

# BARRE GAZETTE

USPS 044560

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

January 1, 2026 | Vol. 191, No. 39 | \$1.00

www.barregazette.turley.com

## Board seeks new town administrator

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis  
Correspondent

HUBBARDSTON – The Select Board discussed the path to appointing a new town administrator at their meeting last Monday.

According to the board, they have ended their employment contract with previous town administrator, Nathan Boudreau, as of Dec. 26. They are currently seeking a temporary town administrator, which will be short term, and they said they will not be expected to have to work more than two-three weeks, as they are in the process of putting together a search committee for an interim town administrator. They said the interim role typically lasts 3-6 months, until a full time administrator is appointed.

Vice-Chair Kathryn Young said the overall role of a temporary town administrator is to work with the staff, guide them, and keep processes moving.

The official announcement for temporary town administrator was posted online, with only one candi-

See HUBBARDSTON,  
page 5

## Hardwick Year in Review 2025

By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – Residents continued to take steps to preserve the town's heritage, by working to protect its open space, its water sources, as well as finding new use for vacant town-owned buildings.

The community also honored Police Chief James Ayotte on his retirement, and promoted Lieutenant Kevin Landine to be his successor.

### Muddy Brook aquifer

The Board of Health heard from a panel of experts about the importance of the Muddy Brook aquifer and its watershed. The aquifer provides drinking water to the town of Ware's well on Barnes Street.

Board of Health Clerk Richard Romano said of the Muddy Brook area, "It's a vital resource; it's a vulnerable resource."

The first expert to speak at the July 31 meeting was Scott Horsley, a hydrologist with over 30 years of experience in his field.

He said watersheds are the areas surrounding a body of water that drain precipitation into streams and rivers. The Muddy Brook area contains a lot of "gaining streams," those that continue



Turley File Photos

About 40 participants joined the East Quabbin Land Trust for its annual New Year's Day hike along the Mass Central Rail Trail. This granite bench was dedicated to the memory of Terry Briggs, a longtime board member of the East Quabbin Land Trust. The bench is located at the river lookout on the Wheelwright end of the Mass Central Rail Trail.

to flow even without rainfall due to the discharge of groundwater.

The Muddy Brook aquifer is what's known as a buried river valley with fractured bedrock and glacial till. He said it is a high-yield aquifer. "This is a pretty unique resource," Horsley said.

Horsley said the watershed is extremely important

when it comes to protecting the aquifer, and that managing the land usage around it is key to safeguarding.

Horsley said the Department of Environmental Protection empowers local boards of health with the regulation and protection of drinking water. The DEP also has a model of controls, which

offer a management program that the Board of Health can consider.

"It's a public health issue," he said of the protection of drinking water.

Dr. Philip Landrigan, a medical doctor who graduated from Harvard University and worked as an epidemiologist and pediatrician, spoke about the impact pollution

has on drinking water and public health.

"It's so important to protect the water we drink," he said.

Water, he said, is "the single-most abundant component in our bodies."

While essential to life,

See HARDWICK YIR,  
page 6

## Conservation Committee met with IMS

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis  
Correspondent

BARRE – The Insight Meditation Society met with the Conservation Committee last Tuesday regarding their planned expansion.

The society is planning on building a retreat center on Pleasant Street and Mill Road, which will include dormitories, cottages, a kitchen, a meditation area, and parking areas, according to the town's website. The Conservation

Committee is working with the Department of Environmental Protection to approve the site plans.

According to the members of the Conservation Committee, as of the Tuesday meeting, the DEP had gotten back to them, asking for soil information, and plant species on the proposed site.

The committee members also said that the wetland delineation – the boundary between wetlands and uplands – differs from

rent survey information. The commission members said that the delineation must be updated to match that survey before approval.

Representatives from the Insight Meditation Society asked if the DEP has been in contact with the commission, and if they had any updates for them.

Conservation Committee Clerk Mary Ann Gendron told them she has been in steady contact with the DEP,

See BARRE, page 5

## Gaumond and Almstrom received life-saving award

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis  
Correspondent

HARDWICK – Deputy Fire Chief Nick Gaumond and Police Detective Patrick Almstrom received the life-saving award at the Select Board meeting on Dec. 22, presented by Chief of Police Kevin Landine.

According to Landine, dispatch received a call on Wednesday, Nov. 26, when a car crashed into a tree and caught fire on Petersham Road, at the Hardwick common. Landine said that Almstrom and Gaumond arrived nearly at the same time, and immediately started working together to extricate the driver of the car, who was trapped within the

burning vehicle.

They worked together to successfully drag the man out of the car, which was exploding around them, and started performing life-saving measures immediately thereafter, Landine said.

"These actions of Det. Almstrom and Deputy Chief Gaumond were not only heroic, but saved the life of the operator," Landine read from a letter written by Sgt. Ryan Gentile.

Select Board Chair Eric Vollheim also presented Almstrom and Gaumond with an award.

"I want to thank each of you for being heroes and working for us, protecting us," he said.

This is the second

time that Gaumond and Almstrom have received the life-saving award together, as they were involved in a cardiac arrest save two years ago, Landine said.

### School roof project

Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent Colleen Mucha gave an update on the roof project at Hardwick Elementary School. She said they have been invited to start the project by the Mass School Building Authority.

Mucha said that construction will not begin until the summer of 2027. She said they are currently in the planning phase and she will update the board throughout the planning process.

She also said that an engineer is going to inspect the roof to decide whether the entire roof needs replacing, or if only a section of it does.

Mucha also brought up a grant for solar panels the town has received, and if they would be thinking of using solar panels on the new roof. Vollheim said they are not in the scope of working on that yet.

Mucha also brought up that one of the boilers in the school is cracked and leaking, and the Finance Committee will be looking at repairing that soon.

### Resident concerns

One resident requested an update on where the town is in the re-bidding process for the Town House project. Town Administrator Justine Caggiano said that she has not heard anything back from the state or from the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, and that she

See HARDWICK,  
page 8

## North Brookfield Selectmen discussed combined water/sewer bills

By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis said the town has now combined the bills for the Water and Sewer departments.

At the Dec. 16 meeting, Town Administrator Ron Aponte said he met with the departments to create a timeline to roll-out the new combined bills.

"The new combined bills will be sent out in the early to mid-February timeframe," Aponte said. "And any outstanding balance that's current will be included in that billing."

Aponte said the town will still accept partial payments for the combined bills, up until the point of water shutoff, at which point only a complete payment will be accepted. A \$30 demand fee will be added to overdue balances.

He said when partial payments are received, there is now a priority with how the funds are allocated toward each of the balances.

"First, the outstanding sewer balance will be paid down, then outstanding water balances will be paid down, then it will be the current sewer balance or current sewer charges and then the current water charges or water balance will be the last as far as priorities," he said.

Aponte said everything else will remain the same. He said on Wednesday, Jan. 7 at 6 p.m., an informational session will be held at the elementary school to answer any questions from water and sewer users.

### Lake Lashaway weed treatments

Marco Rodrigues, a resident of Lake Lashaway, came before the board to represent the Lake Lashaway Association to request financial assistance for lake treatment next summer.

"We have been focused on the water quality and invasive weeds on Lake Lashaway since 2019,"

Rodrigues said, with the first treatment in 2021.

He said this treatment was successful and they have continued to conduct smaller treatments each summer to manage the invasive weeds.

"We focus on primarily the areas that are most effected and where the weed grows," he said.

Rodrigues said a survey conducted this past summer, found a significant amount of invasive weeds in the north cove area near the boat ramp.

"That treatment will be a significant higher cost than the past treatments," he said.

Rodrigues said the association has spent \$92,000 in treatments over the past few years. He said the estimate for next summer's treatment is \$59,000.

Rodrigues said the association's membership has contributed financially, and fundraisers have been held to help with the cost of treatment.

"We need contributions from both East Brookfield

See N BROOKFIELD,  
page 11



Submitted Photo

Detective Patrick Almstrom (left) and Deputy Fire Chief Nick Gaumond (right) are shown with Police Chief Kevin Landine at the Dec. 22 Select Board meeting. Almstrom and Gaumond were both recognized for their heroic actions at the scene of a car accident.



# News of the Towns



**ROUND TOWN**  
by Ellenor Downer  
edowner@turley.com

## Barre Food Pantry to hold distribution on Jan. 14 and 15

BARRE – Once or twice a year a month begins on a Thursday.

This makes the third Thursday of the month the day right after the second Wednesday. January 1 is such a month. As a result, The Barre Food Pantry's two distributions in May will occur on successive days, Wednesday morning Jan. 14 from 10-11:30 a.m. and Thursday evening, Jan. 15 from 5:30-7 p.m.

Clients are invited to pick up groceries from the food pantry either in the morning on Wednesday, Jan. 14 or in the evening on Thursday, Jan. 15, whichever is the more convenient for them. The Barre Food Pantry volunteers strive to continue to fulfill their mission to get food to hungry and food insecure clients. The pantry must also continue to protect clients, volunteers and the larger community from the renewed spread of COVID-19 and other viruses. Many clients and volunteers are classified as high-risk due to their age and/or underlying health conditions. The Barre Food Pantry Board of Directors considered changing how the pantry currently operates, but with the continued prevalence of ultra-contagious variants of the virus the Board decided that the most responsible path forward is to continue to operate as we have since March of 2020. In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients Jan. 14 and Jan. 15 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church. They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers at multiple stations.

ing health conditions. The Barre Food Pantry Board of Directors considered changing how the pantry currently operates, but with the continued prevalence of ultra-contagious variants of the virus the Board decided that the most responsible path forward is to continue to operate as we have since March of 2020.

In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients Jan. 14 and Jan. 15 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church. They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers at multiple stations.

Based on the success of distributions so far, the Food Pantry volunteers believe this

"drive-through" style is the safest possible way to get food to clients and to help keep everyone well.

On Tuesday night, Jan 13 at 5 p.m. the Barre Food Pantry will be gathering volunteers at the Barre Congregational Church to unload incoming groceries from their truck, to sort through donated groceries, to pre-fill grocery bags and in other ways to prepare for the distribution the following morning. If people can help pitch in for an hour on the Jan. 13, they should call Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921.

Please do not arrive to volunteer on Jan 13, 14 or 15 without first calling Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921, Dave Petrovick at 978-355-4519 or Chuck Radlo at 978-355-6463.

Because conditions have been changing rapidly, people may visit the Barre Food Pantry website:<http://www.barrefoodbank.org/index.htm> and the Barre Food Pantry Facebook page:<https://www.facebook.com/Barre-Food-Pantry-100156068300314/>.



**OAKHAM**  
by Ellenor Downer  
edowner@turley.com

### Sunday School resumes Jan. 11

The Sunday School at Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will resume on Sunday, Jan. 11 at 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 11 is Family Sunday. Communion will be held and there will be a children's story during the regular 10 a.m. worship.

### OHA lottery

It is time for the Oakham Historical Association lottery tickets again. Cost is \$20 per ticket with 20 chances to win \$50. Only 100 tickets are sold. The lottery starts Tuesday, Jan 6 and runs to Thursday, March 12. Match the two middle numbers of the evening Massachusetts Lottery Number Game on Tuesdays and Thursdays and \$50 will be mailed to the winners. If interested send \$20 per ticket made out to Oakham Historical Association Lottery, P.O. Box 236, Oakham, MA 01068. Any questions, people should call Kathy at 508-882-3137.

### Fobes Memorial Library

The Fobes Memorial Library, 4 Maple St., hosts read and play every Wednesday from 10:20-11:30 a.m. Next dates are Jan. 7, Jan. 14, Jan 21 and Jan. 28. No registration is required. The program is for birth to age 5. Participants will enjoy rhymes, songs, an activity and play time. It is funded by the Friends of the Fobes Memory Library, Inc.

The library will hold a homeschool do it yourself on Thursday, Jan. 15 from 11 a.m.-noon. They will make a Morse Code key chain. Registration is required.

### COA news

Ongoing activities include: Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-noon puzzling. Monday through Thursday: 9:00am Walking Group meets at Senior Center Tuesday through Thursdays at 11a.m. For walking groups, people may ask to be added to the text MSG by calling the Senior Center and leaving their cell phone number.

Yoga started Tuesday, Dec 2 at the Senior Center multipurpose room. Registration is required. Cost is \$30 and there will be six classes. Wednesdays at 8:45 a.m.. Zumba Gold meets in New Braintree Town Hall starting January 2026. There is a \$3 donation per class. Thursdays at noon weigh in is at the Senior Center for support weight loss group. Fridays at 10:30 a.m. Functional Fitness takes place at the New Braintree Town Hall. There is a \$3 donation per class.

Hot lunches are offered at the Senior Center dining area Monday through Thursday at 11:30 a.m. No meal will be served on Thursday, Jan. 1. Reservations are needed at least two days in advance and can be made through the Congregate Meal Coordinator from 9 a.m.-12.15p.m. by calling 508-882-4072.

If people can't get to the Senior Center to make reservations or sign up for more information on offerings, they may call the Senior Center 508-882-4073 and leave a message or email COA@Oakham-MA.gov.

### Editorial deadline reminder

Deadline for e-mailed press releases is noon on Monday. Deadline for hard copy is noon on Friday.

### Corrections policy

The Barre Gazette will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2. To request a correction, send information to Editor Ellenor Downer at edowner@turley.com or call 413-283-8393. Corrections may also be requested in writing at Barre Gazette, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

## Barre Dining Center

BARRE — Elder Services of Worcester Area Nutrition Program welcomes guests to dine at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road. The following meals will be served for the week of Jan. 5. Lunches are back at the senior center, but require a pre-sign up. Volunteers are needed at the Barre dining site. Volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels (mileage reimbursement) and in the kitchen. People should contact 978-355-5027.

MONDAY – Beef Bourginon, garlic mashed potatoes, peas and mushrooms, Lorna Doone cookies, Italian bread

TUESDAY – Chicken stir fry, rice pilaf, roasted broccoli, fresh fruit, pumpernickel bread

WEDNESDAY – Vegetable cheese bake, red bliss potatoes, mixed vegetables, chocolate pudding, diet = sugar free chocolate pudding, whole wheat bread

THURSDAY – Bahn Mi pork with barbecue sauce, carrots, Coleslaw, baked cinnamon pears, sandwich roll, mayo

FRIDAY – Lentil stew, cheddar cheese, steamed white rice, Jardiniere vegetables, fruited Ambrosia, marble rye

\*Higher sodium entree Meal includes milk and margarine. Menus are subject to change. All meals are served at about 11:45 a.m. each weekday. Reservations should be made the day before by calling 978-355-5027 before 10:30 a.m. The donation of \$3.00 per meal helps keep the program running.

## North Brookfield Savings Bank held successful food and toy drive

NORTH BROOKFIELD – In the spirit of Season of Giving, North Brookfield Savings Bank announces the success of its annual food and toy drives, made possible by the generosity of their customers, community members and employees.

These initiatives reflect the bank's ongoing commitment to supporting the communities it serves and making the holidays brighter for those in need. During the annual food drive the bank's communities came together to donate over 950 non-perishable food items and over \$1,000 in monetary donations to support families in need. These generous donations have had a profound impact this season of giving, providing crucial assistance to individuals facing food insecurity.

To further amplify the impact, NBSB contributed an additional \$3,000 in support of the food pantry operations. NBSB's annual Food Drive benefitted the following food pantries: East Brookfield Baptist Church Food Pantry,



Submitted photo

NBSB employee Jessica Shimansky is shown inside the North Brookfield Branch assisting the North Brookfield Police Department with toy and monetary donations from NBSB's annual toy drive.

Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry - First Congregational Church, St. Joseph's Parish Food Pantry, First Congregational Church of North Brookfield, Trinity Episcopal Church - Jubilee Cupboard, St. Francis of Assisi Parish Food Pantry and Palmer Food Share, Inc.

The generosity from their communities continued through the annual Toy Drive, where community members, employees and neighbors stepped up to the plate again to donate over 430 toys for children in need, alongside more than \$1,600 in monetary donations. To extend this support fur-

those who need it the most and bring joy to children in the communities it serves this holiday season.

NBSB's annual Toy Drive benefitted the following toy organizations; North Brookfield Police Association's Toys for Joy Program, East Brookfield Toys for Joy Program, West Brookfield Police Association Holiday Toy Program, Ware Police Department "Christmas for Kids" Program, Belchertown Firefighters Association Adopt-a-Family Program and Palmer Lions Club Holiday Toy Program.

"Community is at the heart of everything that we do, and the success of this year's food and toy drives is a testament to the compassion and generosity of our customers, employees and community members," said Audrey Champagne, Marketing Manager at North Brookfield Savings Bank. "We are proud to come together to create a positive difference for those in need during this Season of Giving."

North Brookfield Savings Bank is a mutual savings bank with full-service branches in North Brookfield, East Brookfield, West Brookfield, Ware, Belchertown, and the Three Rivers Village of Palmer.

## St. Barnabas Anglican Church



18 Park Street (on the Common) Belchertown  
Weekly Mass Saturdays 4 p.m.

Rev. Thomas T. Stockton • Rt. Rev. Brian R. Marsh

[stbarnabasbelchertown.org](http://stbarnabasbelchertown.org)

~ All Are Welcome ~



## THE CENTERED PLACE

SINCE 1988

Yoga & Meditation Classes

Offering both onsite and online classes

Voted Best Yoga in the region by  
Town & Country Living Magazine



Yoga leaves you more relaxed, centered,  
open and energized.  
Come experience this for yourself.

413 436 7374  
286 BRIDGE ST, WARREN MA  
[WWW.THECENTEREDPLACE.COM](http://WWW.THECENTEREDPLACE.COM)

# News of the Towns

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

### BARRE

Select Board – Jan. 5, 2026 at 5 p.m.  
 Board of Assessors – Jan. 6, at 6 p.m.  
 Felton Field Commission – Jan. 6 at 6:30 p.m..  
 Planning Board – Jan. 6 at 7 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – Jan. 7 at 12:30 p.m.  
 Barre Housing Authority – Jan. 8 at 1 p.m.  
 Board of Health – Jan. 12 at 5 p.m.  
 Water Commission – Jan. 12 at 5:30 p.m.  
 DPW Commission – Jan. 12 at 6 p.m.  
 Library Trustees – Jan. 14 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Barre Common Oversight Committee – Jan. 15 at 5 p.m.  
 Cemetery Commission – Jan. 22 at 11 a.m.  
 Cable Advisory Committee – Feb. 10 at 7 p.m.

### HARDWICK

Planning Board – Dec. 30 and Jan. 2026. 13 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – Jan. 7 at 12:30 p.m.  
 Master Plan Steering Committee – Jan. 8 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Capital Planning Committee – Jan. 12 at 3:30 p.m. and March 16 at 3 p.m.  
 Gilbertville Public Library – Jan. 14 at 3 p.m.  
 Hardwick New Braintree Cultural Council – Jan. 14 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Gilbertville Water District – Jan. 20 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Conservation Commission – Jan. 21 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Paige Library Trustee – Feb. 5 at 7 p.m.

### NORTH BROOKFIELD

Water/Sewer Billing Information Session – Jan. 7, 2026 at 6 p.m.

### OAKHAM

Board of Selectmen – Jan. 5, Jan. 6 and Jan. 20, 2026 at 6 p.m.

### PETERSHAM

Open Space and Recreation Committee – Jan. 6, 2026 at 6 p.m.  
 Conservation Commission – Jan. 6, at 7 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – Jan. 12 at 10:30 a.m.  
 Cemetery Commission – Jan. 13 at 10 a.m.  
 Petersham Historic District – Jn. 15 at 6 p.m.  
 Board of Assessors – Jan. 30, 2026 at 9 a.m.

## Country Bank supports local schools

Country Bank announces its recent donation of \$250 Visa gift cards to 44 local schools, totaling \$11,000.

These schools have been long-standing partners in financial literacy initiatives and this contribution aims to support teachers and students as they head into the new academic year.

“At Country Bank, we remain passionate about helping students build confidence in managing their money and their future,” said Jodie Gerulaitis, First Vice President of Community Relations. “Through our Money School program and partnerships with local schools, we’re proud to provide financial education that inspires lifelong learning and empowers the next generation to make informed financial choices.”

As part of its continued commitment to financial literacy, Country Bank’s Money School program offers engaging, age-appropriate lessons and resources to help students learn the fundamentals of money management, budgeting, and saving. From classroom sessions to interactive fairs, the program provides real-world financial experiences that make learning fun and practical.

Students and families are encouraged to visit any Country Bank location to learn more about Money School and how to get involved. The program’s goal is simple, to help young people develop the knowledge and confidence to make smart financial decisions throughout their lives.

For more information about Country Bank’s Money School program or to inquire about their community initiatives, people may visit [www.countrybank.com](http://www.countrybank.com).

## Pathfinder career fair showcased students, shops



ey Photos by Abigail McCoy

**The Automotive Technology program’s garage was filled with cars and people roaming the building.**

By Abigail McCoy  
[amccoy@turley.com](mailto:amccoy@turley.com)

PALMER – Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School opened its doors to prospective students and families during its annual Career Night recently, transforming the building into a full-campus showcase of academic departments, vocational shops, student activities, athletics, and support services.

Families were allowed to explore classrooms and speak directly with teachers, staff, and current students. During this time, a free community dinner was prepared and served by the school’s culinary arts program.

Superintendent Eric Duda said the turnout exceeded expectations.

“We had a very strong attendance...the feedback I’ve had directly from people seeking me out has been over the top,” he said.

Duda added that visiting grandparents praised the professionalism of Pathfinder’s students, noting how attentive and confidently they greeted families.

Tables in the gym were set up for informational programs and extra curriculum information offered but mainly people entering the building were given a map of the grounds showcasing where each program can be found.

Inside the gymnasium, Pathfinder’s academic teachers shared their work, emphasizing rigor, personalization, and preparation for both college and careers.

English Department chair Angela Sweeney described a “homegrown curriculum” aligned with core standards through short stories, novels, plays, and student presentations. Offerings include standard and honors tracks,



**Danielle Salerno ran the table for Adult Continuing Education, giving out information to people and talking about options.**

Advanced Placement English in grades 11 and 12, and electives such as creative writing and modern media communication, where students analyze social media, blogs, podcasts, AI, and video games.

Social Studies teacher Laura Ann detailed a robust selection of coursework, from world and U.S. history to electives in psychology, the Holocaust, human behavior, war, and museum studies.

In the Art Department, instructor Darlene Henshaw outlined a sequence of design, drawing, painting, and three-dimensional ceramics courses, all available as upperclassmen electives. Students can even double up during their junior and senior years.

The Science Department, represented by teacher Erin Welby, is restructuring its pacing to strengthen students’ foundation in biology before they branch into anatomy and physiology, chemistry, earth science, physics, biomedical science, and tech engineering. The department

offers two AP courses and emphasizes hands-on investigative work.

Foreign Language teacher Liz Cygan explained offerings in Spanish, Latin, French, and an online dual-language option. The department is promoting the Massachusetts Seal of Biliteracy, encouraging students to continue language study long enough to earn an intermediate proficiency stamp on their transcript and diploma.

Math Department chair Joshua Dusza said Pathfinder offers the full high school progression through AP Calculus and AP Statistics, along with electives in accounting, math through art, and a popular personal finance course preparing seniors for budgeting, investing, and economic decision-making.

Professional Skills instructors Elizabeth Dobson and student Lucas Roy described the required freshman/sophomore program that focuses on goal setting, career exploration, OSHA 10 certification, resume writing, banking, public speaking, and personal development.

“It really helps them think about where they want to be and why,” Dobson said.

Horticulture instructor Jeff Pronovost highlighted the wide range of environmental and outdoor skills within his program, from greenhouse propagation and landscape construction to arboriculture, including tree climbing and chainsaw work.

“We do everything from



**Cosmetology student Chris Vruz demonstrated a Dutch braid on a mannequin head.**

See CAREER DAY , page 10

## HUBBARDSTON

by Ellenor Downer  
[edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com)

### Town offices list holiday closure

Town Offices will be closed New Year’s Day., Jan. 1, 2026. Regular business hours will resume Monday, January 5, 2025.

### Fuel Assistance

To get help with Fuel Assistance, residents may call Pat Lamoureux at the Senior Center at 978-928-1400. She can help with the paperwork needed to apply for discounts.

### Senior Center Events

All artists are welcome to attend the art group at the Hubbardston Senior Center every Friday from 9-11 a.m. A new activity at the Senior Center is the Creative Needle and Thread activity every Friday from 9 a.m.-noon. All are invited to bring projects, such as embroidery, cross stitch, sewing and quilting. Questions may be directed to Michelle at 508-450-4476. Yarn-It-All group meets from 10 a.m.-noon. Knitting and crocheting projects will be worked on, and those who have questions will get help from others who attend. Games of Pitch are held the second and fourth Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. and the first and third Fridays at 6:30 p.m. Cribbage is played every Thursday at 12:30 p.m., Bingo is every Monday at 12:30 p.m. and Wii Bowling is every Monday and Thursday at 9 a.m. Functional Exercise Classes are held at the Senior Center Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

## St. Aloysius Catholic School to hold annual fund drive

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School in Gilbertville has launched its Annual Fund Drive with a pledge of \$40,000 in matching funds from an anonymous benefactor.

The fund drive runs through March 15, 2026.

Last year the fund drive raised just over \$95,000 including the match funds.

“To raise that amount of money was truly a miracle. Never in the history of our Annual Fund Drive or the Scholarship Drive that preceded it, did we ever exceed our goal to that extent,” said Roberta McQuaid, Finance Manager and Enrollment Coordinator for the school.

The School Board implemented the Annual Fund Drive in place of the Scholarship Drive in 2025 to be able to diversify the use of the money earned, and thereby keep tuition affordable for families.

“The cost of nearly everything it takes to run a school has increased, from utilities to insurance, to books and salaries. It is no small feat to make ends meet. We rely so heavily on those who support our mission; we couldn’t do the good work we do if it weren’t for our donors. While I hope and pray we will do well again this year, big gifts are not a given, and every donation, no matter the size, truly counts,” continued McQuaid. “Catholic Schools provide a foundation of faith for the students we serve, and their families benefit too. Our students work hard academically and contribute to the local community. It’s a well rounded education, and when they leave St. Aloysius for high school they are prepared to meet the challenges that lie ahead. It’s a worthwhile goal to try and keep our tuitions prices stable so that families can continue to afford a private, Catholic education.”

Tuition assistance is also available through the Roman Catholic Diocese of Worcester and from scholarships gifted by private foundations.

For more information about St. Aloysius Catholic School or to make a tax deductible donation that will be matched dollar for dollar to the Annual Fund please visit [www.staloyuscs.com/support/](http://www.staloyuscs.com/support/). Donations can also be mailed to St. Aloysius Catholic School, P.O. Box 522, Gilbertville, MA 01031, noting “Annual Fund” on the memo line.

An Open House is planned for Monday, Jan. 26, 2026 from 3-5:30 p.m. Prospective families are encouraged to visit the school.

Send your stories and photos to [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com)

## McNeely Tree Service

Insured • References

- Hazardous Tree Removal
- Bobcat Work
- Lot Clearing
- Emergency Services
- Firewood \$265/cord
- 101 ft Aerial Lift Rental POR
- Credit Cards, Cash & Venmo Accepted
- 100% Workers Compensation



H: 508-867-6119 • C: 978-888-1693

## FOR RENT

### Quabbin Estates

41 Church Lane, Wheelwright, MA 01094

Accepting applications for wait list.

The apartment features - w/w carpeting, kitchen appliances, maintenance coverage, laundry facilities. We specialize in Senior Housing and “Barrier Free” accessible units. Rent is \$810/mo. or 30% of income, whichever is lower. RD regulations. Handicap Accessible apartments when available.

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT

413-477-6496

TDD (800)439-2379



## Clean Out Solutions

Basement, Attic, Shed & Whole House Cleanouts

Shed, Pool & Arthur “Skip” Gervais  
 Hot Tub Removals (774)397-6500

# Opinion



## The Plastics Conundrum

By Louisa Knowles

For those of you who have seen the film “The Graduate,” do you remember the scene at Dustin Hoffman’s graduation party, where he was cornered by a businessman who said, “Plastics, there’s a great future in plastics, think about it?”

Since that time decades ago, plastics have become ubiquitous in all parts of our lives. As we have thought about it more recently, we have begun to be aware of the serious downside to ever increasing plastic production.

I am going to focus this article on single use plastic bags. Plastic bag production leads to pollution and unfortunately, in most cases, these bags end up in a landfill, where they continue to cause pollution. The manufacturing process of plastics involves refining the fossil fuel petroleum. This process releases massive amounts of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, contributing to global climate change. Workers and communities nearby the plants end up with health issues.

Since we have not banned single use plastic bags in Barre, as 160 other towns and cities in Massachusetts have, they go from the Barre Transfer Station to the Material Recovery Facility in Springfield. The MRF does not have the recycling infrastructure to recycle these bags properly. They end up in landfills where they break down into microplastic and nanoplastic particles. These tiny particles enter our soil, waterways and air, causing significant health risks to all life.

The national Institute of Health states: “Microplastics are endocrine disrupting. This can affect reproductive capabilities and alter hormone levels.” From the Environmental Protection Agency: “The current research suggests microplastics can have potential impacts on the immune system, inflammation and oxidative stress in organ tissues like the liver, kidneys and lungs – potentially impacting organ function.”

From the United Nations: “Microplastics have become part of the food chain and have been found everywhere, in drinking water, salt, beer and in the soil where we grow our vegetables.”

ABC news exposed Walmart and Target stores’ recycling programs, because most of the plastic recycled there ended up in landfills, was incinerated, or sent overseas to Southeast Asia. All these methods create more pollution in our water, air and soil. Both Walmart and Target stores were removed from The National Recycling Directory. Six months later the directory itself was removed. When you go to this site, there is a message that states, “This resource is no longer available.”

Nina Bellucci Butler, who managed the directory, was quoted in the British newspaper, The Guardian, saying that there was “a serious lack of commitment from industry partners.”

The fossil fuel industry plans to increase plastic production by 40% in the next decade. It is projected that there will be more plastic by weight than fish in the ocean by 2050. The United States uses 100 billion bags annually. The World Economic Forum and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation state that “eight million tons of plastic enter the ocean annually. This is equivalent to dumping one garbage truck of plastic into the ocean every minute. This is projected to increase to 16 million tons by 2030, and 32 million tons projected by 2060.”

These projections presuppose no action being taken, such as drastically reducing plastic production, creating a circular economy, effective recycling infrastructure, and ecofriendly plastic replacements. However, solutions to the plastic dilemma are coming much too slowly. Unfortunately, The UN Global Plastics Treaty has not come up with definitive solutions, mainly due to resistance by oil rich countries. What role can we play? You are welcome to send your ideas to the email at the end of this article.

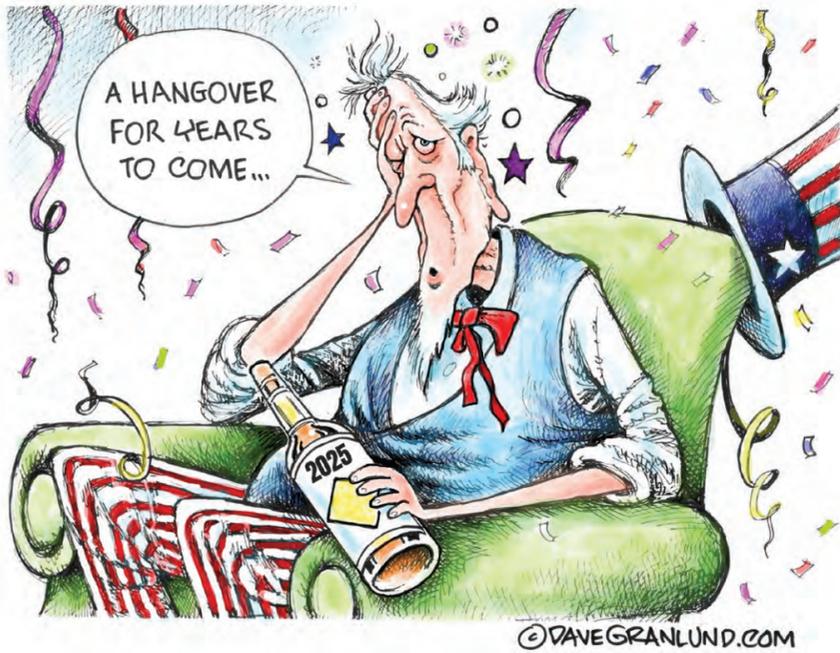
How to handle single use plastic bags? The best way would be to ban their use as 70% of cities and towns in Massachusetts have done.

Until we are ready to do this, we can become part of Home Depot’s circular economy. They recycle single use plastic bags, including pellet bags that are free of pellet debris. They don’t need to be washed out. They also recycle the single use plastic bags that our groceries are put in, clean produce bags, bread bags, and plastic wrap around paper towels and toilet paper. Recycling saves you money by reducing the waste going into your Barre transfer station bags.

Going to Home Depot in Worcester would involve a lot of extra driving for people in Barre. I talked to Ronnie Higgins at Higgins Energy Alternatives and he agreed to make space outside his business for anything Home Depot accepts. There will be a blue tent behind the small pellet shed to the left of the front door of the store. You can start putting in plastics that Home Depot accepts starting Jan. 1.

Our Community Resilience group will take the collected bags from Higgins, 140 Worcester Road, Barre, to Worcester Home Depot, 130 Goldstar Boulevard, Worcester. We do need volunteers to ensure that this project is a success. Thanks to those who have read this article and want to help or join us.

Our emailaddress is CommunityResilienceBarre@gmail.com.



© DAVE GRANLUND.COM

## In Past Pages

Note: 25 and 38 years are not available this week.

5 years (Jan. 7, 2021)

Hardwick Board of Selectmen member Julie Quink went over any updates to potential emergency medical services. Hardwick is looking for alternatives after Ware, which charged them \$77,000 for fiscal 2021, said it would probably increase the cost of the service to \$133,000 a year. Ware said that is the true cost of the service. Ware also receives over \$90,000 in health care insurance reimbursements for Hardwick patients. Dan McCall, President of the West Brookfield Rescue Squad provided the board with ambulance response times to various locations in Hardwick. He recorded these response times without the use of lights and sirens during normal driving conditions, so EMS response time would actually be shorter than his figures. McCall said they can be to Wheelwright in 11 minutes, Hardwick Common in 13 to 14 minutes, Greenwich Road/West Hardwick in about 20 minutes and Gilbertville in six to eight minutes.

Tom Scanlon, managing partner of Scanlon Associates, presented his audit review at the Dec. 14 Hubbardston Board of Selectmen’s meeting via Zoom. Scanlon said there were no significant adjustments. He said COVID-19 made the audit challenging and the staff was very cooperative. He said he gave the town a “clean” opinion, which is good. He said

## Look Back

Lotto at the Hot Lunch Program – 1983



File photo

Anthony “Tony” Thompson, otherwise known as “Mr. Bingo” calls numbers in a recent game of Lotto, the Italian form of Bingo played at the hot lunch program on Mechanic Street, in Barre.

the town’s net pension liability was \$1.6 million. The town was on a funding system with retirement and was reducing the amount. Scanlon said the town collected taxes in July and August at 12%; the year before it was at 14%. He said the town did not want to get below 10%. The decline was due to COVID. He said as long people can pay their taxes, the largest revenue source, the town will be okay. Scanlon said, “Town

administrator [Ryan McLane was] handling the financial end very well.”

The Hardwick Board of Selectmen was presented with a waiver of right of first refusal Chapter 61A for the Robinson property, known as lots 3A and 3B on North Road. Board of Selectmen Chairman Kenan Young said that all involved department have signed off

See PAST PAGES, page 5

## I’m on SS disability; should I switch to regular Social Security?

Dear Rusty:  
Should I take my Social Security now at age 62, or wait till I am 65?

I’ve been collecting SS disability due to health issues and was curious if I should wait or claim my regular Social Security retirement benefits now. Signed: Disabled but Wondering

Dear Disabled but Wondering:

If you are now collecting Social Security Disability Insurance benefits and you are still disabled, it would be a disadvantage to claim your SS retirement benefits at this time age 62 or even at age 65. That’s because your SSDI benefit is the same as your Full Retirement Age amount, as calculated for you at the point you became disabled. Born after 1959, your FRA is age 67, but you are already receiving your FRA benefit while on SS disability even



though you have not yet reached your full retirement age. That full SSDI benefit will automatically convert to become your SS retirement benefit when you reach your full retirement age.

If you were to claim your normal SS retirement benefit any earlier than your SS full retirement age of 67, the amount you get would be reduced for claiming early. At your current age, you would likely get between 75% and 80% of what you are now receiving on SSDI (depending on your exact age in the month you claim and at age 65 you would get about 87% of what you are now receiving on Social Security disability.

In other words, as long as your disability continues and you remain eligible for Social Security Disability

Insurance benefits, you should not switch to your normal SS retirement benefit, because you would get less money.

And the resulting benefit reduction would be permanent.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit [amac-foundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amac-foundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amac-foundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amac-foundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

## TEAM



EDITOR  
Ellenor Downer  
[edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com)



ADVERTISING SALES  
Dan Flynn  
[dflynn@turley.com](mailto:dflynn@turley.com)



SPORTS EDITOR  
Greg Scibelli  
[sports@turley.com](mailto:sports@turley.com)

The Barre Gazette (USPS 044560) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.



@ Barre Gazette  
WEB

[www.barregazette.turley.com](http://www.barregazette.turley.com)

PATRICK H. TURLEY  
CEO

KEITH TURLEY  
President



[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

## Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources. Send letters to: Barre Gazette, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 or via email to [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com). The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

## Our advertisers make this publication possible.

Let them know you saw their ad in the Barre Gazette

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BARRE, MA  
The Barre Gazette is a weekly newspaper published every Thursday by Barre Gazette, Inc., with offices located at 5 Exchange St., Barre, MA 01005 and at 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone at 978-355-4000 or FAX at 978-355-6274. USPS number is 044-560. Postmaster: Send address changes to: Barre Gazette, 24 Water St. Palmer, MA 01069 \$1.00 per copy Subscription rate: \$33 for one year, \$44 for two years Out of State: \$38 for one year, \$54 for two years

CHECK OUT ALL THE

**Turley** Publications

[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

## Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

I always date some lines in my checkbook at the end of the year with the new year so I don't forget.

Christmas was very pleasant, fun and profitable. They all spent too much money and the gift giving went on all afternoon. We all get a gift before we can open them and it takes some time.

The buffet was delicious and our son in law made plates up for us so we did not have to go to get them. We were the oldest couple there. During the Yankee swap, I got the number one which is the best number to get as you can swap with anyone. There was a mystery package and I ended up with it. The worth of the swaps was suppose to

be \$10. I opened the box and out rolled \$430. What a surprise. I am going to buy a new Dyson vacuum cleaner as my helper says mine was wearing out.

I spent the day after Christmas putting away the Christmas things. I left the snowmen, gingerbread and Noah's ark out. Yesterday I put away the nativity and put up different pictures. Today I will put away the Old Sturbridge Village.

The next holiday I like to celebrate is Valentine's day so out comes the Valentines to remind everyone of that day. As you may remember that is what my mother used to do to remind my father the day was coming.

I made a meat loaf with some venison that was given us. I put an egg, bread crumbs, chopped onions and mix it well with my fingers and then smother it with ketchup and bake it in a 350 degree oven for one hour with some baking potatoes. Sometimes I put in whole onions to bake also. I serve the baked potatoes with butter and sour cream.

I do not eat the baked potatoes skins, but my friend Buddy loved them.

We had to be plowed out again Saturday but the fluffy snow was pretty. Jeff and Mike do a good job. I am lucky to have both of them.

Hope you all have a wonderful new year.

## MassDEP issues \$62,000 fine for environmental cleanup violations

**B O S T O N** — Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection assessed a \$62,000 penalty to Charles R. Day and Scott C. Day, \$31,000 each, for violating state environmental cleanup regulations at a property they own at 116 Main St. in Barre.

MassDEP issued several notices to Charles and Scott Day, alerting each individual to the regulatory requirements for the cleanup of contamination. The owners repeatedly failed to assess soil and groundwater contamination from the proper-

ty's prior use as a gas station. Charles and Scott Day further violated state regulations by failing to hire a Licensed Site Professional to oversee the cleanup of the property and by not submitting the required report detailing the site's contamination and the risks to people and the environment.

"When you own a property where oil or hazardous materials have been released, you must engage a technical expert, a Licensed Site Professional, to properly evaluate the site, develop an appropriate cleanup

plan and ensure that the site is safe and compliant," said Mary Jude Pigsley, director of MassDEP's Central Regional Office in Worcester. "Ignoring our notices and regulatory requirements may result in further enforcement actions and penalties against these owners as their property remains an unassessed environmental risk." In addition to the total \$62,000 penalty, MassDEP has ordered Charles and Scott Day to hire a Licensed Site Professional and submit the required documents.

### HUBBARDSTON from page 1

date, Patricia Lowe, showing interest, according to the board. At that meeting, Lowe was appointed as the temporary town administrator, according to a press release from the town.

She will work until Dec. 29 as of the release of the press release.

In addition, the outline for a town administrator search committee was finalized, which will include two town employees, a planning board member, a finance committee member and three residents. Any applications for the search committee are due by Jan. 13, according to the board. A description of the responsibilities of the committee are also available on the town website, and includes reviewing applications and sending finalists to the Select Board for review.

#### Tax bill update

The board also gave an

update on town taxes, stating that the tax rate is to increase marginally. The reason for the increase is that in 2017, the town did not properly disclose the purchase of a \$250,000 fire truck as a debt exclusion with the state, which would have raised the tax rate at that time. The tax rate was not increased because of the documentation error, and that money has been coming from the town's own money reserves.

The error was recently caught, according to the board, and the rate will increase until the fire truck is completely paid off, they said.

#### New staffing

The board also saw a need for some help in closing the financial books on the 2025 fiscal year, and certifying free cash.

They looked for firms to help them with this, including Eric Kinshurf and Aponte and Aponte, but their rates

were too high. The board considered hiring Marcia Bohinc, a retired treasurer to assist with certifying and cleaning up records.

According to the Dec. 29 press release, she has been officially hired.

In addition, Mary Leroux has been hired as a temporary town accountant, effective from Jan. 1 until Feb. 28, according to the press release.

An executive assistant position to assist in data entry and bill entry was also brought up by the board. They said this person would be the main person for town staff to go to for finance related questions.

In addition, there are three applicants for assistant treasurer to be evaluated, according to the board.

Katrina McCreary was appointed as the cable advisory committee.

### BARRE from page 1

and had reached out to them looking for approval, but said they are yet to hear back from them as to whether it is approved or not.

Floyd Kelley, who is

the Vice-Chair of the commission, told the Insight Meditation Society representatives that they do not want to approve any plans until they are certain they satisfy the DEP requirements. The DEP will send a confirma-

tion letter when that happens, according to the committee.

The representatives said they wanted regular updates from the Conservation Committee about their talks with the DEP.

### PAST PAGES from page 4

on this. Board of Selectmen member Julie Quink made a motion to waive their right of first refusal for the North Road property. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

#### 10 years (Jan. 7, 2016)

UMass Dartmouth announces the students named to the 2015 spring dean's list in recognition of earning a semester grade point average of 3.2 or higher of a possible 4.0. They include: Seth Giard and Emily Hildick, both of North Brookfield and Marina Kowaleski and Derek Juozaitis, both of Rutland.

This fall more than 1,300 undergraduate students from around the

world began their first year at Tufts University, located in Medford/Somerville. Locally, they include Meghan Lauze of Rutland.

The North Brookfield High School has scrapped its existing internship in favor of one it believes will give the seniors more workplace experience and meaningful learning opportunities in the

last quarter of the school year. Abigail Rigney, the school's senior class advisor, mentor coordinator and health teacher, said instead of trying to squeeze in a few hours here or there, it will offer a full fourth-quarter internship out of the building at participating companies and organizations.

## Testing and taking inventory of seed is a good practice to start the new gardening season off right

I don't know about you, but I have been caught up in spirit of the holidays. It's been fun to indulge in family time and try and get caught up on much-needed rest.

I have given myself this last week of the year to continue to take it easy before I hit the "to do" list.

One of the big things I have been procrastinating on at work is taking inventory of all the seeds I have left from the last couple of years. The box holds a hundred or so different varieties of seeds, mostly heirloom, open-pollinated types.

There is something refreshing about accomplishing this task soon into the new year; a seasonal habit I've had for the last four decades give or take. To me, it means spring is not far behind.

I begin by organizing the seeds first by category: vegetable, flower or herb, then alphabetically. After those piles have been made, I go back and decide which packets are no good or no longer of use.

No matter how well they are stored, some seeds won't germinate well past the year in which they are sold for. Based on my experience these include hybrid onions and parsnips. Carrots can be iffy.

In the herb category dill, caraway, parsley, angelica and chives come to mind. Year old garden heliotrope, feverfew and bellflowers can be stubborn germinators as far as flowers go.

As a general rule I keep seed that is less than three years old, unless the variety in question is rare. Even spotty germination is better than nothing when it comes to seed that is hard to find.

You can save yourself



disappointment at planting time by performing a simple germination test on questionable seed.

Place a few seeds in a moist paper towel. Roll it up and seal it in a plastic bag in a warm location.

Instructions in the seed catalog or on the packet should tell you how long it takes for germination to occur, as well as inform you of the initial germination percentage. Once the necessary amount of time has elapsed unroll the paper towel and determine how viable your seeds are by observing the sprouting that has occurred.

Based on the results you may decide to sow the seed more thickly or just start over with a fresh batch.

Last year I did my own version of a germination test by sowing few seeds of questionable varieties in pots, and placing them on a shelf near my wood stove. I learned which seeds were worth the effort of sowing in the garden and which I needed to discard and order new.

Although viability decreases as seeds age, proper storage can insure that you will get at least three years worth of sprouting out of many of your favorites. It is important to fold over used seed packets and seal them with tape after use, and if you are just getting to it now, it's better late than never. Put them in a location that is cool and dry.

Since temperatures around 37-41 degrees are ideal, many people assume

that storage in the refrigerator is preferred. It is, as long as the seeds are first placed in an airtight container along with a desiccant to absorb moisture.

Desiccants such as silica gel are available in the floral section of craft shops, or you can reuse the pouches of silica that come in vitamin bottles or shoe boxes.

If you'd rather not take up space in your fridge, storing the container of seeds in a cabinet in a dry part of the house will also work.

Whatever you do, don't put them in a hot attic or damp basement! It is also not a good idea to purchase seeds from stores that have their seed displays in greenhouses. Temperature and moisture extremes can affect viability even if the seeds are brand new!

Some seed companies sell their seed in foil-lined packets. These are very good at keeping them fresh for the longest amount of time — especially if they are unopened.

Now that you have inventoried your seeds, it will be a whole lot of fun to order exactly what you need. That's what I will be doing after one more family game night and that last Christmas movie!

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*

# TRUSTED

## NEWS & INFORMATION

■ ■ ■ When You Need It Most ■ ■ ■



In times of uncertainty, rest assured that as your community newspaper, we are working hard with a local, regional and national network of official resources to keep you informed and up to date on the issues and developments that matter most to you.



Accurate. Reliable. Unbiased. Local.

Subscribe Today at  
413.283.8393 or [turleynewspapers.com](http://turleynewspapers.com)

to stay informed and help protect the future of local reporting.



Let your community know if you are still open and what services you are still providing.  
CALL TODAY TO ADVERTISE! Specials Available!!

# BARRE GAZETTE

It Matters Now More Than Ever. In Print. Online. Local.  
413.283.8393 | [barregazette.turley.com](http://barregazette.turley.com)

*Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?*

**We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.**

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661.**

# Hardwick Year in Review 2025



Historian Susan Gainley talked about the letters that were written by members of the Paige family dating back to the 1850s. These letters were read during a play, "Sorrow Visits the Paige Family", performed at the Paige Memorial Library.



Friends of the Stone Church President Judy Edington welcomed attendees to the Valentine Celebration fundraising event hosted by the Friends of the Stone Church at Hardwick Crossing Country Club last February.

## HARDWICK YIR from page 1

water can also be a source of disease when it is contaminated.

Landrigan gave the history of water-borne disease, including the 1800s cholera epidemic that wiped out nearly 5% of the population, or about 400,000 people.

"That's the kinds of power that water-borne infections can have," he said.

Now, people have to worry about toxic chemicals making it into their drinking water, which can cause disease, disability and death.

Landrigan said older chemicals that can contaminate water include lead, and the newer chemicals include pesticides, herbicides, nitrogen and PFAS (per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances).

"PFAS have numerous adverse health effects,"

Landrigan said. "It became critically important to keep chemicals out of drinking water...and to protect both surface water and groundwater. Surface chemicals can eventually reach groundwater so it's important to respect the protected zones."

Landrigan said if groundwater becomes contaminated by chemicals, it will have a negative impact that will last generations.

"Once groundwater gets contaminated...the contamination is going to last for decades," he said.

Michael Hugo, Director of Strategies and Government Relations for the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards offered his guidance to the Board of Health in protecting the Muddy Brook aquifer and watershed.

"You have a water source

that needs to be protected," he said.

Physicians Advisory Panel member Neil Halin said it is important for the board to be proactive in taking steps to protect the Muddy Brook area. Romano agreed that it is a "tremendous" resource for both Hardwick and Ware.

Resident Judy Kohn said it would be good for the Board of Health to take samplings of water from private wells

as well as soil testing to have a baseline for contamination in the area around Hardwick Pond.

"We don't know the magnitude of the problem already," she said.

Later in October, the Select Board heard a presentation from Romano regarding the groundwater and

See HARDWICK YIR, page 7



Sue Musnicki showed students where to place American flags in the field of flags in front of Hardwick Elementary School.



The firing detail gave the salute at the World War II memorial in Wheelwright during Hardwick's Memorial Day observances.

Brought to you by Turley Publications

## Join the trend with these New Year resolutions

With the new year around the corner, many people are setting goals for 2026. After months of rising prices on everything from milk to mortgages, money-related resolutions are prominent.

One out of four Americans (27%) plan to make 2026 the year of their financial comeback, according to 2025 research from Edward Jones and Morning Consult. Others will continue with previous goals (21%), start from scratch (20%) or catch up on missed goals (14%).

Here are their top three financial goals and what to consider if you make one or more of these yours.

**Boost your income:** Get creative with your time and interests. Consider side hustles such as delivery driving, pet sitting or tutoring. Perhaps you can sell things online that you no longer need. And if you traditionally get a refund on your tax return, consider adjusting your withholdings so less is taken from your paychecks.

**To indirectly increase your income, cut your expenses.** Every dollar saved effectively increases the "income" side of your budget. The biggest categories Americans plan to cut are restaurants and subscriptions.

**Build up savings:** Whether you're planning for a vacation or creating an emergency fund, having accessible cash means you're less likely to rely on credit cards. And credit cards can incur interest charges if you don't pay the full amount due every month.

**To save for something specific, calculate how much you'll need and by when.** Then break it down into monthly targets to help make your goal tangible and achievable.

**For an emergency fund, build toward three to six months of living expenses.** And remember: an emergency fund is for true emergencies – think medical bills, major auto or furnace repairs, not a TV on sale.

**Pay off debt:** Every payment brings you closer to a life of financial freedom. Start by listing all your debts and their interest rates. Then choose one of these payoff strategies.

**The Avalanche Method:** You'll pay off the debt with the highest interest rate first. With that paid, you'll move on to the next highest. This reduces the amount of interest you pay over time, which generally means a lower total cost and often a shorter payoff period.

**The Snowball Method:** You'll pay off the card with the lowest balance first, then move to the next smallest balance. This may offer quicker gratification as the number of creditors can dwindle faster.

**The Consolidation Method:** You may be able to bundle and refinance high interest credit card debts to a 0% bank card for 12 months or longer.

With any of these methods, don't ignore your other debts. You'll still need to pay the minimum balances due on mortgages, auto loans and other credit cards to keep interest rates and late payment fees from accruing and your credit score from dropping.

Ready to join the trend? Across the country, millions of people are committing to improving their financial situation, and ultimately their financial future. By joining this trend, you're not just setting goals—you're shaping a life of freedom and possibility.



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

## Farber & Lindley ATTORNEYS AT LAW

56 Common Street, Barre  
978-257-8389



Personal Injury  
Automobile Accident  
Slip and Fall

www.farberandlindley.com

## The Varney Family of Companies

12 Nichewaug Road, Barre, MA 01005

### Waterwheel Realty

978-355-4438

Call Abby Montalto 508-579-9897

Or

Paul Varney, Jr. 978-771-3492

Professional Real Estate Services Since 1978



**Before You List Please Call Us On Our Special Low Commission Rates!**

Before you buy or rent to own, visit...

### Waterwheel Village

A Unique 55 & Better Mobile Home Community  
978-355-3454



### Well Domes

Protect Water Wells  
Strong Security Against the Unexpected  
978-355-3454



We're always looking for good sales people and contractors

# SMART MONEY



## Edward Jones®

Retiring Soon?  
Give us a call.



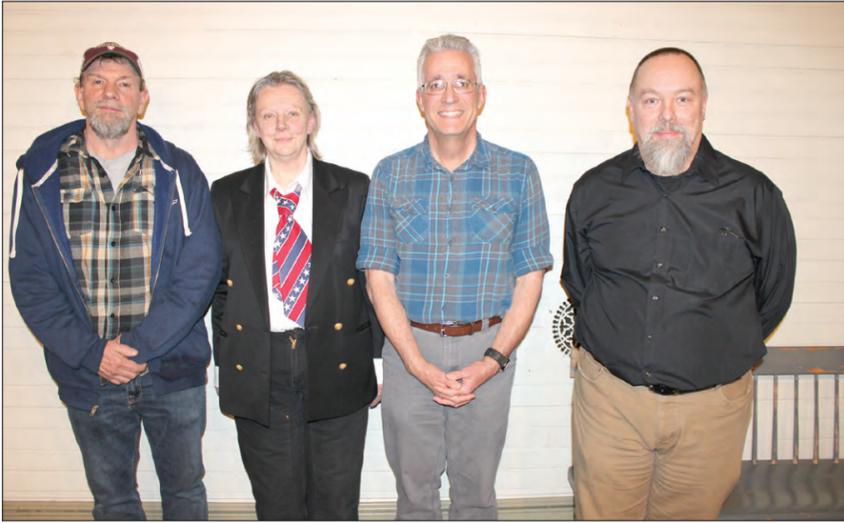
David J. Mason, CFP®, ChFC®  
Financial Advisor

164 Market Drive  
Athol, MA 01331  
978-780-0002

Member SPIC

> edwardjones.com

# Hardwick Year in Review 2025



Shown from left are John Samek, candidate for re-election to the Planning Board; Elizabeth Cyran, candidate for the Planning Board and Select Board; Jeffrey Schaaf, candidate for Select Board and Jeffery Smith, candidate for Select Board.

## HARDWICK YIR from page 6

Hardwick landfill. Romano reviewed the 2025 post closure landfill environmental monitoring report for the landfill.

"We have a groundwater contamination problem," Romano said.

At this time, Romano said, "it's about what do we do from here...The status of things right now is not good. We want to safeguard this resource the best we can."

### New Police Chief

Kevin Landine was welcomed as the town's newest Police Chief following the retirement of James Ayotte.

Landine joined the New Braintree Police Department after finishing the academy and now, he is the third full-time police chief of the combined Hardwick-New Braintree Police Department.

"I started as a 19 year old kid who thought I knew everything about law enforcement and was quickly humbled," he said at his pinning in September.

Landine thanked both Select Boards for appointing him, and the number of residents who wrote letters of support for his promotion.

He also thanked the members of his department and said he couldn't run the department without each of them.

A retirement party was

held in October at Hardwick Crossing Country Club to honor Ayotte, who served as the police chief for the towns of Hardwick and New Braintree for over 15 years.

At the time of his retirement, Ayotte had been involved in law enforcement for over 25 years and served on the Spencer Fire Department for over 10 years. Altogether, Ayotte has committed over 40 years of public service in his respected career.

Ayotte said the department is in good hands under the leadership of Landine.

Landine said Ayotte taught him respect and empathy towards people and is dedicated to continue to support the communities as police chief and continue running the police department, which he described as the "footprint of our town."

Executive Director of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association Mike Bradley attended Ayotte's retirement party and presented a watch to Ayotte during speeches. During Landine's speech, he talked about how Ayotte contributed to the police department and to the communities.

"He helped move the department forward," Landine said.

### Paige building

The Select Board met at the end of February and had

a discussion and vote on a request for proposal for the Calvin Paige building.

The town was requesting proposals for the acquisition, renovation and redevelopment of a town owned historic building. The Calvin Paige building was built back in the 1930s and is located within the socially, culturally and economically emerging Hardwick Center.

The Select Board has listed the redevelopment options for the Calvin Paige building as well as uses. The preferred uses include historical, office space, studio space and community use.

At its Dec. 22 meeting, the board signed a deed on the Paige building, which will give ownership back to the Mixer Family. Select Board Chair Eric Vollheim said the Friends of the Paige Building are working together with the Hardwick Community Fair regarding the building.

### PILOT policy

In January, the Select Board had a joint meeting with the Finance Committee to have a workshop on the payment in lieu of taxes policy. This policy involves payments requested by a city or municipality from a nonprofit organization that owns tax-exempt property within city or municipal limits.

Members of the Finance Committee and the Select Board joined together to



The Department of Fish and Game Office of Fishing & Boating Access and Department of Conservation and Recreation celebrated the new boat ramp at the DCR's Quabbin Reservoir Fishing Area #3 this past April. Left to right stands state Sen. Peter Durant, state Rep. Todd Smola, John Scannell, Quabbin Fishermen's Association President Clayton Sydla, MWRA Director Fred Laskey, DFG Commissioner Tom O'Shea, and OFBA Acting Director Terry Smith during the ribbon cutting.



Veterans, fire, EMS and police personnel and town officials marched toward the World War II memorial on Memorial Day.

research and identify the best conclusions to better understand the policy and how they should approach and negotiate with nonprofits in town and how they benefit the community.

There is a total of 33.43% of land in Hardwick that is owned by nonprofits.

In February, the Select Board voted to adopt the PILOT policy.

As part of the policy there will be a bi-annual review of the PILOT policy to see what the contributions are from each nonprofit.

According to the policy the board is considering to adopt is that each nonprofit in Hardwick will be looked at individually. Prior to reading the board agreed that all property owners should give a fair share of services.

The policy reminds the town of the critical role nonprofits play in partnerships, collaborative relationships, and finding way that benefits both the nonprofit and the town. Select Board member William Tinker said he believes it is essential to have a PILOT policy in place for better structure and see-



Recently retired Hardwick-New Braintree Police Chief James "Jim" Ayotte held an official citation from the Senate he received during

ing annual fees to reduce the financial burden on the town's taxpayers.

"This policy is designed to ensure that nonprofits contribute their fair share to the services they rely on, ultimately reducing the financial burden on taxpayers," Tinker said. "Our duty is to act in the best interest of the citizens of Hardwick, ensuring that taxpayer dollars are used responsibly and equitably. The pressure from nonprofit entities should not outweigh our obligation to the residents who fund and rely on town services."

Contributions will be different for each nonprofit as they will be reviewed individually.

### Time capsule

A small box sat on a shelf in the town safe for 50 years, waiting to be opened the first week of June as instructed by the sixth grades students attending the Myron Richardson School (now the Municipal Building) in 1975.

As per the students' instructions, the Select Board chair had the honor of opening the tightly sealed box. Members of that class and more recent Hardwick Elementary School students waited in anticipation to open the time capsule after the

Annual Town Meeting.

Vollheim handed each item to the school principal at the time Charles LeMaitre, who came for the event.

Former principal LeMaitre gave the background on many of the items. His daughter Michele included some of her embroidery work. Russell Prouty included some of his math work in the capsule.

On a non-school related theme, Rodney Witkos placed a collection of bottle caps secured to a piece of cardboard.

There was a cassette tape and a 45 rpm record by Stevie Wonder. Some wondered if Margaret Reidy was the student, who included one or both of those items. A French horn player, she became a school music teacher and presently directs the Quabbin Community Band.

Back in 1975, several members of the class attended a Selectmen's meeting to get permission to make a time capsule, store it in the town safe and request it be opened 50 years later the first week in June 2025.

Other items in the time capsule included a GI Marine doll, a Barbie doll, a smiley



Julie Bullock, president of the Ware Historical Society, is shown with Hardwick Historical Society President Randy Noble and Ron Newton. Noble and Newton delivered a sleigh and buckboard carriage made by the Ware-based Charles S. Parker Co. to the Ware Center Meeting House and Museum to be added to the society's collection.



Hardwick Community Fair President Fay Butler held the microphone while Billy Ward Sr. talked about the fair. Last year's fair was dedicated to Ward.



Patrick, left, and Gerard rode together during the East Quabbin Land Trust's Hills of East Quabbin Ride.

# Calendar of Events

## WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14

**BARRE FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION** is today from 10-11:30 a.m. and Thursday, Jan. 15 from 5:30-7 p.m. Clients are invited to pick up groceries from the food pantry either in the morning on Wednesday, Jan. 14 or in the evening on Thursday, Jan. 15, whichever is the more convenient for them. The Barre Food Pantry volunteers strive to continue to fulfill their mission to get food to hungry and food insecure clients. The pantry must also continue to protect clients, volunteers and the larger community from the renewed spread of COVID-19 and other viruses. Many clients and volunteers are classified as high-risk due to their age and/or underlying health conditions. The Barre Food Pantry Board of Directors considered changing how the pantry currently operates, but with the continued prevalence of ultra-contagious variants of the virus the Board decided that the most responsible path forward is to continue to operate as we have since March of 2020. In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients Jan. 14 and Jan. 15 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church. They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers at multiple stations.

## SATURDAY, JAN. 17

**PETERSHAM HISTORY FORUM** will take place today at 4 p.m. at the Petersham



Turley Publications photo by Ellenor Downer

**Where is this?**  
This week's mystery photo is from Barre. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, Jan. 5. Claire Bechan-Norberg, Bill Bowles, Paul Carlson, Peggy Civilik, Dan Elliot, James Laramee, Carolyn Semon, Gretta Scully and Laurie Sheridan correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was a Christmas tree on Rutland Common, Main Street, Rutland.

Country Store, Main Street, Route 32, Petersham. In an effort to collect stories of people, who lived the history of the Hilltop Village, local historian and environmentalist, Larry Buell is inviting residents of Petersham and beyond to come to the Petersham Country Store. This information is for vol-

ume II of the Petersham History, the last 100 years. The stories will focus on events like the Petersham Agricultural Fair, Band Concerts and natural disasters. The program is free and open to all. For information, people may call Larry Buell at 978-724-0412 or email LarryBuell2143@gmail.com.

## SATURDAY, JAN. 31

**THEATRE AT MOUNT AUDITIONS** for "Willy Wonka Jr." will take place today by appointment at the Theatre at the Mount, 444 Green St., Gardner. Roles are available for children and teens. All experience levels are welcome. For more information and to schedule an audition, people may email box-office@mwcc.mass.edu or call 978-630-9388.

Vocal auditioners will be asked to sing a short vocal selection, which will be taught at the audition. All auditioners including chorus will participate in a dance audition. The combination will be taught at the audition. They should wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Some performers may be asked to do cold readings from the script. Rehearsals begin in early February with performances scheduled for April.

## Calendar Policy

**POLICY:** Our calendar section is intended to promote "free" events or ones that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization that benefits the community. Paid events that are not deemed fund-raisers or benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public to enter are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items in the mail, by fax, or emailed in Word document format is Monday at noon or sooner. We usually print one week in advance of an event, and the listings should be brief, with only time, date, location, brief activity explanation and contact information.

## HARDWICK YIR from page 7

face, a blank unsigned check from the Ware Trust Co., a list of first aid facts, a crochet pattern, a letter from Principal LeMaitre dated June 9, 1975, a study guide on American history, a motorcycle license, several newspapers including a June 1, 1975 copy of the Ware River News, a J.C. Whitney catalog, drawings by Richard Perry and Krystal Minor, car keys, a drawing from a classmate and much more.

### Residents' accomplishments

Hardwick resident and Quabbin Regional High School senior Ellie Frost and her team of volunteers helped to save dozens of lives on Feb. 27, when they organized an all-day blood drive in the school's gymnasium, in partnership with Rhode Island Blood Center.

This blood drive was Frost's community service project as a member of the school's National Honor Society.

"I really liked the idea of a blood drive," Frost said. "I don't think we've done one in about 11 years."

Once she settled on the idea of hosting a blood drive, Frost reached out to several blood donation centers and quickly heard back from the Rhode Island Blood Center, which was eager to be involved.

By 2:30 p.m. on the day of the blood drive, Rhode Island Blood Center had collected 52 pints of blood from students, school staff and members of the community. Frost said they had 89 people sign up in advance, which was just one person shy of the 90 person maximum for the day, not including walk-ins.

Frost said she also had 18 students sign up to volunteer during the blood drive; with each one earning community service hours.

After graduation, Frost plans to attend college in New York and study art history and anthropology.

Resident and author Lisa Janice "LJ" Cohen released

her ninth novel, the first in a trilogy called "Litany for a Broken World".

Cohen began writing science fiction novels about 20 years ago, having previously worked as a physical therapist for 25 years.

Cohen said she was inspired to write "Litany for a Broken World" after hearing a story about a tent city in Boston on NPR. She decided to set her novel in the world of the unhoused.

"I thought it would be important enough to do that," she said. "As a physical therapist you worked with unhoused patients."

Cohen held a book reading and signing at the Stone Church Cultural Center on March 16, welcoming questions from the audience and sharing her creative process.

Cohen read several pages of the first chapter of the novel, which introduced the character Jace, "a lone man wandering the streets of a small, post-industrial, pre-spacefaring city." Readers learn that this city is Boston, as Jace comes

upon a sign for the Boston Public Library, where he goes to seek warmth and information.

"The library was my refuge. My best place," Cohen said.

Raised by a couple of avid readers, Cohen began fully reading books by kindergarten and recalled that Meg from "A Wrinkle in Time" was a character she was very drawn to.

Cohen described the character of Meg as her friend, but added that her own characters that she has created tend to fight her all of the time. She said she "eavesdrops" on her characters having interactions to capture their authentic identity.

Cohen noted that her characters are not heroes, but rather people, with flaws like anyone else. This novel has even included the addition of an animal character.

Poplar the dog, showed up in "Litany for a Broken World" rather unexpectedly, and was not part of the original story.

"She's my favorite character," Cohen said. "I've had a lot of dogs in my life."

Cohen credited her team

with giving her the support she needs to bring her stories to life, as well as her husband, Neil, who always reads her first drafts.

"It's important to have a good team," she said.

Cohen said she originally intended "Litany for a Broken World" to be a standalone novel, but now it is the first in a trilogy with the second book, "Every Sky a Stranger" due out next February, followed by the third book, "Compass for the Lost".

"This was a hard book," Cohen said. "It took a lot out of me...I'm also really glad I wrote it."

### Rural healthcare challenges

Judi Korzec provided the Select Board with an update from the Health Care Task Force regarding its efforts to create a rural healthcare model and bring services to the town.

Korzec spoke against Ware Selectboard's support of Baystate Health remaining as the beneficiary of the Lewis Gilbert Trust, and said that a Convenient Care location in Ware will not benefit the residents of Hardwick.

Korzec said there has not been a good working relationship between the two towns, and that each town has very different needs.

"The Gilbert Trust is ours and we have been completely blocked from all of these discussions," she said. "This trust needs to support our community too. Mr. Gilbert left this to us and you...this trust is for both of us."

Korzec said the town will need seed money to start its rural healthcare model, which could include a small urgent care, a floating pharmacy, eye care, mammography and more. This seed money could come from the trust if a new trustee and beneficiary was chosen.

"We are a healthcare desert," Korzec said.

The rural healthcare model would provide "something unique, rural, different," she said.

Korzec requested that the Ware Selectboard include representatives from Hardwick on the board of the trust, and to be included in meetings with Baystate Health.

"So we're building a model that works for both of us," she said.

# health & wellness NETWORK

## AN ANNUAL SOURCE OF Local Health Professionals

TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN 12 TURLEY NEWSPAPERS

AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS • BARRE GAZETTE • THE CHICOPEE REGISTER  
COUNTRY JOURNAL • THE HOLYOKE SUN • THE JOURNAL REGISTER  
THE REGISTER • QUABOG CURRENT • SENTINEL • TOWN REMINDER  
WARE RIVER NEWS • THE WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES

CONTACT: DAN FLYNN  
413-297-5886  
DFLYNN@TURLEY.COM

DEADLINE  
January 28, 2026

PUBLICATION DATE  
February 18, 2026



A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO  
Turley Publications, Inc.  
WWW.TURLEY.COM

## HARDWICK from page 1

did not have an update to share, other than the earliest the re-bidding could start is in January. The resident also said that she believes the board is endangering the grant from the Pioneer Valley Venture Center, and said she wishes the board would adhere to their rules and timelines. Caggiano said she applied for the grant, and knows the deadline is Aug. 1, 2026.

Resident Jeff Smith said that he thinks that every other board that meets should be recorded so more residents can participate in the meetings.

Resident Liz Cyran said that she requested a copy of the bids of the Town House from Caggiano two weeks ago, and had not received them. Caggiano said she would send those over.

Cyran also suggested separating the Town House project so various bidders and contractors can bid on individual parts of the building such as the gutters, windows

and carpentry. She said doing it that way could potentially be cheaper for the town.

Cyran also asked about the request for proposal on the Center School. She said the building is deteriorating and becoming more expensive to fix. Select Board Vice-Chair William Tinker said that town counsel is looking over the title, and when they have an answer they will pass it on to the public.

### Conservation restriction

Resident Bill Zinni requested a conservation restriction on his property at 1232 Turkey St. He said this would result in no more development being done along Hardwick Pond, which sits on the property. He said he would be willing to open the area to the public, as a restriction stipulates, but he wants control over it, rather than wide open public access.

Vollheim said that not having sewer lines and development around the pond is very important for the Muddy Brook aquifer, and the board approved the

request for that restriction. The East Quabbin Land Trust will control that land.

### Paige building deed

The board signed a deed on the Paige building, which will give ownership back to the Mixter Family. Vollheim said the Friends of the Paige Building are working together with the Hardwick Community Fair regarding the building.

### License renewals

Several garages and car maintenance businesses in Hardwick were inspected and received their Class II or Class III permits. A Class II permit allows garages to repair cars, while a Class III permit allows them to have a junkyard, according to Vollheim.

### Town Administrator's report

Caggiano said there is a contract with West Brookfield Rescue Squads, which says they will cover Hardwick, as well as service AEDs.

She also said they are working to improve the town website (www.hardwick-ma.gov).

# SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

## Panthers suffer loss to Hudson



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
**Brady Patchen makes a pass.**

BARRE – On Friday, Dec. 19, Quabbin Regional High School boys basketball was defeated at home against Hudson High School 62-45. The loss made it 0-3 on the season for the Panthers. Quabbin would follow that with a defeat against Maynard High School on Tuesday, Dec. 23. Quabbin was scheduled to participate in the Gardner Holiday Tournament last weekend, with a matchup against South Lancaster to open the event. Coming up, the Panthers will host Oxford High School on Friday, Jan. 2 at 2 p.m.



**Aiden Crane winds up to make a bounce pass.**



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
**Hannah Mellor fights to keep the ball.**

## Pioneers fall to 0-2 with loss

SPRINGFIELD – On Thursday, Dec. 18, Pathfinder girls basketball was defeated at Bay State Academy Charter 43-17. Pathfinder's offense strug-

gled in the defeat, though Addison Doktor managed double digits for the Pioneers with 11 points. Pathfinder will next travel to Duggan on Jan. 2 at 7 p.m.



**Jake Doty fights to get to the hoop.**



**Evan Sherblom receives a pass.**



**Isaac Patchen starts a run up the court.**



**Taylor Allen surveys the offensive end.**



**Ciara Green comes up with the rebound.**

## Panthers grab win in opening game of holiday tournament

By Tim Peterson  
*Sports Correspondent*

GARDNER— While senior point guard Mia Ducos and junior forward Abigail Rogowski are returning starters for the Quabbin Regional girls' basketball, junior guard Makenzie Casey is one of the Lady Panthers newcomers.

Casey, who's an outstanding field hockey player, scored a game-high 18 points as the Lady Panthers coasted to a 40-13 victory over the South Lancaster Academy Crusaders in the semifinals of the Gardner Holiday Tournament on Dec. 27.

"Makenzie Casey hasn't played basketball since she was in the sixth grade," said Quabbin head coach Evan Barringer. "She's one of the best field hockey players in our school and she was our leading scorer in tonight's game. She gave us huge spark, and her confidence is growing in every game."

Barringer was thrilled when Casey informed him that she was going to be playing basketball.

"She's a very talented

athlete and I figured that she would be a very good basketball player by the second half of the season, but she's way ahead of schedule," Barringer added. "She's going to help us win some games this season."

The Lady Panthers (1-4) won their first game of the season against the Crusaders. They began the regular season with a non-league overtime loss at Leicester High School before losing against Mid-Wach C rivals Lunenburg, Hudson, and Maynard.

"We really needed to win a game," Barringer said. "We began the regular season with a heartbreaking overtime loss against Leicester. Then we faced three very good league opponents. We made sure that we got off to a good start in this game, which was very important. We also played very well defensively. This group of players are very coachable."

The Lady Panthers were scheduled to face the Gardner Wildcats in the tournament finals two days later. It was a rematch of last year's championship game,

which the Wildcats won 54-40.

Ducos scored eight of her 10 points in this year's semifinal game during the first 16 minutes.

She's the only senior listed on the Lady Panthers varsity roster.

The duo of Ducos, who's planning to play college basketball, and Casey combined to score 17 of the Lady Panthers 24 first half points.

Rogowski, who also plays field hockey and softball, finished with six points, but she had several steals.

Rounding out the scoring column for Quabbin were seventh grader Ayla Clark (4 points) and eighth grader Raegyn Wnek (2 points).

Casey got things rolling by hitting a jumper and making a free throw before Ducos knocked down a 3-pointer giving the Lady Panthers a 6-0 lead a little more than three minutes into the opening quarter.

Quabbin, who entered the second quarter holding a 11-4 lead, built a 20-point lead (24-4) after scoring 13

**See PANTHERS, page 10**



## Tough start continues for Brownies

AMHERST – On Monday, Dec. 22, Agawam High School ice hockey continued to have a tough time defending goals against the opposition in a 5-1 loss against host Amherst Regional at Orr Rink. Amherst, which co-ops with Pathfinder Tech, got off to a slower start, but exploded for four goals in the third period to secure the win. Graham Arguin had two goals, Ethan Mooney and Joshau Feldman had a single goal each. Anthony Barbarini had Agawam's lone goal. Amherst is now 2-2-1 while Agawam fell to 0-5.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
**Silas Villegas makes a backhand pass.**



**Joshua Feldman goes for the puck during a faceoff.**



**Goalie Jason Kim tries to control the puck.**



**Nathan Desbrien tries to emerge from a crowd with the puck.**



**Sawyer Arguin looks to guide the puck to a teammate.**

## Candidates for 2026 HoopHall announced

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the list of eligible candidates for the Class of 2026, featuring several high-profile first-time nominees.

Notable new candidates for the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2026 include the 1996 USA Basketball Women's National Team, Mike D'Antoni,

Jamal Crawford, Elena Delle Donne, Blake Griffin, Joe Johnson, Candace Parker, Bruce Pearl, and Kelvin Sampson. Marv Albert, Mark Few, Doc Rivers, and Amar'e Stoudemire are among returning eligible candidates.

"The candidates for the Class of 2026 have each left an indelible impact on the game of basketball," said John L. Doleva, President

and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. "Through defining performances, influential leadership, and achievements that helped elevate the sport on the national and international stage, this year's ballot recognizes those whose legacy continues to shape how the game is played, coached, and

**See HOOP HALL, page 10**

# Sports

## Thunderbirds get big comeback for win over Bridgeport

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (10-12-4-2) overcame a two-goal deficit with less than eight minutes remaining en route to a stunning 4-3 overtime win over the Bridgeport Islanders (11-14-2-1) on Sunday afternoon inside the Mass Mutual Center.

In desperate need of a pick-me-up, the Springfield power play drew first blood just seven seconds into their first opportunity, as Samuel Johannesson whistled a one-timer over Henrik Tikkanen's blocker arm at 6:33 of the first. Johannesson's second goal of the season, set up by Alek Kaskimaki, was just Springfield's second power-play goal in its last 26 man advantages.

After a relatively quiet opening half of the period, T-Birds netminder Georgi Romanov was far busier in the closing six minutes of the frame, denying all 11 shots that came his way in the first 20 minutes.

Bridgeport's rugged pressure paid dividends at 4:30 of the second as Joey Larson chopped a net front

shot past Romanov, tying the game at 1 apiece on Larson's fifth goal in six games against Springfield.

In a period that saw the Isles outshoot Springfield



15-3, the visitors vaulted to the lead at 15:35 as Cam Thiesing intercepted a pass deep in the T-Birds end and whistled a wrister over Romanov's blocker to send the game to the intermission with Bridgeport in front, 2-1.

Sean Day further buoyed the Islanders' lead at 3:57 of the third, as he picked up a loose puck in the slot off a Thiesing faceoff win and snapped a forehander through Romanov's stick side, ballooning the Bridgeport lead to 3-1.

With the T-Birds in dire need of a jolt, the power play provided just that at

13:03 as Marc-Andre Gaudet gathered a puck inside the right-wing circle and wired home his first AHL goal under the crossbar behind Tikkanen, making it a one-goal game with 6:57 remaining.

With Romanov on the bench for an extra skater, the T-Birds got payback on the Islanders, who tied a game last month under similar circumstances. Luff cradled the puck along the right-wing circle and funneled a pass across the crease, where Dillon Dube steered it behind Tikkanen, tying the score with just 1:05 remaining.

As a result, the game went to overtime, and after coming up short in each of their prior six games that extended past regulation, the T-Birds did not allow a similar outcome this time. Just 43 seconds into overtime, Luff gathered the puck and scooted around a defender down the left wing, drove to his forehand side, and lifted a wrister past Tikkanen, picking up his third point and third game-winning goal to secure the come-from-behind victory.

# In the Classroom



HVAC instructors Mike Siciliano and Rafe Gould were in the HVAC classroom speaking with prospective students about training for residential technician roles and the program's rapid growth.

## CAREER DAY from page 3

patios and walkways to full ground's maintenance," he said.

Down the hall from the gymnasium, HVAC instructors Mike Sicilia and Rafe Gould described their growing program, which prepares students to begin working in residential heating and cooling directly after graduation.

"We're building a strong program here," they said, emphasizing the high demand for trained technicians.

In Advanced Manufacturing, instructor Adam Girard showcased the school's evolution from traditional machine shop to a modern, tech-driven program incorporating CAD/CAM, lasers, 3D printing, precision inspection tools, and industry-standard machining systems.

"Basically everything that encapsulates manufacturing," he said.

The Electrical program also reported strong interest. Instructor Eric Simard described how many students pursue electrical licensure using industry-recognized credits earned at Pathfinder, while others continue to college for specialized systems training.

Upperclassmen gain real-world experience through community job sites led by off-campus instructors.

In the Health Assisting classroom, instructor Anthony Braden laid out an academically rigorous pathway that leads to CNA certification, clinical hours in area facilities, CPR certification, EKG training, and job offers before graduation.

"Nine times out of ten, the facilities offer them jobs once they pass the exam," he said.

The Cosmetology program, led by Cindy Rubin, presented its full spectrum of training in hair, skin, and nails, including state board preparation and specialized skills such as textured hair care, waxing, makeup, and formal styling.

Upstairs, Information Technology instructor Sarah Manson described a wide-ranging digital curriculum: web development, programming, networking, cybersecurity, hardware



Student Quinn Richardson worked on his robotics project.

repair, and a student-run help desk that troubleshoots technology around the building.

One of the most expansive shops, CAD/Pre-Engineering, drew strong interest. Instructor Justin Bren explained that ninth graders work toward the SolidWorks Associate Mechanical Design Certification; a professional credential requiring roughly 1,000 hours of training.

Pathfinder even has a student who has advanced to the expert certification level, something rarely seen in high school. Seniors collaborate with other shops to build fully functional robots, with parts manufactured, painted, programmed, and wired through inter-shop partnerships.

"It's one of the biggest collaboration projects we've ever done," Bren said.

Families were also greeted by displays covering the school's wide range of student organizations.

These include the literary magazine, yearbook, drama, music, student government, Diversity Club, outdoor adventure clubs, esports, Future Farmers of America, Girls in Trades, robotics, SkillsUSA, and the National Technical Honor Society. Activities are coordinated by Jessica McCann.

Athletic Director Kevin Aldrich said Pathfinder is experiencing "a time of growth," with more than 150 fall athletes participating across soccer, golf, football, cheerleading, and co-ops in field hockey, cross-country, ice hockey, and swimming. Winter numbers remain strong, with wrestling, boys and girls basketball, and additional co-op teams.

Pathfinder has recently added girls volleyball,

which launched mid-season with 15 players and earned a full JV schedule for 2026. Aldrich praised students' dedication and the program's upward trajectory.

"We want students to be well-rounded citizens," he said. "Student comes before athlete."

Several teams have seen notable success: football reached the state vocational semifinals, wrestling holds back-to-back championships, girls basketball won its league last year, and both softball and baseball have made deep tournament runs.

Throughout the night, staff remained in the library assisting families with applications for the upcoming admissions cycle. Computers were available for on-the-spot submissions, which many families took advantage of before returning to the bustling program exhibits.

With around 800 people cycling through the building throughout the night, Duda reflected on what made the event stand out. The academic rigor, hands-on experiences, professional certifications, and strong community partnerships each play a role, he said.

But on Career Night, it was the students who stole the spotlight.

"Parents and families have been telling me how impressed they are with our students," Duda said. "The eye contact, the handshakes, the professionalism...it was music to my ears."

Pathfinder will continue accepting applications online, with staff available for assistance. Families who missed Career Night can contact the school for additional tours and program information.

## Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples

of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of

our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13					14			15			
16				17				18			
19				20				21			
		22					23			24	
25	26	27		28			29			30	
31			32		33		34				35
36				37		38			39		40
	41				42			43		44	
		45					46		47		48
49	50		51			52			53		
54		55			56				57	58	59
60					61				62		
63					64				65		
66					67				68		

### CLUES ACROSS

- Lakes
- Electromotive force
- Invests in little enterprises
- Longtime Utah Jazz coach
- Small sailboat
- Actor Idris
- Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
- System that detects objects under water
- Harsh, grating noise
- Steward
- A fencing sword
- Infections
- Actress Ryan
- Sodium
- Swedish castle
- A lump of slime
- African antelope
- Insurance providers
- Choosy

### CLUES DOWN

- Ringworm
- Unpolished
- Drenches
- Pant style
- Son of Noah
- Spiritual being
- Upton Sinclair novel
- Journalist Tarbell
- Popular sports highlight show
- Born of
- Rich tapestry
- S. China seaport
- State of being unclothed
- Surrounded by
- Residue
- Away from wind
- Dried-up
- Visionary
- A very large body of water
- Garden tools
- Screen type
- Ancient Scandinavian poet

### CLUES DOWN

- Millisecond
- Spanish city
- A sudden very loud sound
- "The Indiana Jones of beer"
- Tin
- Sea eagles
- Volcanic crater
- Type of coat
- Women's apartments in Ottoman palace
- Divulge a secret
- Norwegian playwright
- "It's a Wonderful Life" director
- Poisonous perennial plant
- 18-year astronomical period
- Clothes
- Places to sit
- Family of regulator genes
- New York ballplayer
- Impressive in size or scope
- Jacques \_\_, French biologist
- One from the Big Apple
- Genus of woolly lemurs
- Songs to one's beloved
- Indigenous person of N.E. Thailand
- Supplemented with difficulty
- Farewell
- Investment account (abbr.)
- One from Utah
- Begets
- A male child
- Break apart
- Brief appearance
- Partner to "oohed"
- A light informal meal
- Fabric with smooth, shiny surface
- One billionth of a second
- Ancient Italian-Greek colony
- Close tightly
- Mail out
- Language
- Computer characteristic

ANSWERS ON PAGE 12

## PANTHERS from page 9

unanswered points.

Ducos scored five of those points.

During the final seconds of the first half, South Lancaster freshman Leyah Ramos (6 points) made a

3-pointer from the right corner.

The Lady Panthers defense, which mainly used a 3-2 zone, posted a shutout during the third quarter.

A fast-break lay-up by Casey increased the Lady Panthers lead to 30-7 with

1:50 remaining in the third quarter.

Casey scored seven more points during the final eight minutes of the contest, as the Lady Panthers advanced to the tournament finals for the second consecutive year.

## HOOP HALL from page 9

celebrated."

The first look at the list of eligible nominees was provided by "NBA Today" on ESPN, hosted by Malika Andrews, with Ramona Shelburne, Tim Bontemps, Kendrick Perkins, and Shams Charania in studio. A complete list of eligible candidates can be found below.

Finalists chosen from the applicable Category Screening Committees for

the Class of 2026 will be announced at a later date. The entire Class of 2026 will be unveiled during a nationally televised broadcast on Saturday, April 4, during Final Four Weekend.

The Finalist and Class Announcement times and broadcast networks will be announced by Monday, Feb. 9.

Enshrinement Weekend will begin at the Mohegan Sun on Friday, Aug. 14, with the Tip-Off Celebration and

Awards Gala, followed by the Enshrinement Ceremony the next day at Springfield's historic Symphony Hall.

All VIP Packages, single-event tickets to the Ceremony, Tip-Off Celebration, and Awards Gala, as well as other ancillary events, will go on sale on Saturday, Apr. 4. All packages and tickets will be available for purchase at hoophall.com.

The complete listing of events and pricing will be released on Monday, Feb. 9.

## Church News

# Local pastor offers sermon

### Healthful Resolutions Part 1

Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) was an American revivalist, philosopher and theologian who served as a key figure in the Great Awakening.

Each New Year I entertain his writings, as he wrote at length on the theme of healthful resolutions. Consider the following, that they might be of benefit in setting the stage for 2026!

#### 1) Scripture

What did Edwards resolve concerning Scripture? "Resolved, to study the Scriptures so steadily, constantly and frequently, as that I may find, and plainly perceive myself to grow in the knowledge of the same." Thus, Edwards was a man who prioritized the ongoing examination of God's Word. I cannot think of a better resolution for the New Year! Let us remember:

#### 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

#### 2) Eternity

What did Edwards resolve concerning eternity? "Resolved, to endeavor to obtain for myself as much happiness, in the other world, as I possibly can, with all the power; might,

vigor, and vehemence, yea violence, I am capable of, or can bring myself to exert, in any way that can be thought of." Thus, Edwards was a man who prioritized eternal matters and reward. Is this not what Christ Jesus commanded.

#### Matthew 6:19-21

19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

#### 3) God's Glory

What did he share concerning the primary aim(s) of life? "Resolved, that I will do whatsoever I think to be most to God's glory, and my own good, profit and pleasure, in the whole of my duration, without any consideration of the time, whether now, or never so many myriads of ages hence. Resolved to do whatever I think to be my duty and most for the good and advantage of mankind in general. Resolved to do this, whatever difficulties I meet with, how many and how great soever." Thus, Edwards lived his life aware of his duty before God and unto others. Does this not sync beautifully with these texts?

Matthew 22:37b-40

[Concerning the Greatest Commandment]

37 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

#### Colossians 3:17b

17 . . . whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Is this not how we should live in the New Year (i.e., with an eye toward our obligation to God and unto others in kind)? This is my intention in Christ. Would you join me as we enter into 2026? We will continue our new series next Thursday. Until then, thank you for taking the time to read this publication.

Should you have any comments or questions, feel free to contact me at your convenience using the information below. Also, feel free to check us out online at [www.NewLifeBarre.org](http://www.NewLifeBarre.org) or visit us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. We hope to see you soon.

Pastor James Foley  
New Life Assembly  
of God  
60 Main St. South Barre  
jamesfoley  
@newlifebarre.org  
978-355-6407

### N BROOKFIELD from page 1

and North Brookfield towns to offset the cost of that," he said.

Rodrigues said the town of East Brookfield allocated \$10,000 at special town meeting to go toward the treatment at the lake.

Rodrigues said both communities enjoy use of the lake.

Petratis said this request will appear as an article at a future town meeting.

#### Letter from Parks & Recreation

The members of the Parks & Recreation Committee sent a letter to the board to address the child sized picnic table that was removed from Little Park.

"The committee decided its location along with the method of securing the table was not appropriate, creating a safety hazard and limiting access to the adjacent handicapped accessible table," the letter stated. "It was also the consensus that a more appropriate location would be at the child's play area at the North Brookfield common. The table was then put into storage, where it currently is, until the committee has the opportunity to put it in that location."

The committee said they would like to affix a plaque to the table to recognize its donation from a resident.

John Tripp, who built and donated the table, said he and his family donated the picnic table to the Little Park specifically, not just to the town.

"We donated it to Little Park in good faith that that's where it would be," Tripp's wife, Mindy, said.

Petratis said the table became town property when it was donated, and the Parks & Recreation

Committee has purview over the town's parks.

The board discussed the committee's suggestion to place the picnic table on the common with a plaque, or return the table to the Tripp family.

Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair Jamie Gilman said he respects both Tripp and the Parks & Recreation Committee, but due to the issues around the removal of the picnic, he said he would be in favor of returning the table to the Tripp family.

Selectmen Ralph Kay said he is "dismayed this has become such a contentious issue."

Kay said the board cares about the Little Park and they appreciate all of the efforts to create and maintain it. He said they also respect the judgment of the Parks & Recreation Committee.

He said since the picnic table was donated to the town, the town has final say over where it is placed.

Parks & Recreation Committee Chair Brandon Avery said he would like to work with the Board of Selectmen to create a policy about donated items, to avoid a similar situation in the future.

The board voted to declare the picnic table as a surplus item and have it returned to the Tripp family.

#### Sewer vehicle quote

Sewer Department Superintendent Eric Cardenas presented the board with a quote for the purchase of a truck for the department.

Cardenas said he is hoping to get a couple more years out of the existing truck for plowing purposes at the Sewer Department property.

The quote for the new truck is just over \$90,000.

This purchase was approved at town meeting.

The board accepted the quote as presented.

#### Spending requests

The Board of Selectmen approved the following spending requests from the Fire Department: up to \$1,000 to repair a broken handle on Engine 1; \$575 to repair two Motorola radio pagers; and \$523.68 to repair failed circuit boards on the pagers.

The board also approved an emergency request for \$1,779.64 to replace six batteries on Rescue 1. These batteries have not been replaced since they were originally purchased in 2019.

#### Pole hearing

A public hearing was held regarding the location of a new joint-owned pole by National Grid to supply electricity to a new home on Mad Brook Road. The board approved the request.

#### Snow/ice removal information

The Highway Department's standard operating procedures for snow and ice removal will be posted on the town's website, northbrookfield.net, under "Town News."

#### New tax rate

Avery said the town's tax rate has been set by the Department of Revenue and it will be \$11.96 per \$1,000 valuation. Last year's rate was \$14.17.

"It was a decrease largely due to the increase in valuation," Avery said.

## Gordon Charles Young, 96

BARRE- Gordon Charles Young, 96, of Barre, passed away on Dec. 17, 2025 surrounded by his family in the farmhouse in which he was born.

Gordon joins his wife Barbara, to whom he was married for 72 years until her passing in 2023. He leaves behind a large, loving family, including eight children, who cared for and kept him company in his final months: Joann, Diane, Brian, Mark, Suzanne, Heidi and Michelle; and their respective families, including 14 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Gordon was born July 13, 1929 in Barre. He graduated from Barre High School in 1948 and then pursued vocational training in electrical welding. Gifted with a mechanical mind, Gordon worked various technical jobs, including working as a loader operator, truck driver, and welder for the Barre Highway Department, R.T. Young & Son Construction in Oakham and later the Hubbardston Highway

Department, where he spent the rest of his career. In addition to his full-time work, he would weld and thaw frozen pipes for private customers, work that he continued into retirement.

Gordon will perhaps be best remembered for his love of the outdoors and animals, evident in his cheerful devotion to work on the family farm. Over the years, he cared for many animals: cows, horses, sheep, chickens, dogs, and cats. Even while working full time, he'd hand milk the dairy cows twice daily. With his green thumb, he kept multiple vegetable gardens, always sending visitors home with fresh, homegrown produce. His grandchildren fondly recall one year in which he—somehow, like something from a storybook—managed to grow pumpkins larger than them. His long days in the barn and the garden kept him young; he cut hay and chopped his own firewood well into his 90s.

A man for whom actions spoke larger than words, Gordon was nonetheless



### DEATH NOTICE

**Young, Gordon Charles**  
Died Dec. 17, 2025  
Calling hour  
Jan. 10, 2026  
from 10-11 a.m.  
Pillsbury Funeral Home, 96 South Barre Road, Barre  
Funeral Mass Jan. 10 at 11:30 a.m.  
St. Thomas a Becket Church, Vernon Avenue, South Barre

quick with a joke. He was an avid listener, always eager to learn about the goings on in the lives of his big family. Gordon will be dearly missed for his quiet warmth, unwavering dedication to his family especially his late wife and his love of good work.

The funeral for Gordon will be held on Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026 with an 11:30 a.m. Mass in St Thomas A Becket Church, Vernon Avenue, South Barre. A calling hour will be held from 10-11 a.m. prior to the service in the funeral home. Burial will be private for the family. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home, 96 South Barre Road, Barre.

## Second Chance surpasses record, helping more than 59,000 pets in 2025

Nonprofit appeals for support as demand for services continues to rise

EAST BROOKFIELD – Second Chance Animal Services has already helped more than 59,000 pets in 2025 with one month remaining in the year. This milestone surpasses last year's record of 56,000 pets helped and highlights both the expanding reach of the organization and the escalating crisis facing pet owners and shelters across the region.

"This year has brought an extraordinary number of pets through our doors. To have already helped over 59,000 pets is remarkable, but it is also deeply troubling how many families and shelters are struggling," said CEO and founder Sheryl Blancato. "We are privileged to make such an impact, but the challenges continue to grow as more pet owners face financial hardships and more shelters operate at capacity."

Second Chance's four community veterinary hospitals are experiencing unprecedented demand from pet owners who rely on affordable care to keep their companion animals healthy and at home. At the same time, the organization's pet food pantry program has seen dramatic growth as well. Through this program, Second Chance distributes pet food

to local human food pantries, so families do not have to choose between feeding themselves and feeding their pets. Even with this support and with all the programs Second Chance offers, some local pet owners still find themselves unable to keep their pets due to financial constraints. Blancato noted that these situations are heartbreaking for families and for the staff who work to keep pets and their people together whenever possible.

Shelters across the country continue to face severe overcrowding. Second Chance is taking in as many pets as possible while also providing the resources and care that prevent unnecessary surrenders. The need, however, continues to outpace available resources.

This historic year has also brought significant recognition for Second Chance and its impact on pets and the community. The organization was honored with multiple Best of Central Mass awards in both the Pet Grooming and Veterinarian categories. Second Chance received the Super 60 Nonprofit Award from the Springfield Regional Chamber, earned the 2025 Platinum Seal of Transparency from Candid, was awarded a four-star rating from Charity Navigator and was also named a Top Nonprofit on [greatnonprofits.com](http://greatnonprofits.com).

In addition, Second Chance veterinarian Dr. Lisa Nowicki was recognized with the Massachusetts Veterinary

Medical Association Merit Award for her dedication to advancing veterinary care and improving the lives of pets in need.

"These honors reflect the commitment of our entire team and the generosity of our supporters," Blancato said. "They remind us that behind every award is a pet whose life was changed for the better."

Despite expanding programs to meet the rising demand, the nonprofit faces significant financial pressure. Blancato is urging supporters to help ensure that lifesaving services remain available to every pet that needs them.

"Every gift makes a direct difference. Whether it keeps a beloved pet with their family or provides critical medical care for a pet in crisis, support from the community is the reason we can keep saying yes," Blancato said.

The organization welcomes support of any kind and is encouraging donors to consider becoming Monthly Pet Pal Champions by enrolling in recurring giving. Blancato noted that monthly support provides vital stability and helps Second Chance respond to emergencies and plan ahead with confidence, but added that every gift, whether one time or monthly, plays an essential role in helping pets in need.

Donations and monthly enrollments can be made at [www.secondchanceanimals.org](http://www.secondchanceanimals.org) or by mail to Second Chance, PO Box 136, East Brookfield, MA 01515.

## PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto:notices@turley.com)
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)

## Barre Gazette OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

## NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

# Public Safety

## Barre Police Log

**Sunday, Dec. 7**  
 1:11 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning  
 10:12 a.m. Safety Concern, North Brookfield Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
 12:29 p.m. Erratic Operator, Hubbardston Road, Officer/Chief Advised  
 1:22 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Station Road, Transported to Hospital  
 5:49 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, North Brookfield Road, Referred to Other Agency  
 7:44 p.m. Erratic Operator, South Barre Road, No Action Required

**Monday, Dec. 8**  
 9:45 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Allergic Reaction, South Barre Road, Transported to Hospital  
 4:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Worcester Road, Officer/Chief Advised  
 6:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Citation Issued  
 11:04 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Wauwinet Road, Transported to Hospital

**Tuesday, Dec. 9**  
 10:29 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Old State Road,

Transported to Hospital  
 11:24 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Phillipston Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
 11:37 a.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Worcester Road, Referred to Other Agency  
 3:05 p.m. Identity Theft, South Street, Officer Spoke to Party

**Wednesday, Dec. 10**  
 8:02 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Skyline Drive, Fire Extinguished  
 6:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Exchange Street, Officer/Chief Advised  
 10:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Summer Street, Written Warning  
 11:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Hubbardston Road, Report Filed

**Thursday, Dec. 11**  
 6:46 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Worcester Road, Report Filed  
 12:57 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Old Coldbrook Road, Information Given  
 2:20 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Gauthier Road, Investigated  
 2:22 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, School North Street, Mutual Aid Transport

**Friday, Dec. 12**  
 3:02 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Worcester, Negative Contact  
 4:03 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Old Hardwick Road, Officer Spoke to Party

**Saturday, Dec. 13**  
 9:36 a.m. Speak to Chief/Officer, Old Dana Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
 10:09 a.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Union Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
 3:06 p.m. Property Damage, Gauthier Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
 9:46 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Hardwick, Negative Contact

## Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Dec. 15-22 the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 69 building/property checks, 31 directed/area patrols, 15 radar assignments, one traffic control, 11 emergency 911 calls, six citizen assists, two assist other agencies, one motor vehicle investigation, two complaints, one harassment, eight safety hazards, three animal calls and seven motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

**Monday, Dec. 15**  
 1:05 p.m. 911 Hang-up, Abandoned, School House Drive, Officer handled  
 4:44 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital  
 6:40 p.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Road, Served in Hand  
 7:18 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled

**Tuesday, Dec. 16**  
 8:49 a.m. Harassment, Shore Road, Spoken To  
 3:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Arrest(s) Made  
 5:19 p.m. 911 Fire/Other, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered  
 5:42 p.m. Parking Complaint, Taylor Street, Officer Handled

**Wednesday, Dec. 17**  
 8:55 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled  
 4:24 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Prospect Street, Officer Handled  
 10:21 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Jackson Road, Transported to Hospital  
 11:34 a.m. 911 Welfare Check, Greenwich Road, Spoken To

**Thursday, Dec. 18**  
 6:25 a.m. Assist Citizen, Greenwich Road, Dispatch Handled  
 10:16 a.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Spoken To

**Friday, Dec. 19**  
 8:01 a.m. Safety Hazard, Goddard Road, Removed Hazard  
 9:53 a.m. Medical Alarm, Upper Church Street, Transported to Hospital  
 10:30 a.m. Utility Issues, Collins Road, Services Rendered  
 10:34 a.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Officer Handled  
 10:34 a.m. Safety Hazard, Sessions Road, Officer Handled  
 10:44 a.m. 911 Elevator Call/Alarms, Old Petersham Road, Services Rendered  
 10:52 a.m. Safety Hazard, Collins Road, Officer Handled

1:43 p.m. Safety Hazard, Pine Street, Referred to Other Agency  
 2:11 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Negative Contact  
 2:42 p.m. Safety Hazard, Jackson Road, Officer Handled  
 4:15 p.m. Safety Hazard, Pine Street, Referred to Other Agency

**Saturday, Dec. 20**  
 10:40 a.m. 911 Assist Other Agency, Unknown, Dispatch Handled  
 10:58 a.m. Fire/Alarm, Main Street, Investigated  
 1:04 p.m. Complaint, Bridge Street, Dispatch Handled  
 2:54 p.m. Assist Citizen, Church Lane, Officer Handled  
 6:34 p.m. 911 Animal Call, Jackson Road, Referred to Other Agency  
 10:37 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Bridge Street, Officer Handled

**Sunday, Dec. 21**  
 1:22 p.m. Assist Citizen, North Street, Officer Handled  
 6:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

**Monday, Dec. 22**  
 3:51 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Ruggles Hill Road, Transported to Hospital

## Hubbardston Police Log

**Sunday, Dec. 7**  
 10:32 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Overdose/Poisoning, Natty Pond Drive, Mutual Aid Transport

**Monday, Dec. 8**  
 8:10 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Stroke (CVA), Lombard Road, Transported to Hospital

**Tuesday, Dec. 9**  
 12:18 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Main Street, Call Transferred  
 10:06 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Seminole Avenue, Information Taken  
 11:45 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Kruse Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

**Wednesday, Dec. 10**  
 8:02 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Skyline Drive, Fire Extinguished  
 10:56 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Worcester Road, Report Filed  
 11:40 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Morgan Road, Information Given  
 11:54 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Morgan Road, Information Given  
 12:57 p.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Main Street, Officer/Chief Advised  
 1:21 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Amber Lane, Ambulance Signed Refusal

2:48 p.m. Animal Wildlife, Hale Road, Referred to Other Agency  
 5:42 p.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, Pitcherville Road, Removed from Scene  
 6:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident – No Fire/EMS Response, Gardner Road, Investigated  
 6:30 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Worcester Road, Information Taken  
 7:06 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Gardner Road, Investigated  
 11:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Hubbardston Road, Report Filed  
 11:45 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Town Wide, Information Taken

**Thursday, Dec. 11**  
 7:36 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident – No Fire Department/EMS Response, Cross Road, Report Filed  
 9:53 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident – No Fire Department/EMS Response, Mohawk Drive, Information Given  
 10:41 a.m. Follow-up Investigation, Williamsville Road, Negative Contact  
 10:55 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Gardner Road, No Action Required  
 11:46 a.m. Vandalism, Police Headquarters, Information Taken  
 12:03 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/

Unknown, Old Princeton Cutoff Road, Public Assist  
 12:50 p.m. Property Damage, Mohawk Drive, Report Filed  
 3:13 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Old Boston Turnpike, Transported to Hospital  
 6:01 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, New Templeton Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal  
 6:59 p.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), Natty Brook Road, Entry Gained

**Friday, Dec. 12**  
 3:28 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Low Oxygen, Burnshirt Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal  
 11:10 a.m. Animal – Wildlife, Worcester Road, Information Given  
 11:36 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Madison Way, Call Transferred  
 2:15 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, High Bridge Road, Transported to Hospital  
 5:13 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Mt. Jefferson Road, Removed from Scene  
 6:28 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Mt. Jefferson Road, Information Taken  
 6:39 p.m. Suspicious Person – Vehicle Activity, Worcester Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
 10:55 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Old Princeton Road, Transported to Hospital

## New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Dec. 15-22, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 16 building/property checks, 12 directed/area patrols, nine radar assignments, one traffic control, one emergency 911 call, three citizen assists, two assist other agencies, one complaint, six safety hazards, three animal calls and four motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

**Monday, Dec. 15**  
 3:47 p.m. Complaint, West Road, Officer Handled

**Wednesday, Dec. 17**  
 2:12 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled  
 8:06 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Officer Handled

**Thursday, Dec. 18**  
 4:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ravine Road, Written Warning

**Friday, Dec. 19**  
 9:20 a.m. Safety Hazard, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled  
 11:25 a.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Services Rendered  
 12:33 p.m. Safety Hazard, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled  
 12:37 p.m. Safety Hazard, West Brookfield Road, Removed Hazard

1:04 p.m. Safety Hazard, Dennis Whitney Road, Dispatch Handled

**Saturday, Dec. 20**  
 10:39 a.m. Assist Citizen, Gilbertville Road, Checked/Secured

**Sunday, Dec. 21**  
 10:05 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled  
 2:25 p.m. Safety Hazard, West Brookfield Road, Officer Handled  
 5 p.m. 911 Misdiagnosed, Moore Road, Spoken To  
 6:45 p.m. Assist Other Agency, West Brookfield Road, Services Rendered

## Oakhan Police Log

**Sunday, Dec. 7**  
 11:43 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, East Hill Road, Negative Contact

**Tuesday, Dec. 9**  
 8:46 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Bullard Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal  
 2:12 p.m. Erratic Operator, Old Turnpike Road, Officer Spoke to Party

**Wednesday, Dec. 10**  
 8:02 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Skyline Drive, Fire Extinguished  
 8:41 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Low Blood Pressure, Bechan Road, Transported to Hospital

**Thursday, Dec. 11**  
 6:46 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Worcester Road, Report Filed  
 5:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning  
 8:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Robinson Road, Written Warning

## Baystate Health announces Voluntary Separation Program

Baystate Health representatives released a statement that they are committed to delivering exceptional care to western Massachusetts while strengthening their long-term stability. Over the past year, Baystate Health's collective transformation work has strengthened Baystate Health in meaningful ways, allowing them to reinvest in their people, technology, and patient care.

"Thanks to these efforts, we've made important progress, and we must now sustain our momentum through continued financial transformation," the press release stated. According to the press release, Baystate Health like many health systems nationwide, has faced significant financial pressures from rising labor costs, inflation, and reimbursement challenges.

"Addressing these realities is essential to continue investing in our people, services, and facilities. As we plan for our future, we face new challenges, including external pressures such as the One Big Beautiful Bill, which is creating additional headwinds for health systems across the country," the statement read. In light of these factors, they are taking proactive steps to position Baystate Health for long-term stability and success by introducing a Voluntary Separation Program across Baystate Health and its subsidiaries, including Health New England. This program offers eligible employees in non-direct patient care areas

the option to voluntarily separate with financial support, helping Baystate Health to responsibly manage costs and align its workforce with future needs. "We continue to significantly recruit and hire physicians, Advanced Practice Providers and bed-side caregivers to support the health needs of our communities," the statement read. This voluntary program is designed to minimize the need for other workforce reductions. "We recognize how personal this decision is and are approaching it with empathy, respect, and transparency. We're committed to providing clear communication and resources to support employees during this transition," the statement continued. This initiative is part of Baystate Health's broader multi-year transformation to achieve operational excellence, strengthen its financial foundation, and ensure they can continue their mission: improving the health of our communities every day, with quality and compassion.

**NOTICE**  
 ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

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

**Turley Publications, Inc.**  
**Homegrown**  
 NEWS  
 SHOPPING  
 DINING  
 EVENTS  
 IDEAS  
 DEALS  
 SPORTS  
 JOBS  
 FUN  
 & MORE

12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS  
 www.turley.com • 413.283.8393  
 24 Water Street, Palmer

# Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

**FOR SALE**

**FIREWOOD**

**FIREWOOD**  
Fresh cut & split \$225.00  
Seasoned cut & split \$325.00  
All hardwood.  
Tree length available  
\*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap).  
Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!**  
New England Forest Products  
(413)477-0083

**MORE HEAT LESS WOOD.** Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. \$2K Tax Credit.  
Call (508)882-0178

**WANTED**

**WANTED TO BUY**

**ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.**

**BUYING** Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more.

Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

**ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:**

Musical instruments, guitars, horns, keyboards, vintage electronics, jewelry, coins, watches, military cameras, sports memorabilia, art, sterling, signs, automotive, hunting, advertising, radios, ham radio equipment, audio equipment, toys, one item or entire estate.

Call Paul 413-206-8688.

**JUNK REMOVAL**

**A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL**  
Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.  
We load it & take it.  
**413-531-1936**  
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

**SERVICES**

**DRYWALL, PAINTING AND CEILINGS,** plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. (413)563-0487

Find archives of this local newspaper at [www.newspapers.turley.com](http://www.newspapers.turley.com)

**SERVICES**

**ELECTRICIAN**

**PJ's Electrical MASTER ELECTRICIAN**  
• Licensed & Insured •  
Providing safe, reliable electrical services for residential and commercial projects.  
**NOW OFFERING FREE CONSULTATIONS.**  
Call today to schedule your appointment.  
**(413) 366-1703**  
(Lic. #24046-A)

**LICENSED ELECTRICIAN**  
I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small. Service upgrades, pools, trustworthy, dependable & insured.  
Master Elec. #20773A.  
Text/call Luis **413-218-3301**.

**ZEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC**  
Fully licensed and insured; Master Electrician on staff. Call for all your electrical needs. No job too small. Senior citizen and Veteran Discount. A veteran owned company. MA License #8101A1.

Call John at (413)206-6509  
*Every customer gets a free gem stone.*

**HOME IMPROVEMENT**

**CHAMELEON PAINTING & REMODELING**  
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR  
**Remodeling & Deck Specialists**  
Residential/Commercial  
Fully Insured • Free Estimates  
**413-351-1147**

**BUY LOCALLY**  
support our community!

**Walker Home Improvement**  
Handyman Services  
Licensed & Insured  
Finish Carpentry • Framing • Drywall • Painting • & more!  
**(413) 687-5552**

**SERVICES**

**INSTRUCTION**

**NRA Certified Basic Pistol Course** with Live Fire for License to Carry permit \$140.  
Matt Marcinkiewicz  
[muscione@hotmail.com](mailto:muscione@hotmail.com)  
**413-537-0620**

**LANDSCAPING**

**A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE**  
Excavator Services  
Overgrown property?  
Extreme Brush Cutting!  
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal  
Lawn/Arborvite Installed  
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand  
Storm Clean-up  
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal  
Insured  
**Josh Rozell 413-636-5957**

**MASONRY**

**STOP WET BASEMENTS**  
**ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING**  
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call (413)569-1611, (413)374-5377

**PAINTING**

**KEN'S PAINTING SERVICES.** Interior painting/staining, wallpaper removal, wall/ceiling resurfacing, cabinet painting. Quality workmanship, fully insured. Free estimates. Call **413-896-8264**.

**PLUMBING**

**GREG LAFOUNTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING** Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg **(413)592-1505**

**SERVICES**

**RUBBISH REMOVAL**

**BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL** Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 **(413)537-5090**

**SNOWPLOWING**

**RESIDENTIAL** Snowplowing Service. Wilbraham residential only Call or Text now. Limited space available. **413-519-5439**

**TREE WORK**

**AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE.** Residential removal of trees. Free estimates. Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call **413-283-6374**.

**DL & G TREE SERVICE.** Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate **(413)478-4212**.

**TUNE-UPS**

**SNOWBLOWER & LAWNMOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR**  
**A&M TUNE-UPS**  
Snowblowers, Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers & Small Engine Repair.  
Work done at your home.  
Call Mike **(413) 348-7967**

**STUMP GRINDING**

**DL & G STUMP GRINDING** Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave **413-478-4212**

**PETS**

**GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPS.** Champion Czech and Belgian bloodlines. 30 years experience. 3M, 2F. Ready, w/shots. Now \$1,200. **413-218-2321**

**HELP WANTED**

**LUDLOW PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT PARA-EDUCATOR.** Submit resume and letter of intent to: [www.schoolspring.com](http://www.schoolspring.com)

**CLASSIFIED DEADLINES**  
**FRIDAY AT 1 PM**

**AUTO**

**CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS**  
**FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS**  
CALL OR TEXT **413-219-6839**

**REAL ESTATE**

**FOR RENT**

**QUAINT WEST BROOKFIELD BROOKHAVEN LAKE** by babbling brook, I-shaped 2bdrm. ranch, 2/full baths, finished basement, walkout slider, enclosed front porch. Enjoy nature trails, very quiet private area. \$2850/monthly rental fee. Bernice Stone **774-262-6667**.

**REAL ESTATE**

**FOR RENT**

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

**HELP WANTED**

**ADVERTISING SALES**

**HELP WANTED**

- Do you want to work in your community helping local businesses connect with their customers?
- Do you want a career supporting local journalism, which tells the unique stories of our communities?
- If so, then join our team! Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers. The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

Turley Publications, a locally owned family business, offers a competitive commission structure, 401k, and health plan.

Send resume & cover letter to:  
Jamie Joslyn  
24 Water Street  
Palmer, MA 01069  
Email: [jamie@turley.com](mailto:jamie@turley.com)

**Turley Publications, Inc.**

**FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER**

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: **FRIDAY AT NOON**  
or call: 413-283-8393

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card:  MasterCard  VISA  Discover  Cash  Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Quabbin Village Hills**  
Circulation: 50,500

**Hilltowns**  
Circulation: 9,800

**Suburban Residential**  
Circulation: 59,000

All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

**GREAT VALUE!**  
**ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!**  
Make checks payable to Turley Publications

**STAY ON TOP OF IT ALL!**  
Subscribe Today!

**Turley Publications, Inc.**  
12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS  
**413.283.8393**  
[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)  
24 Water Street  
Palmer, MA 01069

**OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!**

# EQLT hosted 'Space Night'

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis  
Correspondent

**HARDWICK** – Two PhD candidates from Georgia State University visited the East Quabbin Land Trust's office at 120 Ridge Road last Friday to give a presentation about their astronomical research.

Maura Shea and Aman Kar each research outer space, including galaxies, planets, and stars.

Shea grew up in Hardwick, and graduated from Wellesley College here in Massachusetts in 2020 with a degree in astrophysics. Her research at Georgia State centers around active galactic nuclei, where she works under Professor Mike Crenshaw.

Her main research centers on a cluster of galaxies called Stephan's Quintet, because they have high rates of interaction with one another.

Kar's research centers around red stars, and he received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wyoming in 2019, where he studied exo-

planets and their atmospheres. He has been at Georgia State since 2022, where he studies M dwarf stars. He is part of the RECON team, where he works with Dr. Todd Henry.

The presentation started with Shea and Kar explaining the newest technologies that are being used in space observation, including the James Webb Space Telescope. According to their presentation, the JWST was launched in 2021 as a direct successor to the Hubble Space Telescope, which is still sending back photos to this day.

The JWST though, can see more than Hubble can, as it observes in the infrared light scale, which is not visible to human eyes without assistance from technology. They said that JWST can look further back in time, as when the universe expands, light starts to get more red, which is why it needs to observe in the infrared.

In addition, the JWST can see through space dust better than Hubble.

Shea and Kar also noted

that the JWST is a high risk, high reward project. It was launched as a part of the solar system where it will not be possible for NASA scientists to service it if something were to go wrong, but is more efficient than Hubble. The project cost 10 billion dollars.

They said the JWST is now sending back photos of distant dwarf galaxies, created 400 million years after the big bang, where Hubble could not see any dwarf galaxies. One other telescope they noted was the Chandra telescope, which looks in the X-ray scale, another scale humans cannot see. This allows for viewing of supernovas, they said.

Shea presented many pictures that the JWST has sent back so far, including some Einstein Rings. In the picture, it shows an elliptical galaxy surrounded by a spiral galaxy, with the spiral galaxy appearing more red in color, signifying the spiral galaxy is older.

Einstein Rings are named after scientist Albert Einstein's theories about light bending.

She also presented a pic-

ture of Stephan's Quintet, which she is studying for her PhD. In this cluster of galaxies, their gravitational pulls are strong enough to interact with each other, and pull them apart, according to the presentation.

In the picture, there is an area of red, which is a star forming area with dust. The areas of blue are stars not surrounded by dust, and green areas are hydrocarbons.

In addition to galaxies, Shea presented star forming regions, including the Pillars of Creation region. It is called this because it resembles a hand and fingers.

Another star forming region is called Rho Ophiuchi, and it is the closest star forming region to Earth, but is also relatively small, she said. In addition to stars forming, they highlighted stars dying, including the Red Spider nebula. These happen when giant red stars die, and it will be the same thing that happens when the sun dies.

Another type of star they presented are called Wolf-



Turley Staff Photo

**Maura Shea, a doctoral student at Georgia State University and Hardwick native, presented a "Space Night" at the East Quabbin Land Trust last Friday night.**

Rayet stars, which are even more impressive than the Sun, as they are 20 times the size of it. Since they are so large though, they are relatively short lived in terms of chances to observe it.

Kar talked about some of the missions that are happening or in planning, including a plan to drop a lander on Titan, one of Saturn's moons, to observe whether there are any life forms on the moon. He said there are observed oceans, lakes, and other bodies of water, but they are all

made of liquid methane. Kar said life can form wherever it sees fit, so researchers want to know if anything can live in that liquid methane. He also said that the JWST has just seen Neptune's rings for the first time in decades, and it is being used to determine what is in the atmosphere of a planet.

All of the images featured in the presentation, and more, can be found on the NASA website (<https://science.nasa.gov/mission/webb/multimedia/images/>).

## Your BUYLINE CONNECTION

**WINTER SALE!!!!**  
**TOY CLEARANCE SALE!**  
**SAVE UP TO 70%!!!**

**OPEN NEW YEAR'S DAY 10AM-8PM!**  
**GIANT APPLIANCE REBATES!!!**  
**MATTRESS SALE!!!**  
**SLEDS, SKATES, TOBOGGANS!!!**

**12 MONTHS 0% FINANCING**  
**WHITCO**  
140 Main St., Spencer  
[www.whitcosales.com](http://www.whitcosales.com)  
508-885-9343

Open: Mon.-Fri. 9am-10pm, Sat. 9am-8pm, Sun. 10am-7pm

**POST ROAD REALTY**  
BUYING OR SELLING...  
WE HAVE THE PERFECT FIT FOR YOU!

[www.PostRoadRealty.com](http://www.PostRoadRealty.com)  
**NEW LISTING - NEW CONSTRUCTION**  
**\$565,000 - 95 TOWN FARM ROAD, WARREN.**

This impressive, newly built ranch offers easy single-level living with modern finishes throughout. A welcoming front porch and two-car garage lead to an open-concept layout featuring a fully appointed kitchen with granite countertops, dining area, and spacious living room ideal for entertaining. A slider opens to a 12x16 composite deck overlooking the backyard. The primary suite includes a full bath with double sinks and a walk-in closet, plus two additional bedrooms and a second full bath. A practical mudroom with washer and dryer hookups and ample storage closets adds everyday functionality. Central air provides added comfort during warmer months. The walkout basement features high ceilings and offers excellent potential for future finished space such as an ADU, home office, gym, or additional living area.

**Cassie Paolucci**  
**774-200-3523**

**Accepting New Patients**  
**KELLY & VELÁZQUEZ**  
**EYE CENTER**

PETER J. KELLY, M.D., P.C.  
LEONARDO J. VELÁZQUEZ, M.D.  
DENNIS M. DORANS, O.D.  
KELLY N. POULIOT, O.D.

1504 North Main St. Palmer, MA 01069 (413) 283-3511  
362 Sewall St. Ludlow, MA 01056 (413) 589-7308

PALMER HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.  
LUDLOW HOURS: Hours vary, please call

**FOUNTAIN**  
And Sons  
**Construction Company INCORPORATED**

- Excavation Complete Site Work • Demo • New Home Construction
- Screened Loam, Sand, Stone, Gravel, Septic Sand
- Trucking • Backhoe, Dozer, Excavator Work
- Water & Sewer Line Repairs & Replacements

**YOUR BUSINESS IS IMPORTANT TO US!**

177 Brimfield Road, Warren, MA 01083  
413-436-5705 • [www.fountainandsons.com](http://www.fountainandsons.com)

**Country Canine KENNELS**

**Boarding, Grooming, Daycare**

- Boarding starting at \$40 a night
- Daycare starting at \$26 a day

84 Greenwich Plains Road  
Ware, MA 01082  
(413) 277-0334 Office Phone  
[countrycaninekennels@gmail.com](mailto:countrycaninekennels@gmail.com)

**Get the Facts.**  
*Subscribe Today!*

413.283.8393 • [newspapers.turley.com](http://newspapers.turley.com)

12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS  
24 Water St., Palmer  
80 Main St., Ware

**Turley Publications, Inc.**

**WHERE EVERYONE GOES FOR THEIR PIECE OF THE EARTH!**  
**LANDSCAPE STONE**  
White • Blue • Purple • Red  
Lt Gray • Dark Gray • Beige • Rip Rap

**SCREENED LOAM STORED IN BUILDING**

Construction Stone • Title V & Presby Septic Sand  
Concrete Sand • Chicken Coop Sand • Utility Sand  
Pool Liner Sand • Stone Dust • Silt • Crushed Gravel  
Crushed Asphalt • Crushed Concrete • Cold Patch

**Homeowner Friendly • No Minimums**  
**PICK-UP OR CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR DELIVERY TODAY!**

**Bond**  
Sand, Gravel & Asphalt

98 North Spencer Rd., Spencer  
[bondsandandgravel.com](http://bondsandandgravel.com)  
508-885-6100  
508-885-2480

**JARS Café & Bakery**

23 Summer Street  
North Brookfield  
MA 01535

- COFFEE
- GLUTEN FREE OPTIONS
- BREAKFAST SANDWICHES
- SOUPS
- COOKIES
- MUFFINS
- PASTRIES

508-637-1577  
Tues.-Sat. 8am-2pm  
Sun. 9am-2pm

**Bring in entire ad for one FREE Beverage with purchase of a baked good. Tues.-Thurs. 8am-10am**

*Adventure tours of Warren*  
Share the Adventure with us!

**4-Day Boothbay Harbor Vacation**  
June 9-12  
**\$899**

May 24 .....8-Day Bermuda & Halifax Cruise.....from \$1699  
June 27.....Lake George Cruise & Lunch .....\$185  
July 11 .....Provincetown by Fast Ferry.....\$220  
July 19.....8-Day Bermuda & Halifax Cruise.....from \$1699  
Aug 30.....8-Day Nova Scotia Cruise .....from \$1999

**Share the Adventure with us soon!**  
For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357 or email [adventuretours@att.net](mailto:adventuretours@att.net) or go to [www.adventuretoursofwarren.com](http://www.adventuretoursofwarren.com)

**WATERWHEEL REALTY**  
Paul Varney Sr.  
Real Estate Broker and Owner  
[paulraymondvarney@gmail.com](mailto:paulraymondvarney@gmail.com)

978-355-4438  
978-355-3454

**NO ENTRANCE FEE**  
Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 31 Edward Lane, Barre, MA 01005. This is a 55 and better community. This home includes a wonderful floor plan with very spacious rooms. Master bedroom includes a walk-in closet. Two full bathrooms. A four-season sunroom is off the kitchen. Includes two large woodsheds and a metal garage you can park under to fend off winter weather. Asking \$288,000. See listing on MLS # 73433198

**NO ENTRANCE FEE**  
Brand New Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 37 Gauthier Rd., Barre. This is a 55 and better community. This home features an open kitchen/living room concept, perfect for family gatherings. Two large bedrooms on opposite ends of the home. Master bedroom has a walk-in closet and large attached bathroom. Just off the kitchen is a laundry area with door leading to back deck and yard. There is a monthly HOA fee which includes water, sewage, rubbish removal, and taxes. All exterior and interior doorways are 36" wide. Asking \$189,000. See listing on MLS # 73397436

**NO ENTRANCE FEE**  
Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 32 Edward Lane, Barre, MA 01005. This is a 55 and better community. Includes large carport and two large garden sheds. Approx. living area 1,000 SqFt. Asking \$139,900. See listing on MLS # 73398863.