

BARRE GAZETTE

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Select Board reviews ARPA funded projects

They approve addendum A and B in one vote

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
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BARRE – At the end of 2024, the Select Board meet on Dec. 30 to make sure all American Rescue Plan Act funds would be spent.

Select Board Chair Maureen Marshall they did not want to send any ARPA money back to the federal government. All ARPA funds must be expended or have projects under contract to be completed in 2025. If not the town would forfeit any unused money. The town of Barre received approximately \$1.6 million in ARPA funds.

Town Administrator Tammy Martin prepared two addendums A and B for vote by the Board. Select Board Chair Marshall and Select Board Member Mark Regienus approved them. Select Board Vice Chair John Dixon was not present at the end of year meeting. Although the ARPA funds expenditures were approved at previous meetings, this motion put it into one single vote to make clearer.

Select Board Chair Marshall read the extensive list of ARPA projects. The Department of Public Works items funded by ARPA included a used 2007 Mack plow truck (\$45,000), building security and internet (\$19,607.30), repairs for two Mack trucks (\$21,230), sewer manholes (\$24,400), two snowplows and installation (\$8,075 each) and Alarm Works fire detection system (\$16,360).

The fire department purchased an ambulance (\$304,752), modular communication radios to upgrade so firefighters could communicate with the Rutland Regional Emergency Communication Center (\$136,592.57), Montachusett Regional – Insulation (\$7,430.77) MRI (consultant) fire chief search (\$13,995) and MRI assessment consultations (\$5,000). The police department purchased 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe – new cruiser (\$51,408), Dell Technologies server (\$4,679.87), Axon Enterprise Storage (\$1,200), Modular Communications radios like fire department (\$8,606.64), Down Range Sports fire arms (\$2,399), police drone (\$5,434.41), police fencing (\$9,950), Beacon – solar study (\$9,900), Liberty Chevrolet police cruiser (\$64,127), Blacktop services (\$12,483) and Gov Direct laptop (\$4,889).

ARPA funds used for the Henry Wood Building updates included carpet, paint and blinds (\$25,808.34), security and internet service (\$21,480.60), mini split Town Clerk's office (\$9,600) and KDH Commercial Doors and Hardware replacement (\$12,227). Town Hall painting will be done April or May of 2025; cost for front side with clock is (\$8,340), north side of building (\$8,625) and painting tall steeple (\$11,465).

Expenditures for the Senior Center was \$13,177.28 for security/locks and Wifi. The Marcum LLC (formerly Powers and Sullivan and now CIS) was \$33,858.81. Other items were Administrative Assistance/ Town Administrator Office (\$1,059.24), Capital Strategic solutions ARPA reporting (\$1,220), 911 Memorial (\$37,500), Woods Memorial Library chimney (\$22,900), Ruggles Lane parking lot (\$241,973.27), replacing emer-

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North Brookfield wraps up 2024 with

First Night Out



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Friends of the Library and trustees joined together during first night out for the Haston Free Public Library's 130th anniversary. The theme of the celebration is 1890s, fitting the time period when the library first opened.

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – With the new year just hours away, the town's residents celebrated with the first ever First Night Out celebration.

The event was organized by the Parks and Recreation Department in collaboration with the Cultural Council and promised a festive atmosphere with various activities and local business participation to wrap up 2024.

The center of North Brookfield was busy with music, shopping, art, touring, scavenging and celebrating. The Haston Free Public Library had a lot to celebrate as they were also celebrating the 130th anniversary for the local library. The theme was all about life back in the 1890s, a period in history where it all started for

North Brookfield's public library.

Friends of the library along with library staff and trustees got into the spirit by wearing 1890s themed attire to celebrate this special anniversary to go along with the celebration of the town's First Night Out.

"It is a perfect thing to add to our celebration," says one of the library trustees Diane Buzzell.

Many residents came in to say hello to the library team and check out the exhibits and help toast in the new year. There was a photo stand where kids got to take pictures. Best friends Dallas Berard and Violet Walsh took pictures and were excited to celebrate the new year during the First Night Out in North Brookfield.

Down the street the Town House was open for tours during First Night Out. Many residents were divided into groups to get a tour of some of the rooms inside

the historic town house of North Brookfield. Giving the tours was Jim Caldwell who shared historical facts about the Town House and some of its historical rooms, including the great hall.

Inside the Town Offices a photo scavenger hunt was taking place with multiple poster boards featuring notable people and buildings. There were maps of 16 locations in town and players had to follow the map and had to name at least 12 of the 16 locations to win a prize. The offices had these glow in the dark wands that many players got to take home with them.

Shaman's Closet Vintage Gift Shop, 22 Summer St., was one of the small businesses in town that was open during First Night Out, and had guests pick out a special ornament during the event.

Operating this vintage gift shop

See FIRST NIGHT, page 5



Grace Goyette participated in the scavenger hunt and received a magical wand inside the Town Offices.



Jim Caldwell served as the tour guide during tours of the Town House. Many residents gathered in front of the Town House to get a tour and learn about the historic building.



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

About 40 participants joined the East Quabbin Land Trust for its annual New Year's Day hike along the Mass Central Rail Trail.

Memorial bench dedicated during New Year's Day hike

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

NEW BRAINTREE/HARDWICK – East Quabbin Land Trust continued its longstanding tradition of hosting a New Year's Day hike along the Mass Central Rail Trail, from New Braintree to Wheelwright and back.

This year's hike included the dedication of a granite bench in memory of the land trust's long-time board member, Terry Briggs, who passed away in the fall of 2023. Briggs, a successful lawyer, lived in Hardwick with his wife

and two children.

"We wanted to acknowledge Terry Briggs, who was a board member...he was just a good guy," East Quabbin Land Trust Executive Director Cynthia Henshaw said.

Henshaw said she hopes the bench, which overlooks the Ware River near the Wheelwright pond dam along a recently completed section of the Mass Central Rail Trail, will provide people with a place to sit and enjoy the beauty of the area.

"Where people could come relax and just enjoy the rail trail," Henshaw said.

Stephen Brewer of Barre, who is also a board member of the land trust, said Briggs was a Renaissance man, and he remembered his last visit with him before his passing. He said Briggs always regretted not being able to ride around on the area's backroads in Brewer's Jeep.

After the bench was dedicated, Brewer said he would take to those backroads, carrying his memories of Briggs with him.

Henshaw gave an update about the Wheelwright pond dam removal

See HIKE, page 6

Selectmen hear updates about Fire/Highway project

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis said the board is trying to provide updates to residents about ongoing projects in town, including the Fire and Highway buildings project, by inviting those tasked with the project to present updates.

At the Dec. 30 meeting, he said the town is getting low on its contingency funds for the Fire and Highway project, due to extra needs at the former Huck's building on Donovan Road.

"There were some things that came up that seemed to be emergent," Petraitis said. "We had some issues with an oil tank being approved...I would like the people that are in charge of the project...to give us an update on where they think the project is and where they think it's going from here."

Petraitis said there is also a building renovation committee that is helping to oversee the project, and help work through problems as they arise.

Joining members of the North Brookfield Fire/DPW Renovation Committee were Project Leader Anthony DiLuzio of Colliers and Jeff McElravy and John Vitti of Tecton Architects.

DiLuzio said they are still in the beginning phase of the project, and that one of the biggest changes to impact spending on the project, was the loss of electrical installation services by students of Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School.

He said this change was the majority of the roughly \$160,000 change order.

DiLuzio said phase one of this project has also "uncovered all the skeletons," at the Huck's building, including the need to change the oil tank.

McElravy said there are always surprises with renovation projects, and he believes it will take careful management to complete and stay within range of the budget.

Petraitis said the "budget is what it is" as the town is at its borrowing limit for the project.

"We're going to have to find places to cut if that's necessary," he said. "We can find some places to save money."

Petraitis suggested the building renovation committee post a monthly Zoom meeting in conjunction with the contractor and architect's weekly meeting.

The building renovation committee will also look at meeting more frequently, and both the board and committee will work together to improve communication about decision making. At this time, the project is about five weeks behind schedule.

Aquatic invasive study
Through the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, the town will join East Brookfield, Spencer and West Brookfield in an aquatic invasives study of the Quabog River Valley. CMRPC has applied for a grant in the amount of \$28,000 to study

See NORTH BROOKFIELD, page 6



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News of the Towns



Round Town
Ellenor Downer
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Circle of Song rehearsals return Jan. 16
It is amazing how fast time flies when you are having fun singing together. But the spring session of Circle of Song will close out the 24th year with the beginning of the season on Thursday, Jan. 16, culminating with a concert on Saturday, May 17.

Rehearsals take place each Thursday night, from 7-8:30 pm at the Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange Street, Barre, MA. Annual dues range from \$25/year for students and includes a sliding scale of \$40-\$70 for adults. Circle of Song sings in 4-part harmony. The spring session with a program that is not totally firmed up, will include spirituals, madrigals, show tunes, and some newer music, with not only Julie Rawson directing, but also featuring Cailan McClure, Nancy Afonso, and perhaps others.

Circle of Song is particularly looking for baritones and sopranos at the moment, but always is happy to welcome new tenors and altos too. The chorus, generally numbering in the teens, has swelled to numbers in the 20s of late.

American Legion Auxiliary

American Legion Auxiliary Barre Unit 2 will not hold meetings in January and February. Their next meeting will be in March.

Meat Raffle

BarrePost 2 American Legion will be holding a meat raffle on Sunday Jan. 12 from 3-6 p.m. This is a great opportunity to pick up some quality meat and visit with neighbors. People may call 978-355-2730 if there are any questions.

Food Pantry distribution

The next Barre Food Pantry distribution will occur on Thursday, Jan. 16 from 5:30-7 p.m. In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients Jan. 16 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St. They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers at multiple stations. People should not arrive to volunteer on Thursday, Jan. 16 without first contacting Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921 or Chuck Radlo at 978-355-6463.

Barre Winter Market

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

Barre Dining Center

BARRE — Elder Services of Worcester Area Nutrition Program welcomes guests to dine at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road. The following meals will be served for the week of Jan. 13. 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 – Pork rib-i-que with barbecue sauce, mac 'n cheese, green beans, Mandarin oranges, sandwich roll

TUESDAY – Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, Scandinavian vegetables, chocolate mousse, marble rye bread

WEDNESDAY – Chicken cacciatore, Gemelli pasta, roasted cauliflower, brownie, diet = half brownie, Italian bread

THURSDAY – Sloppy Joe, potato wedges, mixed vegetables, apple crisp, diet = applesauce, sandwich roll

FRIDAY – Braised beef, rice pilaf, broccoli, fresh fruit, marble rye bread

*Higher sodium entree Meal includes milk and margarine. Menus are subject to change. All meals are served at about 11:45 a.m. each week-day. 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.

Group hike to Flint Rock



Submitted photo

Aaron Langlois lead this group on a three-mile hike to Sampson's Pebble also known as Flint Rock in Oakham on Saturday, Jan. 4.

OAKHAM – 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 resched-

uled due to rainy weather.

It was a great way to see beautiful open space, get exercise and meet friends and neighbors. Another hike is planned for Saturday, Feb. 1 beginning at 10 a.m. to Long Pond and Long Pond Shelter in Rutland. There is a link on the Oakham, MA Facebook page to record attendance.

Hubbardston

Ellenor Downer
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Annual Report photo contest deadline Jan. 30
Attention Hubbardston photographers there is a photo contest to feature images in the 2024 Annual Town Report.

This is your chance to shine and highlight the unique charm, beauty, and spirit of our town through your lens. Hubbardston photos of a breathtaking sunrise, a festive community gathering or a peaceful snowy scene or what makes Hubbardston special to you are welcome. The deadline to submit photos is Thursday, Jan. 30. Your photo could be the centerpiece of this year's report. People should visit <https://forms.gle/eZJvg17psX1bHjiE7> for a form to accompany the photo.

Sen. Durant representative

The representative from Senator Peter Durant's office will be at the Hubbardston Senior Center on Monday, Jan. 13 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. This is an opportunity to bring questions or concerns to Sen. Durant's attention.

Taxes due

Real Estate taxes are due Monday, Feb. 3.

Senior Center

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

Town Clerk announces nomination papers available

BARRE – Nomination papers for the town of Barre's April 7 Annual Town Election will be available from the Town Clerk's Office located at 40 West Street beginning Thursday, Jan. 9 at 9 a.m.

Positions on the ballot and current holders are: Select Board Member for three years – John David Dixon, 460 Worcester Road; Moderator for three years – Joshua Edward Smith, 80 Pleasant St.; Town Clerk for three years – Ellen M. Glidden, 637 Cutler Road and three positions Constables for three years – Joseph Thomas Jalbert, 147 Valley Road; Michael A. LaRose, 196 Mechanic St. and Dennis G. Fleming, 140 Valley Road.

Other positions are: Board of Assessors for three years – Christopher J. Jenkins, 788 Dana Road;

Board of Health for three years – Anthony F. Mobilio, 414 North Brookfield Road; Water Commissioner for three years – Ronald C. Higgins, 101 Debra Lane; Sewer Commissioner for three years – Matthew Richard LaPointe, 76 Union St.; Barre Housing Authority Member for five years – Suzanne M. Person, 951 Wauwinet Road; Felton Field Commissioner for three years – Margaret N. Petracone, 600 West St. and two positions Library Trustees for three years – Martha Lee Pearson, 320 Oakham Road and Lisa Marselle, 100 Pleasant St.

Other position are: Planning Board Member for five years – Karen Jean Keegan, 168 Main St.; Planning Board Associate Member for one year – Michael A. LaRose, 196 Mechanic St. and two positions Quabbin Regional School Committee Members for three years – Richard Gordon Allan, 549 Springhill Road and Mark Thomas Brophy, 90 Ruggles Lane.

All papers must be returned back for certification by the Board of Registrars on Monday, Feb. 17 no later than 5 p.m.

Candlelight vigil for Brittany Tee on Jan. 10

BROOKFIELD – There will be a candlelight vigil for missing resident Brittany Tee on Friday, Jan. 10 at 6 p.m. at Brookfield Congregational Church, 8 Common St.

Please join Brittany's family as they work to keep the search for Brittany alive and to support them as they grieve the passage of a second year without her.

Brittany Tee went missing on Jan. 10, 2023, from the town of Brookfield. Despite extensive investigation and searching (and exhaustive efforts on the part of Brittany's family and friends), Brittany's whereabouts remain unknown.

Brittany has brown hair, blue eyes and a distinctive voice and laugh. If you have any information regarding her disappearance, please call the tip lines at 508-453-7589 (State Police) or 866-331-6660 (Private Investigator).



Submitted photo

Shown from left are Chuck Radlo, Dennis Fleming, William King, David Petrovic, Paul Cranston, Leo McCaffrey and Gregory Devine. St. Cleophas, Knights of Columbus donated to Barre Food Pantry.

St. Cleophas Knights of Columbus raises money for the Barre Food Pantry

BARRE – Since 2018, with the exception of a COVID year, the St. Cleophas Knights of Columbus Council has participated in the "Fill The Pantry" Golf Tournament to benefit the local food pantries in Barre, Rutland and Holden.

For the past several years, the event has been held at Quail Hollow Golf and Country Club, which has been a very generous host. This past year, over 100 golfers participated in this very successful tournament. In addition to the funds raised from the golfers, many area business donated items to the always outstanding raffle.

Additionally, a vast number of local businesses supported the cause by purchasing a "sponsor a hole sign" for \$100. Those local businesses included: J.C. Pools; Seven Hills Foundation; Cranston & Cranston, P; Athol Savings Bank; Barre Opticians; Broberg Insurance; Brookside Equipment Sales; Bull God Land Care, Inc.; C&C Pool; Caruso Construction Corp.; Cherie Benoit Realtor; E.P. Wine, Inc.; Lindley & Farber Attorneys at Law; Fidelity Bank; Goodwin Builders; Hamshaw Lumber, Inc.; Healy Brothers Insurance Agency; Higgins Powersports; Higgins Energy; J.C. Pools, Inc.; Lamoureux Ford; Landry & Melius, LLP; Leo and Judith McCaffrey; Margaret Cusson;

Robert A. Rapisarda, D.M.D.; R.J. McDonald, Inc.; Salvatore Dodge Ram; St. Cleophas Knights of Columbus Council; Turley Publications; Wholesome Farmers Market,; W.R. Robinson Lumber Co., Inc. and White Valley Motors Inc.

As a result of all the generous donations, the tournament was able to net \$24,000, which allowed each of the food pantries to receive \$8,000. Since the inception of the tournament, \$110,000 has been raised and distributed to the local pantries. St. Cleophas Council would like to sincerely thank all those who participated and they look forward to another successful tournament is 2025.

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Glenda's

Saturday, January 11 ~ 7pm-12am
Brother Earl
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Wednesday Nights ~ 7pm-10pm
Mix Tape Music Bingo/Prizes!

Friday Nights ~ 8pm-11pm
Karaoke

Upcoming Events
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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

Barre Housing Authority – Jan. 9 at 1 p.m.
 Quabbin Regional School District Committee – Jan. 9 at 6:30 p.m.
 Select Board – Jan. 9 at 6:30 p.m. and Jan. 21 at 4 p.m.
 Board of Health – Jan. 13, at 5 p.m.
 Water Commission – Jan. 13 at 6:30 p.m.
 DPW Commission – Jan. 13 at 7 p.m.
 Conservation Committee – Jan. 14 at 7 p.m.
 250th Anniversary Committee – Jan. 15 at 6:30 p.m.
 Sewer Commission – Jan. 16 at 7 p.m.
 Cemetery Commission – Jan. 23 at 11 a.m.
 Council on Aging – Feb. 5 at 12:30 p.m.
 Cable Advisory Council – Feb. 11 at 7 p.m.

HARDWICK

Historical Commission – Jan. 9 at 7 p.m.
 Planning Board – Jan. 14 at 6:30 p.m.
 Master Plan Steering Committee – Jan. 9 at 6:30 p.m.
 Planning Board – Jan. 14 at 6:30 p.m.
 Board of Health – Jan. 14 at 6:45 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – Jan. 15 at 6:30 p.m.
 Select Board – Jan. 21 at 5:30 p.m.
 Gilbertville Water District – Jan. 21 at 5:30 p.m.
 Finance Committee – Jan. 21 at 5:30 p.m.
 Capital Planning Committee – Jan. 28 and March 17 at 3 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Feb. 5 at 12:30 p.m.
 Paige Library Trustees – Feb. 6 at 7 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Agricultural Commission – Jan. 9 at 7 p.m.
 Library Trustees – Jan. 9 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Jan. 21 at 4 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Fire/Highway Building Committee – Jan. 9 at 4 p.m.
 Parks and Rec – Jan. 9 at 5 P.M.
 Finance Committee – Jan. 9 at 6 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Jan. 13 at 2 p.m.
 Board of Selectmen – Jan. 14 and Jan. 28 at 6 p.m.
 Capital Improvement Planning – Jan. 15 at 6 p.m.

OAKHAM

Board of Health – Jan. 9 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Jan. 10 and Feb. 14 at noon
 Library Trustees – Jan. 16 at 5 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Board of Health – Jan. 9 at 6 p.m.
 Zoning Board of Appeals – Jan. 9 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Jan. 13 at 10 a.m.
 Cemetery Commission – Jan. 14 at 10 a.m.
 Select Board – Jan. 16, Jan. 30, Feb. 13, Feb. 20 and Feb. 27 at 5:30 p.m.
 Petersham Historic District – Jan. 16 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – Jan. 17 at 9 a.m.

RUTLAND

Bylaw Committee – Jan. 9 at 7 p.m.
 Capital Improvement Planning Committee – Jan. 9 at 6 p.m.
 Economic Development Commission – Jan. 15 at 7 p.m.
 Library Trustees – Jan. 14 at 7 p.m.
 Planning Board Public Hearing – Jan. 14 at 6:30 p.m.
 Select Board Public Hearing – Jan. 21 at 6 p.m.

Food Pantry holds monthly distributions

BARRE – The next Barre Food Pantry distribution will occur on Thursday, Jan. 16 from 5:30-7 p.m.

The Barre Food Pantry volunteers strive to continue to fulfill their mission to get food to hungry and food insecure clients. The Barre Food Pantry Board of Directors considered changing how the pantry currently operates, but decided that the most responsible path forward is to continue to operate as we have since March of 2020.

In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients Jan.16 will again be “drive-through” style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St. They will remain in their cars. They’ll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers at multiple stations.

Based on the success of distributions so far, the Food Pantry volunteers believe this “drive-through” style is the safest possible way to get food to clients and to help keep everyone well. People should not arrive to volunteer on Thursday, Jan. 16 without first contacting Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921 or Chuck Radlo at 978-355-6463.

Because conditions have been changing rapidly, clients should continue to check for updates on the Barre Food Pantry website by visiting <http://www.barrefoodpantry.org/index.htm> and the Barre Food Pantry Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Barre-Food-Pantry-100156068300314/>.

Paige Memorial Library list events

HARDWICK – There is much to celebrate in the beautiful historic town and villages of Hardwick.

The Paige Memorial Library building will be 120 years old, but the libraries in Hardwick were organized before 1905. The library plans for a year of activities and opportunities to tell the history of the people, who lived here from the 1800s to the present.

If people have a family story or an idea for a program or want to be part of the planning and the fun, they should call 413-477-6704, email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com or stop into the library located at 87 Petersham Road. The Paige Memorial Library is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-7 p.m., Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Knitting for adults with Pam

Hinckley returns to the Paige Library on Saturdays, Jan. 11, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, Feb. 8, Feb. 15, March 1, March 8, March 15 and March 22 from 11 a.m.-noon. Sessions are open to any and all, who want to knit. People should bring their projects. People may call Pam at 477-6004 or email pahinckley@gmail.com with questions.

On Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 5:30 p.m. the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center and Council on Aging will be at the Paige Library to roll out “Stronger Together,” a year-long program that aims to be educational, fun and engaging. “Stronger Together” will offer opportunities for learning, social media engagement, discussions, self-assessments, challenges, games, presentations and valuable resources. People may call the Paige Library at 413-477-6704 to register or the Senior Center at 978-355-5004

for more information. People can also follow “Barre MA Senior Center” on Facebook and access the Newsletter, The Silver Spirit, online at townofbarre.com/coa.

On Saturday, Jan. 18 at 11 a.m. meet David Payne, the author of “Breakfast & Other Journeys We Take.” His nine contemporary realism stories will inspire people to realize how important small experiences really are and that every day is a journey, of consequence or not is up to them. David Payne is a father, writer and streamer who writes each day both for accountability and inspiration for others. David Payne’s mission is to capture and share the raw emotion found in common experiences with his unique writing style.

For more information or to register, people may call 413-477-6704 or email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com.

St. Aloysius Catholic School starts Annual Fund Drive

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School in Gilbertville is the recipient of a pledge of \$40,000 in matching funds toward the school’s 2025/2026 Annual Fund Drive.

The benefactor, who wishes to remain anonymous, has supported the school with matching gifts since its inception in 2016. The Annual Fund Drive runs now through March 30.

Last year, the school’s Scholarship Drive raised just over \$48,000 including matching funds. The scholarship monies reduced the tuition for each of the school’s students by about \$450 and created a crisis fund for families finding themselves in financial difficulty.

Likewise, donations from foundations also assist families with tuition payments. The School Board implemented the Annual Fund in place of the



Scholarship Drive to be able to diversify the use of the money, and thereby keep tuition affordable for families.

“The cost of nearly everything it takes to run a school has increased, from utilities to insurance, to books and salaries. It is no small feat to make ends meet. We are so entirely grateful for those who support our mission,” said Roberta McQuaid, finance manager and enrollment coordinator for the school. “Catholic Schools

provide a foundation of faith for the students we serve, and their families benefit too. As well, our students work hard academically and contribute to the local community. When they leave St. Aloysius for high school they are prepared to meet the challenges that lie ahead. It’s a worthwhile goal to try and keep our tuitions prices stable so that families can continue to afford a private, Catholic education.”

For more information about St. Aloysius Catholic School or to make a tax deductible donation that will be matched dollar for dollar to the Annual Fund please visit www.staloyuscs.com/support/.

Donations can also be mailed to St. Aloysius Catholic School, P.O. Box 522, Gilbertville, MA 01031, noting “Annual Fund” on the memo line.

Supporting Orphans Nationally and Globally does just that

By Richard Murphy
 Correspondent

WEST BROOKFIELD – On Jan. 4 at Father Dugan Hall in Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church the greater world came to the quiet town of West Brookfield.

Two men would speak of places far away from the Quaboag region where peace does not reign.

First up would be Wally Connor. Wally and his wife Michele founded S.O.N.G. which stands for Supporting Orphans Nationally and Globally. It is not an easy job as recent world history means there is no dearth of children in our world who are without parents.

Wally, with Michele founded Socks for Siberia in the late 1990s when on a visit they observed the plight of youngsters without parents and did something about it. Siberia is not the only place in the world where not all children have moms and dads, so the work grew into S.O.N.G.

Wally would be speaking about a situation that has been in the news since 2022. The Ukraine War, like almost all armed conflicts, has seen the destruction of families, and thus, many orphaned children.

The orphans can further be victimized by being trafficked. The practice is rampant.

Wally related how at the border children can be gathered up by those wearing genuine seeming uniforms and presenting themselves as officials.

S.O.N.G. is doing vital work in getting the orphans to Poland and safe havens.

Wally related how S.O.N.G. teamed up with Aerial Recovery Group volunteers traveling to the border Ukraine shares with Poland and working to carry out orphan rescue missions inside Ukraine and bring the orphans and unaccompanied children to safe havens.

S.O.N.G.’s recent collection drive for



A child is shown with Razai (winter blanket) and candy distributed at Christmas time by volunteers from Supporting Orphans Nationally and Globally.



Another child is shown with items he received through S.O.N.G.

medicine filled suitcases provided much in the way of medical supplies including insulin to treat children with diabetes.

The supplies were transported to hospitals in Lviv and Kharkiv by the Ukrainian contact. The supplies were received with heartwarming gratitude.

Wally was fulsome in his praise of a couple of wonderful ladies involved in the effort, Helena and Olya.

He also shared pictures of the playground that S.O.N.G. put together for the children as there is not too much recreation available otherwise.

There were also pictures of the beautiful church architecture of Poland and Ukraine.

We should all be hoping that peace will happen in the new year, but it is wonderful that Supporting Orphans Nationally and Globally is there.

Part two of the afternoon concerned

gious discrimination, and Christians are often accused of blasphemy in the majority Muslim nation.

It was pointed out that not all Muslims are extreme and some are supportive of fellow citizens, but the accusations do exist.

S.O.S. Pakistan, which is S.O.N.G.’s Orphan Support Program in Pakistan has a mission to provide orphaned children needed food, shelter, water, clothing, and educational opportunities to give them a chance of a better life in their future.

S.O.S. Pakistan supports educational programs, serves food and there is material aid that we, in this country would find hard to comprehend the need.

In the extreme heat of summer in Pakistan, water coolers provide a way to keep orphans hydrated. Water coolers are distributed to the orphans and the foster families. Not all of us have the luxury of just turning on the tap.

Earning a living can be a problem for the orphans and foster families. Providing them with sewing machines and training allows them to earn income.

The many programs that S.O.S. Pakistan operates are of wonderful value to the community served, as is the work in Ukraine.

One can learn more about the programs, there is a website, <https://www.supportingorphans.org> that is well worth visiting.

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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

Letter to the Editor

Holiday decorations on common looks great

I live on Wheelwright Road in Barre and as I walk my dog every morning by the south common across from the Village Market I have been totally amazed at the beautiful job they have done in decorating that common for the Christmas season.

With three very artistic displays "one at each corner" and more around the perimeter, It doesn't matter which direction you are traveling by from, you are sure to be enlightened. All this along with the new flag pole, park benches, and landscaping by Gliddens, makes for a very pleasing area to have in my neighborhood.

A big thank you to everyone involved. From not only me, but all the children and townspeople who pass by every day.

Sincerely,
Paul Gardner

Guest Column



I use only VA healthcare; can I get back Medicare taxes paid?

Dear Rusty

I'm 72 years old with 20 years of military service. I am retired collecting Social Security, my military pension and State retirement benefits. According to my SSA statement, over my working lifetime I paid \$14,302 into Medicare, but I never used that medical plan. I only bring in \$33,000 in annual income. Can I get those Medicare taxes back somehow? I've run into dead ends at SSA, Medicare and IRS websites.

Signed Veteran Seeking Answers

Dear Veteran Seeking Answers

First, I want to thank you for your military service to our country. You may find the "For Veterans" section of our www.amacfoundation.org website of interest.

Regarding the contributions you have made over the years to federal Medicare, I'm afraid you cannot get any of those taxes back even though you have never used Medicare healthcare services. That's because Medicare, like Social Security, is a "pay as you go" program where all contributions received from workers are used to pay for benefits for current beneficiaries; contributions aren't put into a separate account to pay for your coverage.

It's also important to know that your Medicare taxes were used only to fund Medicare Part A, which is coverage for inpatient hospitalization services. Those contributions via payroll taxes did not entitle you to outpatient healthcare services, as provided by Medicare Part B, for which there is a monthly premium.

FYI, you must be enrolled in Medicare Part A to collect Social Security benefits after age 65. Medicare Part B isn't mandatory to collect Social Security, but assuming that, as a retired military veteran, you now receive healthcare benefits under the military's TriCare-for-Life program for retired veterans, you must be enrolled in Medicare Part A and Part B to maintain your TriCare-for-Life coverage.

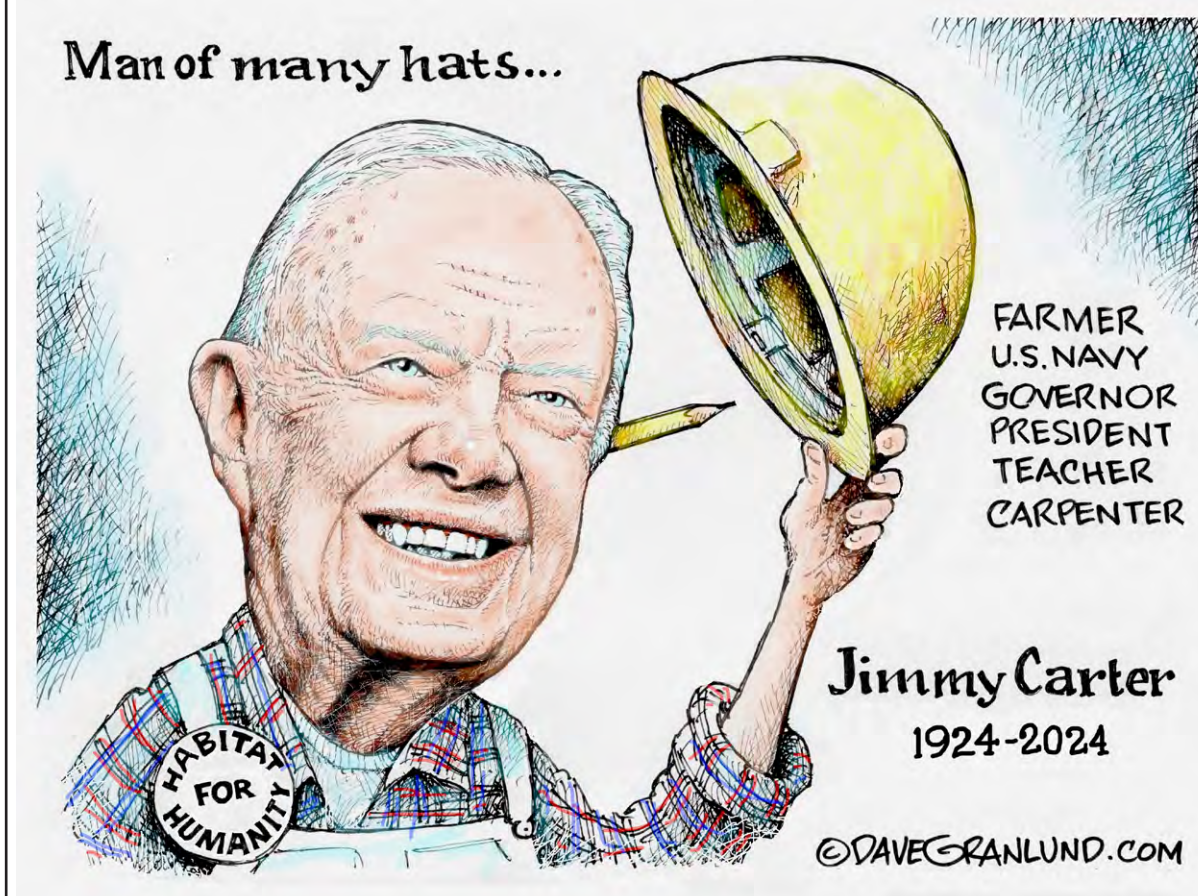
Your military TriCare coverage coordinates with Medicare to pay for your healthcare costs. Thus, even though it may not be transparent to you, you may be benefiting from your current enrollment in Medicare.

Note that some non-career veterans can use VA healthcare services based on their service years instead of TriCare-for-Life for retired military veterans. Non-career recipients of standard VA healthcare services are not required to be enrolled in Medicare but, in any case, cannot receive their past Medicare Part A contributions back if they choose to decline Medicare. You may have interest in this article I previously published on the topic of VA benefits versus Medicare: www.socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-i-have-va-coverage-should-i-get-medicare-part-b/

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

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BARRE, MA
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Man of many hats...



Guest Column

Firetruck requires Jan. 18 special election vote

By Fire Chief Joshua Pease
Hardwick Fire Department

To the residents of Hardwick, The Hardwick Fire Department would like to thank the residents for their overwhelming support at the Special Town Meeting for the purchase of a new firetruck to improve the safety of the community and the firefighters.

This truck will be of benefit to the Town by improving life safety capabilities, increasing firefighter safety and operational capability, and reducing yearly maintenance costs. I would like to start by explaining some of the current issues with apparatus and give a summary of the department.

Department overview

The Hardwick Fire Department is an all-hazards response department, consisting of 18 paid on-call members, and provides 24/7 emergency response to the citizens of Hardwick. The Department responds to an average 130 calls for service per year, however in 2024 alone we saw an approximately 22% increase in calls for service.

Members train weekly on Wednesday nights, by in house, certified fire instructors based on the NFPA Firefighter I/II curriculum and Massachusetts Fire Academy guidelines. Members of the Department train weekly on a volunteer basis and are only paid for required yearly training.

Also, the department operates with two Engines, a Tanker, a Forestry truck and one command vehicle.

Current fleet

The Engine we are looking to replace is a 1987 Peirce Arrow, open cab. An Engine defined by FEMA is an apparatus with a pump capacity of more than 1000 gallons of water per minute, and a water tank capacity of more than 400 GPM. Engine 1 is currently capable of 1,500 GPM and has a 1,000 gallon water tank.

Engine 1 can hold five firefighters on the way to an incident. It is currently equipped with one 35-foot, one 16-foot and one 6-foot ground ladder.

Engine 1 also requires a generator to run scene lights during fire and emergency incidents during night incidents. The National Fire Protection Agency recommends that Fire apparatus be replaced every 25 years from date of manufacture. Engine 1 is not equipped with modern day safety belts and equipment such as anti-lock brakes, traction control, or modern-day emissions controls.

The rest of our fleet is also ageing considerably. Engine 2, a 1998 HME custom, with a pump capacity of 1,500 GPM and a water capacity of 1,000 gallons, has cost the town of Hardwick approximately \$20,000 over the last four years in emergency repairs.

Six Firefighters can be transported to an incident in Engine 2. Engine 2 is currently the first fire apparatus that leaves the station on a call for service. It houses our "Jaws of Life" auto accident equipment, scene lights, extra air packs for firefighting, generators, hoses and couplings, and victim and firefighter lifesaving tools and equipment.

I would like to note that while Engine 2 has more modern safety control than Engine 1, it is still 26 years old. This engine is on the response team for the State Fire District 8 Structural Firefighting Task Force and frequently goes mutual aid to surrounding communities during large scale incidents. Engine 2 was purchased by the tax payer in 1998.

Tanker 1, a 2006 Mack Granite with a 1,500 GPM pump and 3,500-gallon tank, can transport three firefighters to an incident. This truck is used to trans-

See FIRE CHIEF, page 6

In Past Pages

5 years (Jan. 16, 2000)

Music has always meant a lot to the Nahkala family of Oakham. Although, not professional musicians, father Jeff is a business owner, son JAKE is a firefighter at Logan Airport in Boston and daughter Jane now lives in Colorado and works in the food industry. Time spent playing their instruments while each attending Quabbin Regional High School in Barre has made a lasting impression. Last weekend the Nahkala trio joined close to 50 other musicians for the eighth annual QRHS Alumni Band, performing a concert to the public Sunday afternoon in the high school auditorium.

Town employees will host an open house for Andrew Golas, Town Administrator, Wednesday, Jan. 22 from 1-5 p.m. in the Henry Woods Building, 40 West St., on the second floor. Snow date is Thursday, Jan. 23. Town residents are invited to attend. Golas took a position as Town Administrator for the town of Charlton. He starts as Charlton's Town Administrator Monday, Feb. 3.

Cradle Rock Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star is hosting a designer pancake breakfast Saturday, Jan. 18 from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Mt. Zion Lodge Hall, 71 Pleasant St., Barre. The cost is \$9 adults and \$5 for children 10 and under. Full breakfast includes designer pancakes, sausage gravy with biscuits, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, juice and coffee. It is all you can eat. All are welcome.

10 years (Jan. 15, 2015)

This past spring break, Chinese language students from Quabbin Regional High School went on a tour of to China, visiting the cities of Beijing, Xian and Shanghai. The following students took part: Jon Alger, Alanya Morin, Spencer O'Riley, Nicole Paterson, Anthony Pellegrino, Lucy Scotland and Jacob Subik. Quabbin High School teachers, Diane Sammons (Chinese, retired fall 2014) and William Simons (art) chaperoned. The trip began in the capital city, Beijing. Students also had opportunities to meet with local residents in their homes, participate in Tai Chi and Chinese calligraphy lessons and other activities.

Dorothy Holmes tried last year to celebrate Epiphany, "Little Christmas" or Three Kings Day at the Oakham Congregational Church. It is recognized as the day the Three Magi or Kings arrived with gifts for Baby Jesus. However, because the planned event last year was during the week, it was not convenient for most people. This year she decided to hold the event following the Sunday, Jan. 11 worship service rather than on the actual day, Tuesday, Jan. 6. Most people stayed for this family friendly event that included a potluck luncheon, games and a pinata for the children. People brought all kinds of food to share. One of the highlights was the crowning of the King or Queen of the Bean. Gail Pryce was the lucky person that

LOOK BACK Awed by Miniature Village – 1996



File photo
C. J. Sabine and Sam Cobb of Barre point to their favorite parts of a winter village at Stevens Farm Bed and Breakfast in Barre. The boys were awed by the spectacular scene.

found the bean in her piece of cake. She wore a crown and purple robe and held court.

With the re-opening of the Petersham Country Store in 2014, the Petersham Historical Society will offer a time for the residents friends of the community to come together in the warmth and hospitality of the store to tell the town's stories and share personal life tales. The Historical Society, under the guidance of their longtime program director and local historian Larry Buell, will present "Third Thursday of the Month: Talking History at the Country Store" on Thursday, Jan. 15 from 4-5:30 p.m.

25 years (Jan. 20, 2000)

The Richard Dickman family lost their house on Crawford Road to fire on Sunday, Jan. 16. The fire was reported to the Oakham Fire Department at 5:58 a.m. Richard Dickman, his wife and two children escaped through a rear window and drove to a nearby convenience store to report the fire. The two-story house and all its contents were lost in the fire. The Central Massachusetts Chapter of the American Red Cross helping the family with clothing and the family will be living with relatives temporarily according to Fire Chief Richard B. Howe. Howe said about 30 firefighters responded to the fire. A pumper and rescue truck responded to the scene from Barre under mutual aid and a pumper from Rutland covered the Oakham station during the fire.

The Band of Voices, a com-

munity singing group that holds rehearsals at the Barre Town Hall wants a new piano. Julie Rawson, representing the group, met with Barre Selectmen Tuesday night to seek their input on holding a fundraiser to replace the piano in the Town Hall. Rawson said the 1890 McPhail piano has been professionally tuned, but is still not a good piano to use even for practice. Rawson said the Band of Voices would like to hold a fundraiser to buy a good piano that would remain at the town hall for this group and any others meeting there to us.

Sen. Stephen Brewer and Rep. David Tuttle have received notification from the Massachusetts Historical Commission that adds that commission's approval to the demolition of buildings at 20 and 22 Coldbrook Road in Oakham provided that certain conditions are met. The agreement between the town of Oakham and the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Massachusetts Historical Commission provides the approval from approval from the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Because the properties lie within the historic district in Oakham, the state Historical Commission adds to this approval the buildings slated for demolition be photographed for the record and the Commission be granted the opportunity to review plans of development for the site.

See PAST PAGES, page 6

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources. Send letters to: Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005 or via email to edowner@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

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Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

Have you been remembering to write the new year?
So far I have even though some days I can't remember what day it is. We lost our power for over four hours the other day and I had to reset the phone and the stove clocks.

I usually check the alarm clock each morning before getting out of bed to make sure it is not too early to get up. I usually get up at 5 a.m. and go to bed for 9 p.m. I could not see the clock so I said oh oh no power and I was right. I guess a tree fell on Ragged Hill Road. Luckily I keep a flashlight next to my bed as it was still very dark.

I managed to get dressed and go down stairs to get the battery lantern. I have two of them and they light up a whole room. I decided there and then that I was going to order another one as soon as the power went back on.

The next problem was to call the electric company. None of the portable phones will work but we do have a wall phone that is direct line. The problem is you can't hold the lantern and dial the phone at the same time so I took the phone off the wall and put it on the desk. I knew we were not the only one without power as our neighbors have one of those pole lights and it was not on.

After four hours the power came back on, but I threw an extra quilt on Ken and I put on my jacket as it was getting rather cold in the house. I called my other neighbor a while later to see how she made out and she asked me why? She said she stayed in bed. I guess I should of.

Anyway thank goodness for electricity. How did they do without it?

I made chicken wings, chicken soup, venison chili and imitation crabmeat and potato salad this week.

This is the recipe I plan to make this week with chicken thighs, butternut squash and cauliflower I happen to have. Quite often I throw a batch of chicken thighs and a variety of vegetables on a cookie sheet with a can of chicken soup and bake it for an hour. It is an easy meal and tasty.

SHEET PAN CHICKEN THIGHS WITH BUTTERNUT SQUASH AND CAULIFLOWER

8 skin on, bone in chicken thighs
3 tablespoons olive oil

2 teaspoons kosher salt
1/2 teaspoon black pepper
2 cups cubed and peeled butternut squash

6 cups cauliflower florets
1 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
1 teaspoon ground coriander
1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Put the chicken on a cookie sheet and drizzle 1 teaspoon of olive oil on chicken and rub in and sprinkle with salt and pepper. You may line the two baking sheets with foil. On the other baking sheet place the vegetables and toss with the remaining olive oil. and spices.

Put the chicken on the middle oven rack and the veggies on the lower rack. Bake for about 40 to 45 minutes. Stir the veggies half way through the baking.

This and That

I have been doing several projects that needed to be attended to this week. One was to label all our keys as to what they go to and get rid of those we do not need any more. I have found several truck and car keys that we do not own now.

The other project was to make sure our medical records were up to date and the thing we keep on the refrigerator is up to date. Some medical issues have changed including a primary care doctor. It is important to keep these up to date. In fact I had to call the pharmacy to make sure they knew the change. I remember when I went to the hospital via an ambulance the first thing the ambulance attendants did was to find the information on the refrigerator.

Make it a New Year's resolution to check on yours.

Another New Year's resolution was to clean up my office. It is a mess.

We are too old to stay up to see the New Year in, but we hope others had a nice new year. So far we have had cold weather, but not much snow and I am glad of that. I went to put the garbage in the compost and could not remove the cover. I may have to pour hot water on it. We are still like living where the weather is not too hot.

Flocks of robins

In my travels last week, I saw flocks of robins on three occasions, twice in Barre and once in Oakham. The Oakham flock flew across the road and landed on the ground and in trees on the opposite side. The Brimfield resident reported his wife saw a flock of robins in the center of Brimfield eating crab apples near the post office twice in recent days. Christmas Bird Count

The Brimfield couple participated in the annual Christmas Bird Count in Ludlow. He said, "We had 31 species in Ludlow, lots fewer birds at the reservoir because there was about 90% ice coverage [Saturday] compared to 10% Friday."

Suet cakes

I put out my suet feeder last month. I waited long enough because I did not have a bear either break or run off with the feeder. The birds are busy eating suet especially during this cold weather.

New Hampshire Loon Preservation Committee

The New Hampshire Loon Preservation Committee reported in 2024 they surveyed 498 occupied or potential loon territories on 327 lakes to assess presence/absence and breeding success of loons and the success of LPC's management to help them. They documented the presence of 359 loon pairs and 126 unpaired adult loons. They also floated a record 156 nest rafts to help loon pairs displaced from their traditional nest sites by shoreline development, recreational lake use and water level fluctuations. They also installed signs and rope lines at 135 nesting loon pair locations.

They banded 57 loons and rescued 38 loons in distress and a result of illness or injury. The Loon Preservation Committee continued to expand their lead tackle buyback program. Ingestion of lost lead tackle by fisherman remained the cause of lead poisoning in the loon population. There were six documented deaths due to lead poisoning, two loon deaths from trauma due to boat strikes and two loon deaths due to entanglement in fishing gear in 2024.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



The library was ready to toast in the new year during North Brookfield's First Night Out on Dec. 31.



Trivia was taking place inside the Town Offices.

FIRST NIGHT, continued from page 1

is Carolyn Romano, whose store offers many beautiful items year-round.

"We have beautiful things for people to bring into their own homes," Romano said.

From gifts that honor ancestors and home décor, Shaman's Closet Vintage Gift Shop has carefully curated items seek new homes where their presence uplifts your spirits.

Across the street, Jars Café was opened and had a lot of goodies for sale during the First Night Out. In addition to treats, the café had a guessing game going on where guests try to guess the number of beans in a jar. The closest guest would receive a \$50 gift certificate. The café was also handing out candy canes during the First Night Out.

For live music, the newly named First Night Band consisting of several local musicians were performing in front of the First Congregational Church. The church also provided snacks while guests got to tour an art show featuring work from many creative and local artists.



The First Night Band performing outside the First Congregational Church to celebrate First Night Out during New Year's Eve

With many anniversaries being celebrated simultaneously with First Night Out, the church has reached an incredible milestone. The building hosting the art show is 202 years old. Sharing information about this

historical milestone was Nancy Waldron and Pastor Joe Shea.

North Brookfield's First Night Out was a fun finale for the town and its residents as 2025 arrived.



A photo display could be seen inside the Town Office for a scavenger hunt and featured people, buildings and other items of historical significance around the downtown area of North Brookfield.



Best friends Dallas Berard and Violet Walsh posed for photos to celebrate the new year at the Haston Free Public Library.

By Ellenor Downer

Carolina wren



A Brimfield resident sent me a list of birds on Jan. 2 he saw in his yard.

On the list was a Carolina wren. He said in the email, "[The Carolina wren was] foraging in the leaves under shrubs and has been seen at the feeders more frequently recently."

The Carolina wren is six inches long and has brown feathers above with buff below. It has a distinct white eyebrow and white barring in the tail area. It often holds its tail in an upward position.

The female lays four to eight creamy or pink white eggs with brown marks in a nest of mosses, twigs, rootlets, bark and sometimes snakeskins lined with finer materials. They nest in tree holes and many other locations; they will use bird-houses.

The Carolina wren expanded its range into the northeast especially with the milder winters. There song is a loud, repeated "tea kettle, tea kettle, tea kettle." They inhabit forest understory, vines and woodlands in rural or suburban areas.

Other Brimfield birds

Other birds seen by the Brimfield resident beside the Carolina wren were four mourning doves, 20 American robins, 12 dark eyed juncos, one white-throated sparrow and two Northern cardinals. He said of the robins, "I first noticed one bird on the ground in the yard and 3 in a crab apple tree eating fruit. More flew into the tree then four on the ground foraging. More perched in a nearby tree." He also said, "We have ten crab apple trees in the yard and several of them have small fruit that is held on the tree into the winter."

Corrections policy

The Barre Gazette will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2. To request a correction, send information to Editor Ellenor Downer at barrenews@turley.com or call 978-355-4000. Corrections may also be requested in writing at Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

You are cordially invited to a special screening of the film "Taking Care"



TAKING CARE

THE LEGACIES WE'LL ACCEPT, AND THOSE WE WON'T

Taking Care is a 38-minute documentary that follows Seth Rogen and Lauren Miller Rogen as they face the challenges of Lauren's mother's early-onset Alzheimer's disease. Directed by award-winning filmmaker James Keach, the film captures the Rogen's unique blend of humor and honesty as they navigate the challenges of caregiving.

By sharing their story, Lauren, Seth, and their families turn grief into action and let the millions caring for loved ones with the disease know that they are not alone.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16TH at 5:00PM

LIGHT SUPPER WILL BE SERVED



Scan the QR Code to watch the trailer

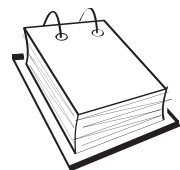
Seating is limited. RSVP by Jan. 13th to Mary at 413-758-5377.

Cedarbrook Village at Ware

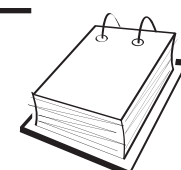
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Calendar of Events



THURSDAY, JAN. 9

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

SATURDAY, JAN. 11

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

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

SUNDAY, JAN. 12

MEAT RAFFLE sponsored by Barre Post 2 American Legion will take place today from 3-6 p.m. at post quarters, 450 South Barre Road, Barre. This is a great opportunity to pick up some quality meat and visit with neighbors. People may call 978-355-2730 if there are any questions.

THURSDAY, JAN. 16

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

Where is this?



This week's mystery photo is from Oakham. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, Jan. 13. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in the following edition. Bill Bowles, Peggy Civilik, Stephen Craven, Evelyn Luukko and Cheryl Paul correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was of the U.S. Post Office, Route 67, in North Brookfield.

Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

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.

CIRCLE OF SONG REHEARSALS begin today from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange St., Barre. They meet Thursday nights and the season culminates with a concert on Saturday, May 17. Annual dues range from \$25/year for students and includes a sliding scale of \$40-\$70 for adults. Circle of Song sings in 4-part harmony. Many members, recently interviewed usually said one of two things about why they keep coming back. "I like the way you challenge us musically," and "I enjoy the community of fun people." The spring session with a program that is not totally firmed up, will include spirituals, madrigals, show tunes and some newer music, with not only Julie Rawson directing, but also featuring Cailan McClure, Nancy Afonso and perhaps others. Circle of Song is particularly looking for baritones and sopranos at the moment, but always is happy to welcome new tenors and altos too. The chorus, generally numbering in the teens, has swelled to numbers in the 20s of late. People interested in joining by come to the first rehearsal on the Jan. 16 or Julie in advance at julie@mhof.net or call 978-257-1192. All singers of all ages are welcome. People may visit <https://circleofsong.net/> for more information.

FRIDAY, JAN. 17

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

TUESDAY, JAN. 21

MAKING CONNECTIONS MEMORY CAFE will be held today at 2 p.m. at the Worcester Senior Center, 128 Providence St., Worcester on the first floor in the front of the lunch room. This is an in person gathering. RSVP is not required.



Turley Photos by Paula Oummette

This granite bench was dedicated to the memory of Terry Briggs, a longtime board member of the East Quabbin Land Trust. The bench is located at the river lookout on the Wheelwright end of the Mass Central Rail Trail.

WALK, continued from page 1

al, which has been in the works for years and will take more years to complete. She said all approvals for the removal have been received, and now the project is in its funding stages.

She said the Mass Central Rail Trail continues to grow with the help of the land trust and the towns it serves, including the recent approval by Ware voters to purchase a parcel of land adjacent to Grenville Park to add another 1,700 feet to the rail trail, connecting it to Church Street trail.

For more information about the East Quabbin Land Trust and its preserves, visit www.eqlt.org.



Participants walked from New Braintree to Wheelwright along the Mass Central Rail Trail on New Year's Day.

BARRE, continued from page 1

gency light at Ruggles Lane (\$9,950), Matrix Springhill for internet service to 13 homes (\$7,841.19), Spectrum new fiber for town (\$21,220.68), Spectrum internet services (\$54,110.46), Community One Stop grant energy and environmental planning (\$5,700), assistance Master

Planning (\$12,500), E-Z skating rink (\$5,601.50), High Plains Park (\$200,000), four inch depth stone dust for High Plains Park (\$1,030), Rice Park (\$76,246.95), Employment Practices Group for legal work (\$76,675), Welcome to Barre sign non-electronic (\$6,169.69), Transfer Station Seal Coating \$8,000 and Health Insurance FY26 (up to \$70,000 subject to available funding.

NORTH BROOKFIELD, continued from page 1

the presence and impact of aquatic invasives in these towns.

The town of North Brookfield has committed 12 hours of local planning assistance, which is equivalent to its \$900 local match. The other towns are requesting \$3,400 in District Local Technical Assistance Program funds to cover the remainder of the local match.

Phase one of the study aims to investigate invasive species that impair water quality within the Quabog River Valley; assess the area's vulnerability to further aquatic habitat degradation and develop a roadmap toward implementing priority mitigation strategies.

ARPA spending

Petratis said all of the American Rescue Plan Act money (around \$1.4 million) has to be allocated by the end of 2024.

He said the board has done that, including projects for the Highway and Sewer departments and Senior Center.

The board members signed a number of memorandums of understanding for ongoing ARPA-funded projects.

Complete Streets project

The board received an additional \$100,000 from the Complete Streets grant program to complete part of the downtown sidewalk project.

The town received \$400,000 for sidewalk improvements in 2022, the project went out to bid in May of 2024 and construction began in the fall. The maximum grant award for the Complete Streets program is \$500,000.

Resignation

Nicole Eccleston submitted a letter of resignation to the Board of Selectmen from her position as the Program and Outreach Coordinator at the Senior Center, effective Dec. 19. The board



Stephen Brewer shared his memories of late Hardwick resident Terry Briggs during a bench dedication held during the hike

PAST PAGES, continued from page 4

38 years (Jan. 22, 1987)

Senator Robert D. Wetmore (D-Barre) announced Jan. 116 that a \$3,000 grant has been awarded to the town of Oakham under the Incentive Aid Program. The program is administered by the Executive Office of Communities and Development. Wetmore explained awards are made on the basis of applications submitted by municipalities and school districts. The competitive program is

designed to increase management efficiency resulting in cost saving and municipal effectiveness. Wetmore said, "Oakham will use this grant to evaluate and improve municipal government operations between town boards and greater compliance with state and federal regulations."

The Barre Congregational Church is featuring a new film series by Dr. James Dobson, a renown and respected family psychologist, beginning on Sunday, Jan 25 at 6:30 p.m. The series will run for five consecutive Sunday evenings and is called, "Turn Your Heart Toward Home." Calvin and

Lynn Lawson of the church have arranged for this film program. There is a small fee of \$1 per evening or \$5 for the six part series. Child care will be provided.

Residents of New Braintree and interested people from all over Massachusetts will gather at the New Braintree Town Hall on Saturday, Jan. 24 at 1 p.m. (Blizzard date is Jan. 31) for a Unity Rally, featuring guest speaker, Jerry Williams of WRKO Studio, Boston. The rally will serve as a kick off for the New Braintree Legal Defense Fund, which will provide money to battle the prison proposal.

FIRE CHIEF, continued from page 4

port water to scenes outside of the Gilbertville and Wheelwright hydrant district. This apparatus is the second apparatus to leave the station on a call for service.

Tanker 1 is also starting to show its age with leaking pumps and more frequent repair. This apparatus is also on the response for the State Fire District 8 Tanker Task force and is frequently requested to respond to large scale incidents in surrounding communities. Tanker 1 was purchased by the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters grant in 2006, with a 5% match from the Town.

Why Engine 1 needs to be replaced

In the beginning of July 2024, Engine 1 was conducting a training exercise at the Gilbertville Mill, where it suffered a large issue with the pump, not allowing water flow. The Engine was taken out of service for safety concerns immediately and sent to Bulldog Fire apparatus for an estimate on repairs on July 17, 2024.

Upon arrival and inspection by certified technicians, I was provided with an approximate cost to fix of at least \$100,000. The list of repairs included a radiator and support replacement from rot, break line and air-line replacement, multiple oil and transmission fluid leaks, front end issues, and a complete pump rebuild.

It was also explained that due to the age of the apparatus, parts would need to be specially ordered or retrofitted causing additional costs. Bulldog also advised me that they did not complete the full inspection, due to the cost of what they had already discovered being five times the value of the truck.

Without a second Engine in service the town is at a disadvantage. Currently, maintenance on other apparatus is on hold, because I do not have an apparatus to use in its place. Without Engine 1 in service Firefighters are forced to use their personal vehicles to respond to an emergency and all our equipment is

not on scene.

Not having a second due apparatus is also concerning if one of our others has a failure and needs repair on an incident. I also believe that outdated or broken equipment hurts moral for members of the Department and prevents recruitment of new Firefighters.

Members are paid by call; however, members donate a large portion of their time to the department for fundraising and community events that the labor budget cannot cover.

New apparatus

The proposed Demo Engine 1 is very similar to the one that is out of service. The engine will be of model year 2024, have a 1,500 GPM pump and a 1,000-gallon water tank. There will be room for six Firefighters to fit comfortably in the cab with gear, tools, and proper safety restraints.

The Engine needs to be a custom cab to fit into the existing station and under local bridges. The new Engine will have federally compliant emissions controls and is equipped with modern brakes, ABS, and traction control.

This apparatus would take the current spot for Engine 2 and respond as a first due truck. It would be equipped with all tools and have compartment space for such. The price for this apparatus is \$860,000. I assure you that this apparatus is a direct replacement for Engine 1, and is not a "Cadillac."

While the apparatus is new and nice, there are no special upgrades or unnecessary features to drive the cost up on the tax payer.

I have researched many different brands and manufacturers. I have attempted to investigate a used apparatus; however, the used market is volatile and 10-year-old apparatus is going for approximately \$500,000 to \$600,000. I spoke with multiple area fire chiefs, members of our department, Select Board, Finance Committee, Town Administrator, and the Capital Planning Committee. We have applied for grants since 2006 with no avail.

I feel it is in the best interest of the town to buy a new apparatus, a

demo model. Manufacturers generally produce apparatus to show, that have low miles, hours and still come with a manufacturer's warrantee.

One of the main perks of buying a Demo is there is less lead time to produce the truck. A demo model should be available to be in service for the Town of Hardwick within four months of purchase.

Financials

As stated above the Demo model is approximately \$860,000. The Capital Planning Committee, Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen support this purchase. An article for appropriation was brought to the Special Town Meeting in October and passed.

This new apparatus would be purchased on a debt exclusion and would be financed for 10 years by the Town of Hardwick. A debt exclusion, would allow the Town to levy the tax rate for the 10-year period of the loan. After the apparatus is paid for the tax rate for that purchase would then return to normal.

The debt exclusion for the apparatus would be for \$107,000 per year for 10 years. The new tax rate for the apparatus would be approximately \$13.44 per \$1,000. The current tax rate for Hardwick is \$13.15 per \$1,000.

The estimated impact on an average home, valued at \$341,000, would be a \$99.38 increase per year, until the exclusion is paid, according to the Massachusetts Department of Revenue property tax impact calculator.

Closing

In closing, the Hardwick Fire Department and myself, are serious about keeping the residents and homes in our community safe. I pride myself on open communication and transparency to the residents of Hardwick. As always, if you have any questions, call the Fire Station at 413-477-6706 or email Fire@townofhardwick.com and I will respond as quickly as possible.

We need your continued support at the Jan. 18 Special Election as you did at the Special Town Meeting.

Editorial deadline reminder

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

SPORTS

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Lunenburg upends Panthers

BARRE – Last Friday night, Lunenburg’s defense did a good job keeping the Panthers under pressure, and their early lead expanded as they left Barre with a 61-43 win. Quabbin Regional boys basketball suffered only its second loss of the season. The Panthers did score a win over South Lancaster last Monday night and are next in action on Friday night against Gardner High School at 6:30 p.m.



Kyle Clark powers his way to the hoop.



Jaxon Warburton sends a pass into the arc.



Anthony Quarterone takes a three-point attempt.



Quinn Geary passes the ball away.



Brady Patchen goes through the Lunenburg defense looking to score



Kayleigh McPortland reaches out to try and keep possession of the ball.

North Brookfield falls in OT

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Despite holding a 36-30 lead early in the fourth quarter, North Brookfield girls baseball was not able to hold on and would end up in a 39-39 tie. The Indians were then outscored in overtime and fell 46-39 to Bethany Christian School last Friday night. North Brookfield is 1-2 on the young season.



Milcalia Ayala looks for an opening to drive to the hoop.



Abby Lindberg dribbles toward the sideline pursued by the defense.



Olivia Holmes goes for the layup



Sophia Dufresne dribbles past the Bethany defense.



Desiree Croteau charges toward the paint.



Ciara Green passes into the arc.

Pioneers suffer first loss

PALMER – Last Friday night, Pathfinder got behind early against Bay State Academy Charter, and went on to suffer its first loss of the season 47-43 at home. Megan

Clark was Pathfinder’s top scorer with 15 points. Greenly Lagimoniere and Addison Doktor had nine points each in the defeat. Pathfinder is 4-1.



Greenly Lagimoniere heads for the hoop.



Addison Doktor looks for a shot under pressure.

Hurricanes score big home win to open 2025



Ethan Mooney, a Pathfinder student, makes his way down the ice for Amherst hockey.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

AMHERST—After losing to Fay Division rival Amherst three times during the 2023-24 season, the Agawam hockey team was looking for a little bit of revenge when the two squads faced each other for the first time this season.

However, things didn’t go the Brownies’ way once again. They fell behind early in the opening period, and could never recover, as the Hurricanes began 2025 with a 4-1 victory at Orr Rink located on the Amherst College campus last Thursday night.

“This was probably our most complete game so far this season and I couldn’t ask for anything more. Everyone played very well in tonight’s game,” said Amherst head coach Michael Rousseau. “Agawam is a very good hockey team, but we played with a lot of heart and the kids are starting to believe in our system.”

While the Hurricanes received key contributions from several players, the difference maker was senior goalie Spencer

McDonald, who’s the team captain. He was credited with a total of 27 saves.

“The Amherst goalie was just unbelievable. We had plenty of shots, but he was the star of tonight’s game,” said Agawam head coach Todd Rowley. “We also gave up an early goal and things snowballed from there.”

The Hurricanes head coach is very glad that McDonald is his starting goalie this winter.

“Spencer has been our backbone so far this season. I don’t normally name a goalie as a captain, but he really deserves to have that honor,” Rousseau said. “He made a couple of big saves in tonight’s match.”

When the two league rivals faced each other last February, McDonald made 38 saves in posting a 5-0 shutout win.

While last Thursday’s game was the Hurricanes fifth match of the regular season, the Brownies (5-3 overall record, 5-2 Fay Div.) are approaching the halfway point of their schedule.

“We were playing very well

See AM Hockey, page 8

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Sports

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Bogey Doubles

EAST BROOKFIELD – The Bogey Doubles League met for one final time in 2024 prior to the new year.

After 17 weeks and matches, the standings through round two are close. There is a four-way tie for first place with 38 wins. The four teams consist of Renaud & Ward, Murphy & Kenneson, Mondor & Brayton and Rando & MacDougall.

During the final week in 2024 Clauson 7 Santora bowled against Pellett & Nester. In game one, Clauson & Santora defeated Pellett & Nester 311-252. Both Tom Clauson and Gary Santora broke 130 in game one to secure the win.

In game two, Pellett & Nester fought back and won game two 277-257. Erik Pellett bowled a 125 to help his team win. In game three, Clauson & Santora won 316-264. Clauson finished strong with a 142 and a series of 372. Santora finished with a 129 and a series of 377.

Total pinfall was won by Clauson & Santora, 884-793.

Mondor & Brayton bowled against Sandman & Marvin in week 17. In game one, Mondor & Brayton were the winners 278-244. Jesse Mondor began the match with a 115. In game two, Mondor & Brayton won again 277-252. Mondor stayed consistent bowling well over his average with a 107.

In game three, Mondor & Brayton swept Sandman & Marvin by winning the third and final game 266-262. Mondor finished with a 111 and a series of 333. The final score was 821-758 in favor of Jesse Mondor & Tim Brayton.

Gauthier & Clough bowled against Murphy & Kenneson. In game one, Gauthier & Clough won a close game 290-287. Dan Gauthier bowled a 132 to start the match. Trevor Kenneson began the match with a 124.

In game two, Murphy & Kenneson were victorious by a score of 297-260. Lonny Murphy bowled a 116 to go with Kenneson's 120.

In game three, Murphy & Kenneson won 270-258 to win six points in week 17. Kenneson finished with a 117 and a series of 361. The final score was 854-808 in favor of Murphy & Kenneson.

Rando & MacDougall bowled against Talamini & Gravel. In

game one, Rando & MacDougall bowled a combined score of 302 to win. Dave Rando began with a 129 and Duncan MacDougall started the match with a 112.

In game two, the team won again 281-278. Rando remained in the 120s by bowling a 123. In game three, Talamini & Gravel won the last game 282-276. Rando finished with a 120 and a series of 372.

The final was 859-836 in favor of Rando & MacDougall.

Renaud & Ward bowled against the team of Aarons, Halbedel & Fontaine. In game one, Halbedel & Fontaine were the winners by a score of 272-232. Aaron Fontaine began the match with a 131.

In game two, Renaud & Ward were the winners by a score of 283-262. Tina Ward bowled a 124 to go with her partner's 115. Fontaine followed up his first game with a 129 in a losing effort.

In game three, Halbedel & Fontaine were the winners by a score of 269-267. Fontaine had a final game of 133 to put together a series of 393. Steve Renaud Sr. finished with a 131 and a series of 350.

Final score was 803-782 in favor of Aaron Halbedel & Aaron Fontaine.

Railers prevail over Reading Royals

WORCESTER – The Railers played, and won, a biblical hockey game Saturday night.

They went fourth and multiplied.

In front of the sixth largest crowd in team history, on IceCats Night, Worcester built a 2-0 lead thanks to goals by fourth line forwards Kolby Johnson and Ryan Mahshie and prevailed for a 3-1 victory over the Reading Royals.

Attendance was 8,056. It was the sixth time ever the team has broken the 8,000 mark and the Railers are a perfect 6-0-0 in those games. The triumph extended Worcester's points streak to three games. That includes two wins and a shootout loss. It is just the second time this season the Railers have picked up points in three straight games, the first time since the last week of November.

The night marked the impressive Worcester debut of rookie goaltender Hugo Ollas. He stopped 31 shots. The saves were not just quantity, they were quality. Ollas never gave up the lead during several Reading surges after the Royals had reduced their deficit to 2-1 in the second period.

"When we got loose (defensive-

ly) in the second period," coach Nick Tuzzolino said, "I thought he bailed us out well. Then we got a little hesitant on the penalty kill and allowed that soft tip, but other than that he was big and reliable.

"We're not a perfect team. We'll have breakdowns, and when we did he was there."

John Muse's retirement left Worcester scrambling for a replacement. The Railers got Ollas on loan from Hartford, an AHL team they have worked well with on occasion through the years. Ollas had been in Bloomington. Plans are to keep him here, close to Hartford, and work closely on his development.

The game was scoreless after one, but Johnson gave Worcester the lead 21 seconds into the second period. He got his second of the season from in very close. Mahshie made it 2-0 at 6:29 with a power play goal, his first for the Railers.

"To be honest," Tuzzolino confessed, "I was pretty mad at myself last night. The (bench) penalty I took, and my use of the fourth line. Because of the game, because of the penalty, I really gripped it tight and wound up not

playing them at all in the third and late in the second.

"So at the pre-game skate this morning I told (Johnson) that it was my fault and you're gonna get a regular shift tonight."

Matt Miller scored the Reading goal at 13:26 of the second period. It came on the power play, less than two minutes after a huge momentum swing. Griffin Loughran had a breakout for Worcester that Keith Petruzzelli stopped at 12:52, then Loughran was penalized for slashing.

The Railers had a 26-6 edge in shots on goal going into the penalty and were outshot by 26-5 the rest of the way.

Worcester's last goal was an empty netter by Anthony Callin, a flip from deep in the defensive zone at 18:12 — cue the overture.

Potential All-Star Connor Welsh had two assists to extend his points streak to six games. He is 1-8-9 during the streak. Callin is 8-4-12 in his last 12 games.

The victory allowed Worcester to retain sole possession of fourth place in the North Division. If Reading had won, the teams would be tied with 28 points, so the win was a four-point swing.

Education

Congratulations to Matthew Erickson, Class of 2025 Superintendent Scholar Recipient

From the desk of Colleen Mucha, Superintendent of Quabbin Regional School District



Submitted photo
Matthew Erickson, Class of 2025, is the Superintendent Scholar Recipient from Quabbin Regional High School.

Matthew Erickson can be found on the Quabbin Regional Middle High School campus early in the morning before the school day as he is a respected leader and active participant in our NJROTC program.

He has served on the drill team for the past two years. In our classrooms, Matthew is seen as a strong and focused student and can often be found tutoring and working with our younger students. After school, Matthew participates on a swim team and plans and leads community service opportunities including his Eagle Scout project.

Matthew strives to challenge himself academically and has engaged in very rigorous coursework including Virtual High School courses of Advanced Placement Computer Science and Advanced Placement Calculus BC. Matthew is looking forward to continuing his studies after high school. He is very interested in pursuing a degree in computer science and looks forward to his acceptance at a four year university.

children because he has a great passion for robotics and wants to share that with others.

Matthew is and has been an outstanding member of our Quabbin Regional School District community. We look forward to his continued impact and engagement and we have no doubt that he will find great success in his years beyond Quabbin Regional Middle High School.

Proud moments
National Honor Society Member
3rd Platoon Commander for NJROTC

The Rensselaer Medal Recipient for Math and Science
Eagle Scout Recipient
Robotics Teacher for Elementary Students

Drone Team Leader
Favorite Quote: "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work," Thomas Edison.

Matthew will attend the Superintendent Scholar Luncheon at Holy Cross in the spring where he will be recognized for his accomplishments. He will have the opportunity to meet all the other Superintendent Scholars from across Central Massachusetts.

Congratulations to Matthew and his family! Way to go!! We are so PROUD.

St. Aloysius Catholic School to hold open house

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School in Gilbertville is hosting an Open House at the school on Tuesday, Jan. 28 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in celebration of Catholic Schools Week.

Prospective parents are cordially invited to visit the classrooms and meet the faculty of our growing school. Administration is also happy to tour families during the school day and provide shadow days for students presently in kindergarten through grade seven.

Please feel free to call the school 413-477-1268 or reach out to Roberta McQuaid, Enrollment Coordinator, to set up an appointment to visit. Enrollment information and all the necessary paperwork is available on the school's website (www.staloyusiuscs.com) under the "Join our Family" tab.

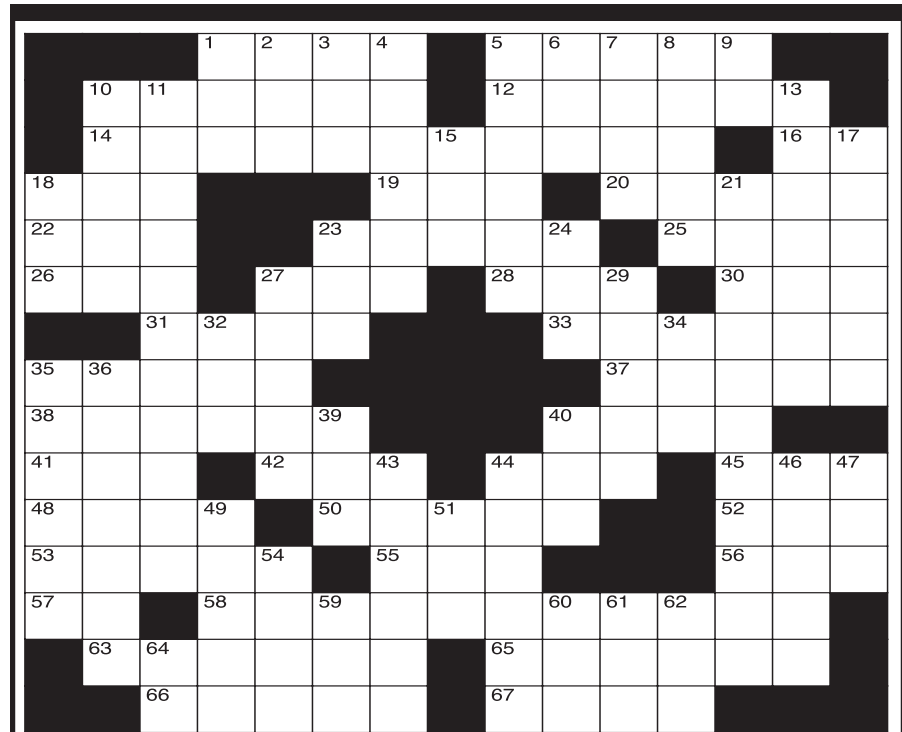


Submitted Photo
Testing out their completed table from left to right are Ethan Salvadore of New Braintree, Jaxon Warburton of Hardwick, Quinn Geary of Hardwick, and Adam Faulha of Hardwick.

Quabbin NHS students complete community service project

Quabbin Regional National Honor Society students recently completed a community service project for East Quabbin Land Trust. The students built an Americans with Disabilities Act accessible picnic table that will

be placed at the Pynchon's Grist Mill preserve in West Brookfield. The scenic location of the table is inaccessible by truck, so they plan to drag the 400 pound table on a sled over the 1/2 mile trail once there's snow cover. [headline]



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Hand (Spanish)
- 5. Siskel and ___ critics
- 10. Seaman
- 12. Chemical weapon
- 14. One who eliminates
- 16. They precede C
- 18. Baseball stat
- 19. Americans' "uncle"
- 20. Cassia tree
- 22. Surround
- 23. Crisp and Pebbles are two
- 25. A sudden very loud sound
- 26. Affirmative
- 27. Disadvantage
- 28. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- 30. OJ trial judge
- 31. New York art district
- 33. Become more bleak
- 35. Upstate NY city
- 37. Clarified butters
- 38. One who witnesses

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Variety of Chinese
- 2. Boxing's GOAT
- 3. Japanese classical theater
- 4. Prayer
- 5. Inspire with love
- 6. Ballplayers' accessory
- 7. Retailer payment system
- 8. More raw
- 9. Atomic #81
- 10. Fencing sword
- 11. Hostilities
- 13. Sea dweller
- 15. Resinlike substance secreted by certain insects
- 17. Businessmen
- 18. Rest here please (abbr.)
- 21. Loud devices
- 23. Make a soft murmuring sound
- 24. One point west of due south
- 27. Trout
- 29. Type of grass
- 32. South American plant
- 34. Letter of the Greek alphabet
- 35. Not secure
- 36. Traveler
- 39. Sweet potato
- 40. Period after sunrise and before sunset
- 43. Some are choppy
- 44. Asian country
- 46. Genus of mosquitoes
- 47. Cool!
- 49. Shri!l, wailing sound
- 51. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 54. Within
- 59. Unhappy
- 60. Decorate a cake with frosting
- 61. Videocassette recorder
- 62. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 64. It cools a home

ANSWERS ON PAGE 10

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AM HOCKEY, continued from page x

coming into tonight's game," Rowley added. "We thought we had a good chance of beating Amherst, but we just ran into a hot goalie. We were unable to score a goal against him until the third period."

Amherst (2-2-1, 1-0-1), who closed out 2024 with a 3-2 win against Minnechaug Regional at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, played very well from start to finish against the Brownies.

A little more than two minutes into the first period, senior Nate Ziornek stole a pass at the center ice before putting a shot into the net past Agawam senior goalie Frankie Disanti (20 saves) for an unassisted goal.

A minute later, Amherst had their first power-play, but the Brownies managed to kill it without allowing any shot attempts.

With five minutes left in the period, the Brownies had their first power-play opportunity.

They had a couple of shots on goal before one of the Agawam players was sent to the penalty box by the referee. Neither team scored a goal during that span.

Agawam sophomore Camden Saltmarsh had a couple of shots on goal during the first five minutes of the second period. Seniors A.J. Robbins and Cole Buffum also had scoring chances for the visiting team.

The score was still 1-0 when Amherst junior Ethan Mooney scored a breakout goal with 6:23 remaining in the second period.

Mooney, who's an assistant cap-



Noah Latulippe corrals the puck for the Hurricanes.

tain, is one of the four Amherst hockey players who attends Pathfinder Tech. The other three Pathfinder Tech players listed on the Amherst roster are freshmen Noah Latulippe, Landon Lukasik, and Nolan Mactavish.

The Hurricanes second goal was assisted by senior Brach Applegate. Four minutes later, junior Ben Remensnyder, who a defenseman, netted an unassisted goal giving the home team a 3-0 lead entering the final 15 minutes of the contest.

Agawam had a man advantage for the first minute of the third period, but they failed to capitalize on their second power-play.

Mooney assisted on a power-play goal, which was scored by Ziornek on a rebound shot with 12:14 left in regulation.

Holding a 4-0 lead, the only remaining question for the

Hurricanes was if McDonald would be able to post another shut-out victory against Agawam.

Those dreams came to an end when senior Aiden Pisano scored an unassisted goal with 7:29 remaining on the scoreboard clock.

The Brownies also had a chance to cut the deficit in half with two minutes left in regulation, but McDonald made an outstanding save on a shot attempt from senior Vinny Montagna.

"If we scored that goal, it would've given us a chance to make a late comeback," Rowley said. "Their goalie just made an outstanding save."

Agawam is looking forward to playing Amherst for the second time at the Olympic Ice Center in West Springfield on Feb. 11. Faceoff is scheduled for 8:40 p.m.

Obituaries

Joyce Berlo, 88

BARRE – Joyce Berlo, 88, of Barre, died peacefully on Dec. 31, 2024, at Alliance Health in Baldwinville.

She was born on Jan. 12, 1936 to John and Emma (Trudell) Miller in Barre, along with her twin sister, Janet Mulqueen. She is survived by two sisters, Elaine Hardy of Centennial, Colorado and Ann Pitzen of Harwich. She is predeceased by her husband, John Berlo of Gardner; her older sister Jeanne Miller and brother Jack Miller both of Cape Cod and her twin sister, Janet of Gardner. She also leaves behind a brother-in-law, John Mulqueen of Hubbardston as well as numerous nephews, nieces and cousins.

Joyce attended Barre High School and joined the workforce shortly thereafter working for Goodnow Pearson in Gardner and the Gardner Savings Bank, from

which she retired in 1998. She married John Berlo on June 10, 1956 at Saint Thomas-A-Becket church in Barre. She was the loving and devoted mother of four children, Robert Berlo of Barre, Barbara Lajoie of Sterling, Mary Steffen of Central Square, New York and James Berlo of Brentwood, New Hampshire. Joyce had 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Joyce enjoyed knitting, gardening, walking, baking and bird watching. She lived and died each year with the Patriots and her beloved Celtics. She treasured her grandchildren and embraced every moment with them. She had a vivacious personality and was quick to give someone a hug. She made friends everywhere she



went.

The family wishes to extend their gratitude to Care Central VNA & Hospice and Alliance Health at Baldwinville for their kindness and care. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to Care Central VNA & Hospice Inc., Marketing and Business Development, 34 Pearly Lane, Gardner, MA 01440 or to Alliance Health at Baldwinville, 51 Hospital Road, Baldwinville, MA 01436.

A Mass in her honor will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 5 at 10 a.m. in Thomas-A-Becket Faith Church, 380 Vernon Ave., Barre. Burial will be private for the family.

Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home, 96 South Barre Road, Barre.

Philippa Rose (Puliafico) Imperato, 95

BARRE – Philippa Rose (Puliafico) Imperato, 95, of Spring Hill Florida, passed away on Jan. 3, 2025 in UMass Medical Center in Worcester.

She leaves her son, Salvatore III (Sherri); daughter, Pamela (Valdene); her large and deeply cherished family including her sister, Palma and brother, Fran (Cindy) and sister-in-law, Julie. Her many nieces and nephews gave her great joy as an aunt, great-aunt and great-great aunt with each holiday bringing an anticipation of artworks and snowflake cutouts in which to decorate her Florida home. She is predeceased by her husband of 50 years Salvatore Jr; her parents, Carmelo and Josephine Puliafico; sisters Mary and Lee and a brother George.

She had a successful career in the medical manufacturing industry in many roles ranging from

bookkeeping to materials management. She was well-respected by her colleagues and the many vendors with whom she worked for her knowledge and integrity.

A native of Barre, her parents immigrated from Sicily working in the Barre Mill. She struck out to “see the world,” heading for New York and began her career working in the airline and travel industry, enjoying the opportunity to go to exotic places like Egypt and Japan. It was in New York where she met her Bronx husband and raised her family. She and her husband retired to Florida where she enjoyed continued travel and gardening with her favorite being the rose.

The funeral will be held on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025 at 1 p.m. in St Thomas A Becket Church, Vernon Avenue, South Barre. Burial will follow in St Josephs Cemetery in Barre. In lieu of

flowers donations may be made in her name to the St Jukes Children’s Research Hospital. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home, 96 South Barre Road, Barre.

DEATH NOTICES

Berlo, Joyce (Miller)
Died Dec. 31, 2024
Mass Feb. 5, 2025 at 10 a.m.
St. Thomas-A-Becket Church,
Vernon Avenue, South Barre

Imperato, Philippa Rose
(Puliafico)
Died Jan. 3, 2025
Funeral Saturday, Jan. 18,
2025 at 1 p.m.
St. Thomas-A-Becket Church,
Vernon Avenue, South Barre
Burial follows at
St. Joseph’s Cemetery, Barre

Church News

Meaning of each gift in the ‘12 Days of Christmas’

Note: The Rev. Charlie Page filled in this past Sunday at the Barre Congregational Church while Pastor Margaret Keyser is on vacation and preached this sermon.

The 12 days of Christmas in Christian tradition signifies the time between the birth of Christ and the arrival of the three wise men, also known as the Magi. It starts on December 25, which is celebrated as Christmas Day, and lasts until Jan. 6, which is the Epiphany, also referred to as Three Kings’ Day.

Discover the meaning of the gift for each of the 12 days of Christmas that relate to the fundamentals of the Christian faith.

A Partridge in a Pear Tree

The partridge in a pear tree represents Jesus, the Son of God, whose birthday we celebrate on the first day of Christmas. Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge, the only bird that will die to protect its young.

Two Turtledoves

These twin birds represent the Old and New Testaments. So, in this gift, the singer finds the complete story of the Christian faith and God’s plan for the world. The doves are the biblical roadmap that is available to everyone.

Three French Hens

These birds represent faith, hope, and love. This gift hearkens back to 1 Corinthians 13, the love chapter written by the Apostle Paul. It also represents the Holy Trinity: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Four Calling Birds

One of the easiest facets of the song’s code to figure out these fowl are the four Gospels — Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Five Gold Rings

The gift of the rings represents the first five books of the Old Testament, known as the Torah or the Pentateuch, which are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

Six Geese a-Laying

These lyrics can be traced back to the first story found in the Bible. Each egg is a day in creation when God “hatched” or formed the world. Day 1: God created the heavens and the earth.

Day 2: God created the sky and seas. Day 3: God created the land and plants. Day 4: God created the sun, moon, and stars. Day 5: God created fish and birds. Day 6: God created land animals and man.

Seven Swans a-Swimming

It would take someone quite familiar with the Bible to identify this gift. Hidden in the code are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Ministry, Teaching, Exhortation, Giving, Leading and Compassion. As swans are one of the most beautiful and graceful creatures on earth, they would seem to be a perfect symbol for spiritual gifts.

Eight Maids-a-Milking

As Christ came to save even the lowest of the low, this gift represents the ones who would receive his word and accept his grace. Being a milkmaid was about the worst job one could have in England during this period; this code conveyed that Jesus cared as much about servants as he did those of royal blood. The Eight Maids represent the 8 Beatitudes, from Matthew 5:3-10:

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Nine Ladies Dancing

These nine dancers were really the gifts known as the fruit of the Spirit. The Fruits of the Spirit include: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control.

Ten Lords a-leaping

This is probably the easiest gift to understand. As lords were judges and in charge of the law, this code for the Ten Commandments was fairly straightforward to Christians.

Thou shall have no other gods

before me
Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain
Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy

Honor thy father and mother
Thou shalt not kill
Thou shalt not commit adultery
Thou shalt not steal
Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor
Thou shalt not covet

Eleven Pipers Piping

This is almost a trick question, as most think of the disciples in terms of the dozen. But when Judas betrayed Jesus and committed suicide, only eleven men carried out the gospel message. Therefore, the Eleven Pipers Piping signify the 11 Faithful Disciples: Simon (whom He named Peter), Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James, son of Alphaeus, Simon, who was called the Zealot and Judas, son of James. Judas Iscariot was later replaced with faithful Matthias.

Twelve Drummers Drumming

The final gift is tied directly to the Catholic Church. The drummers are the 12 points of doctrine in the Apostles’ Creed. 1. I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. 2. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. 3. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. 4. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. 5. He descended into hell. On the third day, He rose again. 6. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. 7. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. 8. I believe in the Holy Spirit 9. the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, 10. the forgiveness of sins, 11. the resurrection of the body, 12. and the life everlasting.

Sources

The Twelve Days of Christmas - True Meaning Behind the Lyrics | Crosswalk.com
Twelve Days of Christmas | Wikipedia.org
The Twelve Days of Christmas (song) | Wikipedia.org

Public Notices

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS SALE OF REAL ESTATE UNDER M.G.L.c.183A:6

By virtue of Judgment and Order of the East Brookfield District Court (Docket No. 2469CV000100), in favor of TRUSTEES OF THE COUNTRYSIDE ESTATES CONDOMINIUM TRUST against KATHRYN L. LEMIEUX establishing a lien pursuant to M.G.L.c.183A:6 on the real estate known as UNIT #27-1, 176 MAPLE AVENUE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE ESTATES CONDOMINIUM for the purposes of satisfying such lien, the real estate is scheduled for Public Auction at 11:00 O’CLOCK AM ON THE 10TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, A.D. 2025, AT UNIT 27-1, 176 MAPLE AVENUE, RUTLAND, MASSACHUSETTS. The premises to be sold are more particularly described as follows:

Unit 27-1 (the “Unit”) in the condominium known as the Countryside Estates Condominium (the “Condominium”), Rutland, Worcester County, Massachusetts, a Condominium established pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 183A by Master Deed dated November 8, 1985 and recorded on November 13, 1985, with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds (the “Registry”), at Book 9055, Page 1, (“The Master Deed”).

The post office address of the Unit is: 176 Maple Avenue, Unit 27-1, Rutland, MA 01543.

Unit 27-1, also referred to as Unit 27 of Building 1 of said Condominium, in said Rutland, is being conveyed together with the 0.60% undivided percent interest appertaining to the said Unit in the Common Areas and Facilities of the said Condominium, and together with the rights and easements appurtenant to the said Unit as set forth in the said Master Deed.

Said Unit is also conveyed subject to and with the benefit of: (a) rights, easements, and restrictions referred to in the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 183A; (b) said Master Deed, the Declaration of Trust of The Countryside Estates Condominium Trust dated November 8, 1985, recorded with said Registry in Book 9055, Page 40, the By-Laws set forth in said Declaration of Trust and any rules and regulations promulgated thereunder; and (c) the obligations thereunder to pay the proportionate share attributable to said Unit of the common expenses, all of which the Grantee by acceptance hereof agrees to perform and assume and pay.

Said Unit is intended only for residential use and for no other purpose except as may be expressly permitted by the Trustee of the Condominium in accordance with the provisions of the Master Deed and the Declaration of Trust. For Grantor’s title see deed to KATHRYN L. LEMIEUX dated May 25, 2022 and recorded with the Worcester South County Registry of Deeds in Book 67680, Page 265.

In the event of a typographical error or omission contained in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said Unit Deed shall control.

TERMS OF SALE:
1. A non-refundable deposit payable in cash, certified or

bank check in the amount of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars for the unit shall be payable at the Auction.

2. The balance of the purchase price is to be paid within thirty (30) days of the auction.

3. An Auctioneer’s Release Deed will be issued to the purchaser, upon payment of the balance of the purchase price, within thirty (30) days of auction. The Deed shall convey the premises subject to, and with the benefit of, all restrictions, easements, improvements, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens, or claims in the nature of liens, and existing encumbrances of record senior to the lien, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

4. Additionally, and not by way of limitation, the sale shall be subject to and with the benefit of any and all tenants, tenancies, and occupants, if any.

5. No representation is or shall be made as to any amount of taxes due and outstanding.

6. The successful bidder shall pay the future condominium common charges commencing with the date of the auction.

7. No representation is or shall be made as to any other mortgages, liens, or encumbrances of record.

8. No representation is or shall be made as to the condition of the Premises or the Condominium. The Premises shall be sold “as is”.

9. Other items, if any, shall be announced at the sale.

10. The sale is subject to and in accordance with the Judgment and Order, a copy of which may be obtained from the seller’s counsel, Attorney William F. Thompson, Marcus, Errico, Emmer & Brooks, PC, 45 Braintree Hill Office Park, Suite 107, Braintree, MA 02184, (781) 843-5000.

THE COUNTRYSIDE ESTATES CONDOMINIUM TRUST,

For the Trustees,
By its Attorneys
MARCUS, ERRICO,
EMMER
& BROOKS, PC
William F Thompson, Esq.
BBO#664790
45 Braintree Hill Office Park,
Suite 107
Braintree, MA 02184
(781) 843-5000
01/09, 01/16, 01/23/2025

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

January 11, 2025 AT A SALE TO SATISFY OUR GARAGE LIEN THEREON FOR TOWING & STORAGE CHARGES AND EXPENSES OF SALE AND NOTICE:

2008 Audi Q7
VIN: WA1AY74L58D040261
2013 Dodge Avenger
VIN: 1C3CDZAB3DN566995
2013 Chevrolet Volt
VIN: 1G1RB6E43DU102514
2003 BMW K 1200 GT
VIN: WB10558A73ZK01323
2005 Honda CR-V

VIN: SHSRD78835U346351
2012 Nissan Murano
VIN: JN8AZ1MW1CW208635
2007 Honda Civic
VIN: 2HGFA55577H06155
2007 Ford Crown Victoria
VIN: 2FAHP71W07X127911
2011 Suzuki SX4 Crossover
VIN: JS2YB5A30B6301280
2015 Nissan Versa Note
VIN: 3N1CE2CP4L393339
2019 Dodge Charger
VIN: 2C3CDXBG5KH623363
The sale will be held at Early’s on Park Avenue 536 Park Ave., Worcester, MA 01603 12/26, 01/02, 01/09/2025

MORTGAGEE’S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Diane M. Hedstrom and James J. Courchesne to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Countrywide Bank, N.A., its successors and assigns, dated January 30, 2007 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 40625, Page 57, subsequently assigned to THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON FKA THE BANK OF NEW YORK AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS OF THE C.W.A.L.T. INC., ALTERNATIVE LOAN TRUST 2007-OA 4 MORTGAGE P A S S - T H R O U G H CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-OA4 by MORTGAGE E L E C T R O N I C R E G I S T R A T I O N SYSTEMS, INC. by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 47919, Page 245 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 AM on **January 23, 2025** at 334 Wheelwright Road, Barre, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

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

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

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

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

Thence S 40° 22’ E., 200 feet along fence and by land of Davis to the place of beginning.

For title reference see Deed recorded February 15, 1989 in Book 11930, Page 177 The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney’s fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer’s check or money order will

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

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON FKA THE BANK OF NEW YORK AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS OF THE C.W.A.L.T. INC., ALTERNATIVE LOAN TRUST 2007-OA4 MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-OA4 Present Holder of said Mortgage, By Its Attorneys, ORLANS PC PO Box 540540 Waltham, MA 02454 Phone: (781) 790-7800 24-006933 01/02, 01/09, 01/16/2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The New Braintree Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 6:30 PM in the Town Hall Memorial Drive New Braintree, MA On the following application:

Tarpon Towers III, LLC and Celco Partnership, d/b/a Verizon Wireless, Applicant, seeks a Special Permit under the provisions of MGL Chapter 40A, Section 9, and Section 5.B.2 & 7.D of the Town of New Braintree Zoning Bylaw (Chapter 9) to construct wireless communications facility on a vacant parcel, including an access driveway at I 90e Road, Town Assessor’s Map 406 parcel 202/Lot 2.

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

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

See more legals on page 10

Barre Gazette OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

800-983-4434

www.milesfuneralhome.com

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Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Sunday, Dec. 22
 11:11 a.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/ Arcing, Worcester Road, Removed Hazard
 12:20 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Valley Road, Mutual Aid Transport
 9:26 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Peach Street, Transported to Hospital
 11:32 p.m. Suspicious Person/ Vehicle Activity, Worcester Road, Investigated

Monday, Dec. 23
 7:05 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic), Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Dec. 24
 9:12 a.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Williamsville Road, Referred to Other Agency
 12:24 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, West Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 1:36 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, School North Street, Transported to Hospital
 2:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

Sunrise Avenue, Citation Issued
 3 p.m. Recovered/Confiscated Property, South Street, Information Given
 Arrest Mortell, Travis J., 25, Barre Charges Operating Under Influence Liquor OR .08%, Firearm, Intoxicated License Carry c269 §10H
 4:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Valley Road, Citation Issued
 5:36 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Ruggles Lane, No Transport Required
 5:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Vernon Avenue, Citation Issued

Friday, Dec. 25
 6:08 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – James Street, Transported to Hospital
 6:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Robles, Eduardo E., 71, Barre
 Charges Number Plate Violation to Conceal ID
 10:59 a.m. Erratic Operator, South Barre Road, Negative Contact
 11:26 a.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Phillipston Road, Report Filed

Summons Doyle, George A., 58, Cherry Valley
 Charges License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With Subsequent Offense, Attempted Larceny
 5:09 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Worcester Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 6:36 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Wheelwright Road, Investigated
 10:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Saturday, Dec. 28
 11:16 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, West Street, Transported to Hospital
 12:23 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Worcester Road, Fire Extinguished
 3:39 p.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/ Arcing, Common Street, Investigated
 4:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Written Warning
 5:32 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Diabetic, South Street, Mutual Aid Transport
 6:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Wheelwright Road, Written Warning

Sunday, Dec. 22
 10:53 a.m. Complaint, Paddock Road, Negative Contact
 11:45 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Laurelwood Road, Public Assist
 12:48 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Maple Avenue, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 2:03 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Worcester Road, Fire Extinguished
 3:22 p.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Marjorie Lane, Report Filed
 6:43 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Crestview Drive, Mutual Aid Transport

Monday, Dec. 23
 8:04 a.m. Suspicious Person – Vehicle Activity, Prouty Lane, Officer Spoke to Party
 9:06 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Pleasantdale Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 9:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 11:43 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Woodside Avenue, Referred to Other Agency
 12:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Ryan, Timothy Joseph, 30, Worcester
 Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With, Unregistered Motor Vehicle
 3:08 p.m. Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Written Warning

Falls, Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 7:08 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Oakridge Drive, Officer Spoke to Party
 10:10 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, River Road, Investigated

Wednesday, Dec. 25
 5:04 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Kosta Avenue, Report Filed
 9:29 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Glenwood Road, Rescued

Thursday, Dec. 26
 10:23 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Central Tree Road, Transported to Hospital
 1:02 p.m. Fire – Public Service Call, Rolling Ridge Road, Removed Hazard
 1:36 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, School North Street, Transported to Hospital
 2:53 p.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield Court, Court Duty
 3:44 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Cheryl Ann Drive, Transported to Hospital

11:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Saturday, Dec. 28
 12:03 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 12:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Citation Issued
 12:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Glenwood Road, Citation Issued
 1:30 a.m. Erratic Operator, Wachusett Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 1:39 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Citation Issued
 5:51 a.m. Road Condition Notification, East Country Road, Referred to Other Agency
 7:12 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, East County Road, Transported to Hospital
 8:10 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital
 8:57 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Rebecca Ann Drive, Information Given
 9 a.m. Fire – Fumes/Odor/Gas Leak, Miles Road, Investigated
 9:26 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Trauma, Worcester Road, Transported to Hospital
 1:54 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Brintnal Drive, Transported to Hospital
 2:41 p.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Main Street, Removed Hazard
 2:43 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Ten Rod Road, Mutual Aid Transport
 2:53 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic) Shore Drive, Transported to Hospital
 11:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued
 11:24 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/ Syncope, Birchwood Road, Transported to Hospital
 11:45 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Pommogussett Road, Report Filed

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Dec. 23-Jan. 5, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 125 building/property checks, 91 directed/area patrols, 15 radar assignments, 10 traffic controls, 17 emergency 911 calls, three citizen assists, five assist other agencies, one safety hazard, four complaints, one motor vehicle accident, one motor vehicle investigation, one fraud, one scam, one missing person, four animal calls and 23 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Dec. 23
 2:36 p.m. 911 Misdial, Hall Road, Officer Handled
 10:06 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Sullivan Avenue, Transported to Hospital

1:45 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Records Check, Dispatch Handled
 2:15 p.m. Animal Call, River Run, Services Rendered
 4:42 p.m. Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, Dec. 28
 1:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued
 8:56 a.m. 911 Complaint, Route 32, Unfounded
 11:50 a.m. Fraud, Lower Road, Officer Handled
 7:15 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Upper Church Street, Officer Handled
 7:19 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Main Street, Services Rendered

Road, Services Rendered
 7:31 p.m. Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 9:03 p.m. Gunshots, School Street, Unfounded

Wednesday, Jan. 1
 7:02 a.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Removed Hazard
 9:20 a.m. Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Jan. 2
 9:45 a.m. 911 Unattended Death, Church Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 8:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Tuesday, Dec. 24
 7:11 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Written Warning
 9:16 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Central Tree Road, Dispatch Handled
 11:07 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Baez, Isaac, 23, Gardner
 Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With Unregistered Motor Vehicle
 11:30 Emergency Medical Service –

2:31 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Gardner, Officer Spoke to Party
 8:49 a.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield District Court, Court Duty
 10:47 a.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Main Street, Area Search Negative
 11:12 a.m. Noise Complaint, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 2:45 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Pleasantdale Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 4:40 p.m. Property – Lost and Found, Main Street, Property Returned
 8:38 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures, Highland Park Road, Transported to Hospital
 11:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 11:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Citation Issued
 11:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued

11:12 a.m. Noise Complaint, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 2:45 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Pleasantdale Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 4:40 p.m. Property – Lost and Found, Main Street, Property Returned
 8:38 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures, Highland Park Road, Transported to Hospital
 11:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 11:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Citation Issued
 11:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued

Hardwick Police Log

Tuesday, Dec. 24
 6:34 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Ware, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 12:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Petersham Road, Vehicle Towed

Wednesday, Dec. 25
 2:57 p.m. 911 Assist Citizen, Pine Street, Spoken To
 10:10 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Bridge Street, Services Rendered

Thursday, Dec. 26
 1:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Citation Issued

Sunday, Dec. 29
 12:10 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Main Street, Officer Handled
 7:15 a.m. Disturbance, Main Street, Investigated
 3:57 p.m. Complaint, Broad Street, Officer Handled

Monday, Dec. 30
 3:26 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Mechanic Street, Transported to Hospital
 7:14 a.m. Assist Other Agency, New Braintree, Officer Handled
 12:36 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Services Rendered
 3:48 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital

Friday, Jan. 3
 8:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning
 5 p.m. 911 Missing Person, Greenwich Road, Officer Handled

Saturday, Jan. 4
 3:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 3:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 4:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 7:43 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Jackson Road, Services Rendered
 8:18 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Services Rendered

Monday, Dec. 16
 9:07 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
 3:52 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Old Turnpike Road, Transported to Hospital
 5:43 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, New Braintree Road, Peace Restored

Tuesday, Dec. 17
 Tuesday, Dec. 17:42:28 p.m. Complaint, Coldbrook Road, Area Search Negative
 10:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident – No Fire Department/EMS Response, North Brookfield Road, Report Filed

6:48 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
 7:13 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Worcester Road, Message Delivers
 8 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Lincoln Road, Returned to Family/Guardian
 1:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Road, Written Warning
 1:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
 1:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
 2:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning

Thursday, Dec. 26
 11:17 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
 11:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
 11:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
 5:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, New Braintree Road, Returned to Family/Guardian

Friday, Dec. 27
 11:03 a.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield District Court, Court Duty
 3:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning

New Braintree Police Log

During the weeks of Dec. 23-Jan. 6, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 22 building/property checks, 34 directed/area patrols, 12 radar assignments, eight traffic control, seven emergency 911 call, one safety hazard, one complaint, three assist other agencies, three citizen assists, two trespasses, one investigation, two motor vehicle investigations, one motor vehicle accident and nine motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, Dec. 23
 2:26 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Memorial Drive, Dispatch Handled
 8:42 p.m. Investigation, Memorial Drive, Investigated

Tuesday, Dec. 24
 9:54 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Post Officer, Officer Handled
 12:32 p.m. Medical Alarm, West Brookfield Road, Services Rendered

Secured
 4:10 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Barre Road, Negative Contact
 4:25 p.m. 911 Assist Citizen, Gilbertville Road, Peace Restored
 4:38 p.m. Trespass, Padre Road, Merge

Thursday, Dec. 26
 10:40 a.m. Trespass, Gilbertville Road, Officer Handled
 2:29 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Ravine Road, Transported to Hospital

Friday, Dec. 27
 1:29 p.m. Assist Citizen, Out of Town, Officer Handled
 6:31 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Hardwick Road, Written Warning
 10:19 p.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Removed Hazard

Monday, Dec. 30
 11:45 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Unitas Road, Transported to Hospital
 1:03 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer handled
 9:34 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Wednesday, Jan. 1
 9:29 a.m. 911 Misdial, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered
 2:48 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Padre Road, Transported to Hospital

Friday, Jan. 3
 9:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued
 11:33 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, McEvoy Road, Transported to Hospital

Sunday, Jan. 5
 2:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gilbertville Road, Arrest(s) Made

Monday, Dec. 23
 5:24 a.m. Animal – Lost Ad Found, North Brookfield Road, Message Delivered
 10:03 a.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield District Court, Court Duty
 10:54 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, North Brookfield Road, No Action Required
 3:08 p.m. Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Written Warning

Tuesday, Dec. 24
 9:18 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Crocker Nye Road, Information Taken

Saturday, Dec. 27
 Saturday, Dec. 28
 4:59 a.m. Road Condition Notification, North Brookfield Road, Referred to Other Agency
 8:10 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital
 9:26 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Trauma Road, Worcester Road, Transported to Hospital
 2:53 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-traumatic), Shore Drive, Transported to Hospital
 3:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, Dec. 22
 6:50 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Worcester Road, Public Assist
 9:49 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/ Syncope, Cross Road, Transported to Hospital
 2:03 p.m. Fire – Structure Fire, Worcester Road, Fire Extinguished
 4:31 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Barre Road Cutoff Road, Negative Contact

Monday, Dec. 23
 2:45 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/ Syncope, Grimes Road, Transported to Hospital
 5:17 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Stroke (CVA), Worcester Road, Transported to Hospital

Burnshirt Road, Report Filed
 3:21 p.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/ Arcing, Williamsville Road, No Fire Service Necessary
 6:38 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – General Weakness, Adams Road, Transported to Hospital
 10 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Unfounded

Wednesday, Dec. 25
 8:25 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures, Old Princeton Road, Transported to Hospital
 9:36 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/ Syncope, Main Street, Mutual Aid Transport
 10:20 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Halfrey Road, Transported to Hospital
 3:12 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Mt. Jefferson Road, Vehicle Towed
 10:37 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Healdville Road, Officer/Chief Advised

Thursday, Dec. 26
 10:25 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Healdville Road, No Fire Service Necessary
 5:18 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Gardner Road, Public Assist

Friday, Dec. 27
 1:52 p.m. Vandalism, Main Street, Report Filed

Saturday, Dec. 28
 5:49 a.m. Road Condition Notification, New Templeton Road, Referred to Other Agency
 7:43 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Hale Road, Transported to Hospital
 2:12 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Old Princeton Cutoff Road, Transported to Hospital
 10:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Worcester Road, Negative Contact

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508)831-2200 Docket No. WO24P4381EA Estate of: Clarence William Howland Date of Death: 08/24/2024 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Robert A Howland of New Braintree, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Robert A Howland of New Braintree, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court

before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/28/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court. Date: December 30, 2024 Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate 01/09/2025

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 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.
 Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.
 visit www.publicnotices.turley.com



DCR lists upcoming winter hybrid presentations

BELCHERTOWN – The Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, 100 Winsor Dam Road, announces the schedule for winter hybrid presentations.

All programs are scheduled for 2 p.m. In person seating is limited to 45 people.

In case of bad weather, the programs will only be held virtually. Please register for any of these events by visiting <https://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events>.

Prince Walker of Barre – From Enslaved to Landowner

Sunday, Jan. 19 from 2-3 p.m.

Born to an enslaved family in Barre in June 1774 Prince Walker spent much of his life on a homestead that is now part of the Ware River Watershed. Although known mainly as the much younger brother of Quock Walker (whose suit to attain personal freedom was instrumental in freeing all enslaved people in Massachusetts) Prince Walker led a remarkable life.

Join Lucy Allen from the Barre Historical Society as she presents on his trek to freedom and financial independence.

Understanding Fish Species at Quabbin Reservoir

Sunday, Jan. 26 from 2-3 p.m.

Creel surveys are a common technique used by fisheries professionals to better understand waterbody specific catch and harvest trends. Creel data from Quabbin Reservoir were collected at each of the three boat launch areas during the 2024 fishing season.

The presentation will provide updates regarding participation, catch, harvest and species specific trends. These data will be compared to other statewide and waterbody specific creel data collected by MassWildlife and Department of Conservation and Recreation.

The Mystery of Prescott Quilt of Names

Sunday, Feb. 2 from 2-3 p.m.

Step back in time and delve into the intriguing story behind a remarkable artifact that has woven together generations—a quilt embroidered with fifty signatures from 1895, hailing from Prescott, Massachusetts. Who created this piece of history, and why? How did it make its way to the Hitchcock Chair Museum in Riverton, Connecticut, and who played a crucial role in returning it to the Swift River Valley Historical Society?

Join historical interpreter Karen Traub as she embarks on a fascinating journey to unravel the quilt's past.

History of Rutland Prison Camp

Sunday, Feb. 16 from 2-3 p.m.

Fresh air, three home-cooked meals a day, comfortable sleeping quarters and a private hospital - sounds like a delightful retreat for a prisoner? Indeed, it was!

This presentation will tell the story of this surprisingly successful social experiment nestled within the Ware River Watershed.

Microscopic world of the Quabbin Reservoir

Sunday, Feb. 23 from 2-3 p.m.

What's in the water? Learn about the microorganisms that live in the water, and how they can impact water quality.

This presentation will cover phytoplankton and zooplankton found in the Quabbin Reservoir with a live microscope demo.

Quabbin Reservoir and Watershed Protection

Sunday, March 2 from 2-3 p.m.

Engineering, forestry, wildlife and aquatic biology, carpentry, mowing and snowplowing...how do all of these things combine to protect the water supply of over three million people in Massachusetts? How does they benefit the region around the reservoir?

This presentation from the Visitor Center staff explores how the many different goals of DCR staff all support one goal, Quabbin watershed protection.

Gas prices decrease two cents

WESTWOOD — Northeast gasoline prices began 2025 looking much like how they ended in 2024, but an arctic freeze enshrouding much of the United States and Europe could upset the balance.

The bitter cold, which is expected to deliver a hard freeze to oil producing regions of the southwestern United States for the first time since 2022, has boosted crude oil prices amid a surge in demand for home heating oil throughout the country and Europe, which is facing a similar chilly forecast. Electricity demand is also expected to increase as millions crank their thermostats to cope. All told, oil prices ended last week up about \$2 and could rise further as temperatures plummet this week.

The rise in crude oil prices could begin to put pressure on the price of gasoline, but a sharp drop in gasoline demand and ballooning inventories are staying off significant hikes in our region, for now. Last week, domestic gasoline demand fell nine percent to 8.1 million barrels a day, according to the Energy Information Administration. That's in line with expectations for the post-holiday period. Meanwhile, domestic inventories grew by 7.7 million barrels, with Northeast supplies accounting for nearly 2 million barrels of the increase.

The average gas price in Massachusetts is down two cents from last week (\$3.02), averaging \$3.00 per gallon. Today's price is three cents lower than a month ago (\$3.03) and 18 cents lower than this day last year (\$3.18). Massachusetts' average gas price is six cents lower than the national average.

"If it weren't for cratering demand and swelling inventories, gasoline prices could be on the upswing thanks to the impacts of severe cold," said Mark Schieldrop, Senior Spokesperson, AAA Northeast. "Oil and gas markets are watching for potential disruptions to production and supplies in southern areas of the United States unaccustomed to prolonged hard freezes."

AAA Northeast's Jan. 6 survey of fuel prices found the current national average up four cents from last week (\$3.02), averaging \$3.06 gallon. Today's national average price is four cents higher than a month ago (\$3.02) and two cents lower than this day last year (\$3.08).

AAA Northeast is a not-for-profit auto club with offices in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Hampshire and New York, providing more than 6.5 million local AAA members with travel, insurance, finance and auto-related services.

MassDOT announces winners of 'Name A Snowplow' contest

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation announced the winners of the third annual "Name A Snowplow" contest for elementary and middle school students in Massachusetts.

This contest received entries from public school classrooms located all across Massachusetts to name the 12 MassDOT snowplows that will be in service during this 2024/2025 winter season. The purpose of the contest is to celebrate the snow and ice season and to help recognize the hard work and dedication shown by public works employees and contractors during the winter season.

"Maintaining safe and clear roads across Massachusetts during winter is no easy task. We appreciate how educators are engaging their students in this fun competition that honors this vital public service," said Transportation Secretary

and CEO Monica Tibbitts-Nutt. "Congratulations to the winning classrooms, and we look forward to seeing your snowplows out in the field."

"This contest is a great way for schools across the state to connect with the crews who work tirelessly to keep our roads clear each winter," said Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver. "Thank you to everyone who took part in this contest, and congratulations to our winners."

Winning submissions for kindergarten through fourth grade were District 1 "Snowana" Morris Elementary School in Lennox fourth grade teacher Katie Simonelli; District 2 "Control-Salt-Delete" Swift River School in New Salem kindergarten teacher Ms. Koonz; District 3 "Abdomindable Plowman" Brophy Elementary School in Framingham fourth grade teacher Kimberly

Tremlett; District 4 "Snow Force One" Great Oak Elementary School in Danvers kindergarten teacher Mrs. Butler; District 5 "Taylor Drift" Dighton Elementary School in Dighton first grade teacher Lisa Perry and District 6 "Ice S'now More" Mary of the Hills School in Milton fourth grade teacher Kathleen Blah.

Winning Submissions for fifth through eighth grade are: District 1 "Ice Ice Baby" Pine Cobble School in Williamstown fifth grade teacher Jeff Uhas; District 2 "It's Snow Problem" Paul R. Baird Middle School of Ludlow sixth grade teacher Tina DeLullo; District 3 "Mac N' Freeze" Oak Street Elementary School of Franklin fifth grade teacher Abby Normandin; District 4 "Blizzard Buster" North Andover Middle School in North Andover seventh grade teacher Gabrielle Campbell; District 5 "C 3 P Snow" St. Mary's

Catholic School in Mansfield fifth grade teacher Mrs. Stratton and

District 6 "Meltin' John" Manville School in Boston eighth grade teacher Sean Milligan

Applications for the Snowplow Naming Contest were submitted by Friday, Dec. 13, 2024. There was no limit to the number of applications that could have been submitted per school. A selection panel composed of MassDOT employees chose two elementary/middle school classroom winners that are located within each of the six Highway Division districts. The winning submissions were evaluated based on two grade-level categories: 1) kindergarten through fourth grade, and 2) fifth grade through eighth grade.

For more information on the contest, people may visit: <https://www.mass.gov/name-a-snowplow-contest-2024-25>.

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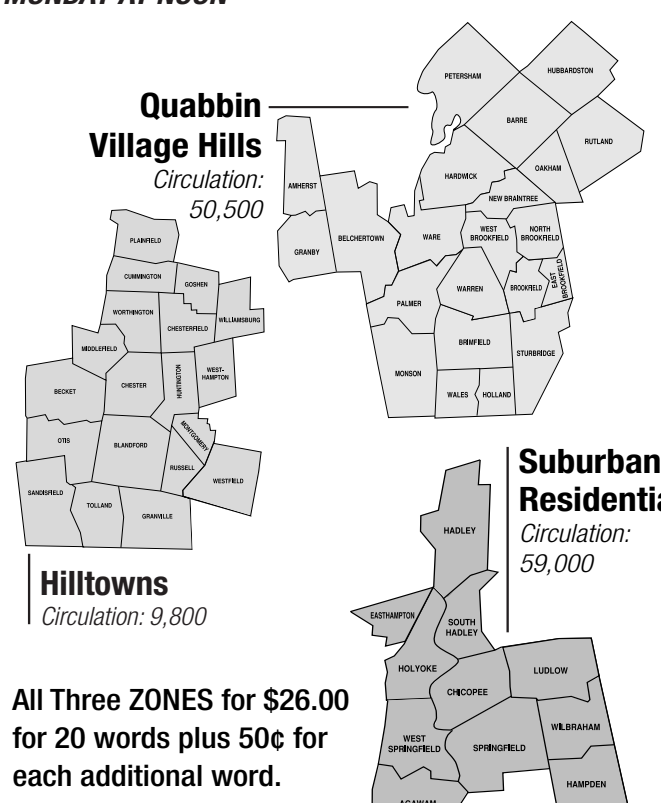
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22	Base Price \$28.50	Base Price \$29.00	Base Price \$29.50
23	Base Price \$30.50	Base Price \$31.00	Base Price \$31.50
24	Base Price \$32.50	Base Price \$33.00	Base Price \$33.50
25	Base Price \$34.50	Base Price \$35.00	Base Price \$35.50
26	Base Price \$36.50	Base Price \$37.00	Base Price \$37.50
27	Base Price \$38.50	Base Price \$39.00	Base Price \$39.50
28	Base Price \$40.50	Base Price \$41.00	Base Price \$41.50
29	Base Price \$42.50	Base Price \$43.00	Base Price \$43.50
30	Base Price \$44.50	Base Price \$45.00	Base Price \$45.50
31	Base Price \$46.50	Base Price \$47.00	Base Price \$47.50
32	Base Price \$48.50	Base Price \$49.00	Base Price \$49.50
33	Base Price \$50.50	Base Price \$51.00	Base Price \$51.50
34	Base Price \$52.50	Base Price \$53.00	Base Price \$53.50
35	Base Price \$54.50	Base Price \$55.00	Base Price \$55.50
36	Base Price \$56.50	Base Price \$57.00	Base Price \$57.50
37	Base Price \$58.50	Base Price \$59.00	Base Price \$59.50
38	Base Price \$60.50	Base Price \$61.00	Base Price \$61.50
39	Base Price \$62.50	Base Price \$63.00	Base Price \$63.50
40	Base Price \$64.50	Base Price \$65.00	Base Price \$65.50

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QHMA seeks nominations for 2025 Choice Awards

PALMER – The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce, the non-profit organization that promotes business, development and tourism within surrounding communities of Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties, is seeking nominations for its 2025 Choice Awards.

Award categories include: Community Hero and Educator of the Year, as well as Food/Drink and Retail Establishment of the Year. The Chamber will also be recognizing a member Business

and Volunteer of the Year at a special event on May 1 at Teresa's Restaurant in Ware honoring this year's recipients.

"We are thrilled for the return of the Chamber's annual Choice Awards event. And to specifically shine a spotlight on the difference making individuals and businesses that help make our communities so special," said James Przypek, Chief Executive Officer of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce.

Nominations can be submitted on the Quaboag Hills Chamber of

Commerce official website, qhma.com from now and until Jan. 31. While online voting for this year's winners will be conducted from Feb. 1 through March 16.

The criteria for specific categories are:

Community Hero of the Year – An individual (citizen, resident, veteran, first responder) who has gone above and beyond via a single outstanding act within the last 12 months, or a series of contributions over an extended period for the betterment of their community.

The individual must reside or have performed their act or work within the Quaboag Hills 15 member communities.

Educator of the Year – An individual who has positively impacted the school (public, regional, private or independent) and the students for which they work. The individual must reside, or the school for which they work must be located within the Quaboag Hills 15 member communities.

Food/Drink Establishment of the Year – An outstanding local

food and drink establishment such as a restaurant, winery, brewery, cidery or any other food and/or drink venue where product(s) can be consumed on-site.

Retail Establishment of the Year – An outstanding store or business physically located within, or whose online operations is based within the Quaboag Hills 15 member communities, that provides customers with goods or services.

About the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce
Established in 1978 and head-

quartered in Palmer, the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce's purpose is to advance economic growth, interests and tourism for our members through policies, programs and development in the Quaboag Hills region, including the 15 towns of Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Palmer, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren and West Brookfield.

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