

BARRE GAZETTE

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Same Local Stories.
Same Local Advertisers.

Building Commissioner declares barn dangerous

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
edowner@turley.com

OAKHAM – Building Commissioner Robert Lanciani told the Select Board at their Monday Jan. 6 meeting a barn on Coldbrook Road, was now “in worse shape.”

He received a call from a neighbor, who was concerned the barn could collapse and damage his property. The Building Commissioner said a heavy snow could cause the barn to collapse and he would be declaring it a dangerous building.

The property, which also contains the former Post Office building, currently was in probate as the previous owner died. He said the town’s survey team would also inspect the barn. The survey team by state statute included the town’s Fire Chief and town engineer if applicable and a third person. Oakham lacked a town engineer so the team would need two volunteers.

Building Commissioner Lanciani said the owner had 24 hours to either fence off the barn or start the demolition process. He said if not, the town would be responsible to do something. He asked permission to contact Town Counsel, KP Law, in the matter, do a title search and put a municipal lien on the property for any town expenses. Taxes paid on the property were up to date.

He also said the property owner on 680 Spencer Road had built another structure on the property that was too close to the property line and another structure built with a Zoning Board of Appeals variance did not follow the conditions set by the ZBA. He requested and the Select Board granted access to Town Counsel on this matter.

Later in the meeting, the owner Chris Stark, attended the meeting via Zoom. He said he had not built another building on his property and he was unaware of the conditions the Building Commissioner brought up. He would check with the Zoning Board of Appeals to make sure he had all correspondence from them. Select Board Chair Lucy Tessnau said she would be willing to go with the Building Commissioner to his property to see what the building inspector was talking about.

STM warrant

Select Board Chair Tessnau reviewed the articles for a Special Town Meeting scheduled for Monday, Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. in the Fire Station on Barre Road. Article 1 sought transfer of \$15,000 from the assessor’s stabilization fund to the revaluation account. This required a 2/3 vote.

Article 2 sought to replenish several accounts, which were previously reduced to balance the budget at Annual Town Meeting. The amounts would transfer from free cash: \$6,000 to police department training salary account, \$4,000 to fire department training wages account, \$2,500 to Town Clerk election workers account and \$2,000 to the Town Clerk election inspection account. The figure was originally \$1,500 requested, but the Town Clerk received an other election expense for \$500.

The Select Board had \$3,000 to the Administrator Assistant wage account, \$2,000 to the administrative account and \$2,000 to Town Counsel account. The total amount was \$21,500.

Article 3 asked the town to accept Old Schoolhouse Drive and Skyline Drive as town roads. Select Board member Michael Brunelle said the search of titles would not be ready in time for the Special Town Meeting. Town Counsel was going to research one title on Skyline Drive regarding an easement. The

See OAKHAM, page 5



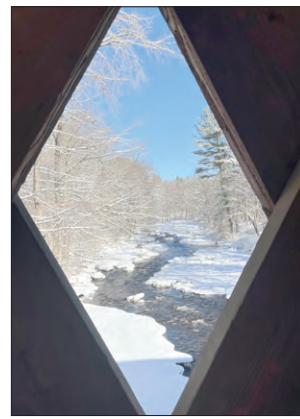
Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Residents enjoyed a picturesque winter scene on Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Inauguration Day this past Monday, from the snowstorm that began blanketing the region late Sunday afternoon. This photo shows the Ware-Hardwick Covered Bridge taken from Old Gilbertville Road.

Winter storm brings snow and frigid temperatures



While temperatures were too cold to build a snowman or enjoy a full day of sledding, the soft powdery snow provided the perfect conditions to create a snow angel.



The Ware River is viewed through the wooden supports of the Ware-Hardwick Covered Bridge.

Paige Memorial Library welcomed author David Payne

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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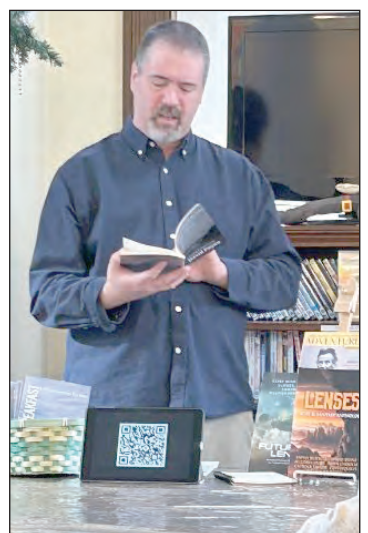
HARDWICK – The Paige Memorial Library welcomed author David Payne this past weekend to discuss his new book, “Breakfast & Other Journeys We Take”.

Payne is a writer and streamer who writes daily for accountability and inspiration for other writers. He returned to writing after a seven year break from the craft in 2021 and has been creative in his writing based of whatever comes to his mind.

“Wait for stories to come organically,” Payne said.

Payne’s new book “Breakfast & Other Journeys We Take” features nine contemporary realism stories to remind you every day is a journey, of consequence or not is up to you. Taking those everyday moments and enjoying them, being scared by them, suffering through them.

As part of his presentation during the event, Payne read one of the stories in his book, and the



David Payne reading a short story titled “Flash” which is featured in his new book “Breakfast & Other Journeys We Take”



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

The Paige Memorial Library welcomed author David Payne during a “meet the author” this past weekend.

story is titled “Flash”. The story is based off an incident that happened during Payne’s childhood near his childhood home.

Sharing this story is a prime example of why Payne believes it is important for writers to “go on the journey” and talk about those everyday moments. Though his recent book is focused on contemporary realism, Payne sees himself more as a fantasy writer.

Since 2023, Payne has been submitting his work and shared during his time at Paige Memorial Library that he has a lot of stories in the works.

Payne self-published “Breakfast & Other Journeys We Take” and also had several short stories published in several books. His short stories “Invasive Species”, “Escape and Transform”, and “Wraith and Specter” are featured in Lenses. His story “Tapping at the Door” is featured in the eighth issue of Adventures and “Read Until You Sleep” is featured in the children’s collection book Creative Gems.

Payne’s writing is never focused on a particular genre.

He has written stories that are designed for all ages. According to Payne, his story ideas vary depending on the day, time and place.

One of his published works that Payne considers on of his favorite stories to write was “Wraith and Specter”, which is a science fiction story.

Payne also enjoyed writing “Flash” and was the very story he chose to read out loud during his visit at Paige Memorial Library in Hardwick.

“Writing is my passion” is what Payne shared with his guests and though “life can get in the way” he found his way back into writing more often.

Payne also participates in a Twitch Writers Network where he connects with fellow writers during the week and shares ideas. The network features over 700 authors who come from all walks of life and Payne shares his writing journey with them when he is on the stream.

One of the big goals Payne

See DAVID PAYNE, page 8

Historical Society and DCR present program about Prince Walker

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Massachusetts. Prince Walker led a remarkable life that is presently marked and discussed.

BARRE – This past Sunday, the Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center hosted a virtual presentation about Prince Walker of Barre, who went from being enslaved to a landowner.

Walker was born to an enslaved family in Barre, Massachusetts on June 24, 1774, and spent much of his life on a homestead that is now part of the Ware River Watershed.

The virtual audience joined Lucy Allen from the Barre Historical Society as she presented the life of Prince Walker and his journey to freedom and financial independence. Allen mentioned that Walker was known mainly as being the much younger brother of Quock Walker, who is known for helping in the abolishment of slavery in

Allen’s presentation began with sharing a slide featuring an oil painting by Hardwick artist Frank Bly, who in 1990, created a painting of the Prince Walker Burial Ground. This painting is currently housed inside the Barre Historical Society.

The former homestead of Prince Walker is now part of the Ware River Watershed and as time went by after his death in 1858, the area of his burial ground has been grown in with brush and is on a hillside near the watershed. Luckily, his gravestone on the burial ground was preserved.

One of the slides featured maps of the exact location of where Walker lived in Barre prior to his escape from enslavement. The

See PRINCE WALKER, page 6

Selectmen appoint new library director

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis read a letter from Library Trustee Chair Peg Bodine announcing the selection of resident Lia Reilly as the new director of the Hoston Free Public Library, effective Jan. 27.

Reilly has lived in North Brookfield since 2010 and has a strong sense of community and solid background in program development, staff leadership and resource management. She also has experience in school library settings.

“She’s eager to guide the Hoston Free Public Library into the future,” Bodine said in the letter.

At the Jan. 14 meeting, Library Trustee Harbour Fraser Hodder introduced Reilly to the board and said she received “glowing” rec-

ommendations from her references at North Brookfield and Ware public schools, where she worked as a librarian and media specialist.

“They just loved working with her,” she said. “So we’re just really happy to have her join us at Hoston.”

Fraser Hodder also thanked Brianna Lamb and Gabrielle Holmes, who both filled interim roles at the library in the absence of a director. She also thanked the library’s volunteers who helped to keep the library staffed and maintain the same level of services.

“Those two just did an incredible job under difficult circumstances, so we’re so grateful to them,” she said.

Reilly said she is excited to take on this position and work in town again.

“I look forward to it,” she said.

See NORTH BROOKFIELD, page 10

Oakham Fire Department receives \$10,422 grant

OAKHAM – The Oakham Fire just received a grant from Department of Fire Safety for \$10,422 for active shooter response gear.

Over the last year Oakham Fire Department trained all members to the new AAIR standards in joint trainings with the surrounding towns fire and police departments. With this grant Oakham Fire will be getting additional sets of ballistic vests, helmets, trauma kits and litters to allow all members to respond to hostile events.

Prior to this grant Oakham Fire only had three sets of this gear; they will now be able to have enough sets to outfit all members, who may respond. Oakham Fire Chief Tim Howe said, “When I became a firefighter in 1993 I never thought there would be the need for firefighters to have this kind of gear on our apparatus and to train with it regularly. In the last 5-10 years this has become increasingly more common and now almost to the point of being required equipment. Even in our small town of Oakham we have already had to wear this protective gear to support law enforcement at multi-agency events with potential violence.”

With the combination of the DFS AAIR (active attack integrated response) training and this DFS grant the town of Oakham is now



Submitted photo

The Oakham Fire Department received a \$10,422 grant for active shooter response gear.



This photo shows some of the contents in the active shooter response gear.

fully prepared to respond if needed. With out this DFS equipment grant this would not be possible.



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News of the Towns



Round Town
Ellenor Downer
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OES to hold pancake breakfast
Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will hold a designer pancake breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 1 from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Mt Zion Lodge Hall. People may create their pancakes with plenty of chips, fruit, nuts and more. The complete breakfast includes designer pancakes, waffles, sausage gravy with biscuits, bacon, sausage, juice and coffee. The cost is still \$9 per adult and \$5 for children 6 and under. Everyone is welcome.

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

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

Nomination papers
Town Clerk announces nomination papers for the town of Barre's April 7 Annual Town Election will be available from the Town Clerk's Office located at 40 West St. All papers must be returned back for certification by the Board of Registrars on Monday, Feb. 17 no later than 5 p.m. Positions on the ballot and current holders are: Select Board Member for three years – John David Dixson, 460 Worcester Road; Moderator for three years – Joshua E. Smith, 80 Pleasant St.; Town Clerk for three years – Ellen M. Glidden, 637 Cutler Road and three positions Constables for three years – Joseph T. Jalbert, 147 Valley Road; Michael A. LaRose, 196 Mechanic St. and Dennis G. Fleming, 140 Valley Road. Other positions are: Board of Assessors for three years – Christopher J. Jenkins, 788 Dana Road; Board of Health for three years – Anthony F. Mobilio, 414 North Brookfield Road; Water Commissioner for three years – Ronald C. Higgins, 101 Debra Lane; Sewer Commissioner for three years – Matthew R. LaPointe, 76 Union St.; Barre Housing Authority Member for five years – Suzanne M. Person, 951 Wauwinet Road; Felton Field Commissioner for three years – Margaret N. Petracone, 600 West St. and two positions Library Trustees for three years – Martha L. Pearson, 320 Oakham Road and Lisa Marselle, 100 Pleasant St. Other position are: Planning Board Member for five years – Karen Keegan, 168 Main St.; Planning Board Associate Member for one year – Michael A. LaRose, 196 Mechanic St. and two positions Quabbin Regional School Committee Members for three years – Richard G. Allan, 28 Kendall St. and Mark T. Brophy, 90 Ruggles Lane.

Nu-Blu brings Bluegrass sound straight from the Blue Ridge Mountains

HARDWICK – After releasing five Top Ten Billboard albums, North Carolina based Nu-Blu is heading to central Massachusetts.

On Saturday, Feb. 8 at 7 p.m., The Center at Eagle Hill, 242 Old Petersham Road, hosts Nu-Blu for an evening of bluegrass and Americana music.

Nu-Blu got their start in September 2003, and from the beginning have embodied the American working band. Hailing from Siler City, the textbook definition of a picturesque small southern town, Nu-Blu's heart and soul is husband-and-wife duo Daniel and Carolyn Routh.

Carolyn's caramel-coated soprano is one of the band's defining traits – at times a tender lullaby, at times a freight train headed straight for you, but always unwinding a surprising tale. Daniel is the group's backbone – a multi-instrumentalist and backing vocalist who also handles band management.

Austin Hefflefinger on banjo, and Justin Harrison on mandolin round out the quartet's warm, layered, Appalachian sound. Together, the band delivers songs



Submitted Photo

Nu-Blu will perform at The Center at Eagle Hill on Saturday, Feb. 8.

that range from melancholy to exuberant and prove at every step that they've got a knack for finding their way into the deeper parts of you.

Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$30 for students and seniors. The Center also offers discounted \$10 tickets to EBT cardholders through Massachusetts' Card to Culture Program.

For tickets and information,

visit www.thecenterateaglehill.org or call the Box Office at 413-477-6746.

About The Center

The Center at Eagle Hill is a performance venue in central Massachusetts presenting world class music, dance, theatre, and comedy. For more information about this, and other events, please visit our website at www.thecenterateaglehill.org.

Lions Club to hold Meet and Greet Jan. 30

PETERSHAM – The Petersham Lions are sponsoring a Meet and Greet on Thursday, Jan. 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the Petersham Orthodox Congregational Church, 21 North Main St.

Light refreshments will be served and people will have the opportunity to meet several long-standing members of the Petersham Lions Club and see what their work is all about. The Petersham Club is a member of Massachusetts District 33-A, which encompasses 43 clubs in central Massachusetts.

As a member club of Lions International, it is part of the world's largest non-profit service organization with 1.5 million members, in 46,000 clubs located in over 200 countries and geographical areas.

For over 100 years, as a global leader in community and humanitarian service, the motto of the Lions is "We Serve." Local Lions Club programs include but are not limited to: sight conservation, hearing and speech conservation, diabetes awareness, youth outreach, environmental issues, peace initiatives and

international relations

People will hear more about how Lions International started and about the beginning and ongoing work of the Petersham Lions Club as they celebrate out 50th anniversary this fall. People may contact Petersham Lions Club President Lynn Scott for more information by emailing her at Lynnascott2@gmail.com.

Club members hope to see many new folks they have yet to meet and neighbors they already know. Petersham Lions is a group of ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

Tom Ingrassia to lecture on The Supremes

RUTLAND – Motown comes to Rutland Free Public Library, 280 Main St. on Sunday, Feb. 9 at 2 p.m., when Motown historian, author and radio personality Tom Ingrassia brings his "Girl Power: The Supremes As Cultural Icons" multimedia lecture program.

This free program, which is open to the public, is a celebration of Black History Month, as well as the 64th anniversary of The Supremes signing their first Motown recording contract (Jan. 15, 1961).

Ingrassia will discuss how three African American teenagers from Detroit's housing project, Diana Ross, Mary Wilson and Florence Ballard – the Legendary Supremes – became trailblazing,

groundbreaking international superstars, breaking down social, racial and gender barriers and opening the doors for the African American artists who followed.

According to Ingrassia, "The Supremes owned the 1960s. They were the top American act of the decade. Today, that may seem obvious. But in mid-60s America? The fact that these three young women from 'the projects' conquered the world was profound. It was, in its own way, revolutionary."

A noted Motown historian with more than 25 journal articles to his credit, Ingrassia is the author of the 2015 award winning book, "Reflections Of A Love Supreme: Motown Through The Eyes Of Fans." He is the

host of The Motown Jukebox with "Motown Tom," on WCUW 91.3FM in Worcester. He is the Executive Producer of the award winning documentary, "One Door Closes: Corey's Courage."

From 2000 to 2005, Ingrassia served as Executive Assistant and Creative Director for Mary Wilson of The Supremes. He also has worked with a number of other Motown artists. "My work with Mary Wilson—whom I first met in 1972—afforded me the opportunity to learn this story from the inside out. I bring that insider perspective into the lecture hall with my program." Girl Power: The Supremes As Cultural Icons at Rutland Public Library is free and open to the public.

Friends of Fobes Library to meet Feb. 1

OAKHAM – The Friends of the Fobes Memorial Library hosts an annual meeting at the beginning of each year, plus additional meetings as needed to review goals, offer ideas and act in the

best interests of the library.

The Friends of the Library organize fundraisers, sponsor programs and support the library in any way that they can. This year's meeting will be held on Saturday

Feb. 1 at noon in the upstairs level of the library, 4 Maple St. Both current members and those who want to learn more about getting involved in supporting our library are encouraged to attend.

Snow blankets the area and has widespread reach



Turley photo by Ellenor F. Downer

Oakham got between four to six inches of snow, which fell Sunday, Jan. 19 and into Monday, Jan. 20. Many of the southern states, who rarely get snow, received snow from this storm.



Hubbardston
Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Agricultural Commission holds workshop
The Hubbardston Agricultural Commission will hold a workshop on "Raising Chickens: Everything You Want to Know" on Wednesday, Feb. 19 from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Hubbardston Senior Center, 7 Main St. Light refreshments will be available. People planning on attending should email Cathy Hansgate at ladybugfarmproduce@gmail.com.

Helpsy Bins

The Hubbardston Board of Health have Helpsy Bins in the Recycling driveway just south of the Hubbardston Department of Public Works.

Accepted items are footwear, clothing, linens, accessories, luggage and stuffed animals. All items must be placed in the bins and not left outside the bin. Footwear includes shoes, heels, flats, sandals, flip flops, boots (all varieties), sneaker, cleats and slippers. Clothing includes tops (t-shirt, blouses, shirts, tank tops), sweaters, sweatshirts, dresses, outerwear (coats, jackets, blazers), bottoms (pants, slacks, jeans, sweatpants, skirts, shorts), suits, pajamas, intimates (slips, bras, underwear, socks) and baby clothing. Linens include sheets/pillowcases, blankets, comforters, curtains/drapes, aprons, dish cloths, cloth napkins, table linens and quilts. Accessories include hats, bags (pocketbooks, backpacks, duffle bags, totes), belts, gloves, ties, scarves, bathrobes, and jewelry. Items are accepted in any condition for all ages and genders so long as they are clean, dry and odorless. Everything should be kept dry in a closed, plastic bag.

Annual Report photo contest deadline Jan. 30

Attention Hubbardston photographers there is a photo contest to feature images in the 2024 Annual Town Report. This is your chance to shine and highlight the unique charm, beauty, and spirit of our town through your lens. Hubbardston photos of a breathtaking sunrise, a festive community gathering or a peaceful snowy scene or what makes Hubbardston special to you are welcome. The deadline to submit photos is Thursday, Jan. 30. Your photo could be the centerpiece of this year's report. People should visit <https://forms.gle/eZJvg17psX1bHjE7> for a form to accompany the photo.

Taxes due

Real Estate taxes are due Monday, Feb. 3.

Senior Center

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

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. 27. 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 – Chicken pot pie, mashed potatoes, country blend vegetables, cookies, biscuit
TUESDAY – Bean and cheese enchilada, Monterey Jack cheese, Spanish rice, chuckwagon corn, pineapple, pita bread, sour cream

WEDNESDAY – Salisbury steak with gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, honey glazed carrots, baked apples, Italian bread

THURSDAY – Fish with crumb topping, lemon seasoned potatoes, roasted broccoli, vanilla mouse, whole wheat bread, tartar sauce

FRIDAY – Cranberry chicken salad, three bean salad, coleslaw, fresh fruit, hot dog bun

*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.




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Galentine's Day Charcuterie and Wine Tasting
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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

Insurance Advisory Committee – Jan. 28 at 1:30 p.m., Feb. 12 at 4 p.m. and Feb. 27 at 1:30 p.m.
 Finance Committee – Jan. 28 at 6:30 p.m.
 Conservation Committee – Jan. 28 at 7 p.m.
 Felton Field Commission – Feb. 4 at 6:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Feb. 5 at 12:30 p.m.
 Board of Health – Feb. 10 at 5 p.m.
 Water Commission – Feb. 10 at 6:30 p.m.
 DPW Commission – Feb. 10 at 7 p.m.
 Cable Advisory Council – Feb. 11 at 7 p.m.
 250th Anniversary Committee – Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m.
 Library Trustees – Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m.
 Barre Housing Authority – Feb. 13 at 1 p.m.
 Election Day – April 7 from 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

HARDWICK

Master Plan Steering Committee – Jan. 23 at 6:30 p.m.
 Personnel Committee – Jan. 27 at 5:30 p.m.
 Wheelwright Water District – Jan. 27 at 7 p.m.
 Capital Planning Committee – Jan. 28 at 3 p.m.
 Planning Board – Jan. 28 and Feb. 11 at 6:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Feb. 5 at 12:30 p.m.
 Hardwick/New Braintree Cultural Council – Feb. 5 at 6:30 p.m.
 Paige Library Trustees – Feb. 6 at 7 p.m.
 Board of Health – Feb. 11 at 6:45 p.m.
 Gilbertville Public Library – Feb. 12 at 4 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Emergency Management Planning Committee – Jan. 23 at 3:30 p.m.
 Library Trustees – Jan. 23 at 7 p.m.
 Community Preservation Committee – Jan. 29 at 6:30 p.m.
 Planning Board Hearing Feb. 5 at 6:30 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Finance Committee – Jan. 23 at 6:30 p.m.
 By-Law Committee – Jan. 27 at 2 p.m.
 Water Commissioners – Jan. 27 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Selectmen – Jan. 28 at 6 p.m.
 Post Owner/Architect/Contractor Meeting – Jan. 30, Feb. 16, Feb. 13, Feb. 20 and Feb. 27 at 3 p.m.
 Sewer Commissioner – Feb. 3 at 5:30 p.m.
 Planning Board – Feb. 19 at 6 p.m.

OAKHAM

Sen. Durant and Rep. Berthiaume Office hour – Feb. 5 from noon-1 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Feb. 14 at noon

PETERSHAM

Petersham Historic District – Jan. 23 and Feb. 20 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Health – Jan. 23, and Feb. 6 at 6 p.m.
 Select Board – Jan. 30, Feb. 13, Feb. 20, Feb. 27, March 6, March 13 and March 27 at 5:30 p.m.
 Zoning Board of Appeals – Jan. 30 at 7 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – Jan. 31 at 9 a.m.
 Open Space and Recreation Committee – Feb. 4 at 6 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – Feb. 4 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Feb. 10 at 10 a.m.
 Cemetery Commission – Feb. 11 at 10 a.m.

RUTLAND

Capital Improvement Planning Committee – Jan. 23 at 6 p.m.
 Town Charter Committee – Jan. 30 at 6:30 p.m.

Cradle Rock Chapter OES to hold designer pancake breakfast

BARRE – Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will hold a designer pancake breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 1 from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Mt Zion Lodge Hall.

People may create their pancakes with plenty of chips, fruit, nuts and more. The complete breakfast includes designer pancakes, waffles, sausage gravy with biscuits, bacon, sausage, juice and coffee. The cost is still \$9 per adult and \$5 for children 6 and under. Everyone is welcome.

New Braintree library holds story time Jan. 27

NEW BRAINTREE – The New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive, is offering a Story Time program for preschoolers on Monday, Jan. 27 beginning at 9 a.m.

The program's focus is on the wonders of winter. The readings will include "No Two Alike" by Keith Baker and "Winter A Solstice Story" by Kelsey Gross. This reading and crafts program is held at the library.

Parental supervision is required. People may call the library at 508-867-7650 during regular business hours for more information.

Corrections policy

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

Second Chance to hold 26th Annual Auction Gala

EAST BROOKFIELD – Second Chance Animal Services is excited to host its 26th Annual Auction Gala on Saturday, March 29 at the AC Marriott, 125 Front St., Worcester.

This highly anticipated event is Second Chance's most important fundraiser of the year, raising critical funds to help provide lifesaving services to over 56,000 pets in need. The evening will feature hundreds of silent auction items, exciting raffles, and a small but exclusive live auction offering one-of-a-kind experiences. With a relaxed cocktail and dressy casual dress code, the event is designed to be an enjoyable evening for all,

combining great company with opportunities to make a meaningful impact.

All proceeds will support Second Chance's mission to transform the lives of pets by providing affordable veterinary care, keeping pets with their families, and finding loving homes for animals in need. Tickets are on sale now, and seating is limited, so early reservations are encouraged. Businesses and individuals can also support the event by sponsoring, which includes recognition in event materials and highlights their commitment to supporting pets in need. Donations to the auction are another great way to get involved, with

unique goods, services and once-in-a-lifetime experiences being especially popular.

"This event is all about bringing people together to help pets in need," said Lindsay Doray, Chief Development Officer of Second Chance. "With hundreds of auction items, raffles, and a live auction, there's something for everyone. Every ticket, sponsorship, and donation makes a direct impact on the lives of pets in our community."

People may visit <http://www.secondchanceanimals.org/dinner-auction> or email development@secondchanceanimals.org to purchase tickets, become a sponsor or donate auction items.

Oakham

Ellenor Downer
 edowner@turley.com



COA to hold lasagna potluck lunch

On Friday, Feb. 7 at 12.30 p.m. the Council on Aging will host a lasagna potluck lunch at the Senior Center located on the lower level of the Oakham Town Hall. Lasagna is provided; salads, bread and desserts are welcome. Sign up sheets are in the main room of the Senior Center for the potluck lunch. For those who can not get to the Senior Center to sign up for the potluck lunch to make required reservations or for more information on offerings, they may call the Senior Center at 508-882-4073 and leave a message or email COA@Oakham-MA.gov.

Benefit breakfast

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will hold a benefit breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 8 from 8 to 9:30 a.m. The menu will include pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, strawberries, orange juice, coffee, tea and hot chocolate. Donations will go to benefit the fire victims in California.

Census

The Town Clerk mailed out census forms. People should make any changes or corrections, sign the form and return to the blue drop off box located at the Town Hall, left of the side entrance within ten days. Even if there are no changes or additions, the head of household must sign the form.

Dog licenses

Dog licenses expire on Monday, March 31. All dogs six months of age or older must be licensed each year with the town of Oakham. Dog license fees are \$11 for a male or female dog and \$7 for a neutered or spayed dog. In order to license a dog, owners must present a valid rabies certificate and a spayed or neutered certificate if applicable for the first time licensing the dog. People may mail this information to the town clerk along with a check for the correct amount made payable to Town of Oakham to Town Clerk, 2 Coldbrook Road, Unit 4, Oakham, MA 01068. They should include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for the Town Clerk to mail the license and tag to the owner.

Senior Center

Senior Center activities for January include on Monday, Jan. 27 Podiatry from 9 a.m.-2.30 p.m. reservations required; Mondays through Thursdays at 9 a.m. Walking Group meets at Senior Center and Tuesdays through Thursdays at 11 a.m. Walking Group meets at Senior Center. On cold days, the walking groups will walk to tapes inside the Senior Center.

Other activities include: Tuesdays from Jan. 7 to March 4 at 12.30 p.m. Yoga; fourth Tuesday of the month Blood Pressure/Glucose Testing from 11 a.m -noon; Wednesdays Zumba Gold at 9 a.m. in the Rutland Senior Center (\$2 donation per class); second Thursday of the month Blood Pressure 11 a.m.; third Thursday of the month SHINE from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. reservations are required; Thursdays at noon for the courageous weigh in support weight loss group and Fridays Functional Fitness at 10.30 a.m. at the New Braintree Town Hall (\$2 donation per class).

On Friday, Feb. 7 at 12.30 p.m. there will be a lasagna potluck lunch. Lasagna is provided; salads, bread and desserts are welcome. Sign up sheets are in the main room of the Senior Center for the potluck lunch. 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.-12.15p.m. at 508-882-4072.

For those who can not get to the Senior Center to sign up for the potluck lunch to make required reservations or for more information on offerings, they may call the Senior Center at 508-882-4073 and leave a message or email COA@Oakham-MA.gov.

FOSC receives Cultural Council support for concerts

GILBERTVILLE – Friends of the Stone Church received notice that the Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council will provide \$750 in partial support of their 2025 spring concerts.

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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EQLT to host tracking event Jan. 25

HARDWICK – East Quabbin Land Trust, 120 Ridge Road, will hold a program on identifying animal tracks and other wildlife sign on Saturday, Jan. 25 from 1-3 p.m.

This free interactive animal tracks and other wildlife sign identification "teach in" and outdoor exploration will be lead by EQLT steward, Mike Stoll.

People must RSVP by emailing atrevvett@eglt.org.

Participants will learn how to recognize the telltale signs of animals large and small, from evidence of browse and foraging, to antler "rubs," and gauging an animal's gait. Attendees are welcome to bring their own animal-track photos to identify.

The first half will be held indoors at EQLT's office, located at 120 Ridge Road. From there participants will venture outside to look for some real-life examples of what they have learned. They'll be on some hilly terrain in both grassy and wooded areas, so be sure to bring sturdy footwear and dress for the weather.

Valentine Gala to benefit Stone Church

HARDWICK – Friends of the Stone Church welcomes all to a Valentine-themed benefit from 4-8 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 8 at Hardwick Crossing Country Club, 262 Lower Road in Gilbertville.

All proceeds will benefit the preservation of the Stone Church Cultural Center, the iconic regional landmark located at 283 Main St., Gilbertville, and the programs of the Stone Church Cultural Center.

For tickets at \$65 per person, mail payment to FOSC, P.O. Box 347, Gilbertville, MA 01031 or order online through www.FriendsoftheStoneChurch.org. \$30 of the \$65 ticket price is a tax-deductible contribution to

FOSC.

Advance purchase is required by Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025. For more information, call Kathy McCrohon at 508-404-7552.

The Mason Tyler Duo: Lou Falcone and Mark Fontaine will entertain, offering a variety of music from oldies to contemporary dance tunes. Professional auctioneer Paul Varney will emcee and conduct a live auction of featured items.

The silent auction will include certificates for experiences, services and products, collectible items, and gift baskets, all donated by generous businesses and individuals. Hardwick Crossing will serve an entrée-choice din-

ner buffet style with vegetables, salad, appetizer, desserts and beverages. There will be a full cash bar.

About FOSC

Friends of the Stone Church, Inc. is a community-focused, charitable organization. They require ongoing financial and volunteer support in the areas of preservation, programs, maintenance and organizational development to carry out their mission.

To volunteer, contact the organization through its website www.FriendsoftheStoneChurch.org.

Donations are welcome online through the website or by mail to FOSC, P.O. Box 347, Gilbertville, MA 01031.

Local author presents writing/publishing workshop

WEST BROOKFIELD – "Everyone has a story to tell," said award-winning author Ed Londergan.

His ninth annual creative writing and publishing workshop will be held on Sunday, March 9, from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Salem Cross Inn.

"The writing workshop aims to help those who want to write but don't know where to start or who have had an idea for a story that's been bubbling in their head for years and finally want to put it on paper. I also help people who have written something and need to know how to move ahead," said Londergan, who provides a full day of information.

"The workshop will cover the entire process of writing and publishing, including idea development and sources of inspira-

tion, drawing from storytelling traditions, developing the story, structure, and flow, conceiving and bringing characters to life, dialogue, editing, short fiction, writer's block, and the publishing process," Londergan said. "The publishing process can be confusing and frustrating. I'll take the group through the various publishing options available. There will also be some fun writing exercises."

Past workshops have been attended by people of all ages and occupations, from 12-year-old students to 75-year-old retirees.

"Five attendees have written books and had them published while others have had stories and articles placed in various publications," said Londergan.

"One of the things past attend-

ees have enjoyed and learned from is the writing exercises," Londergan said. "The writing exercises this year are different than what I've done in the past. I enjoy seeing the creative ideas that come out of them."

"Back-and-forth discussion is always a popular part of the day. Attendees learn from each other. Individual issues or problems anyone has with their writing are discussed, and the group helps them with suggestions and observations. At times, a lot of 'here's what happened to me, and here's what I did,'" he said.

The workshop is limited to 14 participants. The cost is \$110, and lunch is included.

Registration is required, and the deadline is Feb. 28. To register, email ed.londergan@gmail.com or call 508-864-8685.

Fidelity Bank earns 5-Star rating

LEOMINSTER – Fidelity Bank announced it has earned a 5-Star "Superior" rating from BauerFinancial, the nation's leading independent bank rating and research firm.

A 5-Star rating, which Fidelity Bank has maintained consecutively since 2008, ranks the bank among one of the strongest in the nation on BauerFinancial's Recommended Report.

"This rating reflects our overall strength and profitability while providing our clients with peace of mind that their deposits are safe, secure and 100 percent insured with us," said Ed Manzi,

Jr., Chairman and CEO, Fidelity Bank. "It also speaks to the consistent superior client services provided by Fidelity Bank colleagues, which is a true testament of our unique LifeDesign banking promise of providing confidence, clarity and care in all that we do to help our clients get where they want to be."

Fidelity Bank was evaluated in several areas, including capital and asset quality and profitability. No institution pays BauerFinancial to rate it, nor can it choose to be excluded. In addition to this strong rating, clients of Fidelity Bank also benefit

from 100% of their deposits being insured through a unique combination from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Depositors Insurance Fund.

Founded in 1888, Fidelity Bank is one of the strongest independent community banks in Central and Eastern Massachusetts.

The bank offers a range of personal and business banking solutions to clients in 13 full-service banking centers in Leominster, Worcester, Fitchburg, Needham, Gardner, Shirley, Barre, Millbury, Paxton, Princeton and Winchendon.

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661.**

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Opinion

Guest Column



Catching up on questions for the Garden Lady

This column will be used to play catch-up. I received a couple of questions a few weeks back on Christmas plants and then another looking forward to the new gardening season.

Read on as I do my best to answer them!

Connie is the keeper of her mother's poinsettia and it's become tree-like! "We read your article about poinsettias in the Country Journal. I have been caring for my mother's poinsettia she purchased three Christmases ago. She is hoping you can help us as I never cut it back because I didn't know to do that. Now it is a small tree. There is bark on it. I had one red bract last Christmas but no yellow center. I did try to put it in a dark room but as you can see, it is too big now to do that. Any suggestions?"

Many years ago when I joined my brother on a trip to St. Thomas, I became fully aware of the poinsettia and its true, tree-like form. It looks like you are well on your way to replicating that in your house!

First, congratulations, from the picture you provided you are clearly growing a healthy specimen. The leaves are a beautiful shade of green. I would recommend that, if you want to make it more manageable in size, you do try to cut it back.

It looks as if there is a lower "tier" of leaves. If you can cut it back to those stems, I think that is a good place to start. Do that in April when it will be in active growth.

At that time, I would also transplant it into a container one size bigger. So, if it's in a six inch pot now, try one that is seven or eight inches, but not any bigger.

Fertilize with an all purpose houseplant fertilizer once a month. New growth should appear by the end of May.

After the danger of frost has passed, move the plant outdoors. Continue to water but increase fertilization to every two weeks. Pinch plants in late June or early July to promote bushy growth. Bring the plant indoors as temperatures fall in September.

The poinsettia is photoperiodic, and long nights of uninterrupted darkness encourage it to bloom. Bracts will turn red and the small yellow flowers in the center will form. Most people get on a 5 p.m.-8 a.m. schedule beginning on Oct. 1 and continue it for eight-10 weeks until color shows on the bracts.

Placing the plant in a closet or basement with no light interruption will work fine. It is a commitment, that's for sure. Night temperatures should be no higher than 70 degrees or flowering may be delayed.

Good luck; I bet you will be successful this year! Beverly has me stumped!! She wrote in with this question: "After my Christmas cactus has bloomed, I get very tiny buds (like pimples) all over the plant. However, they quickly fall off so no more blooms. Can you explain what to do about this?"

This is a tricky one, Beverly! I am wondering if this is a newer breed of Christmas Cactus that is expected to bloom over a longer period of time than the old-fashioned types.

Usually buds fall off if there is a change somehow. Overwatering, underwatering? Perhaps a change in location whereby the plant is now near a heater when it wasn't before. Or maybe a change in fertilization practices?

That's about all I can come up with. I do hope that once blooming is over your plant remains healthy and provides many flowers for years to come!

This came to the Garden Lady from Gary: "I enjoy reading your articles.

Is there value or harm mixing old coffee grounds into your flower or vegetable gardens? Thanks!"

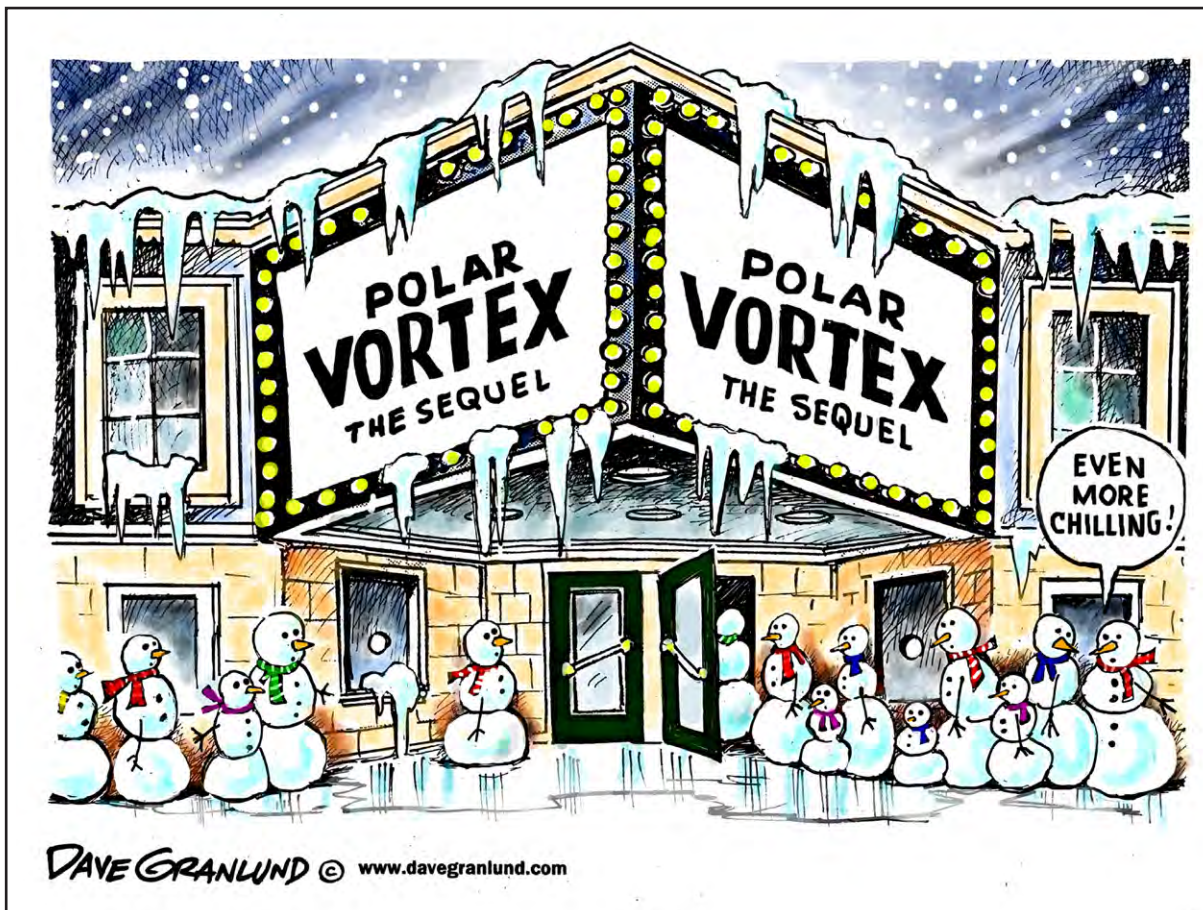
Thank you for your compliments on the column! My dad used to sprinkle coffee grounds around our blueberry bushes when I was a kid. It was his theory that the acidic grounds would be good for blueberry bushes which by nature are acid-loving. Well, it turns out that most of the acid from the coffee grounds is leached into the water when the coffee is brewed, leaving a near neutral product that aligns with pH of most common vegetables and flowers!

Coffee grounds are high in nitrogen and have lesser, but still respectable amounts of the other two major nutrients, phosphorus and potassium, as well as many of the micronutrients. The nitrogen is "tied up," however, and not readily available to plants.

It must be composted first to make it available. So, I would recommend you either add it to a compost pile or mix it in with other mulches you may be using on top of the soil.

It can be combined with wood chips, grass clippings or chopped leaves to make a great and fertile mulch, that, as it breaks down, will add organic matter to the

See GARDEN, page 5



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

In Past Pages

5 years (Jan. 30, 2020)

The Barre Finance Committee met with outgoing Town Administrator Andrew Golas before he left for a new position in Charlton. Town Administrator Golas answered questions and presented the finance committee with a level-funded budget for the next fiscal year. Finance Committee member Claire Adomaitis asked him about the status of the land donation for Felton Field. Golas said he spoke with the property owner and requested she send a statement to the Barre Board of Selectmen that there were no hazardous waste on the property. He said Town Counsel James Baird was working on the article for the Annual Town Meeting to accept the property and on the deed transfer.

Last Wednesday, residents, employees and friends stopped by during the afternoon to wish Town Administrator Andrew Golas good luck on his new endeavor as town administrator for the town of Charlton. Town Counsel James Baird likes to bake and he made berry pies, one with the letter A and other with G, Golas' initials. The well-wishers praised Golas for his hard work while Town Administrator in Barre. Administrative Assistant to the Town Administrator, Sandra Hood said, "I enjoyed working for Andrew very much. He was always very approachable, thoughtful and considerate of staff."

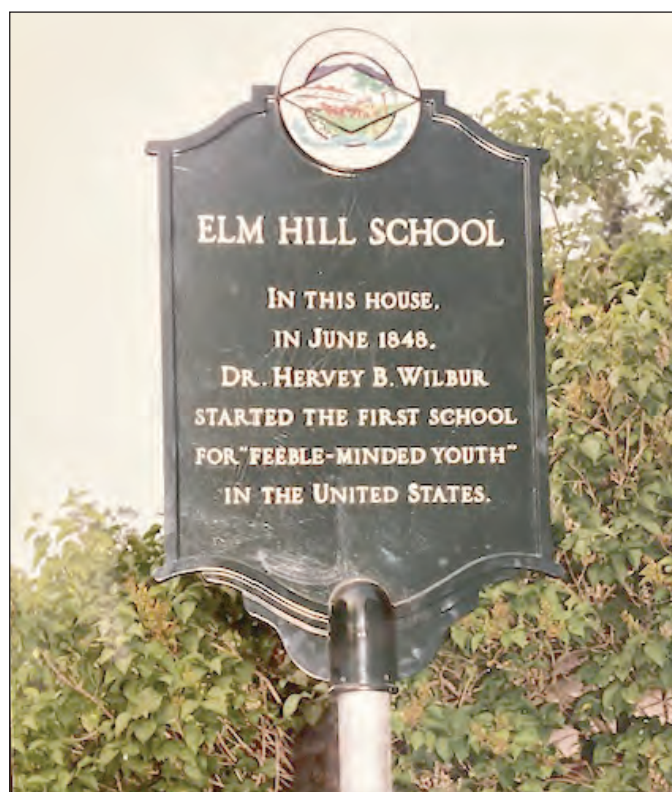
Rockin' around the clock and traveling bak in time to "The Fabulous Fifties" was the theme of the night for the fifth annual Friends of the Stone Church's dinner and auction last Saturday evening at Hartmans Herb Farm Bed and Breakfast in Barre. "I love this," said FOSC Board member, Kaye Boothman, who was in fun fifties attire, donning a pink poodle skirt, cardigan, Bobby socks and sneakers. "In the middle of winter to be able to get out and see friends is wonderful." It was a sell out crowd at Hartman's for the FOSC event as many supporters of the mission were on hand for one of the biggest fundraisers of the year.

10 years (Jan. 29, 2015)

The four to eight inches of snow receive on Saturday, Jan. 24 was the first snowstorm of 2015. However Monday night, Tuesday into early morning Wednesday brought more even more snow. Snow depths ranged from four inches in part of western Massachusetts to almost three feet of snow in parts of eastern and central Massachusetts. With weather predictions of snow measured in feet, hurricane force winds for the coast and islands, white out conditions and coastal flooding, Gov. Charles D. Baker Jr. declared a state of emergency Monday, Jan. 26 at noon and issued an executive order enforcing a statewide travel ban starting at midnight. He lifted the ban 24 hours later.

John A. Fritscher of Barre was installed as a District Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts and will

LOOK BACK Historic Marker – 1997



This historic marker was recently placed at 37 West St., in Barre in June 1997 at the site where the school had its beginnings.

preside over seven lodges in the Twenty-fifth Masonic District for the year. Over 30,000 Freemasons in more than 230 lodges in the Commonwealth are divided into 32 Districts, each led by a District Deputy Grand Master. The Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts is the oldest Grand Lodge in the Western Hemisphere and the third oldest in the world. It was chartered in 1733, following the establishment of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717 and Ireland in 1725.

It is no longer any secret the town of Barre and its surrounding communities are experiencing an epidemic of drug abuse and drug related health issues. While the sources of these drugs are varied, one known contributing factor to the problem is the availability, misuse and improper disposal of prescription medication. Many seniors legitimately use prescription medication. Many seniors legitimately use prescription drugs to ease their pain and promote healing, but his population is often uninformed or misled about what to do with these drugs after they no longer need them. The Barre Police Department has a prescription drop-off box at their headquarters. There is also a newly installed prescription drug drop-off box at the

Barre Senior Center.

25 years (Feb. 3, 2000)

At a Special Town Meeting held Monday night, the town of Petersham moved a major step closer to a new elementary school by passing a \$4,250,000 bond issue. The count was 127 to 15, easily passing the 95 required for a two-thirds vote. Immediately after the meeting got under way, the moderator introduced Sen. Stephen Brewer and Rep. David Tuttle, who spoke to the audience on legislative steps in school budgets. Jay Burke, chairman of the Center School Building Committee, presented a report on the overall project.

Barre Selectmen have approved the town's new website, making it the official home for Barre on the web. The site is the result of the recently formed Website Committee and can be viewed online at www.townbarre.ma.us. Although the website has an enormous amount of information about the town available to the citizens of the world, its primary function is to enhance communities and awareness within Barre.

See PAST PAGES, page 9

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

Guest Column



When to claim Social Security and taxation of benefits

Dear Rusty:

I am 65 and currently working full-time.

Can I apply for and start receiving my Social Security benefit? I'd expect to have to pay income tax on it if/when I do.

Signed: Curious Worker

Dear Curious Worker:

If you are working full time, you should likely delay claiming Social Security at this time. At age 65, you haven't yet reached your SS Full Retirement Age, so you will be subject to Social Security's "annual earnings test" which limits how much you can earn from work while collecting early benefits. The earnings limit for 2025 is \$23,400 and if you earn more than the annual limit, SS will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit.

If you earn significantly over the limit, you may even be temporarily ineligible to collect SS benefits. FYI, the annual earnings limit goes away when you reach your full retirement age, which for you is 66 years and 10 months, or March 2026.

As you obviously already know, a portion of your Social Security may be subject to income tax after you start collecting. The threshold for taxation of SS benefits depends on your IRS filing status – if you file your taxes as a single and your combined income from all sources (including half of the SS benefit you received during the tax year) exceeds \$25,000 then 50% of your received SS benefits are taxable.

But if you file taxes as "married/jointly" and your combined income is over \$32,000, then up to 85% of your received SS benefits are taxable. Thus, whenever you claim SS, you may wish to consider having income tax withheld from your SS benefit. This is optional, and you can do this by submitting IRS Form W-4V to your local Social Security office, or you could choose to increase your income tax withholding at work or, alternatively, pay estimated income taxes quarterly.

So, whether you can claim Social Security now depends entirely on how much you will earn from working full time prior to your FRA. If you exceed the annual earnings limit before your FRA, SS will take away some of your benefits or, if you greatly exceed the earnings limit, you may even be temporarily ineligible to get benefits until you either reach your FRA or earn less. But note, if you decide to claim early and any SS benefits are withheld because you exceeded the earnings limit, you will get credit for that in the form of a slightly increased benefit after you reach your full retirement age.

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

Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

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

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in my BACKYARD
By Ellenor Downer

Bald eagle



I received an email from a Hampden resident on Dec. 6. She reported a bald eagle perched in tree in her backyard. She said, "The adult bald eagle sat in the tree for a while, then swooped over my house to the north. This was the first time I had a sighting of a bald eagle in my yard."

I saw an adult bald eagle perched in a tree by a field along Route 67 in New Braintree on Jan. 17. It is always a thrill to see an eagle.

The bald eagle is a large 31 inch long dark bird with a white head and white tail. Immature eagles have dark feathers with white mottling on the wings and tail and variable amounts of white on the belly. They keep their immature plumage for four years.

Eagles eat mostly fish and birds. They also will eat carrion and some mammals like rabbits. The female lays one to three bluish white eggs in a massive platform nest of sticks and vegetation lined with moss and grasses. These nests are placed on cliff ledge or in the fork of a tree.

Eagles congregate at feeding areas in late winter and early spring. They inhabit coasts, lakes and large rivers. The eagle has a repeated piercing scream given between a pair and a rapid series of chirps given at the nest. Eagle populations are recovering from series declines due to the use of DDT, which caused thinning of their egg shells.

Bluebirds

A North Brookfield resident had half a dozen bluebirds at his feeder on Jan. 9. Another Hampden resident reported the bluebirds were back in a Jan. 17 email. He said, "He puts out a container of warm water every morning and puts a scoop of critter food on the ground

every morning."

Great blue heron

The same Hampden resident with the bluebirds said in Dec. 5 email a great blue heron "has been visiting my fish pond early mornings and late afternoons for the past couple of weeks. It has consumed over 20 goldfish in the three foot deep pond."

Pine warbler

A reader some time ago had a bird with a lot of yellow. She identified it as a pine warbler. She said she never had a pine warbler come to her nudget feeder before and she has lived there for 40 years. She also included a photo of a mocking bird sipping sap from a maple tree after the yellow bellied sapsucker made multiple holes in the bark.

Rescue of iced in loons

The Loon Preservation Committee reported, "On Dec. 14, [they] responded to a report from Weare Reservoir (aka Horace Lake) in Weare, New Hampshire. As the reservoir froze, a juvenile loon became trapped in a small (15 foot diameter) hole of open water. Fortunately, the opening was not far from shore and LPC Senior Biologist, John Cooley, was able to make his way out across the newly-formed ice to capture it. LPC staff then evaluated the loon, taking blood and x-rays. No problems were detected, and the loon was released onto the ocean that afternoon." The loon received two bands per leg in a unique color combination that will enable us to identify it if it returns to a New Hampshire lake in the future.

The LPC also reported, "That same night [Dec. 14], we received a call from volunteers on Franklin Pierce Lake. There, too, a juvenile loon was icing-in and with cold temperatures predicted overnight, its situation was not likely to improve. On Dec. 15, LPC staff headed to the lake. The loon was much further from shore than the loon on Weare Reservoir had been, but the ice was solid and we were able to capture the loon. The loon was given a physical examination on site and no obvious problems were detected. Because it was late in the day and we wanted to make sure the loon had plenty of daylight to explore and get acquainted with its new surroundings, we opted to have the loon stay overnight with wildlife rehabilitator Maria Colby of Wings Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. We banded it and released it onto the ocean at Odiome Point the following morning."

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

Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

I am typing this on Sunday and we are expecting a big snowstorm.

I hope we don't get too much. This week has been rather cold so I got my helpers to get my groceries and other necessary things. It is hard to tell someone else what to get for groceries, but they did very well. With the help of a cell phone, they could call me if they had any questions.

I find one of the hardest things when shopping is that the stores seem to put the smaller packages of cereal and water on the very top shelves and seeing I have shrunk a little I have to find a tall gentleman to help me. They are usually very helpful and kind.

This week I have noticed that my clothes were not drying well in my dryer so I asked the handyman to check the coiled pipe that goes out under the deck from the cellar. Lo and behold it was stuffed full of lint.

With my help the two of us got the aluminum expansion pipe cleaned. He said we were lucky we did not have a fire. Make sure you check your dryer pipes. I always check the filter, but some escapes to the pipe and needs to be cleaned out at least yearly.

Another thing that the appliance man warned me was not to use the fabric softeners as they clog the filters. I use the balls instead.

Here is a recipe I plan to make today for lunch.

BEEF STROGANOFF

- I plan to use hamburger instead of steak.
- 4 tablespoons canola oil or salad oil
- 1 medium diced onion
- 1 lb. hamburger
- 2 teaspoon dried tarragon
- dash of Worcestershire sauce
- 2 teaspoons tomato paste
- 1 cup sour cream
- salt and pepper to taste
- Cooked noodles for serving.
- Add the onion to the oil in a fry pan. Saute until

soft. Add the hamburger and cook until browned. Add the tarragon, sauce, tomato paste and sour cream. Heat thoroughly and stir. Don't boil. Serve over the noodles. Makes 4 to 5 servings. Note: Sometimes I use a can of mushrooms also.

This and That

I see where work has begun on the Breezy Hill Plaza for the town offices. They are putting on new siding, windows and a roof. The police, select people, fire and some town offices will move there when finished.

It has been too cold to do much outdoors, but I did take down my Christmas sprays and put a bucket of greens on the front deck.

The indoor plants are doing well and I was given a gift of an amaryllis bulb and it is just about ready to bloom. None of my old bulbs have bloomed, but they leaved out. I have taken cuttings of the cactus and coleus and they root very well.

I have been watercoloring and crocheting in between doing the regular cooking and housework. I find that to be very relaxing. I just finished a very interesting book called "The Christmas Spirit" that my penpal from Oakham sent me. I have passed it along to my helper to read.

I am presently reading a book called "Thank You" that my friend from New Hampshire sent me. I guess I had better start writing some thank you notes to my many friends that have been so kind to me over the years.

I am also very thankful to the people at the Senior Center, who work at distributing the eggs and bread and pastry and to those who donate them. With the high price of groceries, every bit helps.

I hope you all have a very healthy week and don't forget to pay your real estate taxes for February in Hubbardston at least.

SUBMISSIONS ALWAYS WELCOME
Send your stories and photos to edowner@turley.com

Congregational Church to hold game night

RUTLAND – The First Congregational Church of Rutland, 264 Main St., will host a game night, no electronics, for all ages on Saturday, Feb. 1 from 6-8 p.m.

There is no admission charge. Free pizza and drinks will be served. Babysitting will be provided by the Rutland Library Teen Advisory Board and church teens at no charge.

DCR offers February vacation program on tracks and scat

BELCHERTOWN – The Department of Conservation and Recreation will host a February Vacation Program "Tracks and Scat" on Monday, Feb. 17 from 10-11 a.m.

Although we may not see them often, our native wildlife is all around us. Come learn to recognize some signs of wildlife through a fun and informative indoor activity.

Meet at the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center in Belchertown. Great for all ages, children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, call 413-323 - 7221. To register visit <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/250b6dc-beefc4f30a4da5b0f86abc4f3>.

OAKHAM, continued from page 1

easement appeared on an earlier title of the lot, but not on the current owner's title. The Select Board approved the first two articles and deleted Article 3.

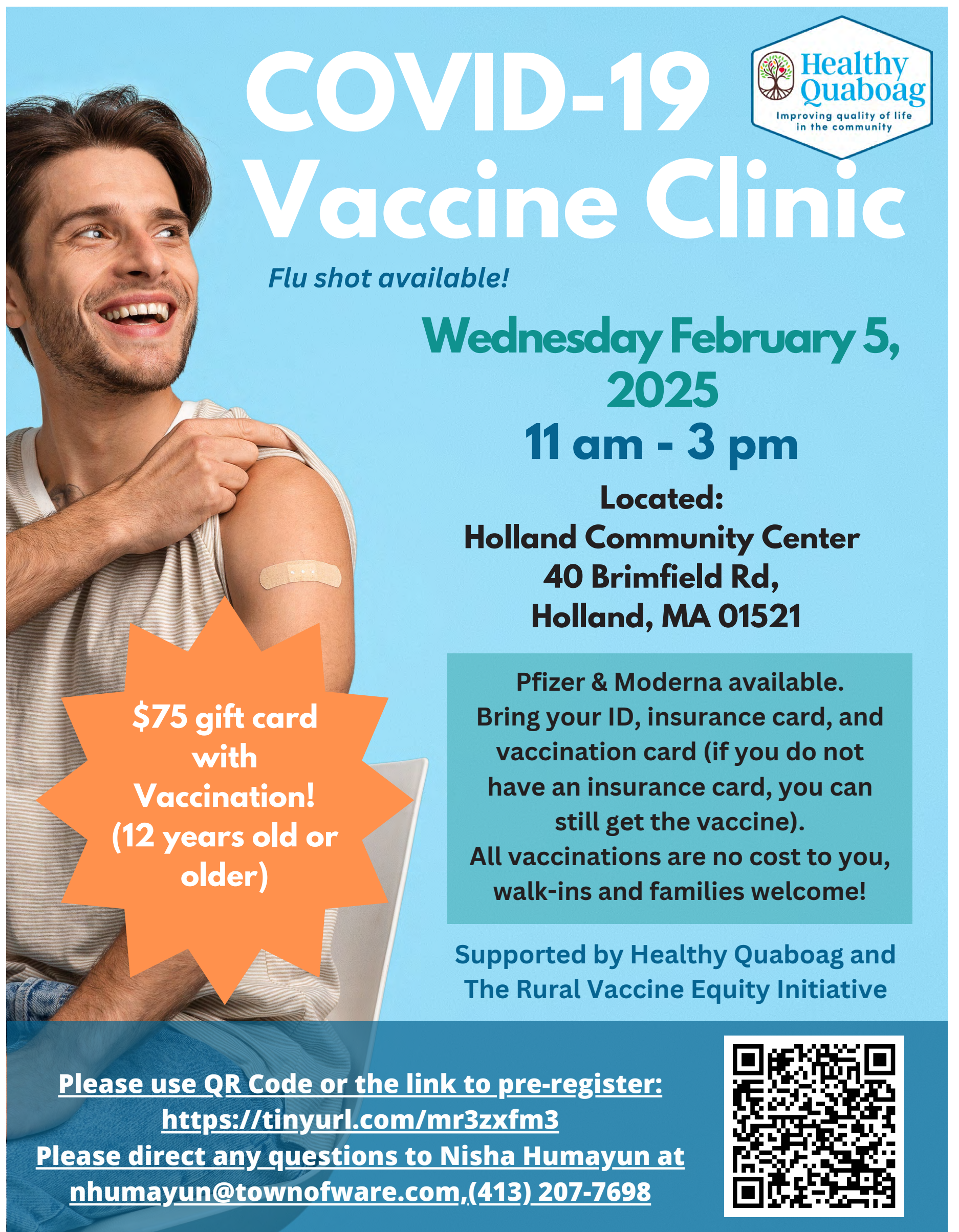
COA request

The Council on Aging requested to reinstate the position of Activity Coordinator to this fiscal year budget. The previous Activity Coordinator resigned and the COA members had been acting in that capacity. Select Board Chair Tessnau said she would put the request on the next regular meeting agenda Select Board Vice Chair Donald Haapakoski asked for a member of the COA to attend their meeting on Jan. 21 to discuss this.

Other business

The Select Board granted a Class II used car license to BHT LLC at 358 Coldbrook Road. The license will expire on Dec. 31 of this year.

Paul Rochette commented on the concern about ground water contamination discussed by Ken Nelson at a previous meeting. He said during a recent storm the amount of salt on town roads was excessive. He said the roads were white with the dried salt and on North Brookfield Road created a cloud of dust when driving on it. He visited other highway departments and said those departments had the gauges set at 50% while Oakham was open to full. He suggested the Highway Superintendent hold training for their seasonal drivers. He said he planted evergreen trees on his property bordering the road and had to cut them down as the salt was killing them. Select Board Vice Chair Haapakoski said Highway Superintendent Patrick Mardirosian would be holding training.




COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic
Flu shot available!
Wednesday February 5, 2025
11 am - 3 pm
Located:
Holland Community Center
40 Brimfield Rd,
Holland, MA 01521

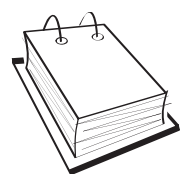
Pfizer & Moderna available.
Bring your ID, insurance card, and vaccination card (if you do not have an insurance card, you can still get the vaccine).
All vaccinations are no cost to you, walk-ins and families welcome!

Supported by Healthy Quaboag and The Rural Vaccine Equity Initiative

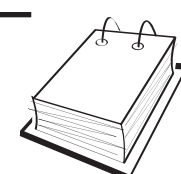
\$75 gift card with Vaccination! (12 years old or older)

Please use QR Code or the link to pre-register:
<https://tinyurl.com/mr3zxfm3>
Please direct any questions to Nisha Humayun at nhumayun@townofware.com, (413) 207-7698





Calendar of Events



THURSDAY, JAN. 23

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

SATURDAY, JAN. 25

ANIMAL TRACKS AND WILDLIFE SIGN IDENTIFICATION will be held today from 1-3 p.m. by East Quabbin Land Trust, 120 Ridge Road, Hardwick. This free interactive animal tracks and other wildlife sign identification "teach in" and outdoor exploration will be lead by EQLT steward, Mike Stoll. People must RSVP by emailing atrevvett@eglt.org. Participants will learn how to recognize the telltale signs of animals large and small, from evidence of browse and foraging, to antler "rubs," and gauging an animal's gait. Attendees are welcome to bring their own animal-track photos to identify.

The first half will be held indoors at EQLT's office, located at 120 Ridge Road. From there participants will venture outside to look for some real-life examples of what they have learned. They'll be on some hilly terrain in both grassy and wooded areas, so be sure to bring sturdy footwear and dress for the weather.

MONDAY, JAN. 27

LIBRARY STORY TIME, a program for preschoolers, will be held at the New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive, New Braintree today beginning at 9

Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

This week's mystery photo is from Rutland. 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. 27. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in the following edition. Bill Bowles, Peggy Civilik, Stephen Craven, Evelyn Luukko and Harry Novelle correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was of the Petersham Police Department, 15 East Street, Petersham.

a.m. The program's focus is on the wonders of winter. The readings will include "No Two Alike" by Keith Baker and "Winter A Solstice Story" by Kelsey Gross. This reading and crafts program is held at the library. Parental supervision is required. People may call the library at 508-867-7650 during regular business hours for more information.

MEETING will take place today at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall at the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., Barre. There will also be the option for ZOOM participation. Attached is the link for the meeting. Kevin Fogarty is the Zoom meeting host.

Link is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89393642281?pwd=pKr8ErZsdjBS3yuzoWkaB5NdrhDHfn.1>

MONDAY, JAN. 27

BARRE CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL

SATURDAY, FEB. 1

FRIENDS OF FOBES MEMORIAL LIBRARY will

host an annual meeting today at the Fobes Memorial Library, 4 Maple St., Oakham in the upstairs. At the beginning of each year the annual meeting is held and additional meetings are held as needed to review goals, offer ideas, and act in the best interests of the library. The Friends of the Library organize fundraisers, sponsor programs and support the library in any way that they can. Both current members and those who want to learn more about getting involved in supporting our library are encouraged to attend. For questions and more information people may ask a librarian by calling 508-882-3372.

DESIGNER PANCAKE BREAKFAST sponsored by Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will be held today from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Mt Zion Lodge Hall, Pleasant Street, Barre. People may create their pancakes with plenty of chips, fruit, nuts and more. The complete breakfast includes designer pancakes, waffles, sausage gravy with biscuits, bacon, sausage, juice and coffee. The cost is still \$9 per adult and \$5 for children 6 and under. Everyone in welcome.

GAME NIGHT FOR ALL AGES with no electronics will take place at the First Congregational Church, 264 Main St., Rutland today from 6-8 p.m. There is no admission charge. Free pizza and drinks will be served. Babysitting will be provided by the Rutland Library Teen Advisory Board and church teens at no charge.

SUNDAY, FEB. 2

THEATRE AT MOUNT AUDITIONS for "Curious George, the Golden Meatball" will be held today by appointment only for ages 8 to 12 at 11:30 a.m. and ages 13 to 18 at 2 p.m. at Mount Wachusett Community College, room A110 (formerly 182), 444 Green St., Gardner. People should call the Theatre at the Mount Box Office at 978-630-9388 Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or email an appointment request to box-office@mwcc.mass.edu. Auditioners will be asked to sing a short vocal selection, which will be taught at the audition and there will be a dance audition, combination also taught at audition, for all roles and chorus. They should wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Some performers will be asked to do cold readings from the script. Performance dates are April 12 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. for the general public; April 8 and April 9 at 10 a.m. and April 10 and April 11 at 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. for school groups. Performances are held during school hours, so all cast members must be willing and able to take four days off from school/work. Tentative rehearsal schedule is Sundays from 2-5 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. beginning mid-February.

WORCESTER CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY will present "Forces of Nature" by the Worcester Chamber Music Society musicians today at 4 p.m. at Assumption University, 500 Salisbury St., Worcester. There will be a pre-concert talk at 3:30 p.m. and a post concert reception. The venue is handicapped accessible. Tickets are available by calling the WCMS office at 508-926-8624 or visiting <https://worcesterchambermusic.org/dazzle-dreams-and-drama/>.

PRINCE WALKER continued from page 1

home of James Caldwell was one of Walker's homes and the map indicates the homestead was right off Route 62 in Barre.

Allen shared a bill of sale modeled from the original bill of sale of when Walker's family came to Barre. This bill of sale dates to May 4, 1754.

One unique detail Allen shared about Walker's presence in Barre is that he was born eight days after the incorporation of Barre as a town in Massachusetts.

At the age of 9, Walker was sold to John Watson of East Windsor, Connecticut. He was taken from his family by Nathaniel Jennison, the second husband of Isabel Caldwell, who lost her husband James Caldwell back in 1763.

The home of John Watson was shown in the presentation. The photograph of the home was taken earlier this month.

Prior to his 21st birthday, Walker believed he was going to be sent to Georgia but planned to escape slavery. He was successful and made his way back home to Barre.

By the beginning of the 19th century, Walker would become the head of a household. His first wife was Betsey Daws Walker, who died in 1809. He would remarry and his second wife was Anna Morse.

Between these two marriages Walker had at least nine children. Some of them got to go to school in Massachusetts.

Allen shared a form from the No. 11 School Register form from the 1840-1841 school year. Two Walker children were listed in that form.

Allen's presentation also featured an advertisement from the Barre Gazette back on Oct. 16, 1846. This caution ad from Walker suggested that his wife Anna was no longer with him and he would not pay the debts of his wife or children.

Walker ran another ad in the Barre Gazette in 1847, he was 73 at the time. The ad was him seeking a new wife, particularly of his race, who could "take charge of his household affairs" and "smooth the pillow of his declining years."

On April 21, 1858, Walker died at the age of 84. The Barre Gazette published an article about his death and it mentioned he owned seven acres of land with a barn and various kinds of fruit trees. He left his estate to six of his children.

The conclusion of the article about his death read, "he escaped from slavery and returned to this town, where he has since resided, leading a quiet and inoffensive life, up to the time of his death." The article also mentioned that Walker was known as "Little Prince".

A couple of years ago, Allen and the Barre Historical Society hosted a historic walk to the Prince Walker Burial Ground near the Ware River Watershed. There is a sign posted near the burial ground, which is not too far from the Walker homestead in Barre.

Allen ended the presentation by taking questions from the audience who attended the virtual presentation after sharing the great story about Prince Walker, who began his life enslaved before achieving freedom and becoming a landowner in the town of Barre.

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Makaylah Kingsbury tries to get around her opponent.

Panthers fall at home to Littleton

BARRE – It was a pair of setbacks last week against Littleton and Hudson. The Panthers girls basketball team lost at home against Littleton last Tuesday 34-27. Later in the week, the Panthers fell on the road at Hudson High School. The Panthers are now 4-7 on the regular season and faced Clinton earlier this week. Quabbin travels to Maynard on Friday, Jan. 24 at 6 p.m.



Abby Rogowski fields the rebound.



Bella Smith rushes toward the hoop.



Christian Dunn starts her way down the court.



Brooke Austin gets the close range shot.



Lucas Gaspar makes his way down the court.



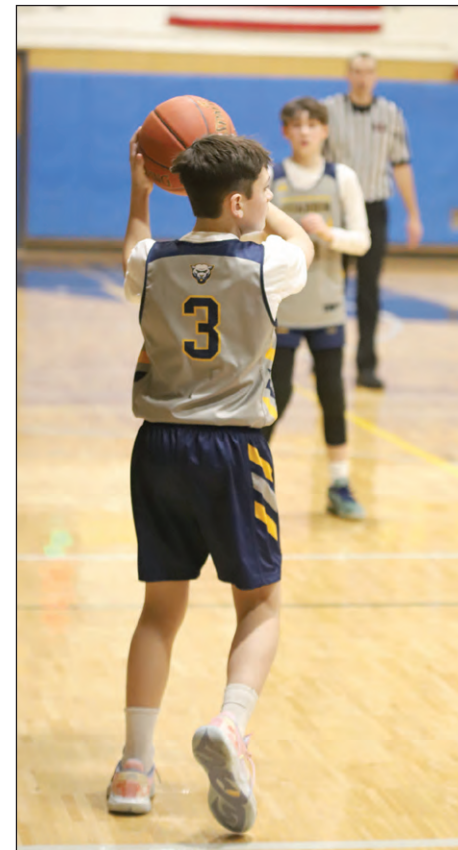
Tsadiku Fox looks to pass inside the arc.

Middle School boys defeat Narragansett

BARRE – Last Tuesday, the Quabbin Regional Middle School boys basketball team kept their early lead and scored a win over Narragansett 31-21. A few key baskets late in the game helped the Panthers keep their 10-point cushion. Next up for the Panthers is a matchup with Murdock.



Gavin Rivard goes after the loose ball.



Camden Ahearn holds the ball back as he looks to make a pass.



Sage McQueston rushes down the court.



Ayla Clark readies to shoot.

Girls Middle School action

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional Middle School girls basketball team fell to Narragansett last Tuesday afternoon. Quabbin will next be in action against Murdock on Jan. 23. They face Wachusett on Jan. 24. Both games are at home.



Zoey Salvadore aims her shot.



Emma Stauder heads down the left side of the court after overcoming an opponent's pressure.



Ellery Sylvia heads past midcourt.

Pioneers continue to impress with 8-1 record

PALMER – Last week, Pathfinder girls basketball scored two more wins and are now 8-1 on the season. Last Monday night, the Pioneers defeated Sci-Tech 49-38. Greenly Lagimoniere had 14 points to lead the team. She was followed by Taylor Allen with 13 points, and Megan Clark with 11 points. The Pioneers would then defeat Westfield Tech 50-17 last Thursday. Coming up, the Pioneers will face Smith Academy Jan. 23 at 6 p.m.



Taylor Allen is pressured near the arc.



Desiree Croteau attempts to shoot ahead of defensive pressure.



Ciara Green sends a pass toward the corner.



Addison Doktor tries to keep the ball from going out of bounds.

Pioneers suffer road loss at Ludlow

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW— Because his basketball team has had the tendency to get off to a slow start this season, Ludlow boys' varsity coach C.W. Zimmer held a shoot-around prior to last Friday night's game against Pathfinder Tech.

The strategy didn't end up working out very well as Ludlow trailed by as many as six points in the first quarter.

However, the Lions outscored the Pioneers, 49-18, during the final three quarters of the Tri-County crossover game leading to a 58-30 victory before a large crowd at Mullins Gymnasium.

"We held a shootaround for the first time this season hoping that we would get off to a faster start in the first quarter," Zimmer said. "Once again, we fell behind early in the game, but we were able to make a comeback this time. We made a few 3-pointers and played very well defensively."

Overall, the Lions made a total of eleven 3-pointers in their second home victory of the regular season.

Ludlow junior co-captain Jackson Mateus made a total of six 3-pointers leading to his game-high 23 points. Junior Cameron Lyman added three 3-pointers in the second quarter for his nine points.

"We knew that Ludlow had a couple of very good shooters, but our game plan was to stop their fastbreak offense," said first-year Pathfinder head coach Ethan



Dustyn Cook takes a free throw.

Ortyl. "They did hit some 3-pointers, and we tried to adjust our defense."

A year ago, the Pioneers (1-8) celebrated a 70-48 home win against the Lions.

Zimmer certainly didn't want to see a

See PIONEERS, page 8

Sports

Railers grab point in OT loss

WORCESTER — The Worcester Railers beat the Wheeling Nailers, 3-4 in overtime, Sunday afternoon at the DCU Center.

Not a typo, no. It is just that all things considered, the point Worcester earned was one of the best points a Railers team will ever get out of a hockey game.

They trailed the best team in the league, 3-1, with less than five minutes to go in the third period. Then, at 15:23, Jordan Kaplan converted a shorthanded breakaway to make it a one-goal game.

With goaltender Hugo Ollas on the bench, Worcester took it down to the limit and Anthony Repaci scored with four seconds to go in regulation. He converted a pass from Griffin Loughran and beat Taylor Gauthier from the bottom of the right circle with a low shot.

It was the latest game-tying goal in franchise history.

"I actually thought we had a lot more time than we did," Repaci said, "maybe something like 20 seconds. That was cutting it close but it was an exciting finish."

Yes, you might say that.

That Matt Koopman scored for Wheeling to win it just 49 seconds into overtime was a downer, but it did not ruin the day, all things

considered.

Even before the opening puck drop the Railers were in a hole.

It was their third game in less than 72 hours, and it was against the team with the best winning percentage in the ECHL. Two of their defensemen, Matias Rajaniemi and Cam McDonald, were called up by Bridgeport before the game. Worcester replaced them with one defenseman, Anthony Hora up from the SPHL and making his ECHL debut. So the Railers dressed only 17 skaters.

With McDonald and Rajaniemi in the American Hockey League, there were no Bridgeport contract players in uniform. The only NHL contract player was goalie Hugo Ollas. He is assigned here by the Rangers.

Worcester responded with a great effort from the start although it took a while for everything to fall into place.

"For us playing a three in three, with the effort they put out, I just wanted them to play to the wire," coach Nick Tuzzolino said. "If the score had stayed 3-1 I probably would have been just as happy. I thought they played well. That's a pretty gutsy effort against a really good team."

Over the last two weekends Worcester took six of a possible eight points versus Wheeling. The Railers extended their overall points streak to eight games. They are 5-0-3 in those games. It is their longest points streak since they won nine in a row to open the 2022-23 season.

It was 0-0 after 20 minutes. David Jankowski scored for Wheeling at 8:55 of the second period. Cole Donhauser answered for Worcester at 14:26, snapping a 12-game goals drought. Manny De St. Phalie's goal at 15:48 allowed the Nailers to take a 2-1 lead into the third period.

When Chris Ortiz made it 3-1 at 6:21, it seemed unlikely that the Railers would have enough petroleum in the tank to come back. Kaplan changed that perspective, then Repaci wound up rescuing the point.

It allowed Worcester to earn five of a possible six points on the weekend with all three games ending in 4-3 scores.

The All-Star break is here. It will give the Railers time to rest up from their dramatic weekend, but Tuzzolino isn't going anywhere.

"I can't," he said. "I've got to find some players."

DAVID PAYNE continued from page 1

accomplished back in 2022 was writing one million words.

Payne also enjoys playing a variety of games, virtual or in person. One of his favorite games to play is Dwarf Fortress as well as rummy, bridge, Magic the Gathering, and Dungeons and Dragons.

His wife Kelly was in attendance during the presentation and mentioned her and David always read to each other. Payne grew up in Holliston and now resides in Douglas.

Many guests who attended Payne's presentation got a chance to ask questions and got signed copies of his book.

Payne mentioned he still submits his work to publishers and has many new stories in the works. One idea he talked about a lot was a collection of stories featuring dragons.

For more information about Payne and his work, visit his



David Payne signed some copies of his new book for his audience at the Paige Memorial Library.

blog at telinartho.wordpress.com. Copies of his new book can be found at books2read.com/u/381AwB.

The Paige Memorial Library is located at 87 Petersham Road and

can be reached by emailing director.paigelibrary@gmail.com or calling 413-477-6704.

For upcoming events and information visit www.paigelibrary.com.

PIONEERS, continued from page 7

repeat performance in this year's meeting between the two squads, especially since it was Ludlow's fourth annual Youth Basketball Appreciation Night.

A large group of youth basketball players cheered on the Lions players from the bleachers behind the home bench.

"The youth basketball players were very energetic, and they really helped us win tonight's game," Zimmer said. "I hope they had a great time watching up play. We're hoping they would like to become a part of our basketball program in a few years when they get to high school. There are 180 kids playing basketball in the youth program this year, which is the most that we've ever had. We're very excited and we want to see that program keep growing."

The 18-point victory evened Ludlow's overall record at 5-5. Because they're not currently ranked in the top 32 in the MIAA power rankings, the Lions will need to win at least five more games this season to qualify for the Division 3 state tournament.

Mateus is the only remaining player from the 2022-23 varsity squad, which lost at Norwood in a Division 2 preliminary round game.

"We need to win five of our remaining ten games to qualify for the state tournament," said Mateus, who reached double digits in scoring for the ninth time this season. "We're a pretty good basketball team this year and I think we can do that."

Mateus is one of the nine juniors listed on the Lions varsity basketball roster. They also have three sophomores and no seniors.

Ludlow junior Filipe Fernandes



Grayson Griswold tries to maneuver around his opponent.



Brody Wetnicka makes his way down the court.

scored seven points off the bench and sophomore co-captain Ethan Love chipped in with six points. The trio of junior Tyler Tatro, sophomore Jadel Rodriguez, and sophomore Kobe McKay finished the game with three points, while junior Spencer Huntley added two points.

Ortyl is a history teacher at Pathfinder Teach and he's also been a chemistry teacher on the basketball court so far this winter. He has tried several different starting combinations trying to see which one works the best.

"On the bus ride over here, I was thinking about how many different starting line-ups that we've had this season," Ortyl said. "We've tried a lot of different matchups trying to see which one works the best for us."

The Lions raced out to an early 4-0 lead as Tatro made a pair of free throws and Love followed with a lay-up.

The Lions then reeled off the next ten points.

Sophomore Brody

Wetnicka (4 points), who made his first start in a varsity game, made a lay-up with seven minutes left in the first quarter which

were his first varsity points. Junior co-captain Aiden Girard (8 points) buried back-to-back 3-pointers before making a put-back hoop giving his team a 10-4 lead with 3:25 left in the opening quarter.

Pathfinder Tech's other co-captain is senior Matt Vanasse, who didn't score any points. He's also the only senior listed on the Pioneers varsity roster.

The visitors from Palmer only scored four more points during the rest of the first half.

The Lions, who were trailing, 12-9, at the end of the opening quarter, retook the lead at 15-12 with 6:42 left after Mateus knocked down two 3-pointers from the left side.

At the end of the first half, Lyman made his three 3-pointers and Fernandez added two free throws, which sent the home team into the locker room holding a 28-14 lead.

Pathfinder Tech's only points of the second quarter was a lay-up from freshman Jordan Mbi (2 points).

Ludlow added seven points to its lead in the third quarter, as they outscored Pathfinder Tech, 14-7.

Pathfinder Tech freshman Cassian Kowalik came off the bench and scored his team-leading 10 points, after halftime.

The Lions, who entered the final eight minutes holding a 42-21 advantage, made four more 3-pointers and they continued to pull away.



Jordan Mbi tries get around a Ludlow guard.

T-Birds get win at Bridgeport

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. — The Springfield Thunderbirds (17-15-2-1) had six players record multiple points in a 6-4 triumph over the Bridgeport Islanders (8-25-2-2) on Saturday night at Total Mortgage Arena.

The T-Birds and Islanders' netminders had all the answers in the opening 20 minutes, as Colten Ellis picked up where he left off from his shutout performance on Wednesday with 10 more stops in the opening frame. In the Bridgeport net, Hunter Miska made his first AHL start in nearly three years and was up to every Springfield challenge with 11 first-period stops.

The night marked the much-anticipated debut of Blues' 2023 first-round pick Otto Stenberg, and the 19-year-old wasted little time in period two making his mark on the game, taking a drop feed from Hugh McGing in the left circle and roofing a wristed short-side on Miska for his first AHL goal on his first shot at 2:43.

Unfortunately, the excitement

of Stenberg's opening tally was quickly tempered when Chris Terry evened the slate with a power play goal at 3:29 for Bridgeport, snapping Ellis's shut-out streak of over 83 minutes.

The T-Birds returned fire at 8:56 when Hunter Skinner leaned into a one-time slapper off a Matthew Peca drop pass, beating Miska over the stick hand to give Springfield a 2-1 advantage.

Once again, however, the Islander power play had a rebuttal. This time, a Samuel Bolduc point wristed eluded Ellis and got the game back even, 2-2, at 13:50.

Springfield continued to be just a tick faster than the Islanders in the see-saw second frame as Stenberg let a wristed fly from the left side at 15:45, creating a rebound for McGing to bury behind Miska and restore the T-Birds' lead.

Finally, the Islanders could not get the game back to a stalemate, and Alek Kaskimaki lifted a backhand under the crossbar on a net-crashing play up the left side

at 19:20 to send Springfield to the second intermission dressing room ahead 4-2.

Bridgeport still did not keel over, and with the teams skating 4-on-4 in the opening minute of the third, Liam Foudy capitalized on a rebound outside the paint to make it a 4-3 contest.

MacKenzie MacEachern further bolstered the Springfield advantage when he picked the puck off from Bolduc and cruised in on Miska before beating the netminder glove side on a breakaway to make it a 5-3 game at 7:33.

McGing capped off his best night of the season with his second goal of the evening in the dying seconds of a power play at 11:13 of the third to up the lead to 6-3.

Eetu Liukas would get one back for the Islanders with 1:03 to play, but it was too late for the home team as Springfield cashed in its fourth straight win and second in four nights over Bridgeport.

Turleysports

Athlete of the Month

NAME: Quinn Geary
SCHOOL: Quabbin

Geary had 13 points and 12 rebounds in a home win for Quabbin over Gardner on Jan. 10.

To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.



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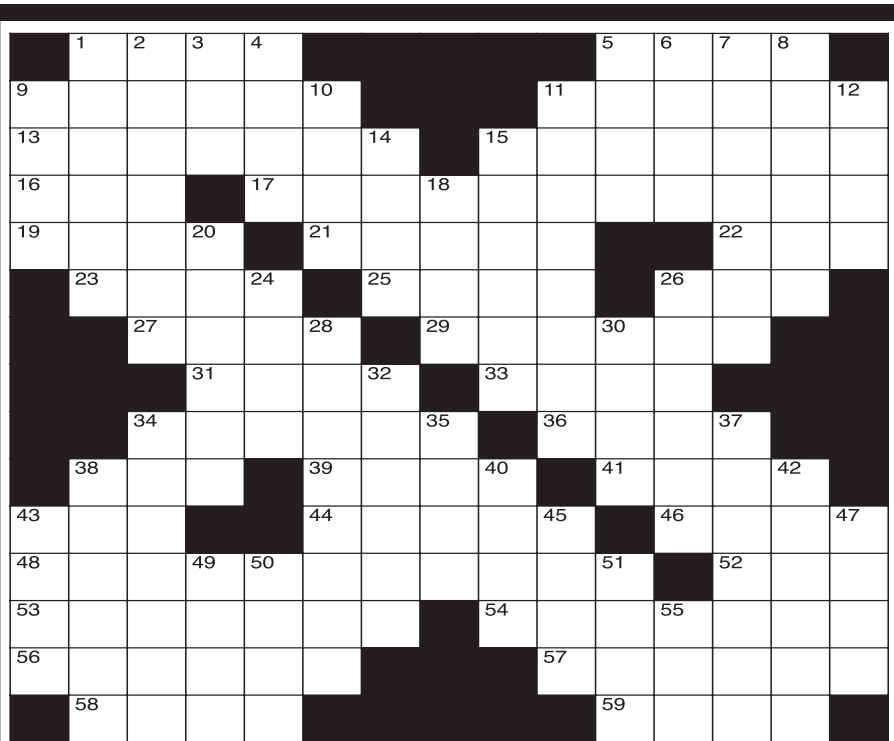
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CLUES ACROSS

- "Loser" rocker
- Partner to relaxation
- Mixing
- Winged nut
- Expression of blame
- Vast ocean
- Comedienne Gasteyer
- Multiply
- Meat from a pig (French)
- Related
- Rocker Stewart
- Surprise completely
- Loon
- Canister
- Large, deep-bodied fish
- Takes forcefully
- Oil cartel
- Palmer and

- Hepburn are two
- More than one
- Places down purposefully
- Pitching staccato
- Type of sword
- Witnesses
- Body part
- Mixes slowly
- Satisfy
- Strong belief
- One's physique (slang)
- More frightening
- Soup cracker
- Teaches
- One who carries something
- Actor Sean
- Changes

CLUES DOWN

- Aires, city
- Coarse grass

- Type of gene
- Door handle
- Competition
- Muslim ruler title
- Hunting expeditions
- Large mollusk
- Bind securely
- Former U.S. presidential candidate
- 2-point plays in football
- Breezed through
- Type setting
- Felt for
- Codified rules
- Small dome
- Chevrolet
- Male reproductive gland
- Controversial beliefs
- Z Z Z

- One who confines another
- Bishop
- Garlands
- Bird that flies by the coast
- Optical device
- Greek goddess of discord
- Some are "Rolling"
- Formerly (archaic)
- Thrust a knife into
- German river
- Atomic #26
- Make a grotesque face
- Primordial matter of the universe
- Chinese philosophical principle

ANSWERS ON PAGE 11



SEND US YOUR SPORTS PHOTOS

Have you taken photos at a local sports event and want to see them published in this paper? Email your image(s) with description to: sports@turley.com

Education

Colleges and universities announce President's and Dean's list

PRESIDENT'S LIST

Dean College Franklin
Jillian Comeau of Rutland and Kylan Tremblay of Rutland

Mount Wachusett Community College Gardner
Laurn Brown of Barre, Sophia Spier of Gilbertville, Elwin Gardens of Hubbardston, Rebecca Buell of Petersham and Christian Paydos of Wheelwright

Southern New Hampshire University Manchester, New Hampshire
Emily Higgins of Rutland, Alexis Paquette of Rutland, Chelsea Sanders of North Brookfield, Valeria Contreras of North Brookfield and Devin Davenport of Oakham

DEAN'S LIST

Curry College Milton
Lily Smith of North Brookfield

Dean College Franklin
Jacob Salvatore of South Barre

Hofstra University Hempstead, New York
Jenna Oberg of North Brookfield

Holyoke Community College Holyoke
Matthew Flynn of Barre

Husson University Bangor, Maine
Colin Richardson of Rutland

Mount Wachusett Community College Gardner
Rob Ackert of Barre, Kenzie Gallagher of Barre, Alyssa Goulet of Barre, Jeffery Lima of Hardwick, Brendan Bedard of Hubbardston, Kaitlyn Bibik of Hubbardston, Eryn Blouin of Hubbardston, Katelin Charland of Hubbardston, Kristen Derose of Hubbardston, Thomas Deshaw of Hubbardston, Steven Nelson of Hubbardston, Natalia Wilder of Hubbardston, Brandon Kulesza of North Brookfield, Riley Sprague of North Brookfield, Jeremy Parkinson of Oakham and Nicholas Cappadona of South Barre,

Distinction list

Gracie Burke of Barre, Jennifer Hyland of Barre, Chelsea King of Barre, Sam Moores of Barre, Cierra Morin of Barre, Morgan Flagg of Hubbardston, Cloe Leger of Hubbardston, Rachel Chisholm of New Braintree, Nadia Sukharev of North Brookfield, David Yules of Petersham, Michael George of Rutland and Jina Mansor of Rutland

Excellence list

Jessie Minton of Barre, Patricia Nickerson of Barre, Mary Whitelaw of Barre, Ashley Wiseman of Barre, Nick Johnson

of Gilbertville, Amber Gomes of Hubbardston, Christina Gustafson of Hubbardston, Kara Kramer of Hubbardston, Ozzy Nordstrom of Hubbardston, Devi Power of Hubbardston, Andrea Stokes of Hubbardston, Amanda Tadros of Hubbardston, Pepin Pepin of New Braintree, Kateri Harrold of North Brookfield, Angelina Cote of Oakham, Jessi Evers of Oakham, Trey Stevens of Oakham, Lauren Allard of Petersham, Katheryn Grandbois of Petersham, Lynn Scott of Petersham, Angie Colon of Rutland, Alison Cummings of Rutland, Seth Gilcrest of Rutland, Elena Laclaire of Rutland, Coralina Ludden of Rutland, Wrenyth Stoddard of Rutland, Leah Grealis of South Barre, Maddy Harding of South Barre and Olivia Maki of South Barre

Roger Williams College Bristol, R.I.
Benjamin Auger of Rutland, Madison Barr of Ware, Caden Francis of Rutland, Nathan Gozoy of Rutland, Patrick McGugan of Rutland and Susan Yang of Rutland

Southern New Hampshire University Manchester, New Hampshire
Claire Houlihan of Rutland, Matthew Wiktor of Hardwick and Eryn Przypek of Barre

Stonehill College Easton
Margaret Burton of Rutland

St. Aloysius Catholic School to hold open house

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

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

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

Host families needed for international student exchange program

MINNEAPOLIS, MN – ASSE International Student Exchange Programs, a Non-Profit Public benefit organization, invites local families to host a foreign exchange student.

ASSE Exchange Students come from more than 50 countries worldwide: France, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Ukraine, Japan and Australia, to name a few. They are between the ages of 15 and 18 years, and they are enthusiastic and excited to experience American culture, family life, school, sports, etc. They also love to share their own culture and language with their host families, who welcome the students into their home, not as a guest but as a family member, giving everyone involved a rich cultural experience. Host families may be single parents, couples and single persons.

The exchange students have pocket money for personal expenses and full health, accident and liability insurance. ASSE students are carefully selected based upon academics and personality and host families choose their student from a wide variety of backgrounds, countries and personal interests.

ASSE also offers qualified American students the opportunity to learn another language and culture by spending a school year, semester or a summer with a host family in another country.

Those interested in hosting an exchange student or becoming an exchange student abroad, should call Saphia Lesch at 1-800-736-1760, visit www.asse.com or send an email to asseusamidwest@asse.com to request more information or start the application process.

PAST PAGES continued from page 4

Parents of Ruggles Lane students gathered recently at the school to meet the Associate Principal Beverly Fletcher and to review the recent Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System test scores. Fletcher began her duties at the Ruggles Lane Elementary School on Nov. 1, 1999. She works three days a week. Principal John Sullivan describes her role as an advocate for the children. He said the "mechanics" of running the school have taken over the majority of his time. He is pleased to have Fletcher on the staff and said she is helping the teachers increase the effectiveness of their teaching styles, evaluate curriculum choices and develop a vision for the future of the school.

38 years (Feb. 5, 1987)

The New Braintree Selectmen considered establishing an account to sue the state over the prison that has been earmarked for the town. The money from this possible account, which would be set up from donations, would be used to hire a law firm to fight Governor Dukakis' approval for a prison at the former Pioneer Valley Academy in New Braintree. A Special Town Meeting is scheduled for Feb. 23 to decide on the account and other articles concerning the town.

The Barre Board of Selectmen discussed the slow progress of the Alternative Landfill Study Committee at their regular meeting on Monday, Feb. 2. Two weeks ago, Philip Trifilo resigned from the committee stating he did not feel the ALSC was fulfilling the objectives that the selectmen intended. Selectman Chair Earl

Sample requested the minutes of all the Landfill Committee's meeting to determine the merit of the statement. According to Harold E. White, Chairman of the ALSC, Trifilo has attended only two of the ten meetings held by the committee. "At those meetings there was no opposition expressed by Philip Trifilo to any motion or action taken by the committee," stated White in a letter to Selectmen.

At its annual meeting held on Jan. 30, the Barre Thief and Rogue Detecting Society, announced that is offering a reward of \$100 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons, responsible for defacing the "Entering Barre" sign on Route 122. This is part of the contributing effort by the Society to curb vandalism in Barre. Anyone having information is urged to communicate with the Barre Police Department.

Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

Got resolutions? Part 3

We are in the midst of an ongoing series on 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24. I posit that the mandates put forth in this passage make wonderful resolutions to live for in the new year. Let us continue our exploration of this text, one segment at a time.

1) Encourage the Disheartened
Paul calls us to encourage the disheartened (1 Thess. 5:14). The underlying Greek for the term "disheartened" is used to describe someone who is timid or lacking in courage. It conveys a sense of being easily discouraged, particularly in the face of challenge, opposition or adversity. Christians are under divine mandate to provide necessary encouragement to such an individual. Let us note that the call to be an encourager abounds in Scripture. Let us note the following passages.

Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)
29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Hebrews 10:23-25
23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Writer William Arthur Ward offers this bit of wisdom on this topic: "Flatter me, and I may not believe you. Criticize me, and I may not like you. Ignore me, and I may not forgive you. Encourage me, and I will not forget you."

2) Help the Weak
Paul calls us to help the weak (1 Thess. 5:14). The "weak" noted herein are not those who are physically weak and sick, but those who are spiritually weak or feeble. The weak are those who have not yet learned to lean upon Christ as much as they need for their earthly or spiritual needs. Until they reach such a place of maturity, they need the support of veteran believers. Of course, all Christians are weak and need the aid of the Lord and His people, but the spiritually weak need it in extra measure (i.e., as a baby or child is more dependent than a teen or an adult). Those who come to the aid of the weak fulfill this mandate of Paul (Gal. 6:2): "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Thomas Brooks (1608-1680) touches upon this theme beautifully in the following excerpt.

"Look, what the crutch is to the lame and the beam of the house is to the ruined house—that ought strong saints to be to the weak. Strong saints are to be crutches to the weak, they are to be, as it were, beams to bear up the weak. Strong saints are to set to their shoulder, to shore up the weak by their counsels, prayers, tears, and examples. Strong saints must not deal with the weak, as the herd of deer do with the wounded deer; they forsake it and push it away. Oh no, when a poor weak saint is wounded by a temptation, or by the power of some corruption, then those who are strong ought to support and support such a one, lest he be swallowed up in sorrow. When you who are strong see a weak saint staggering and reeling under a temptation or affliction . . . know it is then your duty to put both your hands underneath, to support him so that he faints not, that he miscarries not in such an hour. . . . Look, what the nurse is to the child, the oak to the ivy, [and] the house to the vine; that should strong saints be to the weak."

3) The Practice of Patience

Finally, the apostle calls us to "be patient with everyone" (1 Thess. 5:14). This is among the hardest of the calls of God and the one we may be inclined to naturally like the least. Distaste aside, however, we are under obligation to the practice of patience unto all men. The following illustration touches upon the type of long suffering we are to demonstrate in Christ. According to tra-

dition, Abraham was sitting outside his tent one evening when he saw an old man, weary from age and journey, coming toward him. Abraham rushed out, greeted him and then invited him into his tent. There he washed the old man's feet and gave him food and drink.

The old man immediately began eating without saying any prayer or blessing. So Abraham asked him, "Don't you worship God?"

The old traveler replied, "I worship fire only and reverence no other god."

When he heard this, Abraham became incensed, grabbed the old man by the shoulders, and threw him out of his tent into the cold night air.

When the old man had departed, God called to his friend Abraham and asked where the stranger was. Abraham replied, "I forced him out because he did not worship you."

God answered, "I have suffered him these eighty years although he dishonors me. Could you not endure him one night?"

For homework, continue to review 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24. We will carry on with our exploration of this text next week. Until then, thank you for taking the time to read this publication. Should you have any comments or questions, feel free to contact me at your leisure using the information below.

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

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

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

"Different Spiritual Gifts by One Spirit"

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 12 v 1-11

I. Introduction

It is a new year, and many, or all of us are making new year's resolutions, and we are also reflecting on the past year, what was good, not so good, and where we can improve.

I find it important to do this kind of reflection, as it helps me stay focused on my purpose and goals in life. As we are thinking ahead and making our plans, we know that there is the idea, the plan and how it can unfold with all the different parts and then sometimes it involves more than just one person to implement the plan.

Those who form part of the plan bring their own ideas, skills and interests to bear, so that by February or March or whenever the events or journey or project are being implemented, it will be done in a way that comes together nicely. I am sure you are already forming the image of your idea in your head and think about what you have had in mind for the new year.

II. Different Spiritual Gifts by One Spirit

We know that as people of faith, we need God's presence, guidance and help with what we need and with all our plans. We acknowledge that we have received the Holy Spirit to be present with us, within us, and to guide our path. It is therefore so fitting to read what Paul is writing to the Corinthians about their spiritual gifts, as they are growing their own church.

In this writing to the Corinthians, Paul is reminding them, first, that they are followers of the Lord Jesus Christ and because they are, they also have the Holy Spirit living within them and it is the Holy Spirit who gives them what they need.

They have been transformed from a world where they relied on themselves and without the belief in a God who wants to be in relationship with them, to a world with God and they now have the privilege of receiving everything they need from this Living God.

This Living God manifests within them the gifts of the Spirit, to grow and build the church. These gifts, also called grace-gifts, are given to them by God for the common good of the church. Paul lays out for them the various spiritual gifts that are given to those in the church, the message of wisdom, the message of knowledge, the gifts of healing, gifts of miraculous powers, distinguishing between spirits, to some faith, the gifts of speaking in tongues and the interpretation of speaking in tongues.

All these gifts and more are given to them by the One Holy Spirit, to build the Church of Christ, which God's special gift to the followers of Christ in this world. The Church of Christ is the place where God gives birth to the blessings of the Kingdom of heaven on this earth, and those in it, serve from a place of grace.

III. Conclusion
Paul's message serves as a gentle reminder to all of us regarding our individual callings here at Barre Congregational Church, as well as to everyone who believes in God's call for their lives. For those in our congregation, what is the Holy Spirit whispering to you right before our annual meeting? What is the call you feel inside of you that inspires you to serve God and each other?

For those friends who read this by chance, what is the Holy Spirit whispering to you about your own special call? Paul's call challenges us individually and as a congregation to discern our identity as a church in Barre, within our community, and beyond. What is our identity, and what do we all bring to the church that will contribute to the change we need around us?

During a time like this we need to come together, dig deep into ourselves to love our neighbor as ourselves, with our commonalities and our differences. We are called to be a light that shares the light with others.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's words ring true this morning when he said, "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love." As we are doing our own personal plans and setting goals for ourselves as loved ones, may God help us to lean on the One Spirit of God, to help us discern our own special spiritual gifts, our path, our journey with God, our church and each other and this world.

May we find our way together, even though we may not all be in agreement with each other. May God's Holy Spirit smooth out the rough edges we may bring to the journey and connect us in the way only God knows so well. May God bless us all.

Amen

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

GARDEN, continued from page 5

soil and be a nutritious food for your plants and the earthworms. In fact, folks who vermicompost (keep a worm bin) notice just how much the worms love coffee grounds mixed in with other food waste.

You've encouraged me to get a bit more serious about putting our household coffee grounds to good use!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

Barre Gazette OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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



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Public Safety

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Jan. 13-20, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to nine building/property checks, 11 directed/area patrols, six radar assignments, one traffic control, five emergency 911 calls, one assist other agency, five citizen assists, two motor vehicle accidents, one threat, two safety hazards, two scams and six animal calls in the town of New Braintree.

Tuesday, Jan. 14
9:42 a.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, Barre Cut Off Road, Officer Handled
4:23 p.m. Safety Hazard, West Brookfield Road, Officer Handled

Wednesday, Jan. 15
7:27 a.m. 911 Animal Call,

Gilbertville Road, Officer Handled
10:21 a.m. 911 Threat, Moore Road, Officer Handled
10:51 a.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Barre Road, Spoken To
11:20 a.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Road, Officer Handled

Thursday, Jan. 16
9:05 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Barre Road, Vehicle Towed
9:55 a.m. Scam, Barre Cut Off Road, Spoken To

Friday, Jan. 17
7:44 a.m. Assist Citizen, Police Department, Officer Handled
7:58 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Ware Road, Spoken To
2:40 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial

Drive, Officer Handled

Saturday, Jan. 18
12:29 a.m. Welfare Check, Route 32, Citation Issued
9:19 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
9:50 p.m. Safety Hazard, Townwide, Dispatch Handled

Sunday, Jan. 19
9:59 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
1:39 p.m. Scam, Memorial Drive, Spoken To

Monday, Jan. 20
5:21 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Oakham Road, Vehicle Towed

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Jan. 13-20, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 36 building/property checks, 30 directed/area patrols, six radar assignments, five traffic controls, 13 emergency 911 calls, five citizen assists, two assist other agencies, one safety hazard, four motor vehicle accidents, one larceny/theft/shoplifting, one motor vehicle investigation, one fraud, one harassment, two animal calls and three motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Jan. 13
9:04 a.m. 911 Disturbance, Lower Road, Transported to Hospital
12:23 p.m. Assist Citizen, High Street, Spoken To
10:30 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Mechanic Street, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Jan. 14
10:19 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Lower Road, Transported to Hospital
11:52 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Bridge Street, Officer Handled
2:21 p.m. 911 Utility Issues, Mill Street, Services Rendered

2:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Citation Issued
2:43 p.m. Assist Citizen, Petersham Road, Dispatch Handled
4:29 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Prospect Street, Officer Handled

Wednesday, Jan. 15
10:36 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
11:01 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Patril Hollow Road, Services Rendered
2:38 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Jan. 16
8:25 a.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Barre Road, Report Taken
11:17 a.m. Larceny/Theft/Shoplifting, Church Lane, Officer Handled
3:58 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Gaudet Road, Transported to Hospital
5:36 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Lower Road, Transported to Hospital
6:28 p.m. Assist Citizen, Unknown Location, Officer Handled

Friday, Jan. 17
11:26 a.m. Assist Citizen, Muddy

Brook Road, Services Rendered
11:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Main Street, Officer Handled

Saturday, Jan. 18
11:41 a.m. Fraud, Main Street, Report Taken
1:02 p.m. Complaint, Summer Place, Officer Handled

Sunday, Jan. 19
6:18 a.m. Safety Hazard, Townwide, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
12:01 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Collins Road, Transported to Hospital
2:13 p.m. 911 Disabled Motor Vehicle, Highland Terrace, Spoken To
6:11 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital
7:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Barre Road, Officer Handled
8:04 p.m. Medical Emergency, Petersham Road, Transported to Hospital
9:08 p.m. Harassment, Greenwich Road, Officer Handled

Public Notices

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

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

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

Master Deed"). The post office address of the Unit is: 176 Maple Avenue, Unit 27-1, Rutland, MA 01543. Unit 27-1, also referred to as Unit 27 of Building 1 of said Condominium, in said Rutland, is being conveyed together with the 0.60% undivided percent interest appertaining to the said Unit in the Common Areas and Facilities of the said Condominium, and together with the rights and easements appurtenant to the said Unit as set forth in the said Master Deed. Said Unit is also conveyed subject to and with the benefit of: (a) rights, easements, and restrictions referred to in the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 183A; (b) said Master Deed, the Declaration of Trust of The Countryside Estates Condominium Trust dated November 8, 1985, recorded with said Registry in Book 9055, Page 40, the By-Laws set forth in said Declaration of Trust and any rules and regulations promulgated thereunder; and (c) the obligations thereunder to pay the proportionate share attributable to said Unit of the common expenses, all of which the Grantee by acceptance hereof agrees to perform and assume and pay. Said Unit is intended only for residential use and for no other purpose except as may be expressly permitted by the Trustee of the Condominium in accordance with the provisions

of the Master Deed and the Declaration of Trust. For Grantor's title see deed to KATHRYN L. LEMIEUX dated May 25, 2022 and recorded with the Worcester South County Registry of Deeds in Book 67680, Page 265. In the event of a typographical error or omission contained in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said Unit Deed shall control. TERMS OF SALE: 1. A non-refundable deposit payable in cash, certified or bank check in the amount of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars for the unit shall be payable at the Auction. 2. The balance of the purchase price is to be paid within thirty (30) days of the auction. 3. An Auctioneer's Release Deed will be issued to the purchaser, upon payment of the balance of the purchase price, within thirty (30) days of auction. The Deed shall convey the premises subject to, and with the benefit of, all restrictions, easements, improvements, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens, or claims in the nature of liens, and existing encumbrances of record senior to the lien, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens or encumbrances is made in the deed. 4. Additionally, and not by way of limitation, the

sale shall be subject to and with the benefit of any and all tenants, tenancies, and occupants, if any. 5. No representation is or shall be made as to any amount of taxes due and outstanding. 6. The successful bidder shall pay the future condominium common charges commencing with the date of the auction. 7. No representation is or shall be made as to any other mortgages, liens, or encumbrances of record. 8. No representation is or shall be made as to the condition of the Premises or the Condominium. The Premises shall be sold "as is". 9. Other items, if any, shall be announced at the sale. 10. The sale is subject to and in accordance with the Judgment and Order, a copy of which may be obtained from the seller's counsel, Attorney William F. Thompson, Marcus, Errico, Emmer & Brooks, PC, 45 Braintree Hill Office Park, Suite 107, Braintree, MA 02184, (781) 843-5000. THE COUNTRYSIDE ESTATE CONDOMINIUM TRUST, For the Trustees, By its Attorneys, MARCUS, ERRICO, EMMER & BROOKS, PC William F Thompson, Esq. BBO#664790 45 Braintree Hill Office Park, Suite 107 Braintree, MA 02184 (781) 843-5000 01/09, 01/16, 01/23/2025

FULL TIME POLICE OFFICER

The Warren Police Department is accepting applications for the position of full time Police Officer. Applicants are preferred to be academy trained and must be willing to work weekends, nights and holidays.

Responsibilities include responding to emergency and non-emergency calls for Police, Fire and Ambulance services. It is preferred that applicants currently possess valid certification as a Police Officer. Candidates must have strong interpersonal, verbal, and written communication skills. Preferences include an associate degree or higher in criminal justice, serve in the US military, or experience as a Police Officer.

The Patrolmen's contract provides an education incentive and a candidate with prior experience may also be considered to start at a higher step rate of pay.

Resumes and cover letters must be returned no later than **Thursday, January 30th, 2025**, to the attention of Lt. Kyle Whitcomb, WPD PO Box 606, Warren, MA 01083 or Whitcomb@warren-ma.gov. *The Town of Warren is an EOE.*

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

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NORTH BROOKFIELD, continued from page 1

The board approved Reilly's appointment as library director.

Override discussion
Petraitis said with the start of budget season, there have been a lot of questions about the budget, with many people asking for an override. He said they were originally going to have an open discussion at the school, led by the moderator, to allow residents to share views on the need for an override vote, but they probably won't do that now.

The suggested override amount would be \$2.4 million, spread over three years, to fund the school. The average homeowner would expect to pay an additional \$400 in taxes during those three years.

Petraitis said the average individual income for residents is \$32,378, and the average median household income is \$81,010. The town's unemployment rate is 4.2%, which is higher than the state average.

The town's population over the age of 60 is 30%, he said.

He said the town's revenue is generated through various taxes, such as excise and property, along with money collected through the water and sewer enterprise funds. He said 25% of sewer users can't pay their bills.

"We have, I believe, over 60% of people on fixed incomes in town," Petraitis said.

Petraitis said there are many people that work for the town who are underpaid, including clerks and administrators.

"We are a \$20 million business and those clerks and those admins... are underpaid compared to everybody else," he said.

He said taxes have increased by about \$800 each year, and now residents will be facing an increase in sewer costs due to a mandated upgrade to the wastewater treatment system that the town "really can't afford."

The upgrade will cost about \$23 million to complete.

Petraitis said an override can only be initiated by the Board of Selectmen, and cannot be brought forward by citizen's petition.

"Our people can't afford it," he said. "As the chairman of the board, I won't be entertaining any discussion on an override."

Petraitis said he would recommend to the School Committee that they consider sending grades seven through 12 out of district due to the cost of salaries at the high school. He said there are just under 400 students in grades pre-K-12, and attempts to regionalize with the Quabog Regional School District have ended.

Clerk Vaughn Schlegel said in speaking with residents, most agree that they cannot afford an override due to the already increased taxes.

"I don't know that people can really afford anything more at this point," he said.

Petraitis urged residents to contact their state legislators and the governor and "tell them to fix things."

"The state had billions of dollars in surplus last August," Petraitis said. "They can alleviate a lot of the strain dependent on what they do...with several billion dollars they can help out a lot of towns."

as they currently stand, but due to turnover with Recycling Center monitors, he thinks combining the positions will create a more appealing job for candidates.

"Potentially be a full-time, benefited job...and streamline the operations in the department," he said.

Melad said he has not discussed his proposal with the Financial Committee or the town's financial team yet.

Petraitis said he is not opposed to this change, and based on what Melad said, he could see where it could be warranted. He asked Melad if there is room in the department's budget to fund this change.

Melad said currently, the salaries for the two positions total just under \$40,000 and this change would require an additional \$49,260 in the department's budget. The total annual cost for the combined position would be \$82,150.

Petraitis said he would like an additional two weeks to consider this change, and consult with the financial team.

"We really need to reflect on it a little bit more," he said.

Financial items
The board approved the Treasurer's request to spend \$1,688 to purchase pre-stamped window envelopes and send payments.

The board also approved the transfer of \$967.25 from the Reserve Fund to reimburse Sheila Buzzell for the cost of postage stamps she purchased on behalf of the town. This transfer was also approved by the Finance Committee.

Petraitis said Buzzell had to purchase the postage stamps after the town's postage machine broke, and the machine's service company sent the wrong ink to use in it.

Appointment
Highway Department Superintendent Jason Morgan presented employee John Mitchell Sr. to be promoted to the position of foreman by the board. Mitchell was hired full-time to the department at the beginning of this past December. The board also appointed Pete Orsi as a full-time member of the Fire/Highway Renovation Committee.

Schlegel was appointed to represent the Board of Selectmen on Central Massachusetts EMS Corporation.

Resignations
The board accepted the resignations of Eric Hevy, chair of the Fire/Highway Renovation Committee; and Paul Benoit, committee member.

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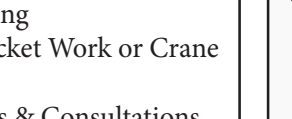
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Red Cross seeks blood donations

MEDFORD – The American Red Cross urges donors to make an appointment to give lifesaving blood or platelets in the new year to help keep the blood supply strong this winter.

Type O negative blood donors and those giving platelets are especially urged to give now to keep critical blood products on the shelves for patients in need.

An active cold and flu season may prevent people from keeping donation appointments as they rest and recover from illness. During National Blood Donor Month, the Red Cross celebrates those who generously roll up a sleeve to help save lives and urges those who are feeling well to make and keep donation appointments to help the blood supply stay on track throughout the winter.

For the sixth year, the Red Cross and the National Football League (NFL) are partnering in January for National Blood Donor Month to invite football fans and blood donors to join our lifesaving team and score big for patients in need. As a special thank-you to donors for helping address the need for blood during the critical post-holiday time, those who come to give Jan. 1-26, 2025, will be automatically entered for a chance to win an exciting Super Bowl LIX giveaway. The trip includes access to day-of in-stadium pre-game activities, tickets to the official Super Bowl Experience, round-trip airfare, three-night hotel accommodations (Feb. 7-10, 2025), plus a \$1,000 gift card for expenses. For full details, people may visit RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities at Worcester Blood Donation Center, 381 Plantation St., Worcester are: Thursday, Jan. 23 from 11:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 24 from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 25 from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 26 from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

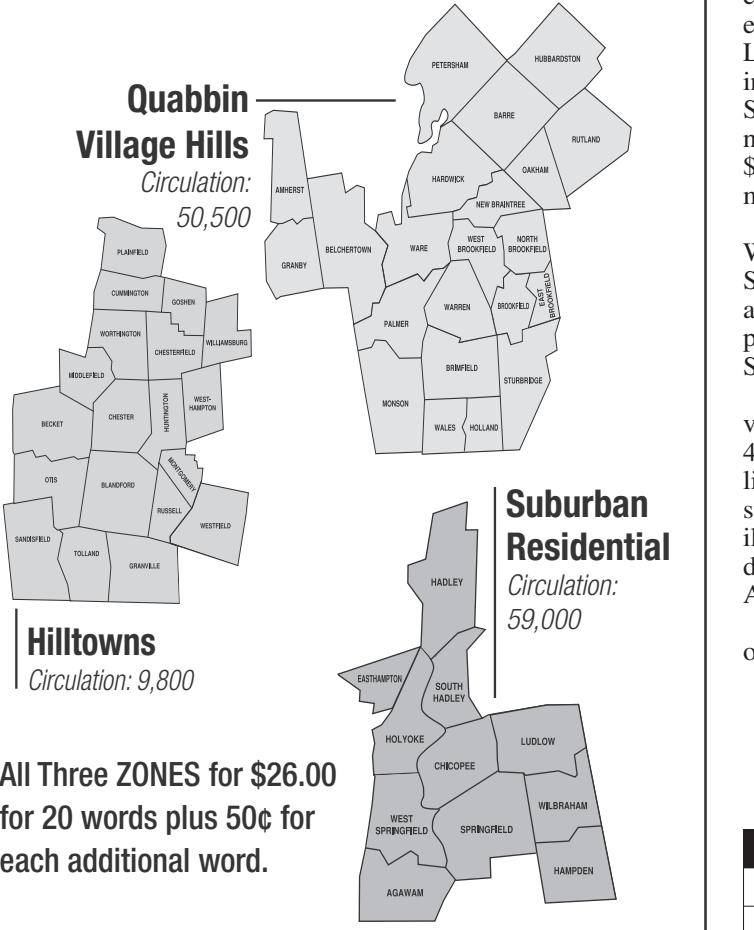
The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission.

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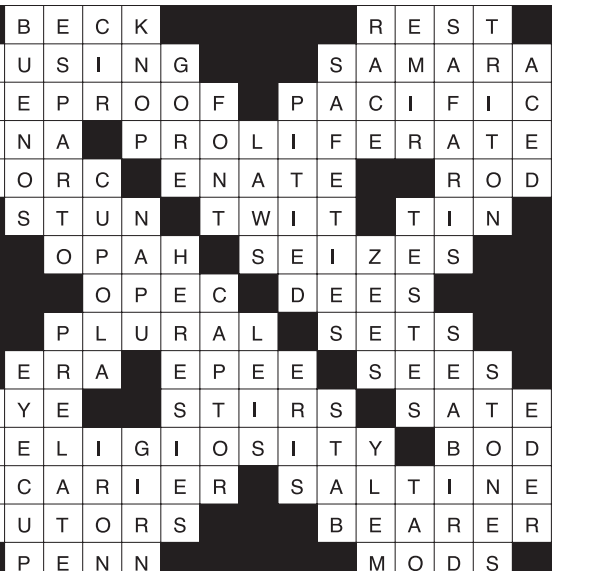


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AAA offers tips to avoid winter damage

WESTWOOD – With temperatures expected to dip into the single digits this week, homeowners across the Northeast might be worried about the potential for winter-related damage to their properties and rightly so.

In 2022 alone, cold weather and winter storms caused nearly \$6 billion in insured losses in the United States, according to the Insurance Information Institute. The most common types of insurance claims related to severe winter weather include frozen pipes, ice dams building up along roof edges, damage from falling trees and limbs

and even house fires.

Fortunately, a few preventive measures can reduce the risk of a winter catastrophe, starting with a review of their existing homeowners insurance policy to ensure any potential disaster is covered. Water damage from a leaking pipe or an ice dam that sends water through the roof may be covered by a typical homeowners policy. But flooding caused by other events, such as rapid snow melt, may require a separate flood insurance policy.

“Winter storms are not typically thought of as natural disasters, but they can cause significant

damage in the Northeast,” said Greg Smolan, vice president of insurance operations for AAA Northeast. “Taking preventive measures will help minimize the risk associated with winter weather.”

AAA Insurance recommends that all homeowners take these steps to effectively winterize their homes for safety and to avoid costly repairs:

Clear gutters and downspouts of debris to allow melting snow and ice to flow freely. To help prevent ice dams from forming, keep the attic well-ventilated and the attic floor well-insulated. Heat tape may

also help prevent ice buildup and can facilitate melting.

To prevent pipes from freezing and bursting, insulate exposed pipes, seal cracks in outside walls near pipes, keep cabinet doors on exterior walls open and keep a slow trickle of water flowing through unprotected pipes during cold spells.

Know the location of the main water shutoff valve. If pipes freeze, the faster you shut off the water, the better chance you have of preventing them from bursting and causing major damage.

Ensure the heating system is

up to snuff by having the furnace, boiler or chimney serviced at least once a year. Be sure to have ducts, vents and filters inspected.

Check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Residential fires and carbon monoxide poisonings increase in the winter as people rely on indoor fires and heating systems. Detectors should be checked at least twice a year.

Follow all safety guidelines when using supplemental space heaters to prevent electrical fires or fires caused by the placement of heaters too close to flammable materials.

Trim trees and remove dead branches. Ice, snow, wind and rain can cause weak trees and tree limbs to fall and damage car or home or fall on people walking on or near your property. Clear your driveway and walkway of snow as soon as possible to prevent slips and falls.

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