bid price.

This Contract is being Bid on under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30, Section 39M, as amended and subject to all applicable bidding laws thereto.

Attention is directed to the minimum wage rates to be paid as determined by the Commissioner of Labor and Industries and the weekly payroll record submittal requirements under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 149, Section 26 through 27D inclusive.

**Bidders must be Pre-Qualified with MassDOT.**

**MassDOT prequalification of contractors with the class of work as, Bridge-Culverts, for the project with an estimated value of \$565,750 will be required.**

**Structural PE Stamped precast designs and calculations will be reviewed/approved by the Owner's representative AND MassDOT District 3 for Structural Adequacy Check as approved under Chapter 85.**

Selection of the contractor will be based upon bidder qualifications, including evidence of past performance in similar projects, and bid price. The contract will be awarded to the bidder deemed by the awarding authority to be the lowest responsible and eligible bidder.

The Town of Brookfield is an affirmative action/equal opportunity owner/purchaser.

The bidder agrees that its bid shall be good and may not be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after the opening of the bids.

The Town reserves the right to waive any informalities; to accept or reject any or all bids, or take whatever other action may be deemed to be in the best interest of the Town.

The Town of Brookfield, Massachusetts  
February 27, 2026

**Oxford Rochdale Sewer District Invitation for Priced Proposals**

The Board of Sewer Commissioners is requesting Priced Proposals for the purchase of Solids Dewatering Equipment. Priced Proposal documents may be obtained at the Oxford Rochdale Sewer District offices, 28 Comins Road, North Oxford, MA 01542, online by emailing [garystine6641@yahoo.com](mailto:garystine6641@yahoo.com) or by calling 413-896-7797 between 9 A.M. and 2 P.M. after **Friday February 20, 2026.**

Oxford Rochdale Sewer District will receive Priced Proposals at 28 Comins Road North Oxford, MA 01542 until **10 A.M. Tuesday April 7, 2026** at which time Priced Proposals documents will be publicly opened and read. Priced Proposals for Solids Dewatering Equipment will be opened and recorded for each bidder.

The Board of Sewer Commissioners reserves the right to reject any and all Priced Proposals deemed not in the best interest of the Oxford Rochdale Sewer District.

Board of Sewer Commissioners  
Oxford Rochdale Sewer District  
February 20, 2026  
February 27, 2026

**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. WO26P0531EA  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR  
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

Estate Of:  
**Dorothy A Zglobicki**  
**Date of Death: 04/12/2019**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Louis A Zglobicki of Punta Gorda FL** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that:  
**Louis A Zglobicki of Punta Gorda FL** 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 03/17/2026.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
**WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.**

Date: February 19, 2026  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
February 27, 2026

**(SEAL)  
COMMONWEALTH OF  
MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT  
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL  
COURT**

Docket Number: 25 SM 003892  
**ORDER OF NOTICE**  
TO: John J. Erickson  
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50

**\$3901 (et seq)**  
**Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC** claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in 8 Oakland Dr, Spencer, MA 01562, given by Angela N. Erickson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Northpoint Mortgage, Inc., dated May 29, 2015 and recorded in the Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book 53781, Page 339, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at: Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before **3/23/2026** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, Gordon II. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on 2/13/2026  
Attest:  
Deborah J. Patterson Recorder  
A TRUE COPY  
ATTEST:  
RECORDER  
February 27, 2026

Attest:  
Deborah J. Patterson Recorder  
A TRUE COPY  
ATTEST:  
RECORDER  
February 27, 2026

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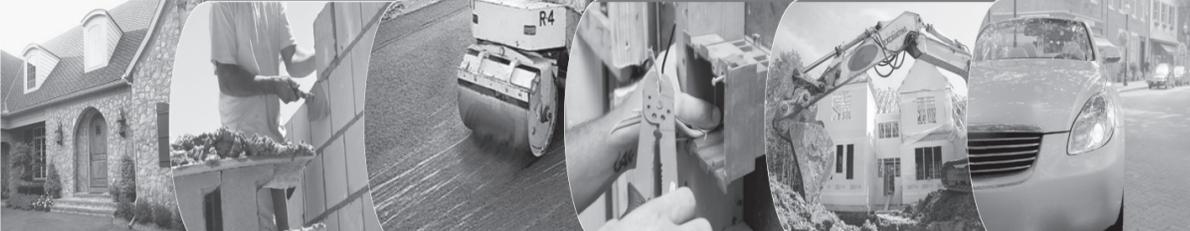
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**LEGALS**

(SEAL)  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
LAND COURT  
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT  
Docket 26 SM 000521  
ORDER OF NOTICE  
To:  
Shannon M. Toomey  
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):  
U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCAF ACQUISITION TRUST,  
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Spencer, numbered 21 Roys Drive, given by Shannon M. Toomey to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Security First Mortgage Funding, LLC, its successors and assigns, dated March 6, 2017, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 56827, Page 189, and now held by plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.  
If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before March 30, 2026, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.  
Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of this Court on February 13, 2026.  
Attest:  
Deborah J. Patterson  
Recorder  
24-002790  
February 27, 2026

**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. WO25P0694EA  
INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION NOTICE  
Estate of: Sandra Jeanne Dec  
Also Known As: Moriarty  
Date of Death: 10/23/22**

To All persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of **Aaron M Moriarty of Warren MA** **Aaron Moriarty of Clearwater FL** 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.  
February 27, 2026

**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. WO26P0527EA  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Estate Of:  
**Frederick G Spain  
Date of Death: 12/19/2025**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Elizabeth K Spain of Warren 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: **Elizabeth K Spain of Warren 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 03/17/2026**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.  
**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
**WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: February 19, 2026  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
February 27, 2026

**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. WO26P0488EA  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
Estate Of:  
**Reta M Warren  
Date of Death: 12/15/2025**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Nancy Jo W. Brown of Millis 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: **Nancy Jo W. Brown of Millis 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 03/17/2026**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.  
**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
**WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: February 19, 2026  
Stephanie Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
February 27, 2026

**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:  
**Cathleen Paine** has filed an **NOI** with the Spencer Conservation Commission for a new utility building, driveway/parking area, walkway & septic system located at **51 Howe Road**, 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, March 11, 2026 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, Chairwoman  
February 27, 2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Worcester Probate and Family Court  
225 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608  
Docket No. WO08P0808GR1  
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR RESIGNATION OF A GUARDIAN OF AN INCAPACITATED PERSON**  
**In the Interests of: Elaine E Vallee  
Of: North Brookfield, MA  
RESPONDENT**

ncapacitated Person/Protected Person  
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by  
**Dept of Developmental Services of Worcester, MA**  
in the above captioned matter alleging requesting that the court: Accept the Resignation of the Guardian

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the court.  
**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **03/17/2026**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.**  
**WITNESS, Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: February 12, 2026  
Stephanie K. Fattman  
Register of Probate  
February 27, 2026

# Retired Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Director & husband lead 'Bikes for Change' road trip

ROCKVILLE, Md. — A chance breakfast conversation in Gardner has turned into a life-changing mission for the North Quabbin community, led by a familiar face in local education. Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, who recently retired as the Academy Director of the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in Charlton (October 2025), has traded the classroom for the open road to deliver hope on two wheels.

Alongside her husband, Joseph, the retired director spearheaded a «Road Trip to Deliver Bikes for Change.» a mission fueled by the overwhelming support of the Bay Path community, local residents, and the spirit of global Bayanihan (a core Filipino cultural value representing com-

munal unity, work, and cooperation to achieve a common goal without expecting anything in return.)

A legacy of service continues: Partnership of Purpose, 2012–2026

Having spent over a decade guiding future nurses at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Dr. Bolandrina is no stranger to humanitarian efforts. While her retirement in late 2025 marked the end of an era for nursing education, it signaled the beginning of a new “tour of duty” alongside her husband.

The 2026 project began when the Bolandrinis visited Bruce and Mary Willoughby, the retiring owners of O’Neil’s Bicycle Shop in Gardner. Faced with hundreds of used bicycles that needed a new



Courtesy

Gretheline Bolandrina with Yvette Powell Hess of Bikes for Change.

home, Joseph reached out to Bikes for the World (BfW), a non-profit they have supported for years and have helped to send shipments to the Philippines (coordinated with Bikes for the Philippines).

This mission is the continuation of a shared passion; both Joseph and Gretheline have been volunteers with Bikes for the Philippines since 2012. For 14 years, the couple has worked in tandem—collecting, organizing, and delivering donated bicycles from their local Massachusetts community to the BfW headquarters. Their long-standing partnership has been instrumental in ensuring that hundreds of bicycles have reached the Philippines through Bikes for

the Philippines, transforming the lives of students and workers across the archipelago. Hundreds more for the rest of the world through Bikes for the World.

Powered by the Bay Path community The mission was a true team effort. The Bay Path community—comprising former students, faculty, and local friends—helped the Bolandrinis reach their fundraising goals. A key celebration and fundraiser held on Gretheline’s 59th birthday at Kuru Kuru Ramen shop in the Worcester Public Market provided the necessary funds to rent the 20-foot U-Haul truck required for the long haul to Maryland.

“I have seen how second-hand bikes enrich lives,” Joseph explained. “From helping a student graduate to giving a small-scale entrepreneur a way to reach the market, these bikes are tools for independence.”

Navigating the “Plan B” route The trek to the Bikes for the World headquarters in Rockville, Md., tested the couple’s resolve. The duo spent hours navigating around New York’s low-clearance parkways.

“Every time we saw a ‘NO TRUCKS’ sign on a parkway on-ramp, we had to scramble for a Plan B,” Joseph shared. Despite adding hours to their transit time, the couple arrived safely to deliver 55 bicycles to BfW leaders Yvette Powell Hess and Taylor Jones.

A commemorative honor In recognition of their years of advocacy, Yvette presented Joseph with an Official Bikes for the World 2005–2025 Commemorative Coin. The Bolandrinis plan to keep the coin as a family heirloom, eventually passing it to their grandson, Tidus, to inspire the next generation of service.

For the retired Academy Director, the journey was a reminder that while she may have stepped down from the helm of the practical nursing Academy, her mission to heal and help the world is far from over.

“Life is best shared,” the couple reflected. “We are tired, but we have a grateful grin that isn’t going away.”



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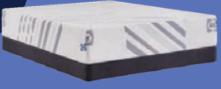
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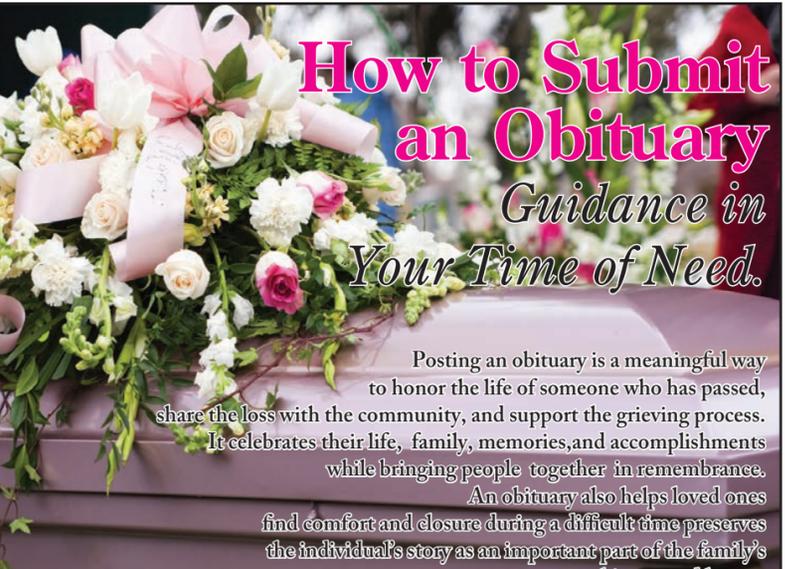



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