

BARRE GAZETTE

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Select Board begin budget process

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
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OAKHAM – The Select Board met with the highway superintendent, fire chief and police chief to discuss their budgets for the next Fiscal Year.

Highway Superintendent Patrick Mardirosian said generator maintenance went up by 2%. He said the generator radiator had a leak and he got a quote of around \$9,000 to fix it, which he said was excessive. He said the other two highway employees were handy and they would fix it when the weather warmed up. He said in the meantime they were monitoring the situation.

He also discussed the problem concerning new state legislation regarding the use of sand and salt, which deemed the sand on the side of the road after winter and material in catch basins hazardous. The state required those materials to be tested for hazardous materials. If found hazardous, they would have to be hauled away to a location, which handles such materials, at the town's expense. The nearest handler was in Nashua, New Hampshire. He said the legislation was not in place yet, but it was coming.

This legislation aimed at protecting the water supply would cause a significant budget increase. Select Board Vice Chair Donald Haapakoski called this legislation "another unfunded mandate by the state."

Highway Superintendent Mardirosian said building maintenance was another potential cost. The building built in 1999 was beginning to show its age. He said the lighting was a problem as the holders were obsolete and not all working. He said each light fixture cost between \$250 to \$300. He planned on replacing two per year from his maintenance budget until they were all replaced.

He level funded most of his budget. Recently, he replaced all four tires, the originals, on the oldest vehicle in the fleet, an International. He said tires for the trucks were expensive, but he did have an inventory of tires on hand.

He reduced his hired equipment budget by \$196. He said if he needed to he would rent equipment rather than hire an equipment operator. This reduced cost by about half. He said Massachusetts Department of Transportation now required a double center line instead of a single center line and two side lines. It was another unfunded state mandate, which increased cost to the town.

Highway Superintendent Mardirosian also discussed the need at some point to hire a third full-time worker. When one of the two current workers was out sick or on vacation, the workload was a burden. He said he hired five part-time workers for snow removal, but since they all have other jobs and families, they were not always available. He said other town's paid more than Oakham making it harder to find

See OAKHAM, page 5



St. Francis of Assisi Parish hosts

Magic Show

BARRE – The large sign in front of St. Joseph's Chapel on South Street advertised Matt Robert's magic show.

The parish of St. Francis of Assisi is hosting this fun afternoon for the whole family on Sunday, March 2 at 2 p.m. in the auditorium of Quabbin Regional High School. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. The parish wanted to provide a fun activity before the start of Lent to bring families together.

Roberts brings his unique brand of astonishing magic and clean comedy to his events. His shows are performances for all ages. Attendees will see incredible magic, tons of fun audience interaction, skillful sleight-of-hand, smart clean comedy, predicting future events, a jaw dropping demonstration of time travel and more.

Roberts has presented "Music & Magic" performances annually at Boston Symphony Hall since 2010. His clients include Google, GE, Pepperidge Farms and a performance for Seth Myers. Appearing in over 30 TV commercials and several series, he has earned two Emmy-nominations and two national magic awards from his peers. He has appeared alongside "Slimer" from Ghostbusters in a global TV campaign and on stage alongside "The Muppets" in Manhattan where The New York Times called his work, "enchanting."

The parish of St. Francis of Assisi hosted Matt Roberts a number of years ago to raise funds for a family in need. This time the parish is in need itself. Proceeds from this event will go towards the repaving of the church parking lot on Vernon Avenue in South Barre.

People of all ages do not want to miss this engaging and differ-



Submitted photos

Magician Matt Roberts shows one of his card tricks.

ent show full of laughs and illusions. Tickets are just \$10 for adults, \$4 for students in grades 9-12 and free for all children under grade 9. Children under grade 9 must be accompanied by an adult. Refreshments will be sold and gift baskets will be raffled.

Tickets will be sold at the door, but they can be purchased ahead of time from parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi or by calling or texting Judy at 508-320-5049.

This sign in front of St. Joseph's Church advertises the upcoming Magic Show on Sunday, March 2 at 2 p.m. to benefit St. Francis Assisi Parish. Fidelity Bank sponsors the show.



Board accepts resignations from TA and selectman

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Board of Selectmen accepted the resignation of Town Administrator Michael Szlosek, effective April 5 and the resignation of Selectmen Vaughn Schlegel, effective immediately.

At the Feb. 11 meeting, Vice-Chair Elizabeth "Brooke" Canada said she appreciated working with Schlegel on the board.

"He did work really hard for this town," she said.

Vote by mail

Canada read a statement

from the Town Clerk Tara Hayes requesting that the board vote to opt out of vote by mail for municipal voting this year. Absentee voting and absentee over-the-counter voting will still be available through the Town Clerk's office.

"Absentee is for specific criteria: out of town on election day, physically unable to come to the polls on election day, or religious exemption. Complete the application and return to the Town Clerk's office by the deadline. Absentee over-the-counter is essentially early voting," Hayes said in her statement.

Canada said she believes that

vote by mail should be allowed, to ensure accessibility for all residents.

"I think we should allow mail-in voting like the rest of the state does, for all elections," she said.

Chair Jason Petraitis said his issue with vote by mail is the cost to the town, but he understand the need for it.

A motion to approve the Town Clerk's request failed to pass.

Nomination papers for the annual town election are available at the Town Clerk's office. Seats up for election are as follows: Board of Selectmen, one seat for three-year term; Board of

Selectmen, one seat for two-year term (unexpired term to fill vacancy); Town Moderator, one seat for three-year term; Town Clerk, one seat for three-year term; School Committee, one seat for three-year term; School Committee, one seat for two-year term (unexpired term to fill vacancy); Board of Assessors, one seat for three-year term; Board of Assessors, one seat for two-year (unexpired term to fill vacancy); Board of Health, one seat for three-year term; Cemetery Commissioner, one seat for three-

See NORTH BROOKFIELD, page 6

Turkeys flock to Oakham feeder



A flock of wild turkeys gather under a bird feeder in Oakham in search of food.



These wild turkeys peck through the snow in search of bird seed covered by this weekend storm.

Courtesy photos by Tom Rawinski

BARRE GAZETTE

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News of the Towns



ROUND TOWN

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Magic Show happens March 2

St. Francis of Assisi will host the Matt Roberts Magic Show to be held on Sunday, March 2 at 2 p.m. in the auditorium at Quabbin Regional High School, 800 South St. Matt Roberts is a two-time Emmy nominated magician. He brings a unique mix of Clean Comey, Ja-Dropping Mentalism and Time Travel. Tickets are \$10 for adults; High School students grades 9-12 \$4 and children under the ninth grade are free, but must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets will be sold after all Masses or call/text Judy at 508-320-5049.

QRHS blood drive

A blood drive will take place on Thursday, Feb. 27 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Quabbin Regional Middle High School, 800 South St., in the high school gymnasium. Ellie Frost, a senior at Quabbin Regional High School, is putting on a blood drive at the high school in partnership with the Rhode Island Blood Center. The blood drive is in partnership with the Rhode Island Blood Center, on February 27th from 10 am- Walk-ins are welcome if space permits, but they ask people to sign up at ribc.org/drives and use sponsor code M102. Sixteen year old donors need parent/guardian permission. Permission slips are available at ribc.org/permission. Appointments are preferred however walk-in will be welcome if space permits. Donors should eat, drink and bring ID with their name and photo. Donation takes about an hour to give blood. People may also call 800-283-8385.

Designer pancake breakfast

Cradle Rock Order of Eastern Star will hold a designer pancake breakfast on Saturday, March 1 from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Mt. Zion Lodge Hall, 71 Pleasant St. Cost is \$9 per adult and \$5 per child age 6 and under. People may create their own designer pancake with chips, fruit, nuts and more. The complete breakfast includes designer pancakes, waffles, sausage gravy with biscuits, bacon, sausage, juice and coffee. All are welcome.

Food Pantry distribution

The next Barre Food Pantry distribution is Thursday, Feb. 20 from 5:30-7 p.m. In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients Feb. 20 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church. They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers at multiple stations. People should not arrive to volunteer on Feb. 20 without first contacting Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921 or Chuck Radlo at 978-355-6463. Because conditions have been changing rapidly, please continue to check for updates on the Barre Food Pantry website by visiting <http://www.barrefoodbank.org/index.htm> and the Barre Food Pantry Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Barre-Food-Pantry-100156068300314/>.

Heart of New England Council welcomes new Scout Executive/CEO

RUTLAND – Heart of New England Council, Scouting America, is pleased to announce the appointment of Jason Pigg as the new Scout Executive and Chief Executive Officer, effective March 1.

Pigg is a lifelong Scout and Scouter, an Eagle Scout, and the proud father of two Eagle Scouts. With deep family connections to the Scouting movement, Pigg is passionate about the positive impact that Scouting can have on the youth in our communities.

Pigg's 19-year Scouting career began as summer camp staff and has included roles such as Camp Ranger,

Properties Director, and Camping Director. Most recently, he served as Chief Financial Officer and Director of Support Services at the Pathway to Adventure Council in Chicago, Illinois. During his tenure there, his leadership contributed to significant membership growth, innovative community partnerships, and successful capital fundraising initiatives.

Heart of New England Council looks forward to Pigg applying his extensive experience and passion for Scouting to support and enhance the Scouting programs in central Massachusetts.



Jason Pigg

Please join us in welcoming Pigg and his wife, Lindsey, to central Massachusetts.

About Heart of New England Council

Heart of New England Council is a 501(c)(3) organization that serves about 4,000 boys and girls in more than 60 communities in central Massachusetts. It provides the nation's foremost program that teaches young people character, leadership, and citizenship through fun and exciting adventures for the entire family.

The council fosters a culture of diversity and inclusion that makes it enriching to participate, volunteer and work in the Scouting program. Visit www.hnescouting.org for more information.

HUBBARDSTON

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Town Hall to relocate to 48 Gardner Road

The Hubbardston Town Hall will be closed on Thursday, Feb. 20 to facilitate the move to their temporary location at 48 Gardner Road. The new temporary Town Office space is expected to be fully operational on Monday, Feb. 24 at 8 a.m. Operations will take place in the left-flanking building, formerly occupied by MassDOT and a karate studio. Appropriate signage will be posted with financial services operating out of one entrance and town clerk and community development operating out of the other entrance. Both offices will be fully staffed during regular hours to assist the public. The Office of the Select Board and Town Administrator will be located on the second floor, above the veterinary clinic. If needed, staff can be called down to the main office area or scheduled for in-person meetings. All email addresses and phone numbers will remain active and monitored throughout the move. For more information or any questions, people may call the Town Administrator at 978-928-1400, extension 200 or email admin@hubbardstonma.gov.

Craft Spirit Tasting Night

The Hubbardston Public Library, 7 Main St., will hold a craft spirit tasting night as a fundraiser at the library on Friday, Feb. 21 with seatings at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. This is an age 21 plus event is the perfect opportunity to sample local wines and craft spirits while supporting library programs. Tickets are \$25 per person and available for purchase at the library. Participants will enjoy a carefully curated tasting experience featuring local wines and craft spirits from Wachusett Winery and Agronomy Farm, paired with artisanal cheeses from Smith's Country Cheeses. This event is a fundraiser to support the library's programs and services, so every sip helps make a difference. Space is limited so people should get their tickets early. For more information, people may call the library at 978-928-4775 or visit hubbardstonpubliclibrary.org.

Book Club

The next meeting of the Book Club is Wednesday, Feb. 26 at 11 a.m. This month's book is "Night Fall" by Nelson DeMille. All are welcome to come for some lively conversation. People may call the Hubbardston Public Library at 978-928-4775 to get a copy of the book.

Online dog licenses

Over the next few months, the town of Hubbardston will be rolling out permits and other applications online. The first license roll-out will be embarking on is the licensing of the town's dogs. Dog license applications are available online by visiting <https://www.hubbardstonma.gov/town-clerk/pages/dog-licenses>. From within the online dog license application, people will need to upload a photo of their dog's rabies certification as well as having the added bonus of being able to pay online from within the application, rather than going to a separate site and having to create a separate account. There will still be an additional \$1 fee for postage. If residents choose to mail in a check (made out to Town of Hubbardston), they should provide an addressed, stamped envelope for the office to mail their dog's tag. Licenses will be emailed to the email address people provide during the application process. Dogs must be licensed by April 1. Dogs not licensed by May 1 will face a \$25 late fee. Residents 70 plus years of age are exempt from payment.

Senior Center

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

Barre Dining Center

BARRE — Elder Services of Worcester Area Nutrition Program welcomes guests to dine at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road. The following meals will be served for the week of Feb. 24. 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 – Greek chicken, steamed white rice, roasted California blend vegetables, Lorna Doone cookies, whole wheat bread

TUESDAY – Meatballs with onion gravy, bowtie pasta, country blend vegetables, pineapple, Italian bread

WEDNESDAY – Banh Mi pork riblet, carrots, coleslaw, baked cinnamon pears, sandwich roll, mayonnaise

THURSDAY – Vegetable cheese bake, red bliss potatoes, green beans, birthday cake, diet = small piece, pumpernickel bread

FRIDAY – Salisbury steak, garlic mashed potatoes, beets, fresh fruit, sandwich roll

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

Barre Players Theater to hold auditions

BARRE – Auditions for "Helen's Most Favorite Day" by Mark Dunn will be held Monday, March 3 and Tuesday, March 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the Barre Players Theater at 64 Common St.

Jessie Olson is the director. Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. Audition forms will be available at the theater or save time by bringing a completed form to the audition

by downloading the audition form by visiting barreplayertheater.com/forms/audition.pdf.

People may email jessiebolson@gmail.com with any questions.

All roles are open. The theater encourages diversity in casting and welcomes everyone to audition.

Characters are Helen, forty-four; Ruta, forty-two, Helen's sister; Lily, mid to

late forties – a fortune teller and mystic; Jed, forty-four – a carnie; Herman, forty-three – possibly Ruta's boyfriend and Bolivia, seventy-two – Herman's mother.

Rehearsals will likely be Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays, May 2, May 3, May 9 and May 10 at 7:30 p.m. as well as Sundays, May 4 and May 11 at 2 p.m.

Barre Players Theater lists upcoming events

BARRE – Spring cleaning will take place Saturday, March 1 and Sunday, March 2 at the Barre Players Theater, 64 Common St.

Volunteers will go through the set pieces, paint cans, furniture, props and various objects in the base-

ment of the theater. After 31 seasons at Common Street and many more at other locations, a lot of things have accumulated. This is to make the downstairs a warm, welcoming space for the 2025 season.

Script readings at Barre

Players are back. The first script reading, "Home, I'm Darling" by Laura Wade will be on Friday, March 14 at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to read any part they wish or just join the group to listen. Refreshments will be served.

NOTICE

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



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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

Finance Committee – Feb. 25 at 6:30 p.m.
 Conservation Committee – Feb. 25 at 7 p.m.
 Cemetery Commission – Feb. 27 at 11 a.m.
 Insurance Advisory Committee – Feb. 27 at 1:30 p.m.
 Felton Field Commission – March 4 at 6:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – March 5 at 12:30 p.m.
 Water Commission – March 10 at 6:30 p.m.
 DPW Commission – March 10 at 7 p.m.
 Library Trustees – March 12 at 6:30 p.m.
 250th Anniversary Committee – March 12 at 6:30 p.m.
 Barre Housing Authority – March 13 at 1 p.m.
 Election Day – April 7 from 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
 Cable Advisory Committee – April 8 at 7 p.m.

HARDWICK

Capital Planning Committee – Feb. 24 at 3 p.m.
 Wheelwright Water District – Feb. 24 at 7 p.m.
 Planning Board – Feb. 25 at 6:30 p.m.
 Master Plan Steering Committee – Feb. 27 at 6:30 p.m.
 Recycling Commission – March 4 at 6:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – March 5 at 12:30 p.m.
 Paige Library Trustees – March 6 at 7 p.m.
 Gilbertville Public Library – March 12 at 4 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Council on Aging – Feb. 25 at 4 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Post Owner/Architect/Contractor Meeting – Feb. 20, Feb. 27 and March 6 at 3 p.m., March 13, March 20 and March 27 at 4 p.m.
 Water Commissioners – Feb. 24 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Health – Feb. 26 at 6:30 p.m.
 Board of Selectmen – Feb. 25, March 11 and March 25 at 6 p.m.
 Sewer Commissioners – March 3 at 5:30 p.m.
 Insurance Advisory Committee – March 11 at 2:30 p.m.
 Planning Board – March 19 at 6 p.m.

OAKHAM

Council on Aging – March 14 at noon
 Planning Board – March 18 at 7 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Select Board – Feb. 20, Feb. 25, Feb. 27, March 6, March 13, March 20, March 27, April 3, April 10 and April 24 at 5:30 p.m.
 Board of Health – Feb. 20 at 6 p.m.
 Petersham Historic District – Feb. 20 at 6 p.m.
 Petersham Forest and Shade Tree Committee – Feb. 21 at 5:30 p.m.
 Advisory Finance Committee – Feb. 25 at 6:30 p.m.
 Zoning Board of Appeals – Feb. 27 at 7 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – Feb. 28 at 9 a.m.
 Open Space and Recreation Committee – March 4 at 6 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – March 4 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – March 10 at 10 a.m.
 Cemetery Commission – March 11 at 10 a.m.

RUTLAND

Events Committee – Feb. 20 at 6:30 p.m.
 Planning Board Hearing – Feb. 25 at 6:30 p.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 barrenews@turley.com or call 978-355-4000. Corrections may also be requested in writing at Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

Pianist Cicilia Yudha to perform at Stone Church March 9

GILBERTVILLE – Award-winning pianist, Cicilia Yudha, will perform a solo piano recital on Sunday, March 9 at 3 p.m. in the Stone Church Cultural Center, 283 Main St.

Her program, “Old, New, Borrowed and Blue,” features music by J.S. Bach, Robert Schumann, Maurice Ravel and three women: Romantic German composer Emilie Mayer (1812-1873), Indonesian composer Trisutji Kamal (1936-2021), and American composer Margaret Bonds (1913-1972). This performance is free to youth under 18 and holders of the Card to Culture. For information and tickets, people may visit www.tickettailor.com/events/friendsofthestonechurch/1256706.

A versatile soloist and an avid chamber musician, Yudha made her debut with the Cleveland Orchestra. She has performed in the U.S., Cambodia, Canada, Austria, France, Germany and Indonesia. As a creative artist, she has enjoyed collaborations with musicologist Ewelina Boczkowska, tap dancer Claudia Rahardjanoto, Polish Folk Dance specialists Christine Cobb and Stas Kmiec and Shakespeare scholar John Higgins.

In the U.S., Yudha has appeared frequently as a piano soloist with the Duke Symphony Orchestra. She received her doctoral degree in music from University North Carolina Greensboro. While teaching at Youngstown State University, where she received a Distinguished

Professorship award, she co-founded the Dana Trio, which made its Carnegie Hall debut in 2019. Yudha is a frequent guest speaker at the Cleveland Orchestra’s Preview Series at Severance Center. She resides in Ohio with her husband and children.

Originally from Jakarta, Indonesia, Yudha won a scholarship to study at the Cleveland Institute of Music. She then won awards from CIM, the Cleveland Orchestra, New England Conservatory and UNC Greensboro, resulting in solo performances with each orchestra. For her compositions for children, she won a Junior Composer Award through the Yamaha Music Foundation and Yayasan Pendidikan Musik’s Junior Original Concert program. She also received the Rosario Marciano Prize, resulting in a solo recital in Vienna. Yudha’s live performances, including an appearance on “From the Top,” have been broadcast on radio in America, Canada and Indonesia.

Pursing her interest in the music of French pianist and composer Robert Casadesu, Yudha has presented piano recital-lectures at The Juilliard School, in TEDx Talks and at national music educators’ conferences. Her debut recording Selected Piano Works by Robert Casadesu and Henri Dutilleux was released by Navona Records and is available online or as a CD.

Yudha focused her doctoral dissertation on several of Casadesu’s works and is actively seeking out his largely unknown works.

A popular educator, Dr. Yudha is a four-time recipient of the Steinway Top Teacher Award. She successfully established piano class and after-school enrichment programs for Youngstown City Schools.

This concert is sponsored by Phillip and Mary Warbasse, and by CAPTRUST, a financial advisory firm. Partial support for the spring 2025 Series at the Stone Church Cultural Center comes from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and by the Cultural Councils of Barre, Hardwick-New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham and Petersham. Local cultural councils are local organizations in each town which receive support from the Mass Cultural Council.

Friends of the Stone Church, Inc. is a public charitable corporation and community group organized in 2015 and open to all. Their mission is to preserve and protect the Gilbertville Stone Church Cultural Center and to make it available as a place of community enrichment. They welcome donations toward their ongoing preservation project by visiting www.FriendsoftheStoneChurch.org or by mail to F.O.S.C., P.O. Box 347, Gilbertville, MA 01031.



Cicilia Yudha



OAKHAM

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Fire Department hosts senior lunch

The Oakham Fire Department invites senior citizens to join them at the Fire Station on Friday, March 21 at 12.30 p.m. for lunch. Seniors should let the Council on Aging know if they can attend either by e-mailing COA@Oakham-Ma.gov or calling the Senior Center at 508-882-4073.

Sand for seniors

The Oakham Fire Department is offering to deliver salt and sand buckets to their door to help seniors during this cold and icy weather. To take up the Fire Department on this generous offer, seniors may call the Oakham Fire Department at 508-882-5218.

Podiatry clinic

Oakham Podiatry 2025 Clinics are by appointment only. Seniors may call Oakham Senior Center at 508-882-4073 and their call will be returned by a podiatry clinic volunteer. All clinics at Oakham Senior Center from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Schedule for February, March and April are: Monday, Feb. 24; Monday, March 17 and Mondays, April 14 and April 21.

Senior Center activities

Oakham Senior Center activities in February include: Monday, Feb. 24 podiatry from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., reservations required; Monday through Thursdays at 9 a.m. walking group, meet at Senior Center and on Tuesdays through Thursdays at 11 a.m. walking group meet at Senior Center. On cold days, the walking groups will walk to tapes inside the Senior Center. Other activities are Tuesdays from Feb. 4 to March 4 Yoga at 12.30 p.m.; Tuesday, Feb. 18 Blood Pressure/Glucose Testing from 11 a.m.-noon; Wednesdays Zumba Gold 9 a.m. in the Rutland Senior Center - \$2 donation per class; Thursdays at noon Weigh in support weight loss group and Fridays Functional Fitness 10.30 a.m. at the New Braintree Town Hall - \$2 donation per class.

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. to 12.15 p.m. by calling 508-882-4072.

If those who can’t get to the Senior Center to make reservations required for some offerings or for more information on offerings, seniors may call the Senior Center 508-882-4073 and leave a message or email COA@Oakham-MA.gov.

Paige Memorial Library lists upcoming events

HARDWICK – Hardwick is 286 years old, the Paige Memorial Library building located at 87 Petersham Road is 120 years old, but Hardwick’s libraries came before the Paige building.

This celebration will include the history of all the libraries, the Hardwick villages, those who lived here (a Human Library), and events over the years that impacted Hardwick residents.

Be part of a year of fun events. On June 7 the Westfield Wheelmen, a vintage baseball team, will challenge the library’s players. Help form a team.

To join the fun and the planning, call 413-477-6704 or email director.paigeli@turley.com.

brary@gmail.com.

On Feb. 22 at 11 a.m. at the Paige Library, come speak with Hardwick’s own Ridge Shinn, Executive Director of the Northeast Grass-fed Beef Initiative, co-founder and CEO of Big Picture Beef. Shinn has developed markets and distribution systems throughout the northeast and has consulted all over the U.S. and for the Argentine government on the production and marketing of grass-fed beef.

His work has been recognized in Time Magazine, Atlantic Monthly, New York Times, Wine Spectator, and Smithsonian.

Shinn is also the co-author of “Grass-fed Beef for the Post-Pandemic

World: How Regenerative Grazing Can Restore Soils and Stabilize the Climate”. Register by calling 413-477-6704 or emailing director.paigeli@turley.com.

Ongoing activities offered at the library currently include the Paige Library Book Club, the weekly Story Hour with art and science activities, the Cookbook Club, the Paige Writers’ group, and FUNDamentals of Art, a multi-media workshop to foster creative activity and socialization.

For more information call 413-477-6704 or email director.paigeli@turley.com.

Historical Society to host open house and tea tasting on March 9

RUTLAND – The Rutland Historical Society will host an Open House and Tea Tasting event on Sunday, March 9 from 2-4 p.m. at the Wood House, 232 Main St.

Teas available for tasting will include black, herbal and special-

ty teas with origins from China, England, India and Iraq.

This event is free and open to the public. People may taste some tea while browsing through the museum’s collection of Rutland’s history.

Editorial deadline reminder

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

NOTICE

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Opinion



Reader asks about claiming Social Security when I have a Health Savings Account

Dear Rusty

I have reached my full retirement age (66 plus 8 months) and plan to apply for Social Security this month, but I've seen articles, which say that when I apply, I must also take Medicare Part A.

This, even though I am continuing to work and am covered by my employer's health insurance (a high deductible plan). I contribute bi-weekly into an Health Savings Account. I've read that Medicare back dates Part A coverage by six months, which suggests I would have had to stop contributing to my HSA six months ago.

If this is true, will I need to pay penalties and such to the IRS? I'm not able to find anything else about this topic and I'm wondering what you might have to say. I have my wife and two children on my employer's HDHP. We contribute \$6,000 annually to our HSA and my employer contributes \$1,250 on Jan. 1 each year. We can live without the HSA, but the taxes and IRS penalties concern me.

Signed: Wanting to Claim SS (but concerned)

Dear Wanting to Claim

I'm afraid that what you've read is correct – it is mandatory for you to take Medicare Part A (inpatient hospitalization coverage) when receiving Social Security benefits after age 65. Medicare Part A is free to you and even though you are still covered under your employer's creditable high deductible healthcare plan and can delay taking Medicare Part B, you must take Medicare Part A to collect Social Security after 65. Medicare and your employer's plan will coordinate healthcare benefit payments.

That does, however, also mean your Health Savings Account will be affected because, as you have found, Medicare will backdate your Part A coverage by six months. And because Part A is not a high deductible plan (a requirement for HSA), any contributions you make after the effective date of Part A will be subject to an IRS penalty, and your HSA contributions won't be considered tax-exempt. This will mean the IRS will likely assess a 6% excise tax on any contributions made after your Part A effective date and you'll need to pay income tax on those contributions.

What you may wish to consider is stopping your HSA contributions now and waiting an additional six months or so to claim your Social Security benefits (to get beyond the HSA penalty phase). This would have the advantage of avoiding the IRS penalty on your HSA contributions and would also increase your Social Security benefit due to Delayed Retirement Credits. You earn DRCs at the rate of .677% for each month beyond your FRA that you wait to claim, which means an SS benefit about 4% higher if you wait six months longer to claim SS.

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. 27, 2020)

With a smile on his face and spring in his step, nine-year Ducati Sedler was just one of a number of volunteers who helped at the mini-golf course fundraiser, held at the Hoston Free Public Library last Friday and Saturday "It felt pretty good, because I always like helping and it's pretty fun when I help," Sedler said. Coming across an 18-hole mini golf course is probably one of the last things anyone would think be set up in a library, however, both the Friends of the Hoston Library group and Hoston Library director Dawn Thistle and her staff collaborated together to create a unique experience for all to enjoy. "We've been working on this for a month," Thistle said, who explained she had heard of other libraries transforming their space into mini-golf courses for a designated period of time.

The name were in and last week the selection committee met to pick this year's Shillelagh award winners. The Polus Center of Petersham, a non-profit that supports people with disabilities, asked for nominations for Shillelagh wards. The winners are Lucy Allen, Dennis Dextrateur, Ellenor Downer, Fred and Becki Hamel, Sandra Hood, Kathlyn Inman, the Leander family, Doug Martin, Stanley Miknaitis, Guido and Helene (Carroll) Pascale, Joe Petracone, Joseph and Linda Rogowski, Patrick Swain and Mary Ann Watson. Although a recipient does not need to be Irish, they must demonstrate generosity and help others. These recipients will receive their Shillelagh, an Irish walking stick, at the "All Things Irish" event Saturday, March 7.

The Hardwick Town House Advisory Committee with the support of the Hardwick Select Board is creating a fundraising project to support the painting of the exterior of the Hardwick Town House. While a very significant number of improvements have been made over the last several years, a quick look at the outside of the building makes it obvious that painting is very much needed if the town is to prevent deterioration of this beautiful, historic building that plays an important role in the community. There are two phases in this program. First, the Advisory Committee is applying for a grant to cover half the cost of the painting. The other half of the cost will have to come from funds raised to cover the Committee's share.

Look Back — Lions Flea Market — 1989



Turley Publications File photo
Shown at the Barre Lions Club Flea Market, from left, are Tim Mylott and Rose Rabschnuck of Hardwick.

10 years (Feb. 26, 2015)

The Quabbin Regional School District School Committee will meet on Thursday, March 12 t 6:30 p.m. in the Quabbin Regional School District Educational Support Center, 872 South St. At the conclusion of school committee business, a Public Budget Hearing on the Quabbin Regional School District FY 16 budget will be held. The public is invited to attend. A copy of the FY 2016 budget will be available for review at the Central Office, 872 South St., Barre.

Lester Paquin, Barre Senior Center, Director, submitted the Council of Aging budget to the Barre Finance Committee. It included a request to increase his salary from \$29,639 to \$34,242 for next year. In a memorandum, he said the increase reflected an increase in hours from about 30 hours per week to 37.5 hours for an additional cost of \$4,603. He said half of the increase, \$2,301.50, would come from the

See PAST PAGES, page 5

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Leave it to fate

I never thought I would say this, but I am out of ideas for this week's column.

Every topic I come up with has been covered at one time or another. So, as the snow falls every so furiously outside, I am going to resort to the "stick your finger in the gardening encyclopedia, and see where it lands" trick.

I'll leave the topics of the week to fate.

Here goes: For the first topic, my finger landed on a funny picture of geranium plants with their rootballs wrapped in newspaper hanging from the beams in someone's basement. I have written before about my success in bringing my geranium plants inside for the winter and placing them in a south facing window.

Just yesterday I was looking at the plants more closely, knowing that soon enough, I will be snipping the tips to take some cuttings. But I digress, the picture I saw is just another way to overwinter your geranium plants, especially if you don't have a sunny window or a lot of indoor gardening space. Many old timers used to talk of this method a

lot and had great success with it. You could either try and pot the plants up ahead of time or go right from the basement to the outdoors after the threat of frost has passed and after a thorough hardening off process, of course.

Second topic: My finger landed on the herb Lovage (*Levisticum officinale*). I have started lovage from seed nearly every year for the last 30 years.

This celery substitute is always on the list of transplants needed for the herb garden at Old Sturbridge Village. Lovage seed is not viable for long, so new seed is needed each year, or germination will be sparse.

The plant is considered a perennial, meaning it will return year after year, but in my experience, the best foliage production will be in the first year. The flowers are "umbells" like dill and fennel but flowers only take away from foliage production, so they are best snipped off.

The hollow stems are used in place of celery in soups and stews. My mom always enjoyed drying the leaves for use during the winter months.

Topic three: Hostas! I was never a big fan of Hostas until I had a yard that had substantial amounts of shade. These versatile plants are a perfect companion for many shade loving perennials, especially if they are planted in fertile soil with ample moisture.

Like other perennials, Hostas need a period of dormancy to succeed, so they will do well in our climate, and down to Zone 8 or so. Most varieties are grown for their foliage only; I find it funny that some gardeners snip off the flowers as they begin to form, saying that it actually takes away from the look of the plant.

There are so many types to choose from and in

colors ranging from grass-green to yellow and even blue-gray! Some are variegated or splashed with color.

Leaf sizes range from minuscule to huge! One pest that loves Hosta leaves is the slug. To lessen their interest in the plant, be sure to remove decomposing foliage.

Use any number of traps, homemade or otherwise to keep your plants damage free.

And the last fate-filled topic is: Chile peppers! There are all kinds of hot peppers out there for the gardener to experiment with. You might think that growing instructions may differ for fire-hot peppers, but they are grown in the same manner as regular bell peppers.

Start the seeds inside, or purchase transplants. Warm the soil ahead of installing the plants, and don't overdue it fertility-wise. Provide supplemental water if the summer gets droughty.

Harvest when the peppers turn color, and do so wearing gloves being ever mindful not to touch your eyes. I had always heard that a milk bath should help ease the sting of an accidental burn; others say ingesting starchy food does the trick.

Well, I hope this unconventional column was an enjoyable read. It's never too late to pull out a reference book or two for some interesting factoids.

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

Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

“Snow, Snow go away little Janie wants to play.”

I guess most of us are sick of this winter. It has been so cold and snowy. I do not go out when it is icy so I am thankful for the help I have.

My computer was acting up on Saturday, but the handyman was able to fix it. It seemed like a screen was in front of my email account. I am not very good at technology.

I got a call from a cousin, whose daughter wants to join the Mayflower Association so I copied off information for her. Then, I got a call from his sister, who wanted some of my watercolor cards. I have a big supply of them so when I can get someone to mail them she will receive them.

Saturday, I spent the day making holders with scrap pieces of fabric I have. I have been picking over my magazines and found an article on a survey of what is the most popular chocolate in a box of chocolates. The results was caramel by 34% with chocolate covered nuts second. I got three boxes

of chocolates for Valentines Day.

Chicken wings is one of our favorite appetizers and when we want a pick me up I serve them. Here is a recipe I will use next time.

LEMON CHICKEN WINGS

Chicken wings
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 teaspoons oregano
1 teaspoon lemon zest
2 chopped cloves of garlic
pinch of pepper

Place a rimmed cookie sheet on the middle rack of the oven and heat it to 450 degrees. Toss the wings in a bowl of olive oil, oregano, lemon zest, chopped cloves of garlic and a little pepper. Bake at 450 degrees for 30 minutes. Put on the baking sheet and turn over about half way the cooking time of 30 minutes.

This and That

Now I have to get busy and shovel off the front deck before the sleet comes. I will be happy to see spring even with the gnats and mosquitoes.

OAKHAM, continued from page 1

workers and more likely current employees would take a higher paying position in another town.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Timothy Howe presented his budget next. He said he upped his telephone account, but otherwise kept the Fire Department level funded. He said he cut training and reduced it to the minimum required. He also said radios were a huge issue. The Rutland Regional Emergency Communications Center of which Oakham belongs, would be upgrading radios. He said this action would make about three quarters of his stuff not effective. He hoped to apply for a grant to cover the radios when the upgrade happens.

Fire Chief Howe said he was still looking at a unit that would allow radio contact directly between fire, highway and police. Currently, they use cell-phones.

Police Department

Police Chief Frederick Gehring said he level funded his budget except for contractual agreements. He said his department and other small town departments are losing part-time officers as they are going to jobs in other towns that pay more. In addition, the pool of part-time officers shrunk. The town pays \$19 and change per hour. He suggested the need to increase that rate to \$24 or \$25 per hour.

New regulations required part-time police officers to go to the full-time academy. Certifications would be returning to in person rather than remote training, which puts an added cost burden on small departments

Special Town Meeting

The Select Board voted to set the date for a Special Town Meeting, which was postponed last month, at their next meeting on Feb. 10. They hoped that the issued on an article for road acceptance of Skyline Drive and Schoolhouse Drive would be resolved soon so that article could also go on the STM warrant.

PAST PAGES, continued from page 4

Formula Grant from the state and the town would fund the other half.

For the past eight months, the Petersham Energy Committee has been working toward its goal of reducing energy usage in six town buildings. A Green Community grant from the Department of Energy Resources totaling \$138,425 was awarded the town through the Energy Committee. Although 10% of the grant could have been spent on administrative costs that did not happen and 100% of the grant went directly to town projects. The buildings affected were the Petersham Center School, police station, fire station, highway barn, town hall and town office building.

25 years (March 2, 2000)

During a luncheon hosted by the Barre Savings Bank on Wednesday, March 1, President and Chief Executive Officer Davie Gale announced plans for a major expansion to the bank's office facility. Gale said, "To accommodate the bank's continued growth

and to allow for improved service to our customers, the bank is planning an addition to the main office of approximately 15,000 square feet. "The project will include a major renovation to the existing historic building. The new design has been carefully developed to incorporate key historical architectural foreshadowed within the existing bank building and to ensure a strong presence complementary in the historic Barre Common."

Peter and Lynn Hartman of Hartman's Herb Farm appeared before the Barre Board of Selectmen to receive permission to upgrade their establishment's liquor license. The Hartman's Bed and Breakfast/Restaurant previously served only beer and wine. Mrs. Hartman said their request was prompted by the occasional customer, who wanted a mixed drink. She said she did not feel this would be a big part of their business. With the abutters properly notified and insurance taken care of, Selectmen Richard Stevens and Charles Chase approved the request. Selectman Chair Daniel Trifilo was not in attendance.



By Ellenor Downer

Snow bunting



I received an email from an Oakham resident said he and a friend on Feb. 12 startled a flock of about eight snow buntings as they drove along Adams Road in New Braintree.

He said, "The buntings are seen here every winter." On Feb. 18, I drove over Adams Road and saw the same flock of snow buntings. Their white bellies will visible as they flew up from the side of the road.

The snow bunting is seven inches long with a plumpish body. In winter, snow buntings are streaked with buff and black. The ear patch and the back is streaked with buff as well as the flanks and breast. The belly is white and the bill yellow-orange. The male's crown is black and the female's buff.

The male in summer is a striking white and black. The head and breast are white and the back, tail and bill are black. The female in summer plumage is a more subdued version of the male with her head a gray color.

Snow buntings summer on the tundra and rocky shores, their breeding grounds. The female lays three to nine creamy blue or gray eggs in a nest of moss, grasses and earth placed on rocky ground. Their song is a musical warble and calls include "tew" and soft, buzzy notes.

In winter, they inhabit open fields, road-

sides and beaches in the southern Canada and the United States.

Brown creeper

Last week, I saw a brown creeper moving up a tree near one of my bird feeders and suet cakes. When they get near the top of the tree, they fly down to the base and climb up the tree in a different spot on the tree.

Birds and more at my feeder

Sunday during the storm, I spotted an opossum under my feeder digging in the snow for seeds. At this point, it switched to rain and the opossum had wet fur. Besides the opossum, I had squirrels and the usual black-capped chickadees, white-breasted nuthatches, tufted titmice, downy woodpeckers, dark eyed juncos, bluejays and mourning doves.

Bald eagle

An Oakham resident saw a bald eagle land on the ice on Lake Dean. Late last month, fishing derby participants saw an eagle at Lake Dean.

Loon facts

The Loon Preservation Committee newsletter mentioned facts about the first migration and acquiring breeding territory. Each fall, juvenile loons undertake their first migration to their wintering grounds. The article said, "First, they have to manage the energetic costs of migration—sadly, not all survive the trip from their lakes to their wintering grounds. Those that make it to the ocean encounter a new and unfamiliar world, filled with prey species that they have no experience catching and predator species like sharks and seals that they have no experience evading. Without their parents to show them the ropes, they have to quickly learn where to forage and how to evade these new predators. And carry-over effects resulting from the environmental conditions they experienced on their lakes during development can also influence their survival – those juvenile loons that were raised on lower quality territories may start off in worse shape than others, which can reduce their chance of survival. All of these factors combine to mean that there is a 53% chance that a loon will survive from hatch to adulthood (age three)."

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

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In the Classroom

Quabbin students taking public safety education course

From the Desk of Colleen Mucha, Superintendent of Quabbin Regional School District

We are very excited to share a partnership with our five community Fire and EMS services to provide a Public Safety Education course to 36 Quabbin Regional High School students in Grades 10-12. Thank you to Christina Gustafson from Barre Fire Department for helping to organize the programming by working with our other local departments from: Hubbardston, Oakham, New Braintree and Hardwick. They are all participating in the instruction and preparation for this class.

The course began in January and is running through March. Class topics include: Introduction to Fire and EMS, CPR/Stop the Bleed certification, EMS Practices, Fire Behavior,

Tactics & Tools and many more. The course was made available to students in Grades 10-12. The response was so great that the instructors agreed to make adjustments to the program in order to serve all of the interested students.

Already students have expressed interest in the topics and enjoyment in the practical learning experiences. When visiting the class recently here is what our students shared.

"The instructors are great and the course is really fun." "I appreciate that it is a good opportunity to learn about what they do." "I'm interested in becoming a nurse and it is a great introduction to the medical field." "My family is in the business and it shows me different options



Quabbin High School students in grades 10 to 12 practice on manikins during the public safety education course.

that I might be interested in." "I like the first hand experience." "I think it is good to learn these skills at a younger age, it is a good thing to have."

On the day of the visit, students watched a series of videos and then worked with pediatric dummies to administer CPR. They worked in small groups while the instructors circulated making recommendations or adjustments. At the same time, students who felt ready were undergoing their CPR certification assessment in the back of the room. There was a lot of action in the classroom and students were responsible for retaining and applying their knowledge. Even though the academy does not run every day there

is a Google Classroom that is populated with videos, resources, and assignments that the students are responsible to complete in between sessions.

There is a lot of important information to know and students are eager to learn. Many feel that having the opportunity to engage in the hands-on aspect is helping them gain confidence in their skills. Several students are considering the possibility of careers in public safety. QRHS Senior Kylie George attended one session as part of her internship with New Braintree Fire Department and Chief Dennis Letendre. From her observations she stated: "The Fire/EMS class gave me a good introduction to how structured training



Submitted Photos
Fire and EMS staff from the five Quabbin member towns instruct the course.

is for those just learning the basics of different topics. It covers the necessary skills and knowledge, with fewer hands-on activities. In contrast, my internship feels more hands-on and situational. Instead of sitting in a class, I get to be in the station and learn by seeing real-world operations. I have the chance to observe calls and even be involved. I interact with firefighters and EMTs

every day, learning the day-to-day aspects of their job. I feel both are very helpful and important in the learning process."

QRHS offers many opportunities for internships and it is our hope that these students will also consider participating in an internship, like Kylie's, with our local Fire/EMS departments upon completion of the course.



Students take turns practicing chest compressions on the infant dummy.

Quaboag Historical Society seeks scholarship applicants

The Quaboag Historical Society is proud to announce its annual scholarship program, designed to support high school seniors with a passion for history and a commitment to preserving

the past.

This \$1,000 scholarship aims to assist students planning to pursue higher education in any historical related field.

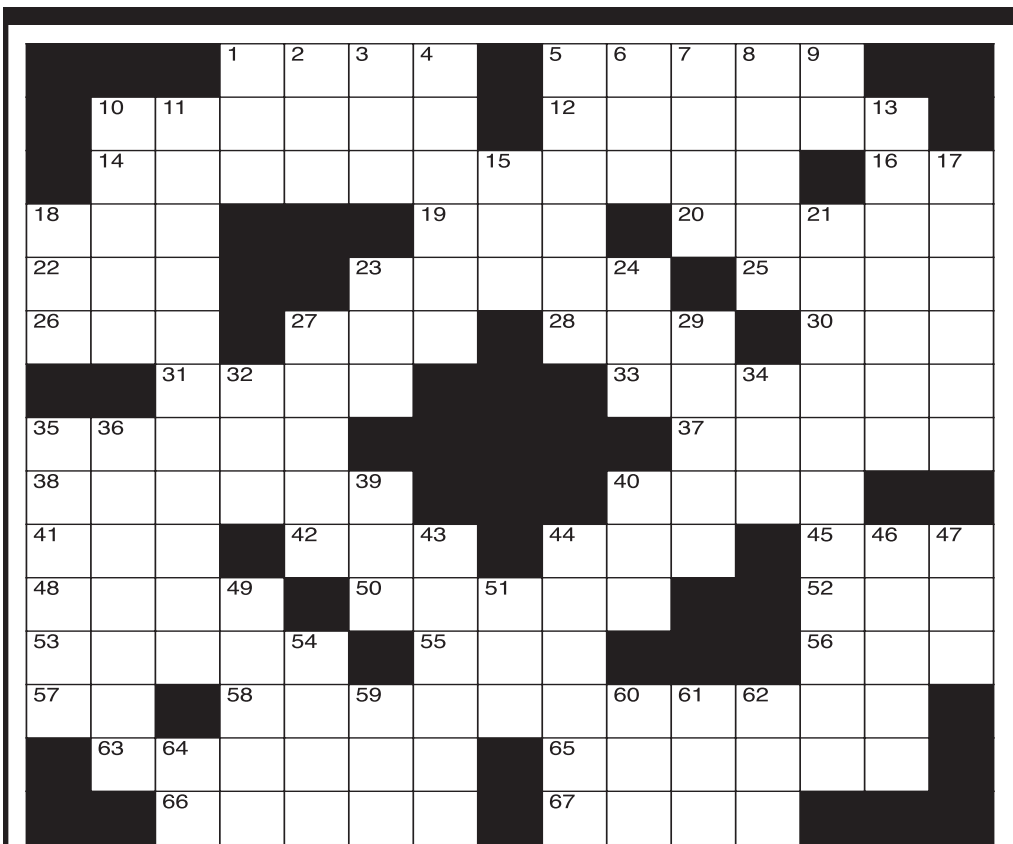
The scholarship is

only offered to a student who resides in one of the Quaboag Plantation towns of Brookfield, East Brookfield, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Warren, or West Brookfield.

It is offered to a current high school senior planning to enroll in a college or university for the upcoming academic year who will pursue a degree in one of the following fields: education,

history, museum studies, anthropology, women's studies, American studies, or archaeology. Students wishing to study closely related fields are encouraged to apply.

The application deadline is May 2. For applications or more information, please contact Jeff Robbins by emailing jeffrobbins@charter.net or calling 508-579-4786.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Tropical Asian plant
5. Yankees' slugger Judge
10. Helps to preserve food
12. Plant disease
14. One who predicts
16. Equally
18. Burundian franc
19. Pouch
20. Arizona city
22. Surround
23. Hard, heavy timber
25. Witnessed
26. They ___
27. French river
28. A way to drink
30. Small constellation
31. Peruse a written work
33. Type of hound
35. Plant of the goosefoot family

CLUES DOWN

1. Body art
2. Boxing's GOAT
3. Film for posterity (abbr.)
4. Prayer
5. Calculating machine
6. Keyboard key
7. Outburst
8. Man-eating giants
9. New Hampshire
10. Type of sword
11. Counting
13. Pants style
15. Political action committee
17. U.S. government legislative branch
18. Civil Rights Act component
21. Contractors take one
23. Spanish soldier
24. A person's brother or sister

CLUES DOWN

27. Expressed pleasure
29. Song of praise
32. Shock treatment
34. Patti Hearst's captors
35. Counteract
36. Goes over again
39. Popular Dodge truck
40. Male adult
43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
44. Rope used to lasso
46. Become less intense
47. Subway rodent
49. Lead alloy
51. Japanese honorific title
54. Advise someone
59. Famous NYC museum
60. Ocean
61. Cathode-ray tube
62. Cologne
64. It starts with these two

NORTH BROOKFIELD, continued from page 1

year term; Library Trustees, two seats for three-year terms; Planning Board, one seat for five-year term; and Constables, three seats for three-year terms.

Both Jamie Gilman and John Tripp have returned nomination papers for the Board of Selectmen seat after Canada announced she would not be seeking reelection. Nominations papers have also been taken out for the following positions: Town Clerk, Tara Hayes (incumbent); Board of Assessors, Sheila Buzzell (incumbent); Board of Assessors, Mary Elizabeth Kularski; Cemetery Commissioner, Melissa Magario; Constables, Dennis Trela (incumbent), Tim Nason (incumbent) and Vaughn Schlegel.

Moderator James

Caldwell, School Committee member Tonya Matthews, Board of Health member Jillian Phillips, Library Trustee Margaret Bodine and Planning Board member John Turner, will not be seeking reelection.

Recycling policy

Petraitis read the Board of Health's recycling policy, which states the board will: "make more efficient use of our natural resources, create markets for the materials collected and recycling programs, reduce solid waste volume and disposal costs, and serve as a model for private and public institutions. The town of North Brookfield is committed to purchasing products which are environmentally preferable and/or made of recycled materials whenever such products meet quality requirements and are available at reasonable prices and terms."

The board voted to accept the policy, which

is an annual requirement in order to apply for grant funding from the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program.

U.S. 250th anniversary committee

Kathy Crevier requested the town form a committee to plan a celebration for the country's 250th anniversary. She said she was involved with the organization of the town's bicentennial committee 50 years ago and would be interested in helping with this celebration.

"I've talked to several people...there's interest, they would like to be part of it, they have good ideas," she said.

The board voted to form a 250th U.S. anniversary committee and asked that interested residents contact them to join.

Contract amendment

The board signed an amended contract for a change order with engineers Haley Ward for the Mount Pleasant Street Project in the amount of \$31,381.

"They've incurred some additional costs because of the construction going longer than it was supposed to," Petraitis said.

The costs will cover construction administration and engineering through June 30.

Review of letter

The board reviewed a letter to be sent to Ricoh, nullifying a contract signed by a past Senior Center director. The letter states that the contract is unauthorized, as the Board of Selectmen serves as the town's authorized agent.



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In the Classroom

Quabbin Middle School lists Honor Roll

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional Middle School lists the Honor Roll for the second quarter.

Sixth Grade High Honors

Sixth grade students making High Honors are: Nevaeh Andrews, Jacob Blanchard, Vincent Broten, Jaysen Cassano, Ayla Clark, John Cook, Anna Coomey, Ella Critelli, Joey DeMalia, Matthew Flamand, Andrew Fuller, Lincoln Graves, Colby Hill, Ryan LaRange, Walker Larson, Maishao Lee, Brady Malin, Sawyer Minton, Theodore Minton, Annaleigh Moncoeur, Nolan O'Connor, Avienda O'Neill, Emily Schur, Liam Shaw, Weston Stukuls Barrieau, Brayden Surprenant, Kenzie Thorpe, Hana Mae Tousignant and Joseph Youngstrom.

Sixth Grade Honors

Sixth grade students making Honors are: Lyric Alves, Aubrianna Babineau, Asher Baker, Julianna Bienvenu, Ava Blancato, Talasyn Boissoneau, Josie Castell, Cameron Charpentier, Charley Chauvin, Ryan Colgate, Audrey Cutler, Hannah Cutler, Ethan Donaldson, Hannah Dube, Afina Griffith, Joseph Haley, Madiyn Houle, Silas Howe, Adrian Johnson, Colin Kania, Nathan Kearchner, Levi Kniskern, Isabella LaFontain, Kayden Landry, Adalyn McHugh, Kayla McHugh, Avery Melanson, Lucy Merrill, Havenanna Morley, Owen Nason, Evelyn Palladino, Ximena Palomera-Espinoza, Bentley Parker, Logan Peters, McKenna Rengo, Waverly Rivard, Ava Rodriguez, Lillian Roohan, Ava Sherblom, Sophia Small, Landon Swindlehurst, Regan

Toohill, Anthony Wade, Everett Weisman and Brady White.

Seventh Grade High Honors

Seventh grade students making High Honors are: Saylor Bissonnette, Julia Blanchard, Winter Boyea, Eliza Brown, Emily DeMalia, Brody Despres, Maria Hamm, Emily Johnson, Evelyn Johnson, Mathieu LeBlanc, Ava Maxim, Madeline Omasta, Sebastian Palomera-Espinoza, Owen Pears, Madeleine Proulx, Autumn Rector, Lily Ryan, Emma Stauder, Katy Twarog and Elizabeth Welch.

Seventh Grade Honors

Seventh grade students making Honors are: Albert Afonso, Addyson Barringer, Owen Black, Amelia Breault, Joyce Brown, Davis Burch, Jack Castell, Henry Corbett, Christopher Dallair, Preston D'Amato, Sophia Dittami, Addison Ford, Eden Fortier, Lucas Gaspar, Jaidev Giumentaro, Meaghan Glidden, Nolan Herrick, Gabriel Houle, Aimee Ickler, Pele Johnson, Noah Kelter, Amy Landrin, Theodore Langer, Maggie Leander, Jack Leclair, Mackenzie Levesque, Chiara Manna, Bree May, Cameron McDonald, Valerie Metterville, Brayden Nadeau, Caleb Oliveira, Ashtan Pride, Evelyn Priestley, Thomas Schoonmaker, Andrew Scott, Hannah Shotwell, Madalyn Simons, Bella Spring, Daisy Stevens, Fiona Stevens, Dominic Strickland, Kailyn Traynham, Olivia Vanoudenhove, Lila Wilson, Skylar Wisniewski, Raegyn Wnek and Milo Zantouliadis.

Eighth Grade High Honors

Eighth grade student making High Honors are: Alison Baptiste, Kalina Bassett, Hazel Carter, Lauren Colleton, Adalyn Cranston, Jeremy DeMoranville, Fiona Derr, Brynn Dunphy, Xavier Fjeld, Silas Flint, Nathan Gingras, Olivia Gregory, Hayston Hay, Gemma Mullins, Greyson Mullins, Whitney Reeves, Chloe Richardson, Ava Rogowski, Zoey Salvatore, Madisyn Shotwell, Annabelle Silver, Addison Surprenant, Michael Tabares, Robert Tobin, Launa Tran, John Tyler, Robyn Waltz and Jack Wynne.

Eighth Grade Honors

Eighth grade students making honors are: Olivia Abbas-Peck, Emma Ackert, Adeelya Andrade, Caleb Conway-Dias, Joseph Cook, Alexandra Cullen, Kalyso DeCologero, Gabriel DelGiudice, Tyler Ellis, Maya Faucher, Finian Fauteux, Tsadiku Fox, Juliana Guilderson, Madison Haley, Sawyer Harmon, Madisyn Hill, Reese Jamieson, Sarah Jean-Francois, Aubrey Lawson, Weston Letendre, Sage McQueston, Lunabelle Moore, Sarah Neal, Owen Newman, Olivia O'Connor, William O'Neill, Dante Orcutt, Quinn Ouimette, Joseph Perrone, Lukas Potter, Kimberly Riendeau, Jillian Rigney, Sophia Rogers, Connor Roohan, Jacob Rosario, Alexis Savary, Madison Scanlon, Deven Skinner, Brianna Souza, Rosalie Stark, Mackenzie Toupin, Halee Vasquez, Maxwell Wade, Isabelle Wentworth and Gareth White.

Antique appraisal event offered at historical museum

NEW BRAINTREE – A much anticipated “Antiques Roadshow”-like event has been scheduled at the New Braintree Historical Society museum, 10 Utley Road, on Saturday, March 22 from 1-3 p.m.

Renowned appraiser and auctioneer, Kenneth Van Blarcom from South Natick (<https://kwvbauctions.com/about/>), will conduct an individual

appraisal and history of your item, for all to learn about.

The Society is thrilled to have Van Blarcom's expertise here in New Braintree. His impressive credentials include antique appraisal positions with Shreve, Crump and Low, Co. and a Boston Directorship at the fine art and antique company of Skinner Auctions. Van Blarcom went on to

start his own auction and appraisal business conducting over 850 auctions over a 40 year period.

So, dust off your favorite treasure, and prepare for some historical entertainment. Limit of two items. Cost per appraisal \$5. No jewelry, please.

Refreshments will be served. For more information, visit <https://newbraintreehistoricalociety.org/> or call 508-867-3324.

EQLT host estate planning webinars

HARDWICK – East Quabbin Land Trust will hold three online webinars on “Protecting Your Legacy through Conservation-based Estate Planning” on Tuesdays, Feb. 25, March 25 and April 22 from 6:30-8 p.m.

People may register at <https://MassWoods.org/webinars>. Land provides tremendous benefit to the owners and the public. UMass Extension's MassWoods program presents a free webinar series that will help people decide the future of their land and

take steps to formalize a conservation-based estate plan to achieve their personal and financial goals.

The webinar series is divided into three topics: Webinar 1 “Deciding Your Land's Future” Feb. 25 speaker Paul Catanzaro of University of Massachusetts. Webinar 2 “Reducing Your Property Taxes and Stewarding Your Land” March 25 Chris Capone of Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and Gabrielle Hardyn of Longview

Forest. Webinar 3 “Choosing a Conservation Tool” on April 22 speaker Olivia Lukacic of The Trustees of Reservations. All webinars are from 6:30-8 p.m.

Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

Got Resolutions? Part 7

Today we conclude our extended study of 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24. I have noted at length that the mandates put forth in verses 12-22 might make wonderful resolutions to live for in 2025 and beyond.

Let us consider this text afresh and anew:

1 Thessalonians 5:12-22 (NIV)

12 Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. 13 Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. 14 And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

15 Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not treat prophecies with contempt 21 but test them all; hold on to what is good, 22 reject every kind of evil.

It is amazing how much the apostle Paul packs into this short amount of scriptural real estate. I do not know about you, but I feel a bit overwhelmed when I read this text, recognizing how much I am responsible for as I live before the Lord. How are we to fulfill such commands as those listed above? Thankfully, St. Paul concludes with this much-needed answer:

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

How are we to fulfill the call of God? Through the power that God Himself so richly supplies. As one commentator notes, “It is not within human power to be sanctified in all these ways [vv. 12-22]. . . . Only God himself can separate us from sin unto holiness completely, spirit, soul and body” (MacArthur). Scripture speaks oningly to this aspect of the Lord's work:

Philippians 2:13b

13 . . . it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Philippians 2:13b (NLT)

12 . . . God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

Galatians 5:16b-17, 19-23 (NIV)

16 . . . walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the

desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. 19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

What did Christ Himself say on the matter?

John 15

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes [lit. “cleans”] so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”

Dear reader, cast yourself upon the capacities of God and let Him empower you to fulfill 1 Thessalonians 5 and beyond. Thank you for taking the time to read this edition. Should you have any comments or questions, feel free to contact me at your leisure using the information below.

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

Pastor James Foley

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

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

“Christ, the Poor and the Rich”

Scripture Reading: Luke 6 v 17 -26 I.

I. Introduction
We often hear about the need for change in today's world.

Many have written about

this subject and have emphasized the need for love to be put into action and that a society can change for the better when we all come together to bring about that change. To love and help others makes life more beautiful and peaceful. So, what is the message of Christ to the world He lived and moved in, and what are the implications for His disciples then and now?

Luke describes the Son of Man as someone who knew His context well, who understood the divisions in society and knew the realities of the poor, oppressed and the rich. He knew who followed Him, where they came from and what they needed, which was to hear Him speak and to be healed from their diseases, as we read here in our passage.

Luke also describes the Son of Man as someone who offered all who followed Him the compassion, love and healing they needed. In our passage we see they came from all over Judea, Jerusalem, Tyre, and Sidon. Though historically enemies of Israel (Isaiah 23 and Amos 1:9- 10), Tyre and Sidon also received His love, forgiveness, and healing.

II. Disciples follow and do what He requires

Luke describes how Jesus went out to the mountain-side to pray all night. He spent all that time with God for guidance because He knew He would elect disciples and future apostles the next day. He needed leaders who would speak about His message of love and compassion and reach out to the poor, tax collectors and the Samaritans, folks who were seen and treated as the outcasts of society.

He chose fishers, who were not from the upper class and a tax collector, who, because of his work, would have been despised by many. Later they would be persecuted, like Him for this message of Good News, which contrasted with the message of those in power. We see John and Peter arrested and brought before the Sanhedrin, because they spoke about the Resurrection of Jesus and they healed the sick in the Name of Jesus Christ, and James was executed by King Herod Agrippa I for his actions.

III. Christ, the Poor and the Rich

After Jesus spoke to the crowd and healed the sick, He turned to His disciples and gave them these blessings in Luke Chapter 6, as part of the Sermon on the Plane. We see the longer version of the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew. He speaks of hope and blessings to the poor and the outcast, blessings of a better life and entrance into the Kingdom of God.

He wants them to know that He understands their cir-

See SERMONS, page 12

Ernie Brunelle
Dec. 4, 1931 – Jan. 30, 2025

We would like to thank everyone for the love and support we received during Ernie's life, his illness and his passing.

The Ernie Brunelle Family

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Calendar of Events

FRIDAY, FEB. 19

GRANDPARENTS AND KINSHIP CARE SUPPORT GROUP meets today from 9:30-11 a.m. at the Worcester Family Resource Center, 20 Cedar St., Worcester. The group meets in person for breakfast the third Friday of the month. For questions or to register, people may call Debbie at 508-796-6118 and leave their name and contact information.

FRIDAY, FEB. 21

CRAFT SPIRIT TASTING NIGHT will be held at the Hubbardston Public Library, 7 Main St., Hubbardston today with seating at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. This is an age 21 plus event and is the perfect opportunity to sample local wines and craft spirits while supporting library programs. Tickets are \$25 per person and available for purchase at the library. Participants will enjoy a carefully curated tasting experience featuring local wines and craft spirits from Wachusett Winery and Agronomy Farm, paired with artisanal cheeses from Smith's Country Cheeses. This event is a fundraiser to support the library's programs and services, so every sip helps make a difference. Space is limited so people should get their tickets early. For more information, people may call the library at 978-928-4775 or visit hubbardstonpubliclibrary.org.

THEATRE AT THE MOUNT, located at Mount Wachusett Community College, 444 Green St., Gardner, presents "Into the Woods" today; Saturday, Feb. 22; Friday, Feb. 28 and Saturday, March 1 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 2 at 2 p.m. People may visit box-office@mwcc.mass.edu or call 978-630-9388 for tickets or show information.

MONDAY, FEB. 24

GENTLE YOGA FOR OSTEOPOROSIS will begin today from noon-1 p.m. and run for six Mondays in a row at Listening Wellness Center, 35 South St., Barre. Cost is \$72 for six weeks. Discover the power of mindful movement and gentle stretches designed specifically for those living with osteoporosis in a supportive and nurturing environment to help strengthen bones, enhance balance and improve flexibility. No-floor options will be available. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gentle-yoga-for-osteoporosis-6-week-series-with-rhonda-hamer-tickets-1228225819489?aff=oddtcreator> or call Listening Wellness Center at 978-355-3501 for more information.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26

BONE HEALTH AND NUTRITION LECTURE will take place today from 5:30-7 p.m. at Listening Wellness Center, 35 South St., Barre. Cost is \$35. Discover the importance of nutrition in maintaining bone health, including key nutrients and dietary tips to strengthen bones. Learn what foods are potential bone boosters and what are possible density destructors. This workshop will shed some light on nutrition myths and facts through lecture, discussion, handouts and



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

Where is this?
This week's mystery photo is from New Braintree. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, Feb. 24. Bill Bowles, Stephen Craven and Evelyn Luukko correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was taken of the Hubbardston Department of Public Works on Route 68 in Hubbardston.

question and answer.

Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bone-health-and-nutrition-with-rhonda-hamer-tickets-1228262559379?aff=oddtcreator> or call Listening Wellness Center at 978-355-3501 for more information.

A CAPELLA GROUP "Ball in the House" will perform today from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in the South Cafe at Mount Wachusett Community College, 444 Green St., Gardner in celebration of Black History Month. This performance titled "And Now I See: Racism, and American Music" in honor of Black History Month, promises to be a highlight of MWCC's cultural calendar this year. The performance will delve into the rich tapestry of African American music, spanning Spirituals, Gospel, Jazz, Soul, Hip Hop and R&B. The event is open to the public, welcoming community members, students, and music enthusiasts alike to join in this festive occasion. The event will be held from 12:30 to 1:30 pm in the South Café on the MWCC Gardner campus.

THURSDAY, FEB. 27

A BLOOD DRIVE will take place today from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Quabbin Regional Middle High School, 800 South St., in the high school gymnasium. Ellie Frost, a senior at Quabbin Regional High School, is putting on a blood drive at the high school in partnership with the Rhode Island Blood Center. The blood drive is in partnership with the Rhode Island Blood Center, on February 27th from 10 am- Walk-ins are welcome if space

FRIDAY, FEB. 28

DINNER AND SHOW FUNDRAISING GALA benefits the Mount Wachusett Community College Foundation today from 5-10 p.m. at Mount Wachusett Community College, 444 Green St., Gardner. A gourmet dinner prepared by local culinary talents will take place first and then participants will watch the musical "Into the Woods" at the Theatre at the Mount located at the college. All proceeds from the event will benefit the MWCC Foundation, which pro-

vides critical support for student scholarships, academic programs and other initiatives that empower students to achieve their educational goals. Tickets are available for purchase by visiting mwcc.edu/giving. Early reservations are encouraged as seating is limited.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

MARDI GRAS PANCAKE SUPPER will be held at the Rutland Congregational Church, 264 Main St., Rutland, today at 5:30 p.m. People will enjoy all you can eat pancakes, along with bacon, sausage and fruit. Gluten free pancakes will be available. Music will be provided by The Rutland Jazz Band and the Church Bell Choir. There will be raffles and games. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 ages 3-12 and free under 3. People should call the church at 508-886-4453 to reserve tickets.

DESIGNER PANCAKE BREAKFAST sponsored by Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will be held today from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Mt. Zion Lodge Hall, 71 Pleasant St., Barre. Cost is \$9 per adult and \$5 per child age 6 and under. People may create their own designer pancake with chips, fruit, nuts and more. The complete breakfast includes designer pancakes, waffles, sausage gravy with biscuits, bacon, sausage, juice and coffee. All are welcome.

VALENTINE'S BREAKFAST has been rescheduled to do the weather the weekend of Feb 15 to day from 8-11 a.m. at Hope Lodge, 42 Central St., Gardner, hosted by the Gardner Demolay. The breakfast will celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Menu includes sausage, green pancakes, bacon and juice.

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

AMERICAN STEP DANCERS will perform today at 2 p.m. at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical High School, 1050 Westminster St., Fitchburg in the auditorium. Admission is \$10 per person and \$5 per senior.

MATT ROBERTS MAGIC SHOW sponsored by St. Francis of Assisi Parish will take place today at 2 p.m. in the auditorium at Quabbin Regional High School, 800 South St., Barre. Matt Roberts is a two-time Emmy nominated magician. He brings a unique mix of Clean Comedy, Ja-Dropping Mentalism and Time Travel. Tickets are \$10 for adults; High School students grades 9-12 \$4 and children under the ninth grade are free, but must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets will be sold after all Masses or call/text Judy at 508-320-5049.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

BARRE WINTER MARKET located in the Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange St., Barre will take place today from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Other date is Saturday, April 12 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. This is the third year of the market. Local crafters and farmers sell their crafts and products. For more information, people may email rebell-bathandbeyond@gmail.com or call Celia at 978-355-0139.

West Brookfield Art & Frame celebrates 10 years

Party and raffle drawing to be held at the gallery on Feb. 21

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

WEST BROOKFIELD – West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery, 10 East Main St., is celebrating a major milestone this year, reaching 10 years in business on the historic town common.

Owner Rebecca Fay is a "one woman show," juggling the gallery and custom frame shop, while continuing to create as an artist.

"Time has flown by, and I can't believe it's been 10 years," Fay said.

Fay first opened her frame shop in her newly built barn back in 2008, serving several corporate clients as well as local clients. When her son began school

full time, she began looking for a storefront to grow her business, and she decided to share a space occupied by her friend and fellow artist, Jennifer Geldard.

"She was here where I am now, half was her own studio, and the other half a gift shop," Fay said.

As Geldard dedicated more of her time to focus solely on her artwork and stepped back from her storefront studio, Fay was given the opportunity to utilize that space as well and create the unique local art community that continues to grow to this day.

"I didn't need all this space for the framing, which made me come up with the idea of the gallery," she said.

Unlike many other galleries, Fay does not earn commission from the gallery artists' sales, allowing them to keep 100% of their profits.

Instead, the artists pay a low monthly rent to display and sell their work.

Artists are also able to have shows at the gallery, which occur monthly throughout most of the year. Fay also offers discounts on framing for the gallery artists and promotes each one through her website and social media, as well as in the gallery.

"I hand out the artists' business cards," Fay said. "It's very pro-business here...that's my own little brainchild to run the gallery that way."

Fay said one of her goals when she opened the gallery was to start an artists' community and support local artists and culture.

"That is my end goal... everybody feeds off each other," she said.

Framing continues to be the mainstay of Fay's business, and keeping the gallery open despite the challenges of the pandemic and being a small, woman-owned business in a difficult economy.

"It's allowed me to keep my doors open," she said.

Fay said through her framing, she gets to see a variety of unique items, including an original painting by famed West Brookfield artist, Jacob Knight.

Fay also credited the unwavering support from the community for allowing the gallery to continue to grow and be successful.

To celebrate West

Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery's 10th anniversary, Fay will host a party and art raffle on Friday, Feb. 21 from 5-7 p.m.

Raffle tickets are \$10 each or six for \$50; and are available at the gallery now through the day of the party, when the winning tickets will be pulled. Ticket holders do not have to be present at the drawing to win.

The raffle will feature 16 items created by gallery artists, and include pottery, jewelry, paintings, a wood-turned bowl and prints. All proceeds from the raffle will go to the Sharing Cupboard located at the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield, serving residents in West Brookfield, Warren and West Warren.

"All of the artists have donated a piece," Fay said of the raffle.

The party will feature a live acoustic set by Fay's daughter and well-known musician Adelaide Fay, who released her second album last year. Adelaide will perform a mix of cover songs as well as originals from both of her albums.

Guests will be well-fed at the party, with a variety of sweet treats, wine and cheese, and a charcuterie board.

Happenings at the gallery

The celebration continues all year long, with a variety of events and classes offered at the gallery, including a five-week watercolor class taught by Fay starting



Submitted Photos

West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery, 10 East Main St., is celebrating its 10th anniversary in business this year, with a special party to be held on Friday, Feb. 21 from 5-7 p.m.

on Thursday, Feb. 20 and running through Thursday, March 20. Classes are held each Thursday from 5-7 p.m.

This class will teach participants the basics of painting with watercolor, and you'll go home with several mini paintings and a final project landscape painting. The cost is \$150 per person and all materials are provided.

Fay is also teaching decoupage clock making classes on Thursdays, March 27 and Nov. 20 from 5-7 p.m. This is a great class for people of all ages and the cost is \$40 with all materials provided.

Gallery artists will also offer classes, including

ceramic bird making classes with potter Lisa Cohen on Thursday, April 3 and June 5 from 5-7 p.m. The classes will include all tools, materials and clay and your piece will be glazed and fired by Cohen.

Open to teens and adults, the cost of this class is \$30.

Artist Vanessa Varjian will host hand-carved stamp making workshops on Thursday, Feb. 13 and May 15 from 5-7 p.m. Each workshop is \$30 and is open to mature teens and adults.

Plein air painting with gallery artists will return to the common on Saturday,



Artist Susan Tilton Pecora donated this watercolor that captures a farm scene.

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Panthers fall in Class B tournament

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

AUBURN— The Quabbin girls' basketball team captured the Central Mass. Class B championship title last February with a 12-point victory over Notre Dame Academy at Worcester State University.

The members of this year's Lady Panthers squad were hoping to make another visit to the WSU gymnasium.

Third-seeded Quabbin, who graduated four starters, was trailing second-seeded Auburn, 36-33, entering the final eight minutes of this year's Central Mass. Class B semifinal game.

It didn't remain a close game for very long, as the Rockets built a 15-point lead three minutes into the fourth quarter leading to 52-38 home victory, last Friday night.

"We really wanted to get back to the championship game again and I'm very proud of these kids," said Quabbin head coach Evan Barringer. "Give Auburn a lot of credit because they shot the ball very well during the second half. It's very hard to win a playoff game on the road."

The Lady Panthers (5-14) were

scheduled to wrap up the 2024-25 campaign with a non-playoff home game against the loser of the other Class B semifinal game on Tuesday night.

"We're hoping to end our season with a victory at home on Tuesday night," Barringer said. "It's going to be a fun night of basketball because the boys' basketball team will be playing in the second game of the doubleheader."

The seniors listed on the Quabbin girls' basketball roster are Bella Smith (3 points), Brooke Austin (8 points), Christiana Dunn (6 points), Lianna Leger, and Makaylah Kingsbury.

"The five seniors are very special," Barringer said. "They were a part of a championship team last year and they've faced a lot of adversity this season."

Leading the way offensively for the Lady Panthers was sophomore Abby Rogowski, who scored eight of her 14 points during the first half. Junior Mia Ducos, who was the Lady Panthers only returning starter this winter, added seven points.

"Mia is one of the best girls' basketball players in the history of the school," Barringer said. "Abby

See PANTHERS, page 10



Lianna Leger fires a pass up the court.



Christiana Dunn makes an inbound pass.



Brooke Austin reaches out for a loose ball.



Mia Ducos looks to drive around an opponent.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Abby Rogowski goes after a rebound.



Bella Smith crosses midcourt.

Panthers enter final game needing win for tourney berth

BARRE – After losing on Monday night to Nashoba, Quabbin boys basketball needs to defeat Groton-Dunstable in a nonplayoff game Tuesday night if the Panthers wish to go to the state tournament.

Quabbin did not make the Central Mass. Tournament, and at 9-9, were assigned nonplayoff games early this week, facing Nashoba and losing 86-60.

The Panthers had control of their fate last week, but failed to

win either of their games, losing to Hudson and Littleton. Quabbin has lost six of their last seven games after starting the season 8-3.

Quabbin cannot reach the Division 3 state tournament through the power rankings. The Panthers are ranked No. 50 and must get a .500 record in order to reach the tournament. If Quabbin beats Groton-Dunstable, the Panthers would await the state tournament seeding later this week.

Pioneers finish with one of best records in team history

PALMER – Last week, despite a setback against Sci-Tech, the Pathfinder girls basketball team rebounded to defeat Hampden Charter 52-36 and finish with an overall record of 15-3.

Its one of the best marks the girls basketball team has ever had. Earlier this week, the Pioneers were set to participate in the Western Mass. Class C Tournament, taking on Lee High School on the road in the quarterfinals.

The Pioneers will also get to take part in the state tournament, which begins next week.



Greenly Lagimoniere passes as she clears midcourt.



Desiree Croteau eyes the hoop with a low dribble.



Addison Doktor passes out of the paint. Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Taylor Allen fights to keep the ball.



Megan Clark looks to shoot.

Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 2
 11:41 a.m. Public Assist, Summer Street, Public Assist
 11:50 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Hancock Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 6:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Valley Road, Written Warning
 7:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Summer Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 9:50 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Wauwinet Road, No Fire Service Necessary

Monday, Feb. 3
 1:15 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Grove North Street, Investigated
 2:07 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Exchange Street, Vehicle Towed
 9:04 a.m. Harassment, Police Headquarters, Officer Spoke to Party
 9:48 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Wauwinet Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 3:41 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Hancock Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 3:58 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Worcester Road, Referred to Other Agency
 5:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 6:32 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/

Unresponsive/Syncope, Washburn Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 8:52 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Common Street, Information Taken

Tuesday, Feb. 4
 12:48 a.m. Assist Other Agency/Non-Police, Lower Road, Mutual Aid Assist
 7:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Moulton Street, Officer/Chief Advised

Wednesday, Feb. 5
 8:19 a.m. Erratic Operator, West Street, Written Warning
 11:59 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Police Headquarters, Officer Spoke to Party
 1:30 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Ruggles Lane, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 2:39 p.m. Harassment, Police Headquarters, Officer Spoke to Party
 5:19 p.m. Follow Up Investigation, Old Coldbrook Road, Investigated
 7:50 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Exchange Street, Mutual Aid Transport

Thursday, Feb. 6
 2:28 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Exchange Street, Information Given
 3:52 p.m. Follow Up

Investigation, South Street, Investigated
 4:15 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Pleasant Street, Transported to Hospital
 5 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, South Street, Vehicle Towed

Friday, Feb. 7
 11:31 a.m. Fire – Smoke Investigation, South Barre Road, Fire Extinguished
 3:21 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 4:57 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Wheelwright Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 Summons Pease, Brandon A., 33, Baldwinville
 Charges Forgery of Document

Saturday, Feb. 8
 6 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Ruggles Lane, Transported to Hospital
 4:40 p.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Williamsville Road, Investigated
 5:14 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Celona Square, Vehicle Removed
 9:12 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Pleasant Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 2
 12:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
 Summon Munguba De Sena. Tiago Henrique, 39, Fitchburg
 Charges Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle, Signal, Fail To
 4:43 a.m. Open Door or Window, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 6:29 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Fall Lift Assist, Pommogussett Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 5:33 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Whitehall Road, Vehicle Towed
 10:49 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Farm Pond Road, Transported to Hospital

Monday, Feb. 3
 6:25 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Barre Paxton Road, Transported to Hospital
 7:43 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Removed to Court/Lock Up
 Arrest Hernandez, Jose R., 64, Worcester
 Charges License Suspended for Operating Under the Influence, Operating Motor Vehicle With
 10:17 a.m. Complaint, Main Street, Information Given
 11:14 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Glenwood Road, Report Foiled
 12:13 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Pommogussett Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 1:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Anthony Drive, Citation Issued
 2:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
 4:47 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic), Billy Lane, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 5 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Tourtelot, Christopher Scott, 57, Gardner
 Charges Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle with Uninsured Motor Vehicle
 5:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Written Warning
 9:34 p.m. Emergency Medical Service/Sick/Urinary Track Infection, Birchwood Road, Transported to Hospital

4:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 5:36 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Maple Avenue, Transported to Hospital
 6:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
 6:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 6:48 p.m. Fire – Public Service Call, Juniper Lane, Public Assist
 11:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Prisoner Bailed
 Arrest Zimmer, Jeremy Todd, 50, Barre
 Charges Warrant
 11:58 Disturbance/Disorderly, Miles Road, Peace Restored

Wednesday, Feb. 5
 1:43 a.m. Escort/Transport, Barre, Public Assist
 8:19 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 8:19 a.m. Erratic Operator, West Street, Written Warning
 10:52 a.m. Property Damage, Wachusett Street, Report Filed
 11:07 a.m. Follow-Up Investigation, Wachusett Street, Investigation (On-Going)
 2:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Neely, Mary Jo, 61, Athol
 Charges Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle, Inspection/Sticker, No
 3:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 3:18 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, River Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 3:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East Count Road, Citation Issued
 3:43 p.m. Harassment, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 4:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Vehicle Towed
 4:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
 4:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning
 5:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Dulmaine, Jesse Adam, 47, Brookfield
 Charges Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle, Lights Violation, Motor Vehicle
 7:08 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Juniper Lane, Transported to Hospital
 8:24 o.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Pommogussett Road, Mutual Aid Transport

Ambulance Signed Refusal
 11:53 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic), Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 1:46 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Wachusett Street, Vehicle Towed
 18:55 p.m. Fire – Structure Fire, Main Street, Investigated
 9:14 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, East Hill Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Friday, Feb. 7
 7:39 a.m. Stolen Vehicle, Campbell Court, Report Filed
 Summons Hernandez, Angela M., 48, Westborough
 Charges Motor Vehicle, Receive Stolen, Motor Vehicle, Larceny of
 7:40 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Cheryl Ann Drive, Transported
 1:28 p.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Intervale Road, Investigated
 1:55 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 2:11 p.m. Public Assist, Maple Avenue, Officer Spoke to Party
 2:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Citation Issued
 2:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written warning
 2:38 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Bechan Road, Removed Hazard
 4:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Citation Issued
 5:16 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Report Filed

Saturday, Feb.. 8
 2:23 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Barre Paxton Road, Party Departed Without Incident
 4:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Vehicle Towed
 Summons Thompson, Ahlex Jurdyn, 23, Hubbardston
 Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With
 7:43 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Kenwood Drive, Transported to Hospital
 8:43 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Trauma, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 9:19 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Woodside Avenue, Written Warning
 9:49 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Highland Park Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 12:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued
 5:49 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, East County Road, Transported to Hospital

Oakham Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 2
 1:32 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Scott Road, Report Filed
 6:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued
 10:49 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Farm Pond Road, Transported to Hospital
 11:34 p.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Maple Street, Removed Hazard

Monday, Feb. 3
 4:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Robinson Road, Written Warning

Wednesday, Feb. 5
 8:19 a.m. Erratic Operator, West Street, Written Warning
 1:57 p.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield District Court, Court Duty
 2:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
 3:18 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, North Brookfield, Officer/Chief Advised

Thursday, Feb. 6
 9:28 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Barre Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 2:44 p.m. Complaint, Old Turnpike Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 9:14 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, East Hill Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Friday, Feb. 7
 1:36 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Gaffney Road, Officer/Chief Advised

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 2
 10:20 a.m. Emergency Medical System – Sick/Unknown, Chippew Street, Mutual Aid Transport
 11:25 a.m. Stolen Vehicle, 106 Gardner Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 Summons Beauvais, Matthew T., 32, Hubbardston/Charges Use Motor Vehicle Without Authority, License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With
 12:41 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Mt. Jefferson Road, Vehicle Towed
 4:41 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, New Templeton Road, Vehicle Removed

Monday, Feb. 3
 8:41 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Stroke (CVA), Old Westminster Road, Transported to Hospital
 11:42 a.m. Court Duty, Gardner District Court, Court Duty
 11:47 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, High Street, Transported to Hospital
 3:59 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 7:40 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Worcester Road, Peace Restored
 8:08 p.m. Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Area Search Negative

Tuesday, Feb.. 4
 11:47 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Main Street, Referred to Other Agent
 2:45 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Gardner Road, Public Assist
 4:48 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Gardner Rod, Public Assist
 5:32 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Dehydrated, Morgan Road, Transported to Hospital
 11:58 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Miles Road, Peace Restored

Wednesday, Feb. 5
 2:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Hit and Run, New Westminster Road, Report Filed
 4:03 p.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Williamsville Road, Investigated

Thursday, Feb. 6
 6:13 a.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, New Templeton Road, Removed Hazard
 9:10 a.m. Court Duty, Gardner District Court, Court Duty
 1:10 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Lombard Road, Transported to Hospital
 2:17 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Lombard Road, Gone on Arrival
 6:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Healdville Road, Gone on Arrival

9:28 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, New Templeton Road, Report Filed
 10:55 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Birches Road, Report Filed

Friday, Feb. 7
 7:26 a.m. Fire – Public Service Call, Gardner Road, Public Assist
 7:31 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Main Street, Vehicle Removed
 1:43 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Pitcherville Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 6:06 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Burnshirt Road, Mutual Aid Transport
 8:22 p.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Worcester Road, Report Filed
 10:57 p.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Worcester Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 Saturday, Feb. 8
 7:28 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Headache, Madison Way, Transported to Hospital
 8:07 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Diabetic, Lombard Road, Transported to Hospital
 12:47 p.m. Erratic Operator, Gardner Road, Unfounded
 10:19 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Williamsville Road, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, Feb. 4
 8:19 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Millbrook Street, Referred to Other Agency
 9:22 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Wachusett Street, Written Warning
 2:31 p.m. Complaint, Clealand Circle, Officer Spoke to Party
 3:03 p.m. Identity Theft, Lewis Street, Report Filed
 3:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Thursday, Feb. 6
 9:10 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Highland Park Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 9:28 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Barre Road,

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Dec. 9-16, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 57 building/property checks, 44 directed/area patrols, 10 radar assignments, seven traffic controls, 11 emergency 911 calls, one citizen assist, two assist other agencies, one safety hazard, one complaint, one stolen motor vehicle, one motor vehicle accident, four investigations, one scam, one fire, five animal calls and 15 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Dec. 9
 9:09 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Broad Street, Dispatch Handled
 10:18 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Services Rendered
 12:40 p.m. Investigation, Main Street, Report Taken

Tuesday, Dec. 10
 1:07 p.m. Investigation, Spring Street, Officer Handled
 5:36 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Bridge Street, Transported to Hospital
 9:11 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, Dec. 11
 12:54 p.m. Stolen Motor Vehicle, Prospect Street, Report Taken
 2:01 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Officer Handled
 10:23 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Dec. 12
 4:53 a.m. Medical Emergency Fiske Road, Transported to Hospital
 12:37 p.m. Investigation, Greenwich Road, Negative Contact
 2:21 p.m. Safety Hazard, Main

Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 4:29 p.m. 911 Carbon Monoxide Alarm, Ruggles Hill Road, Services Rendered

Friday, Dec. 13
 6:14 a.m. Fire Alarm, School House Drive, Investigated
 1:37 p.m. Scam, Barre Road, Officer Handled
 9:37 p.m. 911 Complaint, Lower Road, Negative Contact
 11:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued
 11:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 11:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Bridge Street, Citation Issued
 11:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Saturday, Dec. 14
 12:11 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 12:19 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 6:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Petersham Road, Written Warning
 6:39 a.m. Motor Vehicle

Stop, Petersham Road, Written Warning
 6:49 a.m. Alarm, Barre Road, Investigated
 2:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Citation Issued
 7:30 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Transported to Hospital
 11:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Sunday, Dec. 15
 10:40 a.m. Fire/Other, Church Lane, Services Rendered
 11:23 a.m. Assist Citizen, Church Street, Dispatch Handled
 11:59 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, New Braintree Road, Written Warning
 12:56 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Greenwich Road, Arrest(s) Made
 4:44 p.m. Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 8:12 p.m. Investigation, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered

Monday, Dec. 16
 4:07 a.m. Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Dec. 9-16, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 11 building/property checks, 19 directed/area patrols, three radar assignments, three traffic controls, six emergency 911 calls, two citizen assists, one assist other agency, six safety hazards, four complaints, one motor vehicle accident, three animal calls and four motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, Dec. 9
 12:58 p.m. 911 Animal Call/Complaint, Hardwick Road, Unknown Outcome
 3:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning
 4:04 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Tuesday, Dec. 10
 8:03 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard,

Prouty Road, Services Rendered
 9:33 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Wednesday, Dec. 11
 8:26 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Memorial Drive, Services Rendered
 1:29 p.m. 911 Transfer, Out of Town, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 2:23 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
 2:57 p.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 9:27 p.m. Safety Hazard, Moore Road, Services Rendered

Thursday, Dec. 12
 3:23 a.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Cut Off Road, Officer Handled
 8:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle

Accident, Barr Road, Report Taken
 2:05 p.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 3:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gilbertville Road, Citation Issued
 5:47 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Pierce Road, Negative Contact
 6:02 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Gilbertville Road, Negative Contact
 10:48 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Gilbertville Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Friday, Dec. 13
 9:19 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Saturday, Dec. 14
 4:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ravine Road, Written Warning

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Barre Gazette

Public Notices

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 160 Bentley Road, Barre, MA 01005 and Assessor's Parcel E-136

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Brian August Gentile to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Norwich Commercial Group, Inc. d/b/a Norcom Mortgage, and now held by Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, said mortgage dated June 22, 2020 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 62641, Page 174, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Norwich Commercial Group, Inc., d/b/a Norcom Mortgage to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by assignment dated February 27, 2023 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 68864, Page 169; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on March 6, 2025 at 1:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land with the buildings and improvements thereon situated at 160 Bentley Street, Barre, Massachusetts, more particularly bounded and described as follows:

PARCEL 1
A certain tract of land situated on the easterly side of Bentley Street in said Barre, being Lot #1 on a "Plan of Lots Owned by Leonard J. Bentley and Marion S. Bentley", drawn by R. H. Lonergan, C. E., bounded and described as follows: viz:

beginning at the southerly corner thereof, at a corner of stone walls and in the easterly line of Bentley Street;

THENCE N. 59° 46' E. along a stone wall and other land of said Bentleys 125 feet to a corner;

THENCE N. 18° 45' W. Along other land of said Bentley designated as Lot #8 on said Plan, 115 feet to a corner;

THENCE S. 59° 46' W. along other land of said Bentley designated as Lot #2 on said Plan 125.3 feet to a point in a stone wall on the easterly line of Bentley Street;

THENCE S. 19° 05' E. along the line of said Street 115 feet to the place of beginning.
Said premises are to be used for residential purposes only, and are conveyed subject to the restriction that no dwelling house or portion thereof shall be erected or maintained within 40 feet of the easterly line of Bentley Street.

Subject to all rights, restrictions, covenants and easements of record, insofar as the same may be in force and applicable.

PARCEL 2
A certain tract of land situated on the easterly side of Bentley Street in said Barre, being Lot #2 on a "Plan of Lots owned by Leonard J. Bentley and Marion S. Bentley" drawn by R. H. Lonergan, C. E., bounded and described as follows, viz:

BEGINNING at the southerly corner thereof at a point in a stone wall in the easterly line of said street, at the northwesterly corner of Lot designated as #1 on the aforementioned plan;

THENCE North 59° 46' east along the northerly line of said Lot #1, 123.3 feet to a corner;

THENCE North 18° 45' west along other land of said Bentleys, being the westerly line of lot designated as #7 on said

plan, 115 feet to a corner; THENCE South 59° 46' west along other land of said Bentleys, being designated as Lot #3 on said plan, 125.6 feet to a point in a stone wall in the easterly line of Bentley Street;

THENCE South 19° 05' east along the easterly line of said Street 115 feet to the place of beginning.

For title reference see Deed record herewith.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated June 15, 2020 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 62641, Page 170.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701
02/06, 02/13, 02/20/2025

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Bruce S. Bolivar and Brittani A. Beeso to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Freedom Mortgage Corporation, It's successors and assigns, dated April 19, 2022 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 67451, Page 329, subsequently assigned to Freedom Mortgage Corporation by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Freedom Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 69229, Page 133, subsequently assigned to Freedom Mortgage Corporation by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Freedom Mortgage Corporation, It's successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 69229, Page 133, subsequently assigned to Freedom Mortgage Corporation by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Freedom Mortgage Corporation, It's successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 69907, Page 189 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 PM on March 13, 2025 at 58 Ruggles Street, Hardwick (Gilbertville), MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

That certain parcel of land in said Village of Wheelwright,

being Lot No. 35, Plan Book 77 Plan 8, on a plan of lots of Wheelwright Properties, Inc. and Hardwick Realty Corporation in the village of Wheelwright, drawn by S. G. Atherton, C.E., dated August 9, 1933 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds and being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a point in the southerly line of Ruggles Street, which point is distant two hundred (200) feet easterly from intersection of said southerly line of said Ruggles Street and the easterly line of Pine Street, as shown on said plan; thence southerly by land now or formerly of L.H. Ruggles, as shown on said plan two hundred fifty (250) feet to a point; thence turning and running easterly by a line parallel with said southerly line of Ruggles Street by land of Hardwick Realty Corporation one hundred (100) feet to a point at the southwesterly corner of Lot No. 36 as shown on said plan; thence turning and running north-easterly two hundred fifty (250) feet by said Lot 36 to a point on said southerly line of Ruggles Street, which point is one hundred (100) feet distant from the point of beginning; thence turning and running westerly one hundred (100) feet by said southerly line of Ruggles Street to the point of beginning.

Together with the right to use the sewer with which said premises is now connected which sewer discharges upon land of said Hardwick Realty Corporation lying between the location of the Boston & Main Railroad and Ware River, it being specifically agreed and understood that there is no obligation on the part of the said Hardwick Realty Corporation to maintain the sewerage system.

For title see deed recorded herewith The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions,

encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. **TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.**

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Freedom Mortgage Corporation Present Holder of said Mortgage, By Its Attorneys, ORLANS LAW GROUP PLLC PO Box 540540 Waltham, MA 02454 Phone: (781) 790-7800 23-011198 02/20, 02/27, 03/06/2025

ART & FRAME, continued from page 8

May 3 starting at 10 a.m.; this year inviting the public to join in the fun. People of all ages are welcome to bring their art supplies and create a work of art outside while enjoying the beauty of spring in New England. The gallery will team up with neighboring business, The Joy of Beans, for its second annual outdoor Summer Solstice Party on Friday, June 20 from 6-10

p.m. This fun event is guaranteed to be a great evening of art, music, food and the finest coffee concoctions around.

The gallery will also be hosting jewelry making classes, tarot card readings and much more.

For a complete list of this year's events and classes, make sure to visit the "Events" page on the gallery's website at www.westbrookfieldartandframe.com.

About West Brookfield Art & Frame

Gallery hours at West Brookfield Art & Frame are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sundays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

For more information about West Brookfield Art & Frame Gallery, or upcoming shows, follow them on Facebook, visit www.westbrookfieldartandframe.com, email yafacember@hotmail.com, call 508-753-8604 or stop by during open hours.

SERMONS, continued from page 7

stances and that He sees their plight of pain, hunger, and suffering. He wants them to know that God sees it too and that God is for them, not against them as they have experienced by those who oppress them. God is love and God heals their wounds and comforts them.

To the rich, Jesus is not that sympathetic. These are the ones, who perpetuate the desperate situation of

the poor. They are the ones who are full and content and look down upon the poor, the sick, the people with leprosy, the downtrodden. Woe to you, He says in verses 24 - 26, and warns them that their comfortable existence will change for the worse. Their sins are not because they are rich, but because of the way they treat the disadvantaged and laugh about it. Instead of laughing, they will mourn and weep.

IV. Conclusion
This message of Christ speaks to us today as His followers. It is a reminder that we must consistently discern right from wrong in our communities and the broader society, recognizing that issues such as poverty, disease, and social exclusion due to personal identity cannot be ignored. Neglecting to

address these issues results in severe suffering, and a sense of hopelessness, which are not conditions that God will be satisfied with.

Christ's message gives us the opportunity to reflect on what we can do and continue to do to turn situations and conditions around, so that everyone can have what they need, and feel they are enough as persons whom God created and loves. Christ's message is a call to follow where He leads us. May each one of us see and continue to see what that looks like for ourselves and may we all feel God's presence as we respond to our calling.

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

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"I represent clients and I oversee the other attorneys in the firm and provide them with guidance on the cases, as well as running the day-to-day business of the firm," Lindley explained.
The firm is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and there you can speak to a representative and find the help you need.
You can find more information by visiting their website farberandlindley.com and request a consultation, read reviews and find an attorney to represent and help you according to what you need.
"It's fun to advocate for your clients," Lindley said. "I want the community to know that here in Barre we provide quality advice and counsel for businesses, personal injury victims and landlods. We are here to serve them in those capacities."

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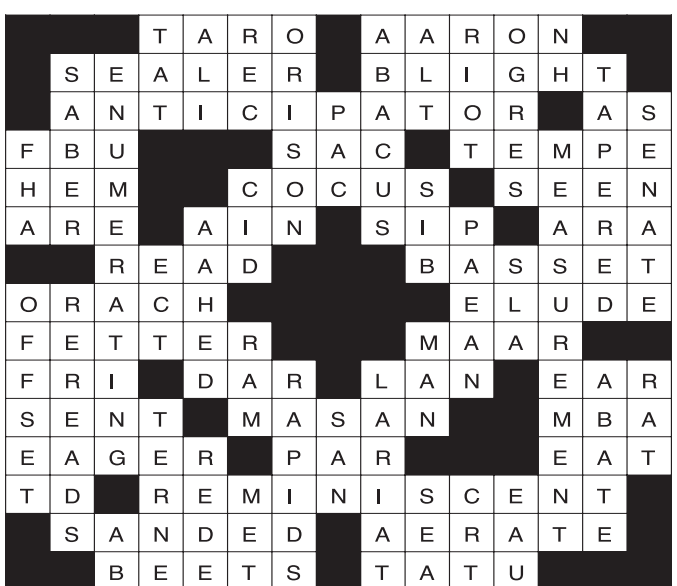
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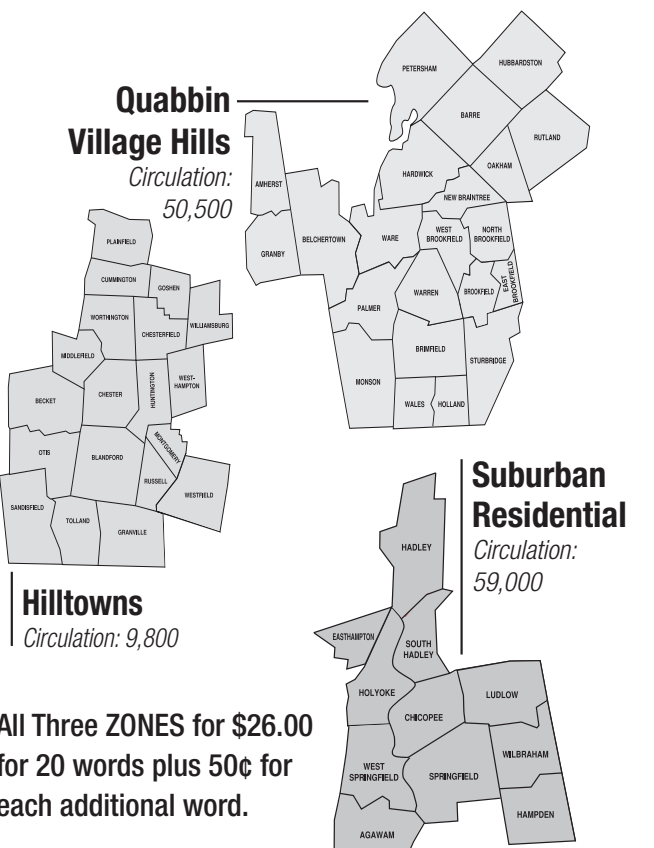
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Second Chance encourages people to adopt a pet

EAST BROOKFIELD – Second Chance Animal Services is calling on the community to help pets in need by adopting now.

With adoptions slowing and pet surrenders rising, the Second Chance Adoption Center is full, leaving some pets waiting behind the scenes for a space to begin their search for a forever home. The non-profit is also welcoming new fosters to help care for shelter pets.

“Our adoption center is filled with wonderful pets ready for loving homes, but until they find families, we can’t bring in more pets who need us,” said Sheryl Blancato, CEO and founder of Second Chance. “Right now, we have pets waiting in areas not open

to the public, simply because there isn’t enough space. Every adoption not only changes the life of one pet, but it also makes room for another pet to start their journey to a better life. Recently we had to turn down a transport of pets from overcrowded southern shelters because space hasn’t opened quickly enough.”

Second Chance is a no-kill shelter with an over 99% save rate, meaning they never give up on pets. Whether it takes days, weeks or even months, every pet receives the care, time and attention they need to find a loving home.

To encourage more adoptions, Second Chance is reminding the public that its adoption center is open weekdays from 10 a.m.-

3 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Thursday evenings from 5-7 p.m. The Thursday evening hours, which have been quieter, offer a great opportunity for adopters to meet pets in a more relaxed setting.

The number of pets waiting for a home reflects a growing nationwide trend. Shelters across the country, including Second Chance, are seeing a surge in pet surrenders due to financial hardships, housing challenges and other factors, while adoption rates have slowed. This means pets are waiting longer to find homes, creating a bottleneck that prevents shelters from helping more animals in need. Even as a leader in surrender prevention with

access-to-care hospitals and programs that keep pets and people together, Second Chance is feeling the impact of the current trend.

Fostering can also ease the strain on shelters and give pets a better chance at finding a home. Even a short-term foster placement, just a few weeks, can make a world of difference for a pet struggling with the stress of a shelter environment. By opening their home to a foster pet, individuals can help free up space for incoming animals while giving a pet the comfort and care they need to thrive. Second Chance provides all necessary supplies, making it easy for fosters to step in and make an immediate impact.

Second Chance has dogs, cats,

rabbits, and guinea pigs of all ages, sizes and personalities waiting for their second chance. Those considering adoption can view available pets on the Second Chance website or visit the adoption center in person.

“If you’ve been thinking about adding a pet to your family, now is the time,” Blancato emphasized. “Every adoption makes a difference—not just for the pet you bring home, but for the next pet waiting for their chance.”

To see available pets looking for homes, visit www.secondchanceanimals.org/adopt. People can learn more about fostering by visiting www.secondchanceanimals.org/foster-care/.

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