

BARRE GAZETTE

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QRSD Committee approves 2026/2027 school calendar

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional School District Committee approved the 2026/2027 school calendar, which the teacher's union already approved, at the school committee Jan. 8 meeting.

QRSD Superintendent Colleen Mucha said Labor Day is late this year, Sept.

7. Teachers would attend school on Thursday, Aug. 27 and Friday, Aug. 28. Students would begin school on Monday, Aug. 31 through Sept. 3. Teacher would have Friday, Sept. 4 off.

She said the last day of school would be Wednesday, June 16, 2027 if there were no snow days, an unlikely occurrence and Thursday, June 24, 2027 with five snow days.

Agricultural program

Superintendent Mucha said she would be meeting at the New Braintree Grade School with someone from the Department of Agriculture this month as the school district moves forward with a plan to offer a vocational agricultural program. She said most likely the New Braintree school would be the site for an agricultural program. She also said it would likely be a collaborative with another school dis-

trict or districts to get enough students to make it worthwhile.

The district also seeks community input through a survey on the proposed agricultural program. Residents from Quabbin community towns along with neighboring towns may answer an online survey by visiting the district's website at qrsd.org.

New course offerings

Superintendent Mucha said in her report to the

school committee that the guidance department planned to hold more face to face meetings with high school students to help them with the new course offerings available. She said it is a busy time for the students and she hoped these meetings would mean fewer course changes among students.

Renewal of drug free community grant

She said the drug free community grant was up

for renewal. She said it was highly competitive and the application process entailed a lot of work. She said Q-DRUG, who were involved in the grant, recently changed their name to Quabbin Community Care. With the name change, they will expand their focus beyond drug awareness to community endeavors such

See **SCHOOL CALENDAR**, page 6

TA gave Select Board finance update

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Correspondent

HUBBARDSTON – Interim Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald gave the Select Board a finance update at their Feb. 9 meeting.

He said he and the financial team are continuing to reconcile the fiscal year 2025 books, incomplete balances, and are working on submitting their schedule A form, which is for itemized deductions. Fitzgerald said the team is also working to reconcile payroll and school district funds, and once that is done they can start projecting for this year.

Board member Heather Munroe said that the services of Marcia Bohinc, who was brought on as a temporary accountant in January, are continuing, but has taken more hours than they had expected. Fitzgerald said a pro-

urement recommendation for her services would be announced in the future. He said it is beneficial to have brought in Bohinc, who is a professional in her field, as it will instill best financial practices in the town.

FY 27 budget format

Fitzgerald proposed the town use a zero base budget for fiscal year 2027, which will highlight more details in spending. He said the current model the town uses divides the budget into supplies and services, and is not clear enough.

Fitzgerald said a zero base budget builds structure, and can help avoid confusion from department heads. He said it requires more work, and for that reason would not suggest using the format regularly.

Munroe supported the idea, and said it could be a good exercise for town

See **HUBBARDSTON**, page 6

Berthiaume visited Hardwick Elementary School



On Feb. 13, state Rep. Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr. visited Hardwick Elementary School to look at the boiler at the school and discuss possible solutions to have it replaced. Pictured from left to right are Clayton Larson, Hazel Larson, Samantha Mace, Berthiaume and Bennett Kolenda.

QHMA held annual breakfast meeting

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – The Quabbin Hills Chamber of Commerce held its first event in the new year, its annual breakfast at Cedarbrook Village at Ware.

Chamber CEO James Przypek welcomed attendees to the Feb. 12 breakfast, which also featured a presentation by the Employers Association of the NorthEast, a century-old nonprofit organization in western Massachusetts.

Przypek thanked the sponsors of the breakfast, the Employers Association of the NorthEast - Presenting Sponsor; Cedarbrook Village at Ware - Breakfast Sponsor

See **QHMA**, page 7

Quabbin District seeks survey response

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional School District is exploring the addition of an Agriculture Vocational Program (Massachusetts Chapter 74 Career Technical Education).

The four potential pathways include agricultural mechanics, animal science, environmental science and technology and horticulture.

Vocational programs prepare students to graduate with skills and credentials that will provide them with advanced employment opportunities if they enter the workforce immediately upon graduation. Signature components of these programs include at least 900 hours of immersive learning time, co-operative education in partnership with local employers and opportunities to earn high-value industry recognized credentials.

The Quabbin Regional

See **SURVEY**, page 5

Historical Commission met with Police Chief about Prison Camps

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Correspondent

RUTLAND – The Historical Commission met with Chief of Police Nick Monaco to discuss the Department of Conservation and Recreation's proposal to demolish the cell blocks and fill in the root cellar at the Rutland Prison Camps, citing safety concerns and graffiti of hate speech.

The commission has requested specific numbers, types, and instances of safety concerns and hateful graffiti, which DCR has not provided to them. Prior to the Tuesday meeting, the commission received public records from a resident who had requested them.

These records contain statistics from the Rutland Police Department and Rutland Fire Department for calls for service to the prison camps. Monaco described the prison camp property as a "low call volume site" and said there have been no instances of drug use, underage drinking or partying. He said many calls are received for reports of a suspicious person, but no more instances than any other areas of the town.

Monaco said the police department has been paying more attention to graffiti, since vandalism is technically illegal. He said since the

site has historically served as an area that is free to graffiti, prosecution becomes more difficult. In terms of safety, Monaco said there are "no particular concerns" from his department.

Historical Commission member Michele Van Reet said in the DCR's complaints, they describe the site as a "magnet for hate speech." She said that much of the alleged hate speech is anti-DCR graffiti.

Monaco said that does not fall under hate speech legally, and that there have been no observations of actual hate speech, just profanity.

The commission continued to support a local artist to paint a mural on the structures, or have community paint days. Monaco suggested coating the structures in anti graffiti paint.

The commission placed metal gates in the entranceways of the cell blocks and root cellar to prevent people from walking into the structures, as the DCR said they are structurally unstable and pose a safety risk. The commission said those gates were ripped from the ground by vandals.

Monaco said vandalism is "completely unacceptable," but said he does not believe there are structural concerns in the buildings, and that the gates may not be necessary.

Monaco suggested placing cameras, including remote monitored cameras and that it would be worth the investment to save the structures.

Monaco said he supports saving the structures for their historic value, citing his lack of safety concerns.

Commission member Lindsay Maus suggested placing signage on the structures forbidding climbing or entering the structures. She said the DCR has concerns about liability if someone is injured on the property and that the signage would absolve them of liability, as it counts as a legal warning.

Counter proposal
The commission said they aim to submit a counter-proposal to DCR pertaining to their intent to demolish the prison camps by next month. They said they hope to present them orally to the DCR at a meeting in April.

Historical Registry application

Maus and Van Reet said they worked together to register the prison camp structures onto the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System, also known as the historic inventory. Maus said on that application, they could check off whether they wanted to simulta-

See **PRISON CAMPS**, page 7

Board heard update on Town House restoration

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Jim Buzzell, president of the Friends of the North Brookfield Town House, told the Board of Selectmen that the organization has been working to start construction in order to restore a portion of the historic downtown structure.

"We've met with a lot of consultants through the years, both those connected with the state and also fundraising professionals," he said at the Feb. 10 meeting. "And we get the same recommendation from almost every one of these people we talk to and that's 'when you're ready for construction, try to do it so that you can open a portion of the building to the public.'"

Buzzell said it could be a small or large portion of the building, but either way it's a "great first step."

"It demonstrates the viability of the project, it tends to gather a lot of support from the community, and most importantly it impresses both large and small scale funders," he said.

Buzzell said the Friends have come up with a plan to renovate part of the basement on the east side of the building, adjacent to Summer Street. He said this was formerly the space that housed the fruit store.

Construction would include repairs to the floors, walls, ceilings, and the stone wall, and the addition of a bathroom. He said the stone wall would either be sandblasted or pointed, depending on expert recommendations.

Buzzell said the space would be used for meetings, or small community events. He said this renovated section would be walled off from the rest of the Town House to prevent access to other parts of the building.

He said depending on whether or not the renovated space has heating, it may only be used seasonally.

Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis said the cold and damp has impacted the flooring of this area, causing it to buckle. He said if the space wasn't heated consistently, it could risk damaging any repairs made to the flooring.

Petraitis and Vice-Chair Jamie Gilman also asked if the building needed to have a sprinkler system installed for fire suppression.

The Friends members said they were told the sprinkler system wouldn't be necessary until the Great Hall was opened. They said they would like to seek the opinions of local contractors about this question.

See **N BROOKFIELD**, page 7



News of the Towns



ROUND TOWN
by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Youth Theater presents 'The Enchanted Bookshop'
The Barre Players Youth Theater presents "The Enchanted Bookshop" on Friday, March 6 and Saturday, March 7 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 7 and Sunday, March 8 at 2 p.m. at the Barre Players Theater, 64 Common St. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for students, seniors 65+ and children 12 and under. Tickets may be reserved by either emailing barreplayers@gmail.com or by visiting www.barreplay-ertheater.com. This production is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Designer pancake breakfast
Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will hold a designer pancake breakfast Saturday, March 7 from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge, 71 Pleasant St., Barre. The full breakfast includes pancakes, waffles, sausage gravy and biscuits, bacon, sausage, coffee, juice and always real maple syrup. Cost is \$9 per adult and children age 6 and under \$5. All are welcome.

Barre Lions Club Scholarship
The Barre Lions Club offers a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior, who lives in Barre, Oakham, Hubbardston, New Braintree or Hardwick. To be eligible, the student must be accepted by an accredited college or technical school and must be entering the school in the fall semester of the current year. In addition to Quabbin seniors, this year the club expanded the scholarship applications to local students, who attend Monty Tech, Pathfinder or BayPath. For the students' convenience, the application has been sent to the guidance counselor of each school. People may email barre-lionsclub@aol.com with any questions.

Office hours
State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume and Chief of Staff, Donna and Senator Peter Durant's office invites constituents and town officials to meet them to express any concerns, ideas or issues that they may need assistance with. People may call Donna at 774-402-4742 if they would like a private meeting. Office hours are Monday, March 2 at the Barre Senior Center from 11 a.m.-noon.

Survey
The Quabbin Regional School District is exploring the addition of an Agriculture Vocational Program (Massachusetts Chapter 74 Career Technical Education). The four potential pathways include agricultural mechanics, animal science, environmental science and technology and horticulture. QRSD requests members of the Quabbin communities and beyond to take five minutes to complete this community survey about exploring an agricultural program at QRSD. To take the survey, they should visit qrzd.org or their Facebook page.

Lions Club fundraiser
The Barre Lions Club invites the community to an afternoon of fun, raffles, prizes and great deals at its first-ever Quarter Auction, taking place Saturday, Feb. 28 at the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street.

The doors open at noon and the auction begins at 1 p.m. Local vendors will be on hand offering a variety of items, along with exciting raffle prizes and a super raffle for a 58-inch Hisense Roku TV.

A quarter auction is a unique and affordable way to win great items. Upon entry, attendees purchase numbered paddles, one for \$3 or two for \$5. As the auction begins, each vendor presents an item and bidding is done using quarters. Each quarter represents a \$10 value. For example, a \$20 item requires two quarters and a \$30 item can be won for just 75 cents. Paddle numbers are drawn at random and the matching numbered paddle wins the item. In addition to the auction, attendees can shop with local vendors, purchase raffle tickets and enter the super raffle. Snacks and beverages will be available for purchase. People should bring their quarters and come join the fun. All proceeds support Barre Lions Club community projects in 2026, all of them local.

Quilt raffle benefits Oakham church furnace fund



This log cabin lap quilt, 52 inches by 60 inches will be raffled off at the Easter Sunday Sunrise Breakfast on April 5 at the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road. Proceeds from the quilt benefit the church furnace fund. Tickets are \$2 each and may be purchased after church from 11 a.m.-noon as well as at the April 5 breakfast.

Turley Publications photo by Ellenor Downer



OAKHAM
by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Democrats to caucus
The Oakham Democratic Town Committee will convene a caucus on Thursday, March 5 at 5:15 p.m. at the Fobes Library, Maple Street, to elect two delegates and one alternate to participate in this year's Massachusetts State Democratic Convention to be held in person on Friday, May 29 and Saturday, May 30 at the DCU Center in Worcester. Registered Democrats and pre-registered Democrats who turn 16 years old by Feb. 19, 2026, may vote and be elected as delegates or alternates. Additionally, any interested youth and young adults aged 16-35, people with disabilities, people of color and LGBTQ people, who are not elected as delegates or alternates can apply for "add-on delegates" at the caucus or by visiting massdems.org/caucus. Registration for the caucus will begin at 5:15 p.m. Voting will start at 5:45 p.m. and the meeting will conclude at 6:30 p.m. Any Oakham Democrat interested in getting involved with the Oakham Democratic Town Committee or with questions about the caucus should contact the Committee at OakhamDTC@gmail.com.

Lions Club Scholarship
The Barre Lions Club offers a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior, who lives in Barre, Oakham, Hubbardston, New Braintree or Hardwick. To be eligible, the student must be accepted by an accredited college or technical school and must be entering the school in the fall semester of the current year. In addition to Quabbin seniors, this year the club expanded the scholarship applications to local students, who attend Monty Tech, Pathfinder or BayPath. For the students' convenience, the application has been sent to the guidance counselor of each school. People may email barre-lionsclub@aol.com with any questions.

Office hours
State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume and Chief of Staff, Donna and Senator Peter Durant's office invites constituents and town officials to meet them to express any concerns, ideas or issues that they may need assistance with. People may call Donna at 774-402-4742 if they would like a private meeting. Office hours are Tuesday, March 17 in the Oakham Town Hall from 9-9:45 a.m.

Library historic room
The Fobes Memorial Library, 4 Maple St., will hold a reception celebrating the reopening of the library's recently completed Historic Room on Thursday, Feb. 26 from 6-8 p.m. In addition to the repairs, library staff has been working to reinvent the space. They hope the improvements have made the room more inviting and useful, while making the vast historic collection more accessible to patrons and the community. This event is open to all.

Oakham COA events
Lunch Bunch meets the third Friday, Feb. 20 at 12:30 p.m. in the Hitchcock Tavern, Route 9, West Brookfield. People may sign up at Senior Center sign up in the main room of the Senior Center.

On Monday, Feb. 23 podiatry takes place from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Reservations are required. On going activities include Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-noon puzzling; Monday through Thursday at 9 a.m. walking group (meet at Senior Center); Tuesday through Thursdays at 11 a.m. walking group (meet at Senior Center); Tuesdays yoga \$40 for eight classes in Senior Center multi-purpose room, registration required; Wednesdays at 8:45 a.m. Zumba Gold in New Braintree Town Hall - \$3 donation per class; Thursdays at noon Weigh in at the Senior Center support weight loss group and Fridays at 10:30 a.m. Functional Fitness at the New Braintree TownHall - \$3 donation per class. For walking groups, people may ask to be added to the text MSG group by calling the Senior Center at 508-882-4073 and leave their name and cell phone number.

Hot lunches
Hot lunches are offered at the Senior Center dining area Monday through Thursday at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are needed at least two days in advance and can be made through the Congregate Meal Coordinator from 9 a.m.-noon by calling 508-882-4072.

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 Feb. 23. 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 – Burger, chili and cheese, herb potatoes, green beans, fresh fruit, sandwich rolls

TUESDAY – Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, honey glazed carrots, pear crisp, diet = pears, Italian bread

WEDNESDAY – Braised beef, Gemelli pasta, roasted broccoli, peaches, marble rye bread

THURSDAY – Ranch chicken, wild rice, spinach, birthday cake, diet = half piece, pumpernickel bread

FRIDAY – Vegetable cheese bake, red bliss potatoes, peas and carrots, Lorna Doone cookies, whole wheat bread

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

Democrats to elect delegates to Democratic State Convention

NEW BRAINTREE – On Saturday, Feb. 21 at 1 p.m., Democrats will convene at the New Braintree Public Library, Memorial Drive, to elect one delegate and one alternate to represent New Braintree at the 2026 Massachusetts State Democratic Convention. Registered and pre-registered Democrats in New Braintree, who are 16 years old by Saturday, March 29, may vote and be elected as delegates or alternates during the caucus. Youth (age 16 to 35), individuals with disabilities, people of color, veterans and members of the LGBTQ+ community not elected as delegates or alternates are encouraged to apply to be add-on delegates at the caucus or by visiting <https://www.massdems.org/caucus-and-convention>.

The 2026 Convention will be in person at the DCU Center in Worcester on Friday, May 29 and Saturday, May 30. Those interested in getting involved with the New Braintree Democratic Committee should email Pat Benjamin at NewBraintreeDTC@gmail.com.

Youth Theater presents 'The Enchanted Bookshop'

BARRE – The Barre Players Youth Theater presents "The Enchanted Bookshop" on Friday, March 6 and Saturday, March 7 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 7 and Sunday, March 8 at 2 p.m. at the Barre Players Theater, 64 Common St. The play is written by Todd Wallinger. Raiden Bousquet is director and

Food Pantry holds distribution

BARRE – The Barre Food Pantry distribution will occur on Thursday, Feb. 19 from 5:30-7 pm. Feb. 19 will again be "drive-through" style. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed to east entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church. They'll be checked in by a volunteer, then groceries will be put into the trunk.

TOWN OF BARRE
Fire Department Administrative Assistant

The Town of Barre Fire Department is seeking a highly motivated, detail-oriented, part-time Administrative Assistant to support daily operations. This is a confidential position with HIPAA privacy requirements, performing payroll and accounts payable functions, assisting department leadership and supporting Fire and EMS services. High school diploma or equivalent, two years administrative or clerical experience, proficiency in Microsoft Office, strong organization and customer service skills are required. Preferred qualifications include experience in municipal or public-safety agencies, municipal payroll and finance experience, knowledge of fire reporting software and EMT basic certification (not required). The position is 20 hours per week with a starting hourly wage range of \$20.00 to \$24.15 per hour, depending on qualifications.

Candidates should submit an application, cover letter and resume to: Fire Chief James DiVirgilio, Barre Fire Department, 40 West St., Barre, MA 01005 or via email to jdivirgilio@townofbarre.com. The job description and application can be found at www.townofbarre.com.

EOE/AA

Editorial deadline reminder

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

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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

Quabbin Regional School District Central Office/Audit/Administrative Review Subcommittee – Feb. 19 at 5 p.m.
 Barre Common Oversight Committee – Feb. 19 at 5 p.m.
 Planning Board – Feb. 19 at 7 p.m.
 Quabbin Regional School District Bargaining Subcommittee – Feb. 23 at 2:30 p.m.
 Finance Committee – Feb. 24, March 3, March 17 and March 31 at 6:30 p.m.
 Conservation Committee – Feb. 24 and March 10 at 7 p.m.
 Cemetery Commission – Feb. 26 at 11 a.m.
 Board of Health – March 2 at 5 p.m.
 Felton Field Commission – March 3 at 6:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – March 4 at 12:30 p.m.
 DPW Commission – March 9 at 6 p.m.
 Water Commission – March 9 at 5:30 p.m.
 Library Trustees – March 11 at 6:30 p.m.
 Barre Housing Authority – March 12 at 1 p.m.
 Master Plan Steering Committee – March 12 at 5:30 p.m.
 Town Election Day – April 6 from 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

HARDWICK

Planning Board – Feb. 24 at 6:30 p.m.
 Master Plan Steering Committee – Feb. 26 at 6:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – March 4 at 12:30 p.m.
 Paige Library Trustees – March 5 at 7 p.m.
 Gilbertville Public Library – March 11 at 3 p.m.
 Capital Planning Committee – March 16 at 3 p.m.
 Recycling Commission – March 17 at 6:30 p.m.,

HUBBARDSTON

Planning Board – Feb. 19, March 4 and March 10 at 6:30 p.m.
 Library Trustees – Feb. 26 at 7 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – March 3 at 7 p.m.
 Planning Board – March 4 at 6:30 p.m.
 Board of Library Trustees – March 5 at 7 p.m.
 Board of Health – March 10 at 7 p.m.
 Agricultural Commission Farmer's Workshop – March 11 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – March 18 at 6 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Board of Selectmen – Feb. 19 at 2:30 p.m.
 Board of Health – Feb. 19 at 6:30 p.m.
 Planning Board – March 18 at 6 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Select Board – Feb. 19, Feb. 26, March 5, March 12 at 5:30 p.m., March 19 at 5:20 p.m. and March 26 at 5:30 p.m.
 Advisory Finance Committee – Feb. 19, Feb. 26, March 5, March 12 and March 19 at 6 p.m.
 Petersham Historic District – Feb. 19 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Health – Feb. 24 at 6:30 p.m.
 Open Space and Recreation Committee – March 3 at 6 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – March 3 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – March 9 at 10:30 a.m.
 Cemetery Commission – March 10 at 10 a.m.

RUTLAND

Board of Registrars – Feb. 19 at 5 p.m.
 Finance Committee and Select Board Joint Meeting – Feb. 19 at 6 p.m.
 Select Board Public Hearing Cable Television – March 2 at 6:45 p.m.
 Planning Board ByLaw Subcommittee – March 4 at 6 p.m.

Rep. Berthiaume and Sen Durant staff to hold office hours

State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume and Chief of Staff, Donna and Senator Peter Durant's office invites constituents and town officials to meet them to express any concerns, ideas or issues that they may need assistance with.

People may call Donna at 774-402-4742 if they would like a private meeting. Office hours are Monday, March 2 at the

Hubbardston- Senior Center from 10-11 a.m. and at the Barre Senior Center from 11 a.m.-noon.

Hours on Tuesday, March 3 are Ware Town Hall from 9-9:45 a.m. Hardwick Town Hall from 10-11 a.m., West Brookfield Senior Center from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. and Brookfield Town Hall from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Hours on Tuesday, March 17 are Oakham Town Hall

from 9-9:45 a.m., New Braintree Town Hall from 10-10:45 a.m. and North Brookfield Senior Center from 11 a.m.-noon.

Hours on Wednesday, March 18 are Leicester Senior Center from 9-9:45 a.m., Spencer Howe Village from 10-11 a.m. with Tammy Ruda from Rep. Marsi's office and East Brookfield Senior Center from 11:15 a.m.-noon.

HUBBARDSTON

by Ellenor Downer
 edowner@turley.com

Ag Commission holds workshop

The Agricultural Commission presents a Farmer's Workshop, making your own Biochar on Wednesday, March 11 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Town Building, 48 Gardner Road.

Excise tax bills

The 2026 Motor Vehicle Excise tax bills were mailed on Feb. 11 and are due March 16. Bills are sent to addresses on file, at the Registry of Motor Vehicles, for vehicles that are registered or garaged in Hubbardston as of Dec. 31, 2025. According to MGL Chapter 60A, Section 2 "Failure to receive notice shall not affect the validity of the excise." This means that even if people don't receive the bill, they are still liable for paying the excise plus any accrued interest and penalties. Anyone not receiving a bill should contact the Collector's office at 978-928-1400, extension 205.

Lions Club Scholarship

The Barre Lions Club offers a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior, who lives in Barre, Oakham, Hubbardston, New Braintree or Hardwick. To be eligible, the student must be accepted by an accredited college or technical school and must be entering the school in the fall semester of the current year. In addition to Quabbin seniors, this year the club expanded the scholarship applications to local students, who attend Monty Tech, Pathfinder or BayPath. For the students' convenience, the application has been sent to the guidance counselor of each school. People may email barremalionsclub@aol.com with any questions.

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Senior Center events

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

Corrections policy

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

Selectmen approved spending requests

By Paula Ouimette
 pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The board approved a spending request from the Highway Department to purchase a bearing for the chain on the sander in the amount of \$435 at its Jan. 27 meeting.

The board also approved a Reserve Fund request in the amount of \$6,735 to be transferred to the Police Equipment and Repair line item for the purchase of an air handler unit. The current unit has failed, and cannot be repaired as that model is no longer being made.

Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis said a temporary fix is in place, but there is no temperature control or fresh air exchange for the Police Station, which can cause issues with carbon monoxide. He said the Finance Committee unanimously approved the request.

The Police Department

also requested \$3,500 to be transferred to the Police Facility Expense line item to cover the cost of preventative maintenance completed this past July. The Town Accountant supported the request and the board approved the transfer.

The board also approved a Reserve Fund request from the Fire Department in the amount of \$4,594.41 to be transferred to the Vehicle Repairs and Maintenance line item for the emergency repairs to Rescue 1.

Petraitis said the vehicle's battery shorted out and caused a hazardous situation, which required the vehicle to be stored outside of the Fire Station, resulting in damage to the pump.

Recognition

Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair Jamie Gilman recognized the Highway Department and town staff that helped to clear snow after the two-day storm.

"It was a heck of a night,

and I thought they did a dynamite job," Gilman said.

Snow removal

Petraitis reminded residents that it is not legal, per state law, to plow snow from their properties, across town streets. He said he knows it is difficult to move snow given the amount that accumulated, but that this practice creates safety hazards.

"Unfortunately what happens when you do it, is a lot of people leave these little traces of snow across the street, and that ends of having to get re-plowed," he said.

Appointments

The board appointed Jessica Fulghum and Ernie Grimes to serve on the Memorial Park Committee. The board had previously appointed John Tripp to the committee.

Job description

The board members approved the revised job description for the Senior Center Program Assistant.

Board OK'd borrowing for Fire/Highway project

By Paula Ouimette
 pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis said the town is going to move from temporary borrowing for permanent borrowing for the Fire/Highway buildings project.

At the Jan. 20 meeting, Town Accountant Shiela LeBlanc said the town did a bond anticipation note during the construction and in April, they will look to permanently borrow for the project.

"There is a couple different options that our financial advisor gave us," she said. "He could not give us actuals on interest, but the interest he did give us was based on the current rates."

Options include a level debt service for 27 years, level principal for 27 years, level debt for 20 years or level principal for 20 years. LeBlanc said the 27-year option would have a higher amount of interest.

She said the level principal loan lowers the debt quicker, reducing the overall interest by about \$415,000 for the 20-year loan.

"It's basi-

cally up to the Selectmen to make this determination," she said.

LeBlanc said taxpayers would begin paying back the loan starting in fiscal year 2027. She said the average single-family household would pay about \$1.59 per thousand-dollar valuation for all of the town's combined debt exclusions.

The board members agreed that a 20-year loan would be better for the taxpayers overall, due to less interest being paid. The level debt loan would have a lesser impact on the taxpayers initially, but would carry a higher interest; while the higher initial payment of the level principal loan would continue to reduce as the principal was paid down.

"You save almost a half a million dollars," Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair Jamie Gilman said of the 20-year level principal loan over the level budget loan.



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Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

I'm still working; Why didn't my benefit amount increase

Dear Rusty:
I have been working somewhat consistently since commencing my Social Security benefit income. I've been collecting since my full benefit age of 66, approximately. I'm now 81 and customarily, in about October of each calendar year, Social Security notifies me of additional benefits from my additional work. Not this year.

I earned some \$18,000-\$19,000 in 2025. SS advised I did not meet some 35-year formula. I thought that formula just applied to the original benefit calculation. Otherwise, one seems cheated given the SS taxes paid on income received after applying for benefits without any consideration for that income. Please advise me.

Signed: Feeling Cheated

Dear Feeling Cheated:
For Your Information, your Social Security benefit is always based on the highest 35 years of your lifetime earnings with your early years' earnings automatically adjusted for inflation. And that formula continues even after you start receiving benefits. Social Security will look at your earnings each year to see if your recent earnings are among your highest. If so, they will automatically recalculate your benefit to give you a higher amount and pay you retroactively to the first of that year.

Apparently, in past years, your more recent earnings were among the highest over your lifetime, which is why you received those notifications in the fall of each previous year saying your benefit was adjusted based upon recent earnings. That you didn't get a similar notification this year, means that your earnings in 2024 were not among the highest over your lifetime, so no adjustment to your monthly benefit was appropriate.

Now, to clarify, those annual notices you received in the past always referred

to the preceding year – that is, if you received a notice in October 2024 of a higher SS benefit, that was a result of your 2023 earnings. If you got no such notice in October of 2025, that means that your 2024 income was not among the highest over your lifetime. And your 2025 earnings of \$18,000 - \$19,000 will likely not be among your lifetime highest either, so you probably won't get a notice next year either.

It's important to understand that your contributions to Social Security, i.e., the SS payroll taxes you pay while working, are not put into a separate account for you - rather, they are used to help pay benefits to all beneficiaries.

In other words, just contributing to SS with payroll tax from your work earnings doesn't necessarily mean you get a higher benefit. Your SS benefit is always based upon the 35 years in which you earned the most, including recent years if you continue to work. So, you weren't "cheated" that is simply how the program works your SS benefit is always based on your highest 35 years of work earnings, including recent years, with earnings from the early years adjusted for inflation.

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



DAVE GRANLUND www.davegranlund.com

In Past Pages

5 years (Feb. 25, 2021)

The Barre Board of Selectmen approved an additional \$40,000 over budget for snow removal, the only account allowed to overspend. Town accountant Jean Joel said the snow removal account was overspent by about \$19,000 on the payroll side. There was about \$38,000 left on the material side of the total \$105,000 budgeted.

Barre Selectmen received notice from the Department of Fish and Game regarding acquiring town owned property of about 90 acres around the old reservoir. The land was adjacent to the East Quabbin Land Trust property. Selectman Urban said he was not a fan of the state (DCR) closing its land off to public use in the watershed area. They locked the gates at the Ware River. He said the town had "bad luck" dealing with the state in the past and didn't see any benefit. Selectman O'Sullivan said he was skeptical of letting them [the state] have anymore land around the water and he didn't trust them. Urban said the Planning Board was developing a Master Plan and should keep this land. The board agreed to notify the Department of Fish and Game they were not interested in selling this land at the time.

On Wednesday, Feb. 17 the North Brookfield Planning Board heard the application for a convenience store/gas station at 192 and 206 North Main St., at a public hearing at the police station and via Zoom. The board voted 3-2 to close the hearing after hearing a pre-

Look Back White Spruce Farm – 2011



File photo

Shown from left are Sydney Wine, Kiley Bulger, "Misty," Cassidy Bulger and Adeline Reynolds, and in front, Little Greta, future competitor.

sentation from the proponent and residents.

Jim Bernardino, principal engineer of CMG Environmental Inc. is working with the applicant, CCS Realty LLC, who purchased the parcel in October of 2020. The parcel is .59 acres over two lots. Bernardino said it would be consolidated into one lot. The building is currently vacant, and the owner is seeking to raze it and build a new structure. Bernardino said they are proposing an approximately 3,900-square-foot convenience store with 18 parking spaces. Twelve of those parking spaces would be in front of the building, one being handicapped accessible. The other six parking spaces would be located at the fuel dispensers. Those dispensers will include three multi-product dispensers that provide regular unleaded, premium unleaded, as well as diesel. A diesel-only filling station will

be located on either end of the multi-product dispensers.

10 years (Feb. 25, 2016)

Hardwick was awarded its Green Communities designation during a ceremony held on Feb. 12 at the Town House. The Green Communities program is run under the state Dept. of Energy Resources, and works to aid the cities and towns find clean energy solutions that reduce energy costs in the long term, and strengthen local economies. In order to become a Green Community and receive the funding, municipalities are required to meet a set of five criteria, which includes reducing energy usage by 20 percent over five years, and adopting the Stretch Code, which has requirements for minimizing life-cycle energy costs for new construction. Once des-

See PAST PAGES, page 6

Letter to the Editor

CNAs are backbone of everyday health care

My wife was a CNA for 30 years.

She often talked with passion and in great detail about that job and her patients. In spite of all that, I never truly understood the impact CNA's had on your "feelings" until I found myself requiring their help.

A ladder fall fractured both my legs, heels and knee. Of course the doctors, nurses and technicians provided the foremost medical services to treat these injuries. I am so grateful for that and for the Barre Fire Department rescue.

But in the hospitals

and healthcare/rehab centers, CNA's handle many routine needs we take for granted. They answer requests for help all hours. Bathing and toileting are performed with dignity and without embarrassment. Garments changed, bedding refreshed. Patients' daily hygiene falls to them. Their friendly, caring voice and yes, a shoulder to cry on is so beneficial.

CNA's are the backbone of everyday health care. I know it because I've received it.

Paul Gallo
Barre

The Gentle Beauty of the Falling Snow

To sit here watching the lovely blanket of snow arrive,

Is to know what moves an artist to express life's mysteries,

In whatever field of work, life has led him or her to labor.

Somewhere in time, words gave my passionate thoughts flight,

Like the snowflakes riding on the wind that shapes their destiny,

My deep connection to nature drives the words to venture forth.

The hours pass as I work my thoughts to tell a story in need of telling,

All the while, the snow continues to decorate the trees and grass,

And now I can no longer ignore it, for it always moves me here.

Poetry is the perfect genre to describe the falling snow,

Like a lithe, lovely, elegant Ballerina floating across God's stage,

Each flake moves with perfect grace in lockstep with its others.

A shape so unique and perfect that God saw fit to create only one,

In like manner, you and I are snowflakes of a sort, each unique and perfect,

At least at that first moment of conception, followed by a life of replication.

How does that first cell encoding our past know when to create another?

When does the geometric progression of cell division begin,

Do those cells which repeat for every moment of life know where our flakes will fall?

So many questions unanswered, so many fascinating thoughts to address,

Time is the harbinger of wondering, that changes with each new wrinkle in life,

I don't remember my first question; will I be able to remember my last?

That would require a place to be when this place is no more,

An act of faith to conjure and reflect on those thoughts, must needs be,

But where is the proof that denies us that act of faith, I wish I knew.

Is it in the perfect smile of a newborn child when it recognizes its mother's love?

Is it the roar of the ocean's relentless rush to shore or a seabird's flight on the wind?

Or, is it just outside my window now, in The Gentle Beauty of the Falling Snow.

Brad Splaine (12/2/25)

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For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for the Barre Gazette, please email edowner@turley.com.

What are shallots, anyway?

Shortly after the two part column on growing onions, I received a question about shallots.

My friend was looking through a seed catalog and wanted to know the ins and outs of growing them. This topic was a fun one for me because it required some research.

Can you believe that the Garden Lady has never grown shallots before? There is an explanation why, with part of the reason being that I am not what you'd consider a fancy cook, and shallots have their place in fine dining.

The other reason is that admittedly I never understood the point of shallots – aren't they just small onions? Why would you buy something special for a recipe if you had a good old fashioned onion in the pantry?

As all the cooks in the audience gasp, let me qualify that statement with the fact that now I know better.

Shallots are slightly different plants from onions scientifically. Whereas the onion goes by the name *Allium cepa*, shallots are what you would call a cousin, with the Latin name *Allium cepa* gr. *Aggregatum*.

Although the flavor hints of garlic (who is another more distant cousin), shallots are sweeter and more mild than onions, and are a staple in French and Asian cuisine where they can be used raw or cooked. Think delicate sauces or vinaigrettes.

I laugh when I picture all of the onion family members sitting around at a party. You'd have the gregarious onion, the boisterous garlic and then the cultured shallot, wearing

a beret and speaking with a French accent.

I'm not sure why my mind went there, but it was a fun



digression.

In terms of culture, shallots are similar to onions in that they can be grown from both sets or seeds. Seeds would be started indoors anytime now through March. Transplants or sets are best planted in the garden as soon as the ground can be worked, usually early April.

Although shallots mature smaller than onions, spacing should still be four-six inches apart so that they can size up to their full potential. They are shallow rooted, so supplemental watering is a must.

When foliage reaches 12 inches, apply a mulch around the base of each plant to help conserve moisture and cut down on weed competition. Until that point, cultivate carefully by hand or pull individual weeds as they pop up.

Like onions, scallions begin to "bulb up" around the time of the summer equinox. Top dressing with fertilizer at that time is a smart idea.

As summer draws to a close, shallots will exhibit similar die back as onions, whereby the tops begin to fall over, indicating they are ready for harvest. If the weather cooperates, sun cure on the ground or garden path for a few days, then move indoors

to a spot with good air movement to finish the curing process.

Once necks have shrunk and dried, cut the tops off to about one inch above the bulb and store in mesh bags as close as you can to the freezing mark with ample humidity. One interesting fact I learned from Fedco Seeds (www.fedcoseeds.com) is that if you don't have a room that cold, humidity can be adjusted to make up the difference for proper storage.

For example, best case scenario dictates that shallots need 34 degrees at 66 percent humidity. Say the coldest you can get your storage spot is 55 degrees, well then they would like 45 percent humidity. The closest you can get it to add up to 100 the better.

I wonder if this theory holds true for other crops in storage. My squash and pumpkin aren't the happiest this year, so maybe I will look into how to manipulate the environment to avoid some of the shriveling I am seeing.

Anyhow, I hope you had a few chuckles reading this column and that you might feel inclined to give shallots, that cultured onion cousin, a try this gardening season.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

tice of painting outdoors. Impressionist artists championed the approach, which emphasizes capturing the natural effects of light and atmosphere spontaneously. Claude Monet advised artists to embrace imperfection, famously stating, "I would advise young artists to paint as they can, as long as they can, without being afraid of painting badly." This encouragement emphasizes persistence over perfection, suggesting that continuous creation is more important than immediate, flawless results.

Summer is the perfect season to try painting outside. Watercolors are a convenient art medium to travel with to your favorite park bench or seaside retreat. As I sit in the warm sand and paint the crashing waves, my whole body relaxes and I feel in tune with the sounds and sights of the day. With minimal materials you can experience the world around you on a deeper level and express your unique artistic vision.

As the golden tones of autumn grace us with their beauty, once again I turn to art to appreciate nature and find resilience and harmony with the cycles of change. "Nature is painting for us, day after day, pictures of infinite beauty if only we have the eyes to see them." – John Ruskin

Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

This week the weather has been fairly nice, but still the snow is not melting.

We gave our Handyman a birthday lunch this week. He has been a blessing to us.

I spent the rest of the week sewing and watercoloring besides cooking and cleaning. My worker came and got groceries and cleaned also.

I moved several things in the den to get the heat ducts so they produce and it seems to be much warmer in there. That is where Ken sleeps and has his television so it needs to be warm.

I put one book case in the hall by the cellar door, which is next to the kitchen and put my cookbooks in that. I found a book on recipes for maple syrup called "Maple Syrup Cookbook" by Ken Haedrich. I wonder if my neighbor and Handyman will be collecting sap this year.

Here is one of the recipes

I thought I would try.

MAPLE BREAD PUDDING

3/4 cup maple syrup
1 tablespoon softened butter
4 thick slices of bread without crusts
1/2 cup finely chopped walnuts, pecans or raisins
1 teaspoon lemon juice
2 cups whole milk
2 eggs
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon vanilla

Pour the maple syrup in the top of a double boiler. Butter each slice of bread and cube. Add bread to maple syrup with the nuts and lemon juice. In a medium size bowl, beat milk, eggs, salt and vanilla and pour over bread mixture. Do not stir, but press down with a fork to thoroughly moistened the bread.

Set in double boiler over gently boiling water and cook, uncovered, for 1 to 1

1/2 hours, until knife inserted in the bread comes out clean. Add more boiling water to bottom pan if needed.

The pudding makes its own sauce, spoon it over each serving. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

This and That

I like to fry in a cast iron fry pan so I need to keep it seasoned. I add a little olive oil and put it in the oven after I bake something with the oven shut off. It keeps it seasoned. I also add a little olive oil when frying something.

To keep brown sugar soft added a few marshmallows.

Signs in various places. In the front yard of a Funeral Home, "Drive carefully, we'll wait." On a plumber's truck, "We repair what your husband fixed."

Have a good week and make someone happy.



Northern flicker

On President's Day I saw a northern flicker fly up into a tree as I traveled in Barre.

The white rump patch was clearly visible. A Brimfield resident said he has a friend in Belchertown, who occasionally has a flicker come to his suet feeder. Four or five bluebirds also frequent his suet feeder.

Northern flickers are a fairly, large woodpecker about 11 to 12 inches long. They are larger than a hairy woodpecker and smaller than a pileated woodpecker.

They appear brownish overall with a white rump patch that's conspicuous in flight and often visible when they perch. The undersides of the wing and tail feathers are bright yellow for eastern birds or red for western birds. The brown plumage has black spots, barring and a black "bib." The sexes are similar, but the male has a black mustache.

Flickers spend a lot of time on the ground and like many woodpeckers fly in an undulating up and down path with flapping and gliding. They make a repeated flicker or "wicka-wicka-wicka" call and a loud "kleer."

They inhabit open forests, woodlots, groves and

semi-open country. The female lays five to eight eggs sometimes more. Both sexes incubate the eggs with the male incubating at night and part of the day. Both parents feed the young by regurgitation. The young leave the nest in about four weeks after hatching, but parents feed them for while. Later, they follow them to good foraging sites. They mainly eat ants and other insects. They also eat fruits and berries in fall and winter.

Bird bath visitors

A Brimfield resident sent an email recently. He said, "I have a heated bird bath so I modified it by placing rocks in the center so that the only water available is near the edge and birds can't immerse themselves in water to take a bath. The birds sit on the edge of the bird bath to drink."

He also said, "I have a trail camera aimed at the bird bath. I was looking at pictures taken during December (40,000) and saw that blue jays, house finches and juncos are the most frequent birds taking a drink. Birds that show up less often are cardinals, titmice and morning doves. Curiously chickadees drink infrequently even though they are often seen in the yard. We seldom see goldfinches drinking, but they are not seen in the yard often. I was surprised to see a downy woodpecker show up twice to get a drink. I can't recall ever seen a woodpecker drink at the bird bath before, summer or winter."

Helping birds

The Brimfield resident said creating brush piles provides shelter for birds.

The piles also provide shelter for small animals as well. He said this time of year is a good time to trim trees and shrubs, a source of materials for a brush pile.

He said someone sent him a link about the possible dangers to birds of their feathers freezing if they take a bath in cold weather. For more information, people may visit the link at <https://blog.nature.org/2022/01/31/should-you-provide-birds-water-in-winter/>.

Project Feederwatch

The Brimfield resident also said, "I recently visited the Project Feederwatch 2025 results (https://cdn.feederwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Winter-Bird-Highlights-2025_12.22.2025.pdf). The chart shows the top 25 birds seen in the Northeast during last year. The top 11 species can be seen most days in our yard."

Here is the list: 1. chickadee, 2. dark-eyed junco, 3. northern cardinal, 4. downy woodpecker, 5. blue jay, 6. mourning dove, 7. white-breasted nuthatch, 8. American goldfinch, 9. house finch, 10. red-bellied woodpecker, 11. tufted titmouse, 12. American robin, 13. European starling, 14. house sparrow, 15. hairy woodpecker, 16. Carolina wren, 17. white-throated sparrow, 18. song sparrow, 19. red-winged blackbird, 20. common grackle, 21. American crow, 22. brown-headed cowbird, 23. chipping sparrow, 24. northern flicker and 25 purple finch.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005. The Palmer office has a new phone system and I will be getting an extension where messages may be left. I will publish the number as soon as it is set up.

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Finding resilience in creativity and nature

By Jen Swan

Do you feel stressed and disconnected with the world around you?

One way to find wellness and joy is to be creative while observing the natural world. Living in New England, I am grateful for the unique beauty of the four seasons.

The artist Paul Cezanne believed, "Art is a harmony parallel with nature". Whether it's photography, writing, sketching, painting or pastels, finding a creative medium to share your experiences can help you find purpose and resilience in life throughout the year.

In winter, I appreciate the silhouettes of the trees against an iridescent pale sky or the way the sun lights up the landscape after a winter storm. These observations help bring me into the pres-

ent moment and feel connected to the world around me. As an artist, these small moments spark creativity and the desire to re-create the textures, colors and light while painting back in the warmth of my studio.

As spring approaches, new growth is happening every day around us. We hear new bird songs or notice a green sprout that's found its way upward. What creative joy to slow down and capture these moments in art.

This feeling of wonder can also fuel the desire to protect and preserve the habitats and landscape in which we live. From the smallest leaf to the grandest tree, observing form and detail as you draw, brings a deeper awareness to the delicate ecosystem in which we live.

The French term, "en plein air" meaning in the open air, is the prac-



SURVEY from page 1

School District requests members of the Quabbin communities and beyond to take five minutes to complete this community survey about exploring an agricultural program at QRSD. To take the survey, they should visit qrdsd.org or their Facebook page.

People may share this survey with anyone, who may not have a direct affiliation with the QRSD. Also people may share where to find the survey with any community members whose emails they may have.

The districts seeks to gather input from as many district stakeholders and community members as possible.

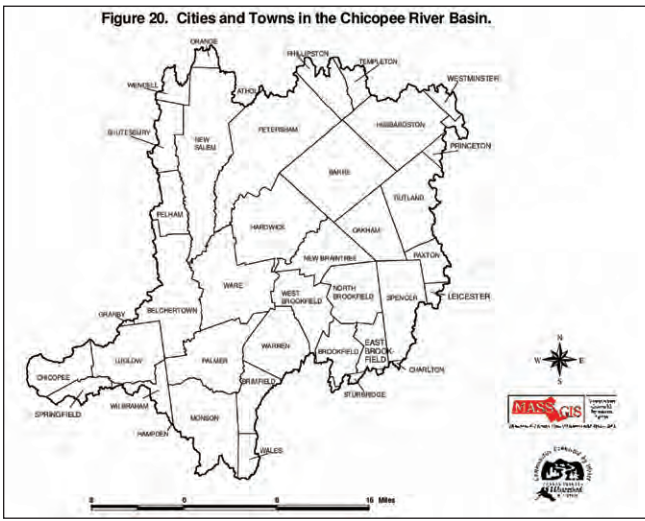


Figure 20. Cities and Towns in the Chicopee River Basin.

Paige Memorial Library lists winter days events

HARDWICK – Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, will hold drop-in for stamp mania on Wednesday, Feb. 25 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., an early release Day Quabbin Regional School District.

They will explore printmaking with rubber stamps, ink, markers and more to make their own bookmarks and other creations. All ages will enjoy this.

Story time with an activity is on Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m.-noon. A fun time for our

youngest patrons to experience the library. "If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales." Albert Einstein

Patrons may explore the library's collection of board games for all ages on Thursday, Feb. 19. "Play is the royal road to childhood happiness and adult brilliance," Joseph Chiltern Pearce.

Saturdays, Feb. 21, Feb. 28, March 7 and March 14,

people may drop in to Pam Hinckley's adult handcraft workshops from 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. "Rhythmic, repetitive movements with the hands have been shown to release serotonin, dopamine and oxytocin in the brain," Susan Magsamen. Shenanigans with Friends, an exciting cover band of Western Massachusetts and Southern Vermont will perform a wide range of songs. March 14 from 3-5 p.m.

Other ongoing library activities include the Paige

Book Club, the Cookbook Club, Celebrate Hardwick, the Ongoing Book Sale, the Paige Writers and the Movie Festival Committee. People are invited to come join a group or suggest a new one. People may visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/paigelibrary/> and their website at <http://www.paigelibrary.com/>. The 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.

A Watershed Moment

C4R promotes conservation, stewardship and enjoyment of rivers

By Keith Davies
Coordinator, Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council
Guest Contributor

Watershed 'wöder SHed, wäder Shed **noun**
noun: watershed; plural noun: watersheds

1. an area or ridge of land that separates waters flowing to different rivers, basins, or seas.

• an area or region drained by a river, river system, or other body of water.

2. 2. an event or period marking a turning point in a course of action or state of affairs.

"these works mark a watershed in the history of music"

Editor's Note: This is the first part in a multi-part series about the Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council.

Just over a decade ago, a small group of people began to renew an idea: the Chicopee Watershed and its tributaries should be better known and appreciated by local residents and even people beyond.

It was a watershed moment, meaning what happened could tip in one of two directions: either people engaged or did not. Fortunately enough people became involved.

The name of the idea was the Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council because four rivers made up the watershed.

It was a slow but positive start, initial goals and actions were modest. C4R sponsored river area clean ups, fun paddles, and a modest six site sampling program on two rivers.

By 2017 C4R had expanded to 10 sites on all four rivers and began to lay out two paddling trails. Things were progressing.

C4R has sampled up to 25 sites and has developed two more Blue Trails. Yet to continue to serve, it needs help.

Then we hit some bumps: COVID stemmed momentum, how people volunteer and commit to things have changed and we have found it more difficult to continue progress. The hope of maintaining C4R as a voice for the watershed and rivers has dimmed.

So, 2026 is a new watershed moment! Which way things tip will depend on if new and younger people step forward.

Over the next two issues, we will share C4R stories and hopes to help people see what has been done and what the opportunities are for a vibrant watershed family.

For more information about C4R and to get involved, people may visit www.c4rivers.org, email chicopeewatershed@gmail.com, or mail C4RWC, P.O. Box 126, Three Rivers, MA 01080.

PAST PAGES from page 4

ignated Green Communities, towns are eligible for state grants that help with additional renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. Hardwick was one of 19 communities from across the state to become Green Communities on this designation round, and one of three being congratulated during the ceremony.

MassDOT recently installed new signage in the Barre Common area. The traffic flow changed after completion of Phase 1 and 2 of the Barre Common project. Motorists approaching Barre center on Mechanic Street (Rte. 62) must make a right turn onto Exchange Street by the Barre town hall. A white arrow pointing right was painted in the road. The state instaTo reach Rte. 122 from that direction motorist take either a left onto School Street Extension, a one-way road or Park Street, a two-way road. Traffic on Rte. 122 by making a right either onto Exchange Street or the next right at the intersection of Rte. 62 and 122, a road that was previously two-way. South Street traffic stops, then crosses Rte. 122 onto Rte. 62.

The Petersham Select Board and the advisory finance committee discussed insurance increases. They voted to increase the deductible for property and casualty from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Property and casualty insurance increased four percent for fiscal year 2017. The buildings were undervalued

and the insurance provider required the town to go to full valuation increasing by a third over three years. Advisory Finance Committee chairman Ross France recommended the town increase its deductible, set up a reserve fund for the deductible, increase the valuation of the buildings by one-third this year and insure the Nichewaug property, mainly for liability issues. The raising of the deductible would offset the increase in the premium.

25 years (Feb. 22, 2001)

A group of about 25 people attended the Board of Selectmen's meeting to plead their case to prevent the controlled burning of the former Lane house located on 645 Scott Road by the Oakham Fire Department. Vanessa Landyn presented the selectmen with a petition containing over 300 signatures asking that the Oakham Fire Department not burn the house. Karen del-aGorgendiere whose daughter, Danielle, wrote a letter to the owner John Saliba, said there are only 35 houses in town that were built within the 1700s. The house on 645 Scott Road was built around 1790 and is about the 15th oldest house in town. She voiced the concern that the controlled burn of this house allows the demolition of this house at no expense to the owner. The residents should have a say in what the fire department does.

The Quabbin Regional School District committee voted Feb. 8 to create the

position of staff accountant to aid in the daily financial management of the school district. Right now, the ARSD runs a "lean, mean central office machine" with three financial support staff members, who could use the extra help," Superintendent Maureen M. Marshall said. She said adding a full-time accountant would be necessary to prepare for an upcoming financial audit by the state. "Otherwise, we will not be prepared for the audit," Marshall told the school committee.

The Barre Congregational Church welcomed the Rev. Philip Allen LaFollette as its permanent minister after a unanimous vote of the congregation last November. Rev LaFollette officially began his pastorate on Sunday, Jan. 21, the day of the heavy snowstorm, when 40 hearty souls showed up at his first service. He said it took him two hours that day at about 20 miles per hour to travel from his home on the Acton/Littleton town line, a trip that usually takes about 45 minutes. "But I wasn't going to let anything keep me from church that day," Rev. LaFollette said.

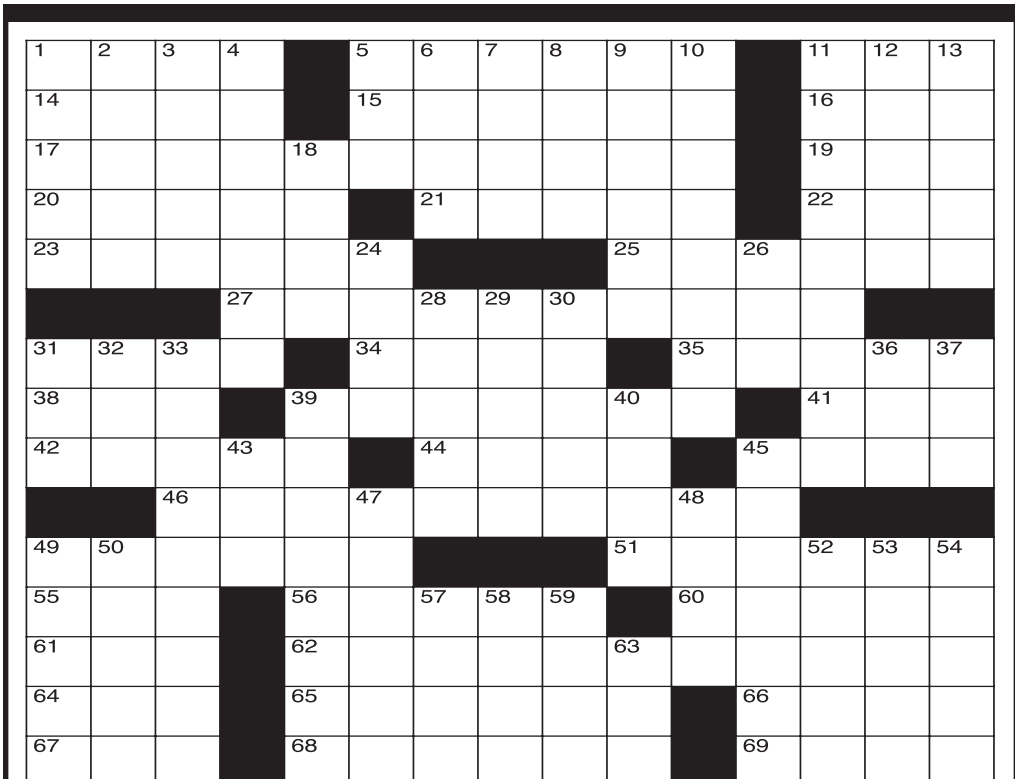
38 years (Feb. 25, 1988)

With last Monday, Feb. 22 being the last day to file nomination papers with the Board of Registrars for Barre's upcoming elections April 4, several positions are uncontested while truly four are challenged. Challenged is incumbent Earl N. Sample for the one open position of Selectman

by Duke J. Demetropoulos and Charles R. Chase. The winner will hold the position for three years. Also challenged it the one open position for the Board of Health. Last week saw five challenging the position, but two, Dana Mascroft and Kenneth Wright, failed to submit their papers. These withdrawals leave Genevieve Fraser, Mark A. Staiti and Philip E. Moss, running for the three-year term.

Registered Democrats in Barre will be holding a caucus on Saturday, Feb. 27 at 1 p.m. to elect delegates to the 1988 Massachusetts Democratic Convention. Barre will be electing three delegates and two alternates, equally divided between men and women, to send to the Convention. The apportioned number of delegates has been allocated on the basis of a formation of a formula giving equal weight to the Democratic Party registration and the average vote for Democratic candidates in the last general elections for Governor and President for which figures were available at the time tabulations were prepared.

A concert to benefit the historic restoration of the No. 4 Schoolhouse will be held this coming Friday, March 11 at 8 p.m. in the Quabbin Regional High School. The Worcester Men of Song will sing Barbershop Harmony under the direction of Mark Goodney. This group will feature two award winning quartets, Beginners Luck and Haystack Four.



SCHOOL COMMITTEE from page 1

as community closets at all the schools and addressing food insecurity.

EV charging station

Building, Grounds and Security Director Kevin Clark discussed with the Building, Grounds, Safety and Technology Subcommittee the possible installation of Electric Vehicle charging stations at the Quabbin schools. They met with a sales person from a company that provided EV charging stations for a cost of about \$50,000. School Committee member and a member of that subcommittee said the charging stations must be available for hook up 24 hours. They discussed possible fees, reduced fees and higher rates for night time use.

The next step, which was non-binding, would be for someone to come out and look at the school locations to see if EV charging stations would be feasible.

Policy Review/Reform

School committee member Debra Chamberlin of the Policy Review/Reform Subcommittee asked that the following policies were removed from the table: IKF graduation requirement, IKFE competency determination and KJF Sunday/weekend schedules/programs and required a vote. The school committee approved those policies.

Trip approval

The school committee approved a change in location of the Nature's Classroom trip for the Hubbardston Center School from Charlton to Swanzey, New Hampshire. For years, Hubbardston students went to the Charlton location.

They opened a new Nature's Classroom at the New Hampshire location and recommended Hubbardston students attend their new location. It was also less money.

Other business

The superintendent said she participated in a meeting with 23 schools and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Twenty-one of the 23 school area schools with low enrollment and "held harmless" by the state. They received less state funding.

Superintendent Mucha said the North Brookfield School Committee would be meeting this month to discuss the proposed tuition agreement from the Quabbin District. The District should hear from them sometime in February. She also reported the high school track team broke eight records.

HUBBARDSTON from page 1

employees.

Select Board Vice Chair Katie Young said she wanted to make sure all the department heads are supported, as the zero base budget will be a new process for them.

Fitzgerald said he would support them, and help along the way. The board voted to approve a zero base budget for FY 27.

FY 27 Quabbin Regional budget

Fitzgerald said a meeting with Colleen Mucha, the superintendent of the Quabbin Regional School District, is coming up. The board said the school is pro-

posing a 7.5% increase in budget for FY 27.

Fitzgerald said he wants to look at statistics from the school district, as he said they are losing students. He said the town supports the district, but needs to analyze spending needs.

The board members said that Hubbardston gets a larger increase than other towns in the district. Fitzgerald suggested governance from each town in the district needs to convene and talk about the district budget more.

Personnel update

Fitzgerald said that Bob Garside has officially begun his tenure as building commissioner, and will be used for inspections and permits,

among other duties. He said he is in the process of soliciting a multi-year contract for Garside.

Young said she is continuing to interview candidates for executive assistant, and hopes to have a recommendation by the board's next meeting. She said candidates are being gauged on their accounting knowledge, as a modification in the job description to include accounting was made.

Memorial Day committee

The board appointed Gary Kangas, Nancy Rogan, Stevie LaBelle, Taylor Wilkinson, and Katie Young if needed to the Memorial Day committee.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| CLUES ACROSS | 39. People 65 and over | CLUES DOWN | 31. Wet dirt |
| 1. Cut quickly | 41. Small amount | 1. Brushed | 32. Southwestern Russia city |
| 5. A way to state clearly | 42. Daughter of Acrisius | 2. Small water spirit (Germ.) | 33. Observed |
| 11. River in NE Scotland | 44. Ornamental box | 3. Heroes | 36. Angry |
| 14. Expansive | 45. Government agents | 4. Monetary units | 37. Drivers' licenses |
| 15. Lacking social polish | 46. Uncertain | 5. Some don't want to share theirs | 39. Musical composition |
| 16. Amount of time | 49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish | 6. Free-swimming invertebrate | 40. Auction |
| 17. Frame | 51. Treeless plains | 7. Litigates | 43. They ___ |
| 19. Automobile | 55. One's sense of self-importance | 8. Outer | 45. Women |
| 20. Toadstools | 56. Consumer advocate | 9. Parallelograms | 47. Be filled with love for |
| 21. High school dances | 60. Type of lounge | 10. Uneasy feelings | 48. Thick-soled sock |
| 22. Utilize | 61. Body part | 11. Cross | 49. Appears |
| 23. Experimented with | 62. Can be persuaded | 12. A way to remove | 50. Old World lizard |
| 25. One-sided | 64. Woman (French) | 13. Pages can be | 52. The leading performer |
| 27. Acquisitive | 65. Ready and willing to be taught | 18. Ukrainian city | 53. Protein |
| 31. Potted plants | 66. Arab ruler title | 24. A citizen of Denmark | 54. "Gunga Din" script writer |
| 34. Everyone has one | 67. Unhappy | 26. Month | 57. Art ___, around 1920 |
| 35. Kalahari Desert lake | 68. Gradually went away | 28. Hindu queens | 58. ___ Blyton, children's author |
| 38. Unidentified flying object | 69. Able to think clearly | 29. Group of chemicals | 59. Abnormal breathing |
| | | 30. Rider of Rohan | 63. A place to rest |

QHMA from page 1

and Host; Hardwick Vineyard & Winery - Raffle Sponsor; and Monson Savings - Raffle Sponsor.

He also thanked the chamber's underwriters for the year, Superior Plus Propane, Burkhart Pizzanelli, Country Bank, J. Stolar Insurance Agency, Inc., Monson Savings, Servepro, Behavioral Health Network and Christopher Heights of Belchertown.

Director of Learning & Development at the Employers Association of the NorthEast, Gary Dawson, explained the history of the nonprofit, and how its staff can help local businesses and employers.

"It started out as a manufacturing association," Dawson said of the Agawam-based organization. "Over the years we've grown."

Now, the Employers Association of the NorthEast offers over 60 different training courses, offered both in-person and remotely, with flexible timing schedules to meet the employer's needs.

"One of the things that makes us unique is all of the ways you can attend training," he said. "We're trying to give them a lot of flexibility."

Dawson said the nonprofit also offers roundtable discussions and peer exchanges.

"That's a chance for you to sit collectively and talk about a topic," he said.

He said webinars are



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette
Gary Dawson, director of Learning & Development at the Employers Association of the NorthEast, was the featured speaker at the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce's annual breakfast.

offered monthly, and the use of artificial intelligence has become a big topic of discussion for many employers.

"We constantly are looking for something you'll find interesting and beneficial," he said.

Dawson said grants for the trainings are available to employers, offering reimbursement up to 75% of the cost.

Dawson said the Employers Association of the NorthEast offers human resources services too, including employee handbook services, and a hotline that can provide crucial support for "HR departments of one."

"Many companies have one person in HR," he said.

The nonprofit also hosts a

human resources conference at MGM in Springfield. On April 9, a leadership summit will be held at the same location.

"It's our biggest event of the year," he said.

Dawson said the Employers Association of the NorthEast provides services throughout Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

Dawson said one of the things his organization helps employers with is bridging the "critical skills gap," and helping to develop "power skills" in employees.

"We're seeing more and more gaps," Dawson said.

The Employers Association of the NorthEast also provides leadership

training and technical training. The goal of these trainings is to create "confident, capable leaders."

Dawson said the nonprofit also provides training and solutions to improving interpersonal relationships in the workforce.

"Conflict resolution skills are always at the top of the list of needs for our members, and also emotional intelligence," he said. "The ability to have a professional presence."

Dawson said a complete calendar of available trainings is posted on the nonprofit's website, EANE.org.

"We're happy to customize the content to make sure we're speaking the way you want to speak," he said.

Mackenzie Diaz, Workforce Solutions Specialists at the Employers Association of the NorthEast, said the nonprofit works to empower employers to be better "people" people.

She said employers don't need to be members of the nonprofit to benefit from its trainings and services, but that membership helps provide more incentives to employers. Membership fees are based on the number of employees an employer has.

"We try to be as affordable as possible," she said.

For more information, visit EANE.org.

Upcoming QHMA events

The Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce will host its inaugural women in business event,

EmpowHer, on Thursday, March 12 in the chamber's office at Pathfinder Tech, Four Corners, 191 Sykes St., Palmer starting with breakfast from 8:30-9 a.m. followed by a panel discussion from 9-10 a.m. Space is limited and registration is required.

A Bingo Night fundraiser will be held on Friday, March 20 at AMVETS Post 74, 2150 Main St., Three Rivers at 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Online registration ends at noon the day of the event and walk-up registrations (cash only) will be accepted from 6-6:25 p.m. You must be 18 years old to register/play.

Prizes include designer handbags, premium power tools and a large screen television.

An Intro to AI session will be offered free to chamber members on Monday, March 30 at the chamber office. Advance registration is required and participants must bring their own laptops.

An Open House and Members Showcase will be held on Wednesday, April 29 at the chamber's office from 5-7 p.m. and the Choice Awards Dinner will be held on Wednesday, May 6 at Steaming Tender Restaurant, 28 Depot St., Palmer from 6:30-8 p.m. Registration deadline is April 24.

For more information about the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce, or to register for an upcoming event, visit QHMA.com.



Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce's CEO James Przypek welcomed attendees to the chamber's breakfast.



Mackenzie Diaz, Workforce Solutions Specialists at the Employers Association of the NorthEast, spoke about membership options.

N BROOKFIELD from page 1

Buzzell said the project would be paid for through grants and fundraising efforts.

Friends member Eva Brown said the organization's architect, Dan Benoit, said this would be the best place to start with restoring the building.

Buzzell said the long-term plan is to renovate the entire Town House, and turn the first renovated space into a restaurant with a commercial kitchen. He said the Great Hall would be used for performances, events and functions.

"Perhaps even town meetings," he said.

He said the main floor and basement could be used for professional offices and retail spaces.

"Whatever the interest is," Buzzell said.

Buzzell asked the board's permission to speak with the town's various inspectors and meet with the architectural access board to ensure that all is set with the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The

board members granted the request.

Resignation

The Board of Selectmen accepted the resignation of Town Administrator Ron Aponte, effective Feb. 1.

Council on Aging report

Council on Aging Director Courtenay Rivera gave the monthly report for December. She said at the Christmas luncheon, 43 seniors received meals.

Rivera said thanks to the generosity of the friends group, each attendee received a \$25 gift card to JARS Café & Bakery.

Rivera said another special luncheon was held in January and the next will be held before Valentine's Day.

She said attendance has declined due to the weather, but the Senior Center is maintaining its regular programming. She said art and drawing classes will resume in February.

"That class is a really cool class," she said, with all supplies provided by instructor Carol Hawkins.

Rivera said on Feb. 24, there will be an end of life

pre-planning discussion led by Varnum and Charbonneau funeral homes. She said participants will learn about making funeral arrangements and more.

Other events include chair massages on Feb. 26; hip hop square dancing in March; classes with Tina Bemis in March; laughter yoga in April; and more.

Highway Department report

The Highway Department responded to snow events Dec. 6, 20 and 27, Jan. 15 and Jan. 24. The Jan. 24 snowstorm lasted several days and resulted in accumulations of 15-22 inches, which took almost a week to clear.

Superintendent Randy Morgan said widening roads, pushing snow off roadways, and continued scraping has been ongoing.

Morgan noted in his report that the department is short-staffed due to a vacancy, but he is utilizing a list of plow drivers available.

Fire Department report

Interim Fire Chief Keith Marshall said as of January,

the department had 23 members. He said several members obtained their hazardous materials operational certification.

Marshall said interim Deputy Chief Thomas Bessette attended the regional EMA meeting to discuss an upcoming regional exercise.

The department responded to 34 incidents during the month of January, including one structure fire, one chimney fire, one vehicle fire, one electrical hazard, one electrical transformer hazard, six motor vehicle collisions, one carbon monoxide incident, one fuel spill, two odor investigations, seven EMS assists, six false alarms, five public assists and one elevator rescue.

Marshall said the deep snow is causing a lot of blocked vents with heating systems and he urged all residents to have working smoke and CO alarms.

He said the snow has also caused lot of frozen or blocked fire hydrants. He asked residents to help to clear snow from around the

hydrants in their neighborhoods.

Marshall said the department issued 35 burn permits during the month of January.

He said the department's fleet of vehicles are in need of repairs. He said some of the repairs have been made already.

"These vehicles are essential," he said.

North Main Street parking

Gilman said he has been researching municipal policies regarding downtown parking and businesses. He said he wants to have a good understanding of policies and how other towns deal with parking.

"I've been paying a lot more attention to different times and different days as to when the parking is open and when the parking is full, and which sections," he said. "I'm just trying to get some understanding of our situation as well as how others are dealing with theirs before rushing into recommendations."

Gilman said there doesn't seem to be any state policy

about where signs are posted.

Spending requests

The board members approved a spending request in the amount of \$1,575.69 for heating oil at the Highway Department. An emergency order was made due to heating oil not being delivered at the end of January because of the snowstorm.

The board approved the use of Holden Hospital funds to purchase lifesaving medical equipment. This equipment includes tourniquets, first aid bags, AED pads and batteries, and more.

Peter Orsi said these are "very important items" for Police, Fire and EMS personnel.

Donation

The board accepted a \$1,000 donation from North Brookfield Savings Bank to benefit the Fire Department gift fund.

Water/sewer bills

The first combined water and sewer bills will be mailed in the coming week, and payment is due by April 1.

PRISON CAMPS from page 1

neously register it for the Massachusetts Registry of Historic Places, which they did.

She said there were multiple criteria they could submit it under, and they chose criterion A: Event. This criteria is for a place that had historically significant events occur at them. The events cited by the commission were advancements in the penal system, tuberculosis treatment, and agriculture.

Maus said she would lead the inventory process for other historic sites in the town and share with the board as sites are added.

Historical Commission events

The commission said they will be participating in the Rutland Community Expo on March 22. They said they are planning to display prison camp photos and some of their ongoing projects.

They also said they are planning a trivia event during the 250th celebration. The commission is scheduled to meet next on March 10 at 5 p.m.

PRESIDENTS Day SALE! ★ LAST WEEK!

PRE-SEASON BIKE SALE!

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HUGE KITCHEN PACKAGE & LAUNDRY REBATES

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Regularly \$149.99
- 43" Smart TV.....\$199.99
Regularly \$249.99
- 50" HDTV Television..\$229.99
Regularly \$269.99
- 55" HDTV Television..\$229.99
Regularly \$349.99
- 65" HDTV Television..\$329.99
Regularly \$599.99
- 75" HDTV.....\$499.99
Regularly \$699.99

MATTRESS SALE!

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(REGULARLY \$299)

FULL: \$269
(REGULARLY \$499)

QUEEN: \$299
(REGULARLY \$599)

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\$399.99

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Reg. \$899.99
\$699.99

FRIGIDAIRE DISHWASHER
Reg. \$399.99
\$299.99

SAMSUNG TOP LOAD WASHER & DRYER
Pair - Reg. \$1199.99
\$999.99
AFTER REBATE!

G.E. 27 CU. FT. FRENCH DOOR REFRIGERATOR
Reg. \$1999.99
\$1399.99

5 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER
Reg. \$189.99
\$189.99

AMANA WASHER OR DRYER
Reg. \$599.99
\$489.99

WHIRLPOOL 21 CU. FT. TOP MOUNT REFRIGERATOR
Reg. \$899.99
\$699.99

FRIGIDAIRE 18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR
Reg. \$699.99
\$599.99

FAMOUS MAKER OVER THE STOVE MICROWAVE
Reg. \$249.99
\$229.99

LG #3400 WASHER & DRYER
Front Load, Reg. \$1599.99
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Calendar of Events

THURSDAY, FEB. 19

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

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

Q-MUNITY CLOSET, located at the New Braintree Grade School, 15 Memorial Drive, New Braintree has expanded their hours. Hours are Mondays and Thursdays from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and the second Saturday of the month from 9-11 a.m. One night a week will be added in March. More information with time and day will be announced soon. The Q-Munity Closet at New Braintree caters to adults and young children and currently has a great inventory of winter clothing in stock.

BARRE LIONS CLUB SCHOLARSHIP for \$1,000 scholarship is accepting applications from a graduating senior, who lives in Barre, Oakham, Hubbardston, New Braintree or Hardwick. To be eligible, the student must be accepted by an accredited college or technical school and must be entering the school in the fall semester of the current year. In addition to Quabbin seniors, this year the club expanded the scholarship applications to local students, who attend Monty Tech, Pathfinder or BayPath. For the students' convenience, the application has been sent to the guidance counselor of each school. People may email barremalionsclub@aol.com with any questions.

FRIDAY, FEB. 20

NATIVE ANIMALS PROGRAM will be held today at 1 p.m. in the East Quabbin Land Trust Office, 120 Ridge Road, Hardwick. Wild life expert Bethany Boucher will talk about native North American animals. Participants will also meet some of these animals courtesy of Amazing Animal Ambassadors. Sign up is required as the event is limited to the first 40 guest, who register. Registration deadline is Saturday, Feb. 14. People may email Ellie at [## Where is this?

!\[\]\(e8fb589d58dad1692debababa5e928b6_img.jpg\)

Turley Publications photo by Ellenor Downer

This week's mystery photo is from Rutland. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email \[edowner@turley.com\]\(mailto:edowner@turley.com\) their answer by noon on Monday, Feb. 23. Bill Bowles, Peggy Civilik, Doreen Elliot, Jeanine Pimental and Jeremy Varnum correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was of the Petersham Curling Club, Route 32, Petersham.](mailto:eshea@</p>
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eqlt.org to register. They should include name and age in the email.

SATURDAY, FEB. 21

THE PARKINGTON SISTERS CONCERT sponsored by the Princeton Art Society will be held today at 4 p.m. in the First Congregational Church, 14 Mountain Road, Princeton. The public is invited to this concert; a donation of \$10 is suggested. The Parkington Sisters create a beautiful, textural blend of indie-folk and chamber pop, carried by their signature rich harmonies and evocative storytelling, weaving together classical roots with Americana charm and a touch of melancholy.

The Sisters, Rose, Sarah and Ariel, are songwriters and dynamic multi-instrumentalists who play guitar, piano, violin and viola. This concert is made possible in part by grants from the Barre Bank Charitable Foundation and the Princeton Mass. Cultural Council. Princeton Arts is a nonprofit organization supporting the arts in Central Massachusetts.

NEW BRAINTREE DEMOCRATS will convene at the New Braintree Town Library, Memorial Drive, New Braintree today at 1 p.m. to elect one delegate and one alternate to represent New Braintree the 2026 Massachusetts State Democratic Convention on May 29 and May 30 at the DCU Center in Worcester. Registered and pre-registered Democrats in New Braintree, who are 16

years old by Saturday, March 29, may vote and be elected as delegates or alternates during the caucus.

MONDAY, FEB. 23

QUABBIN PHOTO GROUP PRESENTATION features outdoor education specialist Jack Bonafini from the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife today at 7 p.m. in the Belchertown Recreation Department, 66 State St., Belchertown, located behind the Belchertown Police Department. His presentation will focus on tracking deer, designed especially for photographers. This session will give participants a clearer understanding of deer behavior and movement patterns along with real-world strategies for reading sign and interpreting the landscape. The Quabbin Photo Group welcomes anyone with an interest in nature photography, whether beginner or experienced. Meetings throughout the year feature educational presentations, guest speakers, and "member nights," where participants share and discuss their work. People may visit quabbinphotogroup.com or email president Mark Lindhult at mlindhult@gmail.com or program chair Ed Comeau at [comeau@comeauphotography.com](mailto:ecomeau@comeauphotography.com) for more information.

QUABBIN REGIONAL AGREEMENT WORKING GROUP is holding listening sessions in the five member towns as they share the approved revisions to the Regional Agreement that will be voted on at upcoming town meetings. Today at 6 p.m. they will meet in the New Braintree Town Hall, 20 Memorial Drive, Road, New Braintree. People unable to attend the meeting in their town may attend any of the following meetings. The final meeting will be on Monday, March 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the Henry Woods Building, 40 West St., Barre.

TUESDAY, FEB. 24

EQLT WELLNESS WALKS will be held today at 11:45 a.m. at Grenville Park to Church Street via Mass. Central Rail Trail meet at Grenville Park parking lot, 73 Church St., Ware. Other dates include Sunday, March 8 at 9:30 a.m. at Deer Park Preserve and Coxhall Kitchen Garden, 481 Barre Road, Hardwick; Wednesday, March 18 at 2:30 p.m. at Patrill Hollow Preserve, 1015 Hardwick Road, Hardwick. RSVP to East Quabbin Land Trust is requested, but not required by emailing atrevvett@eqlt.org.

THURSDAY, FEB. 26

REOPENING RECEPTION OF HISTORIC ROOM at the Fobes Memorial Library, 4 Maple St., Oakham will take place today from 6-8 p.m. In addition to the repairs, library staff has been working to reinvent the space. They hope the improvements have made the room more inviting and useful, while making the vast historic

collection more accessible to patrons and the community. This event is open to all.

SATURDAY, FEB. 28

FIRST EVER QUARTER AUCTION sponsored by the Barre Lions Club takes place today beginning at 1 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street, Barre. The doors open at noon and the auction begins at 1 p.m. Local vendors will be on hand offering a variety of items, along with exciting raffle prizes and a super raffle for a 58-inch Hisense Roku TV. A quarter auction is a unique and affordable way to win great items. Upon entry, attendees purchase numbered paddles, one for \$3 or two for \$5. As the auction begins, each vendor presents an item and bidding is done using quarters. Each quarter represents a \$10 value. For example, a \$20 item requires two quarters. Paddle numbers are drawn at random and the matching numbered paddle wins the item. In addition to the auction, attendees can shop with local vendors, purchase raffle tickets and enter the super raffle. Snacks and beverages will be available for purchase. All proceeds support Barre Lions Club community projects in 2026, all of them local.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

PROGRAM ON PROPERTY, PROBATE AND ESTATE PLANNING will take place today at noon in the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, Barre. This free public educational program will help residents better understand how property ownership, probate and estate planning impact their homes and families. The presentation will feature Kathryn A. Toomey, Worcester Registry of Deeds and Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate Courts, who will explain how the Registry of Deeds and Probate Court work together in Massachusetts. Attendees will learn about deeds, the Homestead Act, trusts, estates and how probate issues can affect property ownership. The program will also include guidance on protecting homeowners from deed fraud and information about the Consumer Notification Service. Attendees are encouraged to bring questions. To register, people may call 978-355-5031.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

BARRE PLAYERS YOUTH THEATER presents "The Enchanted Bookshop" today and Saturday, March 7 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 7 and Sunday, March 8 at 2 p.m. at the Barre Players Theater, 64 Common St., Barre. The play is written by Todd Wallinger. Raiden Bousquet is director and Christa Belardo, stage manager. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for students, seniors 65+ and children 12 and under. Tickets may be reserved by either emailing barreplayers@gmail.com or by visiting www.barreplayerstheater.com. This production is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

DESIGNER PANCAKE BREAKFAST sponsored by Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will be held today from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge, 71 Pleasant St., Barre. The full breakfast includes pancakes, waffles, sausage gravy and biscuits, bacon, sausage, coffee, juice and always real maple syrup. Cost is \$9 per adult and children age 6 and under \$5. All are welcome.

Calendar Policy

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

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Senior Center hosts red-carpet Oscar night celebration

BARRE/HARDWICK – The spotlight is shining and the red carpet is ready at the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road.

Guests 55 plus are invited to attend an exciting Oscar celebration on Thursday, March 12 at 1 p.m., where Hollywood glamour meets laughter, music and friendly competition. This lively

event promises something for everyone whether they arrive dressed for the awards stage or just as they are. The goal is simple: celebrate, have fun and enjoy the magic of movie night together.

Highlights of the celebration include an Oscar ballot prediction game with big prizes for the most correct guesses,

their own fun and creative "Oscar" awards, live movie-themed music, popcorn, light snacks and a festive red-carpet atmosphere.

This is truly about community and joy and a chance for everyone to be a star for the day. Seniors should grab some friends, bring their best predictions and get ready for the party of the year.

SPORTS

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Panthers fall at home to Littleton

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE—The opening 16 minutes of the Mid-Wach C Division girls' basketball match-up between Littleton and Quabbin Regional was fairly close.

The Littleton Lady Tigers, who held a nine point halftime lead, outscored the Lady Panthers, 30-15, during the second half enroute to a 54-30 road win, last Tuesday night.

"We played well in the first half, but we just gave up too many lay-ups and turnovers," said Quabbin girls' varsity basketball coach Evan Barringer. "Every other team in our league will probably be playing in the state tournament. We can't afford to make very many mistakes against those teams, which is a very hard thing to do."

Following the home loss, the Lady Panthers had a 3-14 overall record and a 0-12 league record. They also lost, 54-43, at Littleton on January 16.

"Littleton's full-court pressure defense killed us the first time that we faced them," Barringer said. "We made an adjustment in tonight's game, and we handled it a little bit better."

The last time that the Quabbin girls squad qualified for the Division 3 state tournament was two years ago. They also posted a 35-23 victory over Notre Dame Academy in the Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association Class B championship game at Worcester State University



Abby Rogowski plays the ball near the top of the arc.

that season.

The only remaining starter from that team is senior Mia Ducos, who's a point guard.

Ducos made a free throw at the end of the third quarter, which was her only points against the Lady Tigers (7-10).

"Mia has been starting for the varsity team since she was in the eighth grade," Barringer said. "Two weeks from now, I'll never coach her again. We've accomplished some cool things together during the past several years. She's like a member of my own family



Makenzie Casey crosses midcourt with the ball.

and I'm really looking forward to watching her play college basketball next year. She's ready to compete at that level."

Next year, Ducos is planning to play for the women's basketball team at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York. The Thoroughbreds, who compete at the Division 3 level, are members of the Liberty League.

One of the Lady Panthers returning players a year from now will be junior Abby Rogowski, who posted a double-double against Littleton with a game-high

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

17 points and 15 rebounds.

"I thought Abby played outstanding in tonight's game," said Barringer, who's also planning to return as the Lady Panthers varsity coach next year. "I thought she was the best player on the court."

Rogowski made five of the Lady Panthers seven field goals during the first half. She also added a foul shot, which gave her 11 points before intermission.

Quabbin's only lead of the game was at 2-0 following a Rogowski jumper from the right side of the key less than a minute into the opening quarter. She also made



Mia Ducos comes down with a rebound during recent action.

an inside hoop and a foul shot during the first eight minutes of the contest.

With the help of a couple of 3-pointers and an old fashioned three point play, Littleton entered the second quarter holding a 13-5 lead.

The Lady Tigers, who made a total of seven 3-pointers, were led offensively by freshman Sara Kerrigan (14 points) and junior Annabelle Caouette (15 points).

During the final seconds of the first quarter, Caouette hit a 3-pointer from the top

See PANTHERS, page 10

Gardner hockey in need of wins

GARDNER – Though it good be moot, Gardner High School ice hockey, which co-ops with Quabbin Regional, entered the final week of the season with a 5-12-1 record. They were on the outside of the top 32 in Division 4 in the state rankings, but within striking distance.

The Hurricanes had final matchups scheduled against Hudson on Feb. 16 and Attleboro on Feb. 18, both on the road. If the Hurricanes could score wins in both games, it would give Gardner at least a chance of squeezing into the top 32, which is their only chance at the state tournament since they are under .500 overall.

Prior to their final two games, Gardner had won three straight games, defeating Leominster 10-3, Oakmont 5-4, and last Saturday afternoon, defeating Foxborough High School 8-7 in a slugfest to grab their fifth win of the regular season.

Indians heading for state tournament

NORTH BROOKFIELD – During the past two weeks, North Brookfield High School girls basketball has rounded off four consecutive wins and is now qualified for the Division 5 state tournament this season.

Starting on Feb. 3, the Indians defeated Monson, Sizer, Immaculate Heart of Mary, and Bethany Christian. While the offense has not put up huge numbers, the defense has definitely kept the opposition down and the Indians are 11-5.

North Brookfield had a 17th matchup against Collegiate Charter School of Lowell scheduled for earlier this week. Playoff seeds were set to be released this weekend, and North Brookfield will learn where it lands a state playoff game.

T-Birds outslug Wild on road

DES MOINES, IA - The Springfield Thunderbirds (18-24-4-2) once again posted a prolific offensive showing, outpacing the Iowa Wild (13-28-4-1) for a roller-coaster 8-6 victory on Saturday night inside Casey's Center in Des Moines.

The opening 20 minutes were a roller coaster of emotions for both teams and their fans. Operating a man down in the opening minutes, the T-Birds still managed to break the ice, as Otto Stenberg beat Cal Petersen with a wrist from the left circle at 1:20 of the period, making it 1-0.

Normally a very disciplined team, Springfield succumbed to another penalty two minutes later, and Iowa made them pay as Tyler Pitlick jabbed a backhand rebound over Georgi Romanov to tie the game,

See T-BIRDS, page 8

Pioneers fall against Franklin Tech

PALMER – Last Thursday night, Pathfinder Tech boys basketball was defeated by Franklin Tech 53-49 in a game that Pathfinder nearly came all the way back to tie.

In the loss, Cassian Kowalik had a massive game with 28 points. He made seven free throws for the Pioneers.

The Pioneers are still looking to qualify for the state tournament and need more wins this week to squeeze in.



Ian Squi Nieves heads down the court.



Brody Wetnicka holds the ball outside the arc.



Dustyn Cook takes a free throw.



Cassian Kowalik gets the tip-off.



Maddox Baer avoids the defense and goes for the hoop.

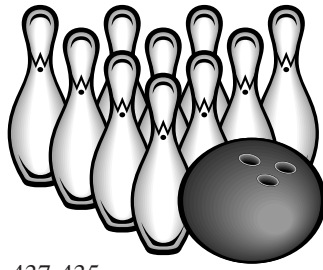


Grayson Griswold eyes an open teammate.

Sports

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdragot@turley.com



437-435.

In game three, Scott Brewster of Fire Mountain bowled 112 during his team's victory, 483-455. The final score was 1388-1359 in favor of Fire Mountain, who are in first place overall in the Bondsville League.

Slow Burners bowled against the Snappers this past week. In game one, Slow Burners won by a score of 483-469. Scott Radisic of Slow Burners fired up the burner with a 132 game to start the match.

In game two, Slow Burners won again by a score of 481-476. Andy Tombor of Snappers bowled well with 110 and his teammate Kevin "Kras" Krasnecky bowled 115.

In game three, Snappers snapped out of the slump and won 490-417. Eddie Stachowicz of Snappers finished with 119 to go with his 115 and 97 for 331. Krasnecky finished with 118. The Snappers win total pinfall with a final score of 1435-1381.

Sandri bowled against P&J Meats this past league night. In game one, P&J Meats ruled the lanes and won 487-466. Paige Stabach of P&J Meats was the hero of the team and began with 122. Brandon Lane of Sandri had the highest game on his team with 112.

In game two, P&J Meats won again by a score of 513-496. Stabach stayed in the 120s with a 120 game, and her teammate, Kristy Temple, bowled well with 115. Randy Harper of Sandri had the highest game on his team with 117.

In game three, Sandri won by a score of 497-464. Sue Horton of Sandri finished the match strong with 134, which consisted of five spares in a row. Horton's three-game series for the evening was 356 (109, 113, and 134). Lane finished with 118 and a series of 326. Stabach finished with 93 and a series of 335.

The final score was 1464-1459 in favor of P&J Meats.

Zeke's Freaks bowled against Fire Mountain. In game one, Zeke's Freaks pulled off the upset and won 469-468. In game two, Fire Mountain returned the favor and pulled off a close win,

Bondsville League

WARE – During week 22 of the Wednesday Night Bondsville League, Team UMass bowled against Ironmen.

In game one, Team UMass defeated Ironmen by a score of 489-451. Ryan Drago of Ironmen made a strong effort to keep the lead down by beginning with 130.

In game two, Team UMass stayed on course and won again, 473-454. Keith Ferez of Team UMass bowled well over his league average (91) with a 107 in game two. Drago remained over average with a 120 in game two.

In game three, going into the final few frames, Team UMass held on to a slim lead and won 476-468. Drago finished with another 120 and a three-game series of 370. Ferez finished with a 91, which included an important spare to stay in the lead.

The final score was 1438-1373 in favor of Team UMass, who now have a record of 77.5-76.5.

Railers fall at home against Lions

WORCESTER – Worcester suffered a 4-1 loss to the defending Kelly Cup champions Sunday afternoon. The Railers earned just one point of a possible six for the series. They went into the weekend with 12 of a possible 14 points in their seven previous games.

They netted only three goals for the weekend and have 12 in their last seven games. Their power play betrayed them Sunday as they were just one for seven. That included a wasted four-minute man advantage on a high sticking double minor to Mathias Laferriere at 7:02 of the second period.

Worcester put only three shots in the direction of the net in those four minutes.

It was 1-1 going into the third period but the Railers could not beat Hunter Jones, who stopped 29 shots for the game. With the victory, Jones became the first opposing goaltender to beat

Worcester in every game of a 3 in 3 series.

The Railers had five power plays in the first period and scored on one of them.



Lincoln Hatten got his 12th goal of the season at 17:03. It was his fifth on the power play and first of any kind since Jan. 24. Jesse Pulkkinen set up Anthony Repaci at the right point and the captain put a shot on net.

There was traffic, a good thing for Hatten, and he popped a rebound home from in close.

After the Railers failed to take advantage of their power play time early in

the second period, Trois-Rivieres began to dominate the action. The Lions finally tied it at 12:15 on Joe Dunlap's goal. He scored on a rebound from the bottom of the left circle.

In the third period, Trois-Rivieres took a 2-1 lead at 2:17, then made it 3-1 at 8:44. Both were doorstep goals. Isaac Dufort had the first one, Cedric Desruisseaux the next one.

Morgan Moisan-Adams, who had a killer series, got the fourth visitors goal at 10:54 on a penalty shot after being hauled down on a breakaway.

While the Lions arrived in town as a sixth place team, not resembling the ECHL defending champion, they are an entirely different team with Jones in goal. Trois-Rivieres improved to 13-5-0 with him as the goaltender of record. The Lions are 21-20-4 overall.

Registration now underway for QVBL

SOUTH HADLEY – Registration has opened for the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, an over-28 recreational league, held its first meeting of 2026 to prepare for the upcoming season.

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

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

rained out.

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

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

place on April 4 following that practice.

The season is currently slated to start on Sunday, April 19 and following the success of the six-team fall league last year, the league will also have a fall league in September and October this season.

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

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

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

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In the Classroom

ASSE seeking host families for foreign exchange students

ASSE International Student Exchange Programs, a non-profit, public benefit organization, seeks local families to discover the many rewards of hosting a foreign exchange student.

ASSE students come from more than 50 countries worldwide: France, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Ukraine, Japan, Australia, to name a few. They are between the ages of 15 and 18 years and they are enthusiastic and excited to experience American culture, family life, school, sports, etc. They also love to share their own culture and language with their host families, who welcome the students into

their home, not as a guest, but as a family member, giving everyone involved a rich cultural experience. Host families may be single parents, couples and single persons.

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

ASSE also offers qualified American students the opportunity to learn another

language and culture by spending a school year, semester or a summer with a host family in another country.

Those interested in hosting an exchange student or becoming an exchange student abroad should call Holly at 1-800-677-2773, visit www.asse.com or send an email to asseusouth@asse.com to request more information or start the application process. Students are eager to learn about their American host family, so begin the process of welcoming a new son or daughter today. The memories and the friendship will stay with you forever.

PANTHERS from page 9

of the key.

In the first two minutes of the second quarter, Rogowski hit a jumper in the lane and made an inside hoop, which were sandwiched around a coast-to-coast lay-up from junior Casey Makenzie (5 points). The 6-0 run sliced the Lady Panthers deficit to 13-11 before back-to-back lay-ups from Littleton sophomore Caroline DeChance (11 points) forced Barringer to call a time out.

A put-back hoop from Quabbin seventh grader Ayla Clark (7 points) closed the gap to 17-13 with 3:15 left in the opening half.

The Lady Tigers, who finished the first half with a 7-2 spurt, held a 24-15 half-time lead.

The home team got with-

in six points (24-18) at the start of the second half following a Casey foul shot and a Rogowski put-back basket.

The Lady Tigers then built a 15-point lead with the help of three 3-pointers, and they never looked back after that.



Aubrey Thrope keeps play moving around the perimeter.



Izzy Doty uses her body to keep the opposition away from the ball.



Ayla Clark heads into the paint.

T-BIRDS from page 5

1-1, at 3:53.

Springfield quickly countered at 6:36, as Quinton Burns flipped a wrist that glanced off Zach Dean's blade, skipping through Petersen to make it a 2-1 game in the T-Birds' favor. Jakub Stancl followed up 3:10 later with his second goal in as many days, finishing off a 2-on-1 pass from Hugh McGing to extend Springfield's lead to 3-1.

Like an evening ago, though, the Wild refused to go away, and Pitlick cashed in on his second of the period off a 2-on-1 setup by Hunter Haight to make it a 3-2 game at 15:14.

The one-goal deficit was short-lived for the Wild, as Thomas Bordeleau stripped the puck from an Iowa defender and rifled home a perfect shot past Petersen's blocker at 15:43 to make it 4-2. The goal was Bordeleau's first in a T-Birds uniform.

With just precious seconds remaining in the period, the Wild again responded

in kind, as Nic Aube-Kubel set up Jack Peart in the left circle for a buzzer-beating tally in the midst of a delayed Springfield penalty, sending Iowa into the break trailing by just a goal at 4-3.

Yet, despite the potential momentum changer from Peart, Springfield quickly responded to begin the middle frame, as Chris Wagner went to a knee to guide a power play feed from Matt Luff in behind Petersen at 1:32 of the second, making it 5-3.

The T-Birds' defense stabilized after the chaos of the first, and the offense continued its confident weekend, as Theo Lindstein cashed in for the second time in two games, punching a shot through Petersen's glove side at 9:15 off another Luff assist to push the lead to 6-3.

Springfield's power play added to their tally when Michael Buchinger whistled a shot through the legs of William Rousseau, who entered the net in place of Petersen to begin the third. Buchinger's fifth of the season gave the T-Birds a 7-3 advantage.

Even facing a huge deficit, the Wild continued to scratch and claw. A pair of Springfield penalties opened the door for Iowa, and the home side took full advantage as Dylan Gambrell cashed in on a rebound to the right of Romanov at 8:04 to make it 7-4.

David Jiricek followed with a slap shot from the blue line that caromed in behind Romanov at 12:47, and the Springfield lead shrank to 7-5.

Things got even hairier for the T-Birds when Caedan Bankier got to his own rebound at 16:32 to beat Romanov along the near side, and Iowa incredibly got the lead shaved down to a single goal, 7-6.

In the end, though, Iowa's miraculous comeback attempt came up one tally short, as Luff delivered a much-needed empty net goal with 26 seconds remaining to seal the win. Luff and Stancl each finished their evenings with a goal and two assists, and Springfield's eight goals from eight different players set a club record for most goals in a game on the road.

Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

Promises of Christ Part 2

We do well to consider the promises of Christ.

They should serve as the foundation for life and living, and can be trusted. After all, is He not faithful and true? Will He not diligently work to keep His word? Thus said, let us consider yet another promise of our Lord:

John 14:16b (NIV)

16 "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—17 the Spirit of truth."

This pledge, uttered by Christ on the night of His betrayal, is profound. Within, He promised to petition His Father to send forth another advocate to aid and be present with His people: the Holy Spirit. Yet what is the nature of His advocacy? Let us go deeper.

1) Parakletos. Let us consider the underlying Greek term for "advocate" (16b). The term herein is derived from parakletos. We do not have an exact English equivalent, which gives rise to a number of differing translations: a) "Advocate" (NIV and NLT); b) "Comforter" (KJV); c) "Helper" (ESV and NASB); and d) "Counselor" (HCSB). The best literal translation of this word is "one called to the side of another" or "one who comes alongside to help or aid."

In classical use, parakletos was used for legal assistants and attorneys whose job it was to come alongside those in need (i.e., offering comfort, encouragement, guidance or instruction, and intercession in kind). Do we understand the sacred working of the Spirit through such a lens?

2) Another. Let us take a moment to address a term quite easy to overlook in the text. Namely, Christ promised to send forth "another" advocate. The word for "another" is significant, as it literally means "of the same kind," indicating that the role of the Spirit in the life of the believer mirrors that which Jesus provided His own while physically present in the world.

While on earth, Jesus served as the parakletos for His disciples. Following His Ascension, the Spirit has assumed such a work. In the same way that the Lord provided comfort, encouragement, instruction, guidance and/or intercession to figures like Peter, James and John, the Holy Spirit now plays such a role for all who believe. We have not been orphaned. Rather, Christians throughout both space and time have an enduring Advocate, Counselor, Helper and Comforter. Amazing.

Let us break things down more specifically:

1) Comfort. The Holy Spirit brings comfort to those who believe in Christ. It is His work to ease and alleviate our feelings of grief or distress. Ours is a broken, troubled world. Who is untouched by feelings of affliction due to rampant adversity?

Yet it is the Spirit of God who helps us to appropriate what Jesus promised, and that which we examined last week (Matt. 11:28-30): "28 Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Let us remember that peace yet remains a fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23)—a fruit He alone can produce.

2) Encouragement. The Holy Spirit also serves to encourage those who believe in Christ. What does it mean to encourage? It means to give support, confidence or hope to another; to stimulate development. Synonyms for the term are to hearten, cheer, uplift, motivate, inspire, stir, spur on, vitalize and strengthen.

Thus, the Spirit, as our parakletos, labors to provide such for God's people. He supports, instills confidence and hope, stimulates development, heartens, cheers, uplifts, motivates, inspires, stirs, spurs on, vitalizes and strengthens those who live in a world beset with genuine opposition. Have you heard the voice of the Spirit, not only wooing you to Christ, but encouraging you to press on when all hope seems lost.

3) Instruction and Guidance. The Spirit also provides instruction and guidance unto truth. Beyond John 14 (noted above), consider this promise of the Lord and how He delineates the operation of the Spirit:

John 16:12-15

12 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."

4) Intercession. Finally, the Spirit intercedes for those who believe in Christ. That is, He pleads our case before the Father:

Romans 8:26b-27

26 . . . the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

When we do not know how or what to pray, we have One who will go before our Father in heaven and advocate for us. Though I am a believer in seeking prayer from others amid challenging times, I revel in the truth that both Christ in heaven and the Spirit on earth advocate for me! May such move you as well.

Thank you for taking the time to read this publication. Should you have any comments or questions, feel free to contact me at your leisure using the information below. Also, feel free to check us out online at www.NewLifeBarre.org or visit us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. We hope to see you soon.

Pastor James Foley

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978-355-6407

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

"You are the Light of the Earth."

Scripture Reading: Isaiah
58 v 1-12 and Matthew
5 v 13 - 16

I. Introduction

Many years ago, after I delivered my sermon at church one morning, my six-year-old niece, Elzette, who was there with her mother, asked me why I was talking so loudly.

I thought by myself, I must have scared her by shouting the word of God. As seminary students we were trained not just to project our voices, but to be passionate and as the Holy Spirit rose up within us, we must allow the Spirit to speak through us and it will be an ebb and flow.

Your voice will rise and come down. Following that advice, my voice grew stronger each time I preached so if you've wondered why I'm sometimes loud, that's the reason. I guess, I also followed the commands from God to the prophets to speak passionately, and not to hold back. In many churches, pastors frequently give passionate sermons that can extend for several hours.

II. You are the Light of the Earth

In Isaiah, it is evident that God instructed the prophet to speak loudly and boldly and refrain from being silent. The context of this passage is about the return of the exiles, the need for restoration due to past events and the ways in which the people of Israel made decisions that were displeasing to God.

The text focuses on the tradition of fasting within the faith of Israel. They followed the law that gave them instructions to fast, and through their fasting, they believed they humbled themselves but did not understand why God did not see or acknowledge them. When God approached Isaiah to speak to the people, God had already seen their way of life, what they, the people did and did not do. Isaiah had to raise his voice so the people could hear him clearly, like a trumpet that was blown during times when there was an important message to be spread in the community and when they had to stop all activities to listen to the message.

In a loud voice, the prophet must let them know that God is not happy with them. In verses 3 and 4, the text describes how God addresses their approach to fasting, noting their acts of self-sacrifice such as wearing sackcloth, covering themselves with ashes and bowing their heads like reeds. Despite these outward displays, they continue to pursue their own interests. They exploit their workers, they engage in quarreling and strife and they become aggressive towards others.

This is not what God wants from them. The intention behind fasting, according to God, is to transform actions, promote positive deeds, break the bonds of injustice, loosen burdens and liberate those who are oppressed. It is to share their food with the hungry, and to provide for the poor. By changing their behaviors and actions, people will be blessed with God's light, experience healing, and see their righteousness lead the way for them. It is when they do justice and show genuine humility and compassion, when God will hear their call, and God will answer. God will guide them and satisfy their needs.

In Matthew Jesus is using the metaphor of salt and light together, when He told His disciples that they are the light of the world. They are the salt of the earth, meaning they must bring flavor to others through their lives. They must live out the values of Jesus' values, of love, peace, justice and kindness. They must be the light of the world, shining those values into the darkness.

III. Conclusion

Elzette grew up to be a wonderful woman and surprisingly a powerful worship leader in her church. Though shy, her bright presence profoundly impacted those around her. She came to see her purpose to spread God's light to all those around her. When she passed away, many went into mourning, because of that light that left us too soon. My sister believes her daughter is worshipping God loudly and passionately in heaven with all the angels.

We know that the darkness that comes through human beings can manifest itself in various ways, lack of compassion and care, lack of kindness, lack of love, and lack of peace. When we are at the receiving end of these forms of darkness, we know how it feels like, feelings of loneliness, emotional isolation, abandonment, anxiety, depression and eventually anger. God calls us to be courageous and be loud sometimes to address situations of darkness around us.

We may not want to speak loudly, but we can shine our lights brightly into the darkness through acts of compassion, love and kindness, and through our peaceful presence. Being the light that God calls us to be will bring about change in this world little by little, step by step. May the Holy Spirit help us to share God's light now and always.

Amen.

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

Legals

New Braintree
Conservation Commission
Notice of Public Hearing
Date: March 10, 2026
Time: 7:15 pm

Place:
New Braintree Town Hall
20 Memorial Dr.
New Braintree, MA 01531

The New Braintree Conservation Commission will review a Notice of Intent filed by Cynthia Henshaw, East Quabbin Land Trust, to daylight the existing stream under runway and construct a rail trail.

Project location: 295 McEvoy Rd., New Braintree, MA 01531
The public is invited to attend.
02/19/2026

Barre
Conservation Commission
Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Massachusetts General Law,

Chapter 131, Section 40, The Wetlands Protection Act, that a public hearing will be held on a Notice of Intent for farm pond dug in an area where there was a hayfield adjacent to a BVW located at 315 Old Petersham Road, Assessors Map C, Parcel 84B and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds Book 51899, Page 253.

From: Theresa L. Barnes
315 Old Petersham Road
Barre, MA 01005

To be held on **Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Conservation Commission Office on the 3rd floor of the Henry Woods Building, 40 West

Street, Barre, MA 01005.
Ronald Rich, Chairman
02/19/2026

**PUBLIC AUCTION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
PURSUANT
TO THE PROVISIONS OF
M.L.C. 225 SEC.39A
THE FOLLOWING
VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD
ON February 28, 2026.**

**AT A SALE TO
SATISFY OUR GARAGE
LIEN THEREON
FOR TOWING & STORAGE
CHARGES AND EXPENSES
OF SALE AND NOTICE:**

2016 Mercedes-Benz C-Class
VIN 55SWF4JB7GU140041
2015 Subaru Forester
VIN JF2SJABC1FH437794
2006 Honda Civic
VIN 1HGFA16896L042833
2011 Chrysler 300
VIN 2C3CA5CG6BH545980
2008 Audi A6
VIN WVGBV75N09W529770
2019 Jeep Compass
VIN 3C4NJDDB7KT733089
2008 Audi A6
VIN WAUDV74F68N013776
2000 BMW 7 Series
VIN WBAGH8341YDP14855
**The sale will be held at
Early's on Park Avenue
536 Park Avenue,
Worcester, MA 01603
02/12, 02/19, 02/26/2026**



Democrats to caucus

OAKHAM — The Oakham Democratic Town Committee will convene a caucus on Thursday, March 5 at 5:15 p.m. at the Fobes Library, Maple Street, to elect two delegates and one alternate to participate in this year's Massachusetts State Democratic Convention to be held in person on Friday, May 29 and Saturday, May 30 at the DCU Center in

Worcester. Registered Democrats and pre-registered Democrats who turn 16 years old by Feb. 19, 2026, may vote and be elected as delegates or alternates.

Registration for the caucus will begin at 5:15 p.m. .Voting will start at 5:45 p.m. and the meeting will conclude at 6:30 p.m.

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.**

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com



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Ricky Mansfield
Director



Barre Gazette OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Sunday, Jan. 25
 9:08 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Healdville Road, Fire Extinguished
 9:16 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Old Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital
 9:48 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Coldbrook Road, Office/Chief Advised
 10:56 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Mechanic Street, Vehicle Towed
 3:24 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Valley Road, Vehicle Towed
 4:54 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, South Street, Report Filed

Monday, Jan. 26
 6:34 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Jackson Avenue, Investigated
 7:36 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Varney Lane, Transported to Hospital
 5:54 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Pleasant Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 6:42 p.m. Juvenile Runaway, South Street, Returned
 7:19 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Wauwinet Road, No Transport Required
 8:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Station Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 8:51 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Barre Town Common, Information Given

Tuesday, Jan. 27
 12:13 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, South Barre Road, Mutual Aid Transport
 3:29 p.m. Suspicious Person – Vehicle Activity, West Street, Officer/Chief Advised
 3:43 p.m. Open Door/Window to Structure, West Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 4:09 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Kendall Street, Transported to Hospital
 5:15 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Old Dana Road, Information Given
 5:28 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Station Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 11:06 p.m. Abandoned

Vehicle – Parking Issues, South Barre Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Wednesday, Jan. 28
 1:40 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Williamsville Road, No Transport Required
 7:55 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Stetson Road, Report Filed
 1:16 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Ruggles Lane, Investigated
 2:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Stetson Road, Public Assist
 4:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, High North Street, Information Given
 4:21 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Pleasant Street, Transported to Hospital
 8:02 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, West Street, Office/Chief Advised
 8:48 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic), South Street, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Jan. 29
 4:02 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Lane South Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 2:29 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Worcester Road, Mutual Aid Transport
 5:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning
 5:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Orne, Kyle D., 31, Fiskdale
 Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle, Inspection/Sticker, No

Friday, Jan. 30
 10:06 a.m. Safety Concern, Summer Street, Officer/Chief Advised
 11:12 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, South Barre Road, Transported to Hospital
 1:23 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Gauthier Road, Officer/Chief Advised

4:53 p.m. Erratic Operator, Bond Road, Area Search Negative
 4:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Vernon Avenue, Citation Issued
 P.C. Miller, Michael J., 33, South Barre
 Charges License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With
 5:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Vernon Avenue, Arrest(s) Made
 Arrest Days, Michael D., 40, South Barre
 Charges Operating Under the Influence – Liquor OR .08%, Firearm, Intoxicated License Carry c269 §10H
 8:21 p.m. Erratic Operator, Williamsville Road, Area Search Negative

Saturday, Jan. 31
 5:10 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Worcester Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 7:18 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Richard Avenue, Investigated
 7:31 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Adams Street, Transported to Hospital
 8:22 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Summer Street, Mutual Aid Transport
 12:23 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic), Wheelwright Road, Transported to Hospital
 12:42 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Worcester Road, Vehicle Towed
 6:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Vernon Avenue, Written Warning
 7:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
 Arrest Farrell, Bianca, 37, Middleton, CT
 Charges Number Plate Violation to Conceal ID, Number Plate, Misuse Dealer/Repair, Uninsured
 Motor Vehicle, Unregistered Motor Vehicle, Speeding Rate of Speed Exceeding Posted Limit
 9:38 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Marsh Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 11:43 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Ruggles Lane, Mutual Aid Assist

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, Jan. 25
 8:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 9:08 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Healdville Road, Fire Extinguished
 10:15 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Pommogussett Road, No Transport Required
 10:22 a.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Prospect Street, Investigated
 10:56 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident – No Fire Department/EMS Response, Pommogussett Road, Report Filed
 11:39 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Thurston Hill Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 6:11 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures, Miles Road, Transported to Hospital

Monday, Jan. 26
 5:01 a.m. Public Assist, Arrowhead Way, Dispatch Handled
 6:34 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Jackson Avenue, Investigated
 10:47 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Old Princeton Cutoff Road, No Transport Required
 1:58 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Glenwood Road, Transported to Hospital
 2:53 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Lewis Street, Mutual Aid Transport
 3:25 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Maple Avenue, Peace Restored
 3:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Edson Avenue, No Action Required
 9:52 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Thurston Hill Road, Public Assist

Tuesday, Jan. 27
 1:59 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, East Hill Road, Public Assist
 7:25 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Hypotension, Maple Avenue, Transported to Hospital
 7:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Pleasantdale Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 8:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, East Hill Road, Investigated
 9:20 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Campbell Street, Vehicle Towed
 10:04 a.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Main Street, Referred to Other Agency
 10:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident – No Fire Department/EMS Response, Main Street, Report Filed
 11:07 a.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Citation Issued
 1:10 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Main Street, Area Search Negative
 3:45 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Campbell Street, Officer/Chief Advised
 4:05 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Charnock Hill Road, Transported to Hospital
 6:55 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, East County Road, Transported to Hospital
 7:17 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Quail Run Drive,

Information Taken
 8:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, East County Road, Investigated

Wednesday, Jan. 28
 3:03 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Holden, Mutual Aid Assist
 4:32 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Holden, Mutual Aid Assist
 5:55 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, East County Road, Transported to Hospital
 7:28 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Main Street, Investigated
 8:59 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Worcester County House of Correction, Carly Circle, Officer Spoke to Party
 9:06 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning
 9:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Pleasantdale Road, Removed From Scene
 1:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
 2:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued
 2:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
 2:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued
 2:36 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Barre Paxton Road, Call Transferred
 2:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued
 5:17 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Horizon Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 5:20 p.m. Property Dispute or Exchange, Memorial Drive, Officer Spoke to Party
 5:44 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Barre Paxton Road, Transported to Hospital
 9:09 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Paxton, Mutual Aid Assist

Thursday, Jan. 29
 2:10 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning
 9:06 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Thayer, Brandon P., 33, Worcester
 Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle
 12:13 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Nancy Drive, Transported to Hospital
 3:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Gervais, Sarah Marie, 37, Rutland
 Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle C90 S34J, Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With C90 S23
 3:52 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Horizon Road, Report Filed
 3:59 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Forest Hill Drive, Referred to Other Agency
 4:56 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Maple Avenue, Officer/Chief Advised
 5:46 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Forest Hill Drive, Information Given
 5:59 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Glenwood Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 6:11 p.m. Emergency Medical

Service – Shoulder Pain, Joanna Drive, Transported to Hospital
 8:02 p.m. Assault and Battery, Miles Road, Report Filed
 9:04 p.m. Assault and Battery, Miles Road, Report Filed
 9:31 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Maple Avenue, Investigated

Friday, Jan. 30
 6:13 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Cheryl Ann Drive, Negative Contact
 7:11 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Hillside Road, Public Assist
 8:33 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Hillside Road, Referred to Other Agency
 9:18 a.m. Animal – Wildlife, Forest Hill Drive, Negative Contact
 11:15 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Lowry Lane, Investigated
 12:04 p.m. Assault and Battery, Miles Road, Report Filed
 12:29 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, East County Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 2:09 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Forest Hill Drive, Information Taken
 2:58 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 3:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Culley, Esther C., 36, Worcester
 Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With
 3:44 Fraud or Forgery, Wilson Way, Report Filed
 4:53 p.m. Erratic Operator, Bond Road, Area Search Negative
 5:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 5:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
 5:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 6:53 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Clealand Circle, Negative Contact

Saturday, Jan. 31
 7:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Criminal ComplaintS
 7:18 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Richards Avenue, Investigated
 8:01 a.m. Animal – Wildlife, Birchwood Road, Information Taken
 11:37 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Clealand Circle, No Transport Required
 12:27 p.m. Safety Concern, Kyle Hunter Circle, Officer Spoke to Party
 1:50 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Report Filed
 7:15 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Rebecca Ann Drive, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 7:47 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Oakridge Drive, Officer Spoke to Party
 9:25 p.m. Fire – Fumes/Odor/Gas Leak, Arrowhead Way, Investigated
 11:08 p.m. Property Dispute or Exchange, Woodside Avenue, Officer Spoke to Party

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

Come Join Our Team and Grow With Us

The Town of Warren has immediate openings for the following Full & Part-Time positions...

Assistant Assessor: The Warren Board of Assessors is seeking to fill this full-time, Town benefited position of Assistant Assessor. The successful candidate will perform administrative work, provide excellent customer service, maintain detailed records of property assessments, maps, new growth, and assist with setting the annual tax rate under the general direction of the Board of Assessors. One of the Town's goals is to transition this position to a Principal Assessor in the future.

Hourly wage range: \$30.44 - \$37.08
Monday to Thursday, 32 hours per week
\$1,000.00 annual stipend offered with MAA certification

Executive Assistant: This position is responsible for providing administrative and clerical support to the Town Administrator's Office and Board of Selectmen. This is a full-time, Town benefited position. Candidate should be able to demonstrate excellent customer service skills, being proficient with Microsoft Suite and have superior writing skills. Attendance at evening meetings is required.

Hourly wage range: \$24.78 - \$26.69
Monday to Friday, 40 hours per week

Sewer Plant Operator / Mechanic: This position is responsible for operating, maintaining, and cleaning machinery, equipment, and generators. Performs building and grounds maintenance. This is a full-time, Town benefited position, with required on-call and overtime hours. Candidate must possess a Grade 4 or higher Wastewater Treatment Plant License within the first six months of employment.

Hourly wage range: \$24.78 - \$26.69
Monday to Friday, 40 hours per week

Full-Time Police Officer: Applicants are preferred to be academy trained and must be willing to work weekends, nights, and holidays. It is also preferred that applicants currently possess valid certification as a Police Officer. The Patrolmen's contract provides for an education incentive. Please send resumes and cover letters to the attention of Lt. Kyle Whitcomb, WPD PO Box 606, Warren, MA 01083 or whitcomb@warren-ma.gov.

Hourly wage range: \$28.64 - \$34.24 Overtime Available
**Starting hourly will be based on years of municipal police service.*

Part-Time COA Custodian: This position is responsible for all aspects of cleaning, light maintenance of the building and Senior Center grounds. Must have scheduling flexibility to meet the daily operational needs of the Senior Center. Prior custodial experience preferred. Hourly wage range: \$17.70 - \$18.05
 Monday to Friday, 15 hours per week

Please email or mail your resume and cover letter to the
Town Administrator, Jim Ferrera, townadministrator@warren-ma.gov
 or by mail to 48 High Street, P.O. Box 609, Warren, MA 01083.

For a complete job description of any of these positions please visit the Town's website
www.warren-ma.gov.

All positions will be open until filled.

Town of Warren is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, Jan. 25
 1:20 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Templeton, Negative Contact
 8:04 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Ragged Hill Road, Mutual Aid Transport
 9:08 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Healdville Road, Fire Extinguished
 11:13 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Barre Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 2:46 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Gardner Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 4:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Mt. Jefferson Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 5:21 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Westminster Road, Negative Contact
 8:25 p.m. Complaint, Natty Pond Road, Officer/Chief Advised

Monday, Jan. 26
 10:33 a.m. Emergency

Medical Service – Falls, Grimes Road, No Transport Required
 10:47 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Old Princeton Cutoff Road, No Transport Required

Tuesday, Jan. 27
 8:34 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Streeter Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 12:13 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Lombard Road, Transported to Hospital
 3:34 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Princeton, Information Given
 6:35 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Jan. 28
 1:40 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Williamsville Road, No Transport Required
 8:21 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Morgan Road, Vehicle Towed
 9:25 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/

Unresponsive/Syncope, Brigham Street, Transported to Hospital
 9:51 a.m. Serve Warrant, Brigham Street, Removed to Court/Lockup
 Arrest Cassano, Katherine Lynn, 39, Hubbardston
 Charges Warrant
 11:50 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Pitcherville Road, Vehicle Towed
 10:21 p.m. Safety Concern, Plum Tree Lane, Report Filed

Saturday, Jan. 31
 7:18 a.m. Fires – Structure Fires, Richards Avenue, Investigated
 10:17 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Old Boston Turnpike, Public Assist
 5:54 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Worcester Road, Removed from Scene
 7:15 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Main Street, Investigated

Oakham Police Log

Sunday, Jan. 25
 9:08 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Healdville Road, Fire Extinguished

Monday, Jan. 26
 6:34 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires Jackson Avenue,

Investigated
 3:57 p.m. Property Dispute or Exchange, Barre Road, Returned

Thursday, Jan. 29
 3:15 p.m. Safety Concern, North Brookfield Road, Negative Contact

Saturday, Jan. 31
 7:18 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Richards Avenue, Investigated
 12:42 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Worcester Road, Vehicle Towed

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

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