

BARRE GAZETTE

USPS 044560

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

January 2, 2025 | Vol. 190, No. 39 | \$1.00

www.barregazette.turley.com

BARRE *Year in Review* 2024

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – With the new year only two days old, it is time to reflect back on 2024. It was the 250th anniversary year for the town of Barre and many activities were held throughout the year to celebrate. The highlight of the celebration was the Grand Parade held in September. The anniversary year ended with a gala ball on the last day of 2024 at the Harding Allen Estate.

JANUARY

The first snowstorm of the year began the night of Saturday, Jan. 6 and continued until evening on Sunday, Jan. 7. Temperatures stayed in the 20s. Most areas received at least a foot of fluffy, white snow. By Tuesday evening, Jan. 9, it began to rain as temperatures rose above freezing.

The town of Barre celebrates its 250 years this year and every month will hold a new and exciting event for all to enjoy. To kick off the year of events, the Barre 250th Anniversary Committee hosted an English Tea Party at the Senior Center on Sunday, Jan. 14. Considering the month of January is National Hot Tea Month, the organizers thought that it would be witty and fun to have the first event tea related.

Over 30 people came to the Barre Players Theater this past Sunday, Jan. 14 to host a book signing for Barre organic farmers and authors, Julie Rawson and Jack Kittredge. Their book, "Many Hands Make a Farm" began with them meeting in Dorchester and finally purchasing



File photos

People attending the book signing for "Many Hands Make a Farm" by Jack Kittredge and Julie Rawson were able to purchase a copy of their book and event get it signed by one or both of the authors.

acreage in Barre. In the introduction to the book, the authors wrote, "This book is our story of how we set out to create the life envisioned. We tell our story jointly, but separately, passing the narration back and forth from one to the other, as we might well do while reminiscing with a group of friends or answering questions for a new visitor to our farm."

Tony Musnicki tendered his resignation as Barre's Veterans Agent after 19 years of service. He attended the Tuesday, Jan. 16 Select Board meeting as well as submitting his letter of resignation. He left his date

of resignation open ended as he would continue as Veteran's Agent until a replacement was found. He also said he would be working with Town Administrator Tammy Martin in finding a suitable new agent.

The Barre Finance Committee started off the new year by reorganizing with the election of chair, vice chair and secretary at their Tuesday, Jan. 23 meeting. The committee re-elected Dan Jewell, chair; Leigh Ann Spring, vice-chair and newest member, Zackary Macutkiewicz, secretary. The other Finance Committee members are

Eric Reicker, Brian Inman and Irena Massei.

FEBRUARY

The Quabbin Regional School District budget subcommittee met Thursday, Feb. 1 to begin the Fiscal Year 2025 budget process. Cheryl Duval, Director of Administrative Services, gave the subcommittee a budget presentation. She said the preliminary FY 25 budget was \$41.5 million and at this time the budget was \$40.8 million. One of the largest budget increases was school transportation at 12%. Two com-



Barre resident Beatriz Arroyo has been named Listening Wellness Center's newest executive director.

panies bid for the three year contract and the low bidder was J.P. McCarthy & Sons, LLC, the current contract holder. The other bidder was Lizak Bus Service of Warren. She said tuition for charter schools and school choice had a 10.39% increase. However, less students were going to charter schools than last year.

Barre Fire Chief Robert Rogowski gave his yearly report to the Select Board for the Fire Department at the Monday, Feb. 5 meeting. He said call volume went up mainly on the ambulance

side; this was a trend in other Fire Departments as well. Barre Fire Department responded to 1,633 incidents in 2023 and there were 21 fires. He said there were 1,104 ambulance calls and of those calls, 26 were motor vehicle accidents. He said Emergency Medical Services received 152 Mutual Aid calls and provided 111 Mutual Aid assists.

Cheryl Duval, Director of Administrative Services and Kevin Clark, Building, Grounds and

See BARRE YIR, page 6

Barre voters pass all STM articles

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – Voters conducted all business at a Special Town Meeting on Dec. 17 in about 16 minutes.

To speed up the process, Moderator Joshua Smith waived the reading of the warrant and allowed non-resident town officials to speak if needed.

Article 1 made by Chair Maureen Marshall, sought the reduction the Fiscal Year 2025 omnibus budget by \$400,000, which was voted in Article 7 at the Annual Town Meeting in June. The new budget request reduced the police budget, fire budget, highway budget, town buildings, regional agreements and finance committee. It also included an increase of \$100,000 in the transfer of ambulance receipts from \$520,000 to \$620,000.

Select Board Chair Marshall in response to a voter question said there was a miscalculation in the 2 ½ levy limit as well as lower revenue receipts from what was estimated for the June ATM. The revenue drop was due from a reduction in tax bills being paid to about 80% from 90%.

She said she was "not happy" about having to reduce the omnibus budget by \$400,000 and the Select Board tried to spread the cuts over six line items, not just one or two.

Another voter asked what happens if the voters did not pass this article. Select Board Chair Marshall said the Board would

See BARRE STM, page 5

Looking at Oakham 2024 - Year in Review

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
edowner@turley.com

OAKHAM – It is now 2025 and it is time to look back on the old year.

JANUARY

Quabbin Regional School District Committee member Walter Nutter said the Oakham Center School water heater needs to be replaced at the Monday, Jan. 8 Oakham Select Board meeting. The electric water heater, which provides hot water for the kitchen and restrooms at the school was leaking and needed to be replaced. He said he did not know the exact cost, but the Interim Superintendent and Building and Facilities Director would be visiting the Select Board at a later date with more information on the cost of the water heater and the issues at the Oakham Center School.

Voters in Oakham made short order of an 18 article warrant at the Special Town Meeting on Monday, Jan. 22 held in the Fire Station. Finance Committee Chair Alan Flagg said the committee met and voted to recommend all articles with financial impact to the town. The only article not money related was Article 13, which was a flag bylaw.

FEBRUARY

Cynthia Henshaw, Executive Director of East Quabbin Land Trust, said plans are for the former Eva Grimes property to remain a farm. Eva Grimes was a cornerstone in the Oakham farming community, having run the Youth Fair for decades and mowed many of the town's hay field over the years to feed her dairy cows. EQLT recently started the process by taking down the farmhouse. The barn will remain and is a good structure for the future farming operation despite needing repairs. The vision is to sell the parcel with the barn and



File photos

Richard and Gail Pryce talk to some of the many attendees to the open house and ribbon cutting ceremony at the Reverend Richard and Gail Pryce House, located at 158 New Braintree Road.

a building envelope, providing a future farmer with the space to start their business in a house and farmstead of their own. The hiking trail off Ware Corner Road will continue to be available for walking, bird watching and nature study.

The Oakham Select Board discussed the reimbursement request from the Quabbin Regional School District for repairs to the generator at Oakham Center School. The district already paid the \$6,880 for electrical repairs to the generator. In the letter from the school district it said any expense over \$5,000 was the responsibility of the town and not the district under the Regional School Agreement.

MARCH

An open house and a ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Friday, March 1 for the Reverend Richard and Gail Pryce

House, 158 New Braintree Road from 1:30-4 p.m.

The Oakham Democratic Town Committee held a virtual caucus on Tuesday, March 5 at 5:30 p.m. to elect delegates for the 2024 state Democratic Convention. Any registered Democrat is welcome to attend.

Peter Joyce and Diane Peterson of the Oakham Board of Assessors discussed the possible resignation of the town's Principal Assessor, Andrea Letendre at the Monday, March 11 Select Board meeting.

The last day for candidates to obtain nomination papers for the Annual Town Election is Friday, March 29. Positions on the ballot for three year terms are Select Board, Assessor, Board of Health, Library Trustees, Cemetery Commission, School Committee, Moderator, Town Clerk and Tree Warden. There is a one year term for Constable to fill a vacancy



Oakham Police Chief Fredrick Gehring and Oakham Fire Chief Timothy Howe gave presentations on the history of their respective departments at the Open House held at the Oakham Historical Museum on Sunday, May 5.

and a five year term for Planning Board.

APRIL

On Saturday, April 20 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. there will be a town wide roadside clean up day in recognition of Earth Day on Monday, April 22. All Oakham residents may participate in a roadside clean up day, before all the ticks and grass grow too high. There will have a dumpster available for drop off behind the municipal buildings, Fire, Police and Highway. Blue trash bags and gloves will be available. This is only for roadside trash that can go into regular trash. There will be no disposal of electronics, tires, mattresses or other items not usually disposed of in weekly trash.

MAY

The Oakham Historical Museum, 1221 Old Turnpike

See OAKHAM YIR, page 7

State looks at redoing Route 67 this summer

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Town Administrator Michael Szlosek told the Board of Selectmen he met with the Highway Department and the state about a summer project aimed at redoing Route 67 from the New Braintree town line to Spring Street.

"This will be done by the state with their contractors," Szlosek said at the Dec. 17 meeting. "They will be taking financial responsibility for it."

Spending requests

The Highway Department requested approval to spend \$685 to purchase a new salt calibration computer sensor after the old one shorted out from corrosion. Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis said this is a one-time purchase.

The department also requested \$308 to purchase two batteries for one of the trucks. Both requests were approved.

Tree removal

A Hillside Avenue resident asked when tree removal would occur. She said the pine trees are still standing.

Petraitis said he will visit the property the next day to look at the trees.

New agenda item

Petraitis said in the new year, the board will be adding an agenda item to discuss project updates. Department heads can come before the board and update them about the status of ongoing projects.

Resignations

The board accepted the resignation from Finance Committee member Robert Locatelli and

See NB BOS, page 5



8 0 4 8 7 9 1 3 1 7 7

News of the Towns



Round Town
Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Seniors enjoy Functional Fitness Class



Submitted photo
The Functional Fitness Class, sponsored by the Oakham Senior Center, meets every Friday at 10:30 a.m. and is led by Melanie Silva of Do It 4 U, Spencer. Above are the smiling faces of the ladies at their workout session in host town New Braintree in the Town Center Building Friday before Christmas.



Hubbardston
Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Food Pantry holds distributions
The next two Barre Food Pantry distributions will occur on Wednesday Jan. 8 from 10-11:30 a.m. and on Thursday, Jan. 16 from 5:30-7 p.m. Clients are invited to pick up groceries from the food pantry either in the morning on Wednesday, Jan. 8 or in the evening on Thursday, Jan. 16, whichever is more convenient for them. In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients Jan. 8 and Jan. 16 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, 30 Park St. 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. On Tuesday night, Jan. 7 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. 7, they should call Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921. People should not arrive to volunteer on Tuesday, Jan. 7, Wednesday, Jan. 8 or Thursday, Jan. 16 without first contacting Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921 or Chuck Radlo at 978-355-6463.

Barre Winter Market
On Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. the Barre Winter Market located in the Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange St., Barre will take place. Other dates are Saturday, Feb. 8; Saturday, March 8 and Saturday, April 12, all from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. This is the third year of the market. Local crafters and farmers sell their crafts and products. For more information, people may call Celia at 978-355-0139 or email rebellbathandbe-yond@gmail.

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. 6. 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 — Meatloaf and gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, country blend vegetables, mixed fruit, whole wheat bread
TUESDAY — Chicken Mornay, couscous, Roman blend vegetables, vanilla pudding, diet = sugar free vanilla pudding, marble rye bread
WEDNESDAY — Roast turkey with gravy, cranberry stuffing, roasted Brussels sprouts, baked cinnamon pears, pumpernickel bread
THURSDAY — Macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, green beans, Blondie, diet = small piece, whole wheat bread
FRIDAY — Baked potato with chili and cheese, broccoli, sour cream, fresh fruit, Italian bread
 *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.

Food Pantry holds monthly distributions

BARRE — The next two Barre Food Pantry distributions will occur on Wednesday Jan. 8 from 10-11:30 a.m. and on Thursday, Jan. 16 from 5:30-7 p.m. Clients are invited to pick up groceries from the food pantry either in the morning on Wednesday, Jan. 8 or in the evening on Thursday, Jan. 16, whichever is 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 Barre Food Pantry Board of Directors considered changing how the pantry currently operates, but 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 vol-

unteers and clients Jan. 8 and Jan. 16 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, 30 Park St. 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. 7 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. 7, they should call Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921. People should not arrive to volunteer on Tuesday, Jan. 7, Wednesday, Jan. 8 or Thursday, Jan. 16 without first contacting Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921 or Chuck Radlo at 978-355-6463. Because conditions have been changing rapidly, clients should continue to check for updates on the Barre Food Pantry website by visiting <http://www.barrefoodbank.org/index.htm> and the Barre Food Pantry Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Barre-Food-Pantry-100156068300314/>.

Knitting group meets Jan. 7
The Hubbardston Public Library, 7 Main St., regular library hours are Mondays 1-7 p.m., Tuesdays 4-7 p.m., Thursdays 1-7 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m.-noon. Not Just Knitting group meets Tuesday, Jan. 7 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Participants should bring their needles, hooks, cross stitch, felting, yarn or whatever they are working on and spend a couple hours with other crafters. No registration is necessary.

MOD Grant
The town of Hubbardston has been awarded a \$41,515 grant from the Massachusetts Office on Disability to fund a comprehensive ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. This initiative will ensure that our public buildings, recreational spaces, sidewalks, and services are accessible to all residents and visitors. Updating their 18-year-old accessibility plan is a crucial step toward identifying and addressing barriers town-wide. It also opens the door to future grants that can help us enhance Hubbardston’s infrastructure and build a more inclusive community. Residents with experience or interest in accessibility are encouraged to get involved. Their input is valuable to this effort.

Senior Center
The Hubbardston Senior Center, 7A Main St., events include: Bingo from 12:30-3 p.m. on Mondays; Knitting Group at 10 a.m. every Tuesday at 10 a.m. and WiiBowling beginning at 8:30 a.m. every Monday and Wednesday beginning at 8:30 a.m. Eggs may be picked up on Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. in the Senior Center. Cribbage is played on Thursdays from 1:30-3 p.m. Pitch is played the first and third Friday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Art group meets every Friday at 9 a.m.

Senior Center rolls out ‘stronger together’

BARRE — The Barre/Hardwick Senior Center is rolling out a year-long program that aims to be educational, fun, and engaging beginning in January. The program “Stronger Together” aims to support ongoing efforts to ensure the aging and independence of older adults by way of access to information, services and support through every stage of aging. This program is in keeping with the Senior Center’s Mission Statement by identifying the needs of the aging in the community, helping to educate, enlisting support and participation in all activities including social, mental, cultural, arts and humanities and advocating for and implementing services. Stronger Together will offer programs such as, monthly discussions, self-assessments, challenges, games and educational presentations. It will also provide interactive opportunities for learning, social media engagement and connecting the aging with valuable resources.

They will wrap up the year with a celebration of “Becoming Stronger Together.” People may call the Barre Senior Center at 978-355-5004 to find out how they can join. They can also follow on Facebook at “Barre MA Senior Center” and access the Newsletter, “The Silver Spirit,” either online by visiting townoffbarre.com/coa or in print to get more information.

Girl Scout Cookie Drop happens Jan. 11

Girl Scout cookie season is almost here. Soon it will be time to buy Do-si-dos, Thin Mints, Tagalongs, Samoas and other favorites. The Girl Scout Cookie Program is the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world, with Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts serving over 5,000 girls from five counties in central and western Massachusetts. And it all gets rolling with the annual Cookie Drop. Saturday, Jan. 11, hundreds of Girl Scouts, troop leaders, staff and volunteers from across central and western Massachusetts will descend on central locations in Springfield, West Springfield, Townsend and Worcester to unload the initial run of 32,629 cases (391,548 packages) of Girl Scout Cookies to bring back home and sell. It’s a fun and exciting time for everyone involved. The annual Cookie Drop will take place on Saturday, Jan. 11 beginning at 7 a.m. in all locations save for Townsend.

Berthiaume and Durant hold office hours across region

State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume’s Chief of Staff Donna Farmer and State Sen. Peter Durant’s District Liaison Jared Grigg and Communications Director Kim Mongeau invite constituents and town officials to meet them to express any concerns, ideas or issues that they may need assistance with. Upcoming dates include Monday, Jan. 6, East Brookfield Senior Center from

9-10 a.m., Brookfield Town Hall from 10:15-11:15 a.m. and West Brookfield Senior Center from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Jan. 8, Ware Senior Center from 9-10 a.m., Hardwick Municipal Offices from 10:15-11:15 a.m., New Braintree Town Hall from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and North Brookfield Senior Center from 12:45-1:45 p.m.; Monday, Jan. 13, Hubbardston Senior Center from 9:30-

10:30 a.m., Barre Senior Center from 10:45-11:45 a.m. and Oakham Town Hall from noon-1 p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 14, Spencer Town Hall (Tammy Ruda from State Rep. John Marsi’s office will also attend) from 10-11 a.m. and Leicester Senior Center from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. To arrange a private meeting, contact Farmer by calling 774-402-4742.

Listening Center upcoming classes

BARRE — Listening Center, South Street, lists upcoming workshops and new classes. Rhonda Hamer will hold Strength and Stretch Fusion on Wednesdays, Jan. 8 to Feb. 12 from 1-2 p.m.; Understanding Osteoporosis on Wednesday, Jan. 22 from 5:30-7 p.m.; Gentle Yoga for Osteoporosis on Mondays, Feb. 24 to April 14 from noon-1 p.m.; Nutrition

for Osteoporosis on Wednesday Feb. 26 from 5:30-7 p.m. and Improved Posture Wednesday, May 14 from 5:30-7 p.m. Body of Earth beginners class with Loren Magruder starts Thursday, Jan. 9 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. for five weeks \$100 to be paid at first class in the Yoga Studio at Listening, 28 James St. People may register by emailing loren@creativeyogaworks.com or calling 802-683-8383.

Loren Magruder will offer a Body of Earth Winter Yoga Journey beginning on Sunday, Jan. 12 from 7-8:30 p.m. Yoga with Lisa classes are \$12 each or 8 for \$72 if paid at first class. People may try a free class to see if they are interested. They may call Lisa at 978-257-8180 or email lisa@burnouttblisshealth.com.

Corrections

For the last two weeks under the Listening Center lists upcoming classes Lisa Holloway’s email address has been wrong. The correct email address is lisa@burnouttblisshealthcoaching.com. Most of her classes are ongoing. The new ones are Yin Yoga for Beginners on Mondays from 9 a.m.-10 a.m. which starts on Monday, Jan. 6 and Yoga with Variations on Wednesdays from 10:30-11:30 a.m. which begins on Wednesday, Jan. 8.

CHECK OUT ALL THE

Turley Publications


www.turley.com

SUBMISSIONS ALWAYS WELCOME

Send your stories and photos to edowner@turley.com

Editorial deadline reminder

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



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

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

Free Estimates Fully Insured
Compare Our Rates References Provided
Gabe's
HARDWOOD FLOORS
Luxury Vinyl Plank • Install & Refinish • Stains
Bathroom Remodeling • We Supply Flooring
Installed • Finished • Custom Designed Floors
General Carpentry • Water Damage Restoration
We Install New & Refurbish Old Stairs
Michael P. Gabaree
Owner - Operator
508-886-4767
508-320-4744
gabeshardwoodfloors.com

Stasukelis
APPLIANCE & TV
WE SERVICE ALL MAJOR BRAND APPLIANCES
NAME BRAND APPLIANCES & TV'S AT WAREHOUSE PRICES
287 Main Street Gardner
978-632-0241
WWW.TURLEY.COM

News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

Select Board – Jan. 6, at 6 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – Jan. 7 at 6 p.m.
 Felton Field Commission – Jan. 7 at 6:30 p.m.
 Planning Board – Jan. 7 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Jan. 8 and Feb. 5 at 12:30 p.m.
 Library Trustees – Jan. 8 at 6:30 p.m.
 Barre Housing Authority – Jan. 9 at 1 p.m.
 Board of Health – Jan. 13, at 5 p.m.
 Water Commission – Jan. 13 at 6:30 p.m.
 DPW Commission – Jan. 13 at 7 p.m.
 Conservation Committee – Jan. 14 at 7 p.m.
 250th Anniversary Committee – Jan. 15 at 6:30 p.m.
 Sewer Commission – Jan. 16 at 7 p.m.
 Cemetery Commission – Jan. 23 at 11 a.m.
 Council on Aging – Feb. 5 at 12:30 p.m.
 Cable Advisory Council – Feb. 11 at 7 p.m.

HARDWICK

Paige Library Trustees – Jan. 2 at 7 p.m.
 Planning Board – Jan. 7 and Jan. 14 at 6:30 p.m.
 Recycling Commission – Jan. 7 at 6:30 p.m.
 Assessors – Jan. 8, at 10 a.m.
 Council on Aging – Jan. 8 and Feb. 5 at 12:30 p.m.
 Gilbertville Public Library – Jan. 8 at 4 p.m.
 Master Plan Steering Committee – Jan. 9 at 6:30 p.m.
 Board of Health – Jan. 14 at 6:45 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – Jan. 15 at 6:30 p.m.
 Gilbertville Water District – Jan. 21 at 5:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Feb. 5 at 12:30 p.m.
 Capital Planning Committee – March 17 at 3 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Sewer Commissioners – Jan. 6 at 5:30 p.m.
 Library Board of Trustees – Jan. 6 at 6 p.m.

OAKHAM

Select Board – Jan. 6 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Health – Jan. 9 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Jan. 10 and Feb. 14 at noon

PETERSHAM

Select Board – Jan. 2, Jan. 16, Jan. 30, Feb. 13, Feb. 20 and Feb. 27 at 5:30 p.m.
 Board of Health – Jan. 2 at 6 p.m.
 Advisory Finance Committee – Jan. 4 at 1 p.m.
 Petersham School Committee – Jan. 6 at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.
 Open Space and Recreation Committee – Jan. 7 at 6 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – Jan. 7 at 7 p.m.
 Zoning Board of Appeals – Jan. 9 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Jan. 13 at 10 a.m.
 Cemetery Commission – Jan. 14 at 10 a.m.
 Petersham Historic District – Jan. 16 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – Jan. 17 at 9 a.m.

Second Chance Worcester Hospital temporarily closed

WORCESTER – Second Chance Animal Services announced their Worcester Community Veterinary Hospital has been temporarily closed due to fire damage caused by an external issue originating outside the building.

For the safety of staff, clients, and their beloved pets, the hospital will remain closed while essential repairs and inspections are completed. During this time, Second Chance is committed to ensuring uninterrupted care for Worcester clients by welcoming them to the Southbridge, North Brookfield, and Springfield hospitals. Staff are working diligently to accommodate appointments and maintain continuity of care.

The external issue is being addressed by National Grid and other agencies. While collaboration is ongoing, the timeline for reopening remains uncertain. In the meantime, Second Chance is proactively providing support to clients and making arrangements for affected patients.

Although insurance will cover a portion of the damages, not all expenses will be reimbursed. To help bridge the gap, Second Chance is reaching out to the community for assistance. Donations will directly aid the hospital's recovery efforts, ensuring it can reopen stronger than ever to serve pets and their families.

"Our top priority is the safety and well-being of everyone who relies on our Worcester hospital," said Sheryl Blancato, CEO of Second Chance Animal Services. "We are deeply grateful for the patience and support of our community as we navigate this challenge together."

For assistance or to reschedule appointments, people may contact another Second Chance Community Veterinary Hospital. Contact options can be found by visiting www.secondchanceanimals.org/vetcare. Those wishing to make a donation to support restoration efforts can do so at www.secondchanceanimals.org/worcester-update. Checks can also be mailed to Second Chance - Worcester Restoration, 111 Young Road, East Brookfield, MA 01515.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

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 barrenews@turley.com or call 978-355-4000. Corrections may also be requested in writing at Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

Hardwick Year in Review



File Photos

Marking its 30th anniversary year, the East Quabbin Land Trust held its annual New Year's Day walk on the Mass Central Rail Trail to kickoff 2024 events.

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – Residents were divided on another proposal for a large project that could have brought a steady stream of revenue to the town, but not without the potential for significant impact to the environment and way of life.

When Casella Waste Systems Inc. submitted a proposal to reopen and expand the landfill, many remembered previous arguments and resistance to this site, which caused years of conflict.

Concerns about contamination and pollution, noise and traffic, and changes to the town's zoning bylaws were laid to rest when the Planning Board voted against recommending the proposed changes brought forward by Casella Waste Systems, Inc.

The town also welcomed some new faces in its leadership, with the appointment of Town Administrator Justine Caggiano; Fire Chief Joshua Pease; Deputy Fire Chief Nicholas Gaumond and Select Board Clerk William Tinker.

Landfill reopening/expansion proposal

During a Feb. 21 Zoom meeting, the Select Board voted to forward a proposal to change existing zoning bylaws received from Casella Waste Systems, Inc. to the Planning Board.

Casella's proposal would require voters to act on three separate articles at a town meeting. Casella's Vice President Brian Oliver accompanied his proposal to the Select Board with draft articles, and an explanation of Casella's request.

"The reopening and expansion of the Hardwick Landfill would provide significant benefits to the Town of Hardwick," Oliver stated in the proposal. "We expect that a Host Community Agreement between Hardwick and Casella would provide substantial revenue to the town. Casella would also continue to provide revenue to the Gilbertville Wastewater Treatment Facility for leachate treatment and disposal...in order to proceed with the landfill project Casella seeks support from the town in the form of certain Town Meeting votes."

On April 9, about 300 residents from Hardwick and surrounding towns attended a public hearing hosted by the Planning Board to discuss proposed zoning amend-



Auctioneer Paul Varney started the live auction at the Friends of the Stone Church's Valentine Gala held at Hardwick Crossing Country Club in February of last year. This year's event will be held on Saturday, Feb. 8 at 4 p.m. with tickets available at friendsofthestonechurch.org.

ments.

These amendments were submitted by Casella Waste Systems for the purpose of reopening and expanding the solid waste landfill on Patrill Hollow Road.

Oliver said his company was approached by Hardwick brothers Dan Roach and Darryl Roach about reopening the landfill and combining it with their adjacent gravel pit.

"We feel there's significant need," Oliver said of reopening the landfill.

He said Casella would only move forward with the project if they had support from the community.

Oliver said the Host Community Agreement drafted by Casella offers \$6 per ton tipped, or \$2.1 million a year. He said the HCA will remain in effect for the life of the landfill.

Previously, Casella had predicted about a 20 year lifespan, but due to the discovery of ledge, they believe it will be less than that. Oliver said Casella expects the landfill to be open for about 13 years.

Joining Oliver was Professional Engineer Steve Wright, who explained the need for zoning amendments in order for the project to move forward. This included re-zoning certain parcels of land on Patrill Hollow Road from Agricultural Residential (AR-60) to Industrial (I-40); adding language to the schedule of land intensity regulations for buildings, structures and uses (Zoning Bylaws, Section 2.3.2); and adding solid waste

landfilling as an allowed use in the Industrial District.

The proposed landfill cover 48 acres, but a total of 146 acres (62 existing and 84 abutting) would need to be rezoned as Industrial (I-40), which was one of the zoning amendments brought forward by Casella.

Other zoning amendments include increasing the 670 foot limit to 850 feet. Oliver said the final capped elevation would be 800 feet above Mean Sea Level, or 300 feet above ground level.

A portion of Patrill Hollow Road would also need to be discontinued and reconfigured.

Many residents weighed in, making arguments both for and against the proposal. Owen Wright who has spent all 23 years of his life in Hardwick, spoke against the landfill.

"We really have something special here," he said. "We appreciate that every single day."

Following the closing of the public hearing, the board members voted unanimously against recommending the proposed zoning changes.

New Town Administrator

In April, Town Administrator Nicole Parker announced that she had accepted a job in Southwick and would be leaving her position in Hardwick, which she had held since 2021.

"I love the town," Parker said. "I think we did a lot of good work here...I really want to thank you for really giving me the opportunity three years ago."

After completing the final round of interviews with two candidates, the Select Board made the decision to offer the Town Administrator position to Justine Caggiano at its May 22 meeting.

Caggiano has previous municipal experience working as the Human Resources Director in Ware and the Assistant Town Administrator in Leicester.

During the final interview held the day before, Caggiano said finances would be the biggest challenge facing the town. She said as Town Administrator, she would look through the town's budget line by line looking for potential savings.

"If I can bring any of my background and experience, and hopefully save the town a little bit of

See HARDWICK YIR, page 8



Q-Drug welcomed former NBA player Chris Herren to Quabbin Regional High School last March to talk to students and families about substance use and addiction.

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.

MAILBOX DOCTOR

978.844.2956

Granite Post with Mailbox
 Granite Lamp Posts
 Mailbox Repair Services

www.mailboxdoctorpro.com



Oakham

Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com



Church to hold benefit breakfast

On Saturday, Jan. 11 from 8-9:30 a.m. the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will hold a breakfast to benefit the Sullivan family of Rutland. The menu includes pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, strawberries, juice, coffee, tea and hot cocoa as well as homemade doughnut holes. All are welcome to attend. A free will offering will benefit the Sullivan family.

Senior Center activities

Senior Center, located in lower level of Town Hall, include Monday, Jan. 27 Podiatry from 9 a.m.-2.30 p.m. reservations are required; Mondays through Thursdays at 9 a.m. Walking Group (meet at Senior Center and Tuesdays through Thursdays at 11 a.m. Walking Group (meet at Senior Center. On cold days, the walking groups will walk to tapes inside the Senior Center.

On Tuesdays from Jan. 7 to March 4 there will be yoga at 12.30 p.m. Other activities are fourth Tuesday of the month is blood pressure/glucose testing from 11 a.m.-noon; Wednesdays Zumba Gold at 9 a.m. in the Rutland Senior Center (\$2 donation per class); second Thursday of the month Blood Pressure at 11 a.m.; third Thursday of the month SHINE from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. reservations are required; Thursdays at noon for the Courageous Weigh in support weight loss group and Fridays Functional Fitness at 10.30 a.m. at the New Braintree Town Hall \$2 donation per class.

On Friday, Jan. 17 Lunch Bunch will meet at the Empire Buffet in Southbridge at 12.30 p.m. Sign up sheets are in the main room of the Senior Center for the Lunch Bunch.

Hot Lunches are offered at the Senior Center dining area Monday through Thursday at 11.30 a.m. Reservations are needed at least two days in advance and can be made through the Congregate Meal Coordinator from 9 a.m. to 12.15 p.m. by calling 508-882-4072.

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

Pen pal letters

Seniors should return their pen pal cards and letters in one envelope by Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025 at the box provided in the lower level of the Fobes Memorial Library.

Knights host spaghetti dinner on Jan. 18

WEST BROOKFIELD – Knights of Columbus Council 11080 is sponsoring a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, Jan. 18 in Dugan Hall, Sacred Heart Church, 10 Milk St.

Proceeds from this event will benefit Supporting Orphans Nationally & Globally (S.O.N.G.).

Dinner includes pasta fagioli, garden salad, meatballs and sausage, spaghetti and sauce, Italian bread, dessert, water, soda and coffee. The cost is a \$15 donation for adults and \$10 for children under 12 years old.

Take-out is available at 6 p.m. and sit-down dinner is served at 6:30 p.m.

Admission tickets are also good for entry for a special door prize. Raffle tickets for a 50/50 raffle and more will be available.

Advance ticket purchase is encouraged and appreciated. Tickets are available from any Knight or by calling 413-813-8100 or by emailing wallyconnor122@gmail.com. Tickets will only be available at the door while they last.



Clean Out Solutions

Basement, Attic, Shed & Whole House Cleanouts
 Shed, Pool & Hot Tub Removals
 Arthur "Skip" Gervais
 (774)397-6500

"Join the team that does more by 9am than some do all day!"



Train now to a new career in 6 weeks. High hourly wages and generous bonus program. Van work available too!

Call or text 774-200-6762 or email jobs@mccarthybus.com to apply

J.P. McCarthy & Sons
WWW.MCCARTHYBUS.COM

Opinion

Letter to Editor

Reader wants more small business news

I would love to see your pages pay more attention to the small business' in the area. Citizens may not even know about the new or struggling entrepreneurs. Small businesses are so important in our economy. They have to compete with wealthy online corporations like Amazon and restaurant chains.

It would be interesting to hear about how business' got started – generations in the family, new inspiration, plain luck, etc. Photos would add interest. A good background story would enliven the coverage.

I look forward to hearing more about the enterprises tucked away in our area that are trying to make a go of it.

Sincerely,
Susan Coles
Barre

Guest column



Can my wife claim her SS now and get half my SS benefit later?

Dear Rusty:

My wife will reach her full Social Security benefit at 66.5 years of age which is just under 2 years away for her now.

If she were to begin to get her monthly check now (i.e. early), would that prevent her from being eligible for the spousal benefit to receive half of what I am currently drawing?

Signed:

Curious Husband

Dear Curious:

If your wife claims her own SS retirement benefit now (e.g., at 64.5 years) and you are already collecting your own SS benefit, then she will be automatically deemed to be filing for her spousal benefit immediately when she claims her own benefit. She does not have the option to defer claiming her spousal benefit until later.

This is a change made by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which requires all those first claiming SS to file for all benefits they are eligible for when they claim. What that would mean is that your wife's benefit now, including her spousal boost from you, would be actuarially reduced by the number of months early she claimed.

Her own SS retirement benefit would be permanently reduced by about 15% and her "spousal boost," the additional amount she would get as your spouse, would be reduced by about 19%, yielding a combined benefit which is roughly 42% of your Full Retirement Age SS benefit.

The only way your wife can get half 50% of your FRA benefit entitlement is by waiting until her own full retirement age (66 years and 10 months) to claim. Note too that your wife's spousal benefit will be based on your FRA entitlement, so if you claimed earlier or later than your own full retirement age, her spousal benefit will still be based on your FRA entitlement.

Also, your wife should be aware that anyone, who claims early, is subject to Social Security's "earnings test," which limits how much can be earned while collecting early benefits. Thus, if your wife is working, she will be restricted on how much she can earn before Social Security takes away some of her benefits.

FYI, the earnings limit changes annually, but for 2025 it is \$23,420 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 over the limit. And, FYI, the earnings limit goes up a lot during the year FRA is attained and the earnings test no longer applies once full retirement age is reached.

I hope this answers your question, but if you have need additional information, please feel free to contact us directly at SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org, or call us at 1-888-750-2622.

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 amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Air traffic controller shortage & holiday travel...



Guest Column



A New Year of possibilities

I spent last night curled up on the couch with a seed catalog in hand. It was a nostalgic few hours for me, in which I was transported back decades, to when gardening was new and my time and energy were boundless.

Regardless of it being the present day, I began circling this and that, and even curled a few pages too. All the fruit and vegetables I could grow, and store, and preserve, and eat, all year long.

Could my homesteading nature be bubbling back up to the surface? Perhaps. And wouldn't that wonderful if it could be a reality? It surely would.

Talk about an admirable ambition for the New Year.

I started to think about what my family eats on a regular basis and what I would have to do to grow enough food to last throughout the year or at least seriously supplement what we typically buy. The most important considerations are taste and productivity.

If a variety is productive, but doesn't taste great, then what is the point?

I have "plugged" Fedco Seeds a number of times through the years. The newsprint catalog is full of such great information; follow up by looking online (fedcoseeds.com) to get a color picture of what you will grow. I specifically enjoy reading the personal recommendations from the triallers in many of the descriptions!

The biggest problem I have growing tomatoes is with early blight. Last night I found a great disease resistant paste tomato called Plum Regal that will suit my needs well, hopefully yielding many quarts of sauce for the cupboards.

And what about that Little Dipper Butternut Squash? Disease resistance reigns true here, with taste and productivity ranking high too. Twenty-two fruits from three plants? I'll take it.

Succession planting is paramount if I want to grow lots of food consistently. This planting method is defined as "planting more than once."

It can be planting lettuce, for example, every two weeks throughout the growing season or planting beets in the spot the peas vacated. Reading the catalog reminded me that not every variety is suited for successional sowing.

In other words, the lettuce I sow for an early spring sowing might not be best for planting in the summer, and summer lettuce definitely won't be the best to extend my growing from fall into winter. I will definitely plan accordingly.

Likewise, I may love "Jade" green beans, but they wouldn't be the best for my first sowing because they are white seeded and typically white seeded beans rot in cool soil. I'll start with a dark seeded bean.

I am really looking forward to trying to grow a few new things this year, watermelon and cantaloupe to be exact. Less fruit to buy is a good thing, right?

I learned some tips from the catalog. Namely, to start the melons indoors, then transplant at two or three weeks old, before the roots tangle, into soil that has been amended with lots of aged manure or compost and prewarmed with black plastic mulch.

See GARDEN, page 10

In Past Pages

5 years (Jan. 9, 2000)

Hubbardston Department of Public Works director Travis Brown said that heavy equipment owned by Bay State Concrete caused imperfections in Hale Road. Town Administrator Ryan McLane said the town bylaw allows the town to access a fine of \$300 per day to a party that caused damage to a town road until the person or persons causing the damage fix it. Faye Zukowski, co-owner of Bay State Concrete, attended the Dec. 16 Select Board meeting. She passed out photos and a handout to the board. She said the bylaw on road damages did not allow for an appeal process. She said the "damage" was superficial scrapes to the road caused by Bay State Concrete's excavator that has pads. The operator used boards for the excavator to drive over, but one slipped and the pads left superficial scrape marks. The board tabled the matter until they had more information.

A New Braintree teen is one step closer to achieving the rank of Eagle Scout after months of planning and building. North Brookfield Troop 257 Eagle Scout candidate Lukas Anderson heard that Second Chance Animal Shelter needed a storage shed to hold all the tools to care for the dog park at the Community Veterinary Hospital in North Brookfield. An animal lover, Anderson solicited a donation from the Brookfield Lions Club, who agreed to fund the entire project.

Barre Selectmen received notification from the Cemetery Commission about proposed fee hikes. The Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on the fee increases at its next meeting Tuesday, Jan. 21. The rate for a A lot size would increase from \$400 to \$500 and a B lot from \$800 to \$1,500. Other fee proposals would change the cremation burial fee from \$125 to \$400 and a full burial from \$800 to \$1,000.

10 years (Jan. 8, 2015)

The Petersham Cemetery Commission will present a public screening of the award winning documentary "A Will for the Woods" on Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. in the Petersham Memorial Library, 23 Common St. The film is free and open to all. With poignancy and humor, the affirming film portrays the last wishes of psychiatrist and musician Mark Wang of Durham, New Carolina, who while battling terminal lymphoma, is joined by friends in the community in his search for a green burial. Green burial or what some call conservation burial, eco burial or natural burial is a simple and natural alternative to conventional burial cremation.

The Barre Board of Selectmen awarded the fuel oil bid to R.J. McDonald, Inc. of Barre for heating oil. The Board advertised and received

LOOK BACK Williams Block Fire – 1956



File photo

Barre lost its venerable Williams Block on the Common to a fire on a cool Nov. 8, 1956. Long a town gathering place for all manners of social and political events, Williams Hall (located on the second floor of the building) shared the structure with commercial establishments and apartments. The building used to stand at the corner of Common and Grove Streets, next to the Barre Historical Society.

one bid, R.J. McDonald, Inc. The bid contained two options. Option 1 was a fixed rate of \$2.47 per gallon through June 30, 2015 and option 2 was a floating rate based on the Boston price plus a percentage. The rate currently is \$2.18 per gallon, but it will vary. The Board opted for Option 1.

Oakham Highway Superintendent C. Kevin Currier told Selectmen that he was having a hard time finding a pickup truck with low mileage and no rust for the \$10,000 voters appropriated at a Special Town Meeting. Most of the trucks he looked at had high mileage and rust.

25 years (Jan. 13, 2000)

Two of Barre's finest citizens received awards Thursday, Jan. 6 at the Barre Business Associations millennium party held at the Harding Allen Estate. Olive Tuttle was named citizen of the year and Stevens Bed and Breakfast operator, Irene Stevens, was named business of the year. Olive came to the party with her grandson, state Rep. David Tuttle, who had given her a corsage to wear as his date.

Town officials were very impressed with the turnout in the special primary election held

Monday for the state representative seat vacated by Harold Lane. When the votes were tallied, it was learned that 329 votes were cast. On the Democrat ballot, David Bunker received 83 votes and Tim Ethier received 14 votes. Mark Ferguson was the top vote getter on the Republican ballot, receiving 143 votes. His opponents didn't fare well in Hubbardston. Susan Sullivan received 18 votes and Christopher Walton received 13 votes.

A Special Town Meeting scheduled and a debt exclusion ballot vote Feb. 14 regarding the school situation are on the agenda in Petersham. The Special Town Meeting will take the action of joining the Quabbin Regional system. The town has not yet voted to remove from the Mahar Regional system.

38 years (Jan. 15, 1987)

Voters at the Jan. 12 Barre Special Town Meeting appropriated \$10,000 as a retainers for architectural work on a proposed addition to the Ruggles Lane School. Of the 20 articles put before the voters, only one, that of a land

See PAST PAGES, page 5

Election letters to the editor welcome

The Barre Gazette welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to the Barre Gazette care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to edowner@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in the Barre Gazette.

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, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005 or via email to edowner@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

BARRE GAZETTE TEAM

EDITOR
Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Dan Flynn
dfflyn@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
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

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager



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.

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

Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

Happy New Year to all my devoted readers and friends.

I remembered to write 2025. Make sure you do some of your checks with that date so you won't forget.

I spent the weekend taking down the Christmas decorations, but I left the Ginger boy and girl things in the kitchen, snowmen in the den and Noah's ark on the fireplace mantel. I took all the Christmas gold ornaments off the tree, which is artificial and left the natural ones like pinecones, acorns and covered the tree with red felt Valentines that I had embroidered flowers on several years ago. I also decided to put my felt birds, cardinals and chickadees, that I made several years ago. I must admit it is very pretty when it is lite up with small white lights.

The weather has been unusually warm so I took the car out of the garage and let the rain wash it off. I also wanted to find my quilting magazines in the garage to put them in the cellar. When the car is parked in the garage I cannot get to any of my supplies.

Winter is a good time to serve a lot of soups for lunch and what goes well with soup, Biscuit Muffins that my Nancy friend from New Hampshire, who sent me the recipe.

BISCUIT MUFFINS

- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 1/2 tablespoons baking powder
- 3/4 cup cold butter
- 1 cup cold milk
- Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Spray 12 muffin

cups with oil. In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar and baking powder. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Stir in milk, just until flour is moistened. Spoon into muffin cups. Bake 20 minutes or until golden. Remove muffins from pan; cool on wire rack. Note: These muffins brown better on the sides and bottom without paper liners.

This and That

I was sorry to hear of the passing of long time resident Peter Aalto on Dec. 21. I enjoyed going to get pumpkins from his farm every fall. He was such a gentleman.

I try to do a different project each day. I also try to contact a friend by phone each day. So many did not send cards for the holiday because the postage is so high.

We enjoyed our Christmas at our youngest daughter and her husband's house and there were too many gifts. We played the Yankee Swap and most did swap too make it fun. We also talked on the phone to the grandson, who was unable to attend and wished him a healthy new year.

Our helper treated us to a very delicious take out meal two days before Christmas and we treated our Handyman to a rib supper the night before Christmas.

Now that the holidays are behind us we can relax a bit and enjoy some good books. I did receive some for Christmas. I also received a scarf that has a battery and heats up and also another lovely scarf and glove set. One daughter keeps me busy with lots of material and the other daughter makes sure we have enough to eat. May you all have a healthy new year.

Michael Roy retires from Cornerstone Bank

WORCESTER – Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, announces the upcoming retirement of Senior Vice President, Chief Risk Officer Michael Roy.

"Mike has been an integral part of ensuring our systems are iron-clad and always in compliance with regulations that are constantly changing to keep up with evolving technology," said Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank. "We are grateful for his thorough work and unwavering commitment to excellence."

Roy's career spans 48 years in retail banking, operations and compliance, three of which were spent at Cornerstone. Roy said

it's been rewarding to help the bank meet the demands of a more tech savvy customer base.

"Opening an account used to take about 25 minutes. Now it takes three minutes," he said. "Cornerstone has done a great job of making sure we move along with what modern customers expect." In his current role, Roy oversees the bank's governance and strategy for risk management and compliance and protects the investments of stakeholders. "I'm proud of my time at Cornerstone. I don't think there are too many banks out there that



Michael Roy

enjoy the reputation we've built, and it's the only going to get better," he said.

The Whitinsville native has a bachelor's degree from Bryant University in Rhode Island and an MBA from Anna Maria College in Paxton. He is looking forward to spending some well-earned time off, relaxing and traveling with family. "I'm going to miss the team I work with, a lot of great mentors and friends," said Roy. "But I've been working at this goal for a long time. Now that it's finally here, I'm really looking forward to it."

served time off, relaxing and traveling with family. "I'm going to miss the team I work with, a lot of great mentors and friends," said Roy. "But I've been working at this goal for a long time. Now that it's finally here, I'm really looking forward to it."

BARRE STM, continued from page 1

seek a proposition 2 1/2 override for the \$400,000 in order to balance the budget. She said the Department of Revenue would mandate the town take this action. A 2/12 override requires a Special Town Meeting vote and then holding a town election to either approve or disapprove the override with a ballot vote.

Select Board Chair Marshall said this would delay the setting of the town's tax rate. She said a 2 1/2 override most likely would not be looked on favorably among voters.

Edward Kelly asked why

the Quabbin Regional School District did not participate in the reduction and did the June budget already include budget cuts. Select Board Chair Marshall said it was against the law for the town to cut the school budget after its approval.

Finance Committee Chair Dan Jewell said the June budget included increased costs such as fuel and the new contractual arrangements with the police, fire and highway unions. These were all increases over the previous contracts. Following the discussion, voters approved Article 1 with only a few saying no.

Select Board member Mark Regienus made a motion to

transfer \$7,500 for the Capital Stabilization Fund for equipping a snow plow for the highway department. Moderator Smith said the Capital Stabilization Fund transfer required a simple majority, not the two-thirds vote that the Stabilization Fund needed. Article 2 passed unanimously.

Select Board Vice Chair John Dixon made the motion on Article 3, the final article on the warrant. The article sought transfer of \$26,000 from Capital Stabilization Fund to cover the town's share of a grant used toward the purchase of a new fire truck. The article passed unanimously.

NB BOS, continued from page 1

Cultural Council member Jillian Phillips.

The board members thanked both for their service to the town.

First Night Out activities

The Parks and Recreation Department and the Cultural Council worked together to host a First Night Out event on New Year's Eve from 2-6 p.m. There will be games, snacks, a scavenger hunt, trivia contest, crafts, music and a bonfire.

Local businesses, churches and the Historical Museum will be open during the event.

Cleaning services

The board approved a contract to receive weekly cleaning services at the Senior Center in the amount of \$200 per month.

PAST PAGES, continued from page 4

sale, received an opposing voted. With 20 articles on the warrant, the 82 voters present voted quickly and ended the meeting within 1/2 hour.

The Rutland Fire Department is sponsoring an Emergency Medical Technician Course on Monday and Wednesday evenings from

6:30-9:30 p.m., beginning on Jan. 26 and running until May. The basic training course involves a minimum of 100 hours of classroom and field instruction. An additional 10 hours are spent in a hospital emergency department observing and assisting in the treatment of patients. The course is designed specifically to prepare the individual for work on an ambulance or in an emergency department.

The Barre Congregational Church is featuring a new film series by Dr. James Dobson, a renown and respected family psychologist, beginning on Sunday, Jan. 25 at 6:30 p.m. The series will run for five consecutive Sunday evenings and is called "Turn Your Heart Toward Home." Calvin and Lynn Layton of the church have arranged for this film program. There is a small fee of \$1 per evening or \$5 for the six part series.

GARDEN, continued from page 4

Using row covers over the plants until flowers appear will keep off the cucumber beetles and provide additional heat. The catalog also provided some interesting tips on how to harvest ripe melons.

When I did manage to grow a

plant to maturity, there is absolutely nothing worse than cutting into a melon notoriously unripe with no way to ripen it. Best to call it chicken food at that point.

So this year I will grow ripe melons, lots of lettuce and butter-nut squash along with gallons of tomato sauce. And more. A New Year of possibilities.

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.



Turley Photo by Abby McCoy

Will Rhatigan, MBTA Communities Engagement Manager at the Citizens' Housing and Planning Association gave a presentation about the commonwealth's housing crisis at the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond's meeting.

Housing presentation article

By Abby McCoy
Correspondent

WARE – On Dec. 18, the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond held a meeting at Cedarbrook Village of Ware to discuss updates on the local economy, business developments and ongoing housing issues.

The meeting was opened by WBCA and Beyond President Dan Flynn, who thanked local businesses for their support of recent community events. He highlighted the success of the Wreaths Across America and Holiday Flair drive-through events, both of which drew large crowds and supported local businesses.

Berthiaume and Durant hold office hours across region

State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume's Chief of Staff Donna Farmer and State Sen. Peter Durant's District Liaison Jared Grigg and Communications Director Kim Mongeau invite constituents and town officials to meet them to express any concerns, ideas or issues that they may need assistance with.

Upcoming dates include Monday, Jan. 6, East Brookfield Senior Center from 9-10 a.m., Brookfield Town Hall from 10:15-11:15 a.m. and West Brookfield Senior Center from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Jan. 8, Ware Senior Center from 9-10 a.m., Hardwick Municipal Offices from 10:15-11:15 a.m., New Braintree Town Hall from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and North Brookfield Senior Center from 12:45-1:45 p.m.; Monday, Jan. 13, Hubbardston Senior Center from 9:30-10:30 a.m., Barre Senior Center from 10:45-11:45 a.m. and Oakham Town Hall from noon-1 p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 14, Spencer Town Hall (Tammy Ruda from State Rep. John Marsi's office will also attend) from 10-11 a.m. and Leicester Senior Center from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

To arrange a private meeting, contact Farmer by calling 774-402-4742.

In addition, a volunteer group of residents and local businesses is working with the Parks Commission to restore the Beauregard Playground near the Reed Memorial Pool. These improvements will provide updated spaces for families and children in the community.

James Ferrera, Warren's Town Administrator, shared positive news for local taxpayers. He reported that the Department of Revenue set Warren's single tax rate at \$14.81 per thousand, the lowest in over a decade. This reduction will stabilize property taxes for many residents, with some seeing a slight decrease.

Ferrera attributed this to careful spending and modest increases

es in property values, thanking local departments, boards, and commissions for their efforts.

The main part of the meeting focused on the housing crisis in Massachusetts, with a presentation by Will Rhatigan, MBTA Communities Engagement Manager at the Citizens' Housing and Planning Association.

Rhatigan spoke about the state's housing shortage and the need for more affordable homes. He explained that CHAPA's "Our Massachusetts: Homes for a Thriving Commonwealth" campaign aims to build 200,000 new homes by 2030 to address this crisis.

In Massachusetts, housing prices have risen sharply since 2016. Statewide, prices have increased by 74%, while Ware has seen an 88% increase. This has made housing unaffordable for many, as families now spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs, which classifies them as "cost-burdened."

For some, this number exceeds 50%, placing them in the "severely cost-burdened" category.

This affordability issue is driving people out of the state, particularly those aged 25-45. In 2023, Massachusetts saw a net loss of residents in this age group. Many people are leaving due to the high cost of rent and housing, as well as job availability.

This trend has serious consequences for local businesses, which are struggling with labor shortages. A recent Mass Inc Small Business poll found that 61% of small businesses are struggling to fill open positions, and 65% of business owners said housing costs are a major barrier to hiring.

Rhatigan explained the economic benefits of building more affordable housing. More housing means more residents, which translates to more customers and workers for local businesses. It can also increase tax revenue and lower costs for local services.

Additionally, with more people living close to their jobs, there is potential for more disposable income spent on goods and services.

Despite these benefits, housing in Massachusetts remains expensive due to a long-standing shortage of affordable housing. Rhatigan emphasized

that the state needs to build more multi-family homes to address the growing demand as it is more cost effective to build multi-family homes that will suit more people rather than single family homes.

Rhatigan outlined both short-term and long-term solutions to improve housing affordability.

Long-term, he suggested reducing zoning and regulatory barriers to make it easier to build housing. In the short-term, he recommended programs to help keep people in their homes, such as rental assistance and first-time homebuyer programs.

Locally, Rhatigan encouraged Ware to adopt the Community Preservation Act, which could allocate a portion of the property tax levy to fund affordable housing. He also recommended creating an Affordable Housing Trust Fund and a Community Land Trust to help fund the creation and preservation of affordable homes.

Rhatigan called on Ware's business leaders and residents to get involved in addressing housing issues at the local level. He pointed out that decisions about housing are made at town meetings, and local leaders have a strong influence on policy. He encouraged business owners to speak up for more housing development by attending meetings, talking to local officials, and advocating for change.

He also stressed that businesses play a key role in improving the community. When local leaders speak up for housing, they help ensure that the town remains vibrant and economically strong.

The meeting concluded with a call for everyone to stay involved in the conversation about housing and the local economy. By working together, Ware's businesses and residents can help create a more affordable and thriving community.

As housing remains a key issue, local leaders are encouraged to continue advocating for solutions that will benefit everyone.

LOCAL KETONE PROMOTER

Call For Information
413-813-2391

Leave Message

Check Out Facebook at
Denise Dubowski

Save Up To 25% OFF
Retail Prices

McNeely Tree Service

Insured • References

- Hazardous Tree Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Bobcat Work
- Lot Clearing • Storm work
- Furnace Wood
- Firewood \$275/cord
- 101 ft Aerial Lift Rental POR
- Credit Cards, Cash & Venmo Accepted



H: 508-867-6119 • C: 978-888-1693

This paper publishes birth, engagement, wedding and significant anniversary announcements free of charge. Simply log on to our web site, choose the paper you want the announcement to appear in, then use our SUBMISSION link to email your information.



www.turley.com



Lynn Lyons of New Hampshire gave a presentation on worrying at Quabbin Regional High School in April.

The American Legion Color Guard and other Veterans march in the Barre Memorial Day parade May 27.

The Quabbin Class of 2024 rejoice in the traditional throwing of the caps after being formally recognized as graduates.

BARRE YIR, continued from page 1

Security Director for the Quabbin Regional School District attended the Tuesday, Feb. 20 Barre Select Board meeting to discuss emergency lighting replacement at the elementary school Clark said the district two estimates for the cost to replace emergency lighting and battery packs at the Ruggles Lane Elementary School. The first estimate was \$14,000. A second estimate was \$9,950, which falls under the \$10,000 procurement law threshold. Select Board Chair Maureen Marshall said American Rescue Plan Act Funds would be used to cover the cost. She told the school officials, the Select Board would aid this project to the list of ARPA funded projects, which will be voted at their next meeting.

MARCH

Students from Quabbin Regional Middle High School and Eagle Hill School participated in the Massachusetts Education Theatre Guild's annual High School Drama Festival on March 2, putting on exceptional performances that demonstrated a remarkable ability and maturity from the youth participating.

Two members of the Barre Library Association, Ann Meilus and Lucy Allen, told the Barre Select Board at the Monday, March 4 meeting of the need for chimney repair at the Woods Memorial Library. Meilus said the chimney was in "horrible state of repair" and the library boiler functions off it. The bricks were falling inside the chimney. If the bricks blocked the chimney, fumes would be dangerous to people inside the building. All said the chimney was 137 years old. Mortar repair was done in the past, but not correctly, which added to the problem. The BLA, which owns the library building, had an inspection of the chimney using a camera that showed the problems. Fire Safe Chimney Service did the inspection and gave a quote of \$38,000 for the chimney repair. The quote dated Feb. 16 was good for 60 days.

This past Monday, March 4 a group of parents and residents came to the Barre Select Board with input for new playgrounds for the town's children. The Select Board sought resident input on the types of equipment they wanted at playground upgrades at High Plains and Rice Park. Rice Park and High Plains, two parks, will be getting new playground sets with American Rescue Plan Act funding and will feature accessible play with handicap and wheelchair accessible play equipment.

For Quabbin Regional High School alumni Cody Handrahan, stepping back into his high school gym and standing in front of an assembly of students and staff, was a feeling almost beyond word. "It's and honor and privilege to be back here," Handrahan said at the assembly last Thursday, March 7 evening, held in commemoration of Purple for Prevention Week. Handrahan attended the high school in 2008-2009, but never graduated. As a young teen, he smoked and drank a lot to fit in with his peers. "Very quickly that changed," he said, when he became addicted to opioids at just 15 years old.

After celebrating its 2—year anniversary four years ago, Listening Wellness Center in Barre, is ready to turn the page on its next chapter with a new executive director at its helm. Barre resident, Beatriz Arroyo has recently filled the role, following the departure of longtime Executive Director Laura Dusha Nelson. Having followed Listening Wellness Center on Facebook since she moved to town, Arroyo decided to take a chance and apply for the executive director position.

Residents in Barre will go to the polls on Monday, April 1 to cast their choices for various positions on the ballot. This year there is one



The town of Barre celebrated Founder's Day on Monday, June 17, 2024 on Barre's North Common. There were rows of chairs some in the shade and some in the sun. Residents, town officials and friends came to the same location of previous Founder's Days on another significant town anniversaries.

contest — a seat on the Select Board for a three-year term. The two candidates for the Select Board are Maureen Marshall and Richard C. Stevens.

The Insurance Advisory Committee attended the March 18 Select Board meeting to present their recommendation for health insurance for town employees. The committee recommended the town accept the 8.45% increase for health covers from Massachusetts Inter-local Insurance Association. Treasurer Jake Voelker said currently the town pays 62% of health insurance and the employee pays the remaining 38%. He recommended slowly implement a 70% and 30% ration by increasing the town's share by 2% per year to reach 70%.

APRIL

With the unofficial Town Election results in, Maureen Marshall won a second three-year term to the Barre Select Board on April 1. She received 487 votes (284 precinct 1 and 203 precinct 2) and her challenger, Richard C. Stevens got 413 votes (246 precinct 1 and 167 precinct 2). The voter turnout was 21.48% with 908 out of 4,228 registered voters casting ballots.

The Select Board unanimously offered the Senior Center Director job to Betty Jo O'Brien at their Monday, April 1 meeting. Select Board Chair Maureen Marshall said they interviewed three candidates for the job. Select Board Vice Chair John Dixon said all three were "great candidates." Town Administrator Tammy Martin researched all of the candidates. All three of the references for O'Brien checked by the Town Administrator said she "works well with people." Vice Chair Dixon made a motion to offer the Senior Center position to O'Brien pending a Criminal Offender Record check. Mark Regienus seconded Dixon's motion.

Woods Memorial Library welcomed Elizabeth Thompson, who offered a creative writing workshop. The attendance at the workshop featured aspiring writers, who love writing poetry, fiction, novels and short stories. The first exercise was about self-reflection and Thompson went around the room to learn what each writer would like to keep or let go of in their writing process.

Quabbin Regional High School welcomed Lynn Lyons to present a program on worrying called "Modeling Matters: What Parents Need to Know (and Do) to Decrease Stress, Worry and Anxiety." Lyons is a licensed clinical social worker and psychoanalyst based out of Concord, New Hampshire. She has traveled internationally as a speaker and trainer on the subject of anxiety.

Sunday, April 21 the day before Earth Day, 48 enthusiastic citizens gathered in the picnic area at the Barre Falls Dam to celebrate the kick-off first event of the 250 Anniversary of Barre's incorporation in 1774. The Barre Historical Society sponsored this event. Lucy Allen, the knowledgeable historian at the Barre Historical Society, spoke for an hour. Next to her was a poster board filled with photos of old homes and long gone grist mills and factories.

MAY

Carol Steinbrecker of the United Church of Christ installed Pastor Margaret Keyser at Barre Congregational Church as the settled part-time pastor on May 5. Members of Pastor Margaret's family prerecorded the sermon, musical piers and personal dedications in her hometown of Wellington, South Africa. Margaret's 99 year old mother-in-law, Dorothy Alt, recorded a message at her home in Maine to congratulate Margaret. Church member Kevin Fogarty and Pastor Margaret's husband, Jim Alt, recorded the entire service to share with those unable to attend.

The Barre Finance Committee met with school officials from Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical High School on Tuesday, May 14.

This was the meeting with the final budget stakeholders before their public hearing and the Annual Town Meeting. The town, which is a member of the Monty Tech District, had 45 students attending. This is three more than the previous year. Barre's share among the member towns was 8.05%.

Barre's assessment for Fiscal Year 2025 would be \$372,382. The assessment included a 4% increase in transportation and a 3% Cost of Living Adjustment for all staff.

The weather forecast predicted rain for Memorial Day, May 27. Although many towns cancelled their Memorial Day parades or moved their ceremonies inside, Barre held theirs. There was intermittent rain, fog and colder weather than the sunny, hot weather earlier in the weekend. A large crowd attended with many carrying umbrellas or wearing rain gear. Showing patriotism and remembering those who gave their lives for their country, many dressed in red, white and blue colors. This year it was Barre's turn to have the Quabbin Regional High School Band and the Naval Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps from the high school. Members of the Quabbin Community Band also participated. Every year, Margo Petracone of Barre rides her horse in the parade. She proudly carries



Barre Lions Club president Robin Cheney announces the winners of the plaques.



One of the special moments in Barre's 250th Grand Parade was the Barre Historical Society Concord Coach pulled by four Belgium horses. Former state Sen. Stephen Brewer sits atop the stagecoach and Lucy Allen, Historical Society historian rides in the rear seat. Members of the Barre Historical Society rode inside the coach.

an American Flag and her horse sports a flag themed saddle pad and red, white and blue leg wraps. The Higgins family provided an array of military vehicles. Angelo Salvatore behind the wheel was in an ambulance Jeep along with his wife, Melanie.

JUNE

This year the sun shone upon the Quabbin Regional High School's 120 graduates last Friday evening.

With the Symphonic Winds playing "Pomp and Circumstance" by Edward Elgar, the Class of 2024 walked out of the front entrance of Quabbin Regional High School. Marshals Isabela Smith and Jaxson Warburton led the procession. The Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps Color Guard, which included Isabele LaBelle, Hunter LaBier, Richard Tucker and Jordan Blanchard, carried the American flag and the NJROTC flag. Superintendent Colleen Mucha, Principal Purnima DeMoraes, Assistant Principal Jason Gilmartin, Assistant Principal Janet Hicks and Assistant Principal Steve Nicora walked in the procession along with members of the Quabbin Regional School Committee.

On June 1, the Quabbin Regional High School graduating Class of 1973 celebrated their Post 50 Class Reunion at the South Barre Road and Gun Club in Hardwick.

There were about 58 classmates that attended the celebration, along with several guests for a total of about 88 attendees. The Class of 1973 was the first class to travel through all 6 grades of Quabbin upon its inception in 1967. The class had 125 graduating students, but regrettably 25 of them have passed.

On a hot and sunny June 17 day about 60 people came out to honor the town of Barre's founding 250 years ago to the day. The ceremony location, North Common, was the same location previous Founder's Day marking the town's significant other anniversaries were held. The 250th Anniversary Committee planned and hosted the morning ceremony. It began with the 250th Anniversary Committee Chair Richard C. Stevens welcoming the attendees. Other members of the committee: Meghan Peddle, Vice

Chair; Nicole Ricchazzi, Treasurer; Diana Tuttle, Secretary; Hillary Budreau; Amanda Clapham; In Memoriam Cindy Clarkson; Mark Clarkson; Melissa Handy; Bekki LaVenture; Kristen Shepardson and Thomas Tuttle flank sat in chairs in front of the Civil War monument.

JULY

The Woods Memorial Library hosted its popular Touch a Truck event over by the North Common in Barre this past Saturday, July 13. This activity was a chance for children to explore and learn about the community workers and the vehicles they use on the job site. More than a dozen vehicles were placed on the side of the Town Common. The vehicles were provided by the town's Department of Public Works as well as by local businesses, who were generous to donate time and have children experience part of their lives. To cool things off, there was an ice cream truck handing out pop-sicles and ice cream for guests as they walked down the row of parked trucks. The ice cream truck is famously known as the Frosty Flyer and was provided by Fidelity Bank.

The Select Board approved the host agreements or High Hawk LLC and Caregiver Patient Connection LLC for another four years. The new agreements are effective July 18, through June 30, 2028 and meet the new state statutes regarding marijuana establishments. The new regulations required the town to itemize all impact costs they bill to them such as legal fees directly related to the licensing, etc. High Hawk LLC owner Chris Higgins attended the meeting and approved the host agreement template presented by the board. The board had Caregiver Patient Connection LLC owner, Dean Iandoli, on a phone call and he approved the language as well.

Brendan Cole from the Ecotarium came to the Barre Town Hall last week to give children an opportunity to learn about Earth and space and even get the opportunity to look at some sun spots. Sponsored by the Wood's Memorial Library for its summer reading program, Cole set up many different experiments for children to take part in, as well as a telescope with a spe-

cial screen over the lens in order to look at the sun to see sunspots.

Barre's 250th Anniversary Committee hosted a day of family fun at Summerfest on Saturday, July 27 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Felton Field, Old Coldbrook Road. Entry was free. Events included axe throwing, food trucks, beer and wine, bounce houses, hay obstacle course and permanent jewelry. Activities also were frog jumping at 11 a.m., adult pie eating at 11:30 a.m., children's pie eating at 11:45 a.m., live music from noon-2 p.m. with the Big Random Band and sack race at 1:30 p.m.

AUGUST

The Barre Select Board voted to dissolve an inter-municipal agreement for building department services with three other towns effective Monday, Aug. 19 at their Monday, Aug. 5 meeting.

The towns of Hardwick, New Braintree and Petersham along with Barre as the host community have shared a building commissioner since 2017. About a month ago, the town of Hardwick withdrew from the agreement as they were not happy with the service delivery pattern. The Select Board appointed Select Board Chair Maureen Marshall to negotiate with the other towns. She said New Braintree and Petersham also had issues with the service delivery and would be taking a vote to dissolve the agreements. She said William Cantell, building commissioner, was the last employee and would be receiving a two week severance pay. The Board will now look for a part-time building inspector.

Audit report

Renee Davis of Marcum, LLC, a Boston based accounting firm, presented the audit report for the town for Fiscal Year 2023 to the Board at the Aug. 5 meeting. The accounting firm Powers and Sullivan, the town's previous auditing firm, merged with Marcum. The town received a clean audit. Davis reminded the Board of the need to obligate American Rescue Plan Act funds by the end of this December to avoid having to return the unused funds to the Federal Government. The town received \$1.7 million in ARPA money. She also discussed the town's \$3.7 million Other Post Employment Benefit liability. She said the town created an OPEB trust and recommended they fund money toward this liability in their yearly budget.

The Barre American Legion Post #2 welcomed the Military Vehicle Show the last weekend in August. This is the second time the show has come to the Barre American Legion and the vehicles are provided by the Massachusetts Military Vehicle Collectors Club: Southeast Chapter. The club is a group of people, who like and maintain military vehicles and equipment. The military vehicles on display date back to the late 1940s up to the early 2000s.

SEPTEMBER

The Barre Lions Club car show had a perfect day for their 13th annual event on Saturday, Sept. 7. There were 202 registered cars displayed on the common. New this year were Barre Lions Club Car Show t-shirts in four different colors sold for \$25.

The 250th Anniversary Grand Parade was grand indeed. The weather, which was cloudy, wind and cold with a bit of rain drops here and there, did not deter people from coming out to line the over one mile plus parade route. There were over 900 participants in the parade Saturday, Sept. 21 and parade was about one mile long. The Barre Historical Society 1859 Concord Stagecoach came out of its space in the annex behind the historical society to be pulled by four Belgium horses. The coach took a shorter route than the over one mile route other parade participants

OAKHAM YIR,
continued from page 1

Road, opens for the season on Sunday, May 5 from 1-4 p.m. The museum features a police and fire exhibit. There will be a presentation of the history of Oakham Fire and Police Departments. Presenters will be the respective Chiefs Fred Gehring and Tim Howe in the Oakham Historical Association Annex. Fire Chief Howe will bring the old and new fire trucks and Police Chief will bring the new drone. The open house at the Oakham Museum, 1221 Old Turnpike Road, is 1-4 p.m. The museum is open the first Sunday of the month May through October.

The Oakham Select Board went over the articles for the Annual Town Meeting at their Monday, May 6 meeting.

After going through all the articles on the warrant, the Board voted unanimously to accept them as presented. The Finance Committee will meet on Wednesday to go over the articles. Select Board Chair Donald Haapakoski read each article. Some of first articles are standard articles, which appear on the warrant annually. They include accepting town reports as printed, authorizing the treasurer to borrow money, authorizing the Select Board to set salaries, accepting Chapter 90 funds and approving limits on the town's revolving funds.

The Annual Town Election ballot had no contests on the ballot, but that changed when Michael Brunelle announced he was a write-in candidate for a three-year term on the Select Board.

In the 2023 election, Aaron Langlois and Michael Brunelle, a former selectman, ran for a one-year term to fill a vacancy after Bradford Taylor resigned earlier that year. Langlois won the 2023 election. Monday, May 20 election results were the opposite of the last year's results. Michael Brunelle received 285 write-in votes and Aaron Langlois, 273. About 35% of the town's 1,556 registered voters went to the polls on Monday, during early voting hours or cast ballots through the mail. Voters also said yes to a ballot question to have the elected Town Clerk become an appointed position with 301 in favor and 182 opposed.

JUNE

Over 120 registered voters approved a \$4,842,256 budget for Fiscal 2025 at the Monday night, June 3 Annual Town Meeting. This year the budget included the schools in the total budget rather than having a separate article for education. The Town Accountant recommended doing this as it was considered an accounting best practice and followed by many other towns. To balance the budget, the town used \$170,000 in free cash. Using free cash for operating costs instead of capital projects is a policy the town



The Oakham Fire Department Honor Guard marched in the Memorial Day parade in Oakham on May 27.

tries to avoid. Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent Colleen Mucha said the school committee cut the budget from 10% increase to 3%. This included a reduction in 15.4 staff members, due in part the retirement of staff, which were not being replaced. She said Oakham has 224 students in the 2,191 total student population in the five-member district. She also said the school district had increased costs just like the towns.

The Oakham Senior Pen Pals enjoyed the Ice Cream Social on Thursday, June 13 at 2 p.m. with their fourth grade Oakham Center School penpals.

On Saturday June 22 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. the Fobes Memorial Library, 4 Maple St., held Kids' Fest. This is the annual end of school bash. The Kids' Fest is funded by the Friends of the Fobes Memorial Library, Inc., the Oakham Cultural Council and the Mass Cultural Council.

A foggy and drizzling Memorial Day, May 27 kept some people at home, but despite the weather many came out for the Memorial Day parade and ceremony. Fire Chief Timothy Howe acted as Master of Ceremonies. The Boy Scouts placed a wreath on the Veteran's Memorial Monument and conducted the flag ceremony. Alisha sang the National Anthem. This year the Oakham Fire Department Honor Guard provided the 21 gun salute followed by the playing of "Taps" by Brandon. There were two speakers this year, Lucy Tessnau, a member of the Select Board and Matthew Brunelle, a resident with family members who served in the U.S. Marines.

JULY

Summer concerts continued on the Oakham Common. The Otters performed on Thursday, July 11 and Wylie and the Boogiemens on Thursday, July 25. All concerts are held on the Oakham Common from 6:30-8 p.m. People may purchase popcorn, cold drinks and water at the concerts. People may bring a blanket or lawn chairs.

The Oakham Select Board at their Monday, July 15 meeting discussed the driveway permit fund.

The fund contains \$34,600 and consists of \$400 payments when people are building a home in town. When they provided proof they had the apron paved at the roadside of their driveway, the town reimbursed them the \$400. If they did not pave the apron, when the town had their road paved, they paved the aprons and used the homeowners deposit to cover the cost. Select Board members said many of these deposits may go back to the 1980s when the driveway permit came into being and should be cleared from the books. The town auditors included this in their report and recommended transferring the bulk of the funds into free cash.

The Select Board approved reimbursement for two road paving projects at their Monday, July 29 meeting. The first reimbursement request was for \$112,066.10 for Barre Plains Road from Old Turnpike Road to the Barre Town Line. The second reimbursement request was for \$133,158.90 for Coldbrook Road from Maple Street to Deacon Allen Drive, a distance of 2,400 feet. The work on Barre Plains Road and Coldbrook Road began May 20 and finished on July 12.

AUGUST

The 27th annual GABB golf tournament sponsored by the Oakham Congregational Church, took place Monday, Aug. 5 at Quail Hollow Golf and Country Club, Old Turnpike Road. Previously named the Bob Tyck Memorial Golf Tournament, it is now the GABB Tournament in honor of Gretchen Nahkala, Art Gray and Bob Lajoie, in addition to Bob Tyck. During the past 26 tournaments, thousands of dollars benefitted charities from area towns as part of the church's community outreach and support. Proceeds from last year's golf tournament were \$5,000 Bob Tyck Memorial Fund, \$1,000 Oakham



The bounce houses were popular with the attendees at Kid's Fest put on by the Fobes Memorial Library.

Opportunity Fund, \$1,500 Camp Putnam, \$1,500 OCC Church Outreach Program, \$2,000 Barre/Rutland/Oakham Food Banks, \$1,500 Quabbin Pro Musica and \$1,000 Oakham Fire Department Association.

On Thursday, Aug. 8 Say Uncle entertained and on Thursday, Aug. 22 Quintessential Brass as part of the summer concert series in the gazebo on the Oakham Common. All concerts are held on the Oakham Common from 6:30-8 p.m. People may purchase popcorn, cold drinks and water at the concerts. People may bring a blanket or lawn chairs.

A free family picnic was held during the open house at the Oakham Historical Museum, 1221 Old Turnpike Road on Sunday, Aug. 26 from 1-4 p.m. There was a meat platter, salads, iced tea, lemonade and desserts. There also were children's games, face painting, fish pond, three-legged race and corn hole.

SEPTEMBER

A church breakfast was held at the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, Oakham on Saturday, Sept. 21 from 8-9:30 a.m. The menu includes pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, strawberries, orange juice, coffee, tea and hot cocoa. This breakfast benefited the Rutland Food Bank in memory of church member Ken Cook and the church with a 50/50 split.

Select Board Chair Lucy Tessnau said she met with Rutland's Town Manager recently about regional animal control with that town. She said, "After talking with the Town Manager, I felt this was not the year for regionalization." Select Board Vice Chair Donald Haapakoski and Select Board Member Michael Brunelle concurred. They voted to table the issue. Select Board Chair Tessnau said she drove the roads in town to see what homes did not have driveway aprons installed. She counted 95 driveways and the number did not include North Brookfield Road, Route 148, as it was not safe to stop and look at

driveways on the well travelled road.

OCTOBER

Fall Harvest Festival was held at Dismas Family Farm, 687 Lincoln Road, Oakham on Saturday, Oct. 5 from noon-4 p.m. There were hay rides, pumpkins and a delicious fall treats. Admission was free.

After a hiatus of several years, the Oaktobefest returns on Saturday, Oct. 5

at Wright Field, Ware Corner Road. The Oakham Fire Association will but on a chicken barbecue.

In addition there will be games, live music, food by Sir Loin's, Agronomy Farm Vineyard, local wares, performers and more.

On Saturday, Oct. 12 the Oakham Fire Department through Rutland Regional Emergency Communication Center received a call of a reported fire at 10:59 a.m. at 290 Rutherford Road.

Mutual aid assistance was called to assist the Oakham Fire Department. Crews arrived to heavy fire conditions between the garage and house along with a fast moving brush fire headed toward another house. Oakham crews along with mutual aid partners quickly and aggressively attacked the fire. Barre, Hardwick, Hubbardston, Leicester ALS, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Orange, Paxton, Rutland, Spencer and Department of Conservation and Recreation Fire. Holden covered the Rutland station.

A request for National Grid came at 11:53 a.m. The nearby Camp Putnam pond, located just over the Oakham line in New Braintree, was used for a water draft site.

The annual Halloween Trunk or Treat took place on Thursday, Oct. 3 from 5-7 p.m. in the Town Hall parking lot, 2 Coldbrook Road. Trick or Treating also happened throughout the town.

NOVEMBER

The Naval Sea Cadets hosted a breakfast for Veterans on Saturday, Nov. 9 from 9-11:30 a.m. in the Municipal Building, Barre Road.

All Veterans were welcome to attend.

The Oakham Select Board at their Monday, Nov. 12 meeting on the recommendation of the Board of Health appointed Jessica Katsoulis to fill a vacancy on the BOH until the next town election in May 2025. The Select Board approved the alcohol license renewals for 2025. They included: Agronomy Farm Vineyard, wine only; Route 148 Package and Variety, all alcohol; Golfer Arms, all alcohol; Pine Acres Lodge, all alcohol and store at Pine Acres, wine and malt. The annual license fee is \$355 for an all alcohol license and \$205 for wine or wine and malt. Administrative Assistant Mirabel LaRange said she would have the licenses available for the Board's signature at a later meeting.

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, held their annual Harvest and Holly Fair on Saturday, Nov. 23 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the church. The church had a baked table, craft table, cookie walk, raffle table, homemade quilt raffle, white elephant table and snack bar. There were local crafters as well.

DECEMBER

The Oakham Congregational Church Sunday School held their annual Christmas pageant during the 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Dec. 15. Once again the story of Jesus' birth was reenacted by the younger children and the youth fellowship members were narrators.

The 28th Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols marked the return of an orchestra to accompany the chorus in "Glory in the Highest." The cantata by Marty Parks for chorus and orchestra also included the founder, Dawn Thistle, on piano. John Baptista conducted and Toni Brown worked with a group of Quabbin Regional High School musicians. This popular event sponsored by the Oakham Congregational Church happened on Sunday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. The chorus, which included members of the Oakham Congregational Church choir and community members, rehearsed since October. Sunday night's large audience was a mix of community members, family of the orchestra and chorus and church members.

On Sunday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will hold their annual Festival of Lessons and Carols. A choir and community choir accompanied by a community orchestra will perform "Glory in the Highest" by Marty Parks. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, held a Candlelight Christmas Eve Service on Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. The Rev. Carissa Rodriguez was the guest minister.

BARRE YIR,
continued from page 6

followed from Quabbin Regional High School to Ruggles Lane. The coach meet the rest of the parade at Kendall Street where it joined the parade. Riding atop the coach was the parade's grand marshal Stephen Brewer dressed in period costume. Also riding on the coach in the rear seat was Lucy Allen, Historical Society historian and several historical society member rode inside the coach. Other highlights of the parade included the Mummies, who traveled all the way from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and the Melha Shriners from Springfield. The Shriners entertained young and old speeding around on their small cars and carts and even driving up and down a ramp as it slowly moved along the route.

The Department of Public Works Commissioner accepted the resignation of DPW Superintendent Jason Pimental effective Sept. 29 and the resignation of Chief Water Operator Eric Qualters effective immediately. At the DPW Commissioners Sept. 19 meeting, the motion on the resignation of the DPW Superintendent included approving all

The Barre Select Board met with Cindy Mack from Site Specifics and a representative of Miracle Recreation, to hear a proposal for the High Plains playground on Sept. 23. Select Board Vice Chair John Dixon presided in the absence of the Chair Maureen Marshall. Select Board member Mark Regienus was present. Site Specifics is on the state bid list. Mack, who also is the site manager, said she completed 20 playgrounds for the city of Worcester, one in Templeton, one at the Hubbardston Center School and is currently working on a playground in Winchendon. All the playgrounds are ASM and American Disability Act compliant. Mack's proposal consisted of three play areas. One area for ages two to five,



The Barre/Hardwick Senior Center had a 20th anniversary celebration on Nov. 19. The celebration had light refreshments and cupcakes.

swings in the middle and the other for ages five to 12.

benefits, which were approved in executive session.

OCTOBER

The 2025 Fall Bazaar took place this past Saturday, Oct. 5 at Quabbin Regional High school. The Fall Bazaar is a day of fun activities and fundraising to support the senior class. Students of the Class of 2025 put in a lot of hard work and effort to put this fun fall bazaar together to help raise funds for their class activities. Senior Advisor to the Class of 2025, Davey Ljungberg, can only describe the Fall Bazaar as "an event brought back to life."

Select Board Vice Chair John Dixon gave the other two Select Board members an update on the Williamsville Road project at their Monday, Oct. 21 meeting. He said the town has a water design plan that was created for Williamsville Road, but it does not have a drainage design plan. He said without proper drainage in place, the road would continue to erode on the hill area. He requested the town put out a Request for Proposal for an engineering firm to create a drainage

plan. He said an overlay of the road, which has many potholes, would provide a band aid fix of one to one and half years. The road needs to be fully reclaimed and reconstructed following the drainage plan. Select Board Chair Maureen Marshall was not sure Palmer Paving was available for doing the overlay work before the winter. Select Board Mark Regienus said the overlay work could be limited to the worst areas of Williamsville Road.

The Select Board voted to add overlay work for Williamsville Road to the Chapter 90 list of projects. They also will check to see if Williamsville Road has a drainage design plan before putting out an RFP for it.

NOVEMBER

In Barre, 3,118 of the 4,468 registered voters (1,567 precinct 1 and 1,551 precinct 2) for a 71.38% voter turnout in the Tuesday, Nov. 5 election. A total of 1,622 voted the Republican Trump/Vance ticket (765 precinct 1 and 857 precinct 2) and 1,404 for the Democratic Harris/Walz (758 precinct 1 and 646 precinct 2). Elizabeth Warren, Democrat, received a third term



Grand marshals for this year's Christmas in Barre parade were members of the 250th Anniversary Committee.

as Senator in Congress with 1,305 votes in Barre (701 precinct 1 and 604 precinct 2). In Barre challenger John Deaton, Republican, was the high vote getter for that office with 1,750 votes (835 precinct 1 and 915 precinct 2) going against the state results. Peter Durant, Republican, incumbent, won Senator in General Court Worcester and Hampshire District with 1,851 (879 precinct 1 and 972 precinct 2). His challenger, Sheila Dibb, Democrat, got 1,142 votes (619 precinct 1 and 523 precinct 2). Donald R. Berthiaume Jr., Republican and incumbent, ran unopposed. He received 2,345 (1,110 precinct 1 and 1,235 precinct 2).

The Select Board held the annual Fiscal Year 2025 Tax Classification Hearing at their Monday, Nov. 18 meeting. As in previous years, the Board of Assessors recommended the Select Board adopt a single tax rate and vote not to adopt the residential exemption, open space exemption and the small commercial exemption. The Select Board unanimously approved the single tax rate and voted not to adopt the three exemptions. Jesse Warren from the Assessors office, said Barre

properties were 89.8% residential, 3.7% commercial, 1.4% industrial and 5.1% personal property. He said the residential exemption offered up to a 35% discount to residents and shifted the burden to vacation homes and rentals. Barre did not have that. As far as the open space exemption, Barre lacked land designated as open space. Chapter 61a and 61b provided tax reductions to farm and forest land. The third exemption small commercial, the owner of the property not the business owner, received the discount. The Select Board signed the necessary paperwork for the Board of Assessors to move forward in the process of setting the tax rate.

The Barre/Hardwick Senior Center celebrated 20 years of operation during a special anniversary party held last week. The 20th anniversary party took place on Nov. 19 and the turnout was spectacular.

Dozens of residents from Barre and Hardwick came together for a special celebration featuring delicious 20th anniversary themed cupcakes. These desserts were high-lighting the Barre blue and white and light refreshments were available thanks to the dedicated staff of

the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center. In attendance was Betty-Jo O'Brien, director of the Senior Center. O'Brien was excited to see all the seniors come together for this special anniversary celebration.

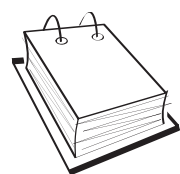
DECEMBER

While hundreds of people flocked to the common to enjoy the annual Christmas in Barre celebration, Santa Claus was making his way to town for an early visit to hear the Christmas wishes of children of all ages. This year, the common was blanketed with the first snowfall of the season, turning it into a winter wonderland. Santa's arrival was marked with a parade featuring the festive sounds of the Quabbin Regional Middle/High School's marching band, many floats decorated by local businesses, town officials, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts, community organizations, residents and of course, horses.

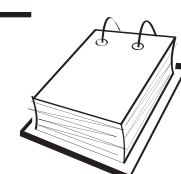
After the parade, the children and their families lined up to visit with Santa and his wife, Mrs. Claus, and share their Christmas wishes for that year. Each one left with a special toy that will surely be cherished for years to come.

The Woods Memorial Library hosted a fun kids activity where they got to design their own wrapping paper. There is still time to shop for gifts and wrapping them takes time. The library wanted to offer an activity that adds some extra holiday to their gifts by wrapping them with their own wrapping paper.

The library provided all the blank wrapping paper and decorative tools. Getting busy with her own wrapping paper was Youth Services Librarian Kayla Phillips along with Assistant Youth Services Librarian Kate Murray. The librarians always wanted to have this activity done at the library and thought the kids could enjoy decorating the same colorful wrapping paper they're used to unwrapping on Christmas morning.



Calendar of Events



THURSDAY, JAN. 2

BARRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM will be closed today. The Historical Society will return to usual business hours on Thursday, Jan. 9 from 10 a.m.-noon.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 8

BARRE FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION takes place today from 10-11:30 a.m. and Thursday, Jan. 16 from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., Barre. In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients Jan. 8 and Jan. 16 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.

THURSDAY, JAN. 9

TALES OF THE TROUBADOUR with musician Bob Jordan will take place today at 6:30 p.m. in the Stevens Memorial Library, 20 Memorial Drive, Ashburnham. The event is free and open to the public. The library requests people call 978-827-4115 to reserve a seat. This program is supported by grant

Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

This week's mystery photo is from North Brookfield. 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. 6. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in the following edition. **Bill Bowles, Peggy Civilik, Stephen Craven and Evelyn Luukko correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was of the new bridge on Ravine Road in New Braintree.**

funds from the Institute off Museum and Library Service administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

SATURDAY, JAN. 11

BENEFIT BREAKFAST will take place today from 8-9:30 a.m. the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road. The menu includes pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, strawberries, juice, coffee, tea and hot cocoa as well as homemade doughnut holes. All are welcome to attend. A free will offering will benefit the Sullivan family.

BARRE WINTER MARKET located in the Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange St., Barre will take place today from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Other dates are Saturday, Feb. 8; Saturday, March 8 and Saturday, April 12 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. This is the third year of the market. Local crafters and farmers sell their crafts and products. For more information, people may email rebellbathandbeyond@gmail or call Celia at 978-355-0139.

FRIDAY, JAN. 17

GRANDPARENTS AND KINSHIP CARE SUPPORT GROUP meets today from 9:30-11 a.m. at the Worcester Family Resource Center, 20 Cedar St., Worcester. The group meets in person for breakfast the third Friday of the month. For questions or to register, people may call Debbie at 508-796-6118 and leave their name and contact information.

HARDWICK YIR, continued from page 1

money, I will," Caggiano said. Caggiano said she would welcome a lot of input from the Select Board and Finance Committee in creating the budget, especially as she learns more about the town. "I'd be working very closely with the Finance Committee and making sure that it's in the best interest of the town," she said. Caggiano said she will work to make the town more efficient and ensure that information is easily available for residents. She also wants to become involved in the community. "My goal is to make an impact; it's not to change Hardwick," she said.

New Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief

The town welcomed new Fire Chief Joshua Pease to the position at the start of the new year, follow-

ing the retirement of longtime Fire Chief Raymond Walker at the end of December.

Pease had previously served the department as Deputy Fire Chief, which was then filled by Nicholas Gaumont.

Land trust celebrates 30 years

Since 2012, the East Quabbin Land Trust has started each year with a New Year's Day group walk along the Mass Central Rail Trail, and this year was no different.

The walk serves to renew the organization's dedication and commitment to protecting open space.

In celebration of its 30th year, EQLT prepared for a year of events to celebrate this momentous milestone, including a Gala Dinner and Auction on April 20.

"2024 is a special year for us," Executive Director Cynthia Henshaw said.

EQLT has a lot to celebrate, including continued efforts to expand and improve the Mass



The Department Conservation and Recreation held a ribbon cutting ceremony at the newly rehabilitated access road at Quabbin Reservoir's Gate 43.

Central Rail Trail, with segments from New Braintree to Wheelwright, New Braintree to Creamery Road in Gilbertville, Ware River Park in Gilbertville, near the Ware-Hardwick Covered Bridge, as well as Upper Church Street in Ware.

Henshaw credited volunteers with helping to replace timbers on the decking of the lattice truss and pony truss bridges along the Mass Central Rail Trail.

The volunteers "put in a huge amount of effort to make the bridges safe," Henshaw said.

Volunteers and others also helped to spread stone dust along a newly cleared section of Mass Central Rail Trail in Wheelwright, giving way to a stunning view of the Ware River and the Wheelwright dam.

Ware River Park mural

With over 100 miles of a historic rail corridor being utilized for the Mass Central Rail Trail, Holden artist Margaret McCandless started a mural on one of the newer segments of the trail, which starts in Gilbertville near New Furnace Landing, and spans to a scenic lookout at Ware River Park on Lower Road.

McCandless has begun the process of transforming a fence at the Gilbertville trailhead, using this blank canvas as an opportunity to celebrate the town, its history, and its natural beauty. The fence was installed through the use of a Department of Conservation and Recreation grant received by the town.

"The decades have shown that conservation land strengthens a town's economy," McCandless said. "My nature and history murals are a way I can help children grow up appreciating preservation."

Prior to starting the Gilbertville

mural, McCandless worked with the East Quabbin Land Trust to create a mural on the Church Street section of trail in Ware. She has also painted murals on two tunnels along the trail in Rutland, one at the comfort station at Tully Lake Campground and another at the Tidepool Bookshop (which is owned by former Hardwick residents Jo and Huck Truesdell).

This mural looks at Hardwick's history through the lens of the four seasons, starting with spring and moving to winter as you travel along the trail. In spring, an arrowhead-shaped painting portrays life before European settlers arrived on Nipmuc land. Shifting into summer, the painting now morphs into a shape of a cow and highlights the town's farming period of the 1830s.

Fall brings the rise of industry, shaped after the iconic Gilbert Manufacturing Company's brick mill that still stands today.

This painting will feature other aspects of the landscape that still make up the fabric of the village, including the Stone Church Cultural Center and the Ware-Hardwick Covered Bridge. It will also have trains, giving a nod to the once vibrant transportation which laid the pathway for the Mass Central Rail Trail.

The winter season looks at the town as it is today, drawing its inspiration from the recently restored gazebo at New Furnace Landing.

McCandless said the mural will be filled with depictions of native wildlife and plants, helping people of all ages learn more about their community.

Adding art to the Mass Central Rail Trail "encourages people to keep looking forward," as they explore, McCandless said.

"It also keeps children visually interested," she said. "It's easier for parents...having a child say, 'let's walk as far as the salamander.'"

The Gilbertville section of trail, including Ware River Park and the newly restored gazebo at New Furnace Landing, were part of multi-year project led by members of the town's Conservation Commission, the East Quabbin Land Trust, and

many volunteers. The project also included two launch points for paddlers along the river's Blue Trail.

Conservation Commission member Rebecca Bottomley joined McCandless in working on the mural last Thursday.

"You just look at this and it you're going to smile," Bottomley said of the mural.

As a resident walked by the mural on his way to work, both McCandless and Bottomley invited him to pick up a paintbrush, and make his own mark on the project, which he gladly did.

McCandless and Bottomley invite people to come see the progress of the mural and have the opportunity to be part of it. McCandless said she will be working on the mural most days, weather permitting, until it is completed.

Access to the Mass Central Rail Trail is located on Route 32 in Gilbertville, across from the Hardwick House of Pizza and parking is available near the gazebo at New Furnace Landing.

This program is funded in part by a grant from the Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

New firetruck

A total of 89 voters cast votes at the town's special town meeting held at Hardwick Elementary School.

Moderator Ryan J. Witkos called the meeting to order and voters spent just under an hour discussing the two articles on the warrant, both of which passed.

A moment of silence was held to honor the recent passing of Hardwick historian Emily Bancroft, Chair of the Historical Commission and past president of the Hardwick Historical Society.

Article 1 asked voters to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow a sum of money to fund the purchase and equipping a new fire pumper truck for the use of the Fire Department, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto provided that this appropriation shall be contingent on the passage of a Proposition 2½ debt exclusion ballot question; or to take any other action relative thereto.

The article, which required a two-thirds majority, passed by a vote of 71-7 to borrow the sum of \$860,000 to pay for the costs of purchasing and equipping a new fire pumper truck, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto.

No amounts shall be borrowed or expended pursuant to this vote unless the town shall have voted to exempt the repayment of any borrowing authorized by this vote from the property tax levy imitations of Proposition 2½.

A special election to vote on the debt exclusion for the purchase of a new firetruck will be held on Saturday, Jan. 18, with polling hours from noon-6 p.m. at Hardwick Elementary School, 76 School House Drive, Gilbertville.

If you or someone you know could benefit from methadone treatment... Help is here.

MOBILE METHADONE PROGRAM



15 BANK STREET, WARE | (413) 272-1333

Located in parking area behind building



Intake Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 7am - 10am
Dosing Hours: Monday - Friday, 7am - 10am
Confidential Services and Counseling Available

Behavioral Health Network | bhninc.org



Free Fly Tying Classes



Sponsored by the Western Mass Fly Fishermen starting January 9th, 2025. Held at the Ludlow Elks Lodge, 69 Chapin Street, Ludlow, Mass.

Thursday nights for 8 weeks from 7PM to 9PM.

The classes are open to the public with children 10 years and up being accompanied by an adult. Classes are geared to the beginner or novice. Course materials and tools will be supplied!

Space is limited.

To reserve a seat please contact John Lawor at 413-579-1994.

For more information visit <http://wmffclub.org>

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

Boys win in holiday tournament

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

GARDNER—The last time that the Quabbin boys' basketball team won a game in the old gymnasium located inside Gardner High School was on Dec. 28, 2021. The final score of that contest was 52-30.

On the same date three years later, the Panthers made another trek to Northern Worcester Country and defeated the Wildcats, 53-34, in a first-round game of the second annual Gardner Holiday Tournament.

"This is the first time that we've won a game in this gym in several years. It just feels great," said Quabbin senior Kyle Clark, who posted a double-double in the first-round victory. "We're now

3-1 and we're playing with a lot of confidence so far this season. All of us worked very hard during the offseason to improve."

The Panthers, who only won four games a year ago, didn't celebrate their third victory of the season until the beginning of February when they squeaked out a 42-39 home win against the Wildcats.

Quabbin's first two victories of the 2024-25 regular season were much closer affairs than their first-round victory was. They defeated Leicester (53-48) and Maynard (51-46). They lost to Clinton at home.

In the first meeting of the regular season against Gardner, Clark scored 13 of his game-high 19 points during the first half. He

also pulled down six offensive rebounds and 12 defensive rebounds for a total of 18.

"I didn't score very many points in our last two games," Clark said. "I just wanted to do anything that I could to help my team get a win in today's game. Everyone else contributed and it took an entire team effort to win the game."

While Clark made a total of eight field goals, he only made two of his six free throw attempts.

"We're going to work on Kyle's free throw shooting," said Quabbin head coach Dennis Dextradeur. "There are a lot of things that we still need to work on at practice."

Quabbin's other double-digit scorer was sophomore Jacoby Dilling with 11 points. He was also credited with a game-high

seven assists.

Senior Quinn Geary finished the game with nine points and six rebounds. He also played well defensively.

Senior Zeke Santoro checked in with seven points, while junior Anthony Quarterone (4 points), and senior Jaxon Warburton (3 points) rounded out the scoring column for the Panthers.

"We do have an outstanding senior class," said Dextradeur, who won his 385th career game as a boy's hoop coach against Gardner. "They're a hard-working group and they love being challenged."

The other senior listed on the Panthers varsity roster is Bryce Venne.

See BASKETBALL, page 10

Panthers out to 3-2 start



Mia Ducos attempts to get around an opponent.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Abby Rogowski gets set for a three-point attempt.

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional High School girls basketball team is battling to open the regular season. The Panthers have been in tough games to start out the regular season, but are 3-2 heading into 2025. After winning their first two games, Quabbin fell to Clinton and Maynard. They rebounded with a win on Saturday, Dec. 28 against South Lancaster in the Gardner Holiday Tournament. They were scheduled to play in the finals of the tournament on Dec. 30. Quabbin returns to action on Jan. 3 at Lunenburg.



Lianna Leger keeps play moving around the perimeter.



Brooke Austin hustles down the court.



Bella Smith is pressured by the defense.

Panthers have good showing at holiday tournament



Alex Fors goes for a takedown.

AGAWAM – The Phil Tomkiel Holiday Tournament is a mainstay in Western Mass. wrestling as well as Agawam High School's yearly schedule. Named after Agawam's legendary former wrestling coach, the tournament tradition continues, and has evolved into including a girls tournament thanks to evolution of girls wrestling in the past few years. Agawam, with 92 points, captured the girls tournament win. The Brownies, as a whole, took second place in the main tournament, with 190.5 points. Quabbin Regional finished with 56 points and a runner-up in Davis Burch at 98 pounds. Granby finished eighth with 78.5 points. Chicopee had 49.5 points and finished 15th.



Andie St. Clair locks up in an early round match.



Max Alicngena tries to avoid being tripped up.



Kailynn Schuster gets the advantage.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Jaiden Ambrose wrestles at the heavyweight position.

Pioneers wrestle past Smith Voke

PALMER – In their first dual meet of the season, Pathfinder defeated Smith Voke 48-18. The Pioneers participated in a tournament at Monument Mountain High School on Dec. 27. Coming up, the Pioneers will host Belchertown Jan. 8 at 7 p.m.

Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com



Ava Swist gets ready to grapple



Gavin Sawabi, of Ware, starts his match at 144 pounds.



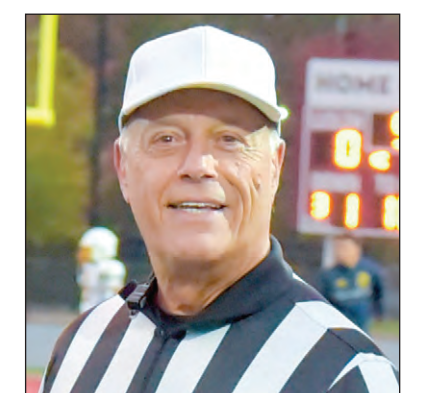
Logan Hayes attempts a takedown.

Longtime referee Lavoie wins MIAA award

LUDLOW – Last month, longtime referee Joe Lavoie was recognized as the MIAA Football Official of the Year. According to information provided, Lavoie joined the Western Mass Football Officials Association (WMFOA) in 1974 (51 years) as a junior at AIC in Springfield, MA.

Lavoie was a 3-year starter for Milt Piepul's 8-1 ('75) AIC Yellowjackets. He was selected All-New England Honorable Mention by the AP and Boston Herald ('75), and selected to the ECAC team of the week versus Northeastern University.

After college, Lavoie taught and coached football in Ludlow for Steve Marino and subsequently in Agawam for Roger LeClerc, before joining private industry as a computer systems programmer/analyst. Retired from MassMutual with 30-plus years of service.



Referee Joe Lavoie was recently recognized as the MIAA Football Official of the Year.

He was a 1971 graduate of Ludlow High School playing football for Chick Patullo and baseball for Bill Mullins.

See LAVOIE, page 10

Sports

Isles outlast T-Birds in 7-5 track meet

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (13-13-2-1) could not escape a furious push by the Bridgeport Islanders (7-19-2-2) in a high-flying 7-5 contest on Saturday night inside the MassMutual Center.

The Islanders tried to spoil the T-Birds debut for rookie netminder Will Cranley when Liam Foudy opened the scoring on a rebound to the goaltender's right at 7:36.

Springfield would be tested after the Islanders went to a power play at the 13:04 mark, but captain Matthew Peca took matters into his own hands to change the tide. After skating out of his zone with possession, he challenged a forward wide on the left side before surprising Henrik Tikkanen with a short-side snapper to tie the score, 1-1, on Springfield's second short-handed tally of the season. Peca's tally was his team-leading 12th of the campaign and second in as many nights.

Peca was in the middle of things again just 5:04 later, weaving into the offensive end to create a 2-on-1 outnumbered attack. This time, Peca played the role of playmaker, laying a perfect pass to the blade of Matt Luff in the right circle. With no wasted movement, Luff one-timed it past a sliding

Tikkanen, giving Springfield the 2-1 lead with just 1:26 left in the frame. Peca's assist was his 100th as a member of the T-Birds, making him the first player in club history to hit the 100-assist plateau.

The Islanders gave a glimpse of what was to follow in the middle period when Tyce Thompson one-timed a slapper off the post and off Cranley to tie the game, 2-2, at 3:15 of the second period, as the T-Birds were scrambling to get back into position.

The T-Birds' special teams had the next notable moment just 2:09 later, as Marcus Sylvegard beautifully spotted Luff on a pass from the left corner to the top of the crease, allowing the veteran winger a tap-in for his second of the night to restore the Springfield lead, 3-2, at 5:24.

After a rare stretch of scoreless hockey on this evening, the Islanders found their way to a tie score again when Matt Maggio surprised Cranley with a quick wrist from the left circle off a setup from Grant Hutton, evening the game, 3-3, at 14:20.

Before the T-Birds could escape the onslaught, the Islanders got their second lead of the night at 19:06, when a poor Springfield line change set up a 3-on-2 for

Bridgeport. Gemel Smith neatly left a puck for Foudy near the crease, and the veteran winger had an open net for his second of the night and a 4-3 Islanders lead after 40 minutes.

Midway through what had been a quiet third period, the T-Birds power play connected for a second time as Sylvegard deflected an attempt from Aleksanteri Kaskimaki over Tikkanen's shoulder, and the game was tied again, 4-4, at 10:04 of the third.

Despite their scrappiness to get back even, the T-Birds could not salvage a point on this night, and Maggio capped his four-point night with a corner-picking wrist at 16:20, which gave Bridgeport a 5-4 lead. Cole Bardreau added an empty-net tally at 18:45 to push the lead to 6-4.

That Bardreau tally proved pivotal when Hunter Skinner found the net from the right side with 25 seconds to play, trimming the margin back to 6-5. Ultimately, however, the T-Birds ran out of time, and with the clock about to expire, Marc Gatcomb flung a clearing effort into the empty cage to round out the scoring. Cranley finished his T-Birds debut with 35 saves, while Tikkanen escaped with his first win in six tries with 31 stops.

Coaching classes available

Coaches hired after Aug. 1, 1998 are required to take a coaching course to be eligible to coach high school sports in Massachusetts.

According to the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association, all coaches hired prior to Aug. 1, 1998 are exempt from taking the Fundamentals of Coaching Course. Coaches hired after that and before July 1, 2005 must have completed the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course with the exception of Certified MA teachers.

All coaches (stipend or volunteer) first serving as an interscholastic coach after July 1, 2005 must complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course, and an approved Sports First Aid course.

The NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course requirement

must be met through attending an MIAA sponsored Fundamentals of Coaching Class with MIAA Certified Instructors. Must be completed and passed prior to coaching a second year.

The NFHS Sports First Aid may be met by completing on-line courses with the NFHS www.nfhslearn.com. Must be passed prior to coaching a third year.

Additional requirements for all coaches:

Massachusetts requires coaches to be certified in CPR per Section 1, Section 47A of chapter 71 of the General Laws. Additionally, AED training is required and will most likely be done in conjunction with the existing mandated CPR training.

All MIAA member school coaches (stipend or volunteer)

are required to take annually the on-line National Federation Concussion Course, or other MA Department of Public Health recognized education program, prior to the start of their season. Rugby Coaches must see Rule 76.2 for additional coaches' education information.

Any questions, please call Donna Harrington at 508-541-9804 or email dharrington@miaa.net.

Fundamentals of coaching classes are being offered on Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025 from 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Classes are open until capacity is reached and then a waiting list is established. There are online components to the course once the classroom portion is completed

Railers fall to Thunder in first half home finale

WORCESTER – The Railers lost 7-3 to the Adirondack Thunder on Sunday afternoon to close out the first half of the 2024-25 home schedule.

Worcester went into the second period with the score tied, 1-1. The Railers then allowed four goals in a little less than seven minutes starting at 3:53 and their afternoon was over.

Coach Nick Tuzzolino refused to place the blame for the defeat on Bullion's shoulders when asked if it was his fault.

"I would never say that in that light," Tuzzolino said. "We've got to be good in front of him and could have been better. Could have blocked a couple of those shots. I'm sure he has his own thoughts on those goals but we're a team."

Worcester got two goals from Jordan Kaplan and one from Griffin Loughlan. Anthony Repaci assisted on all three goals. Repaci's historic season continues unabated. He extended his points streak to seven straight games. He is 3-10-13 during the streak.

The game was his 193rd for Worcester, passing Barry Almeida as the all-time franchise leader in that category. The assists give him 90 in a Worcester uniform, tied with Almeida on that list. They are tied for fourth among all Worcester pro players with Tom Cavanagh of the Sharks next at 92.

The Railers were 2 for 5 on the power play and are among the league leaders in that category. They have at least one power play goal in seven straight games. That ties a team record set in February of 2022.

"That's probably the most frustrating thing," Tuzzolino said. "It's all those little pieces. We just have to find the right piece."

Loughlan gave Worcester an early lead at just 2:36 of the first period. Repaci found his linemate all alone at the bottom of the left circle and Loughlan made no mistake burying a 15-footer.

It was 1-1 after 20 minutes, then the Railers hit an iceberg.

"I think we got confidence early," Tuzzolino said, "then some of those goals they scored killed our confidence, and confidence is the easiest thing to lose and the hardest to get back."

Ryan Francis was 2-3-5 to pace the Adirondack offense. Josh Filmon, Ryan Wheeler, Alex Young, Grant Loven and Dylan Wendt had the other Thunder goals.

Education

FSU lists winter graduates

FITCHBURG – Fitchburg State University recently held the winter ceremony of its 128th commencement exercises, conferring hundreds of graduate and undergraduate degrees.

It was the first ceremony for Dr. Donna Hodge, who joined the Fitchburg State campus this summer as its 12th president.

Local graduates are Patricia J. Brown of Barre, Master of Business Administration; Rebecca L. Aubie of Hubbardston, Master of Education in curriculum and teaching; Jonathan Edward Parent of North Brookfield, Certificate

of Advanced Graduate Study in educational leadership/management; Margaret A. Smith-Michunas, Master of Education in educational leadership/management; Shannon Francis Kelleher of Rutland, Master of Education in curriculum and teachings and Ciara Rivera of Rutland, Bachelor of Science of business administration.

"Today, I am filled with profound pride and gratitude," she told graduates and guests at the ceremony, which was held in the university's Athletics and Recreation Center. "This marks

my inaugural semester as president of this esteemed institution and it is an honor to witness this pivotal milestone in your academic journeys. I am particularly humbled to serve as the first woman president in Fitchburg State's 130-year history. You are my first graduating class, among some of the first students I met upon my arrival this summer, and officially tonight, you have all become part of my own story. Our historic moment underscores the progress we have achieved as a university committed to equity, inclusion, and the pursuit of excellence."

FSU sponsors high school writing contest

FITCHBURG – The English Studies Department at Fitchburg State University invites writers from area high schools to submit original work for its annual writing contest, where prizes will include publication in the university's literary magazine as well as gift certificates to the campus bookstore.

All participants will also have their application fees and enrollment deposits to Fitchburg State waived. The contest is open to any high school student in Massachusetts, grades 9 through 12.

Writers are asked to create their

submissions based on the following prompt: Have you ever experienced things seemingly unrelated, but discovered an unexpected connection? Sometimes, thinking about two such events brings a new way of thinking about each of them. Consider, in their life, two separate experiences that are connected in some way and write about them. They may focus on a central image, word or idea that connects the two experiences or they may create a connection that makes sense to them. Share how looking at these two events together help them see things in a new light.

Students may submit a narrative essay up to three pages long, a poem or group of up to three poems (no more than three pages total) or a multimedia project up to five minutes in length. Written submissions may be offered in a language other than English.

Submissions are due Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2025 and may be turned in online at <https://tinyurl.com/4wy77sc6>.

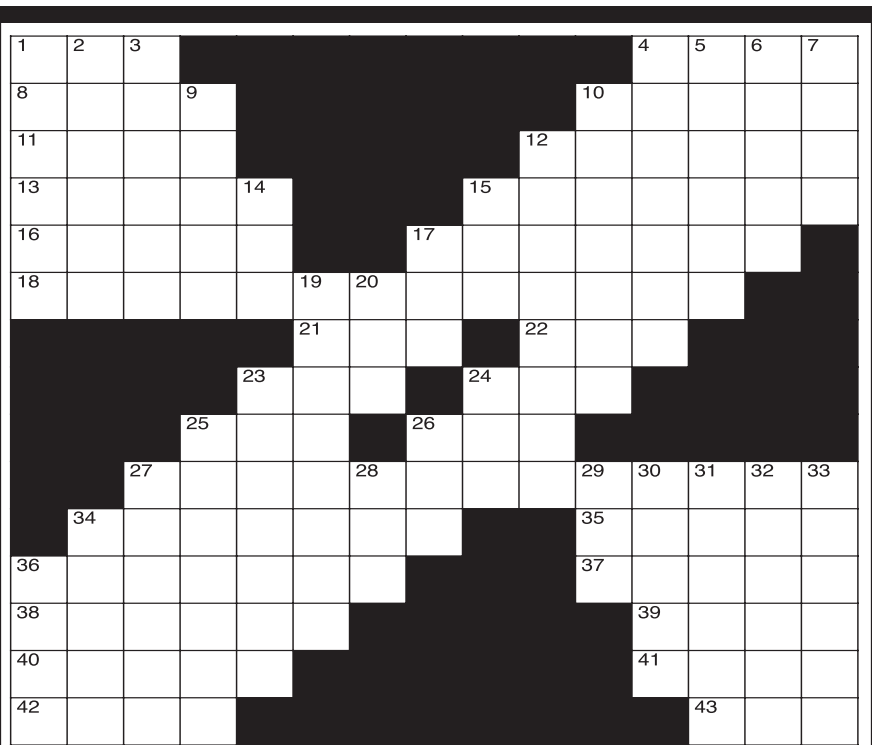
For additional information, people may email English Studies faculty members Wendy Keyser at wekyser@fitchburgstate.edu or DeMisty Bellinger-Delfeld at dbelling@fitchburgstate.edu.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

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

ture 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.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Americans' "uncle"
- 4. Chair
- 8. Ancient kingdom
- 10. Egyptian city
- 11. Alaskan glacier
- 12. One from Somalia
- 13. Ancient alphabets
- 15. Relating to vocabulary
- 16. Small mongrels
- 17. Natural settings
- 18. Weekend entertainments
- 21. Line from which light seemingly streams
- 22. Your own

- 23. Swiss river
- 24. Satisfaction
- 25. A person's brother or sister
- 26. Folk singer DiFranco
- 27. The Blonde Bombshell
- 34. Kids' school project
- 35. Bluish greens
- 36. Classifying
- 37. Cube-shaped
- 38. Choo-choos
- 39. Indian religious god of dissolution
- 40. French department
- 41. Leak into gradually
- 42. Foundation

- 43. Midway between south and southeast
- ### CLUES DOWN
- 1. Counterbalancing debt
 - 2. In slow tempo
 - 3. Glamorous city
 - 4. Japanese lute
 - 5. Makes law
 - 6. Informative book
 - 7. Animal's body part
 - 9. American playwright
 - 10. Blood poisoning
 - 12. Angels
 - 14. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
 - 15. Written account

- 17. Unwelcome pest
- 19. Saddle horses
- 20. Type of gibbon
- 23. Delta is one
- 24. NE Massachusetts cape
- 25. Soup cracker
- 26. Yes vote
- 27. Muddy ground
- 28. Physics apparatus (abbr.)
- 29. Type of drug
- 30. German city
- 31. Animal disease
- 32. Martini ingredients
- 33. Get away
- 34. Spanish municipality
- 36. Thrust a knife into

ANSWERS ON PAGE

BASKETBALL continued from page 7

Freshman Brady Patchen, who's capable of playing all five positions, didn't score any points against Gardner, but he contributed with 10 rebounds and two steals.

The Panthers built a double-digit lead at 11-1 with 3:30 left in the first quarter after a Clark put-back hoop following a missed 3-pointer.

With 35 seconds remaining in the opening quarter, a Dilling inside hoop gave the Panthers a 16-1 advantage.

The Panthers longtime head coach couldn't recall the last time

his team held an opponent to just one point in the first quarter.

"Gardner does have a couple of players who can shoot the ball, so we made defense a priority coming into today's game," Dextradeur said. "We came out and put a lot of pressure on them defensively during the first quarter. I'm very glad that we were able to win today's game."

Two minutes into the second quarter, Clark drained a 3-pointer from the right corner giving his team a 23-2 advantage.

A minute later, sophomore Jacob Dill made a 3-pointer from the top of the key, which was the

Wildcats first made field goal. The Panthers largest lead of the first half was 27-5 following a Dilling 3-pointer with 3:10 remaining on the scoreboard clock.

The Wildcats (2-3) did close the first half with a 9-4 run, but they were trailing, 31-14 at the break.

The final two quarters of the first-round game were evenly played, but the Panthers didn't allow the Wildcats to make a comeback against them.

Quabbin made a return visit to Gardner High School to play in the championship game two days later.

LAVOIE, continued from page 7

In high school, he was selected All-Suburban League and All-Western-Mass as a tri-captain for Chick Patullo, Jim Cavallo, Dave Dzuira, and Joe Andreis, who instilled the love of football, hard work, and fair play into their teams.

As an official, he was elected president of the WMFOA in 1993, and started and taught a first, second, third-year official's training class, and game sign-in requirement for new officials to attend pre-games and work the chains in varsity games. That process is still in effect today. In 1994, amended the training classes to have a separate class for first-year officials and started instructing the second and third-year officials' class, and still instruct that class today.

Among his many accomplishments, he officiated numerous MIAA playoff and championship games around the state and at Gillette Stadium. He joined the Western Mass Basketball Officials Association in 1980, was elected board President in 2013, subsequently elected sec-treasurer from 2015-2017. He still officiates basketball games.

Lavoie earned a CAGS from Springfield College, an MS in management from RPI Hartford, and an MBA from Western New England College. He has taught business and computer systems courses at HCC for over 25 years.

Lavoie has been married to high school sweetheart, Edna (Robertson) Lavoie, for over 45 years, and has three wonderful sons. Two sons live and work in Boston, and one son lives in Longmeadow and is an attorney in Springfield.

Our advertisers make this publication possible.
Let them know you saw their ad in the Barre Gazette

Get Ready For Winter! It's Here!

Studded Snows Can Go On Nov.1st

ORIGINAL TIRE CO.
Joseph West
SOUTH ATHOL ROAD, ATHOL 978-249-3477
OPEN MON., WED. & FRI. 8 A.M. TO 5 P.M.
TUES. & THURS. 8 A.M. TO 2 P.M.
SAT. 8 A.M. TO NOON

\$12.50 Each Digital Photos

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC.

Purchase a photo that recently ran in one of our publications. Go to newspapers.turley.com/photo-request

North Brookfield

School Committee discusses concerns about staff departures

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Superintendent Timothy McCormick told the School Committee that three staff members in a special education classroom have resigned.

At the Dec. 16 meeting, several of the School Committee members expressed concerns about staff injuries and how these are dealt with. They also discussed an email that was sent to Chair John Magario, from one of the former staff members.

McCormick said this particular classroom sometimes requires physical restraint in order to support students. He said a physical restraint is always the last resort used in order to keep a student safe.

“There’s been a lot of work by both Ms. Emory and Mr. Murphy to kind of look at the schedules of the staff members who are in there to make sure that we’re maximizing the support,” he said.

This includes having the Board Certified Behavior Analyst work with students who require a plan to support their behaviors.

McCormick said at no time, do they ever want a student or staff member hurt when engaging in a restraint and he said these staff members receive annual training on how to safely restrain a student and rotate staff members out. He said physical restraints are reported to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

School Committee Secretary Tonya Matthews said she would like to know how many physical restraints are occurring in this classroom. McCormick said due to confidentiality, DESE reports physical restraint data according to how many students are involved, how many restraints occurred and if there were injuries; it does not show how many restraints occurred with specific students or classrooms.

“A student that is not appropriately serviced here in the town, if the problems are too much, the difficulties...the struggles are too much for the town to handle and we have to trust that the school and the administration is making sure that that child is getting the education that they deserve in the safety environment for them and for the staff,” Matthews said.

Matthews said she is also concerned with the number of resignations related to this classroom.

“I feel like there’s a statement being made here,” she said.

Superintendent’s report

McCormick said the school district was accepted into part B of the Advanced Manufacturing Pathway designation.

“It’s a very lengthy process,” he said. “We’re very excited about this process...we’re excited to give kids the opportunity to look at advanced manufacturing as both a potential career pathway but also a college pathway upon graduation.”

Last year, the school district had six students working at manufacturer FlexCon for a work-based learning project.

McCormick said the school district has done a lot of work over the past years with Project Lead the Way as well as OpenSciEd through the One8 Foundation which was recently adopted this past year.

He said another grant opportunity was offered through OpenSciEd to provide collaboration for the school district’s teachers with other across the country. He said some teachers using the curriculum will attend a two-day conference to share ideas.

McCormick said the Handle with Care initiative will be put into place when students return in the new year.

Administrators’ reports

Elementary School Principal Arthur Murphy said each month, the school celebrates one student

from each classroom as “Star of the Month” for displaying model behavior. Teachers nominate students for having a positive impact on the classroom.

Murphy works with the students’ parents to organize a surprise breakfast for the students, where they are also awarded \$10 Star buck and a certificate of achievement. Photos of the students with Murphy are then posted on the Star of the Month board in the main hallway of the school.

“We have many kids that are positive peer role models and many more coming through the pipeline at our school, which is fantastic,” Murphy said.

Murphy said the Cool Kids Choir had a performance on Dec. 10 and featured solos by fourth grader Mitchell and kindergartener Fallon.

“The kids did an amazing job,” he said.

The Instructional Leadership Team has been working to align curriculum and classroom practices in kindergarten through fifth grade. He said they meet twice a month to plan and discuss ideas.

High School Principal John Diorio said the new math intervention program is underway to provide additional assistance to students who were identified as needing support. After this is completed, the school will then provide English Language Arts intervention for the students in need of support.

Diorio thanked the Student Council and the high school band for their efforts during the Christmas in North Brookfield event, which was held at the high school this year.

He said through STEM teacher John McNeil’s efforts, over 200 toys were collected to be distributed to children across Worcester County.

A holiday pajama dance was sponsored by the Student Council on Dec. 13 at the school, helping students get into the holiday spirit.

“It was a great way to get ready for the holidays for our students,” Diorio said.

Diorio said a holiday concert will be performed by the band on Dec. 19, with two shows. He said on Dec. 20, students will bring their mugs to school to enjoy hot chocolate and snacks.

Director of Student Services Amy Emory said herself and Pupil Services Administrative Assistant Katelinde Grenevich were able to participate in a professional opportunity offered by the company that provides the school district’s new Individualized Education Program system education plan.

She said this was a great opportunity to connect with school districts across the commonwealth and provide feedback and ask questions.

“We are going to participate in future meetings during the school year as part of this ongoing exciting professional opportunity,” Emory said.

Emory said Title I reading teachers and kindergarten through eighth grade special education teachers are participating in a reading training opportunity from Imagine Learning to provide additional reading resources.

She said DESE has notified the school district that it will be part of an English Language Learning program, which is conducted every six years. The school district will be reviewed during the 2025-2026 academic year.

Emory said school districts to be reviewed in that cohort will participate in a training session in January.

“During that session they’re going to share more information about the process and our preparation activities that we will participate in that will lead up to our review that is scheduled for next year,” she said.

Maintenance report

Magario read a report from the Director of Buildings and Grounds

Eric Hevy outlining upcoming maintenance projects. The report said the sidewalks at both schools will be repaired and the school district will work to meet the Fire Department’s recommendations.

HVAC at both school will be addressed by Snyder Electric. The high school’s gymnasium floor was refinished over Thanksgiving break and the school district’s truck was repaired after a delivery truck backed into the side of it.

The report said that surplus books (damaged and outdated) are being removed from the elementary school library and inventoried.

Vendors are being researched to replace the current playground equipment at the elementary school and the school district is soliciting quotes to repave the driveways around the elementary school.

Recognitions

McCormick recognized several staff members who have organized “some amazing” events in the past few weeks including Trish Tarantino who continues to run Cocoa with Cops, which gives local police officers the chance to enjoy hot chocolate and crafts with elementary school students. He thanked the Student Council for helping with Cocoa with Cops and Murphy for hosting the event.

McCormick also recognized the Student Council, Tabby LeBlanc and Caitlyn Malone for continuing the 20 plus year tradition of holding Christmas in North Brookfield.

“This is again, another nice event the district does for its community,” he said.

McCormick also recognized McNeil for starting a new tradition of rucking donated toys from the school to the Police Station. He also thanked everyone for donating toys to the Toys for Tots program.

Student Council report

Student Council representative Dante Giangrande said the annual Giving Turkey event was held in November. He said the Christmas in North Brookfield event is the Student Council’s most popular event of the year and it is offered free to the community.

Giangrande said the annual Giving Tree is collecting donations to Abby’s House in Worcester.

Unity Week will be held in February and is used to enhance a sense of community within the school district, including members of the LGBTQ+ community and people with special needs. He said the week celebrates every person’s individuality.

Giangrande said the Student Council is preparing for its annual trip to Hyannis in March and Spring Conference in April.

He encouraged the community to follow the Student Council on Instagram and Facebook or attend meetings in the high school kiva, typically held every other Monday.

Regionalization update

School Committee Vice-Chair Tim Canada said the Quaboag Regional School Committee voted against accepting the amended regional agreement to include North Brookfield in the Quaboag Regional School District, and the process will not continue.

He said the original grant-funded feasibility study to explore joining a larger regional school district had identified Quaboag Regional School District as the best fit for North Brookfield.

Technology report

Magario also read a report from Technology Coordinator Zack Berridge about upgrades to the technology equipment, including new desktop computers for several teachers and staff. A proposal is being put together for a more comprehensive upgrade.

Title IX/bullying policy update

The School Committee voted to accept the updated Title IX and bullying policy, as required by the state.

Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

2025 Resolutions

Jonathan Edwards was a revivalist and theologian of centuries past.

Throughout 1722-1723, he penned a number of resolutions for Christian life and living-resolutions that I love to revisit at the dawn of each year. Let us note the following, that we might launch into 2025 with a proper spiritual trajectory:

1) Concerning the Study of 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.”

Edwards recognized the priority of studying Scripture and purposed to delve deeper in kind. Ultimately, he rightly discerned what the apostle Paul penned in the days of the apostolic church (2 Tim. 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.” Let this be the year you open, believe and heed what you read in the Word.

2) Concerning Faith and Commitment

“Resolved, to improve every opportunity, when I am in the best and happiest frame of mind, to cast and venture my soul on the Lord Jesus Christ, to trust and confide in him and consecrate myself wholly to him; that from this I may have assurance of my safety, knowing that I confide in my Redeemer.”

Edwards knew Christ to be a trustworthy Savior. Therefore, it was safe to both trust and confide in Him. This minister of old availed himself of the following invitation (1 Pet. 5:6b-7): “6 . . . humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.” May this be the year in which you come to trust Christ and commit yourself to Him entirely.

3) Concerning Reflection and Repentance

“Resolved, to inquire every night, as I am going to bed, wherein I have been negligent, what sin I have committed and wherein I have denied myself: also at the end of every week, month and year.”

Since it is best to deal with the matter of sin quickly, there is no substitute for open and honest spiritual introspection. This resolution of Edwards mirrors the prayer of the ancient psalmist and king, David:

Psalm 139:23-24

23 Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

May it be your habit to pray so in 2025, ridding yourself of evil in the light of His penetrating gaze!

4) Concerning the Tongue

“Resolved, never to say anything at all against anybody, but when it is perfectly agreeable to the highest degree of Christian honor, and of love to mankind, agreeable to the lowest humility, and sense of my own faults and failings, and agreeable to the golden rule; often, when I have said anything against anyone, to bring it to, and try it strictly by the test of this Resolution.”

Scripture is clear that we must mind our words. Edwards understood the power of the tongue, for good and for ill. Do we?

James 3:5b-6, 9-10

5 . . . the tongue is a small part

of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. . . . 9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.

Friend, watch your words in the new year.

5) 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 . . . I am capable of, or can bring myself to exert, in any way that can be thought of.”

Edwards lived in the light of eternity. He knew that heavenly reward was far more valuable than the fleeting trinkets of this world. Thus, he sought to fulfill this command of Christ (Matt. 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.” Let us both receive and regard the wisdom of the Lord, living for eternity in kind.

Thank you for taking the time to read this publication. Should you have any comments or questions, feel free to contact me at your leisure using the information below.

Also, feel free to check us out online at www.NewLifeBarre.org or join 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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

“The Lord had done great things!”

Scripture Reading:
Luke 1 v 39 - 55

I. Introduction

As we approach Christmas Day, there are many who look forward to something joyful and peaceful. Our homes are the places where we need peace and joy, but I think this world of ours is hungry for something new and peaceful as well. Perhaps all of us are in need of something new and great from God in our lives.

II. The Lord has done great things

In this first Chapter of the Gospel of Luke, the angel Gabriel has two significant tasks to undertake, tasks that would change the course of history and the world forever.

Two women’s lives would be changed forever, and two families’ lives as well. The first visit to the Priest Zechariah would not be to announce the birth of Christ, but the birth of their son, John who would be the forerunner of the One who would come after him, Jesus the Christ. John would baptize and prepare the people in the region for the birth of the Son of God.

It was almost impossible for Zechariah to imagine his wife, Elizabeth who was beyond child-bearing age, to be giving birth to a child. Gabriel emphasized to

Zechariah that he was there as a messenger of God and that this was genuine, and he needs to be prepared. Zechariah completed his work at the temple and went home. Elizabeth fell pregnant and, filled with the Holy Spirit, exclaimed that “God has done this for me.”

II. The Lord had done great things.

The angel’s work was not done. In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, Gabriel would pay a visit to a woman named Mary, in Nazareth, a town in Galilee. Mary was a virgin, planning to get married to a man named Joseph. After Gabriel declared the Lord’s favor upon her, he announced the extraordinary news to this woman, who was from a humble community and humble beginnings, that she would conceive and give birth to a son and must name him Jesus, and He would be the Son of God.

Just like that. It would not be the doing of human intervention, but the work of God’s Holy Spirit. She accepted this announcement of the angel upon her life and committed to be the Lord’s servant.

We see Mary traveling to the hills of Judea to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who was already blessed with the divine gift of her son, John. At that point Mary did not know that she was pregnant. It was Elizabeth’s baby in her womb, who jumped from joy when he heard Mary come into the house. Elizabeth uttered these words, “Why would the Mother of her Lord be visiting me?”

One can only imagine the utter joy in that house with two women sharing the most incredible news with one another, the disbelief, but the knowledge that God is great. Mary broke out into a hymn, the familiar Magnificat, singing, “My soul glorifies the Lord” and “the Mighty One has done great things for me.”

III. Conclusion

Mary’s hymn would convey more than just what happened to her on a personal level. She sang about her God who lifts up the humble, and who brings down the proud rulers of the world. Her God fills up the hungry and sent the rich away.

She knew that her role in history would be about change, in her own life, the life of the region there, the temple and its leaders, her own town Nazareth, and the rest of the world. Her son would be the Son of God and the Messiah to the world. She rejoiced and she spoke loud and clear about the mighty deeds of God.

This morning, we sing praises to the work of God through the angel Gabriel, Elizabeth’s life, but ultimately the life of Mary and her Son, Christ the Lord, born on Christmas Day. The message of Christmas is therefore about the mighty deeds of God through the life of this woman, Mary from Nazareth, giving this world the Son of God, a humble human being, who would be born in a humble manner, live a humble life and die a humble, yet gruesome death.

His birth would be a message of hope for the world, a message of love and a message of peace. May God bless us as we look forward to this Christmas Day, and may God help us to say yes to our own calling as followers of the Christ child. May God continue to change us and make us instruments of change and peace in this world of ours.

Amen.

Pastor Margaret Keyser
from South Africa
Barre Congregational Church
30 Park St., Barre

Cold weather clothing drive ongoing

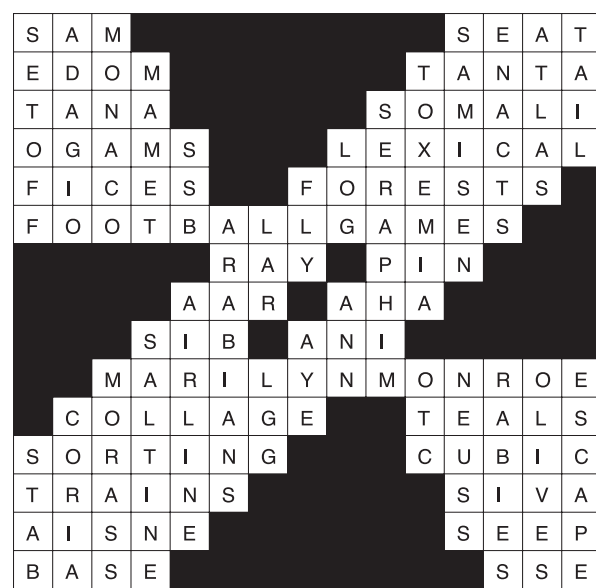
WARE – The Recovery Center of HOPE and the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance will be hosting a Community Cold Weather Drive to benefit local individuals and families facing hardships.

They will be accepting new

and gently used gloves, mittens, scarves, sweaters, blankets, base-layers, jackets and coats and new beanies and socks.

Items will be collected through the spring and can be dropped off at the following locations: Town Hall, 126 Main

St., Mondays and Tuesdays from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Recovery on Main, 78 Main St., Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m.; Ware Library, 37 Main St., Thursdays from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Recovery Center of HOPE, Fridays from 2-4 p.m.



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.

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

New fleet of F-35s at Barnes Air National Guard Base

WESTFIELD – Congressman Richard E. Neal joined U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, U.S. Senator Edward J. Markey, Governor Maura T. Healey, Major General Gary W. Keefe, Colonel David L. Halasi-Kun, State Sen. John Velis and Westfield Mayor Michael McCabe in celebrating the stationing of a new fleet of F-35 aircraft at Barnes Air National Guard Base, which was made official after Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall signed the Record of Decision.

After the Secretary of the Air Force approved Barnes ANGB as the preferred location for the new fleet of F-35s on April 17, 2023, the selection required favorable completion of an Environmental Impact Statement. Upon favorable completion, the Secretary of the Air Force needed to sign and report to Congress the ROD.

Once reported to Congress, the decision to station the new aircraft at Barnes became official, putting in motion the assignment of twenty new F-35A Lightning II aircraft at Barnes ANGB.

“This is a great day for the City of Westfield and all of western Massachusetts, as Barnes has solidified its place in our com-

munity for years to come. The decision to station a new fleet of F-35 aircraft at Barnes comes after years of advocacy by the Western Massachusetts Delegation, as well as Major General Keefe and state and local officials. Ultimately, the Air Force recognized not only Barnes’ critical role in defending our nation, but also something we in Massachusetts already know – we take care of our servicemembers,” said Neal. “I want to thank the dedicated airmen and women of Barnes who faithfully serve our nation. It is their integrity that has upheld the superb reputation of the 104th – an integral factor in this decision-making process.”

“This decision is a big win for Massachusetts. I worked hard to get this commitment for Barnes to enhance our national security, position our F-35s at a more climate-resilient base, and strengthen our economy in western Massachusetts,” said Warren. “I’ll keep working to bring home more wins for Massachusetts servicemembers and their families through my work on the Senate Armed Services Committee.”

“Finalizing the decision to assign F-35s to the 104th Fighter Wing ensures Barnes Air National

Guard Base will remain a key part of our nation’s air defense and a vital contributor to the western Massachusetts economy,” said Healey. “This decision not only reinforces the Wing’s historic legacy but also provides a lasting economic impact, creating high-quality jobs and enhancing the region’s resilience. This decision is a testament to the 104th’s extraordinary history and their ongoing dedication to the defense of our state and our country.”

The decision to station the new fleet of F-35 aircraft came after a rigorous selection process by the U.S. Air Force that reviewed F-15C units throughout the nation. Barnes was ultimately selected in April 2023 after the Air Force considered several factors, including community support, environmental factors, and cost.

The review process also included an assessment of the location’s ability to facilitate the mission and infrastructure capacity.

“The Department of the Air Force’s decision to allocate F-35s to the 104th Fighter Wing marks a monumental moment for our unit and its critical role in our nation’s air defense,” said Keefe, The Adjutant General, Massachusetts

National Guard. “The 104th Fighter Wing has long been a cornerstone of our nation’s air defense capabilities, and this transition to the next-generation airframe solidifies our readiness and relevance for decades to come. This decision not only enhances our operational capabilities but also ensures the Wing’s ability to continue its proud tradition of excellence as we look forward to future missions and challenges.”

“This Record of Decision continues the 78-year legacy of fighter aircraft operating at Westfield-Barnes Regional Airport and solidifies a bright future for the 104th Fighter Wing and the 1100 dedicated airmen and civilians who work on this base. We look forward to our nation’s most capable fighter aircraft, the F-35, inheriting the air defense mission from our venerable F-15C,” said Halasi-Kun, Commander of the 104th Fighter Wing. “This new aircraft ensures the critical defense of the airspace of New England and New York and the protection of the 40 million Americans beneath that blanket of freedom. None of this is possible without the support of our local communities and our elected

officials. Local, state, and federal representatives were instrumental in this decision-making process. Their efforts ensured the future of this fighter wing for generations to come, and soon the premier aircraft will be placed in the most capable hands at the best location to defend this nation we love.”

“I am beyond thrilled that the Secretary of the Air Force has solidified the assignment of the F-35As to the 104th Fighter Wing today, ensuring that the 104th remains a critical piece of our country’s national defense strategy for decades to come. This final signature is the product of the Commonwealth’s steadfast dedication to remain one of the best states in the nation for our service members and families to call home,” said Velis, Chairman of the Legislature’s Veterans’ Committee and a U.S. Veteran. “Through the passage of legislation such as the SPEED Act, and subsequently parts of the HERO Act, Massachusetts has demonstrated to the Department of Defense our commitment to continually surpass all expectations related to our care for service-members and military families and today’s announcement is a recognition of

that support for our military. “With the stationing of the F-35s at the Massachusetts Air National Guard’s 104th Fighter Wing, the 104th will continue its proud stewardship as the first line of defense for the northeastern seaboard of the United States,” said McCabe. “The City of Westfield is honored to host them and would like to thank everyone who worked with us to make this happen.”

For nearly eight decades, the 104th Fighter Wing of the Massachusetts Air National Guard has played a critical mission in our nation’s air defense. One of the oldest flying units within the Commonwealth, the 104th provides operationally ready combat units, combat support units, and qualified personnel for active duty, all of which support the Wing’s goal to organize, train, and equip personnel to provide an operationally ready squadron to the Air Combat Command.

The assignment of a new fleet of F-35A aircraft at Barnes ANGB guarantees the long-term viability of the base, ensuring the 104th Fighter Wing can continue its vital mission for years to come.

Audit recommends changes to police training records, certification process

BOSTON – Fulfilling a commitment made in her Social Justice & Equity Audit Plan, the State Auditor’s Office has conducted an audit of the Municipal Police Training Committee to examine whether it developed and implemented trainings consistent with the 2018 Criminal Justice Reform Act and the 2020 Police Reform Law.

The audit reviewed the period of Jan. 1, 2021, through Dec. 31, 2022.

The MPTC exists within the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security. Its mission is to set the police training standards for all law enforcement officers certified by the Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission and to develop, deliver, and maintain a record of that training for over 23,000 police officers (municipal, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority,

environmental, campus, hospitals), deputy sheriffs, harbor masters, constables, and other personnel who perform police duties and functions in the Commonwealth.

The audit found MPTC did not sufficiently ensure that training academies delivered a standardized recruit officer course curriculum, as required. By not consistently delivering a standardized training curriculum, MPTC provided inadequate assurance that all police officers in the Commonwealth have been exposed to the concepts, skills, and tactics that have been determined to be critical for effective policing by the law and MPTC.

This may lead to inconsistent law enforcement practices, which may jeopardize the safety of the public and police officers, because law enforcement officers may not be properly equipped to perform their jobs safely and effectively.

This also could create financial risk for municipalities that employ officers who are insufficiently trained.

Moreover, the audit found MPTC did not ensure that all ROCs were taught by certified instructors. Without proper certification, instructors may lack the expertise or experience necessary to effectively teach the concepts, skills, and tactics that MPTC has determined to be critical for effective policing.

This could lead to variations in the instruction that police officers receive, potentially impacting their ability to perform their jobs safely and effectively.

The audit also found MPTC’s internal control plan was not updated annually, and did not address the impact of COVID-19 on its operations, in accordance with guidance issued by the Office of the Comptroller of the

Commonwealth.

An ICP identifies objectives and risks and identifies control activities to mitigate risks that might prevent an agency from accomplishing its objectives, in service to the public. Without updating its ICP, MPTC may not identify and/or mitigate all the risks, including those that resulted from the pandemic.

In addition, during the course of the audit, an issue was identified regarding MPTC’s management of police officer training records.

Although MPTC maintained its hard-copy training records in a locked room at their headquarters, it did not maintain an access log to track who accessed the room, when, and for what purpose(s). Some training records appeared to be stored in haphazard fashion – stacked on metal cabinets, without any apparent filing and retrieval

method in place. In addition, there were several instances during the audit where hard-copy training records requested to perform our audit work were either missing, not readily available, not properly filed, incompletely prepared or were not certified when required.

It is critical that MPTC maintain a complete, accurate, and secure training record-keeping system. Without an organized record-keeping system, which would include a formal access log, training records are more vulnerable to inappropriate and/or unauthorized access.

This compromises the integrity of the records and could lead to: (1) officers attending training where the physical record becomes lost, destroyed or misfiled, resulting in their failing to receive appropriate credit for training, or (2) officers being inappropriately certified or appearing to

have completed training they never received. Additionally, in the event there is a dispute regarding the integrity of training records, the lack of an effective record-keeping system makes it more difficult to resolve these issues definitively.

“The Municipal Police Training Committee plays a critical role in the public safety of our Commonwealth, establishing police training standards and maintaining records of that training,” said Auditor Diana DiZoglio. “Our audit has identified areas for improvement at the MPTC to ensure increased accountability in its training, certification and record-keeping processes. MPTC’s new leadership fully cooperated with our audit team and has committed to addressing these issues. As is customary, we will revisit these findings to track progress as part of our post-audit review process in roughly six months.”

health & wellness NETWORK

AN ANNUAL SOURCE OF Local Health Professionals

TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN 12 TURLEY NEWSPAPERS

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

DEADLINE
January 29, 2025

PUBLICATION DATE
February 19, 2025

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

Contact Dan to advertise dflynn@turley.com • 283-8393

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a “people news” form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for the Barre Gazette, please email edownner@turley.com.

A TURLEY PUBLICATION
WWW.TURLEY.COM

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.

TAX GUIDE

TAX GUIDE PROMOTION

Your ad will be placed in our successful classified sections, seen in our 12 weekly newspapers.

Advertise your tax preparation or accounting business for new or repeat customers from
Wednesday, January 17 to Friday, April 12, 2024

Help your customers take the worry out of tax time.
Run a 3 column inch ad in 12 of our weekly community newspapers for only \$125* per week.
*minimum 4 week run

Agawam Advertiser News • Barre Gazette • Chicopee Register
Country Journal • The Journal Register • Quaboag Current • The Register
Sentinel • The Holyoke Sun • Town Reminder
Ware River News • The Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Contact Dan to advertise dflynn@turley.com 413-283-8393 www.turley.com

A TURLEY PUBLICATION
WWW.TURLEY.COM

Feedback sought about station for East/West Rail Project

By **Marcelo Gusmão**
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – The Department of Transportation held a meeting at the library to solicit feedback from the public about the East/West Rail Project.

Members of the public were invited to a public information meeting in the Palmer Public Library's Community Room on Dec. 16, where the project team provided an overview of the study's background, the station site alternatives and evaluation, and design considerations for the potential future rail station. After the presentation, the attendees were asked to provide feedback on the site alternatives and design considerations.

Andy Koziol, the director of the project, has been with MassDOT since June of last year.

"We received quite a bit of feedback, there was a lot of public participation," Koziol said.

Of the previous 11 sites, the project team has narrowed the focus to six that meet the ideal criteria for the new site.

"One of the reasons we went out for public feedback was to give public a chance to highlight anything we might have missed," Koziol said. "We feel pretty confident, with the local knowledge of the Steering Committee, together with that we've done a comprehensive look at each site, but the public can bring additional factors. I think committee is being patient to make sure we use all the information available to us before we make any further decisions."

The meeting involved some controversy, much of which was centered on the elimination of Steaming Tender Restaurant as a potential site for the station.

"Very early in our process we identified what we refer to as the requirements for rail infrastructure," Koziol said.

Koziol explained that the designs require a high-level, 800-foot platform to allow for level boarding on all coaches. There will also need to be about 1,775 feet of an adjacent track.

Koziol said that this is complicated by the properties near Steaming Tender, citing the CSX yard across from the tracks.

"Part of that is the CSX yard right across from tracks," Koziol said. "Then the horizontal width beneath the South Main Street bridge. Not only would the bridge have to be reconstructed, but this particular layout would require purchasing several properties, which would make that not feasible."

This was countered by Blake Lamothe, the owner of Steaming

Tender, who argued at the meeting that another proposal could fit in the space provided by the restaurant and would be a better use of the town's assets.

"News stations are categorizing it a Category Four with Amtrak, which means they want to build these big long platforms," Lamothe said. "We could have gone under Category Two or Three, which would allow us to use the existing structure for the station stop."

Another concern Lamothe voiced was for the central corridor passage coalition. He said that combining a North/South line with the East/West station would allow passenger service up to Montreal, and would trigger growth and overnight stays in the center of town.

"By managing assets, what you can do is put a couple million dollars into an existing station and develop a North/South line along

with the East/West line and take the money to put into town to upgrade parking lots, infrastructure, sidewalks, and the stuff we need to get good, healthy growth downtown again," Lamothe said.

"The amount of people in town who are going to take the train are minimal," Lamothe said. "So you've got to create economic growth here."

Koziol agreed with Lamothe that a station far from the town center would not be ideal for economic growth, and mentioned it as a focus for the project.

"The general sentiment is that having the meeting station as close to downtown is desirable, we've heard that repeated several times through multiple mediums," Koziol said.

This project is currently ongoing, with the first route currently in the works. Koziol said that the team is going to use the feedback

its received to hone in on a site that is both feasible to MassDOT and supported by the community, at which point the project team will be able to work on a conceptual design for the station.

"Along the way, there will be supportive planning activities to plan for things like various mobility options – like a bus service that can serve the station to bring additional passengers," Koziol said. "We'll be looking at environmental constraints and preparing ourselves to go after federal funds. We're really not getting involved in those quite yet, but setting the stage in background data analysis."

An informal meeting with the public concerning the station is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 27, from 6-8 p.m. You can continue to send your feedback to MassDOT by sending an email to Andrew.M.Koziol@dot.state.ma.us.

Prioritize your lung health in the new year

BOSTON – With the New Year here, it's a great time to set some lung health-focused goals.

With each of the 23,000 breaths your lungs take daily, they perform essential work to support overall health.

Whether you're managing asthma, quitting smoking, or simply looking to keep your lungs strong, here are some tips from the American Lung Association in Massachusetts to start the year right.

Get regular check-ups

Regular check-ups help prevent diseases, even when you are feeling well. This is especially true for lung disease, which sometimes goes undetected until it's serious.

During a check-up, your healthcare provider will listen to your breathing and you should share any concerns you may have.

Quit smoking

The American Lung Association encourages people who smoke, vape or use tobacco to resolve to begin their quit journey in 2025 and provides tips and resources at Lung.org/quit-smoking or call the LungHelpline at 1-800-LUNGUSA (1-800-586-4872). Tobacco remains the number one cause of preventable death in the U.S., and here in Massachusetts.

E-cigarettes are not a safe or effective way to quit. Many health insurance plans cover quit aids and counseling, and if you are uninsured or need a plan that works better for you, open enrollment through the Affordable Care Act marketplaces is available until Jan. 15, 2025, in most states.

More information is available at Lung.org/openenrollment.

Take the quiz

In the U.S., 14 million people are at high risk for lung cancer and are eligible for lifesaving lung cancer screening. Here in Massachusetts, only 24.2% of residents at high risk for lung cancer are screened for the disease each year.

If you smoked, the low-dose CT lung cancer screening test could save your life. Lung cancer, the leading cause of cancer deaths, is more treatable when caught early-survival rates increase by more than four times.

If you're aged 50-80 and smoke or have quit within the past 15 years, you may be eligible for screening. Take the two-minute quiz at SavedByTheScan.org.

Stay up-to-date on immunizations

Get your COVID-19 and flu shots (and RSV and pneumococcal pneumonia, if eligible). The best way to stay healthy and protect others is to be up-to-date on your recommended immunizations and make sure all of your loved ones - from those aged 6 months to 100+ years - are also current on theirs.

Limit exposure to air pollutants

If possible, avoid environments with high levels of air pollution, chemical fumes, secondhand smoke and other lung irritants. It's also essential to test your home for radon, a leading cause of lung cancer, and take action if levels are elevated.

If you have asthma or other lung health concerns, regularly monitor daily air quality forecasts to take precautions against outdoor air pollution. You can check conditions in your area at Airnow.gov.

Exercise those lungs

The American Lung Association hosts several community events throughout the year with fitness in mind, including a Fight For Air Climb and a LUNG FORCE Walk in Boston. Whether you are a fitness buff, or just getting started – consider registering for one of our events today and start training to create health habits for your lungs in 2025.

Learn more about how to protect your lung health in 2025 at Lung.org or call 1-800-LUNGUSA.

About the American Lung Association

The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through education, advocacy and research. The work of the American Lung Association is focused on four strategic imperatives: to defeat lung cancer; to champion clean air for all; to improve the quality of life for those with lung disease and their families; and to create a tobacco-free future.

For more information about the American Lung Association, which has a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator and is a Platinum-Level GuideStar Member, call 1-800-LUNGUSA (1-800-586-4872) or visit: Lung.org. To support the work of the American Lung Association, find a local event at Lung.org/events.

Business Owners,
Reach households throughout **BARRE, HARDWICK, HUBBARDSTON, NEW BRAINTREE, NORTH BROOKFIELD, OAKHAM PERTERSHAM & RUTLAND** when you advertise with us!
Call **TIM MARA 508.826.2675** today to get started.



New Subscribers!

Stay connected to all the people, places and events that make our community a great place to call home. From dining and entertainment to sports, shopping and neighborhood news, we cover every local angle to keep you in the know and on the go.





Get Home Delivery for Less Than 64¢ a Week!

Call or go online today to subscribe:
413.283.8393
www.turley.com/subscriptions

JOBS. REAL ESTATE. BUY. SELL

YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWS!

BARRE GAZETTE

www.barregazette.turley.com • 413.283.8393
SUBSCRIBE ONLINE AT WWW.TURLEY.COM

YES, start my subscription to Barre Gazette today!

Choose your subscription type and term:

1 year \$33.00 2 years \$44.00

Out-of-State 1 year \$38.00 2 years \$59.00

Check Enclosed Credit Card

Mail this completed form with payment or bill me later preference to:
Barre Gazette
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069

Delivery Address

Name: _____

Delivery Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Billing/Mailing Address (if different from delivery address):

Name: _____

Delivery Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Credit Card: _____

Exp. _____ CVV: _____

Public Notices

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Eric Michael Allen and Angel Marie LeBlanc to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Total Mortgage Services, LLC dated September 10, 2020, recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 63225, Page 27; said mortgage was then assigned to Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency by virtue of an assignment dated May 23, 2024, and recorded in Book 70578, Page 50; of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at PUBLIC AUCTION at 11:00 AM on January 15, 2025, on the mortgaged premises. This property has the address of 198 School Street North, Barre, MA 01005. The entire mortgaged premises, all and singular, the premises as described in said mortgage:

A certain parcel of land with buildings thereon, situated in Barre, Worcester County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, containing 17,041 square feet, and being Lot B as shown on a plan labeled "Plan of Land in Barre, Mass. Owned by Kirk A. Kenneway Scale: 1"=20", June 14, 2005, by William L. Berry, Jr. Land Surveyor," said plan recorded at the Worcester Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 829, Plan 6, and bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at gun barrel set on the easterly side of School Street and the intersection of Lot A;

THENCE N. 34 degrees 05' 56" E. twenty-five and 7/6100 (25.76) feet along School Street as depicted on said plan to a gun barrel set;

THENCE S. 55 degrees 17' 18" E. one hundred thirty-seven and 24/100 (137.24) feet along land now or formerly of Pulliafico as depicted on said plan to a point;

THENCE S. 21 degrees 28' 09" E. nineteen and 13/100 (19.13) feet along a stone wall as depicted on said plan to a drill hole set; THENCE S. 28 degrees 42' 01" W. one hundred fifty-nine and 82/100 (159.82) feet along land now or formerly of Steven W. Clark as depicted on said plan to a gun barrel set;

39' 02" W. seventy-three and 27/100 (73.27) feet along Lot A as depicted on said plan to a drill hole set;

THENCE N. 79 degrees 34' 13" W. eight and 76/100 (8.76) feet along Lot A as depicted on said plan to the point of beginning.

Containing 17,041 square feet, more or less, according to said plan. Said premises are described together with an easement in perpetuity over Lot A to inspect, repair, and maintain the water lines and pipes which service Lot B. Said premises are described together with an easement to the grantee in perpetuity to pass and re-pass over the driveway, a portion of which is located on Lot A as depicted on the above-referenced plan.

For title see Deed recorded herewith. Subject to and with the benefit of easements, reservation, restrictions, and taking of record, if any, insofar as the same are now in force and applicable. In the event of any typographical error set forth herein in the legal description of the premises, the description as set forth and contained in the mortgage shall control by reference. Together with all the improvements now or hereafter erected on the property and all easements, rights, appurtenances, rents, royalties, mineral, oil and gas rights and profits, water rights and stock and all fixtures now or hereafter a part of the property. All replacements and additions shall also be covered by this sale.

Terms of Sale: Said premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and assessments, tax sales,

tax titles and other municipal liens and water or sewer liens and State or County transfer fees, if any there are, and TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) in cashier's or certified check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of the sale as a deposit and the balance in cashier's or certified check will be due in thirty (30) days, at the offices of Doonan, Graves & Longoria, LLC ("DG&L"), time being of the essence. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale. Dated: October 7, 2024

Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency By its Attorney DOONAN, GRAVES & LONGORIA, LLC, 100 Cummings Center, Suite 303C, Beverly, MA 01915 (978) 921-2670 www.dgandl.com 57682 (ALLEN) 12/19,12/26/2024, 01/02/2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The New Braintree Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 6:30 PM in the Town Hall Memorial Drive New Braintree, MA On the following application: Tarpon Towers III, LLC and Celco Partnership, d/b/a Verizon Wireless, Applicant, seeks a Special Permit under the provisions of MGL Chapter 40A, Section 9, and Section 5.B.2 & 7.D of the Town of New Braintree Zoning Bylaw (Chapter 9) to construct wireless communications facility on a vacant parcel, including an access

driveway at 0 Igoe Road, Town Assessor's Map 406 parcel 202/Lot 2.

The application is on file in the Town Clerk's Office. All those interested must be present, or send a representative, or send communication in advance of the hearing date.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS 01/02, 01/09/2025

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF REAL ESTATE SALE

By virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Diane M. Hedstrom and James J. Courchesne to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Countrywide Bank, N.A., its successors and assigns, dated January 30, 2007 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 40625, Page 57, subsequently assigned to THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON FKA THE BANK OF NEW YORK AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS OF THE C W A L T, INC., ALTERNATIVE LOAN TRUST 2007-OA4 MORTGAGE P A S S - T H R O U G H CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-OA4 by MORTGAGE E L E C T R O N I C R E G I S T R A T I O N SYSTEMS, INC. by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 47919, Page 245 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at

Public Auction at 11:00 AM on January 23, 2025 at 334 Wheelwright Road, Barre, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

The land in Barre Plains, Massachusetts and being Lot #1 on Theodore Drazek Plan of Lots and recorded in Plan Book 346, Plan 51.

Beginning at an iron pipe at the southeast corner of premises which is the southwest corner of land of Lester and Charlotte Davis on the north side of Old Furnace Road in Barre Plains

Thence S 43° 35' W, 110.38' along north side of Old Furnace Road to a point; Thence N 46° 25' W, 198' +/- to a point in a wire fence at land of Petrilas;

Thence N 43° 08' E, 131.86' along fence to a wire fence;

Thence S 40° 22' E., 200 feet along fence and by land of Davis to the place of beginning. For title reference see Deed recorded February 15, 1989 in Book 11930, Page 177. The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF M.L.C. 225 SEC.39A THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD ON

- January 11, 2025 AT A SALE TO SATISFY OUR GARAGE LIEN THEREON FOR TOWING & STORAGE CHARGES AND EXPENSES OF SALE AND NOTICE:
- 2008 Audi Q7
- VIN: WA1AY74L58D040261
- 2013 Dodge Avenger
- VIN: 1C3CDZAB3DN566995
- 2013 Chevrolet Volt
- VIN: 1G1RB6E43DU102514
- 2003 BMW K 1200 GT
- VIN: WB10558A73ZK01323
- 2005 Honda CR-V
- VIN: SHSRD78835U346351
- 2012 Nissan Murano
- IN:JN8AZ1MW1CW208635
- 2007 Honda Civic
- VIN: 2HGFA55577H706155
- 2007 Ford Crown Victoria
- VIN: 2FAHP71W07X127911
- 2011 Suzuki SX4 Crossover
- VIN: JS2YB5A30B6301280
- 2015 Nissan Versa Note
- VIN: 3N1CE2CP4FL393339
- 2019 Dodge Charger
- VIN: 2C3CDXBG5KH623363

The sale will be held at Early's on Park Avenue, 536 Park Ave., Worcester, MA 01603 12/26, 01/02, 01/09/2025

Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Sunday, Dec. 15
12:21 a.m. Motor Vehicle Disabled, South Street, Referred to Other Agency
8:56 a.m. Animal - Wildlife, Hubbardston Road, Officer/Chief Advised
Monday, Dec. 16
6:53 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, South Street, Officer Spoke to Party
9:17 a.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield District, Court Duty
1:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Written Warning
3:17 p.m. Emergency Medical Service - Sick/Unknown, Lane South Road, Transported to Hospital
3:58 p.m. Property Damage, Peach Road, Officer Spoke to Party
3:59 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Old Dana Road, No Action Required
9:33 p.m. Emergency Medical Service - Vomiting Blood, Dana Road, Transported to Hospital
Tuesday, Dec. 17
10:07 a.m. Emergency Medical Service - Welfare Check, Old Petersham Road, Officer Spoke to Party
Wednesday, Dec. 18
5:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident - No Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Responses, South Street, Removed Hazard
8:06 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Hubbardston, Negative

Contact
9:17 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, 33 Sibley Road, Officer Took Call
11:28 a.m. Larceny or Theft, South Street, Officer Took Call
11:34 a.m. Emergency Medical Service - Falls, South Street, Transported to Hospital
11:55 a.m. Animal - Lost and/or Found, Hubbardston Road, Information Given
12:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle - Disabled, Summer Street, Officer Spoke to Party
1:26 p.m. Emergency Medical Service - Falls, Lane South Road, Transported to Hospital
Thursday, Dec. 19
5:38 a.m. Road Condition, Hubbardston Road, Referred to Other Agency
6:52 a.m. Emergency Medical Service - Sick/Unknown, Valley Road, Mutual Aid Transported
6:53 a.m. Emergency Medical Service - Sick/Unknown, Varney Lane, Referred to Other Agency
7:14 a.m. Fire - Motor Vehicle Collision, Station Road, Vehicle Towed
7:19 a.m. Fire - Motor Vehicle Collision, Hubbardston Road, Mutual Aid Transport
8:55 a.m. Property Damage, Hubbardston Road, Information Taken
9:08 a.m. Emergency Medical Service - Falls, South Barre Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
10:06 a.m. Emergency Medical Service - Falls, Austin Street, Mutual

Aid Transported
3:30 p.m. Public Assist, South Street, Citation Issued
3:46 p.m. Complaint, Elm South Street, Information Taken
3:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Vernon Avenue, Citation Issued
3:57 p.m. Erratic Operator, South Street, Officer/Chief Advised
Friday, Dec. 20
3:15 a.m. Emergency Medical Service - Sick/Unknown, Woods Road, Mutual Aid Transport
4:40 a.m. Emergency Medical Service - Breathing Difficulty, Ruggles Lane, Mutual Aid Transport
9:23 a.m. Emergency Medical Service - Abdominal/Back Pain, Kendall Street, Mutual Aid Transported
3:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Celona Square, Citation Issued
3:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Valley Road, Citation Issued
6:28 p.m. Fire - Motor Vehicle Collision, Spring Hill Road, Vehicle Towed
8:08 p.m. Public Assist, South Barre Road, Investigated
Saturday, Dec. 21
5:50 Erratic Operator, Williamsville Road, Negative Contact
6:41 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Recon, Mutual Aid Assist
6:56 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Loring Road, Negative Contact

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, Dec. 15
12:06 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
12:14 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
12:21 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
10:13 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
11:02 a.m. Animal - Wildlife, Central Tree Road, Written Warning
11:06 a.m. Emergency Medical Service - Sick Unknown, Central Tree Road, Transported to Hospital
12:53 p.m. Emergency Medical Service - Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
5:50 p.m. Emergency Medical Service - Falls, River Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
9:10 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
Monday, Dec. 16
6:34 a.m. Emergency Medical Service - Overdose/Poisoning, Edson Avenue, Transported to Hospital
8:47 a.m. Emergency Medical Service - Sick/Unknown, Emerald Road, Transported to Hospital
9:25 a.m. Safety Concern, Barre Paxton Road, Officer Spoke to Party
10:27 a.m. Motor Vehicle - Disabled, Barre Paxton Road, Vehicle Removed
10:43 a.m. ACO Lost and Found/ Wildlife, Turkey Hill Road, Officer/Chief Advised
12:46 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Main Street, Report Filed
1:15 p.m. Animal - ACO Call, Walnut Street, Officer/Chief Advised
1:41 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Pommogusset Road, Report Filed
3:52 p.m. Emergency Medical Service - Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Old Turnpike Road, Transported to Hospital
5:41 p.m. Emergency Medical Service - Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Maple Spring Drive, Transported to Hospital
Tuesday, Dec. 17
12:08 a.m. Emergency Medical Service - Breathing Difficulty, Anthony Drive, Transported to Hospital
8:04 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogusset Road, Written Warning

9:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
10:26 a.m. Emergency Medical Service - Falls, Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
11:22 a.m. Complaint, Cheryl Ann Drive, Negative Contact
11:54 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Massachusetts State Police, Mutual Aid Assist
1:23 p.m. Animal - ACO Call, West Street, Returned to Family/Guardian
2:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle - Disabled, Maple Avenue, Vehicle Removed
6:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle - Disabled, River Road, Officer Spoke to Party
6:35 p.m. Emergency Medical Service - Sick/Unknown, Irish Lane, Transported to Hospital
7:59 p.m. Juvenile Runaway, Stetson Road, Returned to Family/Guardian
Wednesday, Dec. 18
8:34 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Joanna Drive, Officer Spoke to Party
10:24 a.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Wilson Way, Officer Spoke to Party
11:49 a.m. Emergency Medical Service - Sick/Unknown, Glenwood Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
11:54 a.m. Emergency Medical Service - Unconscious/Unresponsive/ Syncope, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
3:24 p.m. Trespasser or Prowler, Julie Ann Circle, Investigated
7:35 p.m. Safety Concern, Main Street, Removed Hazard
Thursday, Dec. 19
5:45 a.m. Fire - Motor Vehicle Collision, Pleasantdale Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
Summons: McGilloway, David Allen, 63, Grafton
Charges: License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With
7:19 a.m. Fire - Motor Vehicle Collision, Hubbardston Road, Mutual Aid Transported
11:32 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Inwood Road, Officer Took Call
4:30 p.m. Animal - ACO Call, Miles Road, Negative Contact
4:45 p.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Phillips Avenue, Officer Spoke to Party

Friday, Dec. 20
4:57 a.m. Emergency Medical Service - Unconscious/Unresponsive/ Syncope, Nancy Drive, Transported to Hospital
8:01 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
9:03 a.m. Emergency Medical Service - Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Pleasantdale Road, Transported to Hospital
11:14 a.m. Emergency Medical Service - Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
11:18 a.m. Emergency Medical Service - Breathing Difficulty, Vista Circle, Transported to Hospital
12:52 p.m. Fire - Public Service Call, Stevens Way, Public Assist
1:10 p.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), Glenwood Road, Entry Gained
4:19 p.m. Emergency Medical Service - Hypertensive Crisis, Miles Road, Transported to Hospital
5:28 p.m. Identity Theft, Charnock Hill Road, Report Filed
5:36 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Horizon Road, Negative Contact
8:39 p.m. Breathing Difficulty, Soucy Drive, Transported to Hospital
Saturday, Dec. 21
7:50 a.m. Emergency Medical Service - Falls, Birchwood Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
8:09 a.m. Fire - Motor Vehicle Collision, Kenwood Drive, Ambulance Signed Refusal
8:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Kenwood Drive, Citation Issued
9:43 a.m. Motor Vehicle - Disabled, Barre Paxton Road, Officer Spoke to Party
11:03 a.m. Emergency Medical Service - Unconscious/Unresponsive/ Syncope, Turkey Hill Trail, Report Filed
1:56 p.m. Fire - Motor Vehicle Collision, Pommogusset Road, Report Filed
4:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
5:57 p.m. Fire - Motor Vehicle Collision, Pommogusset Road, Vehicle Towed

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, Dec. 15, 2024
8:45 a.m. Public Assist, Whole Turn, Officer Spoke to Party
Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2024
6:27 a.m. Fire - Motor Vehicle Collision, Old Boston Turnpike, Ambulance Signed Refusal
Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2024
7:08 a.m. Missing Person, Pitcherville Road, Report Filed
7:55 a.m. Be On Look Out Notification, Main Street, Information Taken
8:58 a.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, New Westminster Road, Referred to Other Agency
10:45 a.m. Follow-Up Investigation, Underwood Road, Negative Contact
11:11 Emergency Medical Service - Breathing Difficulty, Hale Road,

Transported to Hospital
1:54 p.m. Follow-Up Investigation, Hale Road, Negative Contact
Thursday, Dec. 19
5:53 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Burnshirt Road, Referred to Other Agency
7:19 a.m. Fire - Motor Vehicle Collision, Hubbardston Road, Mutual Aid Transport
3:20 p.m. Emergency Medical Service - Welfare Check, Gardner Road, No Fire Service Necessary
7:27 p.m. Animal - Wildlife, Main Street, Gone on Arrival
Friday, Dec. 20
2:45 a.m. Emergency Medical Service - Chest Pain/Heart Problem, New Westminster Road, Mutual Aid Transport

5:49 a.m. Emergency Medical Service - Hip Pain, Lombard Road, Transported to Hospital
6:47 a.m. Fire - Motor Vehicle Collision, Krause Road, Report Filed
7:38 a.m. Threats, Evergreen Road, Negative Contact
8:31 a.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Evergreen Road, Report Filed
12:35 p.m. Emergency Medical Service - Sick/Unknown, Abenaki Street, Transported to Hospital
Saturday, Dec. 21
7:11 a.m. Follow-Up Investigation, Pitcherville Road, Report Filed
8:35 a.m. Harassment, Evergreen Road, Officer Spoke to Party
11:44 a.m. Fire - Motor Vehicle Collision, Gardner Road, Report Filed
6:16 p.m. Fire - Fumes/Odor/Gas Leak, Grimes Road, Investigated

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Dec. 16-23, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 14 building/property checks, nine directed/area patrols, five radar assignments, one traffic control, one emergency 911 call, three safety hazards, one harassment, one complaint, two animal calls and three motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Tuesday, Dec. 17
1:36 p.m. Safety Hazard, Moore Road, Removed Hazard
Wednesday, Dec. 18
7:29 a.m. Safety Hazard, Ravine Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
4:43 p.m. Harassment, Unitas Road, Officer Handled
7:32 p.m. 911 Animal Call, Barre

Road, Services Rendered
Thursday, Dec. 19
7:01 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
Friday, Dec. 20
5:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ravine Road, Written Warning
8:27 a.m. Complaint, Ware Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Our advertisers make this publication possible. Let them know you saw their ad in the Barre Gazette

WE'VE EXPANDED OUR WEB SITE PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

1 Email all notices to 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 Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.
visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY. EXTRAORDINARY performance. Central Boiler certified Classic Edge Titanium HDX OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE. Call today 413-296-4320.

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split \$200.00
Seasoned cut & split \$300.00
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. 26% Tax Credit. Call (508)882-0178

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY

ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

BUYING Bottles, Cocks, 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

JUNK REMOVAL

A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL

Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
We load it & take it.
413-531-1936
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

SERVICES

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

ELECTRICIAN

NEED AN ELECTRICIAN?

Look no further!
PJ's Electrical offers fast and reliable electrical services for your home or business. Call now for a FREE estimate!
(413) 366-1703
LICENSED & INSURED

SERVICES

HOME IMPROVEMENT

HANDYMAN RESIDENTIAL REPAIRS. Powerwashing, home repairs, interior/exterior painting, ceiling/wall repairs and chimney repairs. Fully licensed/insured. Lic. #105950CSL. Call 413-566-5596/413-433-5073.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. (413)246-2783 Ron.

LANDSCAPING

A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE
Excavator Services
Overgrown property?
Extreme Brush Cutting!
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
Lawn/Arborvitae 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

DUTCH TOUCH PAINTING
Interior only \$199.00 for average 12x16 room. Very neat, references, prompt service call (508)867-2550

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 LAFONTAIN 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

ROOFING

JENKINS ROOFING specializing in residential roofs & repairs, chimney repairs. Hampden, MA - 413-566-5596/413-433-5073. Lic. #105950CSL. Fully insured.

SERVICES

RUBBISH REMOVAL

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

TREE WORK

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

SERVICES

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.

STUMP GRINDING

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

Find archives of this local newspaper at www.newspapers.turley.com

AUTO

AUTO FOR SALE

2010 HYUNDAI SONATA
138,400 miles. Well-cared for and in good condition.
\$2,500/OBO - MUST SELL.
Please call (541) 654-6007, leave message.

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

PETS

ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL MALE, liver tri-colored. current on shots, soft temperament. \$100. 413-596-8190.

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF BLANDFORD HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

The Town of Blandford is seeking a qualified individual for the position of Highway Superintendent. Salary range starting at \$75,000-\$80,000+ negotiable based on experience/skills. Please visit our website TownOfBlandford.com or email Administrator@TownofBlandford.com for more information.

HELP WANTED

The **Town of Oakham** is seeking an experienced municipal **Treasurer/Collector.** 15 hours a week, negotiable pay based on experience. Please send resumes to admin@oakham-ma.gov.

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT

BEDROOMS(S) AVAILABLE NOW:
4BR/2BA house in peaceful Palmer neighborhood, flexible terms. \$925 including utilities/parking. Pets/420 ok. Friendly live-in landlady. Women/NBs only. Email your situation/preferences: deirdre@mit.edu

REAL ESTATE



ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, or religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

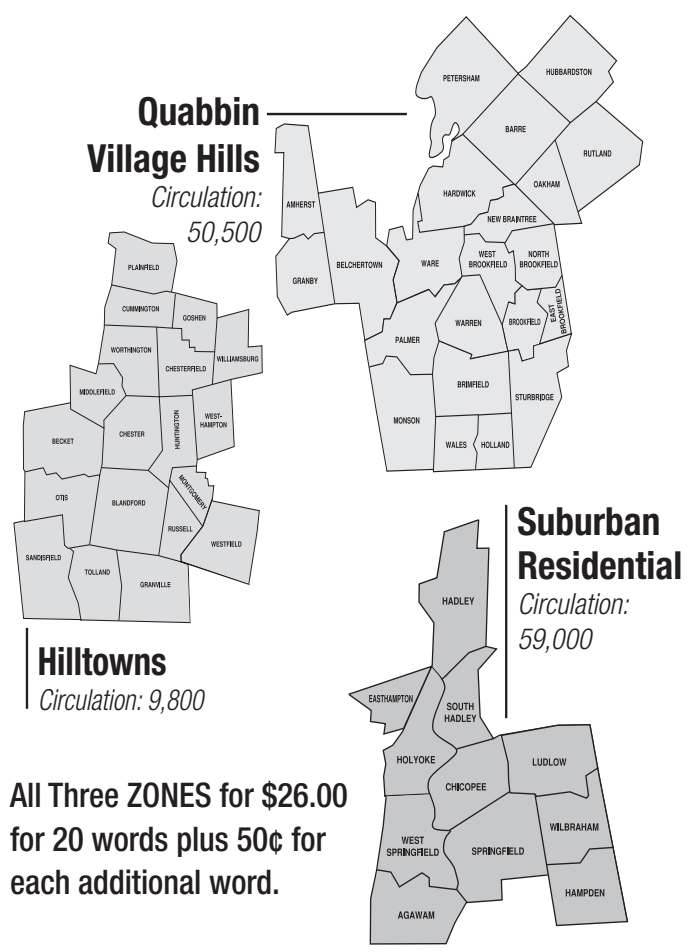
FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: **MONDAY 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
21	Base Price \$28.50	22	Base Price \$27.50
23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$28.00
27	Base Price \$28.50	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: _____

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!



GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Dec. 16-23, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 52 building/property checks, 28 directed/area patrols, five radar assignments, four traffic controls, 11 emergency 911 calls, three citizen assists, two assist other agencies, four safety hazards, four complaints, one motor vehicle accident, three motor vehicle investigations, one threat, one harassment, one property damage and nine motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Dec. 16
10 a.m. Assist Other Agency, High Road, Officer Handled
11:33 a.m. Assist Citizen, Bridge Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
2:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, School House Drive, Investigated
8:52 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Patrill Hollow Road, Negative Contact

Tuesday, Dec. 17
9:19 a.m. Safety Hazard, Red Bridge Road, Officer Handled
2:41 p.m. Assist Citizen, Petersham Road, Services Rendered
8:30 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Turkey Street, Transported to Hospital
9:56 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Dec. 18
12:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Lower Road, Officer Handled
5:49 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Fiske Road, Services Rendered
12:21 p.m. Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital
3:08 p.m. Property Damage, Barre Road, Unknown Outcome
4:40 p.m. Serve Warrant, Lyman Road, Arrest(s) Made

Thursday, Dec. 19
7:20 a.m. Safety Hazard, Lower Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
8:20 a.m. Assist Citizen, Birch Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
11:39 a.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Lower Road, Transported to Hospital
12:29 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Sullivan Avenue, Officer Handled
4:04 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Lower Road, Negative Contact
7:08 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered
11:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
11:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
11:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Friday, Dec. 20
6:09 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Written Warning
6:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Citation Issued
2:44 p.m. Harassment, Greenwich Road, Officer Handled
3:18 p.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Taylor Hill Road, Services Rendered
5:21 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Parker Court, Investigated
5:42 p.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, Upper Church Street, Services Rendered
5:58 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Lower Road, Negative Contact

Saturday, Dec. 21
3:18 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Services Rendered
6:11 a.m. Safety Hazard, Townwide, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Sunday, Dec. 22
8:34 a.m. Threat, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled
7:40 p.m. Complaint, Unknown Location, Officer Handled

Monday, Dec. 23
7:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Petersham Road, Officer Handled

STAY ON TOP OF IT ALL!
Subscribe Today!

Turley Publications, Inc.
12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS
413.283.8393
www.turley.com
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

If you have job postings to fill, get them the exposure they need.

Join us in highlighting what positions you have available in our Job Connection!

Each week this available jobs section will run in your community newspapers.

4.75" x 4"
\$150 for three papers
\$40 for each additional paper

4.75" x 8"
\$300 for three papers
\$80 for each additional paper

9.681" x 8"
\$600 for three papers
\$160 for each additional paper

9.681" x 15.75"
\$1,200 for three papers
\$320 for each additional paper

Choice of any three papers Buy two weeks, get the third week FREE

12 Weekly Newspapers Serving The Local Communities
Agawam Advertiser News • Barre Gazette • Chicopee Register • Country Journal
The Journal Register • Quabog Current • The Register • Sentinel
The Holyoke Sun • Town Reminder • Ware River News • The Wilbraham-Hampden Times
www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc.

Call Dan today 413.297.5886 or 413.283.8393

NFPA offers tips for safe electrical vehicle charging

As electric vehicles enter the roadways, the National Fire Protection Association® has introduced a series of free resources, guidelines and information to help raise awareness about EV fires and safe EV charging practices at home.

According to the International Energy Agency, global sales of electric vehicles exceeded 10 million in 2022 and are expected to grow in the coming years. At the same time, consumer concerns about the fire safety risk of EVs are increasing. Lithium-ion batteries, the most widely used and reliable source of energy for electric vehicles,

are central to questions about safety.

"It is widely known that electric vehicles provide environmental and cost-effective benefits," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA in a press release. "However, as fires involving EVs are reported in the news, concerns about the risks they pose persist. Through advocacy efforts that highlight our new online resources and information, NFPA is working to better educate the public about the risks associated with EVs and other devices that use lithium-ion batteries, along with ways to use them safely."

The new online resources from NFPA feature more detailed information about lithium-ion batteries, EV maintenance, and what tips consumers can follow to stay safe when charging their electric vehicle at home.

Resources for safety educators and consumers including a safety tip sheet and social media cards are all free and downloadable. A free training course is also available to the public that helps address some of the common concerns and myths about owning an electrical vehicle, including safety features, charge types, and battery life.

NFPA recommends these tips

when charging electric vehicles at home to help prevent fires:

Before charging an electric vehicle at home, have a qualified electrician check the electrical system to see if it can handle charging.

Install charging equipment in safe locations. Keep away from busy areas and things that could catch fire.

Use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.

Read and follow all manufacturer directions.

Check chargers and cords for damage before using. Never use if damaged.

Do not use more than one plug

or extension cords with the charger.

Keep charging items out of reach of children and animals when not in use.

Cover charging station outlet to keep water out.

Learn more about electric vehicle fire safety, find training information, and download the free safety tip sheet at nfpa.org/evsafetyinfo.

Information on the safe use of smaller devices that use lithium-ion batteries such as computers, smart phones, e-bikes and e-scooters, can be found at nfpa.org/lithiumion-safety and nfpa.org/ebikes.

Founded in 1896, NFPA® is

a global, self-funded, nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission.

For more information, people may visit www.nfpa.org. All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at www.nfpa.org/freemembers.

Your BUYLINE CONNECTION

BEAT THE TARIFFS & TAXES!!!

DON'T BUY TIL YOU SEE US!!

SLEDS, SKATES, TOBOGGANS!

MATTRESS SALE!!!!

WHITCO TOY & BIKE 
 12 MONTHS 0% FINANCING **140 Main St., Spencer** **508-885-9343**
www.whitcosales.com
 Open: Mon.-Fri. 9am-9pm, Sat. 9am-8pm, Sun. 10am-7pm

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

CHECK OUT OUR NEW CONSTRUCTIONS THAT ARE NOW AVAILABLE!



NEW LISTING
\$624,900
50 Number 6 Schoolhouse Rd.
Charlton, MA



NEW LISTING
\$679,000
46 Ragged Hill Rd.
West Brookfield, MA

Cassie Paolucci
774-200-3523  

Feel right at home.
Merry Christmas & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Find the home made for you.
 Let us work with you to find your dream home.

Lisa Caron Real Estate
 42 W. Main Street, PO Box 447 Brookfield, MA 01506
 Cell : 508-341-8299
 Search Homes Instantly: <http://www.lisacaron.com>



55 West Street, Ware - NEW PRICE REDUCTION!
 Roberts Garage has been run as a family owned business since it was established in 1938. Robert's Garage has a history of Trustworthy customer service, driving substantial cash flow with a strong customer loyalty and a proven reputation in the community which will allow the New Ownership a turnkey business with a positive cash flow. Located in a high traffic area with great visibility! 3 bays, one lift, office and paved parking area. All equipment will stay (Owner's personal tools and personal items not included in sale). 21 E in hand. This would make a great Car Sales location or Body Shop!

CENTURY 21 **Century 21 North East** *Ready to Buy or Sell? Call Me!*
 180 West St., Ware **1-978-434-1990**

Support Your Hometown Businesses

SHOP LOCAL

WHERE EVERYONE GOES FOR THEIR PIECE OF THE EARTH!
WINTER IS COMING!
 BULK ROAD SALT • BULK TREATED SALT
 WASHED WINTER ROAD SAND • SAND/SALT MIX
STOCK UP NOW!

Construction Stone • Landscaping Stone
 Title V Septic Sand • Presby Sand • Concrete Sand
 Stone Dust • Crushed Gravel • Cold Patch

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

Bond
 Sand, Gravel & Asphalt 
www.bondsandandgravel.com

❖ **Every Wednesday**
SIP & KNIT
 12pm-2pm
Free

❖ **Every Friday**
TOO GOOD TO TOSS
 8am-9am
 Free baked goodies from the week while supplies last!
Limits may apply.

❖ **Future Events**
 Contact us to plan your next private event.
508-637-1577

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! 

3 Day Hampton Beach Getaway



March 15.....**8-Night Bahamas Cruise**..... from \$1499
 May 23**7-Night Bermuda Cruise**..... from \$1699
 June 10-12....**Hampton Beach Getaway** \$529
 June 28.....**Boston Harbor Lunch Cruise**..... \$175
 Sept 12-26....**Portugal & The Azores** \$6549

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

Book Your Event With Us


HARDWICK CROSSING
EST. 2022
COUNTRY CLUB

hardwickcrossing.com
 262 Lower Road, Gilbertville
 774-757-8907
 Pro Shop 774-261-2634

Function Space Available

OPEN 7 DAYS FOR LUNCH, DINNER & GOLF
 **Specials Posted on Facebook & Instagram** 

Closed for Renovation January 6th-12th
Golf Membership Special
Purchase Membership & Get A Free Gift Card!
Visit Our Website For More Details

MONDAY - TRIVIA 6:30PM • WEDNESDAY - MUSIC BINGO 6:30PM

