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**Question of the Week**

**How would casino gambling in Massachusetts affect you?**

- I'd gamble here instead of out of state.
- I'll continue to spread my gambling dollars around all states, including Massachusetts.
- It won't affect me at all.

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## Quick action saves drowning child

BY MELISSA MCKEON [MMCKEON@HOLDENLANDMARK.COM](mailto:MMCKEON@HOLDENLANDMARK.COM)

Angela McGrath of Worcester was enjoying a sunny day at her aunt's pool in Holden on July 5 with her friend Keith Spencer and her sons, three-year-old Domenic and two-week-old Angelo, when the day went black.

McGrath turned away from the pool to tend to Angelo and grab a second flotation device for Domenic, who was sitting on the edge of the five-foot-deep pool. Spencer went inside to get a patch for the "floatie."

When Angela turned back, she couldn't see Domenic.

"My gut instinct was to jump into the pool," she recalls. "As I pulled him out, he was completely blue and completely unresponsive."

As a medical assistant certified in CPR, McGrath knew what to do, but shock and panic made her freeze.

"My son was dead in front of me," she remembers thinking.

The next few minutes are a blur: Spencer began what he knew of CPR, admittedly, only the rudiments, while McGrath called 911 and ended up on the phone with Holden officer Tammy Foy.

Foy heard the frantic mom give a quick outline of the situation and began a sort of mom-to-mom CPR. She gave McGrath instructions to relay to Spencer on how to revive the child, while also trying to keep McGrath calm.

Foy recalls now she didn't have time to think, just went into action: give two rescue breaths, check for a pulse, make sure the child is on a flat surface, start chest compression, all instructions that McGrath had to then shout to Spencer.

"I was coaching him as I was being coached," McGrath recalls.

It worked.

Young Domenic quickly began to cough and vomit, and was on the way to consciousness as rescue teams arrived only seconds after the call.

That's when McGrath, too, finally began to breathe. Domenic is fine; he spent the night at UMass for observation, but was released the next day with no ill effects.

Foy recalls trying to be calm, for the sake of the job she was doing and for the parent on the other end of the line.

"I was as calm as I could be. I was just trying to calm her down because if you're calm, they're calm," she says.

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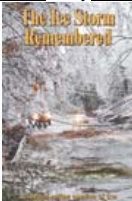
Presidents' Day Auto Sales



Who's Who in Business 2010



Mission of Hope: A La Romana Diary



The Ice Storm Remembered



"I'm extremely proud of her actions," Foy's boss, Holden Police Chief George Sherrill said.

Sherrill is feeling fortunate these days, not just that he has a staff that takes charge the way Foy did, but because his staff is medically trained.

"All our dispatchers have just gone through emergency medical dispatching," he said. "It's a new mandate coming down from the state and pretty soon all cities and towns are going to have this. We were fortunate, we did it last year."

Foy says the enormity of what happened hit her later. When she went home, her reaction was that of just about any parent.

"I gave my son a hug," she said.

## How to contact The Landmark

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