

# BARRE GAZETTE

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## Oakham Year in Review 2025

By Ellenor Downer  
Editor  
edowner@turley.com

OAKHAM – With the new year only a week away, it is time to reflect back on 2025.

### JANUARY

On Saturday, Jan. 4, Aaron Langlois lead a hike on a portion of the Mid State Trail in Oakham.

The destination of the approximately three mile hike was to Sampson's Pebble also known as Flint Rock and back to the parking area on East Hill Road East. The hike was originally planned for New Year's Day and was rescheduled due to rainy weather. The property, which also contains the former Post Office, currently was in probate as the pre-



File photo

Noah Bachant, left, proudly holds two bass he caught at a fishing derby held at Lake Dean in Oakham on Jan. 25. His grandfather, Paul Zack of Oakham, seems to be having as much fun as his grandson.

See OAKHAM YIR, page 6

## Senior Center acoustic improvement approved

By Ellenor Downer  
Editor  
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – Council on Aging/Senior Center Director Betty Jo O'Brien and COA member David Flick attended the Monday, Jan. 5 Select Board meeting to discuss improvements to acoustics at the Senior Center.

O'Brien said the dining room at the Senior Center, located at 557 South Barre Road, had poor acoustics. She said the COA received two quotes, DDS Acoustical Specialties and New England Soundproofing, to glue foam boards to the ceiling of the dining room to improve the problem. She also said the field was specialized and there were not a lot of vendors. The panels would match the color of the ceiling so they would blend in.

She and Flick requested permission to have DDS Acoustical Specialties install the panels in the dining room. Select Board Member Richard Stevens asked if the panels and glue to be used were non-flammable. Flick said the panels were fire retardant. Stevens then made a motion to accept the bid of \$6,345 from DDS Acoustical Specialties to a fix the foam to the ceiling and to have the Building Commissioner and Fire Chief inspect to ensure all codes were met.

### Comment on BESS

Elizabeth Martin requested to be on the agenda to comment on a Battery Energy Storage System on Wauwinet Road in Barre. She said she would like to know if the Select Board would exercise right of first refusal.

See BARRE, page 7

## Interim TA applications reviewed by Board

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis  
Correspondent

HUBBARDSTON – The Select Board is one step closer to appointing an interim town administrator, following the departure of previous town administrator Nathan Boudreau.

The town previously posted a job description for interim town administrator following the Dec. 22 meeting, and the board said they have received and reviewed nine applications as of Dec. 29.

The board voted to extend the term of the current temporary town administrator, Patricia Lowe, to Jan. 5.

Members of the board discussed the qualities that they expect from the applicant they move forward with. They said

they want somebody who has previous administrative experience in a small town, and knows how municipalities work.

Heather Munroe, a member of the board, said that while people who have worked in administrative positions in larger cities are acceptable, they might not be well suited for small town administrative work, as small towns have less staff. The board agreed that because of this, a town administrator in small towns like Hubbardston will bear more responsibility.

The board also said since budget season is upcoming, the town does not have time to hire somebody who will require extensive training.

See HUBBARDSTON, page 10

## It's the season for ice skating



Children and adults enjoy skating this Sunday, Jan. 4 in Barre.



Rye Rotti enjoys hot chocolate and doughnuts provided by the Barre Police Department.

Photos by Meghan Rotti

## Ringling in the New Year

First Night celebrated in North Brookfield

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – It was a townwide celebration as North Brookfield held its First Night on the final day of 2025.

There were plenty of places to go and plenty of activities to do on New Year's Eve in North Brookfield as the community came together to wrap up 2025. First Night 2025 was sponsored by the North Brookfield Cultural Council and North Brookfield Parks & Recreation.

At the Haston Free Public Library, the theme of their First Night celebration was the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. As you walked through the front door you saw the library featured red, white and blue décor including a large banner featuring the U.S. celebrating its 250th birthday in 2026.

In the reading room



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Kathleen and Jack McClintock dressed up as a couple from the Colonial period at the Haston Free Public Library.

There were Colonial themed snacks and games as well as a raffle being held. The prizes for the raffle were donated by Friends of the U.S. Haston Free Public Library and library staff.

Youth Services Librarian Brianna Lamb said this was the first raffle hosted by the library and a total of 20 prizes were donated.

Local author Jack McClintock was at the library for a meet and greet and shared some of his pub-

lished works. McClintock and his wife Kathleen dressed for the occasion related to the 250th Anniversary of the U.S. theme. Kathleen and Jack dressed as a couple from the colonial period.

McClintock had copies of his book available for visitors and was happy to join the library on New Year's Eve during first night.

Down the street was the North Brookfield Town House and visitors got to

tour the historic building on New Year's Eve. Across the street from the Town House was DJ Tabby Leblanc providing music throughout the center of town for First Night.

The North Brookfield Historical Museum was open to the public and had an activity for kids and adults to do during First Night.

See FIRST NIGHT page 8

## Fitzgerald offered town administrator position

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis  
Correspondent

HUBBARDSTON – Sean Fitzgerald was offered the position as interim town administrator "pending successful contract negotiations" by the Select Board, by unanimous vote at its Jan. 5 meeting.

According to the board, the initial applicant pool for the position since it was advertised in December was nine. The board then selected four to interview, and eventually chose Fitzgerald for a final interview in front of the board on Monday.

Fitzgerald was previously a town administrator in Swampscott, as well as having administrative experience in Plaistow, New Hampshire.

All five members of the board asked at least one question to Fitzgerald for the interview.

Peter Walker asked him how he would support staff who are burned out. Fitzgerald said that he understands that public service can be exhausting, and people need affirmation because of that. In addition, he said that all staff have to be appreciated for what they do.

"Get beyond the position, and more to the who are we as humans," he said.

Katie Young, vice chair of the board, asked Fitzgerald if he prefers memos, or talking in person. He said that decision is based on the severity and complication of the issue. He said facts need to be settled, and that he's a "fan of the deets."

He said he likes to "keep an open door" for his employees, and would "guide, provide, and support" before decisions.

Select Board chair Jeffrey Williams questioned how familiar Fitzgerald was with the set up, particularly working with a small town budget. Fitzgerald said he has built his career on budgets, and "got the budget thing down pretty quick."

He cited his experience in Swampscott, where he was able to implement a flat tax rate, as they had the third-highest tax rate in Essex county prior to his appointment.

See FITZGERALD, page 10



# News of the Towns



## ROUND TOWN

by Ellenor Downer  
edowner@turley.com

### Post 2 holds meat raffle

Barre Post 2, American Legion, 405 South Barre Road, will be hosting a meat raffle on Sunday, Jan. 18 at 2 p.m. There will be six tables. This is a chance to "bring home the bacon." There also will be a 50/50 raffle.

### Simple supper

A Simple supper sponsored by Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will be held Friday, Jan. 16 with serving from 5-7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge, 71 Pleasant St. Cost is \$9 per person. The menu includes three different soups, salad bar, bread, rolls and homemade pie. All are welcome.

### Food Pantry distribution

The Barre Food Pantry's two distributions in January will occur on successive days, Wednesday morning Jan. 14 from 10-11:30 a.m. and Thursday evening, Jan. 15 from 5:30-7 p.m.

Clients are invited to pick up groceries from the food pantry either in the morning on Wednesday, Jan. 14 or in the evening on Thursday, Jan. 15, whichever is the more convenient for them. In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients Jan. 14 and Jan. 15 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church. They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers at multiple stations. On Tuesday night, Jan 13 at 5 p.m. the Barre Food Pantry will be gathering volunteers at the Barre Congregational Church to unload incoming groceries from their truck, to sort through donated groceries, to pre-fill grocery bags and in other ways to prepare for the distribution the following morning. If people can help pitch in for an hour on the Jan. 13, they should call Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921. Please do not arrive to volunteer on Jan 13, 14 or 15 without first calling Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921, Dave Petrovick at 978-355-4519 or Chuck Radlo at 978-355-6463

### Office hours

State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume and Chief of Staff, Donna and Senator Peter Durant's office invites constituents and town officials to meet them to express any concerns, ideas or issues that they may need assistance with Round Town office hours second sentence cahng to They will hold an office hour on Feb. 9 from 10-11 a.m. at the Senior Center. Please call Donna at 774-402-4742 if they would like a private meeting.

### Recreation Commission applications

The Barre Recreation Commission is now accepting applications for fiscal year 2026 beginning now through Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026. The BRC sponsors several youth and adult programs with financial support, including baseball/softball, football, basketball, soccer, learn-to-swim, yoga, biking, and after-school enrichment activities and community events. Eligibility criteria are that the proposed programs provide a recreational or cultural outlet/opportunity for residents of Barre. Applicants are requested to contact the BRC (c/o Mary Ann Gendron) for an application form as follows: call 978-355-2504 extension 8 or e-mail barreboards@townof-barre.com Forms may be submitted in paper or electronic format and must be post marked by Jan. 31, 2026. They should mail hardcopies to Barre Recreation Commission, 40 West St, Suite 5, Barre, MA 01005.

### Editorial deadline reminder

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



Submitted photo

Thirty seniors at the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center in Barre held a kick-off rally on Monday, Jan. 5 to begin their virtual 'journey across the United States to Los Angeles.

## Senior Sneakers on the Move holds kick-off rally

BARRE — The Barre/Hardwick Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, launched its Senior Sneakers on the Move program this morning, Monday, Jan. 5 with an enthusiastic kick-off rally, sending more than 30 participants on a virtual journey across the United States, heading to Los Angeles.

The program proudly reflects this year's Senior Center theme, "Where Fun Begins." Each participant

received a pedometer and activity log to track any type of exercise completed over the course of a week. All miles are combined to map the group's progress across the country, reinforcing that every movement counts and that fun and fitness can go hand in hand.

Exercise plays a vital role in healthy aging by improving strength, balance and overall well-being. Senior Sneakers on the Move also promotes

socialization, bringing participants together through shared goals, encouragement, and connection, proving that staying active is even better when done together.

There is still time to join. For more information or to participate, seniors may call 978-355-5004.

The Barre/Hardwick Senior Center invites all seniors to step into movement, friendship and fun, where fun truly begins.



## OAKHAM

by Ellenor Downer  
edowner@turley.com

### Sunday School holds pageant

Once again the Oakham Sunday School held their Christmas pageant on Sunday, Dec. 21. Playing the part of Mary was Sophia and playing Joseph was Noah. The three Wisemen were Jacob, Tyler and James. Everett was a shepherd and sheep were Lydia, Domingos and Mason. Olivia was the angel Gabriel and Michael, "M.J." was an angel. Calia was a reader, who narrated the story of Jesus' birthday. Following the pageant, people enjoyed sandwiches and a birthday cake for Jesus.

### Office hours

State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume and Chief of Staff, Donna and Senator Peter Durant's office invites constituents and town officials to meet them to express any concerns, ideas, or issues that they may need assistance with. On Thursday, Feb. 12 from 9-9:45 a.m. they will hold an office hour at the Oakham Town Hall, of Oakham, People may call Donna at 774-402-4742 if they would like a private meeting.

### Fobes Memorial Library

The Fobes Memorial Library, 4 Maple St., hosts read and play every Wednesday from 10:20-11:30 a.m. Next dates are Jan. 7, Jan. 14, Jan 21 and Jan. 28. No registration is required. The program is for birth to age 5. Participants will enjoy rhymes, songs, an activity and play time. It is funded by the Friends of the Fobes Memory Library, Inc. The library will hold a homeschool do it yourself on Thursday, Jan. 15 from 11 a.m.-noon. They will make a Morse Code key chain. Registration is required.

### Senior Center

On Friday, Jan. 9 the Council on Aging will meet at noon. On Tuesday, Jan. 13 Yoga meets in the Senior Center multi-purpose room. Registration is required. Cost is \$30 for six classes. On the third Friday, Jan 16 at 12:30 p.m. the Lunch Brunch will travel to the Empire Buffet in Southbridge. A sign up sheet is in the Senior Center Main Room. On Monday, Jan. 26 podiatry clinic will take place from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Reservations are required.

Ongoing activities include Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-noon puzzling, Monday through Thursday at 9 a.m. a walking group meet at Senior Center, Tuesday through Thursdays at 11a.m. walking group meet at Senior Center and Wednesday at 8:45 a.m. Zumba Gold meets in the New Braintree Town Hall, Memorial Drive, New Braintree (Donation of \$3 per class).

People may ask to be added to the text MSG group by calling the senior center at 508-882-4073. They should leave their cell phone number and name. Thursdays at noon is weigh in at the Senior Center. This is a support weight loss group. Fridays at 10:30 a.m. functional fitness takes place at the New Braintree Town Hall. There is a \$3 donation per class. If people can't get to the Senior Center to make reservations or sign up 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.

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.-noon by calling 508-882-4072.

## OES to hold simple supper

BARRE – Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will hold a simple supper on Friday, Jan. 16 with serving from 5-7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge, 71 Pleasant St.

Cost is \$9 per person. The menu includes three different soups, salad bar, bread, rolls and homemade pie. All are welcome for comfort food, friendship and pie sponsored by the good cooks of Cradle Rock OES.

## 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. 12. 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 – Ziti with meat sauce, broccoli and red peppers, baked apples, Italian bread

TUESDAY – Beef with onions and peppers, herb potatoes, peas and carrots, Rice Krispie Treat, pumpkinnickel bread

WEDNESDAY – Roast pork with gravy, cranberry stuffing, roasted Brussels sprouts, pear crisp, diet = apple-sauce, whole wheat bread

THURSDAY – Chicken cranberry salad, pasta salad, tomato and onion salad, fresh fruit, hot dog bun,

FRIDAY – Bean and cheese enchilada, brown rice, chuckwagon corn, pineapple, pita bread, sour cream

\*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.

## Rep. Berthiaume/Sen. Durant lists office hours

State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume and Chief of Staff, Donna and Senator Peter Durant's office invites constituents and town officials to meet them to express any concerns, ideas or issues that they may need assistance with.

Office hours on Monday, Feb. 9 include Barre Senior Center in Barre from 10-11 a.m. and at the Hubbardston Senior Center in Hubbardston from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Office hours on Wednesday, Feb. 11 in Ware from 9-9:45 a.m.; in Hardwick at the Town Hall from 10-11 a.m.; in the West Brookfield Senior Center from 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. and in the Brookfield Town Hall from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Office hours on Thursday, Feb. 12 in the Oakham Town Hall from 9-9:45 a.m.; in New Braintree Town Hall from 10-10:45 a.m. and in the North

Brookfield Senior Center from 11 a.m.-noon.

Office hours on Wednesday, Feb. 18 in the Leicester Senior Center from 9-9:45 a.m.; in the Howe Village in Spencer from 10-11 a.m. with Tammy Ruda from Rep. Marsi's office and the East Brookfield Senior Center from 11:15 a.m.-noon. People may call Donna at 774-402-4742 if they would like a private meeting.

## Senior center provided 301 free lunches

BARRE – The Barre/Hardwick Senior Center announces it provided 301 free lunches to seniors throughout the month of November during the recent SNAP disruption and federal government shutdown.

During a time of uncertainty and increased food insecurity, the Senior Center ensured that local seniors continued to have access to nutritious meals. This effort reflects the center's strong commitment to caring for the community and responding quickly when needs arise.

Providing these meals is just one of the many ways the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center continues to demonstrate that they are Stronger Together.

For more information about programs, services or ways to support the Senior Center, people call 978-355-5004.

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# News of the Towns

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

### BARRE

Master Plan Steering Committee – Jan. 8 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Quabbin Regional School District Committee – Jan. 8 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Select Board – Jan. 9 at 1:30 p.m. and Jan. 20 at 5 p.m.  
 Board of Health – Jan. 12 at 5 p.m.  
 Water Commission – Jan. 12 at 5:30 p.m.  
 DPW Commission – Jan. 12 at 6 p.m.  
 Library Trustees – Jan. 14 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Barre Common Oversight Committee – Jan. 15 at 5 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Jan. 20 and Feb. 3 at 7 p.m.  
 Cemetery Commission – Jan. 22 at 11 a.m.  
 Cable Advisory Committee – Feb. 10 at 7 p.m.

### HARDWICK

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

### HUBBARDSTON

Board of Library Trustees – Jan. 8 at 7 p.m.  
 Open Space Committee – Jan. 8 at 7 p.m.  
 Board of Health – Jan. 13 at 7 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – Jan. 14 at 4 p.m.  
 Community Preservation Committee – Jan. 15 at 4 p.m.  
 Board of Assessors – Jan. 21 at 6 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Jan. 22 at 6:30 p.m.

### NORTH BROOKFIELD

Finance Committee – Jan. 8 at 6 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – Jan. 12 at 1:30 p.m.  
 Water Commission – Jan. 12 at 6 p.m.  
 Downtown Development Committee – Jan. 12 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Feb. 18 at 6 p.m.

### OAKHAM

Council on Aging – Jan. 9 at noon  
 Finance Committee – Jan. 9 at 7 p.m.  
 Board of Selectmen – Jan. 20 at 6 p.m.

### PETERSHAM

Advisory Finance Committee – Jan. 8 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – Jan. 12 at 10:30 a.m.  
 Cemetery Commission – Jan. 13 at 10 a.m.  
 Board of Health – Jan. 13 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Petersham Historic District – Jan. 15 at 6 p.m.  
 Board of Assessors – Jan. 30 at 9 a.m.

### RUTLAND

Select Board and Finance Committee – Jan. 8 at 6 p.m.  
 Select Board Public Hearing – Jan. 20 at 6 p.m.



Turley Photos by Paula Oumette

The East Quabbin Land Trust celebrated the start of 2026 with its annual New Year's Day walk along the Mass Central Rail Trail. Participants trekked to the Ware River (bordering Grenville Park), starting from Church Street in Ware.

## EQLT celebrated New Year on the rail trail

By Paula Oumette  
 pouimette@turley.com

WARE – More than 30 people enjoyed a walk through the first snow on the first day of the New Year last week.

This annual walk was hosted by the East Quabbin Land Trust and this year, it was held on the Mass Central Rail Trail on Church Street, heading toward Grenville Park.

The walk, which was just under two and a half miles, first stopped for a group photo along the loop trail at the Ware River. The loop trail is located in a pitch pine grove; a species of tree that thrives in heat and was resistant to the fires caused by sparks from the trains using the former railroad tracks that the trail is built on.

From there, participants walked to another point of the river, adjacent to Grenville Park.

Last year, the town finalized a purchase of the Pelski property, which runs between the trail and the park. This purchase will allow the town to develop 1,500 feet of 10-foot wide, stone dust-packed accessible trail to connect the trail and the park.

East Quabbin Land Trust Executive Director Cynthia Henshaw said the project would be completed by the end of June, through the use of a grant. She said volunteer days would be held to build the trail, including a 20-foot bridge.

Henshaw said there would also be a study to construct another bridge, connecting the Robbins Road section of Mass Central Rail Trail to the area of South Street.

"We'll be able to connect to Grenville Park when that bridge is done," she said.

As the group of participants reached the end of the trail before turning around and returning to the parking lot, land trust volunteer Bud Pratt gave a quick history on winters in New England, and a glimpse into what they were like 250th years ago, in

the midst of the Revolution.

"This winter is more like winters of long ago," Pratt said, with low temperatures, high winds, and frequent snowstorms.

Pratt said from the 1500s to the 1800s, there was a little ice age.

He said during this time, the rivers would freeze solid, and would be used to travel upon. He said when General George Washington was at Valley Forge; it was "one of the harshest winters" on record.

"Back then, winter was winter," he said.

This New Year's Day walk was part of the East Quabbin Land Trust's series of Wellness Walks organized by Amy Trevvett, Program Coordinator. These walks are free and open to all.

Walks can range from one and a half up to three miles in length, and can take an hour to an hour and a half to complete. Well-behaved dogs on leashes are welcomed.

Upcoming walks in the series will be held on Friday, Jan. 23 at 10 a.m., Prince River Preserve, Flaherty Road, Barre; Sunday, Feb. 1 at 4:30 p.m., Full Moon Walk at Mandell Hill Preserve, 660 Barre Road, Hardwick; Saturday, Feb. 14 at 9 a.m., Pynchon's Grist Mill Preserve, 165 Wickaboag Valley Road, West Brookfield; Tuesday,



East Quabbin Land Trust Executive Director Cynthia Henshaw waved as she walked along the trail.

Feb. 24 at 11:45 a.m., Grenville Park to Church Street via Mass Central Rail Trail, 73 Church St., Ware; Sunday, March 8 at 9:30 a.m., Deer Park Preserve and Coxhall Kitchen Garden, 483 Barre Road, Hardwick; and Wednesday, March 18 at 2:30 p.m., Patrill Hollow Preserve, 1015 Hardwick Road, Hardwick.

For more information about these walks or if you would like to lead one, email atrevvett@eqlt.org.

For more information about the East Quabbin Land Trust, visit [www.eqlt.org](http://www.eqlt.org) or follow on Facebook and Instagram.



The walk's youngest participant enjoyed the view from her sled.

## HUBBARDSTON

by Ellenor Downer  
 edowner@turley.com

### Rep. and Sen. to hold office hours

State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume and Chief of Staff, Donna and Senator Peter Durant's office invites constituents and town officials to meet them to express any concerns, ideas or issues that they may need assistance with. On Monday, Feb. 9 they will be at the Hubbardston Senior Center, 7A Main St. from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. People may call Donna 774-402-4742 if they would like a private meeting. 774-402-4742.

### Fuel Assistance

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

### Senior Center Events

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

## Paige Memorial Library lists events

HARDWICK – In 2026 the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, promises history, skill building, and enjoying the company of others.

Pam Hincley returns to the Paige Library with her popular workshops on the following Saturday mornings Jan. 10, 17, 24 and 31; Feb. 7, 14, 21 and 28 and March 7 and 14. Kids Can Sew takes place from 9:00-10:30 a.m. Children will learn basic sewing and embroidery skills and be introduced to using a sewing machine. Class size is limited to six students ages 7 to 12. Pre-registration is required.

Knitting and Handcrafts for Adults is from 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. It is open to any and all who want to knit, crochet, quilt, bead, etc. People may bring their own project and drop in any time. People may call Pam at 413-477-6004 or email [pahincley@gmail.com](mailto:pahincley@gmail.com) with any questions.

Other activities offered at the Paige currently include the weekly Wednesday story hour with art and science activities, the Paige Book Club, the Cookbook Club, Celebrate Hardwick, the ongoing Friends of the Paige Memorial Library book sale, the Paige Writers and the recently formed Movie Festival Committee. People may call 413-477-6704, or email [paigelibrary.hardwick@gmail.com](mailto:paigelibrary.hardwick@gmail.com) for more information.

### Corrections policy

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

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.

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# Opinion

## TLC for overwintering plants



by Roberta McQuaid

Have you taken a good look at your tender plants lately? Maybe you have a Gerber daisy, coleus, fuchsia or geranium that you are attempting to overwinter because you loved it so much this past summer.

Perhaps the flower color or leaf shade was perfect in a patio planter and you thought if you could get through the winter you wouldn't have to buy it new this spring. Or maybe you intend to use your overwintered plants as stock plants.

Soon you'll be taking cuttings and making your own new plants. Likewise, maybe you brought in some tender herbs in hopes of growing your own seasoning year round.

Whatever the case may be, closer examination of each plant at this point in the winter might be a smart idea.

What I have noticed almost across the board, especially with my Gerber daisy, fuchsia and geraniums is that there are a lot of older leaves turning yellow or showing discoloration. To me, that indicates that fertilizer is needed.

The fact that this coincides with the lengthening of the daylight hours is no accident. And all three plants have continued to bloom inside, which certainly has taxed their nutrient reserves.

I will start watering with half strength fertilizer twice a month now through mid March. I sure bet that old foliage will start to perk up and new growth won't be too far behind.

Don't push growth by fertilizing more than what I recommended or growth could become lanky and weak – just what aphids are looking for.

Speaking of pests, if you notice distorted foliage, webbed areas or stippling on the leaves, take a closer look at your plants. There are many tiny bugs with mouthparts that suck plant juices. Even in your sunny window spider mite, mealy bugs, aphids or white fly might be becoming more active.

Spider mite cause webbing, and are usually indicative of hot, dry conditions. Dousing with cold water will really set them back.

Mealy bug show up as

a cottony blob usually on growth tips or at the junction of leaves and stems. Rubbing alcohol on a swab applied directly to the blob will dissolve that protective layer and the insect underneath.

Aphids are usually green and congregate in clusters on stems or leaf ribs. White fly usually hang out on the underside of leaves. They fly around if disturbed.

Both insects are best stopped in their tracks by use of an insecticidal soap. Safer's Soap or M Pede as it's known commercially work well. I've even soaped up my plants using a mild dish detergent and hosed them off in the shower.

One pest in particular attacks the herb rosemary and is especially troublesome. I noticed stippling on the leaf tips and clear winged insects flying away when I brushed by the plants. After placing sticky yellow monitoring cards nearby I learned it was leaf hoppers!

As carefully as I could I carried the lighter plants outside and gave them a good shake to dislodge any eggs or nymphs (and to make me feel better) then I doused them to the point of run-off with insecticidal soap. I will have to be careful here, because tiny 3 mm size, wedge-shaped (adult) insects can transmit viruses from plant to plant.

I'll put out new monitoring cards near the rosemary plants to check if the population is decreasing. Regardless, I am glad I caught this situation early.

With the pests under control and a proper fertilization regiment, these plants will be in great shape come springtime, and ready for new adventures in the landscape.

*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.*



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

## In Past Pages

5 years (Jan. 14, 2021)

The Hubbardston Senior Center closed until Jan. 25 due to a positive COVID-19 case with an employee, who had exposure to some seniors. The building was also cleaned. Outside food distribution would continue during this time. Town administrator Ryan McLane said town offices were by appointment only and tries to meet outside when possible. He said Hubbardston was a green community, which means the town has more than 10 positive cases, but less than 15. He said surrounding communities are in the red with the exception of Princeton, which is yellow. Hubbardston had 354 tested in the past two weeks with 16 testing positive.

Hubbardston Select Board member, Katie Young, said the frozen assets event would be held again this year. Country Hen again offered to allow the "outhouse" be placed on its pond at Williamsville Road. It will be placed on the ice in February. Entry forms to guess the date and time the "outhouse" would fall through the ice were available until Feb. 1. There is a suggested donation of \$20. Proceeds would fund other special events in town.

On Jan. 3, the North Brookfield Police were called after reports that a deer had fallen through the ice and was trapped in Lake Lashaway. Police Sgt. David Churchey called the North Brookfield Fire Department and Environmental Protection Officers to assist the animal. A command was set up near 37 Shore Road as the North Brookfield Fire Department arrived on the scene with a hovercraft. The Spencer Fire Department provided a boat and members of the East Brookfield and West Brookfield fire depart-

## Look Back New Year's Puppies – 1996



File photo

Elissa Goldsmith, age 11, of Hubbardston, is shown holding one of the 10 golden retriever puppies that were born at her home on New Year's day.

ments were also on hand to assist. Capt. David Martin and Lt. George Nollette from the North Brookfield Fire Department operated the hovercraft. The operators broke the ice around the deer but had difficulty getting the animal to safety. According to North Brookfield Fire Chief Joe Holway, after two hours of being in the water, the animal was exhausted. Further complicating matters was the fact that the deer was afraid of the hovercraft and kept moving away from the rescuers. Churchey and the two Environmental Protection officers devised a strategy to put a rope around the deer and use the sound of the hovercraft to lead it to the shore. "We literally carried the animal up into the yard," Chief Holway said. The Environmental Protection officers stayed with the animal until he was

strong enough to go back into the woods. The deer was so exhausted after struggling in the water, that he rested on shore for two hours before making his way back into the forest.

10 years (Jan. 14, 2016)

The Quabbin Junior Varsity girls basketball squad has been stepping up their game and improved their overall record Monday evening at home to 3-5 with a 51-20 win over North. Making contributions to the Panther cause include Sydney St. Jean with 12 points, Shannon Dowd with 11 and Ryley Newcomb with nine.

The difference maker in the non-league boys' basketball game between Quabbin

See PAST PAGES, Page 5

## My wife believes she can get a spouse benefit while I'm still alive; can she?

Dear Rusty:

A friend of my wife told her and she believes, she could receive a Social Security benefit based on my SS benefit that I'm currently receiving while I'm still alive. I told her she could only receive spouse survivor benefits. Is there any truth to what she now believes? Would you settle this issue for us please? Thank you.

Signed: Uncertain Husband

Dear Uncertain Husband:

Well, surely I don't want to get in the middle of your marital discussion, but I'll be happy to explain Social Security's rules about your wife's eligibility for spousal benefits while you are both still living. And just for awareness for both of you, the rules about spousal benefits are one of the most confusing areas of Social Security.

Per Social Security's rules, a spouse (e.g., your wife) can receive a "spousal boost" from you – while you are still living – if the SS retirement benefit she is personally entitled to at her Full Retirement Age is less than 50% of the SS retirement benefit you are (were) entitled to at your FRA; full retirement age amounts are used to calculate living spouse benefits, regardless of when each of you actually claimed your Social Security.

So, if your FRA entitlement benefit amount is more than twice your wife's FRA entitlement benefit amount, she can, indeed, get a "spousal boost" from your record while you are both still living. The spousal boost is added to her own SS retirement amount and will be

based on the difference between her FRA entitlement and half of your FRA entitlement. Thus, in this discussion, your wife may be correct - she may be able to get a spousal boost from you while both of you are living, depending on how your personal FRA retirement amounts compare. The best way for your wife to find out is to contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to inquire and if she's eligible, also make an appointment to apply for her spousal benefit.

And to clarify your wife's options as your possible widow, a surviving spouse can also get a survivor benefit if their marital partner

passes away, but only if the deceased spouse's current benefit at death was more than the surviving spouse is already receiving. The surviving spouse receives the higher amount, instead of their own smaller Social Security retirement benefit.

But here is an important thing to know: Whenever any Social Security benefit (including a spousal or surviving spouse benefit) is claimed before the recipient's Full Retirement Age, the payment amount is permanently reduced, both spousal and survivor benefits do not reach maximum until the recipient's Full Retirement Age. And just to complete the picture for survivor benefits, a surviving spouse is also entitled to

a one-time, lump-sum death benefit of \$255 if their marital partner dies, in addition to any other benefit they are entitled to.

*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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisory@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisory@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

**BARRE GAZETTE TEAM**

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

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

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

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**PATRICK H. TURLEY**  
CEO

**KEITH TURLEY**  
President

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## Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

Did you see the New Year in?

I went to bed. I heard a funny noise and thought it was an animal getting into the compost, but it happened to be fireworks with someone celebrating the New Year.

I had a very nice note from a lady named Muriel from Rutland telling me how much she enjoys reading this column. That was a nice Christmas present. I have learned that you can make someone's day by simply sending them a note. She made my day.

### Hints

I took out my folder of hints things that I use for this column. One was why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes. I often think that when summer comes on Serenity Hill.

Another hint was to prevent potatoes budding, add an apple to the bag or bowl. I will have to try that as my

potatoes have been budding.

Another good one when making stuffed peppers put the halves in a muffin tin. To keep brown sugar soft, store with a couple of marshmallows. I will have to try that.

I happen to have sore feet due to dead skin so I plan to use this pedicure soak. Mix 1/4 cup Listerine mouthwash, 1/4 cup white vinegar and 1/2 cup warm water. Soak feet for 10 minutes and the dry dead skin will wipe off.

### This and That

My son in law brought us some delicious turkey soup. My other son in law made us some kielbasa stew. They are both good chefs. It is nice to get a meal that you don't have to cook.

We have had to have the driveway plow five times so far this year. It has been a cold winter also. We are looking forward to spring.

My helper bought me an Amaryllis bulb, Red Lion. I am anxious to see it in

bloom. Meanwhile I took out my artificial ones and have the Valentines out. Christmas has been put away for another year. I did keep the snowmen out.

I got some delicious cookies from Karen and Robin and a quick visit. We miss them as neighbors.

Have a good week and stay warm.

I have been trying to get some unfinished projects done for the new year. One of the worse things I did was wash a Depend underwear in my new washer. I went onto the Internet to find out how to get the gel out of the washer tub. They said to run hot water, a cup of vinegar and a half cup of salt through a cycle with no clothes and that solved the problem. I had to throw out all the clothes from the original wash as they were so covered with gel.

Some days are good and other days are disasters.

## First Meeting House Preservation Committee held meeting

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis  
Correspondent

HUBBARDSTON – The Hubbardston First Meetinghouse Preservation Committee held their first meeting last Tuesday.

According to the committee, the meetinghouse was recently handed back over to town control this past summer, and this committee was designed to figure out how to maintain and preserve the historic building.

The committee held an election of officers, to determine who the chair, vice chair, and clerk would be. Lori Gill was voted in as chair, Gary Kangas will be the vice chair, and Rick Green will be the clerk.

Other members of the board include Mike Stoll, Susan Worth, Jonathan Brinker, Carol Whitney, and Kathryn Young.

Patricia Lowe, the temporary town administrator,

moderated the meeting, and gave a description of the responsibilities of the committee. In addition to maintaining and preserving it, the committee is also responsible for making sure it meets historical standards, coordinating events, and renting out the property for events, according to Lowe.

She said that as of the meeting, the building is closed to the public, and the temporary guidelines of the building state that only private entities can rent out the property for events. She said in the future, individuals will likely be able to rent out as well, as the guidelines are temporary.

The committee is free to create a subcommittee discussing policy of use, Lowe said.

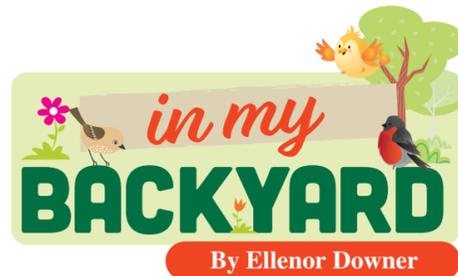
The committee also discussed immediate priorities, and recent work that has been done at the meetinghouse building. Some of the recent upgrades the building has had include new hot

water tanks being installed, installation of new toilets and new locks on the doors, according to Lowe and the committee.

Some immediate priorities the committee brought up include the mesh in the steeple has to be replaced or stitched, and the bell has a crack in it. Lowe said the bell is still able to be rung despite the crack, but extra caution is required. Kangas said that Brian Tanguay of Templeton is an option to bring on to fix the crack.

Some other immediate issues brought up include that the building needs a paint job and repointing, the swingset on the property needing to be removed, and the walkway needing to be filled. The committee brought up the possibility that students from Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School could help with the refilling.

The committee will meet next on Thursday, Jan. 15 at 6 p.m.



By Ellenor Downer



### Male evening grosbeak

A resident of Lake Lashaway saw her first ever evening grosbeak in the morning at her feeder on Sunday, Jan. 4.

The evening grosbeak is an eight inch long, chunky, thick billed finch, which wanders widely in winter.

The males are yellow and brown with black and white wings. The females are gray with white and black wings. Both sexes have a thick bill. They have notched, square tipped tails and pointed wings.

Often evening grosbeaks visit feeders in large flocks. They inhabit conifer forests and in winter are seen in box elders, maples and fruiting shrubs. They breed in the coniferous and mixed forests. They are seen in spruce and fir trees in the northern forests and pines in the western mountains. They are seen in winter in deciduous woodlands and semi-open country. Their song is a series of short, musical whistles. Their call note is similar to the chirp of a house sparrow, but

louder.

The female lays three to four pale blue to blue green, blotched with brown, gray or purple eggs. The female does all the incubating, but the male may feed the female during this time. Both parents feed the nestlings.

Their diet is mostly seeds and some berries and insects. They prefer seeds of box elder, ash, maple, locust and other trees. At feeders, they prefer sunflower seeds. They also will feed on oozing maple sap. They extended their breeding range eastward in the 19th century and early 20th century. The population declined in the east in recent years.

### Other birds at Lake Lashaway

The Lake Lashaway resident also had red cardinals, blue jays galore, gold finches and a red bellied woodpecker. She said bald eagles are very common visitors on the lake.

### Brimfield birds

I received an email from a Brimfield resident on Jan. 5. He said, "Not much happening in the yard. We've seen one white-throated sparrow after recent snow storms and a group of about a dozen house finches show up often. Yesterday there was a group of American goldfinch in a birch tree eating seeds but they didn't come to the feeder."

### Christmas bird count

He said, "My wife and I did the Christmas Bird Count with the Allen Bird

## EQLT lists upcoming group hikes

HARDWICK – East Quabbin Land Trust lists their schedule of group wellness walks.

On Saturday, Jan. 23 at 10 a.m. EQLT staff and volunteers will lead a walk at the Prince River Preserve, Flaherty Road, Barre. On Sunday, Feb. 1 at 4:30 p.m. there will be a full moon walk at Mandell Hill Preserve,

Barre Road, Hardwick. On Saturday, Feb. 14 at 8 a.m. the walk will be at Pynchon's Grist Mill Preserve, 165 Wickaboag Valley Road, West Brookfield.

On Sunday, March 8 at 8:30 a.m. there will be a walk at Deep Park Preserve and Coxhall Kitchen Garden, 481 Barre Road, Hardwick. A school half-day hike will

take place on Wednesday, March 18 at 2:30 p.m. at Patrill Hollow Preserve, 1015 Hardwick Road, Hardwick.

These walks are free and open to everyone looking for some exercise and fresh air. Walks may be subject to change and more are planned for 2026. People may email atrevvett@eqlt.org with questions.

### PAST PAGES from page 4

and Belchertown was the tallest player on the court. Quabbin senior Marco Gabrielli, who's a 6-foot-6 forward, posted a double-double with a game-high 21 points and 11 rebounds, as the Panthers cruised to a 49-31 road victory against the Orioles on Monday night.

James Thibeault, a Ware resident, has been an English teacher for six years and an instructor at Eagle Hill School in Hardwick for the last three years. Thibeault, who is dyslexic himself, teaches students who have learning difficulties such as, ADHD, dyslexia and nonverbal learning disorder. However, his students may be surprised to know that in addition to teaching, Thibeault is also a writer whose first novel, "Deacon's Folly," will be hitting shelves Feb. 15. "I was writing since I was a little kid with my old computer. I would write all of these stories," he said in an interview in his school office this week. Thibeault continued writing in high school and then during his college years at Assumption College in Worcester.

### 25 years (Jan. 11, 2001)

Barre Selectmen said they are still waiting for a surveyor's report that will determine the precise location of property lines at the site of a proposed telephone pole anchor on South Street. "We

want to get it resolved," said Selectman Chairman Daniel Trifilo at a meeting Jan. 2. Once the property lines have been determined, the Board of Selectmen will reconvene a Nov. 6 pole hearing to resolve a resident's dispute over the pole's proposed location. Massachusetts Electric Co. wants to install a 30 foot tall anchor to stabilize a Verizon telephone pole at the intersection of South and Common Streets, which is in danger of falling over.

The Oakham Board of Selectmen received a letter from Fire Chief Richard Howe about a request of a property owner for a controlled burn of a 200 year old home on 645 Scott Road. John Saleba recently purchased the Lane property. He sent a letter to the Fire

Chief offering the house as a controlled burn, training exercise for the Oakham Fire Department. Several years ago, Saleba offered the former Dogul house, also on Scott Road, as a training exercise. The Fire Chief obtained the necessary permits from the State Fire Marshal and that house was used as a site for firefighter training exercises.

Ronnie Higgins is hoping a shipment of wood pellets this week will carry him for a little while in trying to meet the demand for the alternative fuel. But he said raw material shortages are squeezing an already tight market for wood pellets. Higgins, who owns Higgins Energy Alternatives in Barre, is a major supplier of wood stoves and pellet stoves, both of which have seen huge

increases in sales as an alternative to oil heat. Rising fuel prices, he said, sent many people looking for a different source. "We've been getting a lot of calls over the past 10 days or so, there is a very tight supply," said Higgins, whose store still has a few bags left. He said he did find a supplier in Montana, which had pellet fuel in stock and ready to ship. Higgins expects a shipment to arrive in his Barre store this week.

### 38 years (Jan. 14, 1988)

Crew No. 1 continued to work on Valley Road between Mechanic Street and School Street in Barre. Crew

No. 2 will continue to work in the Barre Plains area. They will go from Fritscher Road to Maple Lane. They are working in close proximity to the main water pipe. Because the water pipe is so fragile, it can break so residents should keep extra water on hand during this period. The Sewer Commission wishes to thank resident for their extreme patience during this time.

The Quabbin Community Pro Musica will hold its annual Valentine Dance on Saturday, Feb. 6 at Caruso's Restaurant in South Barre. A chicken cordon bleu dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., to be followed by dancing

to the music of Chet Kurr and Celebration. Tickets are \$30 per couple and can be purchased from Beverly Boyer, Mary Ellen Midura, Jane Turcotte and Gloria Castriotta.

At their meeting Jan. 4 the Oakham Selectmen decided to ask Norman Drolet, Police Chief, to again look throughout the town for unlawfully parked unregistered vehicles on private property. Several warnings have been issued over the past two years and if any such vehicles are found, the property owners will be cited and summoned in an attempt to enforce the town bylaws.

## NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Barre Gazette, please email edowner@turley.com.

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# Free Fly Tying Classes

**Sponsored by the Western Mass Fly Fishermen starting January 8th, 2026.**

**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!

Please register online at <http://wmffclub.org> or **Contact John Lawor at 413-579-1994.**

**Space is limited and on a first come basis!**

**OAKHAM YIR from page 1**

vious owner died  
 Building Commissioner Robert Lanciani told the Select Board at their Monday Jan. 6 meeting a barn on Coldbrook Road, was now "in worse shape." He received a call from a neighbor, who was concerned the barn could collapse and damage his property. The Building Commissioner said a heavy snow could cause the barn to collapse and he would be declaring it a dangerous building. The property, which also contains the former Post Office, currently was in probate as the previous owner died. He said the town's survey team would also inspect the barn. The survey team by state statute included the town's Fire Chief and the town engineer if applicable and a third person. Oakham lacked a town engineer so the team would need two volunteers.

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.

The Oakham Fire Department just received a grant from Department of Fire Safety for \$10,422 for active shooter response gear. Over the last year Oakham Fire Department trained all members to the new AAIR standards in joint trainings with the surrounding towns fire and Police departments. With this grant Oakham Fire will be getting additional sets of ballistic vest, helmets, trauma kits and litter s to allow all members to respond to hostile events.

The Brookfield Lions



Seniors lined up for the buffet style lunch held last Friday, March 21 at the Oakham Fire Station.



Shown from left, are Dennis Bergin, candidate for Select Board; Phillip Warbasse, candidate for Planning Board; Barbara Piucci, candidate for Planning Board and Aaron Langlois, candidate for Select Board.

Club held a fishing derby at Lake Dean in Oakham this past Saturday, Jan. 25. The top ten winning bass weighs were 3 to nearly 6 pounds. Tom Rawinski of Oakham also participated in the derby. He said, "We had a lot of fun and decent actions at Lake Dean today." His biggest bass was barely 3 pounds.

**FEBRUARY**

The Oakham Fire Department offered to deliver

salt and sand buckets to their door to help seniors during this cold and icy weather. To take up the Fire Department on this generous offer, seniors may call the Oakham Fire Department.

The Oakham Select Board met with the highway superintendent, fire chief and police chief to discuss their budgets for the next Fiscal Year. Highway Superintendent Patrick Mardirosian said generator maintenance went up

by 2%. He said the generator radiator had a leak and he got a quote of around \$9,000 to fix it, which he said was excessive. He said the other two highway employees were handy and they would fix it when the weather warmed up. He said in the meantime they were monitoring the situation. He also discussed the problem concerning new state legislation regarding the use of sand and salt, which deemed the sand on the side of the road after winter and material in catch basins hazardous.

Fire Chief Timothy Howe presented his budget next. He said he upped his telephone account, but otherwise kept the Fire Department level funded. He said he cut training and reduced it to the minimum required. He also said radios were a huge issue. The Rutland Regional Emergency Communications Center of which Oakham belongs, would be upgrading radios. He said this action would make about three quarter of his stuff not effective. He hoped to apply for a grant to cover the radios when the upgrade happens.

Police Chief Frederick Gehring said he level funded his budget accept for contractual agreements. He said his department and other small town departments are losing part-time officers as they are going to jobs in other towns that pay more. In addition, the pool of part-time officers shrunk. The town pays \$19 and change per hour. He suggested the need to increase that rate to \$24 or \$25 per hour. New regulations required part-time police officers to go to the full-time academy.

**MARCH**

At the request of the Board of Assessors, the Select Board appointed Assessor Diane Peterson a Special Municipal Employee at their Monday, March 3 meeting. Peterson will be a working assessor to assist during this revaluation year from March 3 to Dec. 31, 2025. She will be paid \$50 per hour for this extra work with an amount not to exceed \$14,000, the amount in the Assessors Account after the \$24,500 for the outside firm to conduct the revaluation in 2025. The Board approved the designation. Select Board Vice Chair Donald Haapakoski, who arrived late, said the other Assessor on the Board, Peter Joyce must also file for Special Municipal Employee designation per State Ethics Commission policy. He would not be receiving



Ward and Edna Holloway take a turn running the church bell.

ing extra compensation as a working assessor.

About 40 registered voters came out Tuesday, March 11 for a short Special Town Meeting in Oakham

The meeting opened at 7:08 p.m., adjourned, reopened and adjourned for the final time at 7:18 p.m. Voters unanimously approved both articles on the warrant.

Senior pen pal letters from the Oakham Center School students will be ready for the seniors to pick up on Thursday March 20 after 2:30 p.m. outside the back door of the library. Senior response letters are due back at the library on Thursday, April 3.

Fire Chief Timothy Howe said, "He loves to cook."

His love of cooking was evident last Friday, March 21 when he prepared a wonderful Italian pasta buffet for Oakham seniors. About 30 people can out on a cold, blustery day to enjoy some good food and company at the Oakham Fire Station. The large fire trucks sat outside in the station parking lot to make room for tables where the lunch goes could sit and two tables for the wonderful menu selection. There was ziti with spaghetti sauce, plain ziti with just butter, meatballs, sausage and toasted garlic bread. In addition, there were several dessert selections of cookies and brownie bites. Beverages included chilled bottle water and several varieties of canned soda.

Pine Acres Family Camping Resort celebrated their 65th anniversary. Randy Packard's parents Frank (Kim) and Grace started the campground. The Packard's story is a tribute to a family legacy that has grown over generations at their 350 site Oakham park. Today the third generation is stepping up. Randy's son Corey, his daughter Jaclyn and son-in-law Ben, are preparing to carry the family legacy forward.

**APRIL**

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will hold a Maundy Thursday service on Thursday, April 17 at 7 p.m. The church will hold an Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 20 at 6:30 p.m. behind the church. A breakfast will follow the service in Fellowship Hall. Easter Sunday service will be held at 10 a.m.

"Listen my children and you shall hear of the midnight ride of Paul Revere on the eighteenth of April, in Seventy five..." Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

These words from the poem "Paul Revere's Ride" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, (written in 1861, immortalized the ride of Paul Revere to warn the colonists the British were coming. However, there were others, who also rode that night, not just Revere. Longfellow continues, "Hardly a man is now alive who remembers that famous day and year." In Oakham two men, three women and two girls gathered at the Oakham Congregational Church to remember April 18, 1775 on the 250th anniversary of the midnight ride. John Barringer, Ward Holloway, Linda Barringer, Edna Holloway, Ellenor Downer, Elizabeth Laramie and Cora Wangerin took turns ringing the bell on April 18, 2025.

**MAY**

Over 60 residents came out for candidate night last Wednesday, May 7 to hear what candidates in the contested races had to say. Fire Chief Timothy Howe moderated the event, sponsored by the Fobes Memorial Library. Residents submitted questions ahead of the event for Board of Selectmen and

Planning Board candidates. The evening began with each candidate, Dennis Bergin and Aaron Langlois running for a three year term on the Select Board and Barbara Piucci and Phillip Wairbasse, running for a five-year term to Planning Board.

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, held a breakfast on Saturday, May 10 from 8-9:30 a.m. There was a free will donation with all proceeds benefiting the Barre and Rutland Food Pantries. People may also drop of non-perishable food items and household items like toilet paper, paper towels, etc. for the food pantries. The menu included pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, strawberries, orange juice, coffee, tea and hot cocoa.

This year's Annual Town Election had two contests on the ballot. Just about 40% or 593 of the town's 1,561

See OAKHAM YIR, page 7



The Boy Scouts carry the American Flag and their Troop flag in the Memorial Day parade in Oakham on Monday, May 26.

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of the Barre Gazette

We are inviting all of our community businesses to participate by purchasing an ad proudly displaying the year the business was established. Ads will run in order from the oldest to most recently established.

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**PUBLISHES FEBRUARY 5, 2026**



Janet Pierce loves Christmas and decorating her home for her favorite holiday. She makes some selections to add to her collection for this year at the Town Wide Yard Sale.

**OAKHAM YIR from page 6**

registered voters went to the poll on Monday, May 19. Dennis M. Bergin Jr. won a three year term on the Select Board with 347 votes and his opponent Aaron L. Langlois received 245 votes. Both candidates served on the Select Board in the past, Bergin for two terms and Langlois for a one year term. In the other contest, incumbent Phillip B. Warbasse won another five year term to the Planning Board with 418 votes and his challenger, Barbara A. Piucci received 159 votes. Warbasse served on the Planning Board since 1989. All other positions on the ballot either had no contests on the ballot or had no candidates at all.

With the Oakham Parks and Recreation Committee lacking members, Dennis and Sherrie Bergin stepped forward to organize this year's Memorial Day parade and ceremony. Everything went smoothly with the Police Department, Fire Department, Girl and Boy Scouts, Little League and baseball teams marching in the parade. Susan Turnbull was the speaker and Fire Chief Timothy Howe was Master of Ceremonies. The sun came out to shine on the parade with a route starting at Oakham Center School and ending on the Town Common Monday, May 26. Carissa Rodriguez, interim lay minister at the Oakham Congregational Church gave the prayer of invocation and the benediction. The Girl Scouts placed the wreath on the War Memorial and the Boy Scouts conducted the flag ceremony. Eliza Brown from Barre sang the National Anthem a Capella and followed by the playing of taps. The Fire and Police Department provided the 21 gun salute. Every year the winners of the Robert Wile Essay Contest read their essays at the Memorial Day Ceremony. Riley Green read her essay followed by her classmate, Sophia Serrano.

On Friday May 30, Channel 7 News came to Oakham. Residents gathered on the Oakham Common holding signing showing they were not in favor of a proposed Battery Energy Storage System in town. The proposed site is on Coldbrook Road. At least 70 people and probably more gathered on Oakham Common on Friday, May 30 at 1 p.m. They came carrying both homemade and commercially printed signs. Their purpose was to voice their disapproval of a proposed Battery Energy Storage System on property on Coldbrook Road. The proposed site was a former "junkyard" and later under new owners was known as Amherst/Oakham Recycling. Their message was clear "No Battery Park."

The land, not only is near to Oakham Center School and the Town Common area, but contains forests, wetlands and is located near an aquifer. Several people spoke at the rally. Oakham Fire Chief Timothy Howe said the town's fire department did not have the resources to



**The Oakham Congregational Church sold raffle tickets for this quilt at the town wide yard sale on Saturday, Aug. 23. The quilt will be raffled off at the Harvest and Holly Fair on Saturday, Nov. 22.**

combat a fire caused by the lithium battery storage system.

**JUNE**

Despite being a drizzly day, a large group of children, parents and grandparents attended the annual kids fest at the Fobes Memorial Library, Maple Street, on Saturday, June 28. Most of the activities were held outdoors. There was a bounce house, balloon twisting with Ed the Wizard and giant bubbles. Children enjoyed playing in Tessa's Playhouse when not busy with the many activities offered.

Oakham Historical Association held an open house on Sunday, June 29 at the museum located at 1221 Old Turnpike Road. During the June open house, a program entitled "Clearing the Valley" present by a Department of Conservation representative will take place at 1 p.m. Please note the change in time. In 1927 the Swift River Valley was home to four towns and over 2,000 people. This program will focus on how four towns ended and the occupants had to move elsewhere along with the history of some of the families involved.

**JULY**

The Select Board read a letter sent to Police Chief Frederick Gehring about trespassing and drone use on property on Coldbrook Road, a potential site for a Battery Energy Storage System.

Vice President Brian Binola Jr. of Rhineland, letter dated June 8, requested the Police Chief remind residents of the no trespassing signs on the property. The letter also stated the Conservation Commission made "false allegations" stating work was being done at the site, the former Amherst Oakham Auto Recycling.

The Long Run, Songs off the Eagles, will be the featured band at the Oakham Town Common gazebo, located at 2 Coldbrook Road, on Thursday, July 24 at 6:30 p.m. The group covers the great rock, country and ballad songs from this top American band of the 1970s from their

beginnings through their reunion in the mid-1990s.

**AUGUST**

The final concerts of the summer series will be held on Thursday, Aug. 21 from 6:30-8 p.m. with The Bad Tickers. The concert takes place in the gazebo located on the Oakham Common, corner of Maple Street and Coldbrook Road. People are encouraged to bring a blanket or a lawn chair to listen to this free concert. Concerts are not held in bad weather and will be postponed if possible. The bandstand committee sells popcorn, water, soda and ice cream cups.

The annual town wide yard sale, sponsored by the Oakham Historical Association took place on Saturday, Aug 23 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. The maps were available at the Oakham Congregational Church the morning of the Saturday, Aug 23.

Highway Superintendent Patrick Mardirosian presented a roadwork plan using Chapter 90 funds for part of Barre Road, Coldbrook Road and Ware Corner Road. He said the short stretch of Barre Road from Maple Street to Coldbrook Road was last paved about 20 years ago. The project also would remedy the drainage problem on Ware Corner Road and finish a catch basin on Ware Corner Road near Rutland Road. Other work entailed aprons for the Fobes Memorial Library parking lot and the Town Hall driveway as well as construction of berms.

**SEPTEMBER**

The Oakham Senior Center is sponsoring a morning of lawn games on the town common followed by a barbecue at the Senior Center on Friday, Sept. 5. The games of croquet and corn hole will begin at 9 a.m. and last until 11 a.m. At 11.30 a.m., the barbecue begins at the Senior Center. They will be serving hot dogs, burgers, salads and desserts until 1 p.m. All seniors are invited.

Sunday School at the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, begins Sunday, Sept. 14 at



**Santa visited the Fobes Memorial Library in Oakham last Saturday, Nov. 29. He visited with children and heard their Christmas wish list.**

10 a.m. with Rally Sunday. All children ages preschool through high school are welcome to participate.

Administrative Assistant Mirabel LaRange said Capital Strategic Solutions presented a proposal for them to apply for a 5% Municipal Fiber Grant for Capital Strategic Solutions for the town. The grant for \$172,500 would update the Oakham Fire, Highway and Police Department, Town Hall and Fobes Memorial Library with fiber optics. The Quabbin Regional School District already updated the Oakham Center School to fiber optics. If the town received the state grant, its match amount would be \$9,100. Capital Strategic Solutions proposal was a rate of \$180 per hour not to exceed \$2,700. LaRange said if the Board approved the authorization, the company would file for a one year extension on the grant application. The Select Board approved the proposal and signed the paperwork.

The annual wine tasting sponsored by the Oakham Historical Association will be held at Agronomy Farm Vineyard, 338 Ware Corner Road on Thursday, Sept 18 Cost is \$40 per person. Also included is Lee Dugan's "Oakham Jeopardy Game," the game of Jeopardy tailored to Oakham history.

**OCTOBER**

The Oakham New Braintree Parent Teachers Organization held a Monster Mash on Friday, Oct. 17 from 6-8 p.m. at the Oakham Fire Department, 178 Barre Road. This is a free event. Participants should put on a Halloween costume and come to dance. There will be yummy treats and raffle baskets for \$1 per ticket. All proceeds will benefit the Oakham New Braintree PTO. Anyone interested in volunteering or donating should email ONBPTO@gmail.com.

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, held a benefit breakfast on Saturday, Oct. 18 at the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, Oakham. Proceeds benefit the Rutland

**NOVEMBER**

On Saturday, Nov. 8 a Veterans pancake breakfast sponsored by the Worcester Division of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps took place at the Oakham Fire Department, 178 Barre Road. The free breakfast was for Veterans and their family members.

Sean Seeley said the Conservation Commission voted to upgrade a new wetland protection by law and to present it to the Select Board. He said at the Monday, Nov. 10 Select Board meeting the proposed bylaw had additional protection beyond state requirements. He requested it be sent to Town Counsel for review. Select Board Chairman

Donald Haapakoski said a copy should be sent to the Finance Committee as they act in an advisory capacity on all things to be voted at a Town Meeting. Any by law change must be voted at a Town Meeting. Town Counsel would review the by law article and approve or amend it before the posting of warrant articles.

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will held their annual Harvest and Holly Fair on Saturday, Nov. 22. There will be crafters, baked goods, white elephant table, raffles, quilt raffle, snack bar, cookie walk and church craft table. Uncooked frozen apple pies were also be on sale that day. The snack bar featured chili, hot dogs, corn chowder and either turkey or chicken soup.

On Saturday, Nov. 29 there was Cookies with Santa at the Fobes Memorial Library, 4 Maple St. Parents brought their children and camera for a photo with Santa. Participants enjoyed cocoa and cookies, made a holiday craft and get into the Christmas spirit. This event is free and made possible by the Friends of the Fobes Memorial Library, Inc.

**DECEMBER**

On Wednesday, Dec 3 the Greendale Friends' Chorus presented a selection of Christmas music, at the Oakham Congregational Church. Following the program, there was a lasagna luncheon downstairs.

The Oakham Select Board voted 2 to 1 to authorize the purchase of a new Mack ten wheel dump truck for the Highway Department from Chapter 90 Funds for \$324,190. Select Board member Dennis Bergin said he did not see the need for a ten wheel truck. The Highway Superintendent said Oakham was the only town in the area, which did not have a ten wheel truck. He also said if the town had a bigger truck it could probably save money by needing one less seasonal driver. Select Board Chairman Donald Haapakoski and Vice-chairman Michael Brunelle voted to authorize the purchase of the ten wheel Mack dump truck from Chapter 90 money with elect Board member Bergin voting no.

Despite snow earlier in the day and cold temperatures that night, it did not keep people from attending the 29th Festival of Lessons and Carols at the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, Sunday night, Dec. 14. This year's cantata was "Rise Up A New Light a Comin'" by Lloyd Larson and Pamela Martin. The cantata featured a choir accompanied by piano and an orchestra, scripture readings and singing of carols. Refreshments followed downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

The Oakham Sunday School presented their annual Christmas pageant about the story of Jesus birth on Sunday, Dec. 21 at 10 a.m. at the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road.

**BARRE from page 1**

al when the land, currently in Chapter 61A, comes out of 61A, a tax exemption for agricultural use.

She also said the "safety of people in their homes was more important than the opportunity of a few people, who don't even live here." She expressed concern for the devaluation of property in the area, the noise from the facility and the proximity to the Quabbin Regional Middle High School. She said she would like the Select Board to be ready with an agreement with a land trust when it comes out of 61A.

Select Board Chairman Maureen Marshall said a change to the town bylaw by the Planning Board received voter approval at a recent Special Town Meeting.

The town Select Board and Planning Board were waiting to see if the State Attorney General approves the bylaw, which was the next step in the process of acceptance of the bylaw to regulate Battery Energy Storage Systems. She said the Select Board expressed at previous meetings they were opposed to such a project.

She said it would be better if the town purchased the land, but was not sure the town was in a position to do that. It would require either borrowing or a proposition 2 1/2 vote at a town meeting to do so. She said, "When the land becomes available for sale, we will act."

Select Board Member Stevens said he was against a BESS on Wauwinet Road and he would like to see a three to five year moratorium

in town on all such projects.

Floyd Kelley, Chairman of the Planning Board, said at present the Planning Board has a preliminary subdivision request. He was not sure a subdivision was beneficial to the town. He recommended the forming of a committee to communicate with local land trusts like Mount Grace and East Quabbin Land Trust. Both the Planning Board and Select Board should have a representative on the committee as well as residents and other town committee members. He said, "Once the process starts, the clock is ticking." The Select Board will put the formation of a committee on the agenda for their next meeting.

**Town Administrator report**  
Town Administrator Melanie Jackson said she

made a mistake in the percentage amount she said would reduce the Capital Stabilization Fund for the Highway pickup truck. It was 8.2%; the lower figure she gave at a previous meeting was the impact on the total town budget.

The state found an open meeting violation filed by Corey Bombredi against the Select Board and Department of Public Works Commission did not violate the open meeting law. The Town Administrator said the cost to the town for that "unfounded" allegation was \$1,568. This request was just one of many. She said in her budget presentation under legal line item she would include all costs related to such requests for public information.

**Bridge Hearing**

The state will hold

a bridge hearing on the Coldbrook Road bridge on Thursday, Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Henry Woods Building, 40 West St.

**ATM**

The Select Board set the Annual Town Meeting for Tuesday, May 19 at 6:30 p.m. They voted to open the warrant tonight, Jan. 5 and to close it on Monday, Feb. 9 at 9 a.m. Select Board Chairman Marshall said the date can be changed if something important comes up.

**Other business**

The Select Board received \$30,500 from Insight Meditation Society, Barre Center for Buddhist Studies and Dharma Vihara Foundation, located on Pleasant Street, as Payment in Lieu of Taxes. They also

received \$300 from the East Quabbin Land Trust.

They renewed Common Victualer Licenses for the Common Market LLC and J & J Family Restaurant. They appointed Mary Ann Gendron Administrative Assistant to the Conservation Committee and Planning Board effective Monday, Jan. 19. Her rate will be \$24.73 per hour.

They also approved the use of the Town Hall by Indivisible Barre on Saturday, Jan. 31, from 2-4 p.m. with a snow date of Saturday, Feb. 7.

They approved wage authorizations for Dave Morin, probationary firefighter/medic at \$30 per hour and

Kristin Thacker, assistant treasurer collector, at \$28 per hour.

# Calendar of Events

## SUNDAY, JAN. 11

**35TH ANNIVERSARY ART SHOW RECEPTION** sponsored by the Princeton Arts Society will take place today from 2-4 p.m. at the Gallery at Briarwood, 65 Briarwood Circle, Worcester. Art work will be on display now through March 5. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. The show is open to all Princeton Arts members. Artist can become a member anytime by visiting [www.princetonarts.org](http://www.princetonarts.org). For detailed information about the show, including the Call for Artists, entrance requirements, etc., people may visit [www.princetonarts.org](http://www.princetonarts.org).

## WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14

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

## Where is this?



Turley Publications photo by Ellenor Downer

**This week's mystery photo is from Hardwick. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, Jan. 12. Bill Bowles, Paul Carlson, Peggy Civilik, Bridget LaChance, James Laramie and Meghan Rotti correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was the skating rink on Barre South Common in Barre, overlooking the business block across the Common. Phil Warbasse identified the previous week. Where is picture taken in Rutland.**

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.

## FRIDAY, JAN. 16

**SIMPLE SUPPER** sponsored by Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will be held today with serving from 5-7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge, 71 Pleasant St., Barre. Cost is \$9 per person. The menu includes three different soups, salad bar, bread, rolls and

homemade pie. All are welcome.

## SATURDAY, JAN. 17

**PETERSHAM HISTORY FORUM** will take place today at 4 p.m. at the Petersham Country Store, Main Street, Route 32, Petersham. In an effort to collect stories of people, who lived the history of the Hilltop Village, local historian and environmentalist, Larry Buell is inviting residents of Petersham and beyond to come to the Petersham Country Store. This information is for volume II of the Petersham History, the last 100 years. The stories will focus on events like the Petersham Agricultural Fair, Band Concerts and natural disasters. The program is free and open to all. For information, people may call Larry Buell at 978-724-0412 or email [LarryBuell2143@gmail.com](mailto:LarryBuell2143@gmail.com).

## SUNDAY, JAN. 18

**MEAT RAFFLE** sponsored by Barre Post 2, American Legion, 405 South Barre Road, Barre will be take place today at 2 p.m. There will be six tables. This is a chance to "bring home the bacon." There also will be a 50/50 raffle.

## SATURDAY, JAN. 31

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

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



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

**A banner highlighted the United States of America's 250th birthday, which will happen in the New Year, 2026. The banner is up at the Haston Free Public Library in North Brookfield.**



**Ravenwood performed at the North Brookfield Senior Center.**



## FIRST NIGHT from page 1

Maps for a scavenger hunt were provided and were laid out in a quiz format. It was a map of a "Downtown Walking Tour" with stops in town listed. Prize bags were collected after players turned in their completed scavenger

**"Sunday Afternoon on the Buzzell Farm" was made by local artist Russ Buzzell.**

hunt map. Various stores in downtown North Brookfield were open to the public, including the unique store, The Dragon Stones. This store features specialty crystal carvings, jewelry, geodes, and spiritual items. The Dragon Stones has been opened for over two years, and North Brookfield has been a good community for them to be a part of.

Staff at the Town Offices were busy welcoming guests and sharing displays of the history of North Brookfield. There were snacks and hot cider available inside. Town Clerk Tara Hayes shared that a fundraiser was being held for the local dog kennel. Donors who brought items such as dog food, treats, paper towels, collars, leashes, or toys were entered

into a raffle for a chance to win a Tag #1 dog license.

Hayes said, "There were many donations, even from non-dog owners."

The office received approximately \$475 in monetary donations in addition to the products that were donated to the kennel.

Music was a big activity during First Night. At the First Congregational Church, music was played by Professor Sorghum, who gave a Good Time Music Review. The church also had a display of art that was done by local artists.

The Senior Center off Forest Street hosted the music group, Ravenwood. Seniors got to relax and listen to some great music while enjoying a hot chocolate that was served at the Senior Center.

At the Herard Estates Common Room, music was played by local musician Sue Lyons. Guests enjoyed games, snacks, heard a poetry reading, and got to hear the soothing music by Lyons.

Later in the night, the Town Common would host a bonfire to wrap up First Night. JARS Café & Bakery were open and served hot chocolate and cookies for guests.

It truly was a First Night of celebration as 2025 ended and North Brookfield celebrated the arrival of 2026.

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# SPORTS

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## Panthers reach championship of Gardner tournament

By **Tim Peterson**  
Sports Correspondent

GARDNER—Not only did the Quabbin Regional boys' basketball team win for the first time this season, but they also advanced into the championship game of the Gardner Holiday Tournament for the second consecutive year.

Led by sophomore co-captain Brady Patchen,

who scored a game-high 22 points, the Panthers defeated the South Lancaster Academy Crusaders, 73-40, in a semifinal game held at Gardner High School on December 27.

"We entered tonight's game with a 0-4 record, and it has been a tough start of the season for us," said Quabbin head coach Dennis Dextrateur. "We were able to move the ball around in

tonight's game and we were also able to get everyone involved."

The Panthers (1-4) were scheduled to face host Gardner in this year's championship game two days later. The Wildcats beat Bromfield, 77-43, in the other semifinal game.

A year ago, the Panthers dispatched Gardner in the semifinal game, 53-34, before blowing out South Lancaster,

82-41, in the finals.

"We had five seniors on last year's team, but we're a much younger team this season," Dextrateur said. "Gardner is a senior-laden team this year and we'll be the underdogs in the championship game on Monday night. We're just going to try our best against them."

Quabbin's other two double digit scorers in their semifinal victory were junior

co-captain Jacoby Dilling, who scored nine of his 11 points in the first half, and senior Anthony Quarterone with 10 points.

Sophomore Aiden Crane chipped in with 7 points.

"The core of this year's team evolves around Brady, Jacoby, and Aiden," Dextrateur said. "We got off to a good start and were able to build an early lead, which is always very important."

Quarterone, who's the Panthers only senior, suffered a sprained left ankle late in the third quarter. He didn't play in the fourth quarter.

"Losing Anthony is a major blow to us," Dextrateur added. "He scored some points and he had several rebounds. It looks like he's going to miss a few games."

See PANTHERS, page 10

## Panthers place 10th at Tomkiel Tournament

AGAWAM – Last Monday, Quabbin Regional High School wrestling traveled to Western Mass. to Agawam's Phil Tomkiel Holiday Tournament. The Panthers would finish 10th overall as a team in the boys tournament with 83.5 points. Abe Brown picked up a title win for the Panthers with a victory in the 126-pound bracket. In the girls tournament, Quabbin placed seventh. The girls also crowned one champion. Kailynn Schuster won the 138-pound bracket for Quabbin. The Panthers are back in action on Saturday, Jan. 10 hosting several teams for multiple dual meets.



Charlotte Darcey competes in a 132-pound match.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibell



Alex Fors competes in a first-round match at 190 pounds.



Kailynn Schuster locks up against an opponent from Smith Vocational.



Andie St. Clair tries to work out of trouble.



Hunter Mitus competes in a consolation bracket match.

## Tough start hurts Pioneers

PALMER – Last Friday night, Pathfinder opened up the 2026 portion of its schedule with a 56-40 loss against Monson. Pathfinder managed just three points in the opening frame and trailed 30-11 at halftime. Monson, which improved to 2-3 on the season, had a strong second half as well. Pathfinder fell to 1-4 on the season. Cayden Bousquet was a bright spot with 19 points to lead all scorers with the Pioneers. Monson was led by Niko Mathieu with 14 points. Austin Meacham had 12 points.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Cayden Bousquet eyes a teammate closer to the hoop.



Cassian Kowalik tries to lift a shot over a Monson guard.



Aiden Girard tries to pass out of the corner.



Maddox Baer holds the ball away from his opponent.



Grayson Griswold launches a pass over his opponent's outstretched arms.

## Hurricanes, Pacers battle to draw

HOLYOKE – On Saturday, Dec. 27, Amherst Regional hockey, which co-ops with Pathfinder Tech took on division rival Chicopee, which is also a multi-school co-op. The two teams slugged it out and finished in a 4-4 draw.

For Amherst, Graham Arguin had two goals while Sawyer Ferro and Landon LaCrois had the single goals. Chicopee got two goals each from Anthony Bonafilia and Aidan Nadeau.

Amherst is now 3-4-1 while Chicopee is just 0-4-



Ethan Mooney makes his way up the ice.



Noah Latulippe makes a quick pass.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Jason Kim watches play as guards the Amherst goal.



Alexander Marlin crosses center ice.

## Sports

### Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

#### Bogey Doubles

EAST BROOKFIELD – The Bogey Doubles league on Monday nights is halfway through the 2025-2026 candlepin league season.

This league's season is split into three rounds, and the bowlers are currently in round two. In first place is the team of Jess Mondor & Tim Brayton with 32 wins in round two. In second place with 31 wins is the doubles team of Erik Pellett & Ryley Burdett.

During week 18, Pellett & Burdett bowled against Bromberg & Daley. In game one, Bromberg & Daley won by a score of 281-275. Erik Pellett scored 112 in a losing effort in game one.

In game two, Pellett & Burdett won by a score of 290-251. In game three, Bromberg & Daley won by a score of 283-272. Eric Bromberg finished the match with 115 and a three-game series of 315. Total pinfall was won by Pellett & Burdett with a final score of 837-815.

Talamini & Carden bowled against Rando & MacDougall

in week 18. In game one, Rando & MacDougall won by a score of 265-240. In game two, Rando & MacDougall won again by a score of 275-222. Duncan MacDougall bowled 110 in game two.

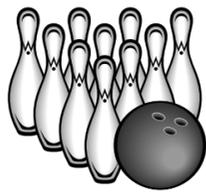
In game three, Rando & MacDougall won with a three-game sweep over Talamini & Carden, 245-230. The final score was 785-692 in favor of Rando & MacDougall.

Mondor & Brayton bowled against Dunnack & Clough in week 18. In game one, Dunnack & Clough won by a score of 256-235. In game two, Mondor & Brayton won by a score of 272-261. Jesse Mondor scored 113 during his team's victory.

In game three, Mondor & Brayton won by just one point, 271-270. Mondor bowled 107 to close out the match. Dunnack & Clough won total pinfall with a final score of 787-778.

Clauson & Santora bowled against Johnson & Derie. In game one, Johnson & Derie won by a score of 260-234.

In game two, Clauson & Santora won by a score of 266-249. Gary Santora responded well with a 121 game to get his team back in the match.



In game three, Johnson & Derie won by a score of 278-254. Craig Johnson finished the match with a 120 game during his team's victory. The final score was 787-754 in favor of Johnson & Derie.

Halbedel & Fontaine bowled against Wooden & Janton in week 18. In game one, Wooden & Janton won by a score of 301-262. Peter Janton started off strong with an opening game of 141.

In game two, Halbedel & Fontaine won by a score of 272-259. Aaron Fontaine bowled 131 to help his team get the win.

In game three, Halbedel & Fontaine won again by a score of 285-255. Janton finished with a 102 and a three-game series of 348. Fontaine finished with 140 to go with his previous scores of 121 and 131 for a series of 392. Fontaine's teammate, Aaron Halbedel, finished with 118 and a series of 346.

The final score was 819-815 in favor of Halbedel & Fontaine.

### Bruins snap T-Birds winning streak

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - The Springfield Thunderbirds (12-13-4-2) suffered another gut-wrenching defeat late in regulation, 3-1, against the Providence Bruins (23-6-1-0) on Sunday inside Amica Mutual Pavilion.

Springfield's power play got two early reps in the first four minutes of play, and the man advantage capitalized as Matt Luff unleashed his team-leading 11th of the season at 4:32 of the period, making it a 1-0 game off set-ups from Dillon Dube and Samuel Johansson.

The Bruins had a wonderful shift following Luff's goal that nearly tied the score, highlighted by a Victor Soderstrom point shot that rang the post behind

Vadim Zherenko.

Eventually, Providence would get even as they also struck on their second power play of the period, as Dans Locmelis beat Zherenko from the left circle at 13:35 after a Fabian Lysell one-time attempt careened right to the waiting rookie winger.

The Bruins' defense suffocated the T-Birds' attack in the middle period, keeping the visitors to only two shots on net, but Zherenko was tremendous in his own right, denying all 10 Providence shots in the period. Among Zherenko's best pieces of work was a clutch stop on a low-slot tester from Locmelis.

The 1-1 stalemate carried all the way into the game's dying minutes, but

for the second time in three meetings in Providence, the Bruins found a way to break the tie late in regulation when Frederic Brunet uncorked a slapper that eluded Zherenko with just 1:11 remaining.

The T-Birds offense, which managed only 17 shots all night and just seven after the first period, could not get an equalizing response, and Riley Tuft polished off the night with an empty-netter just 13 seconds after Brunet's game-winning goal.

With their win streak snapped, the T-Birds were on the road on Wednesday, looking to start a new one as they visited the Utica Comets for a tussle at Adirondack Bank Center.

### Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

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

ples 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.

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## In the Classroom

### Elmira College announces Key Award recipients

ELMIRA, NY – Elmira College announces this year's recipients of its annual Key Award.

Local students receiving the awards are: Ahmad Issa of Rutland, Garrett Erickson of Hubbardston,

Madelyn Stauder of Hubbardston and Darcy Roaf of Rutland. The Key Award is presented to outstanding students in their junior year of high school or preparatory school.

"This award is given to

students with the potential to excel academically, serve as leaders, and go on to enjoy success in life," said Charles Lindsay, president of Elmira College.

"We hope they will choose to make Elmira College their place." Sponsored by the EC Alumni Association, the Key Award recognizes students for high scholastic achievement, leadership, citizenship and participation in extracurricular activities.

### HCC lists Fall 2025 Dean's list

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College recognizes superior scholarship through the Dean's list.

The following local students earned Dean's list honors for the fall 2025 term: Laura Marie Nimitz of Gilbertville, Suzanne Williams of Gilbertville, Morgen Alan Swallow of Oakham and Lindsey Brown of Rutland. A student is placed on the Dean's List if their G.P.A. is 3.2 or higher.

### HUBBARDSTON from page 1

The board came to a consensus on the four applicants that stood out as worthy of moving forward with, and plan on conducting interviews with them in the next week. They hope to have two finalists to have a final interview in front of the board at the next meeting on Jan. 5, where they would appoint the finalist.

The four candidates they agreed to move forward are Sean Fitzgerald, Mark Shea, Thomas W. Bernard, and Wendy Graves.

According to their applications as read by the board, Fitzgerald has previous administrative experience in Plastow, New Hampshire and Peabody. Shea has previous experience in Vermont and New Hampshire, as well as serving on the Winchendon select board.

Bernard served as the Mayor of North Adams. Graves is a retired treasurer and finance director who

worked in Milbury and Princeton.

The first round of interviews will be conducted by board members Young and Munroe.

#### Staffing update

The board is in contact with two applicants for assistant treasurer, but their names have not been made public yet. Young said they have offered one candidate the job, but they are requesting a higher pay rate than was offered on the job description, and if she doesn't accept, there is a second-in-line candidate.

There have been no applications for town accountant yet. The board said they would offer to extend current accountant Mary Leroux's term until the end of February.

#### Plum Tree Lane plowing

Residents from Plum Tree Lane attended the meeting to express concerns that their street is not being plowed by the town. The road is a private road owned by an independent owner, not the town,

### FITZGERALD from page 1

ment. He said that in a local government, they are concerned about "getting the most bang per buck," and he can help with anything the town needs.

Select Board member Heather Munroe asked Fitzgerald why he wants to serve as the interim town administrator. He said he knows the general area, and thinks the town needs the help. He said he can help with the basics, like understanding debt and budget, and will set up the future full-time town administrator for success.

Select Board member Kris Pareago asked Fitzgerald about a time he changed his approach after criticism from the public. Fitzgerald said he has a strong personality, and likes to lead, but realized that's not always the right approach. He said holding hands and building relationships is an important piece of the job.

He also highlighted a project he "regrets," which was a train station in Plaistow, New Hampshire. He said he championed the project, which had been in the works for a number of years, but it was never communicated to the public well. This led to nearby residents to the construction zone complaining when the town

started the building process.

"My enthusiasm has hurt me," he said.

Pareago also asked how Fitzgerald will ensure healthy work-life-balance for town employees. He said the work is important, and underappreciated, and for that reason has implemented plans and programs to ensure "recognition and remuneration." He cited his previous experience in Swampscott and Plaistow, where he implemented holiday bonuses of \$500.

#### Open police positions

Police Chief Ryan Couture said that the department is short-handed three officers currently, and his officers are working double shifts. He and the board agreed that this is both financially unsustainable, and that it can cause safety concerns if the officers get burnt out.

Couture also highlighted the possibility that these working conditions could prompt an officer to resign.

The department is currently working to hire James Moffet, who is a dispatcher in Clinton, according to Couture. He said the department needs funding for Moffet to attend academy, as well as equipment costs, which total to about \$13,700.

Couture also said there is a new hire about to complete academy in late January, and will join the police force

and the person responsible for plowing the road has not been doing so, the residents said.

The town said there is no money or contract available for them to use town resources to plow the road, the board said.

One resident from the road expressed concern about mail delivery, as mail has not been delivered to the road because of its condition. She said some people on the road receive medication by mail, and if the town does not plow the road, people will be negatively impacted.

Lowe, the temporary town administrator, gave each resident in attendance a paper to sign, and if each resident signs it, the road could be donated to the town and receive attention from the Department of Public Works during storms.

Mark Fleischer, one resident from the street, said that one of the homeowners has not been around, but he will try to reach out to get them to sign it, as this process requires consensus to pass.

eight-12 weeks after that, bringing the department down to being short-handed by two, and will ensure no officer works alone.

The board voted to approve \$14,000 of reserve fund money to support Moffet. The board also approved that Couture can upload a job posting for the department.

#### Property damage claims

Temporary Town Administrator Patricia Lowe gave an update on property damage claims from the town. A tree fell on the police side of the Slade building, causing damage to a police cruiser and the roof, she said.

In addition, a town snow plow crashed into a tree because the driver had a medical issue, which caused extensive damage to the plow. Lowe said she is in contact with town insurance for both of these claims.

She said a vehicle crashed into a snow plow on Jan. 1, causing damage to the truck. The driver was found at fault, and she is working with their insurance, she said.

#### Other business

Lowe accepted an extension to her term as executive assistant until Jan. 31. The board also said the tax bill was updated and sent out to residents this week.

The Select Board will meet next on Jan. 12.

### PANTHERS from page 9

The Crusader's leading scorer was sophomore Andrew Mizzary with 12 points on mostly inside baskets. None of his teammates scored more than seven points.

The Panthers began the contest with a Dilling steal leading to a Crane lay-up.

Then Dilling buried a 3-pointer from the top of the key giving his team a 5-0 advantage with 6:32 left in the first quarter.

After the Crusaders (1-2) closed the gap to 5-4, the Panthers pulled away with the help of an 8-2 run.

Brady Patchen converted an old fashion three

point play before making a free throw, which helped the Panthers build a 13-6 lead with a little more than two minutes left in the quarter.

Quabbin, who held a 14-8 lead entering the second stanza, scored 14 unanswered points.

Patchen scored six of those points. Dilling added a pair of lay-ups, while Quarterone and Crane each scored inside hoops.

The Panthers outscored the Crusaders by 16 points during the second quarter. Their largest lead of the first half was 37-15 following a Quarterone put-back basket and a Patchen lay-up in the final minute of the second

quarter.

The third quarter was little bit more even, as Quabbin only outscored South Lancaster, 15-11, but their lead never got under twenty points.

With the Quabbin starters sitting on the bench late in the game, eighth grader Jack Leclair made a lay-up, which was his first career varsity points before making back-to-back 3-pointers, which pushed the Panthers lead to 70-37. Luke Gasper, who's also an eighth grader, hit another 3-pointer at the buzzer, which was also his first varsity points.

The Panthers would lose to Gardner in the championship game on Dec. 29 87-51.

## Church News

# Local pastors offer sermons

### Healthful Resolutions Part 2

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

Each New Year I entertain his writings, as he wrote at length on the theme of healthful resolutions. Consider the following as we enter into 2026:

#### 1) Soul-Searching

What did Edwards resolve on the practice of searching his soul before God? "Resolved, to inquire every night, as I am going to bed, wherein I have been negligent [or] what sin I have committed. . . also at the end of every week, month and year." It is clear that Edwards took ongoing review of his spiritual condition seriously! This is something we see often in Scripture:

Lamentations 3:40 (NIV)

40 Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord.

Sin, by nature, separates us from the Lord. Thus, let us resolve to repeatedly assess the state of our soul and repent in kind.

#### 2) The Fight Against Sin

What did Edwards further note concerning the battle against sin? "Resolved, whenever I do any conspicuously evil action, to trace it back, till I come to the original cause; and then both carefully endeavor to do so no more, and to fight and pray with all my might against the original of it." Do we so live? Consider the words of Christ on the matter of resisting sinfulness:

Mark 9:43, 45, 47-48

43 "If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. 45 And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. 47 And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, 48 where 'the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched [cf. Isa. 66:24].'"

#### 3) Living in Light of Eternity

What did Edwards resolve on living in the light of eternity? "Resolved, never to do anything, which I should be afraid to do, if it were the last hour of my life." The revivalist also said: "Resolved, never to do anything, which I should be afraid to do, if I expected it would not be above an hour, before I should hear the last trump." Scripture warns us concerning the manner in which we live. Are the things we are living for worth dying for? Should you die or Christ return today, are you prepared?

Matthew 25:31-46

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left."

34 Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me,

I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

37 Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?"

40 The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

41 Then he will say to those on his left, "Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me."

44 They also will answer, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?"

45 He will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me."

46 Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

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

Also, feel free to check us out online at [www.NewLifeBarre.org](http://www.NewLifeBarre.org) or visit us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. We hope to see you soon.

#### Pastor James Foley

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

#### Second Sunday after Christmas

"The True Light Came into the World"

#### Scripture Reading: John 1 v 1-18

##### I. Introduction

I truly believe that it is essential for us to listen to one another's viewpoints on various topics so that we can truly understand each other.

Someone else's version of the truth might be different from our own understanding of the truth. When we truly listen without resisting the other's perspective, that's when real understanding happens, like a light bulb going off that moment of insight, revealing how we did not understand each other's beliefs / or truths all along.

On the other hand, if we do not take the time to listen to each other, it may lead to misunderstandings and erode trust eventually causing divisions that hinder genuine communication. Such circumstances result in confusion, turmoil, and uncertainty, and feelings of darkness, making it difficult to connect, resolve issues and be reconciled with one another.

##### II. The True Light Came into the World

God knew all about chaos, confusion and darkness. In this Chapter 1, John the Baptist describes how God spoke a word into the darkness at the beginning of time. Things were rough and unorganized and uninhabited, and through God's word there was life and light, and the light shone into the darkness. But even then, those who started wandering

around did not comprehend this light coming from the Maker of heaven and earth.

Over time in many Old Testament stories, divine light was met with internal resistance, resulting in darkness overtaking life. While the darkness continued its path of chaos and destruction, God's word continued to shine the light of God's loving intention with God's creation, God's people.

John now introduces the same Word of God which, through the act of Incarnation, resulted in God's Son to becoming flesh and dwelling among humanity. Jesus was God's fullest disclosure to humanity, God's act of salvation and love for the world. But the world then did not recognize this divine act and the divine light Jesus was shining. Edward Klink describes it as follows, "The light of the world is met with direct and robust confrontation by the darkness."

John the Baptist is the one who would bear witness to this True Light coming from God, the One who would give light to every person... the light of love and care and compassion and understanding and kindness. God's intent was to heal the world by sending the Son to shine the light that would eliminate the darkness of evil, of hate, of suffering, and unwillingness to understand each other. Those who brought Him to be crucified, would not have any of this True Light. And those who crucified Him, were already caught up in the evil of darkness.

##### III. Conclusion

Today, the world at large is struggling to recognize the True Light of Christ, a light that is loving, authentic and genuine. The Son of God taught us the values that make for a loving and caring world. However, it appears that we are living in a world facing widespread turmoil and uncertainty.

We are striving, not without challenges, to shine the light in our homes and communities and our churches, but the moment we look beyond the safety of our dwellings, the darkness, unkindness, hate and division, violence and war stare us in the face.

This is not what God intended for this world. God's word spoke into the darkness at the beginning of time, and God's Word became flesh in a dramatic way in the birth of God's Son, to show us the light. John the Baptist reminds us that he bore witness to that light and he could not stop talking about it to the people then.

May God make us all into witnesses of that same light today and may God's Holy Spirit touch this world in powerful ways that will drive out all intentions of darkness and bring us light and love and peace.

Amen.

#### Pastor Margaret Keyser

Barre Congregational Church  
30 Park St., Barre

## 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.

## Obituaries

### Michael "MJ" Publicover, Jr., 19

WINCHENDON – It is with a heavy heart that we announce the untimely passing of the adventurous and compassionate Michael "MJ" Publicover Jr. on Friday, Dec. 26, 2025. Born on Sept. 18, 2006, in Worcester, MJ was a vibrant and energetic spirit who brought joy and laughter to everyone around him. He was a beacon of positivity, always ready with a funny anecdote or a helping hand. His compassionate nature and infectious humor were as much a part of him as his love for family and friends.



MJ attended the Orange School District, he attended Mahar Regional Middle/High School and later transferred to the Quabbin Regional School District where he attended Quabbin Regional High School.

He was an avid athlete, playing baseball, basketball, soccer and his true passion, football. He got his start with football at an early age of five and played nine years of youth football and played until high school. MJ was a natural born quarterback, he could read the field at a level far beyond his age, often making him a lead scorer on

his team, where he perfected his bootleg play.

Between school and sports, MJ made so many friends that he grew with, many of which he was still very close with. He made friends everywhere he went, he was a very extroverted person, who always talked, laughed, you name it with everyone he met.

MJ worked with his father as a carpenter and had recently started working at Trellis Structures in Templeton.

MJ was a cherished son to his parents, Michael and Cheri Publicover and a beloved brother to Jordan Publicover, and his beloved cat, Pennywise. His absence will leave an unfillable void in the hearts of his family, friends and everyone who had the privilege of knowing him. Michael "MJ" lived a life full of love, laughter, and memories that will forever be etched in our hearts.

Calling hours will be held on Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026 from 2-5 p.m. at the Mack Family Funeral Homes, Athol-Orange Chapel, located at 110 New Athol Road, Orange, Massachusetts, 01364, followed immedi-

### DEATH NOTICE

#### Publicover, Jr., Michael "MJ"

Died Dec. 26, 2025  
Calling hours Sunday, Jan. 11 2-5 p.m.  
Mack Family Funeral Homes,  
110 New Athol Road, Orange  
Celebration of Life Sunday, Jan. 11 5-8 p.m.  
Ellinwood Country Club,  
1928 Pleasant St., Athol

ately with a celebration of life held at the Ellinwood Country Club at 1928 Pleasant St., Athol from 5-8 p.m.

This is an opportunity to pay our respects, share stories and remember the wonderful life of Michael "MJ" Publicover Jr.

We invite those who knew MJ to leave memories and upload photos to the memorial page at [www.mackfamilyfh.com](http://www.mackfamilyfh.com). It serves as a testament to his life and the indelible mark he left on all our hearts. Through this, we keep his legacy alive and cherish the moments we had with him.

Mack Family Funeral Homes, Athol-Orange Chapel, 110 New Athol Road, Orange, MA.

### Congregational Church to hold Mardi Gras pancake supper

RUTLAND – A Mardi Gras pancake supper will be held Saturday, Feb. 7 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Rutland, 264 Main St.,

Rutland. Menu includes pancakes (gluten free will be available) bacon, sausage and fruit. There will be live music and raffles. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for

children and free for ages 3 and under.

Reservations can be made by calling the church office at 508-886-4453.

## Legals

A.C 78A

**Docket Number:**  
WO24P3319PM  
**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Worcester Probate & Family Court**

To all persons interested in the estate of Paul S. Jackson, Sr. of New Braintree in the said county, person under conservatorship. A petition has been presented to said Court for authority to sell-private sale - certain real estate of said three-hundred and thirty-two thousand (\$332,000.00)

for maintenance.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Worcester before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the **twentieth day of January 2026**, the return date of this citation.

Witness, **Leilah A. Keamy**, Esquire, First Judge of said Court this twenty-second day of December 2025.

**Stephanie K. Fattman**, Register of Probate  
01/08/2026m

## PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

**Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.**

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

## Barre Gazette OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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





# MILES

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Director



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Director

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# Public Safety

## Barre Police Log

**Sunday, Dec. 14**  
 9:05 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Marsh Road, No Transport Required  
 9:11 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Gauthier Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
 12:33 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Williamsville Road, Mutual Aid Assist  
 3:28 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Granger Road, Information Given  
 6:15 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Hubbardston Road, Negative Contact

**Monday, Dec. 15**  
 2:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Summer Street, Vehicle Towed  
 11:29 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Wauwinet Road, Transported to Hospital  
 1:46 p.m. Safety Concern, Williamsville Road, Officer/Chief Advised  
 6:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 9:48 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Ruggles Lane, Transported to Hospital

**Tuesday, Dec. 16**  
 2:29 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Marsh Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal  
 1:50 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Police Headquarters, Information Given

2:23 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Varney Lane, No Transport Required  
 4:23 p.m. Suspicious Person – Vehicle Activity, Vernon Avenue, Negative Contact  
 4:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Vernon Avenue, Written Warning

**Wednesday, Dec. 17**  
 1:59 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic), North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital  
 2:17 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, School North Street, Mutual Aid Transported  
 7:27 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Hancock Road, Transported to Hospital  
 8:50 a.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Police Headquarters, Information Taken  
 9:30 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, West Street, Transported to Hospital  
 3:40 p.m. Harassment, Police Headquarters, Officer Spoke to Party  
 3:51 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Newton Street, Transported to Hospital  
 8:23 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Hardwick, Mutual Aid Assist  
 11:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning

**Thursday, Dec. 18**  
 7:27 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Hubbardston Road,

Transported to Hospital  
 12:16 p.m. Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Officer/Chief Advised  
 2:16 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Summer Street, Information Taken  
 4:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Transported to Hospital  
 5:38 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Gauthier Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal  
 6:39 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Peach Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal

**Friday, Dec. 19**  
 5:14 a.m. Juvenile Runaway, Old West Warren Road, Report Filed  
 9:50 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Wauwinet Road, Transported to Hospital  
 2:12 p.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, stetson Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
 2:47 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Old Coldbrook Road, Information Taken

**Saturday, Dec. 20**  
 1:12 a.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Union Street, Referred to Other Agency  
 1:46 a.m. Unwanted Party, Mechanic Street, Party Departed without Incident  
 12:51 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, West Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
 3:35 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Pine road, Report Filed

Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Services Rendered  
 2:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Barre Road, Investigated

**Wednesday, Dec. 31**  
 9:59 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued

**Thursday, Jan. 1**  
 5 a.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, West Brookfield Road, Patient Refusal

**Friday, Jan. 2**  
 8:37 a.m. Safety Hazard, Thompson Road, Referred to Other Agency  
 11:54 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled  
 5:42 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Moore Road, Officer Handled

**Saturday, Jan. 3**  
 10:59 a.m. Fire/Other, McEvoy Road, No Action Required

**Sunday, Jan. 4**  
 9:54 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

## Rutland Police Log

**Sunday, Dec. 7**  
 12:11 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Glenwood Drive, Criminal Complaint  
 Summons Goodrich, Kami L., 51, Rutland  
 Charges Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle with C90 S23, Uninsured Motor Vehicle C90 S34J  
 12:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued  
 Summons Guzman Henriquez, Jose CI, 34, Framingham  
 Charges Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle  
 12:41 a.m. Erratic Operator, Barre Paxton Road, Officer/Chief Advised  
 7:14 a.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Main Street, Returned  
 7:42 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Memorial Drive, Transported to Hospital  
 8:58 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Inwood Road, Report Filed  
 11:59 a.m. Safety Concern, Miles Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
 5:33 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Glenwood Drive, Transported to Hospital  
 7:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Citation Issued  
 8:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Prospect Street, Citation Issued  
 8:56 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Miles Road, Peace Restored  
 9:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Watson Lane, Citation Issued  
 10:01 p.m. Sick/Unknown, Wachusett Street, Transported to Hospital  
 10:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Watson Lane, Citation Issued  
 11:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Watson Lane, Citation Issued  
 11:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Watson Lane, Written Warning  
 11:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Prescott Street, Written Warning

**Monday, Dec. 8**  
 12:10 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lizzie Lane, Citation Issued  
 2:34 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued  
 6:31 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Glenwood Road, Written Warning  
 6:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Campbell Street, Citation Issued  
 11:43 a.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Verbal Warning  
 12:27 p.m. Warrant Check/Information, Maple Avenue, Arrest(s) Made  
 Arrest Simmons, Chagarius Lamarze, 37, Worcester  
 Charges Warrant  
 2:23 p.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, Edson Avenue, Referred to Other Agency  
 2:38 p.m. Prisoner Watch or Meal, Rutland Police Department, Prisoner Bailed  
 Arrest Simmons, Chagarius Lamarze, 37, Worcester  
 Charges Warrant  
 4:14 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Charnock Hill Road, Area Search Negative  
 5:58 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Rufus Putnam Place, Transported to Hospital  
 7:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Written Warning  
 7:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 7:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

Barre Paxton Road, Written warning  
 9:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
 10:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

**Tuesday, Dec. 9**  
 7:18 a.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Miles Road, Report Filed  
 8:19 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Welch Avenue, Report Filed  
 8:46 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Bullard Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal  
 3:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued  
 4:37 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Jamie Ann Drive, Information Taken  
 4:57 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Barre Paxton Road, No Transport Required  
 6:53 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
 7:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 10:33 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Bushy Lane, Ambulance Signed Refusal

**Wednesday, Dec. 10**  
 2:05 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Main Street, Transported to Hospital  
 8:02 a.m. Fire – Structures Fire, Skyline Drive, Fire Extinguished  
 10:56 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Worcester Road, Report Filed  
 12:15 p.m. ACO Lost and Found/Wildlife, Holden, Referred to Other Agency  
 2:03 p.m. Juvenile Runaway, Main Street, Negative Contact  
 2:36 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Juniper Lane, Transported to Hospital  
 3:50 p.m. Missing Person, Miles Road, Report Filed  
 6:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident – No Fire Department/EMS Response, Woodside Avenue, Report Filed  
 6:10 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Allergic Reaction, Emerald Road, Transported to Hospital  
 8:41 p.m. Low Blood Pressure, Bechan Road, Transported to Hospital

**Thursday, Dec. 11**  
 1:16 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Paxton, Mutual Aid Assist  
 2:05 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Whole Town, Referred to Other Agency  
 6:46 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Worcester Road, Report Filed  
 12:32 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Maple Brook Drive, No Transport Required  
 2:22 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, School North Street, Mutual Aid Transport  
 5:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident – No Fire Department/EMS Response, Woodside Avenue, Report Filed  
 7:54 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Wachusett Street, Transported to Hospital  
 9 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Thurston Hill Road, Transported to Hospital  
 10:30 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Carsons Way, Reported to Other Agency

**Friday, Dec. 12**  
 1:03 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 6:43 a.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Sunnyside Avenue, Report Filed  
 7:34 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning  
 8:15 a.m. Serve Paperwork, Barre Paxton Road, Citation Issued  
 8:38 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Pommogussett Road, Negative Contact  
 9:45 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
 10:35 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Bushy Lane, Officer Spoke to Party  
 12:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Prisoner Bailed  
 Arrest Boyle, Jon Christopher, 60, Holden  
 Charges Warrant  
 1:50 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Miles Road, Report Filed  
 4:07 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Pleasantdale Road, Report Filed  
 5:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, East County Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
 7:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 7:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 7:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 7:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Written Warning  
 7:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Written Warning  
 8:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 8:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 8:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Written Warning  
 8:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 8:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 8:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning  
 9:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning  
 9:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 9:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 10:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Written Warning  
 11:53 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Prospect Street, Returned

**Saturday, Dec. 13**  
 12:32 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, West Boylston, Investigated  
 8:24 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Charnock Hill Road, Transported to Hospital  
 8:39 a.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Valley View Circle, Information Taken  
 10:46 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Barre Paxton Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
 12:39 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Main Street, Transported to Hospital  
 2:24 p.m. Complaint, Paddock Road, Officer/Chief Advised  
 3:15 p.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Barre Paxton Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
 5:46 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Vehicle Towed  
 9 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Turkey Hill Road, Transported to Hospital

## New Braintree Police Log

During the weeks of Dec. 22-Jan. 5, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 20 building/property checks, 36 directed/area patrols, 18 radar assignments, four traffic controls, six emergency 911 calls, five citizen assists, three safety hazards, one scam, one chimney fire, one harassment, one motor vehicle investigation, two motor vehicle accidents, six animal calls and eight motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

**Tuesday, Dec. 23**  
 4:27 a.m. Harassment, North Brookfield Road, Report Taken  
 4:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning  
 8:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, McEvoy Road, Officer Handled

**Wednesday, Dec. 24**  
 11:39 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Patient Refusal

**Thursday, Dec. 25**  
 12:42 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Brookfield

Road, Patient Refusal  
 2:03 p.m. Scam, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled  
 2:32 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled  
 7 p.m. 911 Fire/Chimney, Utley Road, Extinguished

**Friday, Dec. 26**  
 12:50 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled  
 1:32 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Gilbertville Road, Services Rendered

**Monday, Dec. 29**  
 11:04 a.m. 911 Assist Citizen, West Road, Spoken To  
 8:50 p.m. Safety Hazard, Old Turnpike Road, Referred to Other Agency

**Tuesday, Dec. 30**  
 4:21 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Patient Refusal  
 11:56 a.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Referred to Other Agency  
 12:29 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled  
 2:10 p.m. Medical

Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Services Rendered  
 2:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Barre Road, Investigated

**Wednesday, Dec. 31**  
 9:59 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued

**Thursday, Jan. 1**  
 5 a.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, West Brookfield Road, Patient Refusal

**Friday, Jan. 2**  
 8:37 a.m. Safety Hazard, Thompson Road, Referred to Other Agency  
 11:54 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled  
 5:42 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Moore Road, Officer Handled

**Saturday, Jan. 3**  
 10:59 a.m. Fire/Other, McEvoy Road, No Action Required

**Sunday, Jan. 4**  
 9:54 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

## Hardwick Police Log

During the weeks of Dec. 22-Jan. 5 the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 97 building/property checks, 74 directed/area patrols, 20 radar assignments, 14 traffic controls, 13 emergency 911 calls, five citizen assists, six assist other agencies, five complaints, two safety hazards, two motor vehicle accidents, five animal calls and 21 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

**Monday, Dec. 22**  
 2:15 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Unknown Location, Officer Handled  
 2:58 p.m. Complaint, Collins Road, Officer Handled

**Tuesday, Dec. 23**  
 2:24 a.m. Parking Complaint, Prospect Street, Citation Issued  
 10:11 a.m. Parking Complaint, Main Street, No Action Required  
 12:59 p.m. Assist Citizen, Highland Terrace, Spoken To  
 4:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

**Friday, Dec. 26**  
 10:33 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road,

Transported to Hospital

**Saturday, Dec. 27**  
 12 p.m. Complaint, Prouty Road, Referred to Other Agency  
 9:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

**Sunday, Dec. 28**  
 12:56 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Joslyn Road, Transported to Hospital

**Monday, Dec. 29**  
 4:09 a.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Officer Handled  
 4:43 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Thresher Road, Referred to Other Agency  
 5:38 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Barre Road, Merge  
 5:42 a.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Barre Road, Vehicle Towed  
 7:27 a.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered  
 7:50 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Hardwick Road, Referred to Other Agency  
 12:41 p.m. Complaint, Main Street, Officer Handled  
 12:47 p.m. Assist Citizen, Petersham Road, Officer Handled

2:16 p.m. Assist Citizen, High Street, Services Rendered  
 3:44 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Turkey Street, Transported to Hospital  
 5:03 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Officer Handled

**Tuesday, Dec. 30**  
 2:06 p.m. Assist Citizen, Lower Road, Officer Handled  
 Thursday, Jan. 1  
 2:58 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Transported to Hospital

**Friday, Jan. 2**  
 12:51 p.m. 911 Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Dispatch Handled  
 4:39 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Lower Road, Spoken To  
 5:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Church Street, Written Warning

**Saturday, Jan. 3**  
 8:23 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 8:57 a.m. Assist Citizen, High Street, Officer Handled  
 1:57 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Negative Contact  
 5:39 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Petersham Road, Transported to Hospital  
 6:44 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Negative Contact

**Sunday, Jan. 4**  
 11:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 12:27 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Petersham Road, Transported to Hospital  
 3:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 4:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 4:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning  
 9:06 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Petersham Road, Transported to Hospital

**Monday, Jan. 5**  
 5:48 a.m. Medical Emergency, Ruggles Street, Transported to Hospital

## Hubbardston Police Log

**Sunday, Dec. 14**  
 2:38 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Adams Road, Removed from Scene  
 8:27 a.m. Road Condition, Underwood Road, Referred to Other Agency  
 12:22 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Williamsville Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
 12:38 p.m. Road Condition Notification, New Westminster Road, Referred to Other Agency  
 12:53 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Barre Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal  
 6:23 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Madison Way, Mutual Aid Transport  
 11:17 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Chicopee Drive, Ambulance Signed Refusal

**Monday, Dec. 15**  
 9:44 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Old Princeton Cutoff Road, Transported to Hospital  
 12:24 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Abenaki Street, Transported to Hospital

**Tuesday, Dec. 16**  
 1:18 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain,

Main Street, Transported to Hospital  
 7:39 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Streeter Road, Information Given  
 12:03 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Morgan Road, No Transport Required  
 12:54 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Old Westminster Road, Transported to Hospital  
 5:49 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Flagg Road, Public Assist

**Wednesday, Dec. 17**  
 8:06 a.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Highbridge Road, Information Taken  
 4:22 p.m. Safety Concern, Flagg Road, Negative Contact

**Thursday, Dec. 18**  
 6 a.m. Motor Vehicle Hit and Run, Gardner Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
 7:53 a.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Worcester Road, Removed from Scene  
 9:59 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, New Templeton Road, Transported to Hospital  
 12:52 p.m. Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Officer Chief Advised

**Friday, Dec. 19**  
 12:07 p.m. Fire – Motor

Vehicle Collision, Old Boston Turnpike, Vehicle Towed  
 2:20 p.m. Harassment, Mayo Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
 3:21 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Mt. Jefferson Road, Information Taken  
 9:10 p.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, Old Colony Road, Referred to Other Agency  
 9:35 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Worcester Road, No Action Required  
 9:53 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Highbridge Road, Removed from Scene  
 10:37 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Gardner Road, Prisoner Bailed  
 Arrest Michaud, Benjamin Kenneth, 48, Fitchburg  
 Charges Operating Under Influence – Liquor OR .08%, Third Offense, License Restriction, Operate Motor Vehicle in Violation, Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle, Marked Lanes Violation

**Saturday, Dec. 20**  
 6:27 a.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, Old Westminster Road, Referred to Other Agency  
 1:04 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Adams Road, Transported to Hospital



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