

BARRE GAZETTE

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FinCom begins department budget meeting

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – The Finance Committee began meeting with various departments, boards and committees to discuss their Fiscal Year 2027 budgets.

Veterans agent Garrett Skinner said he was new to the budget process and was not sure what the committee wanted. He began as Veteran's Agent about two months ago. He said four Veterans were on the roll

for veterans benefits and there may be another two. The budget has \$70,000 for those benefits, which offset basic necessities. Town Administrator Melanie Jackson said the Federal government reimburses the town 75% for those benefits.

Skinner also said the street flags need to be replaced. They are on display for Memorial Day and Veterans Day. He said the Henry Woods Building now has a designated parking spot for Veterans under

the Valor Act. He said other town buildings like the library would also be eligible for a designated parking spot under that act. He will be holding a coffee hour at the Senior Center on Wednesday, Jan. 21 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. for an opportunity for Veterans to learn about benefits available to them.

Treasurer
Town Administrator Jackson said she would be adding \$10,000 to the tax title budget for this year and next for the treasurer.

She was also including an increase in IT to update computers in that office.

Planning Board
Floyd Kelley, Chairman of the Planning Board, said the budget included \$3,100 for paper and other office supplies. The Town Administrator said she would be looking into central purchasing of paper, etc. Finance Committee Cory Bombredi said he liked the idea of central supply purchasing.

Conservation
Committee and Zoning

Board of Appeals

Both the Conservation Committee and Zoning Board of Appeals were level funded. Donald Rich, Chairman of the Conservation Committee said the budget included association fees and workshops.

Town Accountant
Town Accountant Jackson said the Town Accountant budget included an increase in hours for the assistant town account-

See BARRE, page 6

Select Board member discusses survey

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Correspondent

HUBBARDSTON – The Select Board held a special meeting Monday night, Jan. 12 and accepted the resignation of Veterans Agent Lauren Wright.

According to the board, Wright put in her intent to resign a number of months ago, and this was a formality to officially accept the resignation.

Departmental needs

Board member Heather Munroe discussed some needs that the various boards and committees submitted to her via a survey, which she created and sent to them.

The Cultural Council requested to get their "materials" submitted to the state, to get their funding. Emergency Management needs the Select Board to sign off on a grant once it is awarded from the Emergency Management Performance Grant, for \$2,500. Multiple other departments said they needed their budgets and financials done.

Finance update

Munroe said that reserve fund transfers have been approved, including \$3,000 dollars for plowing and \$14,000 for the Police Department. She said Marcia Bohinc has started working on town accounting, and will update the board this week.

Grants

The town applied for the District Local Technical Assistance grant last year, for \$4,500 dollars, Munroe said. She said the grant is to be used for "revisions to our commercial zoning districts."

The board voted to move the current proposal forward.

Munroe said the town also applied for the Rural Development Grant in the amount of \$75,000 dollars, for 21 Gardner Road, the new site of many town offices.

Personnel updates

The board voted to extend temporary assistant treasurer Sarah Rish until Jan. 31, or until somebody new is appointed, for up to 10 hours a week. The board is currently interviewing three applicants for the position.

The board also reviewed applicants for Building Commissioner, including Robert "Duffy" Lanciani, Bob Garside, and Vincenzo Tirone.

Lanciani resigned from his role as Building Commissioner, but wanted to be considered again, according to board member Katie Young. Young said that the current system the town uses for building permits and inspections does not work as it should, and is one of the main reasons Lanciani resigned.

Garside runs an LLC, and has staff who go out and inspect buildings, according to Young. She said that Salisbury and Pepperell gave "glowing" reviews of his services.

Young said that Garside would prefer to use a system called opengov for permits and inspections, rather

See SURVEY
DISCUSSED, page 6

Board discussed open meeting law complaints

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Select Board reviewed two open meeting law complaints during its Jan. 12 meeting.

The first was a complaint submitted by Select Board Vice-Chair William Tinker. Tinker recused himself from the discussion and Select Board Chair Eric Vollheim read the complaint for the public record.

Tinker's complaint involved concerns of repeated violations of open meeting law complaints regarding the Select Board in handling executive session scheduling. Vollheim said this started back in June of 2025 and is admitted that he is not clear on how much he's legally allowed to talk about this subject in public.

It appears the board would have to schedule another executive session to close out what is being discussed with those involved. Select Board Clerk Jeffrey Schaaf shared that he was at the executive session on Nov. 24 and according to his notes the board had concluded the executive session.

"And no further action was necessary," Schaaf stated.

To be on the safe side, Vollheim believes the board has to have another executive session and speak with the lawyers again.

The second open meeting law complaint to discuss was submitted by resident Jeffery Smith, regarding missing meeting minutes throughout the year 2025.

There were many executive sessions held and Smith said there no meeting minutes posted, in addition to no checkup or review of said minutes. Vollheim explained that the matter discussed in the executive session has not been resolved.

Tinker addressed some of Smith's complaints. He said there were meeting minutes uploaded to the site that apparently came up blank. Tinker had a list of the meetings and complaints put together for the board to review and approve.

The Select Board discussed how to address this issue and find the missing minutes to come to a resolution. Tinker also highlighted going through the town's YouTube channel and pulling the transcript.

According to Tinker, the previous Select Board chair should have some notes saved from these meetings.

Town Administrator Justine Caggiano said she could check with the previous chair for executive session notes. The board members said the executive session meeting information would take a while, as a session still has to take place

See HARDWICK, page 6

Safety Committee discussed Downey Road condition

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Correspondent

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield Safety Committee held an emergency meeting last Tuesday, regarding a citizen concern.

According to the committee, they received an email from a resident of Downey Road, alleging that it is impassable during the winter.

Members of the committee said that the road is partially dirt road, and can pose hazards during the winter, and suggested placing signs along both ends of the road stating "November through April pass at own risk."

Police Chief Ryan Daley

also suggested placing more sand in front of the resident's property.

The board also discussed concerns about the width of the road, saying that it makes emergency response difficult, as there is only room for one vehicle at a time to pass. Interim Deputy Fire Chief Thomas Bessette said they would have to prioritize the vehicles, and make sure that ambulances can be the first ones out of the road in an emergency. There will be a pipe replacement on the road in the spring, according to the committee.

The committee also said the town has applied for grants from the state which could help fund paving some of the dirt roads, and that they would prioritize paving roads that have the heaviest traffic flow.



This photo shows the outside of the Administrative Building at the town's wastewater treatment plant.

Tour highlighted upgraded wastewater treatment plant

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – As part of the town's First Night activities on New Year's Eve, the Sewer Department led a tour of the recently upgraded Biological Nutrient Removal Wastewater Treatment Plant located at 59 East Brookfield Road.

Over a dozen people joined Sewer Department Superintendent Eric Cardenas and Operators Michael Mercandante and Kyle Notre for a tour of the facility, which uses three types of wastewater treatment processes: physical, biological and chemical.

Cardenas has worked for the town's Sewer Department for the past 10 years, taking on the role of Superintendent almost two years ago.

The tour started in the Administrative Building, which contains a lab to test the wastewater throughout the various stages of treatments. In the lab, Cardenas showed samples of the liquid streams, starting with the influent (raw sewage with some septage mixed in) to the final product, effluent, that is ready for discharge.

He said it takes about a day for the influent to go through the full treatment to discharge as effluent.

"It's all dependent on the flow," he said.

The flow changes season-to-season, with the process taking longer during the drier months, and faster in the wetter months.

Peak flows typical-



Turley Publications Photo by Paula Ouimette

Sewer Department Superintendent Eric Cardenas pointed to a filter and explained how it worked during a recent tour of North Brookfield's Biological Nutrient Removal Wastewater Treatment Plant.

ly occur during large rain events. A recent rainstorm nearly doubled the plant's flow rate.

Cardenas said there is an approximately 22-foot difference in elevation from the start of the wastewater treatment process to the finish.

"This treatment plant is pretty unique, so everything flows by gravity," Cardenas said. "You don't really have to pump anything up to the next process."

Cardenas explained the role bacteria plays in the wastewater treatment process. The bacteria are part of the biological treatment that takes place in the aeration basins.

"We constantly look

at how much bacteria we have, how much do we have to remove from the system," he said. "It's a pretty unique process. It's constantly changing, it never stays the same...we work seven days a week here."

The bacteria also help to remove heavy metals from the wastewater.

Cardenas said the bacteria are affected by the temperature, and that they work slower in the cold.

After aeration, the flow then moves to the secondary clarifiers, which are now 35 years old need to be replaced. Cardenas said

See TREATMENT
PLANT, page 7



News of the Towns



ROUND TOWN

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Circle of Song rehearsals begin

Circle of Song starts their winter-spring session on Thursday, Jan. 22 from 7-8:30 p.m. at Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange St. Rehearsal will be every Thursday between then and Thursday, May 14 with the concert on Saturday, May 16 at 7 p.m. at the Barre Town Hall. Circle of song is particularly in need of altos this session. Singers of all ages and experience are welcome. The chorus sings in four-part harmony and there is a modest sliding scale membership fee with deep discounts for students. People may email director Julie Rawson at julie@mhof.net or call 978-257-1192.

American Legion Auxillary

Veterans of all ages are invited to join the seniors at the Barre/ Hardwick Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, on Wednesday, Jan. 21 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. for coffee hour. Something yummy for coffee hour would be appreciated.

Town Election deadlines

Town Clerk Ellen Glidden announces election deadlines for the Annual Town Election on Monday, April 6 from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. The Town Clerk's Office, located in the Henry Woods Building basement at 40 West St., will be open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on the following dates for the following Town Election deadlines. Nominations papers are now available. Thursday, Feb. 12 is the last day/time to take out nomination papers. No papers can be issues after 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17 by 5 p.m. is the last day/time for candidates to file Town Election nomination papers for verification of signatures. Wednesday, March 4 by 5 p.m. is the last day/time for candidates to withdraw from ballot. Friday, March 27 by 5 p.m. is the last day/time to register to vote. Monday, March 30 by 5 p.m. is the last day/time to request an Early Vote By Mail ballot. Friday, April 3 by 5 p.m. is the last day/time to apply for Absentee Ballot to vote in person. The Test Deck for this election will be run on Wednesday, March 25 at 1 p.m. at the Town Clerk's Office. For questions relating to the Town Election, people may email the Town Clerk at clerk@townofbarre.com or call 978-355-2504, extension 5.

Town Clerk lists election deadlines

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Circle of Song selections for their spring concert are: "Brightly Dawns Our Wedding Day" by WS Gilbert/arranged by Arthur Sullivan from The Mikado, "Down by the Riverside" traditional/ arranged by

David Eddleman, "Les Miserables Medley" by Schonberg and Kretzmer and arranged by Lojeski,

"Make Our Garden Grow" Bernstein/arranged by Page from "Candide," "No One is Alone" by Sondheim/arranged by Brymer from "Into the Woods," "The Promise of Living" Copland/ Everett from "The Tender Land," "Solitude" by Duke Ellington/arranged by Althouse, "Total Praise" by Richard Smallwood/ arranged by Rao, "Waltzing Matilda" traditional/arranged

by Sand and "Till There Was You" by Lerner and Loewe from "The Music Man." This will be a quartet of Jack, Joan, Anne and Julie for the 25th anniversary of Circle of Song.

Circle of song is particularly in need of altos this session. Singers of all ages and experience are welcome. The chorus sings in four-part harmony and there is a modest sliding scale membership fee with deep discounts for students. People may email director Julie Rawson at julie@mhof.net or call 978-257-1192.



OAKHAM

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Church to hold breakfast

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will hold a breakfast on Saturday, Jan. 24 from 8-9:30 a.m. The breakfast will benefit the homeless of Worcester. The menu consists of three kinds of pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, strawberries, orange juice, coffee, tea and hot chocolate.

Office hours

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

Fobes Memorial Library

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

Senior Center

On the third Friday, Jan 16 at 12:30 p.m. the Lunch Brunch will travel to the Empire Buffet in Southbridge. A sign up sheet is in the Senior Center Main Room. On Monday, Jan. 26 podiatry clinic will take place from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Reservations are required.

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

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

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

Brookfields Lions Club scholarship applications

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Brookfields Lions Club is now accepting applications for its annual scholarship program, according to club president Bill Cass.

Each year, the club awards a scholarship of up to \$1,000 to a graduating senior in each of the club's member communities, Cass said. Recipients of the 2026 Brookfields Lions Club scholarship awards will be announced in June.

To qualify for consideration, applicants must live in one of the member communities – Brookfield, East Brookfield, North Brookfield, West Brookfield, and New Braintree – and submit an application before their school's spring break. The application must include the student's class rank and be signed by the school's guidance director.

The application form is now available for download on the club's website at brookfieldslionsclub.org/scholarships. The completed form should be mailed to the scholarship selection committee care of Brookfields Lions Club, Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 128, North Brookfield, MA 01535.

For additional information, please contact the Brookfields Lions Club at brookfieldslionsclub@gmail.com, or visit the Club's Facebook page at facebook.com/BrookfieldsLionsClub.

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. 19. 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 – Martin Luther King Day no meal served.

TUESDAY – Lasagna and meatballs, marinara sauce, roasted broccoli and carrots, fresh fruit, Italian bread

WEDNESDAY – Chicken fajitas,

Spanish rice, black beans and corn, pineapple, pita bread, sour cream

THURSDAY – Vegetarian chili with cheese, roasted potatoes, country blend vegetables, birthday cake, diet = small piece, marble rye bread

FRIDAY – Fish with crumb topping, au gratin potatoes, mixed vegetables, tropical fruit,, pumpernickel bread, tartar sauce

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

Final People's History of Petersham Jan. 17

PETERSHAM – The final series of the three-part, mid-winter People's History of Petersham project will be Saturday, Jan. 17 at 4 p.m. at the Petersham Country Store, North Main Street, Rte. 32.

The intention of the gatherings are to engage residents and visitors of Petersham to tell their own unique stories, memories, and information on the history and culture of the town. The Saturday session will include short video clips of the annual Petersham Agricultural Fair that was a central community event between 1943 - 1962. The program will include information on the various sum-

mer residents of the hilltop community, and several attendees read sections of the already written and catalogued history of Petersham.

According to local historian and organizer of the project, Larry Buell, there is a rich storehouse of experiences and memories held by residents that need to be preserved as a part of recent history. Buell goes on to say that a well-written history of the community can help present and future generations understand and learn from their local community as a part of their own personal empowerment and influence.

More of the Town's histo-

ry of the last 150 years will be explored through driving and walking tours to key historic sites, public programs, and a series of oral history interviews. Residents of Petersham are invited to write down and/or share on audio and video tapes their own unique understanding of the Town's History. As famous farmer/poet, Wendell Berry states, "If you don't know where you are, you may not know who you are."

The program is free and open to the public. For information, people may email contact Larry Buell at LarryBuell2143@gmail.com or by call 978-724-0412.

Rep. Berthiaume named Legislator of Year

SPENCER – State Representative Donnie Berthiaume was named Legislator of the Year at the Massachusetts Department of the American Legion Annual Convention.

The legion serves over 26,000 members from across the Commonwealth, committed to serving veterans and active service members. Among lobbying and promoting education, the legion also helps thousands of veterans with their benefits with the goal of giving each veteran and service member a better quality of life.

Each year, at the single largest gathering of all American Legions from

across the State, a Legislator who shows a commitment and dedication to the well-being of veterans and their families is presented with the award.

"We honor those who are veteran centric," said Lisa McPhee, Department Adjutant at the Department of American Legion "When we have an issue, Representative Berthiaume listens and champions us".

Representative Berthiaume received the distinguished award from John P. "Jake" Comer, the past National Commander of the American Legion and swore in Spencer's own Scott Conner as the new State

Commander of the American Legion.

"It is an honor to be recognized by The American Legion which is a leader when it comes to veterans issues," State Representative Berthiaume said. "State Commander Conner and the staff in that office tirelessly advocate for our veterans and are the true heroes when it comes to assisting veterans in need."

As a Navy Veteran, Representative Berthiaume continues to be an advocate on Beacon Hill and in the communities, he serves for the betterment of all current and former members of the armed services.

Editorial deadline reminder

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

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SAT. 8 A.M. TO NOON

News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

Barre Common Oversight Committee – Jan. 15 at 5 p.m.
 Select Board – Jan. 20 at 5 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – Jan. 20 at 6 p.m.
 Finance Committee – Jan. 20, Feb. 3 and Feb. 17 at 6:30 p.m.
 Planning Board – Jan. 20, Feb. 3 and Feb. 17 at 7 p.m.
 Cemetery Commission – Jan. 22 at 11 a.m.
 Felton Field Commission – Feb. 3 at 6:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Feb. 4 at 12:30 p.m.
 Water Commission – Feb. 8 at 5:30 p.m.
 DPW Commission – Feb. 9 at 6 p.m.
 Conservation Committee – Feb. 10 at 7 p.m.
 Board of Health – Feb. 9 at 5 p.m.
 Cable Advisory Committee – Feb. 10 at 7 p.m.
 Barre Housing Authority – Feb. 12 at 1 p.m.

HARDWICK

Gilbertville Water District – Jan. 20 at 5:30 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – Jan. 21 at 6:30 p.m.
 Wheelwright Water District – Jan. 21 at 7 p.m.
 Town Meeting – Jan. 22 at 6 p.m.
 Capital Planning Committee – Jan. 22 at 6 p.m. and March 16 at 3 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Feb. 4 at 12:30 p.m.
 Paige Library Trustees – Feb. 5 at 7 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

First Meeting House Preservation Committee – Feb. 15 at 6 p.m.
 Community Preservation Committee – Jan. 15 at 4 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – Jan. 21 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – Jan. 22 at 6:30 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Water Commissioners – Jan. 20 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – Jan. 28 and Feb. 18 at 6 p.m.
 Rep. Berthiaume Office Hour – Feb 12 from 11 a.m.-noon

OAKHAM

Board of Selectmen – Jan. 16 at 9:30 a.m. and Jan. 20 at 6 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Select Board – Jan. 15, Jan. 22, Jan. 29, Feb. 5, Feb. 12, Feb. 19 and Feb. 26 at 5:30 p.m.
 Petersham Historic District – Jan. 15 at 6 p.m.
 Broadband Municipal Light Plant Board – Jan. 17 at 2 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – Jan. 30 at 9 a.m.
 Open Space and Recreation Committee – Feb. 3 at 6 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – Feb. 3 at 5:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Feb. 9 at 10:30 a.m.

RUTLAND

Rutland Development and Industrial Committee – Jan. 15 at 6 p.m.
 Select Board Public Hearing – Jan. 20 at 6 p.m.
 Finance Committee and Select Board Joint Meeting – Jan. 21, Jan. 22 and Jan. 29 at 6 p.m.



Charter members are standing Richard Bartus, Past District Governor Denis Legare, Larry Robinson, and seated is Past President Everett Ricketts.

Petersham Lions Club looks back at 2025

PETERSHAM – The Petersham Lions Club has been busy these past months and activities continued into the Holiday season.

In August the Club sponsored a Motorcycle Poker Ride to raise funds for the Petersham Fire Department to purchase turnout gear which is the safety gear that comprises the firefighter's coat, pants, helmet, hood, gloves and boots and costs approximately \$ 5,000.00 per firefighter. Each set of safety gear is specifically fitted to each firefighter. The event was able to raise \$ 2,000

towards the purchase of a set of gear. The day included a designed ride route through a number of towns and included motorcycles and vintage cars. The day include a raffle with many great items and the Club's Chuck Wagon crew served up hot dogs and hamburgers. Our firefighters manned their information table and also kept the children busy playing various games on the Common and monitored the popular bounce house.

Music was provided by Lady Pop and sponsored by a grant from the Petersham

Cultural Council Donations for the event and raffle items were from Witty's Funeral Home, Fluffy Feather Farm, Asher House, Hardwick Co-op, Brookside Equipment, Higgins Motorsports, Worcester Red Sox, Table Talk Pies, Price Chopper, BJ's, Kayem Hotdogs, Market Basket and Utz as well as members of the Lions Club.

On Sept. 12, the Lions Club celebrated its 50th Anniversary and the Club was honored that it could recognize and highlight the contributions of four of its Charter members: Past District Governor Denis Legare, Richard Bartus, Larry Robinson and Past President Everett Ricketts. Several members were presented with their milestone membership pins and Lion Chip Bull received the Joseph J. Camarda Fellowship Award. Along with 50 year pins, proclamations and an outpouring of love and gratitude, The Club gifted its charter members with International Lions signs that are now posted on the major roads into Petersham. This was a project that all four of our members had wanted to accomplish for years.

On Halloween, the Club



Lions District 33A Governor Andrew Keene holds up the Lions International street signs that will be posted on the major roads entering Town. To the left is Petersham Lions Club President Jim Regan and on the right is the District Secretary Kristen Keene to DG Keenes right is

See LIONS CLUB, page 6

Corrections policy

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

HUBBARDSTON

by Ellenor Downer
 edowner@turley.com

Brush burning takes place at Hidden Meadow

On Saturday, Jan. 17 beginning at 9 a.m. the East Quabbin Land Trust will hold brush burning at Hidden Meadow, 71 Lombard Road. This is part of invasive plant control. People are welcome to help the entire day or part of the day. They should wear clothes that can get dirty and damaged. As well as sturdy shoes and work gloves. They will continue to burn the invasive plants such as honeysuckle and bittersweet, which are prolific in the meadow preserve. People should RSVP to chenshaw@eqult.org. There will be snacks and lunch food for the volunteers.

Short hike

On Monday, Jan. 19 at 1:30 p.m. there will be a short hike with reflection on Martin Luther King Jr. and John Muir at the Malone Road Conservation Area. Participants will enjoy the one-mile walk to view of Mt. Wachusett while discussing a link between Martin Luther King and John Muir. Depending on conditions, possible one-mile bushwhack to what is below Dottie Rock. They should meet at parking area at end of Malone Road. The leader is Tim Hawley of the Hubbardston Open Space Committee. They will hike in any weather except if driving is impaired due to snow or ice on roads.

Rep. Berthiaume and Sen. Durant office hours

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

Fuel Assistance

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

Senior Center Events

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

Ham radio club meeting is on Jan. 27

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Quabbin Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the West Brookfield Senior Center, 73 Central St.

This month's presentation features Bill Simpson of Smokestack Lightning, who will explain the basics of lightning protection and share a short demonstration with his "lightning machine." All licensed amateurs and anyone curious about Amateur Radio are invited to attend, and the public is welcome to stop in – especially homeowners interested in practical lightning safety.

For more information about the club, upcoming events, or licensing opportunities, visit www.QVARC.com.



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2026 East Quabbin Farm Micro-grant



Funding to inspire our local farmers to continue doing their great work in sustaining our communities and improving the quality of life in the East Quabbin region - including Barre, Hardwick, Hubbardston, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Petersham, Ware and West Brookfield.



Prioritizing requests for:

- Farm succession planning and farmland conservation; and
- Organic and/or Regenerative farming practices focused on fruits, vegetables and meats directly consumed by residents of our region.

Apply Now!

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 February 23rd

More information:

<https://eqilt.org/east-quabbin-farm-micro-grants/>

Opinion

Guest Column

On the Hardwick Community Church

A Federation of the two churches on one New England town common as early as 1721 would make the Hardwick Community Church, the oldest local church in America.

While it was more likely a later choice to combine the churches into a federation, joining Universalist and Calvinist theology, the institution itself has remained a functioning organization; but with the loss of church congregations, it was almost forgotten in recent decades. We forgot about the Hardwick Community Church.

Two years ago on finding its treasury, donated and wisely invested by earlier members decades and generations ago, I sought to revive interest in this community church, a ready-made, solid and funded organization which by nature intends peace, charity, and wellbeing for all, just waiting for people to use it to revive and strengthen our local community.

Whether church with a capital C, representing the best human intentions or church with the small c, separate from state, the Hardwick Community Church appeared to me a gift from heaven, an empowering instrument or the simplest tool for people on the planet to regain local strength and hope in the face of life's vicissitudes.

In the past two years of meeting with various interested people, some of us actual members of one or the other churches have voted to find and divide the treasury equally between the two member churches. While that is not necessarily public business, the opportunity for anyone interested, whether family of those who may have been former members, or former members of either church at some time past, or even the unchurched, are invited to meet at this ground level to preserve and further develop a community church, to help determine and resume its functions. Everyone then is welcome to come join or listen as we launch into 2026.

Hardwick Community Church is the same entity, I think to myself but now we have no money! (Irony!). Yet it remains truly a ground floor opportunity as I see it.

We will have to raise our own funds to move forward, to implement our goals, caring for the environment that supports our life and providing for psychosocial contexts of every sort which improve one's confidence and social skills, such as:

Hospitality for the entire community – tea parties on the common or in the churches, both beautiful, architectural and historic buildings fully operational for charitable purposes, if only one is currently used for worship.

Mind you, the Tri Parish Community Church is alive and well since the 1970s and provides worship services rotating between Hardwick and New Braintree on a six month basis. We are now meeting in New Braintree at 10 a.m. each Sunday until July 2026 when we will return to the Universalist Church in Hardwick.

This common arrangement between churches was begun to save costs of the minister and his housing and expenses borne by large church congregations in the past.

- To be open during farmers market;
- Have sewing clubs, quilting, exercise groups,

- To form and support lacrosse, or other teams;
- Concerts, lectures, conferences
- Connections with Eagle Hill School and the Stone Church Cultural Center;
- Connections with other churches, Petersham, Orthodox, St. Augustine in Wheelwright, Saint Aloysius; other churches of Ware, other community, local organizations.

- Sponsoring talks, singing groups, woodworking, timber framing
- After/before school programs and teen hangouts with breakfast or after-school snacks, healthy of course
- Imagining ways to replace rapid access to healthcare; providing health services

- Implementing self-sufficiency of our homes and our own buildings
- Evolving our responsibilities to our "property" in both self-sufficiency – electricity, water, and food – the ability for local autonomy and survival, and considering our responsibility to each other because we use the same air, water, soil (food), and local facilities to survive

- Working with our history as our nation developed; we were there; as agriculture began we were there and still are
- How to generate revenue enough to provide services, always maintaining the separation of church and state; to help Church supplement lost services and prevent or remediate further impoverishment of our people and the cumulative degradation of our surroundings, our environments, via police, fire, ambulance, roadways, waterworks, septic mitigation, and diverting entrance of toxins into our place and our bodies.

Must church take up the slack? Could we work together with our own indigenous peoples who can teach us of spirit found in nature we have lost? Could we set up a new system of checks and balances between Church, State and Nature represented by the Environment and its first peoples?

We can establish anything we imagine and have great joy doing so together. Interest in Community – interest In Common.

We can become citizen researchers planting to replace species lost to disease or for beautification of our public areas and common. We develop a voice of local peoples through the Hardwick Community Church because it is crucial to our health and spiritual well-being.

You are invited to offer ideas, and help put them together, together.

The Annual Meeting of the Hardwick Community Church will be held on Sunday, Jan. 18 at noon at the Hardwick Universalist Church Hardwick Center.

Heroic efforts at the local level are called for. Church steps in when all else fails because of those who have hope, faith and love of their neighbors and themselves. We are out here ready to take the peaceful path, to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God (Old Testament) and with faith hope and charity (New Testament) represent church with a capital C.

Cordially,

Judith Kohn

Member Congregational Church of the Hardwick Community Church and the Tri Parish Community Church



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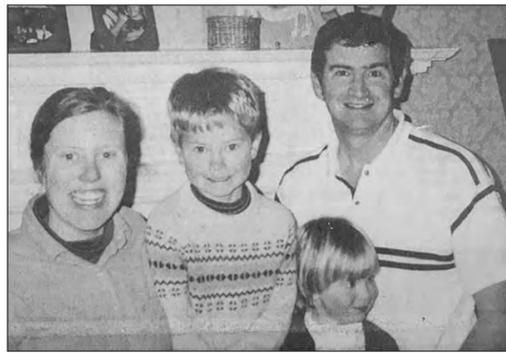
In Past Pages

5 years (Jan. 21, 2021)

Superintendent Muir said the Department of Education planned to hold COVID-19 testing pools. Under the pool testing, schools would have access to COVID testing for students and staff member in a cohort. If the cohort tests came back negative, then from the results, it would assume all in the cohort were negative. If the test came back positive, then the results would assume at least one was positive. With a positive result, all in the cohort would be tested and quarantined. This was a way to identify those asymptomatic for COVID. The program would initially be free and afterwards the cost would be \$5 per test. The program could start in early February. Permission must be granted for the testing of COVID cases.

The Quabbin Regional School District received the air exchange report from Pioneer Valley Environmental. The acceptable air exchange rate should be 4.00. At Ruggles Lane Elementary School the air exchange rates in the various classrooms ranged from 5.99 to 8.33. The Hubbardston Center School rooms all tested above 4.00, as did the Hardwick Elementary School and Oakham Center School. The Quabbin Regional Middle High School had one room with two units that tested lower than 4.00. The room H127 tested 3.72 and H 125, 3.98. Heating coils collect dust. They will be cleaned and the large room retested. The middle school gym tested at 0.57. Dust collection on the heating coils most likely was part of the problem in the gym also. Cheryl Duval, director of administrative services, said Pioneer Valley Environment did not test all the air diffusers in the middle school gym and would be coming back to do that. The superintendent said because of the low reading in the gym, students were not using the gym, but using the

Look Back Trip to New Zealand – 1996



Susan and Matt Turnbull are shown with their children, Matt and Betsy, at their home in Oakham. The family recently returned from a trip to New Zealand.

high school gym. The other tested okay. Two classrooms at the New Braintree Grade School were also tested. One room tested at 3.00 and might have ice storm damage to the coils, which would be checked.

At approximately 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 15, Rutland Regional Emergency Communications Center received a call seeking assistance for a 30-year-old horse that had slipped in its paddock and was unable to get up. The owner of the horse, with the help of friends and neighbors, had tried unsuccessfully to get the elderly animal standing. When horses are lying down for long periods of time, they are in danger of having blood flow restricted to their internal organs and legs. The cold temperatures and frozen ground can increase the risk of injury, or even death, for downed horses.

This is the second large animal rescue Barre Fire Department has performed since May 2020. The effort to get this horse standing again, required 13 emergency personnel from Barre and two from Holden. The entire

rescue mission took roughly two hours from arrival, to clearing the scene.

10 years (Jan. 21, 2016)

It was an exciting day of high school wrestling as Quabbin hosted and participated in the annual Midland Wrestling Duals last Saturday. "It's fun to have a home dual tournament," Quabbin sophomore wrestler Conor Thompson said. Despite what things may look like on paper and sporting an overall 2-3 team record, the Quabbin varsity wrestling crew is filled with lots of promising young talent. Their biggest obstacle and what prohibits them from obtaining the "W" is sheer lack of numbers. The Panther wrestlers that participate in the meets are more than meeting the grade, however the holes or the absence of bodies needed to fill all weight classes just isn't present, therefore creating forfeited points given to opponents on a silver platter. With 11 varsity wrestlers and two alternates, Quabbin falls three wrestlers short of being able to submit athletes in every weight category.

See PAST PAGES, page 5

Letter to the Editor

Oakham roads have excessive salt usage

To the Oakham residents; you have been very clear about high concerns of the possible contamination of ground water from a possible thermal runaway of a proposed Battery Energy Storage System facility.

You should be just as concerned with the poisoning of your wells from the current excessive treatment of straight salt being dispensed on our roads. This calcium chloride doesn't evaporate. It continuously penetrates

through the ground and will in time infiltrate the water we all hope to protect.

Salt does not enhance traction. It is an antifreeze agent that lowers the melting temperature of frozen water to approximately 10 degrees F.

Sand is abrasive and does enhance traction on slippery conditions. A minimal amount of salt is necessary to mix with the sand to prevent it from clumping and freezing in the dispensing equipment.

The bottom line is to minimize

usage of salt to protect our water and to drive responsibly by safely reducing vehicle speeds and maintaining proper distancing between vehicles to proceed safely in wintry conditions.

Please notify Oakham's administration of how concerned you are with the current treatment program being done on our roads.

Paul Rochette
Oakham resident
for 47 years

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Guest Column

Barre faces water crisis

By Robert Kane
Barre

Our beloved town of Barre is facing a water crisis that is larger than any one board, any one commission or any one development proposal.

To understand what we need to do next, we must look honestly at our aquifer, our finances, our land and the regional water system that already runs through our area. This is not about politics or personalities. It is about survival, responsibility and the future of our families.

Our aquifer is already at its limit. We have about 500 households and businesses on town water. Even at this small number, our wells struggle to keep up. We see this every summer when restrictions go into place. This is not a temporary inconvenience. It is a sign that the aquifer is overstressed. Adding more users to the system will not fix the problem. It will make it worse. The town cannot afford another well.

A new well costs millions of dollars. The town is already carrying debt from sewer infrastructure and we have spent significant money on legal fees related to the Battery Energy Storage System proposal. A United States Department of Agriculture loan is not guaranteed and even if it were, we would still be borrowing money we do not have to drill into an aquifer that may not have the capacity to support us.

This is not a financially responsible path. We still have a USDA loan out on the sewer infrastructure, what I do not know is if we are required to pay off that first, but it makes sense to me.

The Water Commission's current model cannot work for longterm solvency. Because the system has so few users, it does not bring in enough revenue to cover longterm costs. The commission has tried to solve this by issuing new water permits. But if the aquifer cannot support the existing users, adding more users is not a solution. It is a risk.

We do not have a revenue problem. We have a water problem. We cannot rely on Department of Environmental Protection permits to save us. Even if we wanted a new well, DEP approval is not guaranteed. Permits depend on water quality, yield, and environmental impact. If the aquifer is too weak, DEP may deny or restrict a permit. We cannot build a plan on

something that may not be allowed.

The only stable long term water source is the Quabbin Reservoir. The Quabbin Reservoir is the most reliable, drought resistant water supply in the region. Water from Quabbin flows through the aqueduct system, including infrastructure near us and continues east. The distribution point that matters for us is in Gilbertville. That is where water can be accessed for local or regional use. Connecting to Quabbin is the only plan that can support our town through climate change, drought cycles, and future population needs. This must be Plan A.

We also need a short term protection plan for the 140 acres at Wauwinet Road. The BESS proposal is located at the headwaters of Galloway Brook, near Pine Hill Pond. This area clearly contains groundwater and is part of the recharge system that feeds surface water and downstream aquifers. Whether it is the exact same aquifer as the Prince River system or a closely connected local aquifer, it is hydrologically important. We cannot allow industrial development on this land until we know what groundwater resources are present.

Chapter 61A gives the town the legal ability to pause the BESS project. Land under 61A cannot change use without the town having the right of first refusal. We have paid for the tax breaks on that property. The town can assign that right to a conservation organization such as Mount Grace or Mass Audubon. These groups can purchase the land with their own funding, not town money.

This gives us time to understand the groundwater and protect the land. Conservation does not mean giving up control. A conservation restriction can be written so the town keeps water rights, forestry rights, and agricultural uses such as hay leases. This protects the land while keeping it productive and useful. There is a successful model for this approach.

Mount Grace and Mass Audubon protected about 900 acres in the Prince River Corridor Project to safeguard the aquifer feeding town wells. This is the same type of situation we face now. We can follow that model. Plan A and Plan B work together. Plan A is connecting to Quabbin for longterm water security. Plan B is using 61A and conservation partners to protect the 140 acres now, so

we do not lose land that may be important for groundwater, recharge, or future well siting. Together, these plans give the town a path forward that is responsible, realistic, and protective of our future.

The aquifer explanation is simple. The headwaters area at Wauwinet Road, including Pine Hill Pond and Galloway Brook, contains groundwater. This groundwater may be part of a local aquifer system that eventually contributes to the Prince River system downstream. Groundwater does not always follow the same boundaries as surface streams, so the exact relationship requires a hydrological study. Because we do not yet know how this groundwater connects to the larger system, the only responsible approach is to protect the land until we have answers. Headwaters and pond adjacent areas are almost always important for recharge, water quality, and longterm supply.

Now we must also acknowledge the consequences of doing nothing. If we fail to protect the Wauwinet Road land and allow industrial development to proceed, the financial and emotional fallout for the families who live there will be severe. Property values may fall. Insurance may become harder or more expensive to obtain. Banks may hesitate to finance or refinance homes in an area with new industrial risk.

Families with mortgages could find themselves in a vulnerable position if their home value drops below what they owe. Tax revenue could decline if assessments fall across an entire neighborhood. Generational stability could be disrupted, especially for families who planned to build equity, raise children or pass property down. These impacts do not just affect today's homeowners. They affect the next generation's ability to build a stable life here. When families lose home value, insurance access, or financial stability because of a land use decision, the emotional and economic fallout lasts for generations.

People who feel unprotected look for accountability. Our job as a town is to prevent that harm before it happens. This is not about fear. It is about responsibility. It is about protecting our water, our land, our families, and our future. Plan A and Plan B give us a path forward. Doing nothing leaves us with consequences we cannot afford.

PAST PAGES from page 4

The end result puts them at a disadvantage right from the start. On one hand, looking at their record slightly below the .500 mark may not look impressive, but finding out that over half the team is currently or has been ranked in the top 10 of their weight class across their division, gives success a whole different spin.

The Quabbin boys and girls indoor track teams continued their 2015-2016 campaign with a meet against Nashoba last week at Wachusett Regional High School. The Lady Panthers had the closer of the two meets as they dropped a 66-25 decision to the Lady Chieftains, while the boys had a much tougher time in their 77.5-9.5 loss. For the girls, sophomore Morgan Giarusso finished second in the shot put at 29-03, eighth in the .55-meter dash at 8.0 and 11th in the high jump at 4-04, sophomore Kayla Whitcomb placed fifth in the two-mile at 13:35.5 and sev-

enth in the high jump at 4-08, senior Anna Berry came in sixth in the 600 meters at 1:57.3, eighth in the 1000 meters at 3:36.9 and ninth in the shot put at 13-01 1-2, freshman Nicole Caruso finished 10th in the 55-meter hurdles at 10.9, freshman Sophia Bellone placed 11th in the 55-meter hurdles at 10.9 and 23rd in the 300 meters at 55.4, freshman Madelyn Thrasher placed 14th in the high jump at 4-04 and 15th in the 55-meter hurdles at 13.5, sophomore Morgaine Bailey came in 16th in the 55-meter dash at 8.4 and 17th in the high jump at 4-02, sophomore Isabel Pitney placed 18th in the 55-meters at 9.0, 21st in the shot put at 17-05 1-2 and 24th in the 300 meters at 57.2 and sophomore Olivia Amato-Hansen finished 29th in the shot put at 15-08 1-4.

The historian of the Oakham Congregational Church, Herb Holmes, researched the first settled Congregational minister at the church, Rev. Daniel Tomlinson, to portray him

as authentically as possible. He discovered a sermon that he gave as part of the kick off for the church's 250th anniversary of its establishment. Rev. Tomlinson always wore black gloves and so did Holmes.

25 years (Jan. 18, 2001)

The Barre Board of Selectmen is accepting proposals for farming the six to eight acres of town owned land on Town Farm Road. The land contains several small fields and a five-year lease would be available. Proposals should be submitted to Lorraine Leno at the Henry Woods Building by Feb. 19.

School officials said a project involving construction of a new educational support services building will be ready to be placed out to bid March 6. We've made great progress with the time frame that we laid out," said Fran Gromelski, a member of the Quabbin Regional School Committee and building subcommittee.

Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

It was very slippery on Serenity Hill this week, but the oil man was able to get up the driveway.

I did cancel my lady that does my toe nails. My helper was able to come and she got groceries for me.

I do not like to go out when it is icy; if I fall, there is no one to take care of Ken.

I am so thankful for my helper and my handyman. We could not stay in our retirement home if it was not for them. My plowman is a blessing also.

Talk about blessings the other day when we were eating our lunch, the helper whispered a blessing and pointed outside on the deck railing. A beautiful earless owl was sitting there. He later flew up into a tree. The owl was huge.

I plan too make this desert today and have made it many times and it is an easy one to make.

SWEDISH APPLE PIE

4 apples, peeled, cored and diced or sliced

1 tablespoon sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 cup butter or margarine melted

1 cup sugar
1 cup flour
1 teaspoon vanilla

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place apples in a 9 inch pie plate. Sprinkle mixture of sugar and cinnamon over apples and set aside. In a saucepan, melt margarine or butter and mix in remaining ingredients. Mix thoroughly. Pour margarine or butter mixture over apples and bake until golden brown, about 40 to 50 minutes. I like to serve it warm with vanilla ice cream.

This and that

I have a very sensitive computer keyboard and I often get double letters. I am thankful for the correction feature on the computer. I am sure my editor notices a few mistakes.

I made the hamburg stroganoff for supper the other night and it is so good and a nice winter meal.

I worked on some penny rug runners this week. One has coneflower and berries on it with the border of pen wiper edges. It takes some time to do the edges and put the backing on, but it is worth it in the end.

I noticed it was time to fertilize the coleus and geraniums that I am wintering over. I take clippings from the coleus and never have to buy any in the spring. I have two varieties of coleus and put them on the front and back decks in the spring and they grow about three feet tall. I have given clippings to many of my visitors. They grow roots very fast in water. They also come in various colors. I am still doing a lot of watercolor cards and I give as gifts.

Highway Department has done a good job of plowing and salting so I am told. I am looking forward to spring. I am not a skier and will never be. Age has crept up on me.

Celebrate winter at ArtWorks Gallery

Deadline for exhibition entries is Feb. 12

WARE – ArtWorks Gallery invites artists of all mediums from throughout the northeastern U.S. to explore the theme of "Winter."

The deadline for entry is Feb. 12 by midnight. The entry form and full details can be found on workshop13.org.

ArtWorks Gallery is located at 69 Main St. "Winter" will be on display from March 7 through April 4,

opening with a reception on Saturday, March 7, from 3-5 p.m. Gallery hours are Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m.

The juror for "Winter" is Susan Tilton Pecora. She has been painting the streets, harbors, factories and farms of New England throughout her life.

Tilton Pecora works in watercolor, egg tempera and oil. She is a signature member of The New England Watercolor Society, host of the WGBY, PBS affiliate television show "Reflections Through Watercolor" and The

Copley Society in Boston.

Her paintings have been exhibited throughout the country, winning awards at the National Art League in New York, San Diego Art Asso. and Rocky Mountain Art Association among others. Her work has been featured in American Artist Magazine, "Splash, the Best in Watercolor" North Light Books.

In 2007 she was asked to create a painted ornament for the White House Holiday tree by Congressman Richard Neal.

Tilton Pecora is represented by West Brookfield Art & Frame in West Brookfield, Ingram Fine Art, Wiscasset and Rockland, Maine, Arnould Gallery, Marblehead and Michelson Gallery in Northampton. Prints of her works are available at The Deerfield Museum Store, Cape Art Tiles, Randall's Farm in Ludlow and The Lobster Pot in Provincetown.

About ArtWorks Gallery
ArtWorks Gallery is Workshop13's gallery on Main Street. This space features numerous art exhibitions each year and is also available to rent for individual or group shows.

Workshop13 is a dynamic center where arts, culture, and community converge – expanding access to the arts and nurturing creativity and self-expression in the rural region. For more information visit workshop13.org, or call 413-277-6072.



Submitted Photo

"Winter" juror Susan Tilton Pecora is shown painting. Entries for "Winter" will be accepted until Feb. 12.

Gromelski told the regional school committee Jan. 11 the design architect, Coldham Inc. of Amherst, is preparing final specifications in lieu of a Jan. 17 meeting with school officials to discuss water and drainage issues. Following a review of bids, the school district plans to select a general contractor on March 15, Gromelski said. Construction of the 7,200 square foot building will take place on regional high school property located off South Street.

Incumbent Selectman Richard H. Stevens will face a challenge in March from Sandy Demetropoulos of North Brookfield Road, as the top race appeared to be heading to the ballot. The deadline to submit nomination papers was Jan. 16 at 5 p.m. A look at those returned in time sowed a race brewing not only for the top board seat but also a battle for an open three-year seat on the Board of Health.

38 years (Jan. 21, 1988)

A fund drive is being

organized for victims of a house fire resulting in over \$60,000 in damage to a house belonging to David Richards of 124 Worcester Road, Hubbardston. The fund drive is being organized at the Back Room Restaurant on Main Street in Hubbardston. The house was rented by Kathy Balsevice and Steven Molesky. The fire is being investigated, but is believed to have been caused by a wood stove. A dog and parrot were lost in the fire. The fire was discovered Jan. 11 at 10:30 a.m. when Balsevice returned home. The garage which contained machinery and carpentry tools was untouched and these were removed shortly after the fire.

Quabbin Regional Athletic Director Ray Turcotte has announced that the Friday evening Quabbin – North Middlesex Varsity basketball game will be open to the public without an admission fee, as they had previously planned. The 7:30 p.m. start will

be preempted for about 15 minutes to allow for the introduction of the 1971-1973 undefeated Wachusett League Champion Quabbin Squad in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of their season.

Petersham votes should take notice that there will be two election days coming up next month with town officers to be chosen of March 7 and the Presidential Primary the following day. Selectmen could have chosen the date of the town election, but preferred to hold to the established day. Polling hours will differ and voters should take note that March 7 they may vote from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. For the federal primary hours of 7 a.m.-8 p.m. are mandated. Voting will take place in the lower town hall, which is handicap accessible through the side door on the East Street Side. For the sake of smooth voter flow, the Town Clerk urgently requests that only those handicapped enter by the east door.

Combined water/sewer bill to be issued in February

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Beginning with the next billing cycle, the Water Department and Sewer Department will transition from issuing two separate bills twice per year to issuing a single combined bill on a quarterly basis.

This update is being made to streamline billing, improve accuracy, and provide residents with more manageable, predictable payments. By moving to quarterly billing, charges will be spread evenly throughout the year, reducing the size of each bill and making household budgeting easier.

Combining both services into one statement also simplifies the process for residents.

What to expect

The first bill you receive will be a combined water and sewer bill for six months of usage. You will have 45 days rather than 30 days before payment will be due.

This first combined bill will be issued in February. Other quarterly bills in 2026 will be issued in May, August and November.

Following the first combined bill, instead of receiving separate water and sewer bills two times per year, you will now receive one combined bill every three months.

The new quarterly bills will clearly show water usage, sewer charges, and any related fees in a single, easy-to-read format.

Due dates and payment options will be included on each bill, just as before. Payments can be made online.

Under the town's water regulations, water service may be discontinued for accounts that remain unpaid. Scheduled shutoff periods will occur twice annually.

Please refer to the billing schedule for additional information.

No action is needed from you, this change will happen automatically.

If you have questions related to the new billing schedule, please feel free to contact the Sewer Department at 508-867-0211, or the Water Department at 508-867-0207.

BARRE, from page 1

tant and \$100 for expenses. It included \$40,000 for an outside audit. She said she would be "shocked" if a request for proposal came in at that amount. She said this budget most likely would change.

She said over time the town budget would be getting more transparent as time goes on. She said, "I've only had so much time to do so much." She said the Select Board budget broken was broken out much more this year. She also said, "As years go on, we'll start breaking out more and more."

Other business

Finance Committee member Bombredi said in the past the committee would get monthly bud-

get expenses reports for all departments. The Town Administrator said she would email that information for the committee via Chairman Zachary Macutkiewicz.

The Finance Committee at their next meeting will be reviewing the Council on Aging, Felton Field Commission, Youth Commission and Historical Commission. The two schools, Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School and Quabbin Regional School District will be meeting with Fin Com in March. The meeting adjourned in under 40 minutes so people could get home before the weather got worse.



A blood mobile, a collaboration of the Petersham Lions Club and Monty Tech Honor Society was held in November. Shown are students from left, Sean Lyle, Amaya Turner-Clarke, Lily McEvoy and Kharielle Gasqui.

LIONS CLUB, from page 3

sponsored the 46th annual Halloween activities in the Petersham Town Hall. After trick or treating, there was the annual Petersham Fire Department parade around the Common and then the fun continued in the Town Hall with a magic show with magician Stevie Kidding and his bunny. The Lions Club also welcomed donations to supplement the SNAP program of Central Massachusetts through the United Way, the Athol Food Pantry and the Orange Food Pantry. The successful drive was matched by five donors

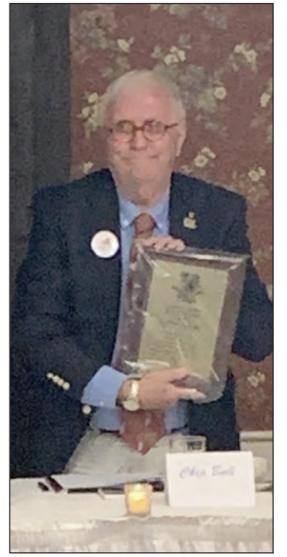
and brought the total raised to over \$1,000.00.

Nov. 1, in collaboration with the National Honor Society at Monty Tech Regional High School, the Lions Club held a Blood Drive with the Massachusetts General Hospital Bloodmobile. This is the third year of collaboration and the fifth blood drive. The drive is efficiently run and has the ability to welcome 65 donors in one day as the donation bus can accommodate four donors at a time. A total of 42 pints of blood was collected including those from student donors. Another drive is planned for

the spring and Monty Tech will host the event.

The Lions decorated the Bandstand and donated Christmas tree as it does every year. The Christmas tree lighting was held on Dec. 7 at 3 p.m. Children's activities, including a visit from Santa, and hot cocoa donated by Dean's Beans preceded the lighting at The Petersham Memorial Library.

Events are already planned for 2026 and include the annual Lions Curling Tournament and raffle at the Petersham Curling Club in March and the April prize calendar raffle. All donations and funds raised



Chips Bull displays his Joseph J. Camarda award.

go toward the many causes that Lions International is well-known for as well as local causes. If you are interested in learning more about membership, the Club encourages folks to reach out to Membership Chair, Past District Governor Denis Legare at hilltopchief@gmail.com or President Jim Regan at jimregan5@gmail.com. If you know a Lion you can also ask them about the Club and what we do. Where there is a need there is a Lion. Lions are ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

HARDWICK from page 1

and be finished.

Schaaf asked how the minutes of an executive session are supposed to be recorded, posted and saved.

Tinker suggested a "confidential cabinet," which can hold notes from executive sessions.

The other topic Tinker wanted to highlight was the Select Board members having an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of each board position, as well as the Town Administrator's roles and responsibilities.

After discussion, the board took Tinker's sugges-

tion and approved the scheduling of open meeting minutes.

Ambulance contract addendum

Town Administrator Justine Caggiano addressed the board on what is going on with the town's agreement for ambulance services from the West Brookfield Rescue Squad. She presented the board with an addendum to the existing contract.

When asked where the \$7,662 was coming from the payment, Caggiano said it's coming from the emergency medical budget. The board members voted to

approve the addendum.

Town Administrator's report

Caggiano shared that the Special Town Meeting is scheduled on Jan. 22 in the Select Board meeting room at 6 p.m. State Sen. Peter Durant and state Rep. Donnie Berthiaume are holding office hours on Feb. 11 from 10-11 a.m. inside the Select Board room.

Select Board roundtable

During their roundtable discussion, Tinker talked about an agenda request process. Tinker was seeking an explanation as to why some items were excluded from the agenda despite his requests to include them.

Vollheim responded, saying there have been submissions that were out of date and some were also sent to town counsel for review. Schaaf commented and he said he believed the items were coming in after the agenda had been sent.

According to Tinker, an agenda can change leading up to a meeting, even within a 48-hour period.

Pole hearing

The Select Board approved National Grid's request for the placement of poles, wires and fixtures along and across the public way on Barre Road, following a public hearing.

A representative of National Grid stated that the abutters had been notified, and the work will be taking place at an intersection off

Barre Road.

Visitors' comments

During visitors' comments, Smith read a letter sharing his concerns about the governance of the town, and called for the resignation of Vollheim and termination of Caggiano.

He also said there is a need for recorded meetings of all boards and committees.

The board members asked Smith to refrain from making disparaging comments about town officials in a public meeting.

Resident William Cole talked about the open meeting law complaints on the agenda and questioned if people don't want to run for committees or public offices because they expect the pattern of repeated public record requests.

Caggiano shared that in the last year, a resident had filed 18 public records requests and six to eight open meeting law complaints, but that doesn't mean the town has violated anything.

Another resident said this could all be avoided if the boards and committees had a Zoom recording of meetings.

Tinker suggested they could show other boards and committees how to use the equipment that helps in recording meetings and posting them on YouTube, if they choose to do it.

Residents, "just want to know what is going on in their town," Tinker said.

SURVEY, from page 1

than the one that is currently used by the town. Tirone is a current commissioner in Blackstone, as well as a small town in western Massachusetts, according to Young.

The board motioned to

move forward in the hiring process with Garside.

The board is continuing interviews with several applicants for executive assistant, according to board member Peter Walker.

The board is scheduled to meet next on Tuesday, Jan. 20.

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EQLT announces micro-grant program

HARDWICK – The East Quabbin Land Trust announces the fourth annual micro-grant program targeted at promoting farming in their region.

The goal is to inspire local farmers to continue doing their great work in sustaining communities and improving the quality of life in the East Quabbin region including Barre, Hardwick, Hubbardston, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Petersham, Ware and West Brookfield.

Grants will be awarded in two categories: Farm succession planning and farmland conservation and organic and/or regenerative farming practices focused on fruits, vegetables and meats directly consumed by residents of the region. They expect to award between four to eight grants between \$2,500 and \$10,000 each, though most grants are expected to be \$5,000 or less.

These funds can be paid

to the farmer or directly to the service provider. That might mean paying a surveyor or lawyer assisting with transferring the farm to the next generation or the contractor installing fencing or a well to enhance farming practices that build soil health, wildlife habitat, and protect water quality. Other practices might include activities associated with moving towards no-till farming, using cover-crops and filter strips along stream and wetland corridors.

Prior year grant awardees are eligible to apply, however preference may be given to first-time applicants. To apply for an East Quabbin Farm Micro-grant, people should send a letter to Cynthia Henshaw, Executive Director, East Quabbin Land Trust. The letter can be emailed to chenshaw@EQLT.org. People should send request for funding by Monday, Feb. 23.

Letter of request should include the following

information. Applicant name, farm name, address and contact information. Summary statement about requested purpose and amount 40 words or less. Description of current farming practice 250 words or less. Confirm Organic farming designation or specific practices recognized in promoting organic and regenerative farming principles 250 words or less. Description of funding need and expected change to farm or farming practices 500 words or less.

How your proposed project can be modified if partial funding is awarded 100 words or less?

A short interview may be requested of finalists before grant awardees are chosen. For more information or questions, people may email Cynthia Henshaw at chenshaw@EQLT.org or call 978-895-6984. This opportunity is available because of a generous multi-year commitment from an anonymous foundation.

FOSC to host annual Valentine Celebration

Deadline to order tickets is Friday, Jan. 16



Submitted photo

HARDWICK – The Friends of the Stone Church will host its annual Valentine Celebration on Saturday, Jan. 31 at 4 p.m. at Hardwick Crossing Country Club, Route 32, Gilbertville.

All are welcome to join the Friends for a rollicking party to celebrate and support the Stone Church Cultural Center. Tickets are \$65 per person.

Hardwick Crossing provides an elegant private dining room surrounded by beautiful country views. Dinner will be served buffet style: appetizer, steak tips, haddock, vegetarian lasagna, salad, vegetables, and cookies, with a cash bar.

The Mason Tyler Duo, Lou Falcone on saxophone and Mark Fontaine on keyboard and guitar, will entertain you, whether you sit and listen or dance the night away. Their music ranges from swing to blues, from classic rock to jazz, and they love harmoniz-

ing favorite 1950s and 1960s songs.

Proceeds of dinner tickets and auction purchases benefit Friends of the Stone Church, a non-profit corporation whose mission is to preserve the historic Gilbertville landmark known as the Stone Church Cultural Center, and to operate it as a thriving center for our regional Massachusetts communities. Support for the Center helps produce concerts, events for youth and children, and community music events and rehearsal space.

The last day to purchase tickets is Jan. 16. No tickets will be sold at the event, so reservations in the form of

purchased tickets are required.

Purchase tickets online at: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/friendsofthestonechurch/> or mail payment by check to FOSC, P.O. Box 347, Gilbertville, MA 01031. If mailing, please specify the number of tickets with your name and the names of all attendees and your email or cell phone where you would like to receive acknowledgment.

To donate something to the auction, to promote this event or to ask a question, please contact the FOSC by email: Events@FriendsoftheStoneChurch.org. No donations accepted after Jan. 24.

TREATMENT PLANT, from page 1

they were not replaced during the plant's upgrade due to the high cost.

"Everything's obsolete, so we can't buy the parts anymore so you have to just replace it," he said.

Cardenas said the clarifiers are essential for keeping bacteria from leaving the treatment plant.

The tour next stopped at the building where the raw sewage enters the treatment plant.

Septage haulers can connect directly to the discharge hose of the building and each hauler is given a card and a pin number, which opens a valve to allow for the discharge to take place.

"Below the ground there's two 20,000 gallon holding tanks, so we have a capacity of 40,000 gallons," Cardenas said.

The town's wastewater treatment plant accepts approximately 20,000 gallons of septage a day, which provides essential revenue.

"It's a fantastic source of revenue for the town," Cardenas said. "It's vital that we keep that revenue source going."

Once the septage enters the building, it goes through a rock trap (to collect rocks and heavy grit), then to flow measurement. Then the septage is processed through screens, where the liquid is diverted to holding tanks.

Cardenas said the screens collect rags and other materials that could clog the treatment plant's pump propellers.

"We want to keep all of these rags out of the treatment process," he said. "They really wreak havoc."

The tour then moved to the headworks, where raw sewage comes in from the town's 14 miles of sewer lines, propelled by three pump stations. The sewage goes through a similar process as the septage, with screens collecting rags and other debris.

He said the rags screened from the septage and sewage are collected and hauled to a landfill every few months.

After the rags are removed, the sewage goes through an auger to remove grit.

Cardenas said the grit is abrasive and can wear out the treatment plant's pumps, which is why it needs to be removed.

Once this process is complete, the sewage (now called influent) flows to a splitter box before moving to the aeration basins and then to the two clarifiers.

"This is where all the biological treatment happens," he said.

The aeration basins are where 80% of the treatment of wastewater takes place.

Cardenas said the basins

are divided into zones, with one removing total phosphorus, another to remove total nitrogen, and others that help with the bacterial treatment.

"Most of your pollutants that come in here get converted to new bacteria," he said.

Cardenas said the treatment plant is fully automated, and the machines that aerate the basins will speed up and slow down based on the concentration of pollutants entering the facility.

After treatment, the remaining solids or sludge are then transported to another facility to be incinerated. In the past decade, the cost of this service has nearly doubled, which is reflected in sewer user's bills.

"It's becoming increasingly difficult to get rid of this," he said of the solids. "Nothing ever gets any cheaper...you don't ever think about sewage and where it goes."

Cardenas said per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances are another challenge with the disposal of sludge.

At the Operations Building, the treatment plant houses polyaluminum chloride, a chemical that is used to remove phosphorus from the influent. Excess phosphorus can lead to algae growth and blooms in waterways, which can impact water quality and be toxic to aquatic organisms.

Cardenas said of the commonwealth's hundreds of treatment plants, North Brookfield has one of the top five most stringent discharge permits, due to the small size of Forget-Me-Not Brook.



These clarifiers will need to be upgraded, as parts are no longer available for repairs and maintenance.

"The limits that we are allowed to discharge are very low," he said.

Due to the brook's limited capacity to dilute treated liquid flow or effluent, the quality of the discharge leaving the facility is critically important, he said.

Cardenas then led the group to the pump room, and explained that each pump is color coded to show its purpose. The pipes leading in to and out of the pumps are also colored to match.

The group then stopped at the clarifiers, to see how they work to separate sludge and liquid flow. The sludge settles at the bottom and the liquid flows over weirs to the next step in the treatment process.

The final stop on the tour was the Cloth and Media Filter Building, where the liquid flow is filtered for the final time and then disinfected using UV lights before it is discharged into Forget-Me-Not Brook. Cardenas said



UV lights are used to disinfect the effluent and prevent any bacteria from reproducing after it is discharged.

the treatment plant operators are only required to disinfect the effluent from April to October.

"It doesn't kill the bacteria, but it destroys their DNA and prevents them from reproducing," he said.

After disinfecting, the effluent runs over a fish ladder, which adds oxygen to the flow before it enters the brook. From there, the

brook flows to Quaboag Pond, the Seven Mile River, the Connecticut River, Long Island Sound, and eventually the Atlantic Ocean.

Cardenas said there is a lot that goes into wastewater treatment and that he never stops learning as the superintendent of the Grade 6 facility, which used to be a Grade 5 prior to the upgrade. He said there is a lot of on

the job training working in wastewater treatment, and that a passion for the work is necessary.

"We recently had a DEP [Department of Environmental Protection] inspection and got bumped up to a Grade 6 facility," he said. "Anybody that manages a place has to have the highest license in the state."

He said the plant is designed to treat 800,000 gallons of sewage a day, and at this time, it is running at half capacity.

The town currently has 950 sewer customers, including residential and commercial. Cardenas said the town has about three industrial sewer customers.

"The lower the customer base we have, the higher the sewer bill," he said. "If we could add some new customers to that to make up that budget...it only helps everybody and we have plenty of capacity."

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Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

Healthful Resolutions Part 3

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

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

1) Vengeance

What did Edwards resolve on the theme of vengeance? "Resolved, never to do anything out of revenge." Scripture warns against seeking vengeance. For instance (Rom. 12:17a, 19, NIV): "17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. . . . 19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' [cf. Deut. 32:35] says the Lord." Rather, we are to take the far higher-yet more difficult-road of blessing those who persecute us, and doing good unto them (Rom. 12:14, 20). Paul concludes his commentary on the topic of vengeance with the following:

Romans 12:21

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

We also do well to deal with those heart elements that give rise to vengeance, including but not limited to anger. Consider:

Ephesians 4:26

26 "In your anger do not sin." Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold.

It is far easier to deal with a forest fire before it starts; when it is still but a spark. Deal with anger quickly, learn to forgive, and release any desire for revenge unto God. Trust in Him for He shall do right-ly!

2) Peace-Making

What did Edwards resolve concerning interpersonal peace? "Resolved, always to do what I can towards making, maintaining and preserving peace, when it can be without over-balancing detriment in other respects." He was a man who sought harmony in his relationships. What of us?

Christ Jesus called us to be peacemakers (Matt. 5:9): "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." When we work for peace with our peers, we mimic the nature of our Father in heaven, who sought peace with sinful man. Of

course, I posit that there is a vast difference between being a peace-maker and a peace-keeper. A peace-keeper will do anything and everything for the appearance of peace. Such will avoid necessary conflict or enable, mistakenly confusing peace with quiet. However, a peace-maker will do what is necessary to establish, preserve and promote genuine peace. Thus said, I have come to love the wisdom of Paul on the matter (Rom. 12:18): "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

Is there disunity in your world? Have you done everything, as far as it depends on you, to be at peace with all around you?

3) Watch Your Words

What did Edwards resolve concerning his words (i.e., as they relate to others)? "Resolved, never to say anything at all against anybody, but when it is perfectly agreeable to the highest degree of Christian honor, and of love to mankind, agreeable to the lowest humility, and sense of my own faults and failings, and agreeable to the golden rule; often, when I have said anything against anyone, to bring it to, and try it strictly by the test of this Resolution." This is a fanciful way of saying that Edwards pledged to watch what he said of others, knowing that careless words have a truly destructive capacity.

Proverbs 18:21a

21 The tongue has the power of life and death . . .

If we are to speak, let our words be done according to the words of Christ-what Edwards and others call the Golden Rule:

Matthew 7:12b

12 . . . in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you . . .

In the New Year, let us watch our tempers and our tongues, love God and others, and work for the purpose of real peace.

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

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

Pastor James Foley

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

2026: A Pastoral Message by Pastor Margaret Keyser

First Sunday after the Epiphany

"He was Baptized, Preached Peace, and did Good."

Scripture Reading: Acts 10 v 34 – 43

I. Introduction

Whenever we are given assignments - be it at work, home, as a community volunteer, coaching sports teams, or serving at church and more - we take time to understand our assignments and make every effort to complete them successfully.

We work hard and hope that others will see we try our best and that we do our work with love and care. We are not always perfect, and we make mistakes, but we learn and then we move forward with what we are charged to do. We must now ask the question, what have we learned from Jesus Christ, who was sent by God with a specific purpose and assignment?

II. He was baptized, preached peace and did good.

In our passage we see Peter preach to a gathering of people who, under the guidance of Cornelius, came to listen to the Apostle, after he was called by Cornelius to come to his house.

Cornelius was a God-fearing man from Caesarea. He was considered a Gentile, someone not from the Jewish faith, but he was a righteous man, believed in God and gave generously to those in need. Cornelius received a vision from God to send for Peter to come to his house. Meanwhile Peter had also received a vision of heaven opening, a sheet full of animals descending and God telling him to kill and eat them.

Certain animals were classified as unclean under Jewish law, prompting Peter to seek clarification from God regarding this matter. When Peter arrived at Cornelius' house and heard his account of God speaking to him, Peter realized that God had a message for him as an apostle, that God does not, according to verse 34 show favoritism, but accepts all people from all nations who fear God and do what is right.

God wants all people, and all nations to receive the message of peace and salvation, including Cornelius and those who were gathered with him, who were considered gentiles. Peter now had a better understanding of his vision and assignment, which was to preach to the people gathered at Cornelius' house, irrespective of their backgrounds. He needed the encounter with Cornelius who received God's message directly about the promise of salvation.

In Peter's sermon, he speaks these words, "You know..." that God sent Jesus of Nazareth with the good news of peace and you know that after He was bap-

tized. He was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and you know that after that, He went around the villages in Galilee and into Judea, speaking about peace and healed people.

Peter knew that his audience saw or heard about Jesus who did all these things. It was at Jesus' baptism that the power of God became manifest in Him, enabling Him to speak about peace, which in the Hebrew context meant well-being and freedom from hostile powers. God's power through Jesus, the Son, wanted them to experience well-being and freedom from those who were hostile to them.

Through God's power Jesus was able to do good to all around Him and healed them, because their illnesses were because of the power of the devil over them. He freed them from those afflictions and diseases, because God was with Him, says Peter in verse 37. Through God's power and intent, Jesus was sent to bring forth a new dispensation of equality, of good things, healing, of peace and salvation.

III. Conclusion

We know how good it feels when we recover from illness after receiving medical care, right? We know the feeling of relief when unexpected money arrives, and we can pay our bills after worrying about them. We know that shared feeling of relief when we can help others who are experiencing difficulties. That is precisely what was meant when God sent Jesus Christ into the world, to bring the message that God wants everyone in this world to feel at peace and have the experience of well-being. God wants everyone in this world to be healed and to receive the care they need and deserve.

God wants every person to have what they need to live within God's Kingdom. This was Peter's lesson about cultural, ethnic and religious divisions and how, with God there was no more Jew or Gentile, no more slave or free, male nor female, as explained in Galatians 3 v 28. Through Jesus' baptism in the fullness of the Holy Spirit, God's power of freedom, love and care came through Him and was now offered to very human being. Jesus Christ understood His assignment to all the nations of the world. May we all, while we understand our earthly assignments, also realize like Peter that God's intention for all of humanity is equality, well-being and healing for all, and may we carry forth this divine message and mission to those around us. Let us join together in prayer and collaboration with Jesus Christ to help bring about the Kingdom of God here on earth.

Amen.

Pastor Margaret Keyser
Barre Congregational Church
30 Park St., Barre

Bernice Alice (Mennard) Miller, 89

BARRE – Bernice Alice (Mennard) Miller, 89, of South Barre, went home to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025 at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center.

Bernice was born on Sept. 19, 1936 in Pennsylvania to George A. and Kathryn (Emerich) Mennard. She graduated from Barre High School, class of '54 and attended Worcester Hahnemann Hospital School of Nursing. On May 19, 1956 she married Earl Miller of Saginaw, Michigan.

In 1969 she began her career as a paraprofessional at Quabbin Regional, first in physical education, then in the nurses office and finishing as career counselor. Bernice was very active at Quabbin coaching JV Girls basketball in 1971, part of the leadership group of paraprofessionals, chaperoned many dances and was co-class advisor to the classes of 1991 and 1996. In 2006, after 37 years she decided to retire.

Outside of Quabbin, Bernice was a 4-H leader to the "Cooking Cookies," member of the Cradle Rock Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, Council of Aging and Christ Church Knitters. She was a very active parishioner at Christ Episcopal Church in South Barre teaching Sunday School, singing in the choir, serving on the Altar Guild and Vestry.

More than anything Bernice loved and closely followed (and had an opinion on) all New England sports teams, especially the Celtics. She took it upon herself to text her children and grandchildren updated scores throughout the games. Bernice also took great pride in attending her grandchildren's theatrical and sporting events wherever they might be.

Bernice loved to knit, read and play games. Neighborhood Pinochle card games in the summer

DEATH NOTICE

Miller, Bernice (Mennard)
Died Dec. 31, 2025
Celebration of Life to be held in spring

and many hours of table games with family on every holiday gathering.

She leaves behind three daughters: BethAnn Gingras of Winthrop, Maine; Cynthia and husband Rodney Wood of Inverness, Florida, Ariann and her husband Ed Huether of Lindenhurst, New York, one son, Scott and his wife Gayle of Cape Coral, Florida. Grandchildren David Komosa, Michael (Lexie) Gingras, Timothy Gingras, Kathryn (Andrew) Miller, Antione Gingras and Carly Miller. Great grandchildren Kane and Ronin Komosa, Amari and Ezekiel Gingras and Virginia Barger. She also leaves her sister, Barbara Mennard, sister-in-laws, Rose Smith and Margaret Parens, many nieces and nephews as well as being a surrogate mother and grandmother to many friends over the years who have become like family, further extending her reach of love. Bernice is predeceased by her husband Earl Miller, brother George J. Mennard, brother-in-law Carl Miller, sister-in-laws Alice Whalen, Marylee Hoveland and Ann Furrow.

The family would like to extend their deepest gratitude for the love and care given to Bernice by the staff of unit 2 and the therapists at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center and Brookhaven Hospice.

A celebration of life will be held later in the spring. In lieu of flowers, Bernice has asked that donations be made to the St Labre Indian School, 112 St Labre Campus Drive, Ashland, MT 59003. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Homes, 96 South Barre Road, Barre.

Public Notices

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
26 SM 000061
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:
Heather L. Seaton;
Jeremy T. Levesque
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (et seq):

Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Barre, numbered 40 Kendall Street, given by Heather L. Seaton and Jeremy T. Levesque to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Homebridge Financial Services, Inc., dated March 26, 2019, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 60191, Page 178, and

now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **February 23, 2026** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on January 9, 2026.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder

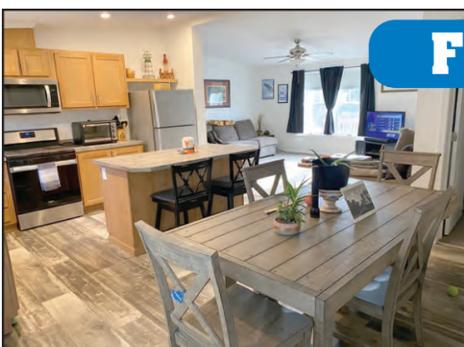
01/15/2026

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.



FIVE ISLANDS

Georgetown, Maine
2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom
Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped

- Walk to Five Islands Wharf and Ledgewood Preserve Beach
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\$1200/week

207-607-9333

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Sunday, Dec. 21
8:52 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Old Stage Road, Transported to Hospital
12:09 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Overdose/Poisoning, South Street, Transported to Hospital
2:10 p.m. Larceny or Theft, West Street, Report Filed
5:49 p.m. Erratic Operator, West Street, Area Patrolled
6:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
10:54 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Trafalgar Square, No Transport Required

Monday, Dec. 22
1:33 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Summer Street, Transported to Hospital
9:13 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Valley Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
10:28 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Sheldon Road, No Transport Required
12:36 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Oakham Road, Transported to Hospital
1:33 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Walnut Hill Road, Referred to Other Agency
1:51 p.m. Erratic Operator, West Street, No Action Required
6:25 p.m. Suspicious Person/

Vehicle Activity, West Street, Investigated
6:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Citation Issued

Tuesday, Dec. 23
11:07 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Gauthier Road, Transported to Hospital
5:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
7:15 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Town Wide, Information Given
8:03 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Old Coldbrook Road, Report Filed

Wednesday, Dec. 24
12:06 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Exchange Street, Vehicle Towed
3:32 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Loring Road, Transported to Hospital
5:29 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Ruggles Land, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Dec. 25
9:47 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Peach Street, Transported to Hospital
3:02 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Clem Court, Officer/Chief Advised
3:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Mechanic Street, Officer Spoke to Party
3:42 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Moulton Street, No Transport Required

Friday, Dec. 26
4:24 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Hubbardston Road, Report Filed
7:25 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Animal Bites, South Street, No Transport Required
9:32 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Stetson Road, Vehicle Towed
3:38 p.m. Safety Concern, Hubbardston Road, Officer Spoke to Party
10:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Mechanic Street, Officer Chief Advised

11:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Hubbardston Road, Referred to Other Agency
Saturday, Dec. 27
1:31 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issue, Cedar Street, Vehicle Towed
2:25 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issue, Exchange Street, Vehicle Towed
9:49 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Gilbert Road, Vehicle Towed
1:49 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Ruggles Lane transported to Hospital

3:30 p.m. Erratic Operator, West Street, Referred to Other Agency
5 p.m. Fire – Brush and Wildland Fire, South Barre Road, Investigated

SOUTH BARRE

Wednesday, Dec. 24
Animal – ACO Call, Station Road, Information Given

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, Dec. 21
3 a.m. Noise Complaint, Gardner Road, Officer Spoke to Party
6:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident – No Fire Department/EMS Response, Gardner Road, Report Filed
8:23 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Seminole Avenue, Mutual Aid Transport

Monday, Dec. 22
8:06 a.m. Building/Property Check, Kruse Road, Citation Issued
9:03 a.m. Court Duty, Gardner District Court, Services Rendered
1:15 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, High Street, Referred to Other Agency
2:35 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Chippewa Street, Information Given
3:01 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Gardner Road, Officer/Chief Advised
7:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Westminster Road, Criminal Complaint
Summons Bard, Fred Robert, 52, Gardner
Charges License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With
10:17 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Old Westminster Road, No Transport Required
10:52 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Overdose/Poisoning, Old Westminster Road, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Dec. 23
4:57 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Cross Road, No Transport Required
7:03 p.m. Speak to the Chief/Officer, New Templeton Road, Officer Spoke to Party
7:15 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Town Wide, Information Taken
8:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Gardner Road, Information Given
11:57 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Officer/Chief Advised

Wednesday, Dec. 24
8:27 a.m. Complaint, Birches Road, Officer/Chief Advised
8:34 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, High Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
8:47 a.m. Complaint, Dogwood North Road, Officer/Chief Advised
9:20 a.m. Fire Motor Vehicle Collision, Mt. Jefferson Road, Unfounded
11:20 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Underwood Road, Officer/Chief Advised
2:06 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Verbal Warning
2:59 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Mt. Jefferson Road, Information Given

Thursday, Dec. 25
7:23 a.m. Safety Concern, High Street, Officer Spoke to Party

7:44 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, High Street, Negative Contact
9:38 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, High Street, Transported to Hospital
3:32 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Grimes Road, No Transport Required
6:42 p.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Gardner Road, Removed from Scene

Friday, Dec. 26
4:24 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Hubbardston Road, Report Filed
3:02 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Mt. Jefferson Road, No Transport Required
3:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident – No Fire Department/EMS Response, Gardner Road, No Action Required
9:48 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Whole Town, Information Taken

Saturday, Dec. 27
12:10 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Morgan Road, Mutual Aid Transport
3:41 a.m. Road Condition Notification, New Westminster Road, Officer Spoke to Party
5:08 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Old Westminster Road, Investigated
5:19 p.m. Notification, Old Princeton Road, Investigated

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Jan. 5-12 the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 54 building/property checks, 33 directed/area patrols, nine radar assignments, five traffic controls, 17 emergency 911 calls, seven citizen assists, one assist other agency, two complaints, two safety hazards, one scam, one motor vehicle investigation, one property damage, one fire/other, two motor vehicle accidents, four animal calls and five motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Jan. 5
8:05 a.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Lower Road, Transported to Hospital
8:05 a.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Lower Road, Merge
10:49 a.m. Assist Citizen, School House Drive, Dispatch Handled

Tuesday, Jan. 6
7:15 a.m. 911 Property Damage, Prospect Street, Report Taken
11:47 a.m. Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Officer Handled
4:17 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Church Street, Negative Contact
5:20 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Spoken To
6:35 p.m. 911 Assist Citizen,

Prospect Street, Officer Handled
6:53 p.m. Assist Citizen, Old Greenwich Plains Road, Spoken To
9:46 p.m. Assist Citizen, Church Lane, Officer Handled
11:57 p.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Services Rendered

Wednesday, Jan. 7
11:18 a.m. Assist Citizen, Lower Road, Officer Handled
1 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Carlson Road, Officer Handled
2:57 p.m. Complaint, Main Street, Officer Handled
3:22 p.m. Scam, Main Street, Report Taken
5:32 p.m. Assist Citizen, Unknown, Officer Handled
6:51 p.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, Main Street, Officer Handled
10:23 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Patient Refusal

Thursday, Jan. 8
2:46 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
3:36 p.m. 911 Lockout, Collins Road, Services Rendered
6:09 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Birch Street, Transported to Hospital
11:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Friday, Jan. 9
9:06 a.m. 911 Disturbance, Greenwich Road, Report Taken
10:02 a.m. 911 Misdeal, Birch Street, Spoken To
11:15 a.m. Active Threat/Shooter, Old Petersham Road, Services Rendered
3:35 p.m. Complaint, High Road, Officer Handled
3:35 p.m. Medical Emergency, Petersham Road, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, Jan. 10
3:13 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Upper Church Street, Officer Handled
10:02 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Patient Refusal
3:59 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, North Road, Patient Refusal
4:44 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Officer Handled

Sunday, Jan. 11
12:09 p.m. 911 Misdeal, Church Lane, Spoken To
1:03 p.m. 911 Fire/Other, Taylor Hill Road, Services Rendered
3:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, Dec. 21
3:34 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Nancy Drive, Citation Issued
9:36 a.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Main Street, Report Filed
10:10 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, East Hill Road, Transported to Hospital
10:17 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Valley View Circle, Located/Found

Monday, Dec. 22
12:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
12:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
12:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
4:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning
6:04 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Barre Paxton Road, Transported to Hospital
7:28 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Fishermans Road, No Transport Required
8:10 a.m. Fire – Smoke Investigation, Kenwood Court, Investigated
8:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, East County Road, Officer Spoke to Party
8:50 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Lantern Lane, Transported to Hospital
1:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Written Warning
1:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Watson Lane, Citation Issued
2:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
Summons Nguyen, Jonathon Jimmy, 33, Worcester
Charges License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With
3:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Vehicle Towed
Summons Garefalakis, Shannon Lynn, 48, Worcester
Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Unregistered Motor Vehicle
4:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
4:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Criminal Complaint
Summons Warsaw, Daniel Edward, 36, Ware
Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Number Plate Violation to Conceal ID, Unregistered Motor Vehicle
4:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning
4:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning
4:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
5:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning
7:39 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Wachusett Street, Services Rendered

Tuesday, Dec. 23
1:47 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Barre Paxton Road, Officer Spoke to Party
1:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Citation Issued

Wednesday, Dec. 24
7:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning
7:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning
8:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Pleasantdale Road, Vehicle Towed
9:04 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic) Prescott Street, Transported to Hospital
9:51 a.m. Motor Vehicle Disabled – Pleasantdale Road, Officer Spoke to Party
1:44 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, East County Road, Officer/Chief Advised
2:06 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Verbal Warning
4:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision Hit and Run, Glenwood Road, Negative Contact
5:17 p.m. Emergency Medical

Thursday, Dec. 25
10:10 Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, East Hill Road, Transported to Hospital

Friday, Dec. 26
8:17 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Road, Written Warning
8:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Road, Written Warning
10:13 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
10:27 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
10:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning

Saturday, Dec. 27
3:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Road, Written Warning
3:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Road, Written Warning

Tuesday, Dec. 23
4:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hunt Road, Citation Issued
8:32 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Edson Road, Mutual Aid Transported
10:03 p.m. Complaint, North Brookfield Road, Negative Contact

Wednesday, Dec. 24
10:53 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Parmenter Road, Negative

Thursday, Dec. 25
9:47 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Peach Street, Transported to Hospital

Friday, Dec. 26
10:44 a.m. Notification, North Brookfield Road, Referred to Other Agency
2:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Turnpike Road, Written Warning

Saturday, Dec. 27
12:45 a.m. Fire – Alarm Activation, North Brookfield Road, Mutual Aid Assist

Sunday, Jan. 11
11:09 p.m. Fire/Other, Barre Road, Services Rendered

Monday, Jan. 12
6:32 a.m. Complaint, Pierce Road, Officer Handled

Issued
7 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Orchard Hill Drive, Ambulance Signed Refusal
7:12 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Stroke (CVA), Bernard Road, Transported to Hospital
9:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Richards Avenue, Arrest(s) Made
Arrest Asquith, Tayla Leigh, 28, Millbury
Charges Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle, Number Plate Violation, Tire Tread Dept Violation, Stop for Police, Fail, Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle, Drug, Possess Class B, Drug Possess Class E
Arrest Mahoney, Patricia J., 64, Millbury
Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With, Inspection/Sticker, No
11:01 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Bushy Lane, Officer/Chief Advised
12:06 p.m. Escort/Transport, East Brookfield District Court, Removed from Scene
Arrest Asquith, Tayla Leigh, 28, Millbury
Charges Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle, Number Plate Violation, Tire Tread Dept Violation, Stop for Police, Fail, Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle, Drug, Possess Class B, Drug Possess Class E
12:57 p.m. Juvenile Runaway, Main Street, Area Search Negative
1:44 p.m. Missing Person, Main Street, Report Filed
2:31 p.m. Juvenile Runaway, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
4:21 p.m. Juvenile Runaway, Pommogussett Road, Area Search Negative
5:44 p.m. Fire – Lost Person/Search and Rescue, Pommogussett Road, No Transport Required
7:25 p.m. Follow-Up Investigation, Unknown Location, Officer Spoke to Party
8:29 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, East County Road, Vehicle Towed
11:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Pleasantdale Road, Officer Spoke to Party
11:38 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, East County Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Wednesday, Dec. 24
7:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning
7:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning
8:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Pleasantdale Road, Vehicle Towed
9:04 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic) Prescott Street, Transported to Hospital
9:51 a.m. Motor Vehicle Disabled – Pleasantdale Road, Officer Spoke to Party
1:44 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, East County Road, Officer/Chief Advised
2:06 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Verbal Warning
4:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision Hit and Run, Glenwood Road, Negative Contact
5:17 p.m. Emergency Medical

Thursday, Dec. 25
8:59 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Grizzly Drive, Transported to Hospital
12:54 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
4:06 p.m. Fire – Power Line/Wires, Maple Avenue, No Action Required
5:45 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Pleasantdale Road, Information Taken
6:37 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Wachusett Street, Transported to Hospital
11:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Friday, Dec. 26
10:42 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Pleasantdale Road, Transported to Hospital
1:33 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Soucy Drive, No Transport Required
2:10 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Village Way, Officer Spoke to Party
3:45 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Cedar Avenue, Report Filed
3:50 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Glenwood Road, Report Filed
5:33 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Pommogussett Road, Removed From Scene
5:40 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Pommogussett Road, Removed From Scene
5:43 p.m. Erratic Operator, Prescott Street, Area Search Negative
7:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Written Warning
7:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
7:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Written Warning
7:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
7:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
8:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
8:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
8:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
8:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
9:44 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Whole Town, Referred to Other Agency

Saturday, Dec. 27
5:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
6:48 a.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Unfounded
11:22 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Fairview Avenue, Referred to Other Agency
11:48 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Pommogussett Road, Transported to Hospital
4:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Sunday, Jan. 11
11:09 p.m. Fire/Other, Barre Road, Services Rendered

Monday, Jan. 12
6:32 a.m. Complaint, Pierce Road, Officer Handled

Tuesday, Jan. 6
7:15 a.m. 911 Property Damage, Prospect Street, Report Taken
11:47 a.m. Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Officer Handled
4:17 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Church Street, Negative Contact
5:20 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Spoken To
6:35 p.m. 911 Assist Citizen,

Wednesday, Jan. 7
12:55 a.m. Safety Hazard, Town Wide, Dispatch Handled

Thursday, Jan. 8
7:29 p.m. Assist Citizen, Gilbertville Road, Officer Handled
8:20 p.m. 911 Welfare Check,

Service – Seizures, Kenwood Drive, Transported to Hospital
9:06 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Sedona Circle, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Thursday, Dec. 25
8:59 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Grizzly Drive, Transported to Hospital
12:54 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
4:06 p.m. Fire – Power Line/Wires, Maple Avenue, No Action Required
5:45 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Pleasantdale Road, Information Taken
6:37 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Wachusett Street, Transported to Hospital
11:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Friday, Dec. 26
10:42 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Pleasantdale Road, Transported to Hospital
1:33 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Soucy Drive, No Transport Required
2:10 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Village Way, Officer Spoke to Party
3:45 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Cedar Avenue, Report Filed
3:50 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Glenwood Road, Report Filed
5:33 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Pommogussett Road, Removed From Scene
5:40 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Pommogussett Road, Removed From Scene
5:43 p.m. Erratic Operator, Prescott Street, Area Search Negative
7:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Written Warning
7:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
7:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Written Warning
7:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
7:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
8:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
8:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
8:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
8:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
9:44 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Whole Town, Referred to Other Agency

Saturday, Dec. 27
5:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
6:48 a.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Unfounded
11:22 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Fairview Avenue, Referred to Other Agency
11:48 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Pommogussett Road, Transported to Hospital
4:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Sunday, Jan. 11
11:09 p.m. Fire/Other, Barre Road, Services Rendered

Monday, Jan. 12
6:32 a.m. Complaint, Pierce Road, Officer Handled

Tuesday, Jan. 6
7:15 a.m. 911 Property Damage, Prospect Street, Report Taken
11:47 a.m. Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Officer Handled
4:17 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Church Street, Negative Contact
5:20 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Spoken To
6:35 p.m. 911 Assist Citizen,

Wednesday, Jan. 7
12:55 a.m. Safety Hazard, Town Wide, Dispatch Handled

Thursday, Jan. 8
7:29 p.m. Assist Citizen, Gilbertville Road, Officer Handled
8:20 p.m. 911 Welfare Check,

Friday, Jan. 9
9:47 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Peach Street, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, Dec. 27
5:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
6:48 a.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Unfounded
11:22 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Fairview Avenue, Referred to Other Agency
11:48 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Pommogussett Road, Transported to Hospital
4:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Sunday, Jan. 11
11:09 p.m. Fire/Other, Barre Road, Services Rendered

Monday, Jan. 12
6:32 a.m. Complaint, Pierce Road, Officer Handled

Tuesday, Jan. 6
7:15 a.m. 911 Property Damage, Prospect Street, Report Taken
11:47 a.m. Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Officer Handled
4:17 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Church Street, Negative Contact
5:20 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Spoken To
6:35 p.m. 911 Assist Citizen,

Wednesday, Jan. 7
12:55 a.m. Safety Hazard, Town Wide, Dispatch Handled

Thursday, Jan. 8
7:29 p.m. Assist Citizen, Gilbertville Road, Officer Handled
8:20 p.m. 911 Welfare Check,

Calendar of Events

THURSDAY, JAN. 15

35TH ANNIVERSARY ART SHOW sponsored by the Princeton Arts Society at the Gallery at Briarwood, 65 Briarwood Circle, Worcester. Art work will be on display now through March 5. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. The show is open to all Princeton Arts members. Artist can become a member anytime by visiting www.princetonarts.org. For detailed information about the show, people may visit www.princetonarts.org.

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

FRIDAY, JAN. 16

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

SATURDAY, JAN.17

PETERSHAM HISTORY FORUM will take place today at 4 p.m. at the Petersham Country Store, Main Street, Route 32, Petersham. In an effort to collect stories of people, who lived the history of the Hilltop Village, local historian and environmentalist, Larry Buell is inviting residents of Petersham and beyond to come to the Petersham Country Store. This information is for volume II of the Petersham History, the last 100 years. The stories will focus on events like the Petersham Agricultural Fair, Band Concerts and natural

Where is this?



Turley Publications photo by Ellenor Downer

This week's mystery photo is from Hubbardston 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. 19. Bill Bowles, James Laramie and Phil Warbasse correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was the Paige Memorial Library, Petersham Road, in the center of Hardwick.

disasters. The program is free and open to all. For information, people may call Larry Buell at 978- 724-0412 or email LarryBuell2143@gmail.com.

BIRD BANDING WITH CHRISTIAN FEZATTE will take place today at 10:30 a.m. at the Rutland Public Library, 280 Main St., Rutland. Fezatte will provide an informative presentation on bird banding, which consists of capturing, measuring and marking wild birds. He will cover the history of bird banding and the data it provides. He has experience as a wildlife education steward for the state of New Hampshire and has volunteered as an assistant on bird banding projects.

BRAISED BEEF DINNER TO GO will take place at the Orthodox Congregational Church of Petersham, 21 North Main St. (Rte. 32), Petersham with pick up starting at 5:30 p.m. Menu includes braised beef, potatoes, mashed potatoes, green beans, Cole slaw and pineapple upside-down cake for dessert. Cost is \$15 per meal. Proceeds will help with weather-related repairs to the church. Reservations are required by calling 978-724-3362.

SUNDAY, JAN. 18

MEAT RAFFLE sponsored by Barre Post

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

MONDAY, JAN. 19

FREE SKATING DAY at the 12,000 sq. ft. Oval Ice Skating Rink, downtown Worcester is sponsored by Blue Cross. Free ice skating will take place today from 1-6 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 23 from 5-9 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 24 from 1-6 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 25, 1-6 p.m. Children aged 12 and under can also enjoy complimentary skate rentals, making these events accessible for families across the region.

CONSERVATION AREA HIKE with reflection on Martin Luther King Jr. and John Muir will take place today at 1:30 p.m. at the Malone Road Conservation Area in Hubbardston. Participants will enjoy the one mile walk for a view of Mt. Wachusett while discussing a link between Martin Luther King Jr. and John Muir. Depending on conditions, there will be a possible one-mile bushwhack to what is below Dottie Rock. Participants should meet at parking area at end of Malone Road. The leader is

Tim Hawley of the Hubbardston Open Space Committee. They will hike in any weather except if driving is impaired due to snow or ice on roads.

TUESDAY, JAN. 20

KEEP US ON TRACK sponsored by the East Quabbin Land Trust will take place today from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Participants will meet at East Quabbin Land Trust, 120 Ridge Road, Hardwick and shuttle to and from Deer Park Preserve. They will identify wildlife tracks and other signs with help from an experienced wildlife tracker. People must RSVP to mbellefleur@eqt.org. People should bring a lunch; snacks and hot cocoa are provided.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21

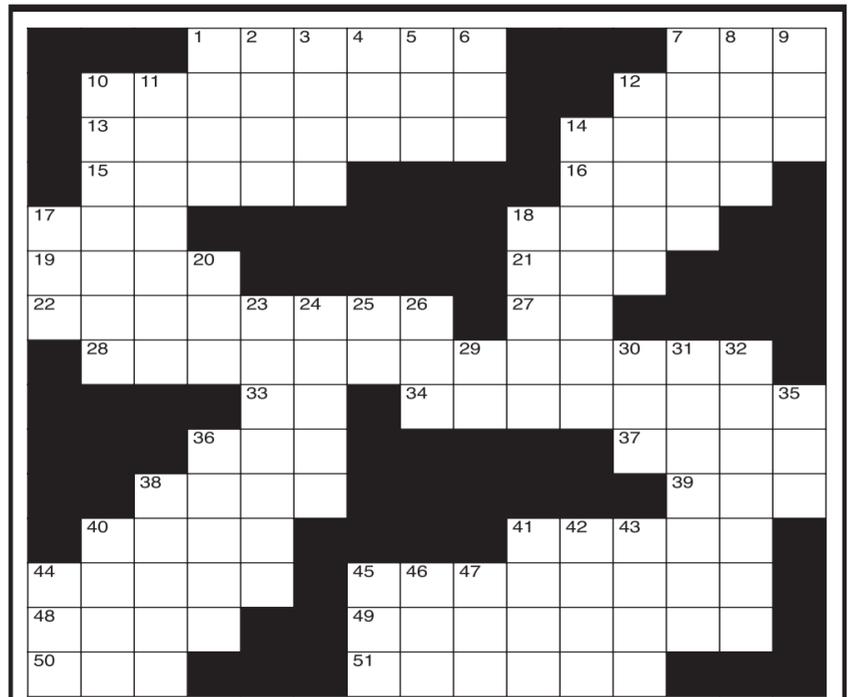
COFFEE HOUR FOR VETERANS OF ALL AGES sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary will be held with the seniors at the Barre/ Hardwick Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, on Wednesday, Jan.21 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Something yummy for coffee hour would be appreciated.

THURSDAY, JAN. 22

CIRCLE OF SONG REHEARSALS starts their winter-spring session today from 7-8:30 p.m. at Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange St. Rehearsal will be every Thursday between now and Thursday, May 14 with the concert on Saturday, May 16 at 7 p.m at the Barre Town Hall. Circle of song is particularly in need of altos this session. Singers of all ages and experience are welcome. The chorus sings in four-part harmony and there is a modest sliding scale membership fee with deep discounts for students. People may email director Julie Rawson at julie@mhof.net or call 978-257-1192.

Calendar Policy

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



Children's table returned to Little Park

NORTH BROOKFIELD – A group of volunteers met at Little Park this past Saturday, to permanently install the children's picnic table and returning it to the spot where it has been since 2019.

The table was removed recently over concerns about a chain connecting it to the adjacent table posing a tripping hazard.

The table has now been permanently secured to the pavers, and will continue to provide a place to sit for the town's youngest residents.



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
John Tripp is shown sitting on the children's picnic table at Little Park recently, after the table was permanently installed.

Local agencies responded to swatting incident in Hardwick

HARDWICK – On Jan. 9 around 11:13 a.m., Petersham Police Department received a call into their station's business phone line for a male subject reporting that he had a bomb and was in the cafeteria at Eagle Hill School in Hardwick.

The party provided more information matching the Hardwick area.

Petersham Police notified the Hardwick-New Braintree Police Department immediately. Hardwick-New Braintree Police were dispatched along with Hardwick and New Braintree Fire Departments, Barre Fire/EMS, Barre Police, West Brookfield Police, MA State Police - Belchertown,

MA State Police - EOD, MA Environmental Police K-9, Worcester Police K-9, UMass-Amherst K-9 and MA State Police - EOD K-9.

The Hardwick-New Braintree Police called Eagle Hill School and notified them about the threat. They placed the school into a shelter in place and evacuated the area mentioned.

No threat was made to other schools in town, but following the school safety protocols a shelter in place was issued for Hardwick Elementary School and St. Aloysius Catholic School with police resources responding to them also.

Eagle Hill School staff and responding agencies checked the entire campus including the use of K-9

teams with no findings. During this time all students in all Hardwick schools listed were safe.

This incident was deemed to be a swatting call (fake call called in to receive a police response).

This incident is currently under investigation by the Hardwick-New Braintree Police Department along with the State Police and the FBI. Anyone with information should contact Detective Almstrom at the Hardwick-New Braintree Police Department.

"We thank our mutual aid partners for their response today, along with the students and staff at all the schools," Chief Kevin Landine said in a press release.

CLUES ACROSS

1. Mechanical lever
7. Rocky peak
10. Leave a country
12. Discount
13. D.C. ballplayer
14. Partner to "oohed"
15. Engine sound
16. Japanese ornamental box
17. Fido is one
18. Amounts of time
19. DiFranco and Phyo are two
21. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
22. Make secret plans
27. "Tiny Bubbles" singer
28. "His Airness"
33. Morning
34. Perfected
36. Winger guitarist

CLUES DOWN

1. Yugoslavian communist leader
2. Exchange rate
3. High school dance
4. Peter's last name
5. When you anticipate arriving
6. Israeli city ___ Aviv
7. Goat-like mammals
8. Margarine
9. End-of-the-spectrum color
10. Make poisonous
11. Popular beverage
12. Actress Lathan
14. Where planes land and depart
17. Political fundraising entity
18. The distinctive spirit of a people or an era
20. Buffer used in microbiology
23. Light, open carriage
24. Metrical feet
25. Email subject line feature
26. A street with lots of nightmares
29. Rapper Rule
30. River in Scotland
31. One who settles a dispute
32. Most chummy
35. We all have our own
36. Arab tribe
38. Slap
40. Ottoman military commanders
41. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language
42. Emit coherent radiation
43. Sun or solar disk (Egyptian mythology)
44. Inclined to
45. Olfactory reference syndrome
46. Chest muscle (slang)
47. Body part

ANSWERS ON PAGE 10

SPORTS

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Panthers suffer loss on the road at Clinton

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CLINTON—Despite entering this week's action with a 2-7 overall record, it has been an enjoyable season for the Quabbin Regional girls' varsity basketball team.

In their first meeting of the regular season with Mid-Wach C. rival Clinton, the Lady Panthers were trailing

by only one point at the end of the first quarter. The Lady Gaels managed to take control of the contest after that and celebrated a 58-31 home victory, last Friday night.

"A lot of people have asked me recently if it has been hard coaching this year's team. I always tell them that it has been awesome and I'm having a lot of fun," said Quabbin head coach

Evan Barringer. "I just love coaching this group of players because they always want to get better. These kids are working very hard every day, and I can't ask for anything more from them. It has been a positive experience, and the players get along with each other very well."

Quabbin's two victories this season were against South Lancaster (40-13)

in the opening round of the Gardner Holiday Tournament, and at Oxford High School (41-26).

While the Lady Panthers will probably not qualify for the Division 3 state tournament, the players and coaching staff are hoping to achieve some other goals.

"When I began my coaching career, I thought it was only about wins and losses,"

Barringer added. "You're always trying to qualify for the postseason tournament every year, but that's not going to happen this year. We might learn more along the way than the team that does win the Division 3 state championship. Our goal is to get better every day. I really think that we're going to beat a team in our league the second time that we play them.

This loss will help us get better in the future."

The only senior listed on the Lady Panthers varsity roster is Mia Ducos, who's a point guard.

She scored eight of her team-leading 14 points against Clinton during the second half.

See QUABBIN GIRLS, page 12

Middle school boys basketball

BARRE – Last Tuesday afternoon, Quabbin Regional Middle School boys basketball was in action to start the new year. The Panthers hosted Tahanto to get the second part of their schedule underway.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Bryce Pariseau tries to defend the ball as he enters the arc.



Cameron Charpentier gets the easy layup



Liam Shaw heads for the layup attempt.



Jaide Stillman starts a play near the top of the arc.

Girls basketball action

BARRE – Last Tuesday afternoon, Quabbin Regional Middle School girls basketball was in action to start the new year. The Panthers hosted Tahanto to get the second part of their schedule underway.



Juliana Nickson is pressured near the hoop.



Waverly Rivard tries to overcome the full court press with a pass.



Anabelle Ickler tries to pass out of the corner.



Addy Barringer hustles up the court.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Quinn Reilly gets ready to shoot.

Indians fall at home to Monson

NORTH BROOKFIELD – In a matchup between independent opponents, Monson High School boys basketball defeated North Brookfield 72-50. Monson led throughout the matchup, taking

advantage of good ball movement and some good shooting early. The Mustangs were led by Austin Meacham with 33 points, while Jake Beupre had 17 points. Brady Ronaldson added 10 points.



Kris Ortiz works around a pair of Monson guards.



Brody Traska inbounds a pass.



Ryan Roy looks to pass out of trouble.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Sports

T-Birds stunned by Phantoms

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (13-15-4-2) were snake-bitten by a three-goal third period rally as the Lehigh Valley Phantoms (19-11-2-2) came away with a 3-2 win on Saturday night before a sellout crowd of 6,793 inside the MassMutual Center on Indians Throwback Night.

Entering the game having allowed only two total goals in their prior three victories, the Phantoms and their net-minder, Carson Bjarnason, made it clear goals would not come easily for the T-Birds, as the rookie back-stop turned away all 10 first period attempts from the home side.

At the other end of the rink, Georgi Romanov had a relatively quiet first period, making all seven saves asked of him in the Springfield crease. Neither team could connect on a power play chance, and each goalie came up with a timely save off an odd-man attack, with

Romanov stoning a Phil Tomasino 2-on-1 bid and Bjarnason rejecting a Juraj Pekarcik breakout.

The T-Birds' power play wasted little time getting to the lead in the opening minute of the second, as Calle Rosen gath-



ered a pass from Matthew Peca at the top of the left circle and picked the top corner over Bjarnason's glove to make it a 1-0 Springfield lead just 52 seconds into the frame.

That same man-up unit added to their tally at 16:53 on a gorgeous three-man passing play, as Alek Kaskimaki slid a pass to

Chris Wagner at the left post. From there, Wagner stuffed a perfect between-the-leg pass over to Matt Luff, who fired home his team-leading 12th goal to make it a 2-0 game into the intermission.

The third period began at 4-on-4, and the Phantoms finally got on the board as Lane Pederson curled to the middle of the ice before snapping a perfect shot upstairs over Romanov at the 27-second mark, cutting the Springfield lead to 2-1. On a power play just 2:40 later, Christian Kyrou dissected the T-Birds' defense and chipped a forehand over Romanov's glove, bringing Lehigh to a rapid tie, 2-2.

The 2-2 tie made it all the way to the game's final seconds, but a bad-angle shot from Anthony Richard at the bottom of the left circle somehow found its way home with 11.9 remaining, and Lehigh Valley escaped with the victory.

In the Classroom



Submitted photo

Shown is the MWCC practical nursing Class of 2025.

MWCC held Traditional Pinning Ceremony for Class of 2025 Practical Nursing Graduates

GARDNER – Mount Wachusett Community College held the pinning ceremony for the Class of 2025 Practical Nursing Graduates on Friday, Dec. 12.

MWCC President James Vander Hooven welcomed students, "You have worked incredibly hard to be here this afternoon to celebrate with your classmates, family, friends, and faculty. It has been a difficult program – you have overcome obstacles and challenges, and yet you persevered and persisted, and here you are today."

"You stand here as a testament to determination, resilience, and the power of dreams realized," said Kimberly Shea, DNP, RN, Dean of Nursing and Health Sciences. "Over the past ten months you have embarked on a journey that was anything but easy. You balanced demanding coursework, clinical rotations, and countless sleepless nights. You've shared wonderful and challenging times together.

Today you are not just graduates, you are leaders in compassionate care and the newest ambassadors to the nursing profession."

Joining Dean Shea were nursing faculty members Collene Thaxton, MSN, RN, Emily Turner, MSN, RN, and Albert Rolon, MSN, RN.

MWCC's Practical Nursing Certificate program prepares students to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination – Practical Nursing (NCLEX-PN) to earn their license to practice as an LPN. Credits earned in the Practical Nursing program can be applied to the Associate Degree in Nursing.

The practical nursing graduates are: Linda Change of Athol; Aida Soto of Athol; Rachel Zubair of Athol; Nicholas Murphy of Baldwinville; Rosimar Marcial-Rodriguez of Fitchburg; Hazel Moua of Fitchburg; Shakira Roman of Fitchburg; Samantha Rivard of Gardner; Ryan Siponmaa

of Gardner;

Shantee St. Peter of Gardner; Grace Stackpole, of Leominster; Marina Kamayou of Leominster; Jivichcar Nerrette of Leominster; Stephanie Nikander of Leominster; Lizette Noudaranouvong of Leominster; Jessica Plumb of Leominster; Terence Nkeng of Malden; Susan Huynh of Millbury; Arman Atoofi of Paxton; Whittany Degan of Phillipston; Lainey Holombo of Rindge, New Hampshire; Brianna Dos Santos of Salem, New Hampshire; Alicia Novia of Spencer;

Kate Albertelli of Templeton (class representative); Francis Atugonza of Waltham; Jared Nelson of Winchendon; Cali Hetherman of Worcester; Kayla Kagwe of Worcester and Ana Paula Pace of Worcester.

Registration set to open Feb. 1 for Quabbin Valley

SOUTH HADLEY – On Sunday, Jan. 11, the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, an over-28 recreational league, held its first meeting of 2026 to prepare for the upcoming season.

At the meeting it was determined registration for players will open up on Sunday, Feb. 1.

For the 2026 season, the cost will be \$215 and will include a 16th game added to the regular season schedule.

During the 2025 season, the league experimented with playing on Mother's Day Saturday as well as a weeknight game to allow players an opportunity to play under the lights. While the night games were very successful, the Mother's Day Saturday games were rained out.

Those elements will return along with a 16th game with an opponent to be determine as the league's board explores possibilities for interleague matchups with another league in the region.

For returning players to the league, the deadline is Mar. 22 at 12 noon to be registered for the 2026 season in order to be guaranteed a roster spot. There will be open practices for all players but specifically targeted at new players scheduled for March 29 and April 4 at times and locations to be announced. The draft is currently scheduled to take place on April 4 following that practice.

The season is currently slated to start on Sunday, April 19 and following the success of the six-team fall

league last year, the league will also have a fall league in September and October this season.

The registration link will be live on Feb. 1 at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. Players must register and then pay the league dues via Venmo or contact the league leadership if an alternate form of payment is needed.

Aside from the week-night and Mother's Day games, other games take place Sundays at 10 a.m. outside of Mother's Day, Memorial Day and July 4 weekends. Playoffs will be in August.

This is the 30th season for the league and league officials are looking to celebrate the anniversary with a couple of events.

QUABBIN GIRLS, from page 11

Ducos, who made five field goals and four free throws in the road game, would like to continue playing basketball at the collegiate level next year. She hasn't made her college decision yet.

"Mia is like a member of my own family. It's going to be very hard seeing her leave after this season," Barringer said. "I can't wait to go watch her play college basketball

next year."

Junior Abby Rogowski, who's an outstanding three-sport athlete, is a starting forward for the Lady Panthers. She also reached double digits against Clinton with 11 points despite getting into first half foul trouble. Rogowski picked up her third personal foul late in the opening quarter and she sat on the bench for almost the entire second quarter.

Rounding out the scoring column for Quabbin were junior Makenzie Casey (3 points), eighth grader Reagyn Wnek (2 points), and junior Izzy Doty (1 point)

The Lady Panthers, who were ranked 55th in the initial Division 3 power rankings, lost both games against the Lady Gaels (5-3) a year ago by three points.

"Coach Barringer is a very good basketball coach and I'm always expecting it to be a very close game whenever we play Quabbin," said Clinton head coach Marissa Garrity. "We played very well defensively in tonight's game which helped us score some points."

Garrity, who graduated from Clinton High School, scored more than 1,000 points during her varsity basketball career before becoming an All-American at Clark University.

Barringer thinks Clinton has a chance to contend for the league title this season.

"I think Clinton is one of the best teams in our league," he said. "They have four or

five players who can score and they're very hard to guard against. I thought we played well in the first quarter, but we needed to play a perfect game to beat them."

Clinton, who snapped a two-game losing streak, was ranked 22nd in the Division 4 power rankings. The top 32 teams in each Division automatically qualify for the state tournament.

The Gaels' leading scorer was senior Lauren Lemanski with 20 points. Seven other players scored at least two points for the home team.

The Lady Panthers took a 7-4 lead in the middle of the opening quarter following a Casey made foul shot and a Rogowski put-back hoop.

Clinton, who ended the first quarter with a 6-0 run, held a 10-7 advantage entering the second quarter.

With Rogowski sitting on the bench, Ducos, who has scored more than 100 points this season, made a pair of lay-ups and hit a foul-line jumper, which kept her team within striking distance.

When Rogowski reentered the game in the final minute of the second quarter, she made two inside hoops, which sliced the Lady Panthers deficit to 28-17 at halftime.

Quabbin couldn't make a second half comeback, as they were outscored, 30-14, after halftime.

The Lady Panthers will be looking to split the season series when they host the Lady Gaels on Feb. 3 at 6 p.m.

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CAREER Education

HCSS: Empowering students for a brighter future

Are you searching for a school where academic excellence meets a supportive community? Hampden Charter School of Science (HCSS) is a top-ranked, tuition-free public charter school serving grades 6-12 in Western Massachusetts. Since its founding in 2009, HCSS has been dedicated to preparing students for college, careers, and a lifetime of success.

Why Choose HCSS?

HCSS stands out as a premier choice for families because of its unique combination of academic rigor, personalized attention, and community spirit. Our two campuses—the Middle School in West Springfield (Grades 6-8) and the High School in Chicopee (Grades 9-12)—offer students a seamless transition from middle school to high school and beyond. Here's what makes HCSS truly exceptional:

Academic Excellence: Our rigorous curriculum is guided by the College Board's AP standards and the Common Core. With honors courses beginning in 7th grade, 15 AP offerings in high school, and innovative programs like Project Lead The Way (PLTW), students are challenged to reach their full potential.

Comprehensive College and Career Preparation:



HCSS begins college and career readiness as early as 6th grade, including SAT/PSAT prep, dual enrollment opportunities, and experiential college campus visits. With a 100% college acceptance rate and over \$49M in scholarships awarded in 2025, our graduates are set for success.

State-of-the-Art Technology: Students benefit from one-to-one Chromebook access, SMART Inter-

active Displays, and hands-on science labs, preparing them for a tech-driven world.

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Join Us for an Open House

Explore what HCSS has to offer during our upcoming Welcome Saturday Open

House events. Meet our dedicated staff, tour our campuses, and learn how HCSS can help your child achieve their dreams. Interested families can also join a Virtual Information Session for an in-depth look at our programs from the comfort of home.

What Parents and Students Love About HCSS

Parents and students consistently praise HCSS for

its nurturing environment, where every student feels valued and supported. The school's commitment to diversity and inclusion fosters a vibrant community that celebrates different perspectives and cultures. Families also appreciate the convenience of free transportation and extensive tutoring services, ensuring all students have the tools they need to succeed.

Student Success Stories

HCSS alumni have gone on to attend prestigious universities, including Ivy League institutions like Harvard, Columbia, and Dartmouth. Our students' achievements are a testament to the school's dedication to academic and personal growth. With a consistent college matriculation rate of over 95%, HCSS prepares students not just to attend college but to excel once they get there.

How to Apply

Applications for the 2026-2027 school year are now open. Rising 6th-10th graders should apply no later than March 1, 2026, to secure a spot in our admission lottery. Visit www.hampdencharter.org to apply and take the first step toward a brighter future.

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MARCH 1, 2026





CAREER Education

St. Joan of Arc School offers comprehensive education

Located in Chicopee, MA, St. Joan of Arc (SJA) School is a private Catholic institution serving students from Pre-K through Grade 8.

St. Joan of Arc School provides a comprehensive educational environment focused on physical, intellectual,

and spiritual wellness.

In the fall the school community welcomed Mrs. Ashley Mahan as the new principal. A lifelong Chicopee resident and former educator in the local public school system, Mrs. Mahan brings extensive experience and a personal connection to the community.

Students can engage in several new and returning enrichment opportunities this year, including:

- Creative Arts: Liturgical Dance Troupe and Choir.
- STEM & Literacy: Robotics, 3D Printing, LEGO,

- Book and Newspaper Clubs.
- Curriculum: Academic programs are integrated with technology, music, library, and physical education.
- Student Services: The school offers free breakfast and lunch programs and has hot meal options available for students.
- Extended Care: Affordable extended care and extracurricular programs are available to support families.
- Language Learning:

Innovative offerings include foreign language instruction through tools like Duolingo.

Our Preschool program for ages 3 and 4 offers full and part-time care, geared toward preparing your child for Kindergarten. Children learn Kindergarten readiness and pre-reading skills through a developmentally appropriate teacher-created curriculum designed to hold your child's interest and spark their curiosity.

The school will be holding an Open House on Saturday, Jan. 31 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (no appointment needed). Appointment only tours for families will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 3 and Thursday, Feb. 5 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Please call Janine or Chris in the Business Office at 413-276-4608 for registration information, or to make an appointment. To learn more visit www.sjachicopee.org.

We look forward to meeting you.

We look forward to meeting you.

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By Appointment Only



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St. Stanislaus School students shine as servant leaders

St. Stanislaus School proudly announces the success of its recent community service initiatives, exemplifying its motto: "Servant Leaders for Today and Tomorrow."

In a spirited effort to support those in need, Student Council organized a can drive that collected an impressive 3,500 items, surpassing their original goal by 1,000 donations. The drive demonstrated the school community's commitment to service, teamwork, and making a tangible difference in the lives of local families.

Building on this momentum, St. Stanislaus students also gathered toiletries, diapers, and other personal items to fulfill the wish lists of The Gray House and Christina's House in Springfield. These organizations provide critical support and safe spaces for individuals and families facing challenging circumstances.

"This can drive is run by our Student Council in grades 4-8," said Mrs. Katherine Rorrio, Principal of St. Stanislaus School. "This drive aligns with the state-

ment that we believe our students are servant leaders for today and tomorrow. It assists our school community in understanding the global community, where we are all neighbors and members of God's family. Our school theme this year is 'Go Make Disciples of All Nations.' Our students are wonderful examples of disciples going out and making a difference in the community. We are so proud of all of our students and families for being so generous to those in need."

St. Stanislaus School remains committed to fostering a culture of compassion, responsibility, and service, preparing students not only for academic success but also for meaningful engagement in their communities.

Founded over 125 years ago, St. Stanislaus School has a rich history of serving families in Chicopee and surrounding communities. Although the original building was lost to fire, the school will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its current building on Saturday, Jan. 31, beginning with Mass at 4 p.m., followed by an Open House and

Celebration. Families interested in scheduling a private tour at another time may call the school at (413) 592-5135.

St. Stanislaus School is a Roman Catholic, Franciscan, co-educational Pre-K through 8th grade school. Students are assisted in developing their potential spiritually, physically, and socially within a safe and diverse community. A foundation of academic excellence is created to prepare students to become contributing members of a global society.

The school has a welcoming Franciscan environment, modern air-conditioned facility, strong core curriculum, enrichment classes, certified faculty, full-day preschool (PreK 3 & 4) and Kindergarten, free breakfast and hot lunch, before and after school program, and one-to-one use and integration of iPads and Chromebooks into curriculum. Financial Aid is available. Interested students are invited to spend a day with us. To learn more please visit www.saintstansschool.org.

We can't wait to meet you.

ST. STANISLAUS SCHOOL

SERVANT LEADERS FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW



Servant Leaders for Today and Tomorrow

PREK - 8TH GRADE SCHOOL
PHYSICAL, SPIRITUAL, AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



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- Welcoming Franciscan environment
- Strong core curriculum
- Enrichment classes
- Certified faculty
- Full day Preschool & Kindergarten
- Free breakfast and hot lunch
- Before & After school program
- One to one use and integration of iPads & Chromebooks into curriculum
- Modern facility - full gym, full cafeteria, air conditioned, carpeted classrooms.

Call us for more information and to schedule a tour. We welcome the opportunity for you to experience St. Stanislaus School! Interested students are invited to "spend a day with us."

www.saintstansschool.org
534 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013
413-592-5135

CALL TO SCHEDULE A PRIVATE TOUR!





CAREER Education

HCC opens registration for Spring 2026 noncredit classes

Holyoke Community College has opened registration for its Spring 2026 catalog of noncredit personal enrichment and professional development classes.

The spring calendar begins Jan. 12, with individual classes running on different schedules throughout the semester.

New next semester is a series of classes for seniors focused on basic technology. Each one-hour class is available for just \$20 and cover a wide range of subjects, including Windows 11, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, Canva (for graphic design), Artificial Intelligence, Zoom, smartphone use (Android or iPhone), managing and editing photos, document storage, web browsers, and computer scams.

Other classes for spring include cooking (Caribbean, charcuterie, Puerto Rican, Southern), wine tasting (winter reds, Tuscany, New Zealand, Rose, summer wines), sewing (for beginners), sewing (machine), watercolor painting, acrylic painting, drawing, piano, conversational French, conversational Spanish, music technology, voiceover coaching, financial literacy, retirement planning, K-12 education (professional development), writing and publishing (fiction, nonfiction,



tion, screenwriting, short stories, query letters, mysteries, travel, blogs), ChatGPT, how to launch a pet-sitting and dog-walking business, and Quickbooks.

Most classes meet in the Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development on the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave. Cooking and wine-tasting classes meet at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St. Some classes meet over Zoom.

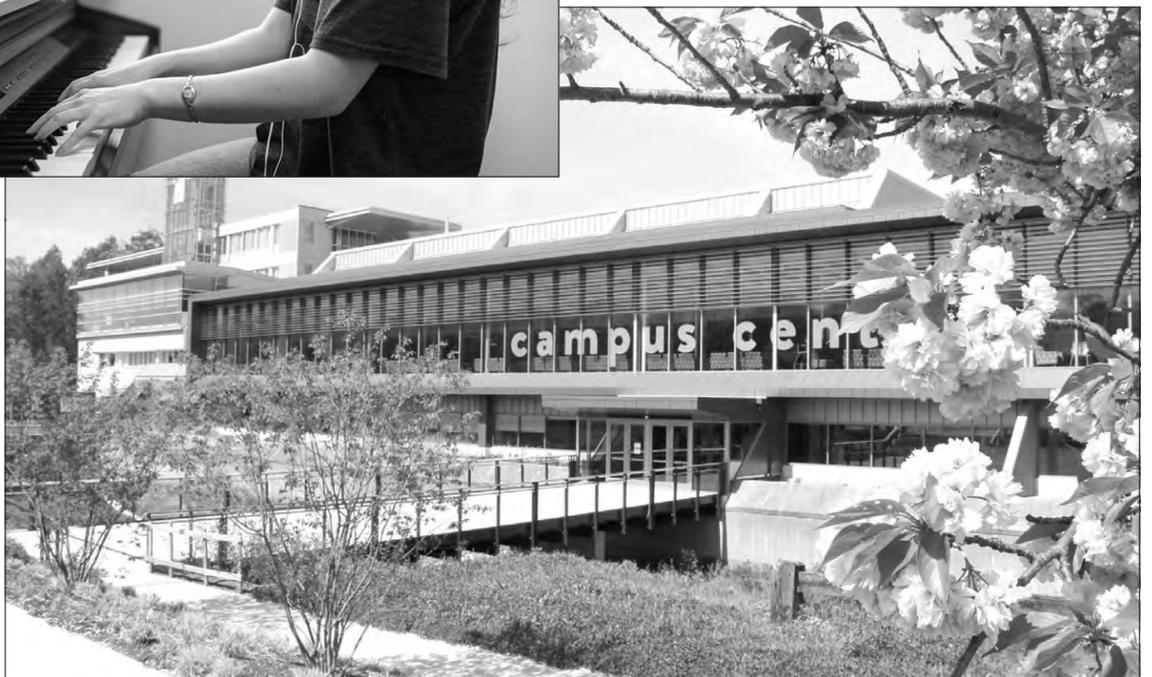
To see complete spring course listings and schedules, or to register, please visit hcc.edu/bcs.

More classes will be added as spring approaches.

The Commonwealth's oldest community college, Holyoke Community College opened its doors in 1946 as the first two-year college in Massachusetts. In the decades since, the college has paved the way for generations of learners from western Massachusetts and beyond, a beacon of hope and opportunity for people

seeking better lives. Please visit us at hcc.edu.

HCC's Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development is the Pioneer Valley's premiere resource for workforce training, professional development, and personal growth. It provides innovative and affordable programming that helps businesses, organizations, and individuals achieve their goals.



HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A premier healthcare educator in our region.

- + Nursing
- + Radiologic Technology
- + Medical Assisting
- + Veterinary and Animal Science

hcc.edu/healthcare



CAREER Education

Jump Start Preschool invites families to learn, play, and grow together

Two Locations in Feeding Hills and West Springfield

Jump Start Preschool is proud to welcome families to a nurturing, play-based learning environment where children are encouraged to explore, grow, and develop essential life skills. Serving children ages 2.9 to 5 years old, Jump Start Preschool focuses on learning through play while fostering independence, creativity, and confidence.

At Jump Start Preschool, social-emotional learning and communication are key components of each age group's curriculum. Children learn how to problem-solve with peers, practice self-regulation strategies, and build the foundational skills that help them succeed academically and socially. By supporting emotional growth alongside academics, Jump Start helps children thrive both in and out of the classroom.

Family and community partnerships are at the heart

of the Jump Start Preschool mission. In support of this commitment, Jump Start Preschool will host a 5K Run/Walk on May 30, bringing the community together to raise funds for Autism Allies and the children of Jump Start Preschool. Sixty percent of all donations will benefit Autism Allies. The event will feature live music, local businesses, exercise, and great company. Community members are encouraged to participate and support children and families.

Event information and registration: <https://Milesof-hopeforautism.eventbrite.com>

Jump Start Preschool offers a wide range of perks designed to support both children and working families, including:

- Open year-round
- Reasonable tuition
- Family-friendly hours
Feeding Hills: 7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
West Springfield: 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Free healthy morning and afternoon snacks
- Community and in-

house field trips

- Family engagement activities throughout the year
- EEC-certified staff trained in CPR, First Aid, and medication administration
- State-of-the-art playground
- Preschool graduation with a professional photographer
- School photos twice per year
- Free occupational therapy and speech screenings twice annually

"Timeless moments come from learning through movement, creativity, and connection," said Jump Start Preschool. "We invite families to come dance with us and experience the joy of early learning."

Families interested in enrolling are encouraged to visit www.jumpstartpreschoolma.com and complete an interest form. Jump Start Preschool is currently enrolling preschoolers ages 2.9 to 5 at both the Feeding Hills and West Springfield locations.

Watch out — learning is happening.

Various ways newspapers are good for kids

Newspapers have long been part of the fabric of the communities they cover and serve. Whether it's a big-city daily tabloid or a small town weekly, newspapers keep readers and residents up-to-date on the latest goings-on in their communities and across the globe.

Newspapers have been linked to a range of benefits for adults that include greater civic engagement and stronger voter turnout. Such benefits are indispensable, and it's equally important to recognize ways in which newspapers benefit children.

• Reading and discussing newspaper stories can foster stronger language development. A 2022 study published in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* noted that parents who provide newspapers at home for their children to read and then discuss stories with young readers can help kids develop strong language skills, which could ultimately benefit them in the classroom and in their personal interactions. The study also noted that discussing newspaper stories with youngsters creates opportunities for children to explore their thoughts.

• Newspapers can help children develop their critical thinking skills. A meta-analysis examining ways to teach students critical thinking skills published in the *Review of Educational Research* noted that critical thinking skills are vital because they bolster students' ability to interpret, analyze, evaluate, and make inferences. Newspapers are an invaluable resource for educators aiming to bolster kids' critical thinking skills, as they can be used to teach students to recognize why stories were written, how information in a given story was learned and gathered and how to verify information in a news story. Each of those lessons requires interpretation, analysis and evaluation, ultimately instilling in students vital critical thinking skills that can serve them in the classroom and beyond.



• Newspapers help students develop vital communication skills. A 2024 study published in the *Elementaria Journal of Educational Research* found that reading newspapers helped student participants in the study improve their vocabulary, enhance their writing skills and more effectively articulate their ideas. Authors behind the study ultimately characterized newspapers as valuable educational tools, a conclusion that has been reached by researchers across a range of academic disciplines.

Newspapers are part of the fabric of the communities they cover, and children have much to gain from being granted access to their local papers in the classroom and at home.

Jump Start Preschool

Enrolling Now for the

2026-2027 School Year!




Jump Start Preschool provides a safe, loving, nurturing and high-quality childcare and education that promotes and enhances each child's development with the assurance of our parents' peace of mind.

Full Day & Half Day Programs



Interested in a Career with Jump Start Preschool? Please Contact Us

Preschool & Pre-Kindergarten

Research-based curriculum that builds confidence & excitement about learning

- Social & Emotional Skills
- Language & Literacy Skills
- Cognitive Skills
- Physical Skills

Ages 2.9 to 5 years old



Two Beautiful Locations!

For more information, call or visit our website:

www.JumpStartPreschoolMA.com

- Feeding Hills: 413.789.4987
- West Springfield: 413.301.5694



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www.grsd.org

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JOIN US! Apply today!



EARLY EDUCATION & CARE

At Gateway you can join our Early Education and Care program (EEC) in 9th grade!

By the time you graduate, you will be ready, certified, and prepared to work with young learners!

You will also be on track to:

- Know how to plan engaging activities and lessons
- Have CPR & First Aid certification
- Experience awesome internship opportunities



Visit:
www.grsd.org
for more information!



CAREER Education

Well-rounded education benefits students

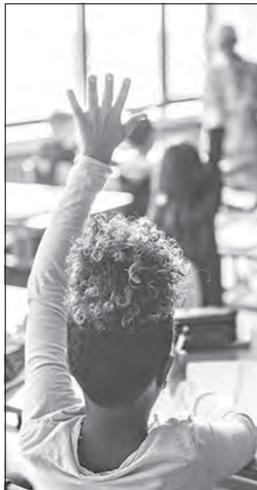
Academic environments have undergone quite a change over the last several decades. Technological advancements have changed the way educators teach and how students learn, but there's also been a notable shift in what students are learning.

Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) has become a point of emphasis in twenty-first century classrooms, and for good reason. The U.S. National Science Foundation notes that a workforce educated in STEM is vital to a country's prosperity and security. Opportunities in STEM fields are on the rise as well, as the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates STEM occupations will grow by roughly 11 percent between 2022 and 2032.

The value of STEM is undeniable. However, students and parents also should recognize the many ways a well-rounded education that includes math and science but also the humanities and social sciences facilitates strong academic performance.

Critical thinking skills

A well-rounded education can instill important and useful critical thinking skills in students. When students direct the bulk of their attention to a single subject or



category of subjects, they're less likely to understand how interconnected coursework, and indeed the world, can be. A well-rounded education can instill in students a more nuanced way of looking at problems and potential solutions. That ability can positively affect students' personal lives and ultimately their professional lives when their formal schooling ends, as they will be in position to better assess situations.

Comprehension

Tests are designed to gauge students' grasp of material. Students' ability to comprehend lessons taught in the classroom is a big part of that, and a well-round-

ed education fosters strong comprehension skills. A 2018 report from the New York State Education Department noted that research has found that students are better readers after they have been exposed to the language and vocabulary of the natural world, the sciences and social studies.

Crossover benefits

A well-rounded education can help students perform better in all of their subjects. In 2021, a University of Buffalo academic and researcher studying children and dyslexia made a startling discovery regarding the value of reading and how it affects performance in subjects like math. The research found that reading proficiency crosses academic domains and actually guides how students approach various tasks and solve problems. That means a well-rounded education that includes reading-heavy subjects, like those in the humanities and social sciences, could actually improve how students perform in STEM classes.

A well-rounded education pays a number of dividends for students. Recognition of those benefits might compel parents to support a curriculum that includes a wide array of subjects and academic disciplines.

Gateway announces expansion of career pathways, Chapter 74 vocational opportunities

Gateway Regional School (GRS) is proud to announce the expansion of its personalized learning model, featuring anticipated openings in its premier Chapter 74 Vocational Programs for the fall of 2026. Designed as a "launchpad" for student success, GRS continues to bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world career readiness for students in grades 6-12.

Innovative Middle School Exploration

The journey begins in the middle grades (6-8), where students engage in an expansive exploratory program. With 26 unique course options—ranging from Intro to Tourism and Woodshop to Data and Statistics in Sports and Sociology—students are encouraged to uncover their passions early.

By the eighth grade, students can gain a head start by accessing Gateway's Chapter 74 vocational programs, providing hands-on introduction to high-demand fields before they even enter high school.

Challenging Chapter 74 Vocational Programs

Gateway's commitment

to excellence is anchored by two flagship programs that prepare students for immediate entry into the workforce:

- **Welding & Metal Fabrication:** This program offers real hands-on experience in state-of-the-art facilities renovated in 2022. Students learn on modern equipment, including a robotic arm, and participate in both on-site and off-site internships.

- **Early Education and Care (EEC):** Starting in 9th grade, students in the EEC program are put on a track to become certified professionals. The curriculum includes lesson planning for young learners, CPR and First Aid certification, and immersive internship opportunities.

A Personalized Path to the Future

As students reach the 10th grade, they participate in a "demonstration of learning" to chart their specific goals for their final two years. This tailored approach allows for meaningful experiences, including:

- **Internships and Co-ops:** Real-world placements in students' fields of interest.
- **College Credits:** Through dual-enrollment and concurrent enrollment

partnerships with universities across the country.

- **Work-Study Placements:** Providing a practical balance between education and professional experience.

"At Gateway Regional School, education is more than coursework—it's a launchpad," Dr. Will Sullivan, GRS Principal, states. "We empower our students to excel in life after graduation through intentionally personalized learning pathways crafted to foster achievement and community impact."

Join the Gateway Community

Gateway Regional School welcomes students from its six member towns and surrounding communities. Families interested in exploring these opportunities for the Fall 2026 semester are encouraged to apply today.

For more information on programs and how to apply, please visit www.grsd.org.

Media Contact: Gateway Regional School District Website: www.grsd.org
Gateway Regional School District is located at 12 Littleville Road, Huntington, MA 01050.

WELCOME TO GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL



"AT GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL, EDUCATION IS MORE THAN COURSEWORK – IT'S A LAUNCHPAD."

Gateway Regional School (GRS) is proud to educate and welcome students from the six member towns and surrounding communities in a vibrant, forward-thinking learning environment designed to prepare students for life beyond the classroom.

Serving students in grades 6-12, Gateway Regional School is built around one central goal: helping every student discover their interests, develop their strengths, and chart a clear path toward future success. That journey begins in the middle grades, where students in grades 6-8, participate in an expansive exploratory program offering 26 unique course options. From *Intro to Tourism and Woodshop* to *Data and Statistics in Sports, Financial Literacy, Engineering, and Sociology*, students are encouraged to explore new ideas, uncover passions, and start thinking about possible career pathways early on. Eighth-grade students can take that exploration even further by accessing Gateway's Chapter 74 vocational programs in *Early Education and Care* and *Welding*, giving them a hands-on introduction to high-demand fields before they enter high school.

Once students reach high school, Gateway shifts into a highly personalized learning model. In grade 10, students complete a demonstration of learning, sharing their goals and aspirations for their final two years at GRS. These plans guide meaningful experiences such as internships, co-ops, and work-study placements, allowing students to gain real-world experience in fields they are excited to pursue.

Gateway's strong partnerships with colleges and universities across the country further expand student opportunities through dual-enrollment and concurrent enrollment programs, helping students earn college credit while still in high school. Looking ahead, Gateway Regional School is excited to announce anticipated openings in its Chapter 74 Vocational Programs for fall 2026, creating new opportunities for students interested in *Early Education and Care* and *Welding*.

GATEWAY REGIONAL'S COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE AND TO EXCELLENCE:

AT GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL, STUDENTS ARE EMPOWERED TO EXCEL IN LIFE AFTER GRADUATION THROUGH INTENTIONALLY PERSONALIZED LEARNING PATHWAYS AND OPPORTUNITIES, CRAFTED TO FOSTER A FUTURE OF ACHIEVEMENT, CONTRIBUTION, UNDERSTANDING, LEADERSHIP, AND COMMUNITY IMPACT.



CAREER Education

PVPA continues to invest in Arts-focused education



At a time when many public schools are trying to manage difficult budgets by cutting Art programs, Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Public Charter School continues to invest in Arts-focused education for students in Grades 7 - 12.

With an extensive Course Catalog of challenging Academic and Arts courses, PVPA employs 15

full-time Arts teachers, and now has five Arts Departments: Music, Dance, Theatre, Visual Arts and new this year, Technical Design and Production.

Students are encouraged to find their artistic voice through a range of introductory courses and audition level course options, with multiple performance opportunities, all integrated with

their core academics.

PVPA students consistently show that incorporating the arts into education creates, not just better artists, but better students who are equipped to be active participants in their future.

Visit for an Open House on Thursday, Jan. 22, and see why PVPA is consistently voted one of the Best Charter Schools in the Valley.

As a public charter school, admission to PVPA is free and open to all Massachusetts students by lottery; no tuition or audition required.

Now accepting applications for the 2026/2027 school year for Grades 7-12 at pvpa.org/admissions.

For more information, please email admissions@pvpa.org.



Pioneer Valley Performing Arts
Charter Public School
15 Mulligan Drive, South Hadley
413-552-1580

Apply Now!

Grades 7-11

2026/27 school year



PVPA

Open House

Thursday, Jan 22
4:00-6:00pm

registration encouraged

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Visual Arts
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Production

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www.pvpa.org/admissions

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Deadline Feb 11, 2026

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

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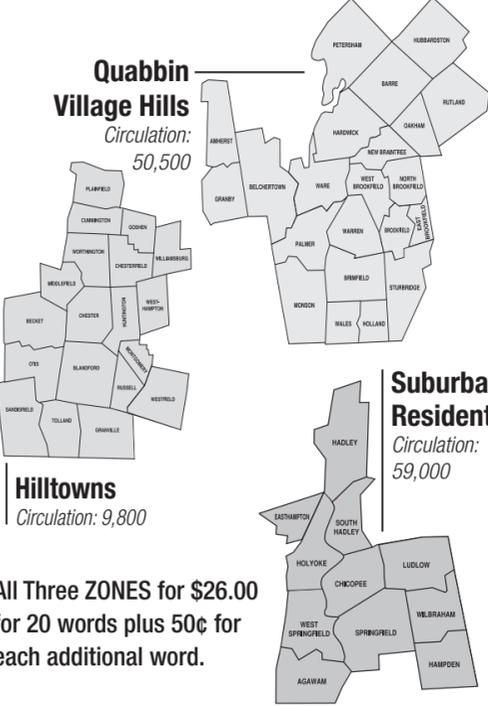
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NO ENTRANCE FEE
 Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 31 Edward Lane, Barre, MA 01005. This is a 55 and better community. This home includes a wonderful floor plan with very spacious rooms. Master bedroom includes a walk-in closet. Two full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

NO ENTRANCE FEE
 Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 21 Varney Lane, Barre, MA 01005. This is a 55 and Better community. This home includes a wonderful floor plan with spacious rooms. Master bedroom includes a large attached bathroom. Two full bathrooms, large back deck, and two large wood sheds. Asking 245,000. See MLS#73457117.

NO ENTRANCE FEE
 Mobile Home located in Waterwheel Village at 32 Edward Lane, Barre, MA 01005. This is a 55 and better community. Includes large carport and two large garden sheds. Approx. living area 1,000 SqFt. Asking \$134,900. See listing on MLS # 73398863.

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