

# BARRE GAZETTE

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## Veterans Agent to resign after 19 years

By Ellenor Downer  
Editor  
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BARRE – Veterans Agent Tony Musnicki tendered his resignation as Veterans Agent after 19 years of service.

He attended the Tuesday, Jan. 16 meeting as well as submitting his letter of resignation. He left his date of resignation open ended as he said he would continue as Veterans Agent until a replacement was found. He also said he would be working with Town Administrator Tammy Martin in finding a suitable new agent.

Select Board Chair Maureen Marshall said he had always been there for the town's veterans. She thanked him for working with the Select Board and Town Administrator to find a replacement. The Board thanked him for his service.

### New plows

The town received invoices to fit the two new Highway Department pickup trucks with plows. The total cost was \$16,150. Select Board Chair Marshall said in past practices this cost would come from the Snow and Ice account.

The new Town Administrator said the Snow and Ice account funds were not for capital expenses, but could cover cost to repair an existing plow damaged while removing snow and ice. The Town Administrator checked with the Department of Revenue and they concurred.

Chair Marshall recommended using American Recovery Plan Act funds to cover the \$16,150. She said the town owes these invoices and using ARPA money would not impact the already tight town budgets.

Select Board Vice Chair John Dixon said the town could hold a Special Town Meeting to fund the cost. He said a STM cost money and there was no guarantee voters would approve it.

Select Board Member Mark Regienus said the plows were already on the two trucks. He said he opposed using ARPA funds for this. He also asked if the trucks and the plows with fittings followed proper bidding procedures. Chair Marshall thought the trucks came from the State Bid List.

The Board approved the use of \$16,150 from ARPA to pay for the new plows and fitting to the trucks by 2 to 1 with Select Board Member Regienus opposed.

### Sole Procurement Officer

Chair Marshall said she was going to propose at their February meeting to authorize Town Administrator Tammy Martin as Sole Procurement Officer to make sure proper procurement regulations are followed. She will also address the issue of procurement at the next Department of Public Works meeting.

### Trail crossing warning signs

A spokesman for the Ware River Watershed Advisory said the town of Hubbardston was seeking a grant for a warning sign for the trail crossing on Williamsville Road. Select Board Chair Maureen Marshall recommended they also apply for funds from the Barre Savings Charitable Foundation. She said the application was available by visiting their website and easy to fill out.

He also mentioned a trail crossing sign on Route 62 in Barre. Both Select Board Members Dixon and Regienus suggested looking into a Mass. Trails Grant

See BARRE, page 5

## Author shares her love for family through a sash

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
Staff Writer  
epappas@turley.com

HARDWICK – Everyone has a unique family history that sets them apart from those around them, and it is worth looking into and can even reveal a thing or two about yourself.

Barre author Paula Grandpre Wood is one such person with a fascinating and wonderful story and family history that she developed a desire to share with the world. She shared her story at the Town House this past Saturday, sponsored by the Paige Memorial Library.

Her book, "The Long Walk Home with the Ceinture Fléchée: The Arrow Sash", shares the story of her family through the passing of a beloved sash.

"I never thought I'd write a book," Grandpre Wood said. "And the journey still continues."

This is her story – her family's story – and how it impacted her faith.

Her family history traces back to a little city on the western coast of France, La Rochelle. Her eight-times great-grandfather moved the family to the "New France" which was the region of Canada known today as Montreal.

New France required that

See SASH page 5



Turley Photo by Emily-Rose Pappas

Author Paula Grandpre Wood holds her masterpiece memoir "The Long Walk Home with the Ceinture Fléchée: The Arrow Sash" which shares the story of her family through the passing of a beloved sash.

## Select Board approves renewal of Class II license

By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – Brian Gillespie of Affordable Cars, located at 2089 Greenwich Road, appeared before the Select Board in order to reconsider a decision to delay renewing the business's Class II license.

At the Jan. 22 meeting, Town Administrator Nicole Parker said the Select Board had issued a one month Class II license extension for Affordable Car as a courtesy, as the license holder was not present to defend his position

during the renewal process.

"This was another courtesy to the applicant for them to come in and give their explanation on why they should have the annual license," she said.

Select Board Vice-Chair Kelly Kemp said her concern is the complaints the board has received from abutters about the property.

Gillespie said he has passed all inspections, and there has been no revocation hearing regarding his license. He questioned the validity of delaying the renewal and only issuing a 30-day extension.

He said people from the public were allowed to speak about his business during the renewal hearing, which should only be permitted during a revocation hearing.

"My concern is about being a good neighbor, and maybe just trying to rectify some of the concerns as a business owner," she said to Gillespie.

Select Board Chair Eric Vollheim said the number of vehicles on the property is another concern the Select Board has.

Vollheim questioned if there were two businesses operating on the same property, and if both

had received a special permit. Gillespie said his special permit covers both businesses.

"Everything was done legally," he said.

The second business on the property is Gillespie Car Care, and it offers towing services. He said there are seven cars on the Gillespie Car Care side and about 15 on the Affordable Car side.

Gillespie said the State Police have inspected his property multiple times and it has always passed.

See HARDWICK, page 6

## Voters speed through STM

By Ellenor Downer  
Editor  
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OAKHAM – Voters in Oakham made short order of an 18 article warrant at the Special Town Meeting on Monday, Jan. 22 held in the Fire Station.

Before the start of the meeting, there were two elections held – Temporary Town Clerk and Moderator. Since the town now has an Interim Town Clerk, Select Board member Aaron Langlois nominated Edna Holloway, who serves as Interim Town Clerk, to act as Temporary Town Clerk at this meeting. Since there were no other nominations, the 45 registered voters attending approved a motion for the Chairman of the Select Board Don Haapakoski to cast one ballot for Holloway.

The Moderator, Dennis Bergin, was not present. Select Board member Langlois nominated Timothy Howe to serve as Temporary Moderator. Since there were no other nominations, voters approved a motion for the Select Board Chairman Haapakoski to cast one ballot for Howe.

Acting Moderator Howe opened the meeting at 7:06 p.m. Voters unanimously approved all 18 articles with no discussion. The meeting adjourned 15 minutes later at 7:21 p.m.

Finance Committee Chair Alan Flagg said the committee met and voted to recommend all articles with financial impact to the town. The only article not money related was Article 13.

There first three articles approved were a transfer of \$6,000 from free cash to und the Assessors Stabilization account, the transfer of \$5,000 for the Parks and Recreation Department to maintain Wright Field and the Town Common to the Parks and Recreation account and the amending of the FY 24 budget by transferring from the Treasurer's Unemployment Account \$1,611.52 to the Board of Assessors Wages account.

Voters approved Article 4, the transfer \$16,000 from Public Education and Government Cable Access Fund to maintain the

See OAKHAM, page 6

## Construction of the Winsor Dam

### DCR explores creation of Quabbin Reservoir's impoundments

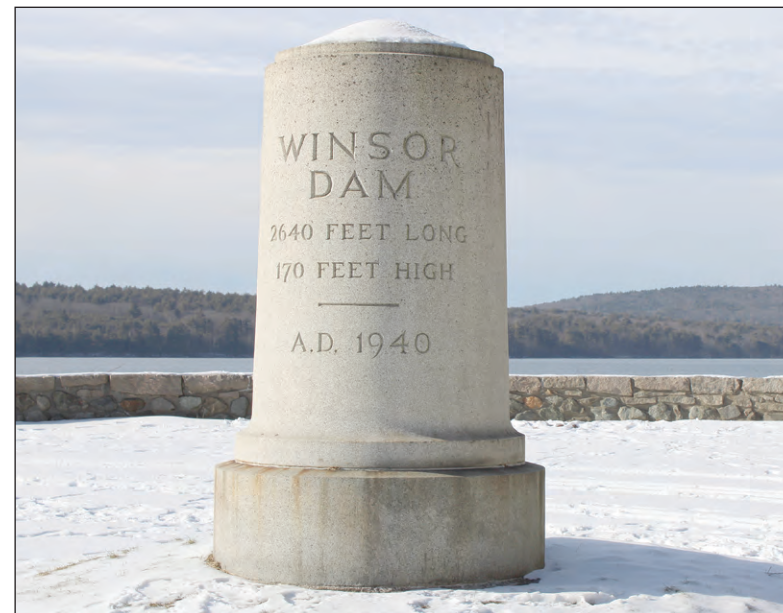
By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – This past weekend, the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Interpretive Services Supervisor at the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, Maria Beiter-Tucker, led the first of this year's Sunday presentations, continuing a long tradition of providing informative and educational programs about the Quabbin Reservoir and its watershed.

With the visitor center located at one end of the 2,640 foot Winsor Dam, the main impoundment structure of the Quabbin Reservoir, this earthen structure and its secondary impoundment structure, the Goodnough Dike, were the focus of Beiter-Tucker's presentation.

The creation of the dam and the dike in the Swift River Valley was an engineering feat accomplished solely by brainpower, paper and pencil, Beiter-Tucker said, at the time construction started in 1927.

"This valley has remarkable



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

This marker is located at one end of the Winsor Dam, which spans 2,640 feet and is 170 feet high. This dam is the primary impoundment structure for the Quabbin Reservoir.

topography," Beiter-Tucker said, something that appealed to engineers.

The Swift River Valley had been considered an ideal location to construct a reservoir in order to meet Boston's drinking water needs; dating as far back as 1895 when it was noted in a Board of Health report. But it wasn't until 1926/1927 that legislature passed the Ware River and Swift River

acts, and work began to create the 412 billion gallon reservoir.

With the Ware River Watershed and the Wachusett Reservoir, the Quabbin Reservoir provides the drinking water supply for 43% of people in the commonwealth.

Quabbin Reservoir is the largest piece of the water supply system, Beiter-Tucker said.



A roadway passes over the top of Winsor Dam. Although it is no longer open to public vehicles, walkers and bicyclists are welcome to explore the massive structure.

say for this area," she said, with the disincorporation of four towns: Enfield, Greenfield, Dana and Prescott.

Beiter-Tucker said it took 11 years to move residents out of the valley, and relocate 7,000 known graves (which are now interred in the Quabbin Park Cemetery).

"It was a long slow process," she said.

Structures were also removed,

leaving only stone walls, foundations and roads behind. In total, the construction of the Quabbin Reservoir cleared about 80,000 acres.

### Creating the impoundments

To create the reservoir itself, the engineers wanted to close off where the Swift River exited the valley, Beiter-Tucker said. The

See WINSOR DAM, page 8



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# News of the Towns



## Round Town

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### Easter Star to hold pancake breakfast

Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will hold a Designer Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 3 from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Masonic Hall, 71 Pleasant St..

Cost is \$9 per adult and \$5 for children 10 and under. People can create their own pancake. Complete breakfast choices include designer pancakes, waffles, sausage gravy with biscuits, bacon, sausage links, coffee and juice. All are welcome.

### Make a Valentine Flower Arranging Demonstration

Preschool, school age and teens can come anytime during open library hours and create a Valentine on Friday, Feb. 9, using supplies from the Valentine's Day station, at the Woods Memorial Library, located in the Children's Room.

### Nomination papers

Nomination papers for the Annual Town Election on April 1 are available at the Town Clerk's Office, 40 West St., for any registered voter wishing to take out papers for any of the available seats.

The last day and time to take out nomination papers will be on Wednesday, Feb. 7 at 5 p.m.

All Nomination Papers must be returned to the Town Clerk's Office for certification of signatures by the Board of Registrars no later than Monday, Feb. 12 at 5 p.m. The last day to register to vote in this election will be on Friday, March 22 at 5 p.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. 29. 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** — Ranch chicken, lemon seasoned potatoes, mixed vegetables, Rice Krispie treat, Italian bread

**TUESDAY** — Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, herbed carrots, vanilla mousse, marble rye bread

**WEDNESDAY** — Beef stew, rice, green beans, pineapple, pumpernickel bread

**THURSDAY** — Lasagna and meatballs, marinara sauce, green beans, fresh fruit, Italian bread

**FRIDAY** — Barbecue pork rib-i-que, Mac 'n cheese, mixed vegetables, fruited ambrosia, sandwich roll

\*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.

## St. Francis of Assisi Parish sponsors course

BARRE — The parish of St. Francis of Assisi announces they will be sponsoring a five-week course starting in February.

Joseph Krans will present Living with Real Presence by S. James Meyer — Living the Way — Living with Real Presence — Eucharist as an Approach to Life. The Eucharist is about life, love and relationship. Living with Real Presence, reminds us that our lives, Christ's life and all lives are united in a sacred communion with our Creator and creation.

People may participate in this five-week course starting in February on Tuesday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Church, 398 Vernon Avenue, South Barre. The dates are Feb. 13, 20, 27 and March 12 and 19. We will meet in the church after Adoration. Meyer's book Living with Real Presence will be provided. People may register by calling Joseph Krans at 508-867-8881. For more information, people may email joseph.krans.presence-work@gmail.com.

## Barre High Class of 1958 celebrates 65th reunion



Submitted photo

BARRE — The Barre High School Class of 1958 held their 65th class reunion at Hartman's Herb Farm and had a wonderful afternoon. Members of Barre High School Class of 1958 are shown front row from left, Irene (Higgins)Stevens, Diana (Gulino) Clark, Julianne (Mansueti) Rabschnuk, Virginia (Beckwith) Fanning and Urban Pacheco and back row from left, Mike Hudson, Reid Dahart, Barbara (Puchalsky) Narcisi, Peggy (Kukas) Pollack, Barbara Finan and David McQueston. Missing from photo is Richard Clark.

## Library receives Barre Savings Bank Charitable support



Submitted photo

Shown from left, Joe Hood, Library Director, Elizabeth Martin, Steve Morrall, Kate Lathrop, Ann Meilus, Stacey Skerry, Sue Morrall, and Charitable Foundation board member Maureen Marshall delivers the check.

BARRE — On Wednesday, Jan. 17, Steve Brewer and Maureen Marshall attended the Barre Library Association Board of Directors meeting to

deliver a check for \$5,000. The BLA had applied for a grant to help with foundation repairs at the library.

The work should be done by

this summer. The Barre Savings Bank Charitable Foundation supports many organizations in Barre with generous grants for all sorts of worthy projects.

## Town Clerk lists town election information

BARRE — Town Clerk Ellen Glidden announces last day to take out nomination papers is Thursdays, Feb. 8 at 5 p.m.

The last day to return papers is Monday, Feb. 12 at 5 p.m. The Town Clerk's Office will be open on Feb. 8 and Feb. 12 until 5 p.m. The last day and time for candidates to withdraw their name from the ballot is Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 5 p.m.

As of Monday, Jan. 22, the following candidates took out nomination papers: Maureen M. Marshall, Select Board for three-years and candidate for

re-election; Michael B. Radesky, Board of Health for three-years, candidate for re-election and nomination papers returned; John J. Chase, Sewer Commissioner for three years and candidate for re-election; David A. Deschamps, Library Trustee for three-years and candidate for re-election and Cherie E. Benoit, Library Trustee for three-years and candidate for re-election - votes elect two Library Trustees; Karen Keegan, Planning Board for one-year; Edward Floyd Kelley, Planning Board for five-years and can-

didate for re-election; Michael A. LaRose, Planning Board Associate Member for one-year and two positions for Quabbin Regional School District three years— Stanley John Wolanin, candidate for re-election and David A. Deschamps, candidate for re-election.

To date, no one took out nomination papers for the following positions: Board of Assessors for three-years, Water Commissioner for three-years, Felton Filed Commissioner for three-years and Library Trustee for two years.

## Paige Memorial Library lists upcoming event

HARDWICK — The beginning of 2024 is a good time to look back at family histories and memories. People are invited to register to join a group to write and share stories of their family and perhaps search their family tree at the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road.

The program, entitled "History: Preserving Memories and Family Stories" will meet monthly on Tuesdays at 2 p.m. or 6 p.m., whichever works best for the participants.

People should either email the Paige Library for more information to director.paigelibrary@

gmail.com or call 413-477-6704. We are offering monthly meetings at 2:00 pm on Tuesdays or 6:00 pm on Tuesdays.

The Paige Memorial Library is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-7 p.m., Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

## Hubbardston

Ellenor Downer  
edowner@turley.com



### Community discussion set for Feb. 5

On Monday, Feb. 5 at 6:30 p.m. a community discussion will be held to provide input on the priorities and agenda for the Hubbardston Legislative Delegation this term. State Senator Peter Durant and state Representative Donnie Berthiaume will be present to hear directly from Hubbardston residents. This event will take place during the Select Board meeting at the Slade Building, 7 Main St.. Both in-person and hybrid/virtual attendance options will be available. If people plan to attend in person, they should email admin@hubbardstonma.us to ensure proper seating arrangements. This is a prime opportunity or residents to make their voice heard and impact the key issues the legislators will address on behalf of Hubbardston this term.

### Facilities issue

Due to a facilities issue, the Town Clerk's Office, Assessor's Office, and Land Use Office will be temporarily closed until further notice effective immediately. Although the physical offices will be closed, staff will still be available via email to assist with resident needs: Town Clerk/Assessor email: tclerk@hubbardstonma.us; Building Inspector/Health Agent email: inspect@hubbardstonma.us and Conservation/ Planning email: Plan@hubbardstonma.us. If people have an urgent need, they may email the Town Administrator at admin@hubbardstonma.us or call 978-928-1400 extension 200.

### Dog licenses

2024 Dog License applications are due by Sunday, March 31. Dog owners may fill out the application and return by mail with a check, pay in the office with cash/check or pay online

### Frozen Assets

Frozen Assets is back. The deadline for submissions is Thursday, Feb 1. This event supports local businesses and raise money for the Special Events Fund to support future town events. People may pick up Frozen Assets forms at the following locations in town: Stars & Stripes Diner, Giacomo's Gourmet Foods, Hubbardston Pizza Palace, Plain View Farm and the Country Trail. There is a suggested donation of \$20 per form, but any and all donations are appreciated.

With the form, participants guess when the outhouse on the ice at The Country Hen Pond, 5 Williamsville Road will fall through the ice. Prizes include a \$300 gift card for the closest guess, \$150 gift card for second place, \$75 gift card for third place and one flat of eggs for eight weeks courtesy of The Country Hen for fourth place.

### Senior center events

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.

## The Center at Eagle Hill hosts Appalachian photography exhibit

HARDWICK — The Center at Eagle Hill is hosting photographer Vern McClish's Appalachian Exhibition, featuring 50 powerful images.

The exhibition specifically focuses on the Southeast Ohio Appalachian coal region, with images and text highlighting the people of this region of Appalachia.

McClish's lens captures the essence of Appalachia, presenting a visual narrative of the individuals and families who worked tirelessly in the coal mines, contributing significantly to America's insatiable need for energy.

Beyond the physical toll, the region has grappled with the ravages of poverty, family strife, and the devastating impact of the opioid crisis. Many of McClish's images are accompanied in this exhibition by written descriptions of the moment the image was captured.

The exhibition serves as a testament to the unwavering determination and commitment of those who have called Appalachia home.

The exhibit "Ode to a Forgotten People and Place: Faces and Families of Ohio's Appalachia 1971-1974" will run from January to March 2024, at The Center at Eagle Hill. There will be an opening reception, free and open to the public, on Saturday, Feb. 10 from 4-6 p.m.

For additional viewing hours, please contact The Center at Eagle Hill by calling 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 www.thecenterateaglehill.org.

The Center at Eagle Hill is located at 242 Old Petersham Road.

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**Barre Gazette**

# News of the Towns

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

### BARRE

School Committee Professional Development – Jan. 25 from 6-8 p.m.  
 250th Anniversary Committee – Jan. 30 at 6:30 p.m.  
 9/11 Memorial Development Committee – Jan. 31 at 5 p.m.  
 Select Board – Feb. 5 at 6 p.m.  
 Board of Assessors – Feb. 6 at 6 p.m.  
 Felton Field Commission – Feb. 6 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Feb. 6 and Feb. 20 at 7 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – Feb. 7 at 1 p.m.  
 Barre Housing Authority – Feb. 8 at 3 p.m.  
 Board of Health – Feb. 12 at 5 p.m.  
 Water Commission – Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m.  
 DPW Commission – Feb. 12 at 7 p.m.  
 Cable Advisory Committee – Feb. 13 at 7 p.m.  
 Library Trustees – Feb. 14 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Sewer Commission – Feb. 15 at 7 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Feb. 20 at 7 p.m.  
 Conservation Committee – Feb. 27 at 7 p.m.  
 Primary Election Day – March 5 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.  
 Town Election Day – April 17 a.m.-8 p.m.

### HARDWICK

Planning Board – Jan. 30 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Board of Health – Feb. 1 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Paige Library Trustees – Feb. 1 at 7 p.m.  
 Master Plan Steering Committee – Feb. 6 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Recycling Commission – Feb. 6 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Capital Planning Committee – Feb. 12 at 3 p.m.  
 Board of Selectmen – Feb. 12 and Feb. 26 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Hardwick New Braintree Cultural Council – Feb. 12, March 11, May 13, June 10 and July 8 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Board of Selectmen – Feb. 12 and Feb. 26 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – Feb. 14 at 9 a.m.  
 Gilbertville Public Library – Feb. 14 at 4 p.m.  
 Gilbertville Water District – Feb. 20 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Zoning Board of Appeals – Feb. 21 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Conservation Commission – Feb. 21 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Board of Registrars – Feb. 24 at 9 a.m.  
 Capital Planning Committee – March 18 at 3 p.m.

### HUBBARDSTON

Capital Improvement Planning Committee – Jan. 25 at 4:30 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Jan. 25 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Open Space Committee – Jan. 25 at 7 p.m.  
 Community Preservation Committee – Jan. 30 at 7 p.m.

### NORTH BROOKFIELD

Board of Selectmen – Jan. 30, Feb. 13 and 27 at 6 p.m.  
 ARPA Committee – Jan. 31 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Feb. 21 at 6 p.m.

### OAKHAM

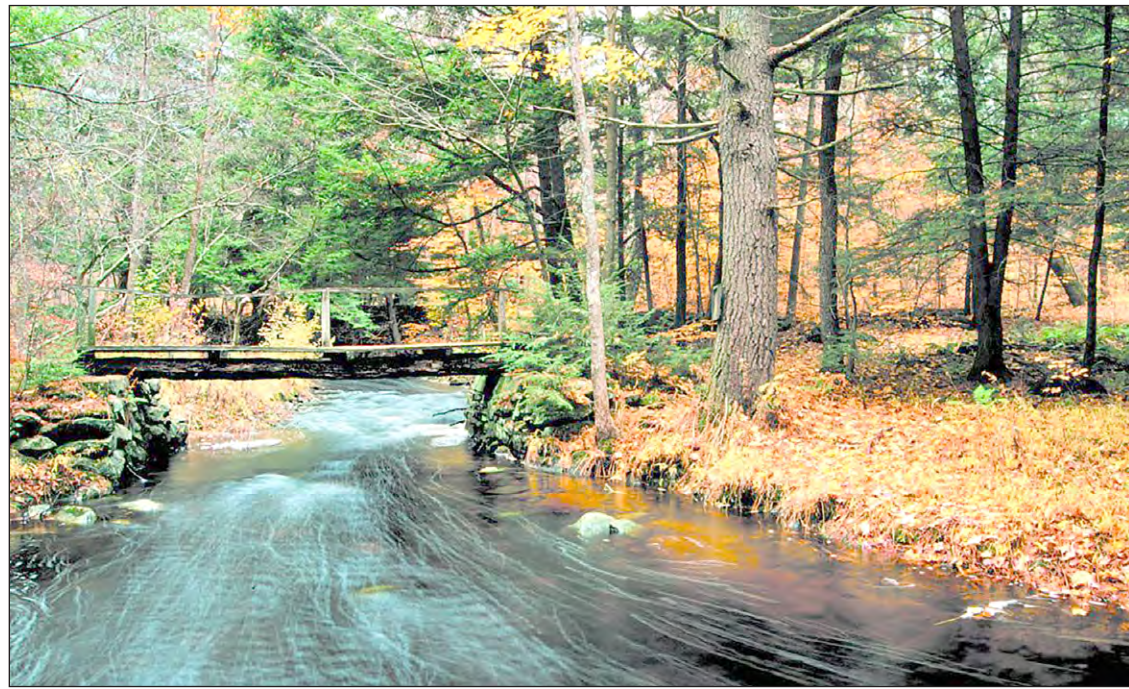
Select Board – Feb. 5 and Feb. 20 at 6 p.m.

### PETERSHAM

Select Board – Jan. 25 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Planning Board – Jan. 25 at 7 p.m.  
 Core Planning Team – Jan. 29, Feb. 5, Feb. 12, Feb. 19 and Feb. 26 at 1:30 p.m.  
 Board of Health – Feb. 1 at 6 p.m.  
 Open Space and Recreation Committee – Feb. 3 and Feb. 6 at 6 p.m.  
 Board of Assessors – Feb. 6 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Conservation Commission – Feb. 6 at 7 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – Feb. 12 at 10 a.m.  
 Cemetery Commission – Feb. 13 at 10 a.m.  
 Petersham Historic District – Feb. 15 at 6 p.m.

### RUTLAND

General and Zoning By-Law Proposed Amendments Public Information Sessions – Jan. 28, Feb. 4 and Feb. 11 from 1-4 p.m.  
 Select Board Public Information Session – Jan. 28 1-4 p.m.  
 Ad Hoc By-Law Committee – Jan. 30 at 1 p.m.  
 Special Winter Town Meeting – Feb. 15 at 6 p.m.



Courtesy photo by M. Arduser

This is the Brooks Woodland Preserve in Petersham.

## Petersham OSRP hosts public forum Feb. 3

PETERSHAM – Petersham is about to make good on a New Year's resolution.

Residents are invited to a Public Forum in Lower Town Hall, 3 South Main St. on Saturday, Feb. 3 from 2-4 p.m. to discuss the community's goals for the town's update of its Open Space and Recreation Plan. The public will also be able to attend the forum remotely.

Anne Cavanaugh, Chair of Petersham's Open Space and Recreation Committee, said "Our Committee is excited about the forum because it's when residents get to meet our planning consultants, a team of three graduate students from the Conway School, who are updating the Town's OSRP, including all the chapters, maps, and illustrations required by the state. With their help, our community will be ready to assess our landscape within the context of climate change and make recommendations for needed open space and new recreational opportunities."

In November, 2023 the MA Executive Office of Energy and

Environmental Affairs awarded the town of Petersham a \$20,000 Planning Assistance Grant to help update its OSRP. "We're grateful to EEA for the grant and to the town Select board, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, East Quabbin Land Trust, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust and Harvard Forest for supporting our application," said Cavanaugh. "The grant makes it possible for us to contract with the Conway School of Landscape Design in Northampton and benefit from their students' talents and work and the school's professional community design and planning services," she added.

Each January, the Conway School's graduate students begin work with six nonprofits and municipalities on real-world community planning projects with a focus on ecological and social sustainability. Completed community projects offer thoughtful, long-term solutions to communities and municipalities that address community needs in consideration of ecolog-

ical impacts and long-term resilience. Partners come away with plans that are holistic, grounded in the realities of the client communities and feasible within the scope presented (see [csls.edu/real-projects/project-list/](http://csls.edu/real-projects/project-list/)).

Public input is the most important part of updating the OSRP and at the heart of the Conway School's work is a commitment to careful listening and collaboration. Recently, Petersham's Open Space and Recreation Committee conducted a public survey that prompted 209 responses, which were summarized and posted on the town's website. People may visit [https://townofpetersham.weebly.com/uploads/2/7/5/3/27531945/petershamosrp\\_survey\\_data\\_all\\_final\\_231220.pdf](https://townofpetersham.weebly.com/uploads/2/7/5/3/27531945/petershamosrp_survey_data_all_final_231220.pdf). The responses were shared with the Conway School for further analysis. The survey responses will help serve as a starting point for the forum on Saturday, Feb. 3. For more information, people may email the Open Space and Recreation Committee at [petershamosrp@gmail.com](mailto:petershamosrp@gmail.com).

## Petersham Art Center plans three classes

PETERSHAM – Three free sessions of art and craft are available in Petersham, through a grant from New Salem Academy and the sponsorship of the Petersham Art Center.

All three classes will be held at the Petersham Center School in the cafeteria. The classes are Learn the art of Stenciling, folding Swedish Stars and Quilling designs for cards, all in time for Valentine's Day.

On Wednesday, Jan. 24 from 3-4:30 p.m. participants will learn to stencil on fabric and take home a stenciled pillowcase.

On Wednesday, Jan. 31 from 3-4:30 p.m. participants will learn the art of folding Swedish Stars for a great ornament or window-hanging decoration.

On Wednesday, Feb. 7 from 3-4:30 p.m. participants will learn quilling, the art of curling paper into beautiful designs to make special greeting cards.



Submitted photo

The class on Wednesday, Jan. 31 will teach the art of folding Swedish Stars.

Everyone will go home with a card and envelope they've made.

The instructors are Chris Eaton and Heidi Strickland, both talented crafting artists, from the

Petersham Art Center. To register and to have any questions answered, people may email Chris at [chrisoutdoors71@gmail.com](mailto:chrisoutdoors71@gmail.com).

## Soup's on at the North Brookfield Senior Center

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Friends of the North Brookfield Council on Aging are sponsoring their Annual Soup-er Bowl to benefit the center's food program on Saturday, Feb. 10.

Local restaurants are generously donating homemade soups. Friends will put these soups into containers and offer them to you for only a \$6 per pint donation.

The Friends are grateful to these cooks/chefs and their restaurants for participating: 308 Lakeside, East Brookfield – Butternut Bisque; Charlie's Diner, Spencer – Clam Chowder; The Clam Box, Brookfield – Clam Chowder; E. B. Flatts, East

Brookfield – Chili; Kosta's Cafe, Spencer – Chicken and Rice Soup; Mason's Grille, Warren – Vegetable Soup; Panda Garden 2, East Brookfield – Wonton Soup; Salem Cross Inn, West Brookfield – Seafood Chowder; Sandy McGinty, Volunteer Cook at North Brookfield Senior Center – Stuffed Pepper Soup; Spencer Subway – Broccoli Cheddar Soup; Yamato Asian Bistro, Spencer – Egg Drop Soup and Yamato Asian Bistro, Spencer – Clear (Hibachi) Broth

To order, call or text Sandy at 774-298-7090, Monday through Friday from noon-6 p.m. Sandy will reserve your order from an

extensive selection but limited quantity of delicious soups.

The earlier you call, the more likely you will be able to obtain your favorites before supplies run out, as they did last year.

Stop by the Senior Center at 29 Forest St. with your \$6 per pint donation between noon-2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 10. Your pre-packaged and refrigerated soups will be ready for easy pickup.

What better way to celebrate football Sunday than by enjoying delicious homemade soups and helping the community's seniors at the same time? The Friends hope to see you there.

## St. Aloysius Catholic School to hold open house on Jan. 29

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School is hosting an open house at the school located at 52 Church St., in Gilbertville, on Monday, Jan. 29 from 3-5:30 p.m.

Prospective parents are cordially invited to visit the classrooms and meet the faculty of this growing school. The 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 website, [www.staloyusiuscs.com](http://www.staloyusiuscs.com), under the "Join our Family" tab.



**Oakham**  
 Ellenor Downer  
 edowner@turley.com

### COA to hold health fair

A Health Fair sponsored by the Oakham Council on Aging will be held Wednesday, Feb. 14 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road. There will be a Life Coach, Medicare/Medicaid guidance, a Caregiver's Guide, Massage Therapy, Reiki and other energy treatments. There will also be a public health nurse, yoga instructor, dietitian, Oakham Board of Health and fire officials, Ayurveda and much more. Refreshments will be available. All are welcome.

### Dog licenses

Dog licenses are due by Sunday, March 31. All dogs six months of age or older must be licensed each year. In order to license a dog the following items must be presented to the Town Clerk, a copy of a valid rabies certificate, a spayed/neutered certificate if applicable for first time licensing the dog and a check made out to the Town of Oakham for the correct amount. No cash will be accepted. The license fee is \$11 for a male or female and \$7 for a neutered or spayed dog. People may mail the information and check to Town Clerk, 2 Coldbrook Road, Unit 4, Oakham, MA 01068 and include a stamped self-addressed stamped envelope. The information also may be dropped off at the Oakham Town Hal blue box located to the left of the Town Hall's side entrance. Town Clerk office hours are Monday from 6:15-7:30 p.m. and Fridays 10 a.m.-noon.

### Read and play

The Fobes Memorial Library, 4 Maple St. hosts Read and Play on Wednesday, Jan. 31 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. for ages birth to five. Children will hear stories and rhymes and sing songs as well as an activity and playtime. No registration is required.

### Senior center activities

Ongoing activities include Zumba Gold Monday from 10:30-11:15 a.m., Wii Bowling Tuesdays: from 10-11 a.m., cards and cribbage on Tuesdays beginning at 1 p.m., coffee Wednesdays and social hour from 9-11:45 a.m. and BBC Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. which includes crafts and BBC miniseries. FUNctional Fitness Fridays is held at 10:30 a.m. in the New Braintree Town Hall, Memorial Drive, New Braintree.

### Meal site

Elder Services of Worcester effective the first of January increased the suggested donation for meals served at the Back Door Cafe from \$2.50 to \$3 per meal.

## Nomination papers available for May 4 election

HARDWICK – Nomination papers for the May 4 annual town election are now available.

The last day to obtain and submit nomination papers to the Board of Registrars for certification is Friday, March 15 by 5 p.m.; the last day to file nomination papers with the Town Clerk is Friday, March 29 by 5 p.m.; the last day to object or withdraw nomination papers is Tuesday, April 2, by 5 p.m.; the last day to register voters for the annual town election is Wednesday, April 24 by 5 p.m.; and the last day to apply to vote by mail is Monday, April 29 by 5 p.m.

### Voter registration

Voter registration is available at the Myron E. Richardson Building, 307 Main St. on Wednesday, April 24 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. This is the last day and hour to register voters who wish to vote at the annual town election. Mail-in voter registrations will be accepted if postmarked no later than the April 24 deadline.

### Financial statements

Financial statements must be filed by all candidates for election by the following dates even if the candidate has no financial activity to report: pre-election report, eight days prior to election, Friday, April 26; and post-election report, 30 days after election, Monday, June 3.

### Offices for election

Offices up for election and those currently holding office are as follows: Selectman, H. Robert Ruggles, three-year term; Assessor, Kathryn W. Hosley, three-year term; Board of Health, Judith Berg Kohn, three-year term; Paige Agricultural Fund Trustee, Halley T. Stillman, five-year term; Paige Memorial Library Trustee (three positions), Christopher M. Buelow, three-year term, Jennifer E. Garvey, three-year term, unexpired term, one-year term; K-12 Quabbin Regional School Committee Member, Kristyl B. Kelly, three-year term; Planning Board (two positions), Erik L. Fleming, three-year term; and William R. Cole, three-year term.

## Editorial deadline reminder

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

## 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](mailto: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.

*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



### How can I get details about my Social Security payment?

Dear Rusty  
How do I find the actual breakdown of the Medicare insurance that I have auto deducted and my actual Social Security payment?

I was just looking at a video which explained the 3% Cost of Living Adjustment we will be receiving this year and it compared the current payout to the new payout. There seems to be a big difference in what I am getting and what they said in the video. Currently my Social Security payments are \$1,431. My Medicare insurance is supposed to be \$165, which means my total Social Security is about \$1,596. On the video it said all retired workers are getting \$1,848 with the new increase to take it to \$1,938. There are a couple hundred dollars there that I seem to be missing out on. Can you help me understand that difference?

Signed: Confused Senior

Dear Confused Senior

What you're asking for is an itemized breakout of your gross Social Security benefit, any deductions being taken therefrom (e.g., your Medicare Part B premium), the amount of your COLA increase and your net Social Security payment for 2024. If that is the case, the best way to get this detail is in your personal "my Social Security" online account, which provides all the information mentioned.

You can access your online account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount), and if you don't already have that online account set up, you'll need to first establish your online access credentials. Instructions for how to do that will be at that website.

I'm not sure which video you watched, but "all retired workers" do not get \$1,848 or \$1,938. Everyone's Social Security benefit is different, based on their lifetime earnings record and the age at which they claimed benefits. The numbers you heard in the video were likely average Social Security payments, not the actual amount you should personally be receiving. Here's how it works:

Your personal benefit is based on your Primary Insurance Amount, which is the amount you get if you claim for your benefits to start at your Full Retirement Age, which is somewhere between 66 and 67 depending on the year you were born. Claim before your FRA your benefit is permanently reduced; claim after your FRA it is higher.

Your personal maximum benefit is achieved if you claim at age 70. The Medicare Part B premium (for outpatient healthcare services) is automatically deducted from your Social Security payment. Although the standard 2023 Part B premium was \$164.90, the standard 2024 Part B premium is \$174.70.

You may also have other things, e.g. income tax, withheld from your monthly Social Security payment. The annual Cost of Living Adjustment for 2024 is 3.2%. That means your gross Social Security benefit goes up by that percentage starting in 2024.

But there was also a \$9.80 increase in your Medicare Part B premium starting in 2024, which means that you won't see all of the COLA increase in your Social Security payment. Since your Medicare premium is deducted from your Social Security, that Medicare increase will also be taken from your SS payment, so you won't see the full 3.2% COLA increase in your 2024 Social Security payment.

To see all of this detail for you personally, I suggest you access your online "my Social Security" account as described above. As an alternative, you can also call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 and request a Benefit Verification Letter which will include all the information you seek about your Social Security payment.

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

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Local Newspapers are **IMPORTANT** Any Way You Look At It

### SIGNS THAT YOU MAY HAVE FROZEN PLUMBING...



## In Past Pages

5 years (Jan. 31, 2019)

It was night of coming together in celebration as the Friends of the Stone Church welcomed over 80 guests to their Belfry Ball last Saturday evening at Hartman's Herb Farm in Barre. For the fourth year in a row, the annual dinner and silent auction, one of the major yearly fundraisers for the FOSC, has become a night for many to look forward to in January. The Hartmans are very welcoming and this event gets us out of the house," said Debi Terrien from Hardwick, who has attended the event for the last three years. The FOSC, a nonprofit organization committed to the restoration and preservation of the historic Trinitarian Congregational Church.

There have been times in this country's history when matters have been far worse than at present. Take the '60s, for example. Not the 1960s, as divisive as they were, but the 1860s. Slavery was the issue of the day and would cause and culminate in the War Between the States, brutal conflict that raged for four long years, between 1861 and 1865. Although, the South and slavery had been defeated on the battlefield, it would be more than a century before any meaningful movement toward racial justice would even begin to emerge in America. Back before brother took up arms against brother in the mid-nineteenth century, brave souls took the first bold steps to bringing the ugly specter of racial inequality, the slavery, to the public mind. One of those pioneers was a woman named Arianta Ross, born on Jan. 29, 1822 in Dorchester County, Maryland.

Despite the cold weather, community members attended the 11th annual Hearts for Heat spaghetti dinner on Friday, Jan. 26, held at the North Brookfield Elementary School cafeteria. Hearts of Heat President and Secretary Suzanne Lewandowski carried around the cafeteria all night, helping clean up, run raffles and checking with friends through the event. The spaghetti dinner raised \$2,002 with 102 dinners served. North Brookfield Savings Bank matches the first \$2,000 in donations and Country Bank awarded the charity a \$2,500 community grant.

10 years (Jan. 23, 2014)

Quabbin Regional High School Principal Raymond Dewar told the Quabbin Regional School District Committee all sophomores (180 students) and some juniors (95) took the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test on Oct. 16. The school committee voted to fund the cost for all tenth graders to take the test during school time. Dewar said by holding the test during the school week, more juniors participated. Both grads scored higher than the state and national averages on English and mathematics. He said 49.4% of tenth graders and 53% of 11th graders were deemed ready for a college career.

If state Rep. Anne Gobi has picked up anything from state Senator Stephen Brewer over the years, it's been one should treat

### LOOK BACK Women's Union Officers - 1996



New officers were installed at a recent meeting of the South Barre Women's Union. From left are Lucy Valente, secretary; Virginia Unitis, vice president; Angie Duval, treasurer; Santa Neri, corresponding secretary and Joanne Lussier, president.

public service as a lifestyle and passion, not just a job, she said. And it is with such an example in mind she recently announced her candidacy for the retiring senator's district, which includes Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex counties. She suspects she will not officially know who her opposition is until after the state primaries.

The Restore the No. 4 Schoolhouse Committee along with R.J. McDonald, Inc. and Salvadore Auto Group will sponsor a gala fundraiser for ongoing restoration, additional planned projects and maintenance of the No. 4 Schoolhouse on Farrington Road, Barre. A little over two years ago, the No. 4 Schoolhouse was in a state of rapid deterioration. Following conversations with Joyce Dea, President of the No. 4 Schoolhouse Organization as well as several members of the organization, who had voiced their concerns about the condition of the building and the lack of funds needed to repair it, Irene Stevens formed a committee to restore the No. 4 Schoolhouse.

25 years (Jan. 28, 1999)

Oakham Ambulance Director Richard Davis, William Aldrich, Robert Tefft and Fire Chief Richard Howe met the Selectmen a the Monday, Jan. 25 meeting to discuss ambulance issues. Davis said he has assigned tasks to Aldrich and Tefft to distribute the work load. Aldrich does all the training for the ambulance squad. Training takes about 100 to 150 hours per year. Tefft does the maintenance and checks supplies for the ambulance. In the proposed plan for re-organization, the ambulance would have a first and second lieutenant acting in the capacity as training officer and supply officer. Selectmen requested Davis present this information to the Personnel Board and Finance Committee.

Madeline Willey recently received the Worthy Grand Matron's and Worthy Grand Patron's Quiet Helper Award

for her many unselfish hours of dedicated service to Cradle Rock Chapter No. 125, Order of the Eastern Star and the Grand Chapter. Diane Hunt, Worthy Matron of Cradle Rock Chapter No. 125 and Marna Mucha, a Past Matron of the chapter, nominated Madeline for the honor. Marna Mucha wrote a glowing letter highlighting Madeline's numerous accomplishments over the years in the organization.

About 40 people attended a meeting Monday night in the Barre Town Hall to hear about plans to improve the Common area in the center of town. Some offered input for the engineers and members of the Barre Common Committee to consider implementing the final plan. Sarah Dyer, Chairman of the Commons Committee, introduced the committee and gave general background information about how the committee came about. She said the first Barre Commons Committee was formed about 1947 or 1948. Prior to the period, several groups were responsible for the Common.

38 years (Jan. 30, 1986)

Richard Clark of South Street, announced his resignation as Barre Fire Chief in a letter presented to the Barre Board of Selectmen at their Monday night meeting, Jan 21. His resignation will be effective as of March 31. Clark stated in the letter his decision is based on advice from his physician. Clark has served as Fire Chief since 1982 and has been a fireman for 27 years. He thanked the board and other town departments for their cooperation over the years and offered to stay on in an advisory position working with the new chief to make a smooth transition. Earl Sample, Selectman Chair, commented Clark's resignation is a great loss to the town.

The Barre Board of Selectmen approved John Coppolino's application for a liquor license at the Monday, Jan. 27 meeting.

See PAST PAGES, page 5

## Guest Column



### Crazy for carrots

I used the last of my home grown carrots in soup today.

Growing enough carrots to last into the winter months is a huge accomplishment for me. You see, I've never been the best carrot grower.

In the past, either the seeds didn't germinate well, or if they did, bugs ate the seedlings when they were just an inch tall. One year I got past that only to have the roots taste so bitter at harvest that I ended up throwing them all out.

All that work for nothing!

After a good carrot growing experience last year, however, things are looking up, and I'm planning for an even better harvest this summer. I've been slow to inventory my seeds this year, but in preparation, I did some research on carrot varieties and culture.

My great-flavored carrots were due in part to the variety.

I don't remember the exact name, but I know for certain they were a Nantes type. The sausage shape and blunt end is a give-away. They were crisp and sweet and about six-seven inches long.

If you aim for the kind of standard carrots that are typically sold in the grocery store, Emperor types are what you should look for. Because they can grow very long, be sure you have loose, deep soil.

Some experts say that although they can top off at nine-10 inches long, they are not always flavorful.

Chantenay types are a good choice for shallow soils.

These carrots have wide shoulders but are extremely tapered, growing only five-six inches long. They are typically crisp and sweet, and like most carrots, taste even sweeter after a few frosts.

Another good choice for shallow or dense soils are the Danvers types. Originating in Danvers, Massachusetts, this heirloom six-eight inch carrot tapers to a point.

Typically, they store well and are good for cooking.

In addition to these types, there are hybrids of the above types and specialties beyond that. Once thing they all have in common is their culture.

Growing carrots is not hard if you follow a few hard and fast rules.

Ideally soil should be deep, loose and free of stones. Carrots grow well in raised beds for this reason.

Regular garden beds should have the soil loosened to about a foot deep. Be wary of using fresh manure or other sources of fertilizer that are super high in nitrogen.

While it's true that carrots like some nitrogen, having ultra rich soil will make for fibrous, hairy roots. Last year, I sowed my carrot seeds immediately after harvesting my garlic in July.

I did not amend the soil at all in preparation of the planting. Experts say that if you are going to amend it should be done the fall prior.

It can take a long time for carrot seeds to sprout. Gardeners have tried all sorts of extraneous measures to get them to germinate more quickly and with great

See GARDEN, page 5

### 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](mailto:edowner@turley.com). The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

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# Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

Brrrrr it has been so cold. I haven't even gone out to get the mail. Friends and relatives have gotten it for us which is nice. When I got groceries last time, I anticipated this cold spell.

I had a surprise visit from our two daughters on Saturday. We ordered a delicious pizza for lunch.

On Friday I had a quick visit from the Barre Gazette editor. It was the first time she had visited Serenity Hill and now she knows why we call it that. I hope she can visit longer next time.

I am still picking over recipes for food and crafts and filing them. I came across this one that was my mother's recipe for making Balsam Pillows. I might try it if I can find some Balsam trees.

## BALSAM PILLOWS

Shed needles from a Balsam fir tree and put them on a scrap of dry fabric about one week. When dry put 2 tablespoons of salt and mix with one cup of needles. Put them in a jar. Allow to fix for three weeks shaking frequently.

Cloth bags may be made of a heavy material or burlap and put the needles in the bag and sew it up. Any size bag may be made depending on what you plan to do with it. Small bags can be used to put your clothes and pillow size may be used on your sofa. I remember my grandmother always had a pillow of

Balsam and it smelled so nice.

## This and That

I worked on making more bags from fabric, which was given to me for some items I wanted to store away. Upholstery fabric also makes good bags for grocery shopping.

I made corn chowder this week and made some corn muffins to go with it. It is always a good meal for cold weather. I have to make shrimp wiggle again this week as I have a half bag of shrimp to use up.

When I make spaghetti and meatballs I use a cheese sauce instead of tomato so I have a half bottle of cheese sauce to use up also. I will make a macaroni type meal with hamburger and onions.

I hope this week will be milder so some of the snow will melt before we get the next storm. My plow man has been doing a good job and thankful for him and my handyman. As seniors we are trying to stay in our home. We need to get all the help we can get.

I try to call another senior each day to make sure they are safe in this frigid weather. Some towns have a system that seniors call into their police department each day at a certain time and if they don't the police department gives them a wellness check. I think that would be a good idea for all towns.

Have a good week and stay warm.

# NB Hearts for Heat hosts spaghetti dinner on Jan. 27

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The 15th Annual NB Hearts for Heat spaghetti dinner will be held on Saturday, Jan. 27 from 5-7 p.m. in the North Brookfield Elementary School Cafeteria.

The dinner is \$12 per person with a cap of \$36 for a family of four or more. Takeout available.

Sponsored with the Hayden Masonic Lodge and supported by Hannaford Supermarket, this is truly community helping community. Big ticket raffles include: Celtics team signed basketball and a pair of home game tickets, WooSox tickets for six, Worcester Railers Hockey tickets for four,



Springfield Thunderbird Hockey tickets, and local gift certificates.

The Otters will provide musical ambiance all evening. Students from the North Brookfield High School's National Honor Society and Valley View School will assist. The dinner snow date is Saturday,

Feb. 24.

NB Hearts for Heat is a 501(c)3 charitable organization to help North Brookfield residents in need of emergency home heating assistance for oil, propane, natural gas, electric, pellets, or cord wood. 100% of donations are used for fuel purchases.

NB Hearts for Heat has assisted 158 families since 2009.

Donations can be mailed to NB Hearts for Heat, P.O. Box 44, North Brookfield, MA 01535. To access the printable 2023-24 application, visit <http://www.heartsforheat.org/NorthBrookfield/assistance.html>.

## COA resignations and appointment

The Board received the resignation of Stanley Miknaitis and Mary Ann Watson from the Council on Aging. They accepted their resignations and thanked them for their service. They Board also approved the appointment of Claire Adomaitis and Peter Trifilo to the Council on Aging.

## Donations

The Select Board received a donation of \$100 from the East Quabbin Land Trust and a \$30,000 donation from Insight Meditation and Barre Center of Buddhist Studies.

playground equipment company sends in experts to work with volunteers for the build. He offered to assist as he has equipment.

He also brought up the need for access for all of the upper floor of the Town Hall. He said presently there was a lot of unused space.

Select Board Chair Marshall said that debts for both the Ruggles Lane Elementary School roof and the Town Common would be paid off soon. The town could then consider a debt exclusion for another capital project such as the Town Hall or the Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning at the Henry Woods Building.

The Barre selectmen voted unanimous approval to grant the liquor license to Coppolino.

Sitting by the fireplace in his living room last week, Roger Langley of Barre basked in the warm glow of the most recent

honor to come to him from the work of skiing, his elect to the Canadian Skiing Hall of Fame, officially called the Honour Roll of Canadian Skiing. Roger Langley is 84 now and the time when he was actively involved in skiing began 61 to 62 years ago.

I am excited to grow carrots again this year. Hopefully a bigger harvest will enable soup-making well into spring.

Tackling what types of carrots to grow and ensuring good germination and a healthy stand of seedlings will mean I am well on my way to achieving that goal!

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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*

# What we thought was finished is not finished

By Eric Goodhart  
Correspondent



Turley photo by Eric Goodhart

"The people have not only spoken, they were heard!" Those were my opening words in this paper following the September 13, 2023 joint meeting of the Department of Recreation and Conservation, DCR, and the Ware River Watershed Advisory Committee, WRWAC, at the Quabbin Regional High School.

The implication of those words was "heard" and satisfied with DCR's plan was not true. Though the Advisory Committee voiced satisfaction with DCR's final plan, a plan that was over three years in the making, delayed because of the social and economic restrictions in place since the rollout of the pandemic in March 2020, there were people who were not.

It was at the next meeting of the WRWAC on Oct. 5 that I met, for the first time, a homeowner on Comet Pond in Hubbardston. I did not hear her or anyone else at any of the meetings I attended in 2023, voice any concerns about Comet Pond. Not that they were ever quiet. Later, I learned they had voiced major concerns quite vehemently over the previous two years. But now I was sitting next to a homeowner and asked her what she thought of the final plan.

To say she was not pleased is an understatement. Since then, I have met with six property owners including the President of the Comet Pond Association, Susan Meagher. They gave me copies of letters, including one sent by

Ryan Couture, the Hubbardston Chief of Police to the DCR and WRWAC.

In that letter he voiced serious concern about the inability of the police and/or fire department to respond to emergencies on the east side of the pond on in the pond. He does not think long distance swimming on a pond that is getting increasing use by pleasure boats and kayaks is a good idea.

Many years ago, land was cleared for a public beach on the west side of the Pond with access from Rt 68. Swimming is aloud within safety markers in front of the beach. No longer is there a lifeguard during the summer season, but there is someone there to take care of equipment and proper use of the beach. But very limited parking. Drivers on Rt 68 will always see a line of cars parked on the side of the highway during the summer.

There is some good news since the most recent meeting on January 11. The Chief's and other

well written letters by homeowners have had some effect. The DCR has suspended its plan to put a parking area on the narrow one lane East Comet Pond Rd and will not allow open water swimmers to swim from that point. And the DCR will clear land next to the road leading to the public beach from the highway for 20 cars.

Though swimming outside of the public beach has never been allowed, people for at least 4 years have ignored the no swimming signs by the boat ramp at the South tip of the pond. There will be a need to ensure that long distance swimmers leave from the public beach and stay within a marked channel. A method to do that has yet to be proposed.

The good news is that long distance swimmers are not just extraordinarily physical fit, they are safety conscious. A frequent swimmer at the meeting told me that though most don't have life-

**See COMET POND, page 10**

## SASH continued from page 1

all of its inhabitants be of the Catholic faith, and after immigrating there, gave up their Protestant faith in order to live in their new home.

"They gave up everything," Grandpre Wood said.

Her family moved along the St. Laurence River, and with them they carried the Arrow Sash. All the way to where they finally settled so many years ago on the little island of L'ille Dupas where her six-times great-grandfather settled with his five sisters, and two brothers, who all married there.

"It's not only a treasure to my family, but Canada as well," Grandpre Wood said of the Arrow Sash, a brightly colored sash featuring a red arrow pattern through the center, which has a long history and symbolism to both of the Matisse and French Canadian people.

The Ceinture Fléchée, the Arrow Sash, was passed on through Grandpre Wood's family and she was taught everything about it by her great-aunt Lucille De Grandpre.

"She knew all things De Grandpre," Grandpre Wood said. "She was the keeper of all things, and the reason I wrote this book."

"My great aunts wrote these beautiful stories about the great stone church," Grandpre Wood said about the church at St. Laboire where several of her ancestors

are buried. "What I really loved about their stories was that Christmas was all about Jesus - the true meaning."

As Grandpre Wood moved through life, she decided to journey through the lands of Canada and the Long Trail itself through Vermont where her ancestors once walked.

"I always wear the sash, I always bring the sash," Grandpre Wood said. "You are feeling like you're connecting with the, like a constellation of stars."

In 2010, Grandpre Wood felt called back to the Catholic church, and took a pilgrimage to Medjugorje where her faith lit up like a spark of a flame. On her and her husband's 30th wedding anniversary, they remarried with a beautiful Catholic service with their original maid of honor and best man returning for the ceremony.

It was at this point that Grandpre Wood began to feel that calling from God to do something more, and that ended up being the desire to write her book. In 2015, she began, and by the time she reached 2020, she was writing.

She wrote and wrote her family's stories, going on journeys and writing and taking photos. All the while, and through every step of the way, she brought the Arrow Sash, as her ancestors once did.

She decided to tackle the Long Trail with her niece, which began in Williamstown and ended in North Troy, Vermont near the Quebec border. All the while, she felt like a closeness to her ancestors she had never experienced before.

"Once you start connecting, it starts connecting you," Grandpre Wood said. "They were walking me home."

She could feel the presence of her family, and her faith and love for the journey only grew, and it grew into her book.

No synopsis can truly encompass Grandpre Wood's wonderful story of her life's journey, and one can only truly walk in her shoes through reading her book. Her journey of faith can be summed up with her simple phrase, "For me, Our Lady leads the way."

## BARRE, continued from page 1

as well.

### Select Board reports

Select Board Vice Chair Dixon said he asked Town Administrator Martin to look into the feasibility of establishing a Road Commission. The Commission would consist of three members, who understand roadways and Chapter 90 funding.

Select Board Member Regienus said he spent time talking to a Petersham resident about generating a self build for the proposed playground in Barre. He said the

## PAST PAGES, continued from page 4

Coppolino is the owner of the Barre Foods, formerly Barre IGA, located in the Quabbin Shopping Center in Barre. The public hearing was called to order at 8 p.m.

## GARDEN, continued from page 4

er consistency.

Here are some things I have read about and some I have tried.

The old radish trick – try sowing radish seed interspersed among your carrot seed. The radishes will sprout first, marking the row and providing some shade for the developing carrot seedlings.

Sometimes gardeners use wood, shade cloth or burlap to keep the seedbed moist. If you miss when the seeds sprout, they could be smothered under these coverings or worse yet, get tangled up in the fabric.

Check daily and remove coverings on the first notice of germination. Continue to keep the bed watered or seedlings will perish.

My success this past summer was due in part to when I sowed. In mid-July, soil temperatures were optimum (around 75 degrees) and seedlings germinated in a week.

I kept the plot watered until they were up and growing. Although carrot seed can germinate in early spring - even when soil temperatures are below 50 degrees, it will definitely require some patience, and work, on our part, to keep the seedbed from drying out.

Another concern gardeners have, has to do with sowing the tiny seeds and/or thinning the seedlings. Carrots mature to the right size when given at least two inches between plants.

I usually try to sow my seed a half-inch apart and then thin to two inches. Thinning is a pain to do, especially in bigger plantings, but it can be done.

In order not to damage nearby seedlings, I often use a tiny pair of scissors to cut away the crowding seedlings. A thumb and index finger can also be used to pinch away the excess plants right at the soil line.

Sometimes gardeners mix carrot seed with sand or dry coffee grounds to make sowing the small seed easier; using seed tape or pelletized seed are other, albeit expensive options to insure more equidistant seedlings. Regular carrot seeds are viable for two-three years whereas pelletized seed is viable for a year.

Plan accordingly by not ordering more than you need.

Tape and coated seed do still need to be kept as moist as regular sowings – maybe even more so, due to the additional layers.

**Support the local businesses that support your local newspaper.**  
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## TOWN OF NEW BRAINTREE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

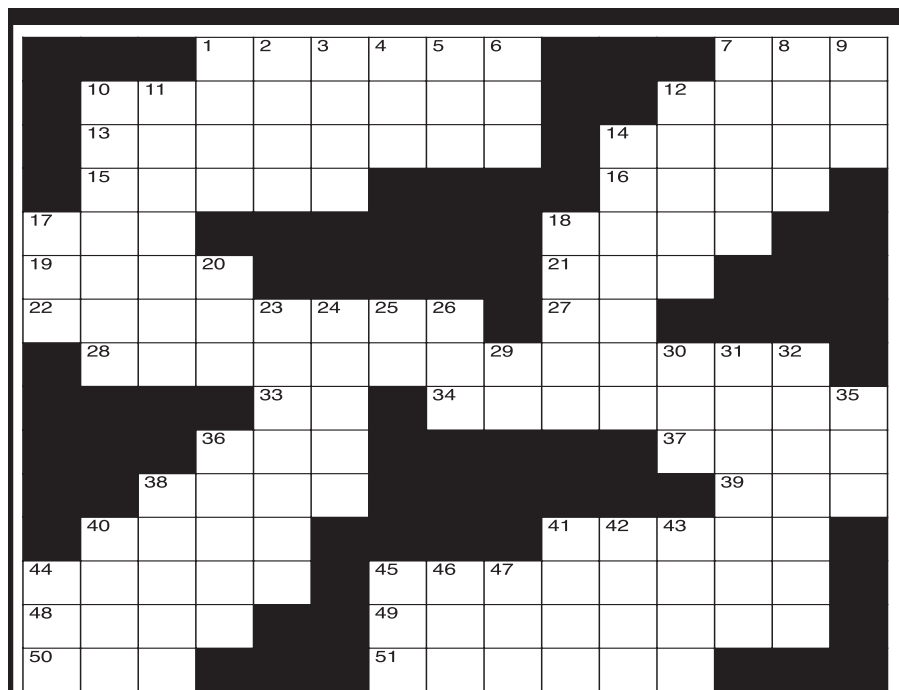
### HIGHWAY SECRETARY • PART-TIME

The Town of New Braintree Highway Department is seeking a part-time Secretary for five (5) hours per week during business hours. High school education: associate degree preferred. Minimum 3 to 5 years of responsible administrative work experience. Ability to maintain detailed statistics and records. Proficiency needed in computer applications. Knowledge of Chapter 90 procedures is suggested. Hourly rate of \$20/hour with no benefits. If interested, please mail a resume by 7th February 2024 4:00 p.m. to Select Board, Town Hall, 20 Memorial Drive, New Braintree, MA 01531 or by email to: [selectboard@newbraintree.org](mailto:selectboard@newbraintree.org).

### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO THE SELECT BOARD

The Town of New Braintree is seeking an Executive Secretary to the Select Board. This position would be full-time, up to 32 hours per week with some evening hours required several times per month. An Associate's degree in business administration or related field, 3 to 5 years of experience in municipal government and/or strong administrative position or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Salary and benefits are conditional on experience. If interested, please mail a resume by 7th February 2024 4:00 p.m. to Select Board, Town Hall, 20 Memorial Drive, New Braintree, MA 01531 or by email to: [selectboard@newbraintree.org](mailto:selectboard@newbraintree.org).

The Town of New Braintree is an equal opportunity employer.



### CLUES ACROSS

- Winged nut
- Humbug!
- One who sets apart
- Circle above a saint's head
- Unpleasantly loud and harsh
- Expressed pleasure
- Feminine given name
- Company of badgers
- Popular Dodge pickup truck
- Witty sayings
- Leader
- Autonomic nervous system
- Premolar
- Atomic #28
- Holiday decorative item
- Exclamation of surprise
- Rusk or

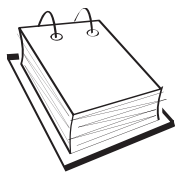
### CLUES DOWN

- Classify
- Dismounted
- Produced
- Consumed
- Director Howard
- The products of human creativity
- Thai monetary units
- Away from wind
- Builder's trough
- Relating to Islam
- It can sometimes ache
- Small quantities (Scott.)
- Poisonous plant
- Laugh at
- Vogul
- C. European river
- Type of cat
- Exclamation of disgust

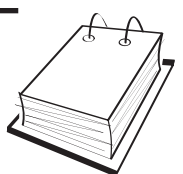
### CLUES ACROSS

- Stephen King novel
- Without armies
- Expression of sympathy
- Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- Previously
- Illegal drug
- Kiloelectronvolt
- Large, flightless birds
- For smoking
- Binary
- Competition
- Mark
- Resembling an arrow
- Containers
- Roof mean square (abbr.)
- Commercial
- I.M., architect
- 007's creator

ANSWERS ON PAGE 10



# Calendar of Events



## THURSDAY, JAN. 25

**CIRCLE OF SONG REHEARSALS** take place tonight at 7 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street, Barre. The choral group of 23 years sings in four-part harmony and often in other languages. People may email julie@mhof.net or call 978-257-1192 for more information. They perform several concerts during the year. The next concert will be Saturday, May 18 at the Barre Town Hall. New members are always welcome. Membership dues are sliding scale from \$25 per year for students and \$40 - \$70 for adults according to ability to pay. If people are interested in joining Circle of Song, they may email Julie Rawson, director, at julie@mhof.net, or call 978-257-1192 or show up at a rehearsal.

**FUN TO FUND SILENT AUCTION** will benefit non-profits in Petersham today from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the hall of the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Common St., Petersham. On Saturday, Jan. 27 from 3-6 p.m. at the hall of the U.U. Church, all are invited to a festive reception with refreshments and good cheer, as the final bids can be cast and the results will be announced. For any questions or donations, people may call Robin Koenig at 978-724-0213. The week of pre-auction bidding and the final event will take place at the U.U. Church. The event is non-denominational.

## FRIDAY, JAN. 26

**FRIDAYS WITH FRIENDS** will be held today from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant St., Barre in the multipurpose room for school age children. Different activities are held each week ranging from arts and crafts to STEAM based challenges all meant to bring the community closer together. The program is held Fridays during January, February and March and is recommended for ages five plus.

**VALENTINE GALA** sponsored by the Friends of the Stone Church ticket deadline is today or until they are sold out. There will be an auction to benefit FOSC on Saturday, Feb. 2 at 4 p.m. at Hardwick Crossing Country Club, Route 32, Gilbertville. One of the items up for bid is a seven-day family vacation at Villa Camilla, a beachfront getaway in Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands will be auctioned as well as a two-night stay at Sugar Maple Trailside Inn in Florence and an overnight stay and four day passes at Great Wolf Lodge indoor water park in Fitchburg. In addition to a silent and live auction, the gala features dinner and musical entertainment. To help make the most of this generous donation by the owners Beth and Larry Sulak, FOSC will accept bids by email prior to the event, starting at \$1,000. However, people must

## Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

**This week's mystery photo is from New Braintree. 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 29. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in the following edition. Bill Bowles, Paul Carlson, Peggy Civilik, Stephen Craven, Evelyn Luukko, Gael Moncoeur and Jeremy Varnum and Phil Warbasse correctly identified the photo. The photo last week shows the the Hubbardston Memorial Library on Main Street, Hubbardston.**

be present to have the opportunity to make the final bid. No remote bids will be accepted after Friday, Jan. 26 at 5 p.m. Final bidders will pay in advance and be asked to sign a rental agreement.

## SATURDAY, JAN. 27

**SATURDAY STORY TIME** will be held today from 10:30 a.m.-noon at the Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant St., Barre in the multipurpose room at the library. The program is recommended for ages three to six. Each week Ms. Katie will read a story and pair it with a craft or related activity. To request sign language interpretation or other accommodation for special needs for any program, people should call the Library Director at least two weeks before the program

date at 978-355-2533 extension 101 or email jhood@barrelibrary.org.

## MONDAY, JAN. 29

**SOUP BAR** will be held today at 11:45 a.m. at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, Barre. People, who bring their favorite soup, will eat free. Those, who do not bring a soup, the cost of \$4 is due at the time of signing up.

## WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31

**SHARING NATURE PHOTOS** sponsored by the Ware River Nature Club will be held today at 7 p.m. in the Rutland Public Library, 280 Main Street, Rutland,

People are invited to choose ten of their favorite nature and outdoor photographs, put them on a thumb drive and bring them to this casual evening of photo-sharing. The club will supply the screen, projector and technical help. The club invites people to supply some pictures and perhaps say a few words about each of them. The photographs must be taken by the person submitting them and taken within the last 25 years; they can be from anywhere in the world. An audience is needed as well so people may come to enjoy the show even if they have no pictures to share.

## SATURDAY, FEB. 3

**DESIGNER PANCAKE BREAKFAST** sponsored by Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will be held today from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Masonic Hall, 71 Pleasant St., Barre. Cost is \$9 per adult and \$5 for children 10 and under. People can design their own pancake. Compete breakfast choices include; designer pancakes, waffles, sausage gravy with biscuits, bacon, sausage links, coffee and juice. All are welcome.

## SUNDAY, FEB. 4

**VIRTUAL HEART AND VASCULAR HEALTH** by Baystate Health cardiac surgeon Dr. Andrew Goldsweig will lead the first in the series entitled "Minimally Invasive, Maximally Effective New Technologies in the Cardia Cath Lab" today at noon followed by a question and answer period. Registration is required for each session. Dr. Goldsweig's presentation can also be attended in-person at the Baystate Health Education Center on 361 Whitney Ave., 2nd entrance to building, in Holyoke. This is the only lecture in the four-part series to also be held in-person.

## MONDAY, FEB. 5

**WINTER PLAY GROUP** offered by Making Opportunities Count will be offered the first Monday of the month in place of Story Time. The play group will be held today and Monday, March 4 at 10 a.m. in the New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive, New Braintree. MOC offers Coordinated Family and Community Engagement programs and is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care. Parental supervision is required. People may call the library at 508-867-7650 during regular business for more information.

### HARDWICK, continued from page 1

The owner of the property, who is the landlord for Gillespie's businesses, provided a statement from his attorney to the Select Board. Both the landlord and Gillespie are due to appear in court regarding the property.

The Select Board voted to allow for the renewal of the Class II license for Affordable Car, with the condition there be a 10-car limit, to be achieved within 60 days. The car limit does not apply to the Gillespie Car Care side of the property.

### Interim Fire Chief salary

Interim Fire Chief Joshua Pease said there is \$17,017 remaining in the Fire Chief's Salary account.

Pease earned \$1,400 last year as Deputy Chief, in addition to receiving payment for call response.

The Select voted to approve a prorated salary of \$21,000 for fiscal year 2024 for Pease, and still allow him to get paid for call response.

### Pump station color scheme

The Select Board selected autumn brown for the siding color of the pump station building with flat black for louvers, trim and

doors. The darker colors will make the building blend in better with the surrounding woods.

### Town House repairs

Vollheim said the stone slabs in front of the Town House have settled, and have created a tripping hazard for anyone walking in and out of the building.

Sometime after the stones had been laid by stonemason Randy Noble, they were lifted during a construction project on the Common, and the clay underneath was removed and filled with another material.

"That could be why they settled," Vollheim said.

The stone slabs had been placed there by Noble in 1996.

Vollheim said he and Noble have ideas on how to fix the problem. He said the front step is also too high, and it could be replaced to improve accessibility.

Vollheim asked for permission from the Select Board to look into the cost of the repairs. Town House Committee member Anne Barnes is looking into grant funding through the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund.

### Sewer report

Water Pollution Control Facilities Superintendent Scott Potter said with the change in temperatures, there have been a lot of alarms going off at the Wheelwright pump station.

Potter also updated the Select Board about a resident's complaint regarding sewer odor and gases at their High Road house. He said he met the Plumbing Inspector at the residence to determine what can be done to help with the sewer odors.

He said the resident may try putting an extension on the pipe in the front.

### Town Administrator's report

Parker said a Zoom public meeting will be held on Tuesday,

Jan. 30 from 6:45-7:25 p.m. to talk about the Patrill Hollow dam removal. The Zoom link is posted on the town's website, hardwick-ma.gov.

She said she attended the Massachusetts Municipal Association conference last week and received a lot of information about rural community needs and support.

Parker said the town administrators representing the five towns of the Quabbin Regional School District met with the school administration to go over prospective enrollment and needs. She said enrollment is down, but needs are up, especially with special education.

### Sale of buildings

Vollheim said the Capital Planning Committee is getting a request for proposal together for the sale of the Ruggles Hill school. He said he would also like to get an auction going in the spring to get rid of surplus equipment.

### Assessors contracts

The Select Board accepted a proposal from CAI Technologies on behalf of the Assessors for Mass GIS maintenance services in the amount of \$2,100 and an additional \$20 for building footprints per building added.

The Select Board also accepted Mayflower Valuation's cyclical inspection services for fiscal year 2025 in the amount of \$17,800.

### Reconsideration of license

Parker said when the application for the Whistle Stop Restaurant's liquor license was sent to the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission, there were a couple of mistakes. She said the ABCC took no action on the license and sent it back to the Select Board to make the corrections.

She said the applicant will make the necessary changes in order for the Select Board to reconsider the application.

### OAKHAM, continued from page 1

Town's cable access channel and other Town media access. The town's cable provider, Spectrum Charter, collects fees from cable subscribers to fund the PEG account.

Article 5 approved transferred \$2,000 from free cash into the Cemetery Commission Expense Account to pay engineering costs for the replacement arch at Green Hollow Cemetery. American Recovery Act Funds will cover the \$20,000 cost of the arch. Article 6 amended the FY 24 budget by transferring from the Treasurer's Unemployment Account \$1,850

to the Board of Health Part Time Wage Account.

Article 7 amended the FY24 budget by transferring from free cash \$6,000 with \$3,000 going into the Town Clerk's Election Wages and Expense account and the other half going into the Election Expenses Account. Voters also approved to amend the FY24 budget by transferring from Treasurer's Unemployment account \$7,342.44 into the Library Part Time Wages account and to amend the FY24 budget by transferring \$6,249.28 from the Treasurer's Unemployment Account to the Police Part Time Wages Account.

Other articles included the

transfer \$2,290.97 from free cash to Accountant Expense account into the Software Expense Account to pay for a prior year's expense, the amendment of the FY 24 budget to transfer \$10,000 from free cash into the Highway Department Snow and Ice Contracted Services account and to amend the Council on Aging Revolving Fund current cap from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Voters approved Article 13, the only non financial article, which adopted a Flag Bylaw, which only allowed the flying of US Flag, Massachusetts State Flag, official Town of Oakham Flag, Official Flags of all Branches of U.S. Military and

Armed Forces, the Prisoner of War Flag and other flags specially authorized by proclamation of the Board of Selectmen at a properly posted Board meeting.

Article 14 transferred \$4,956.16 from free cash into the Emergency Management Grant account and

Article 15 transferred \$100,000 from free cash into the General Stabilization account.

The final three articles approved were the transfer of \$75,000 from free cash into the Capital Stabilization account, the transfer of \$11,000 into the Police Cruiser Stabilization account and the transfer of \$15,000 from free cash to conduct a financial audit for FY23.

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Turley photos by Ray Duffy  
Mia Ducos drives to the hoop.



Hannah Baxter takes a hook shot.

## Doyle's layup wins in double OT

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

BARRE—Evan Barringer has seen many outstanding student-athletes during the 23 years that he's been a coach and a history teacher in the Quabbin Regional School District.

Barringer is currently the Lady Panthers varsity basketball coach and one of his all-time favorite athletes is senior co-captain Meg Doyle, who's also an outstanding softball player.

Doyle's lay-up basket with 5.9 seconds remaining in double overtime gave the Lady Panthers a thrilling 50-49 home victory over Mid-Wach C rival Hudson before a raucous crowd, last Friday night.

"Meg Doyle is the finest athlete male or female that I've seen here at Quabbin in the past 23 years," said Barringer, who has also coached the Quabbin golf team. "I'm very glad that she had that moment at the end of tonight's game. She's just an incredible athlete and person. This was probably our most exciting game so far this season and I'm very proud of all my players. Everyone contributed."

Junior Brooke Austin didn't score any points in the home victory, but she contributed to her team's success in other ways.

"Brooke came off the bench and played about thirty minutes in the game," Barringer said. "I thought she played excellent defense and rebounded very well. It was awesome to see from her."

The Lady Panthers (8-3) had lost their previous two games against Tyngsborough and Littleton. They also lost at Hudson, 36-32 in overtime, back in the middle of December. Doyle, who's planning on entering the

See QUABBIN GIRLS, page 8



Riley Bassett grabs an offensive rebound.



Bri Whitelaw puts up a three-point shot.



Meaghan Doyle shoots for three.



Zeke Santoro going for the rebound shot.



Kyle Clark gets fouled driving to the hoop.

## Panthers can't keep up with Littleton

BARRE – Last Wednesday night, Quabbin boys basketball hosted Littleton in a make-up of a snowed out game. Littleton doubled up on Quabbin in the first quarter and used the big jump to leave with a 61-42 win. Quabbin dropped to 2-8 on the season with the defeat. Quinn Geary would lead Quabbin with 15 points.



Ricky Jenoure with a jump shot.

## Pioneers sweep PVCA

PALMER – Last Thursday night, Pathfinder boys basketball picked a win over Pioneer Valley Christian School 68-65. The Pioneers beat PVCA for the second time this season, sweeping the season series with their league rivals. Hunter Griswold had a huge game with nearly half the team's points. He led all scorers with 32 points while Adrien Moskovitz had 16 points. Pathfinder is now 5-2 on the season.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Hunter Griswold gets ready to drive into the paint.



Adam Slonka attempts a shot while Seth Mitchell signals he's open for a pass.



Seth Mitchell makes his way down the court.



Adrien Moskovitz makes a pass around the perimeter.



Kailynn Shuster tries to hold the advantage in her match.

## Full day of wrestling for Quabbin

GRANBY – Last Saturday morning, Quabbin Regional wrestling traveled to Granby High School in Western Mass. to face several teams from the region in a series of dual meets. Participants in the multi-team event included Westfield, Ludlow, Frontier, South Hadley, Chicopee, and host Granby High School.



Chris Gross locks up at 144 pounds.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli  
Jack Fors looks to attack at 165 pounds.



Cole Wilson tries to keep hold of his opponent's leg.



Alex Fors tries to avoid a takedown.



Quinn Geary shoots from the top of the key.

## Quabbin to celebrate 1999 team

BARRE – Next month, Quabbin Regional High School is celebrating the 25th year reunion and recognition of its 1999 championship boys basketball team.

This team was special, having won 24 games, including the Central Massachusetts Championship, Clark Tournament and being a state finalist, having lost to East Boston at the Worcester Centrum in the state final game.

The reunion and celebration will take place Friday, Feb. 2 against Tyngsboro at home. Game time is set earlier at 6 p.m. There will be a social and school tour from 5 to 6 p.m. Members of the team attending will be recognized and honored at halftime of the game.

Admission is free of charge to returning members of that championship team as well as their families.

## Committee seeks HOF nominations

BARRE – Nominations for the Quabbin Regional Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2024 are being accepted.

Nomination forms are available on the Quabbin Regional Athletic website

(www.qrsd.org).

All forms are due March 1. Please mail forms to: Quabbin Regional Athletic Hall of Fame; PO Box 874; Barre, MA 01005 or e-mail to mmville@qrsd.org.

# Sports

## Railers stun Komets in shootout

FORT WAYNE, IN — The Worcester Railers HC (17-15-3-2, 39pts) took down the Fort Wayne Komets (19-16-1-3, 42pts) on Saturday night in a shootout by the final score of 4-3 in front of a crowd of 9,747 at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. The Railers wrap up their three-in-three on the road against the Komets this Sunday, January 21st at 5:00pm.

Blade Jenkins (2-0-2) opened scoring for Worcester to give the Railers the early lead in the first before Nolan Volcan (1-0-1) scored a short-handed goal to tie things going into the second. The second period looked as though it was going to be a scoreless frame before Ture Linden (1-0-1) scored with just over three remaining in the period to put the Komets up 2-1 going into the third. Jack Dugan (1-1-2) extended Fort Wayne's lead before Joey Cipollone () and Blade Jenkins tied things up for Worcester to force overtime. As neither team scored in the extra frame, a shootout was required. It took seven rounds until Jack Quinlivan scored in the bottom of the round to give Worcester the 4-3 shootout win on Saturday night.

Worcester came out firing in the first period, playing what would end up being one of their best first periods of play this season. Blade Jenkins (10th) worked a tip on a Ryan Verrier shot to put

Worcester ahead 1-0 at the 5:58 mark of the frame. The Railers would slip on the power play, allowing Nolan Volcan (11th) to slip past the defense and throw a puck of the backside of John Muse into the net to tie the game shorthanded at 1-1 going into the second. Physicality was high in the first period, with multiple scrums playing out in front of both nets and in the end-boards after whistles. Shots in the first heavily favored Worcester, 14-6.

The physical play continued in the second, as was the theme for most of the period. The Komets began to get more shots on Muse in the second, finishing with 15 total in the frame. Late in the period, Ture Linden (17th) grabbed a rebound from the scrum in front which Muse dove for and patted it home around him to make it a 2-1 lead for Fort Wayne with 3:02 left in the second. Shots in the middle period favored Fort Wayne 15-7, and were tied across the game after two, 21-21.

Fort Wayne extended their lead in the third period thanks to Jack Dugan's (10th) goal off a wrist from the slot to make it 3-1 Komets. The third period was Worcester's from there. Joey Cipollone found the puck loose in the slot and skated it to the far side where he ripped it clean past Fanti to make it a 3-2 game. With John Muse pulled and the Komets

ahead by one late in the game, the Railers worked their way into the attacking zone. Anthony Callin cut to the right wing through the defense and delivered a perfect cross-ice feed to Blade Jenkins (11th) who finished past Fanti to tie the game for the Railers and give them new life. Neither team scored across the remaining 1:41, as the game was headed into overtime.

Both teams exchanged a flurry of opportunities in the extra frame, as Fanti made four saves for the Komets while Muse made three for Worcester. Neither team broke through in overtime, meaning the game would be settled in a shootout.

The Komets shot first in the shootout. Shawn Szydlowski, Jack Dugan, Ethan De Jong, Matt Wedman, Carl Berglund, Xavier Cormier, and Ture Linden were all turned aside by John Muse. For Worcester, Keeghan Howdeshell, Blade Jenkins, Anthony Repaci, Connor Welsh, Anthony Callin, and Andrei Bakanov were all denied by Ryan Fanti. In the bottom of the seventh round, Jack Quinlivan had his turn in the shootout. He came in wide along the right-wing side, cut back across to the left, and skated in slowly as he then finished past Fanti to deliver Worcester their second shootout win of the season, and the extra point on the evening.



There are 40 caissons buried under this impoundment.

## WINSOR DAM, continued from page 1

plan was to build two large earthen structures, which was done near the end of the project.

Winsor Dam is the main structure, and it impounds the Swift River and the Goodnough Dike is the secondary structure, impounding Beaver Brook. Construction of both took place between 1935-1939. The dam and the dike are located three miles apart from each other.

At 295 feet above bedrock, the dam is named for Frank Winsor, who died before the project was done. At the time of his death, he was being sued by the state of Rhode Island, and during questioning at a hearing he had a heart attack and died.

The core wall of the Winsor Dam was built with 40 caissons, ranging from 30-125 feet tall, with an average height of 100 feet. The caissons were sealed to the bedrock, then sealed with concrete and hydraulic soil which was gathered from the valley.

"They spent a lot of time investigating the best soil throughout the valley," Beiter-Tucker said. "They apparently found a lot of it."

Hydraulic soil was taken from "borrow pits" and is also known as "rock flour," as it compacts densely together when water is removed.

The soil would be kept in a dry box, brought uphill to a hog box where it was mixed with water, then fed down sluice lines. A pump barge would reuse water, pumping it back up to the hog box.

"The sluice lines never worked out really well, they clogged a lot," Beiter-Tucker said, causing engineers to eventually open them fully. Laborers then used batter boards to push the soil and water out to spread it evenly.

Before it went into the dry box, soil was sifted through metal grates known as "grizzlies," which were repurposed from Rabbit Run railroad tracks.

To start the dam's construction, engineers first had to divert the Swift River using a coffer dam. Once that was completed, a 2,700 foot long trench that was 30 feet deep was dug to lay the caissons.

The caissons were built piece by piece, with the first piece placed being a metal shoe. On top of the shoe was the work chamber, which was reinforced with steel.

The weight of the concrete gradually pushed against the shoe's sharp edge and worked the entire structure down until it reached bedrock, where it would eventually be sealed. Workers would remove dirt as the shoe and chamber were forced down through the earth.

Beiter-Tucker said compressed air was pumped into the work chambers to provide oxygen for the workers and they were limited to two, 40-minute shifts a day inside the work chamber.

"The workers were inside those work chambers while it was being forced down," Beiter-Tucker said. "They were lowered down into chamber with bucket."

After completing their shift, the workers would go into a decompression chamber before spending the rest of their work day completing other work on the project, above ground.

Beiter-Tucker said it was hard work, and men were paid 50-60 cents an hour (about \$8 in current money). Construction of the Quabbin Reservoir took place almost entirely during The Great Depression, she said, and there were lines of men to get these jobs and work 12-hour shifts.

"It was hard work," Beiter-Tucker said.

In 1937 the construction of the Quabbin Reservoir moved to a 24-hour project. Large lights used during night work cast shadows, which resulted in a lot of injuries and deaths.

"26 men were killed out of thousands on the entire project," Beiter-Tucker said.

Once the caissons were sealed to the bedrock, soil was applied to both sides to build the base of dam, and compacted with a sheep's foot roller.

After the caisson wall was completed, soil was stripped away from either end to seal with concrete blankets to prevent leaking. That was the first stage of construction.

Beiter-Tucker said the Goodnough Dike was constructed in almost completely the same way, just on a small scale. The dike measures 2,140 feet long and is 264 feet above bedrock.

It was named for Henry Goodnough, an engineer who lived in Sudbury and liked to come out to the Swift River Valley to fish.

She said the major difference between the dam and the dike is that the dam has an outlet for water, while the dike blocks only.

After construction of the dam and dike was completed, it took seven years to fill the Quabbin Reservoir.

**Chicopee Valley Aqueduct**  
"It was decided the Swift River would not be cut off completely so it could flow to Three Rivers," Beiter-Tucker said, as it's part of Connecticut's water supply as well. The design of the dam included diversion for the Swift River, releasing below the Winsor Dam down to Chicopee and the Connecticut River.

A tunnel was built under the dam and the upper intake structure is the only one in use. The lower intake structure was blocked.

The upper intake structure continues to be in use today, releasing about 20 million gallons of water a day.

The Chicopee Valley Aqueduct outlet building was eventually constructed (known by many as the "power station," as for many

years it did create a small amount of hydroelectric power for DCR buildings).

In 1950, towns were invited to join the system, but only Chicopee, Wilbraham and South Hadley Fire District No. 1 joined the system. They have their own treatment plant located on Route 9.

**Spillway**  
Reservoirs are designed to hold a certain amount of water and the spillway is located at the east end to release water when the reservoir is at capacity or close to capacity.

The spillway was blasted out of



The lower spillway creates a waterfall, and only releases water when the Quabbin Reservoir is at or near capacity.

rock, and the channel goes under a bridge and creates a waterfall on the other side.

"It's not always active," Beiter-Tucker said, only when the reservoir is at a certain level.

In 76 years, the reservoir has reached its capacity 33 times.

"We are probably going to reach capacity this spring unless weather changes," Beiter-Tucker said.

In June of 1946, the lower spillway was opened for the first time, and a dedication ceremony was held for the waterfall it created.

"A lot of people focus on the history of the lost towns," Beiter-Tucker said. "I'm always fascinated by the actual construction of the reservoir itself. The engineers were able to envision this and transform the valley into this reservoir. It's a pretty fascinating story."

**Upcoming events**  
For more information about other programs hosted by DCR's Les and Terry Campbell Visitor Center, visit [www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir](http://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir).

Programs are held in the visitor center located at 100 Winsor Dam Road, and via Zoom. Registration is required.

With 32.3 seconds remaining in the opening quarter, Quabbin sophomore Mia Ducos made two foul shots, which gave the Lady Panthers a 7-3 advantage entering the second quarter.

Ducos, who's been playing for the varsity basketball team since the eighth grade, scored a game-high 21 points.

"I think Mia is the best point guard in Central Mass.," said Doyle, who's a shooting guard. "I've never seen a basketball player at this level who can handle the ball as well as she does. She's also a great passer and it's a lot of fun being on the court with her."

With Doyle sitting on the bench, Ducos scored four points during the second quarter. Senior co-captain Hannah Baxter (4 points) also added a field goal and senior co-captain Riley Bassett (9 points) made a foul shot, as the home team went into the locker room holding a 14-6 halftime lead.

## T-Birds drop decision to Amerks

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (18-15-3-2) could not keep pace with the potent offense of the Rochester Americans (19-13-3-1), falling 7-3 on Saturday night at Blue Cross Arena in Rochester.

The home team came out with firepower from the onset, and after a bad defensive zone turnover, Linus Weissbach cashed in with a wristed past Vadim Zherenko to make it a 1-0 game just 3:24 into the action. The Amerks were not finished, either, as Graham Slaggert found himself available for a deflection outside of Zherenko's crease, and he did just that at 6:07, tipping it by the Springfield goalie to make it a 2-0 Rochester lead.

In need of a positive shift in morale, the T-Birds got just that when Calle Rosen crept up into a play at the offensive blue line, stepping into the high slot to receive a one-touch pass from MacKenzie MacEachern. With a lane available to shoot, Rosen did just that, snapping it past Devon

Levi's blocker just 39 seconds after the Slaggert goal to cut the Rochester lead down to 2-1 at 6:46.

Springfield's special teams stepped into the spotlight meaningfully after that, killing off a pair of Amerks power plays thanks to a stabilized effort by Zherenko and his defense.

When the T-Birds received their first power play in the closing minutes of the period, they took full advantage to erase the two-goal hole before a full period was even completed. In his first game as a T-Bird, recent ECHL call-up Tanner Dickinson made his presence known, beating Levi with a snapper from the left circle to even the score, 2-2, at 17:17. Rosen picked up the primary assist in accounting for both Springfield goals in the opening frame.

After 20 minutes, Zherenko exited the game with an apparent injury, so former Amerk Malcolm Subban was thrust into duty. Even with the goalie swap, history repeated itself to begin the

second period as Rochester got to the scoreboard first. Kale Clague slipped down the far side of the ice, undetected, and tapped home a perfect centering pass from Brandon Biro to make it a 3-2 game. Lukas Rousek also assisted, extending his point streak to an AHL-best 13 straight games.

3:30 later, another turnover reared its ugly head on the T-Birds, as Brett Murray intercepted a drop pass, weaved to the right side, and beat Subban with a wrist shot to make it 4-2.

With Springfield jumping on a power play with a chance to cut the lead in half, Rochester handed Springfield a bitter gut-punch as Isak Rosen stormed in on a break-away and chipped a forehander over Subban's glove to make it 5-2 at 11:42. It was just the second shorthanded goal allowed all year by the T-Birds.

The T-Birds stopped the Amerks' run at the 14:47 mark when Jakob Vrana marched over the right-wing side on a 2-on-1 before flipping a perfect saucer pass to Mikhail Abramov, who one-timed it through Levi to make it a 5-3 game.

However, on this night, the T-Birds did not have the third-period magic, as Rochester held Springfield to just three attempts on goal in the final 20 minutes. Subban was forced to hold the 5-3 margin with a penalty shot save on Mason Jobst, but the Amerks persisted anyway, getting back-to-back goals from Viktor Neuchev and Weissbach separated by just 2:07 to finish the scoring.

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## Athlete of the Month

**NAME: Meaghan Doyle**  
**SCHOOL: Quabbin**

Last Friday night, Doyle scored the game-winning layup in double overtime to help Quabbin get a win over Hudson.

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](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com).

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## QUABBIN GIRLS, continued from page 7

United States Marine Corps after she graduates from high school, scored a game-high 14 points in that contest.

Barringer drew up the game winning play in last Friday's contest during a timeout with 12.5 seconds left in the second overtime.

Senior Brianna Whitelaw, who's also a co-captain, inbounded the ball to Doyle from in front of the Quabbin bench. Then Doyle drove past a couple of Hudson defenders before scoring the lay-up.

"I was a little bit scared before I made the game winning shot in double overtime. It's the first time that I've made a game winning shot since I've been playing for the varsity basketball team," Doyle said. "We haven't won a game against Hudson in a couple of years, and it was a lot of fun beating them in double OT."

The last time that Quabbin defeated Hudson on the hardwood was also at home on January 24, 2022. The final score of that game was 52-49.

Following Doyle's lay-up, the Hawks (7-5) did have a chance to win last Friday's game, but freshman Daria Giorgi-Woodford (7 points) missed a shot at the buzzer.

Doyle, who joined the varsity basketball team as a freshman, scored 12 of her team-leading 14 points in the second meeting of the regular season against Hudson during the second half. She spent most of the first half sitting on the bench after picking up her third personal foul with 1:21 left in the first quarter.

Neither team did a lot of scoring during the first 16 minutes.

The Lady Panthers built a 5-0 lead in the middle of the opening quarter following back-to-back lay-ups by Doyle and Whitelaw, which were her only points of the game.









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