

BARRE GAZETTE

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Barre Reservoir dam to be non-binding ballot question

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – About 20 people attended the Monday, Jan. 6 Select Board meeting on the Barre Reservoir dam.

Last year, the state determined the dam at the reservoir, located off Williamsville Road and on the Prince River, to be a hazard. They were unable to find out the present owner(s). The previous owners, Prince River Cooperation were all deceased and no descendants were known. By default, the land would return to the town.

The state had earmarked funds to mitigate the hazard by either removing the dam entirely and reverting back to the original state of the Prince River or replace the dam at its present level. The dam was lowered from its original level in 1987.

If the Select Board opted for the replacing of this dam, the town would need to acquire ownership of the dam, maintain it, pay for regular inspections and have liability insurance at cost to the town. If the Select Board opted to remove the dam and restore the site to its original condition before the dam, there would be no costs to the town.

One woman, an advocate for cleaner water, gave a presentation on what would happen if the dam was removed. She said the Prince River was a cold water stream and contained brook trout, a cold water species. She said the brook trout population would likely increase. A cold water stream is defined as one with an average summer temperature of below 64.9 degrees Fahrenheit and remains cold throughout the year.

She said beavers would move into the old dam area and create a beaver wetland there. She pointed out a yellow area on the map, which was home to an endangered species. She said if a new dam were built at some point the dam would become old and present a hazard again.

Lucy Allen, historian for the Historical Society and lifelong Barre resident, gave a presentation on the dam history. She said the dam burst during the 1938 hurricane and caused extension damage downstream including to the Chas. G. Allen Company, Loring Road and Barre Plains.

She said owners along the Prince River purchased the land and in 1851 to 1852, they built a dam that allowed their water wheel to power their mill in the summer when water level was low. In 1868, the dam burst and it wiped out all the mills along the river. This damage was not as severe as in 1938.

She said after the 1938 hurricane, someone supposedly rebuilt the dam. However, she could find no records of inspections or plans for this work.

Lucy said the natural beauty of the area was the Prince River before the dam was built. She said the dam itself was “not a historical asset to the town.”

Select Board Vice Chair John Dixon read a draft for a non-binding ballot question to be placed on the Annual Town Election ballot on Monday, April 7. The Office of Dam Safety offered the town a choice of building a new dam or removing the old one and let the river return back to its original state before the dam. The state would fund either option. He said either choice would protect down-

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Wreaths displayed and created by Hartman's Herb Farm in Barre.



Handmade cards and bookmarks featuring photographs and drawings by artist and teacher Mathilde Duffy.

Barre Winter Market returns for its third year

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

BARRE – The Barre Town Hall welcomes back the annual Barre Winter Market that features local farmers and crafters.

It truly was a winter market this past weekend as shoppers got to stroll through the snow on their way to the Town Hall for some shopping. The snow flurry not only didn't stop the shoppers from arriving, but also didn't stop many local farmers, crafters and artisans from providing some of their finest products.

The winter market had a variety of products available including gifts you can't get during the regular season.

Celia Melvin, who coordinates the Barre Winter Market, was excited to be back inside the Town Hall for another year of the winter market. The vendors feature local vendors from Barre and surround-

ing towns.

The Winter Market has always been housed at the Barre Town Hall.

This year, according to Melvin, the Barre Winter Market continues to grow. The number of vendors has filled the Barre Winter Market with over 20 vendors in total.

The Market takes place one Saturday per month and runs until April. Melvin of Barre believes it is a great source for the farmers and crafters to help grow their business.

“Growing our regular farmers market as well as the winters market,” Melvin said.

Melvin is the owner of Rebel Bath & Body and is known as “the soap lady” in town. Melvin had a booth of her own for Rebel Bath & Body with a variety of handmade bath and beauty products.

The Barre Winter Market is a great way to shop locally and there are unique items that will catch your eye.



Curious Cravings Bakery had some delicious baked goods for sale.

For plant lovers, Tiny's World of Hubbardston was at the Barre Winter Market and had a table of plants. Tiny's World offers houseplants, potted plants, perennial

plants, produce, fresh eggs, fresh flowers, paintings, and handmade décor and accessories. Owner of Tiny's World is Katie Young, who is an artist, crafter and gardener

and was excited to be part of the Barre Winter Market along with local farmers, bakers, & artists.

Over by the stage inside the Town Hall were homemade cards, bookmarks and photographs by Mathilde Duffy of Barre. Duffy's bookmarks and cards feature drawings and photographs of wild birds, unusual roosters, hens, seashells, orchids, ferns, trilliums, cats, dogs and much more. There were also magnets for sale featuring some of the many great photos and drawings by Duffy, herself.

Duffy also provides colored pencil lessons and workshops.

There were some cool crafts to check out at Kitty's Kreations booth. From handmade hats with interesting sayings along to neatly crafted animals and emotional support pickles, Kitty's Kreations had them during the Winter Market. According to Kitty, when it comes

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Pictured below from left to right is Warren Fire Lieutenant Kyle Sledziewski, Dispatcher Emily DeFosse, Dispatcher Rachel Crompton, Dispatcher Phyllis Chartier, Supervisor Mike Parker, Oakham Police Sergeant Kevin Marderosian.

Local police and fire personnel receive RECC awards

RUTLAND – On Jan. 13, the Rutland Regional Emergency Communication Center joined Rutland Fire and Rutland Police at Ladd's Restaurant to celebrate a Public Safety Awards Night.

This year, the Exceptional Service Award was presented to Warren Fire Lieutenant Kyle Sledziewski and Oakham Police Sergeant Kevin Marderosian.

This award is presented by the RRECC to an officer and/or firefighter who has demonstrated extraordinary dedication beyond typical duties. The criteria for this recognition include effective com-

munication, supportive collaboration with dispatch, problem-solving under pressure, positive community impact, teamwork, respect for the dispatch role, and a commitment to promoting safety and professionalism.

Sledziewski has consistently gone above and beyond to support dispatch operations, particularly during high-pressure situations such as severe storms.

In these challenging moments, he has proactively monitored IMC to assist with dispatching the fire department for incidents like downed power lines and trees. His

proactive approach has not only improved response times but also alleviated the burden on dispatch staff managing overwhelming call volumes.

Marderosian has shown exceptional and continuous support for the dispatch team. Over the years, he has demonstrated unwavering dedication to the RRECC, ensuring that the team receives the assistance, updates, and resources needed to perform at the highest standard. His consistent collaboration and support exemplify the true spirit of partnership in public safety.

Annual Hearts for Heat spaghetti dinner is Jan. 25

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The 16th Annual North Brookfield Hearts for Heat spaghetti dinner will be held on Saturday, Jan. 25 from 5-7 p.m. in the North Brookfield Elementary School cafeteria.

The dinner is \$12 per person with a cap of \$36 for a family of four or more. Takeout available. Tickets are only available at the door. Sponsored with the Hayden Masonic Lodge and supported by Hannaford Supermarket, this is truly community helping community.

Big ticket raffles include: Celtics team signed basketball and a pair of home game tickets, WooSox tickets for four, Boston Bruins signed puck, Springfield Thunderbird Hockey tickets. Local gift certificates donated so far include: Angel Nails, Bemis Farms, Brookfield Orchards, City of Smoke, Connect Restaurant, Inishowen Farms, JARS Cafe, Jim's Pizza, Marks of Asgard, NB Liquors, Red Robin, Salem Cross Inn, Second Chance Animal Shelter, Shaman's Closet, Subway, and Whitco.



The Otters will provide musical ambiance all evening. Students from the North Brookfield High School National Honor Society and Valley View School will assist.

The dinner's snow date is the following Saturday, Feb. 1.

NB Hearts for Heat is a 501(c)3 charitable organization to help North Brookfield residents in need of emergency home heating assistance for Oil, Propane, Natural Gas, Electric, Pellets, or Cord Wood. 100% of donations are used for fuel purchases. We have assisted 158 families since 2009.

Donations can be mailed to NB Hearts for Heat, P.O. Box 44, North Brookfield, MA 01535. To access the printable 2024-25 application, visit <http://www.heartsforheat.org/NorthBrookfield/assistance.html>

Barre Food Pantry distribution

BARRE - Barre Food Pantry Distribution takes place Thursday, Jan. 16 from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., Barre. In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients 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.



SPORTS

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Kyle Clark goes for a put-back.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Panthers beat Gardner for second time

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE—The seniors listed on the 2024-25 Quabbin boys' varsity basketball roster were freshmen the last time that the Panthers swept the season series against the Gardner Wildcats.

The first meeting of this winter between the two rivals took place at the Gardner Holiday Tournament on December 28. The Panthers built a

large first half lead in the first round game and coasted to a 53-34 victory.

The Wildcats made the trip south to Barre last Friday night. Following a very close opening half, the Panthers pulled away in the second half en route to a 67-49 win in front of a large home crowd, which included the school's outstanding pep band.

"It's always a hard fought battle whenever we face Gardner,"

said Dennis Dextrateur, who's approaching his 400th career win as the Panthers boys' varsity basketball coach. "We're very fortunate to be able to beat them twice this season. They're an extremely well coached team and they have a couple of outstanding players. It was a festive atmosphere here tonight with the pep band and this was a very big win for us. It was a great night for Quabbin basketball."

The last time that the Panthers (6-2) won both games against the Wildcats (5-4) was during the 2021-22 regular season. The two squads have split during the past couple of years.

Four of the five Quabbin starters reached double digits in scoring in the home victory against the Wildcats.

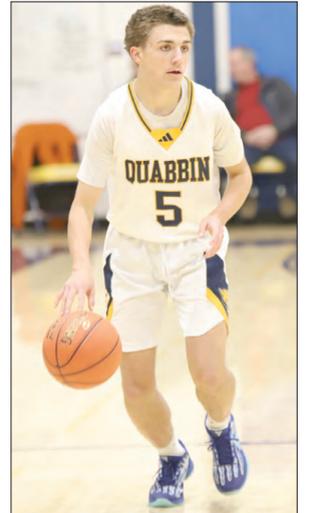
The senior duo of Kyle Clark and Quinn Geary posted double-doubles.

Geary scored eight of his 13 points during the first half, and he pulled down 12 rebounds. Eleven of those rebounds came at the defensive end of the court.

Clark finished the game with 11 points and 11 rebounds.

Sophomore Jacoby Dilling led the way offensively for the home team with 19 points. He scored nine points in the first half and added ten more after halftime. He was also credited with six rebounds, four assists, and one steal.

Freshman Brady Patchen con-



Jacoby Dilling looks for a path to the hoop.

tributed with 17 points. He scored seven of his points during the Panthers impressive 16-2 third quarter run.

"We're a much better basketball team this year than we were last year," said Patchen, who was a member of the varsity basketball team last year as an eighth grader. "We have won six games after

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Jaxon Warburton makes his way down the court.



Brooke Austin attempts a free throw.

Offense struggles in loss for Quabbin girls basketball

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE—After losing to the Gardner Lady Wildcats by 14 points in the championship game of the Gardner Holiday Tournament on December 30, Quabbin girls varsity basketball coach Evan Barringer was hoping for a different outcome in the second meeting of the regular season between the two squads.

Things just didn't go the Lady Panthers way during last Friday night's non-league game as the Lady Wildcats posted a 38-22 victory before a large crowd inside the Quabbin Regional gymnasium.

"I thought the girls played hard in tonight's game, but we just didn't execute our game plan very well," said Barringer following his team's second home game of the regular season. "Gardner got off to a fast start and we just could never catch up."

The Lady Panthers had a 4-5 overall record following their second loss to Gardner. They were looking to get over the .500 mark for the first time since they were 3-2 following a victory against South Lancaster Academy in the first round of the Gardner Holiday Tournament.

Quabbin split their first two games of 2025, which were both played on the road. The Lady Panthers kicked off the new year with a 52-47 victory against



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Christiana Dunn takes a long jump shot.

Lunenburg before losing Tyngsboro by eight points.

"Seven of our first eight games were on the road," Barringer said.

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Lianna Leger tries to pass out of pressure.



Makaylah Kingsburg goes around an opponent and drives to the hoop.



Greenly Lagimoniere attempts a three-pointer.



Taylor Allen starts her way down the court.



Megan Clark goes for the free throw.

Pioneers cruising toward state tournament slot

PALMER – Last week, Pathfinder girls basketball tacked on two more victories, scoring wins over St. Mary's and Hampden Charter School of Science. The Pioneers defeated St. Mary's at home 49-37 last Tuesday, then went on the road to Chicopee and beat Hampden Charter soundly 50-24. With the wins, Pathfinder is now 6-1 on the season and look to continue the momentum on Jan. 16 when they play at Westfield Technical Academy at 6 p.m.

Mia Ducos goes for a three-pointer.

Ciara Green keeps her dribble away from the opponent.



Quabbin wrestling falls to Nashoba

BARRE – Last Wednesday night, Quabbin Regional wrestling had tough matchup against Nashoba, falling to the hosts 67-6. The Panthers were only able to capture one match win in the dual meet. The Panthers would move

on to host several dual meets on Saturday, Jan. 11 at the Quabbin Duals. Highlights from that event will be in next week's edition. After traveling to Marlborough for a Wednesday meet, Quabbin is headed to Western Mass.

For the second time this season for an even at Duggan Academy in Springfield beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday morning, Jan. 18. Following that, the Panthers host Shepherd Hill in another dual meet on Jan. 22 at 6 p.m.

BARRE GAZETTE

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