

# BARRE GAZETTE

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## DPW Commission discuss ongoing projects

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis  
Correspondent

BARRE – The Department of Public Works Commission discussed Williamsville Road, Town Farm Road, and Fruitland Road as three priority roads which need to be repaired.

They said the roads need to have drainage repairs, with an emphasis on Williamsville Road, as the commission said most of the damage to the road is a result of groundwater. They said Town Farm Road requires water main reconstruction as well.

The commission said they can use chapter 90 funds for a portion of the funding for necessary repairs, as well as the U.S. Department of Agriculture funding. The commission authorized the Select Board to consult with USDA for funding.

### Valley Road bridge

DPW Superintendent Timothy Batchelor said the cost of a temporary repair of the Valley Road bridge was estimated to be \$550,000. He said the town has already put \$100,000 toward the repair, which Batchelor said would allow one lane of traffic on the bridge, but would only last three to four years before a full repair had to be done again.

The commission voted to not pursue chapter 90 funding for the Valley Road bridge, and said the cost of the temporary repair could be better used for other projects. The commission said there is MassDOT funding for small bridges which could be applied, as well as various other grants and funding.

### Snow and ice account

Batchelor said the town is 205% over the allocated budget for snow and ice this year. Member Maureen Marshall said the town would appropriate money

See DPW, page 6

## Board approves amended PILOT agreement

By Ellenor Downer  
Editor  
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – The two Select Board members present, Mark Regienus and Richard Stevens, approved the amended Payment in Lieu of Taxes agreement with Seven Hills Foundation.

Police Chief James

Sabourin said he has been working with Seven Hills Foundation Stetson School on how they can help the town. The newly amended agreement would extend the PILOT for five years. Seven Hills would donate \$82,000 for the five year PILOT.

The PILOT money would be used to purchase a new police cruiser. Chief

Sabourin said the new cruiser had already been secured and equipped. He said Seven Hills also gave his department two \$5,000 grants, which the department used for expenses.

### Town Administrator

Town Administrator Melanie Jackson reported the Zoning Board of Appeals needed an alternate mem-

ber. Anyone interested in serving should let the Town Administrator's office know. This is an appointed position by the Select Board.

Town Administrator Jackson said she held a bunch of meetings including union negotiations. She met with Harper's Payroll Service about update to payroll. She said some of the

changes could not be made until after the accounting system changes to Vadar Systems software takes place. Town Administrator Jackson said Town Accountant Jean Joel and she meet with a representative from Vadar software.

The Town Administrator

See BARRE, page 6

## Barre Historical Society holds pruning demonstration



Scott Davis, left helps his son-in-law Karl Erickson at the Feb. 14 tree pruning demonstration.



Kay Flick of the Barre Historical Society dressed for the weather. She wore heavy coveralls and her father's wool vest.



Photos by Dave and Kay Flick

Karl Erickson lead the fruit tree pruning demonstration on Saturday, Feb. 14 at Felton Field in Barre.

## Commercial kennel gets approved

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis  
Correspondent

BARRE – The Planning Board held a public hearing for an application for a commercial kennel to be located at the property of 1140 South St.

The application was submitted by Jesse Klayman from Moonlight Run Farm LLC, according to the agenda.

The applicants said they saw a need for a commercial kennel, as the area does not have one. They said their farm is a working farm and they use dogs to assist in herding and the commercial kennel permit would allow for up to 22 dogs.

They currently have a personal kennel permit.

A neighbor attending the meeting inquired whether the applicants anticipated higher levels of noise from the large number of dogs. They said they do not anticipate it being louder than usual.

Jen Ford, an officer from the Rutland Regional Animal Control, said the property is conducive for a commercial kennel, in terms of acreage. She said there are no structures built, but they plan on building about five indoor/outdoor kennel runs.

She said the commercial kennel is subject to all the same rules as a personal kennel, with no exceptions for noise, sanitation or odors.

The board approved the commercial kennel permit and it will be subject to regular inspections by animal control and yearly renewal with the town clerk.

## School Committee ended tuitioning-out talks

By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – School Committee Chair Matt Grant said the committee members would discuss and vote on whether or not to enter into a tuition agreement with a neighboring school district for students in grades seven through 12.

The School Committee received tuition agreement proposals from both Quaboag Regional School District and Quabbin Regional School District. A task force worked with a consultant to compare the potential financial impact of each proposal, as well as the cost of keeping the high school students in district.

At the Feb. 18 meeting, School Committee Kristen

Giangrande said several open forums were held over the past week, allowing staff, community members, parents and students to ask questions and share feedback and concerns.

“Regionalization versus tuition agreement was discussed lightly,” she said. “Several parents shared their positive experiences in North Brookfield and shared their concerns about a tuition agreement.”

Grant said about 20 students attended an open forum that past Friday and they heard a lot of questions and concerns.

### Committee discussion

Grant asked the committee members to share their input prior to taking a vote about a tuition agreement.

Grant discussed a recent correspondence he received from Quaboag Regional Superintendent Stephen Duff regarding special education costs.

He said the school district's special education department analyzed the cost of services for special education students and estimated it to be \$1.2 million. He said the proposal from the Quaboag Regional School District estimated the cost to be around \$450,000.

He said the committee could utilize the services of independent consultant TMS, Inc. to review the special education needs of the students. This would take about two weeks and cost up to \$8,000.

“Certainly, I think we do need to understand...how does one special education department look at one thing and get a number and how does one get a vastly different number?” Grant asked. “Just understanding that would help us all get to a realization.”

Director of Student Services Dr. Michael Baldassarre said his depart-

ment never received a methodology from the Quaboag Regional School District to calculate special education spending.

“We were given a rate sheet with hourly rates and that was it,” he said. “Nothing in writing that spells out anything whatsoever about how the costs would be calculated. I still don't have that to this day.”

Baldassarre said his department was told that the cost would be an hourly rate based on the state's in-district Circuit Breaker rates. He said they utilized service delivery grids from student IEPs and calculated the hourly rates.

“We felt that those were inline with that actual cost of special education children in Massachusetts,” he said.

He said the Quabbin Regional School District's

See SCHOOL COMMITTEE, page 12



## Nor'easter dumps snow throughout the state

Turley Publications photo by Ellenor Downer

A Nor'easter dumped over 16 inches of snow beginning Sunday evening, Feb. 22 and continuing for most of Monday, Feb. 23. Snow drifted in this field on Lincoln Road in Oakham. The high snow banks are visible along the road way. Coastal areas got over two feet of snow.



# News of the Towns



## ROUND TOWN

by Ellenor Downer  
edowner@turley.com

### Lions Club offers scholarship

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

### Designer pancake breakfast

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

### Barre Youth Theater

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

### Office hours

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

### Survey

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

### Lions Club fundraiser

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

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

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

[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

## Barre Youth Theater presents 'The Enchanted Bookshop'

BARRE – The Barre Players Theater announce performances of the Barre Players Youth Theater production of "The Enchanted Bookshop" by Todd Wallinger on Friday, March 6 and Saturday, March 7 at 7:30 p.m. as well as Saturday, March 7 at Sunday, March 8 at 2 p.m.

Performances take place at the Barre Players Theater, 64 Common St. The production is directed by Barre Youth Theater alum, Raiden Bousquet of Oakham and features young performers from Barre, New Braintree, Hardwick, North Brookfield, Worcester, Sterling and Warren.

During the day, A Likely Story may look like any other used bookstore. But at night, it's a place where magic happens. That's when the characters inside the books come alive. Familiar characters like Dorothy Gale, Robin Hood, Pollyanna, Sherlock Holmes, Heidi and Tom Sawyer long to help the store's owner, Margie, save her struggling store.

There is only one problem. If they leave the store, they disappear into their books forever. So what happens when a pair of smugglers comes looking for a stolen necklace hidden inside one of the books? Should they warn Margie and risk disappearing forever or can they find a way to defeat the crooks without being seen? Come to the show and find out how they and other favorites like the Queen of Hearts and Long John Silver come



Photo courtesy of Kelly Hilcoff  
**Kaiyah Menard as Margie, from left and Teagan Hilcoff as Bombalina are in the upcoming Barre Youth Theater production of "The Enchanted Bookshop."**

together to save Margie and her store.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for students, seniors 65+ and children 12 and under. Tickets may be reserved by emailing barreplayers@gmail.com or online by visiting barreplayerstheater.com. There is a processing fee for all credit card purchases that increases the price. There are no added fees for any cash purchase and all proceeds go directly to support Barre Players Theater.

"The Enchanted Bookshop" is the first production of the Barre Players 105th season. The next show will be "A Midsummer Night's Dream," which auditions in March and performance in June. Following that is the teen summer youth production of "Hadestown Teen Edition" in August, Agatha Christie's "A Murder is Announced" in October, and a family musical in December.

## 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 March 2.. 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 – Shepherd's pie, carrots/peas, chocolate pudding, diet = chocolate pudding, marble rye bread

TUESDAY – Greek chicken, steamed white rice, broccoli, peaches, pumpernickel bread

WEDNESDAY – Meatloaf with gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, chuckwagon corn, fresh fruit, Italian bread

THURSDAY – Hot dog on bun, baked beans, Coleslaw, baked apples, mustard

FRIDAY – Frittata, O'Brien potatoes, stewed tomatoes, cookies, whole wheat bread

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

## Democrats to caucus on March 8

PETERSHAM – Democrats in Petersham will hold a caucus on Sunday, March 8 at 4 p.m. in person at the Petersham Town Hall, lower level, 1 South Main St., to elect delegates and an alternate to attend the 2026 Massachusetts Democratic Convention.

The caucus is open to all registered and pre-registered (must be 16 years old by the

start of the caucus window, i.e. Feb 19) Democrats in Petersham. Petersham can elect two delegates and one alternate to the Convention.

In the spirit of inclusion, youth, veterans, underrepresented ethnic and racial groups, people with disabilities, and members of the LGBTQ community who are not elected as delegates or alternates may

apply to be "add-on" delegates. The Mass Dems' 2026 Nominating Convention is scheduled to take place on Friday, May 29 and Saturday, May 30 at the DCU Center in Worcester. For more information about the caucus or the Petersham Democratic Town Committee, people may call Henry Woolsey at 978-771-2173 or email henrywoolsey@gmail.com.

## Corrections policy

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



## OAKHAM

by Ellenor Downer  
edowner@turley.com

### Church to hold breakfast

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will hold a breakfast to benefit the church furnace fund on Saturday, March 7 from 8-9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The menu includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, strawberries, orange juice, coffee, tea and hot chocolate.

### Special Town Meeting

A Special Town Meeting will be held on Monday, March 9 at 7 p.m. in the Oakham Center School. The warrant contains two articles. Article one seeks the town to accept as public ways Old Schoolhouse Road and Skyline drive and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase and/or eminent domain, the feet and/or easements in Old Schoolhouse road and Skyline Drive. The second article if approved would transfer \$75,000 from the General stabilization fund to supplement the towns legal budget including without limitation, for costs associated with the Battery Energy Storage System matter. This requires a 2/3 majority vote.

### Democrats caucus

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

### Office hours

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

### Oakham COA events

On going activities include Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-noon puzzling; Monday through Thursday at 9 a.m walking group (meet at Senior Center); Tuesday through Thursdays at 11 a.m. walking group (meet at Senior Center); Tuesdays yoga \$40 for eight classes in Senior Center multi-purpose room, registration required; Wednesdays at 8:45 a.m. Zumba Gold in New Braintree Town Hall – \$3 donation per class; Thursdays at noon Weigh in at the Senior Center support weight loss group and Fridays at 10.30 a.m. Functional Fitness at the New Braintree TownHall – \$3 donation per class. For walking groups, people may ask to be added to the text MSG group by calling the Senior Center at 508-882-4073 and leave their name and cell phone number.

### Hot lunches

Hot lunches are offered at the Senior Center dining area Monday through Thursday at 11.30 a.m. Reservations are needed at least two days in advance and can be made through the Congregate Meal

Coordinator from 9 a.m.-noon by calling 508-882-4072.

## OES holds pancake breakfast March 7

BARRE –Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will hold a designer pancake breakfast Saturday, March 7 from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge, 71 Pleasant St.

The full breakfast includes pancakes, waffles, sausage gravy and biscuits, bacon, sausage, coffee, juice and always real maple syrup. Cost is \$9 per adult and children age 6 and under \$5. All are welcome.

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# News of the Towns

## Historical Society hosts open house on March 8

PETERSHAM – The Petersham Historical Society, 10 North Main St., welcomes visitors to their “250th: Tales of the Revolution” program and the annual “Hope for Spring” Open House on Sunday, March 8 from 2-4 p.m.

The event will include meeting some bold Revolutionary War characters, as well as exploring exhibits of what’s new and old in the historical society collection and a “What could this be?” display of mystery items.

Revolutionary guests will include the rebel leader, Daniel Shays, who can explain why the most volatile time for him and his followers was after the Revolution ended and Petersham’s Tory parson, Reverend Aaron Whitney, who argued against the Patriot cause. Two special soldiers will also treat guests to a glimpse into Revolutionary life.

Morgan Gabrenas, of Petersham, who is a soldier reenactor for His Majesty’s 10th Regiment of Foot, which recreates Revolutionary events throughout New England, will mix music and memory while portraying a British soldier. He will play some stirring tunes that will include both popular and martial selections from the 18th century on his vintage flute. Morgan’s experience with the 10th Regiment included making his own British soldier uniform, or kit, as reenactors call their garb, from start to finish, with totally authentic detail.

“I will be portraying a private British soldier, but I will talk about and play music,” says Gabrenas. “I see living history and



Submitted photos

**Petersham Historical 1 Morgan Gabrenas, a reenactor for His Majesty’s 10th Regiment of Foot, plays the flute.**

reenactment as a way of understanding past people on a more tactile level. My most memorable event with the 10th Regiment so far was participating in the Battle of Bunker Hill last year and we will be doing reenactments of the evacuation of Boston and the battles of White Plains and Brooklyn this year.”

C.J. Wolanski, of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, is also a member of the His Majesty’s 10th Regiment of Foot reenactors. For this event, he will switch characters and will portray a Patriot Continental soldier named Constant Church, who was born in Rhode Island, but



**C.J. Wolanski portrays a patriot continental soldier.**

lived in Petersham during some of the tumultuous Revolutionary years. As a living history reenactor, Wolanski became intrigued by what Church’s life as a soldier and Patriot would have been like and decided to research Church’s history to portray his character.

“I first got interested in reenacting when I was six years old,” says Wolanski. “I met a great group of reenactors portraying Rhode Island Continental soldiers and I immediately loved everything about this hobby. I ran into the 10th Regiment of Foot at Fort Griswold in Connecticut just before I turned 14 and almost

immediately decided I wanted to join them. Probably one of the most memorable reenactments for me was the Bristol Expedition in 2024, where I got to take the field with several of the same reenactors I first met when I was only six years old.”

Gabrenas will perform about 2:30 p.m. and Wolanski will present around 3 p.m., but the reenactors will be mingling to talk to guests and answer questions throughout the hours of the event from 2-4 p.m. This event is free and open to everyone to enjoy Revolutionary and Petersham history.

## HUBBARDSTON

by Ellenor Downer  
edowner@turley.com

### Office hours happen March 2

State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume and Chief of Staff, Donna and Senator Peter Durant’s office invites constituents and town officials to meet them to express any concerns, ideas or issues that they may need assistance with. People may call Donna at 774-402-4742 if they would like a private meeting. Office hours are Monday, March 2 at the Hubbardston-Senior Center from 10-11 a.m.

### Ag Commission workshop

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

### Excise tax bills

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

### Lions Club Scholarship

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

### Senior Center events

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

### Editorial deadline reminder

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

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

### BARRE

Select Board – March 2 at 5 p.m.  
Board of Health – March 2 at 5 p.m.  
Board of Assessors – March 3 at 6 p.m.  
Felton Field Commission – March 3 at 6:30 p.m.  
Finance Committee – March 3, March 17 and March 31 at 6:30 p.m.  
Planning Board – March 3 and April 1 at 7 p.m.  
Council on Aging – March 4 at 12:30 p.m.  
DPW Commission – March 9 at 6 p.m.  
Conservation Committee – March 10 at 7 p.m.  
Library Trustees – March 11 at 6:30 p.m.  
Barre Housing Authority – March 12 at 1 p.m.  
Master Plan Steering Committee – March 12 at 5:30 p.m.  
Finance Committee – March 17, March 31, April 7 and April 14 at 6:30 p.m.  
Barre Common Oversight Committee – March 18 at 5 p.m.  
Zoning Board of Appeals – March 19 at 7 p.m.  
Town Election Day – April 6 from 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

### HARDWICK

Master Plan Steering Committee – Feb. 26 at 6:30 p.m.  
Capital Planning Committee – March 2

and March 16 at 3 p.m.  
Select Board – March 2 at 6 p.m.  
Council on Aging – March 4 at 12:30 p.m.  
Paige Library Trustees – March 5 and March 26 at 7 p.m.  
Gilbertville Public Library – March 11 at 3 p.m.  
Gilbertville Water District – March 17 at 5:30 p.m.  
Recycling Commission – March 17 at 6:30 p.m.  
Conservation Commission – March 18 at 6:30 p.m.

### HUBBARDSTON

Library Trustees – Feb. 26 and March 5 at 7 p.m.  
Conservation Commission – March 3 at 7 p.m.  
Planning Board – March 4 and March 19 at 6:30 p.m.  
Board of Library Trustees – March 5 at 7 p.m.  
Board of Health – March 10 at 7 p.m.  
Agricultural Commission Farmer’s Workshop – March 11 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Community Preservation Committee – March 12 at 7 p.m.  
Board of Assessors – March 18 at 6 p.m.

### NORTH BROOKFIELD

School Committee Rescheduled – Feb. 26 at 6 p.m.

Library Trustees – March 2 at 6:15 p.m.  
Planning Board – March 18 and April 15 at 6 p.m.

### OAKHAM

Board of Health – March 5 at 6 p.m.  
Special Town Meeting – March 9 at 7 p.m.

### PETERSHAM

Select Board – Feb. 26, March 5, March 12 at 5:30 p.m., March 19 at 5:20 p.m., March 26 and April 2 at 5:30 p.m.  
Advisory Finance Committee – Feb. 26, March 5, March 12 and March 19 at 6 p.m.  
Open Space and Recreation Committee – March 3 at 6 p.m.  
Conservation Commission – March 3 at 7 p.m.  
Council on Aging – March 9 at 10:30 a.m.  
Cemetery Commission – March 10 at 10 a.m.  
Petersham Historic District – March 19 at 6 p.m.  
Board of Assessors – March 20 at 9 a.m.

### RUTLAND

Select Board Public Hearing Cable Television – March 2 at 6:45 p.m.  
Planning Board ByLaw Subcommittee – March 4 at 6 p.m.  
Planning Board Hearing – March 10 at 6:30 p.m.

## MDAR hosts beekeeping lecture

NEW BRAINTREE – The New Braintree Library and Friends of the Library will be hosting representatives from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources for an introductory lecture on beekeeping.

The Bees 101 event will be held on Saturday, March 7 at the New Braintree Town Hall, 20 Memorial Drive at 2 p.m.

This program is free and open to the public.

This session will cover the basics of honey bee biology, hive management, seasonal care, and best practices for supporting healthy pollinator populations. The lecture may also highlight state resources, regulations and practical steps for getting started with bees in Massachusetts.

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# Opinion

## SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

### My friend is 65; shouldn't she be exempt from Medicare payroll taxes?

Dear Rusty:  
My girlfriend is 65 and she just enrolled in Medicare.

She is still working full time as a nurse, but they are still deducting Medicare taxes from her paycheck. I thought as soon as you started Medicare, that they would no longer take any Medicare taxes from her paychecks. Is that not correct?

Signed: Concerned Friend

Dear Concerned Friend:

Your understanding about Medicare payroll tax is, indeed, not correct. Medicare taxes are levied on everyone, who works and earns, regardless of whether or not they are currently enrolled in the Medicare program. That is how Medicare has worked since it was first enacted in the mid-1960s and how it still works today.

For Your Information, everyone who works for an employer must pay Federal Insurance Contributions Act payroll tax of 7.65%. Most (6.2%) of that payroll tax goes to support Social Security, but 1.45% goes to support Medicare Part A. Self-employed individuals must also pay this tax under the Self-Employed Contributions Act, which is equivalent to FICA, except the self-employed individual must also pay the employer portion of the payroll tax. The Social Security portion of the FICA/SECA tax has an earnings cap (\$184,500 in 2026), but there is no cap on earnings for the Medicare portion of the FICA/SECA payroll tax. FYI, employers pay an equivalent amount of Social Security and Medicare taxes and the Medicare portion of the payroll tax is paid on all earnings. There is no cap on earnings from which the

Medicare payroll tax is withheld.

To ensure understanding, Medicare Part A provides healthcare coverage for inpatient hospitalization services and Medicare Part B provides coverage for outpatient medical services (doctors, medical tests, etc.). That 1.45% of the FICA and SECA tax for the self-employed is paid by those who work to help fund the Medicare Part A program, which is premium-free for most Americans after age 65. For Medicare Part B, there is a separate premium which helps pay for Medicare outpatient healthcare services. The standard Medicare Part B premium for 2026 is \$202.90 per month, compared to Medicare Part A which is free to all who are eligible for Social Security benefits. But the 1.45% payroll tax which is being withheld from your girlfriend's paycheck is paid by everyone who has work earnings, even if they are enrolled in Medicare.

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

## Guest Column

### The Girl, the 'Shot' and the bench

By A. B. Splaine

Some stories are difficult to tell, especially from a distance of many years.

In the little grotto between the cabin and the practice green at Quail Hollow Golf Club in Oakham, sits a bench dedicated to the memory of a young lady from the town of Hubbardston. Her name was Ashley Foley and she was tragically killed in a hit and run accident on Rt. 2 in the town of Lancaster, on Dec 17, 2007. She was 18 years old, and her death set in motion a series of incidents that led to health problems for her adoptive father, Doug Mericola and the dissolution of her parent's marriage.

Despite the many negatives from this incident, the love of all involved for Ashley, led to the commissioning of the bench in her honor by her stepfather and placement on the fourth tee at Petersham Golf club, in Petersham.

When Petersham Golf Club closed, it was removed to the family home from which it was sent to Quail Hollow, where Mericola was employed as a part-time grounds' keeper and mechanic. It was set up as a reminder of the lovely young

woman Ashley was and also the fact that Ashley was also the granddaughter of Jack "The Shot" Foley, high school and college all-American basketball player for Assumption Prep and Holy Cross College in the late 1950s and longtime and beloved Barre Police officer. Jack and his wife Gail were frequent diners at the Quail Hollow restaurant.

Though family matters prevented Jack from having a relationship with Ashley, the presence of the bench on the course pays tribute to both of them. It is a place of peace that can be the perfect viewpoint for the gorgeous sunsets seen over the course throughout the golf season.

Ashley attended Quabbin Regional High School in Barre and was enrolled in the Job Corps training program for a career in the health field. Her boyfriend, Scott Aldrich of Oakham, was in basic training in the military at the time of Ashley's tragic death. Scott's mom, Laura Aldrich, said of Ashley at the time, "She was just a gentle soul."

Mericola related a story about Ashley and a teaching moment they shared.

See GUEST COLUMN, page 5



## In Past Pages

5 years (March 4, 2021)

Town Administrator Ryan McLane reported to the select board on the results of the Hubbardston Community Survey. He said 529 people, which was equal to 11% of the 2018 town population, responded. About 64% had school age children. The top four reasons why people lived in town were rural character, open space, good schools and low taxes. Respondents said they got their information about town from the town website, Facebook, word of mouth and public mailings. A little over 50% of the town said they supported the five-year road maintenance plan. Sixty-six percent felt the town should perform more maintenance. Respondents said the five biggest problems facing town were limited cellular broadband, lack of retail business, road conditions, aging infrastructures and poor municipal building conditions. Seventy-eight percent said they supported prioritized new buildings with the public safety building receiving the largest support. If the town should address the new building, 73% said they were willing to support it through increased taxes up to \$200 or less.

Travis Brown, Hubbardston Department of Public Works Director, said the town did not deficit spend last year and he did not see it happening this year. He said if he had money left at the end of the year, he would like to purchase a brine system. He said it reacted quicker when it hit the road, 15 minutes rather than 30 minutes,

### Look Back Craft Fair at Middle School – 2011



File photo

Four-year-old Sophia Diaz checks with her mom, Anne to see if she likes her flower during the annual craft and specialty fair at Quabbin Regional Middle School.

had environmental benefits and stayed where it was applied.

Ralph Rogers, owner of Adroit Manufacturing, a proposed marijuana product micro business, which would be located at 435 Lower Road, Gilbertville, attended the Hardwick Board of Selectmen meeting on Monday, Feb. 22 to discuss the proposed community host agreement draft. Rogers, accompanied by his attorney Paul Cranston, reviewed the draft and highlighted some areas they thought could be revised. Rogers said he had a number of comments and asked the board if he could read

through the draft and voice his concerns. Rogers said the proposed draft seemed to view his micro business as a large scale, marijuana cultivation business. He explained his micro business would allow him to operate with a "tier 1" cultivation and product manufacturing license. This is the lowest tier the Cannabis Control Commission issues. Rogers said his proposed micro business is not "big cannabis money." Rogers said that his micro business is more of a "mom and pop" establishment.

See PAST PAGES, page 5

## Snow flowers for an impending storm

As I write, we are expecting a blizzard. More snow in a winter that has already provided plenty, at least in my humble opinion.

Instead of focusing on all of that depressing news, why don't we "think spring" by focusing on bulbs that appear just as the snow is melting.

Perhaps the earliest and best known of the spring harbingers is the Snowdrop (*Galanthus nivalis*). Toughened points on the leaf tips make it possible for the snowdrop to push through the crusty soil of late winter. Two or three strappy leaves grow from each bulb; most often there is just one flower.

You'll notice three white outer petals first and upon closer inspection you'll see green tipped inner petals. The flowers are held on the stem in a nodding fashion and in my experience they stay in bloom for upwards of three weeks.

Reportedly they are well adapted for bees, at least those that are brave enough to venture out of the hive in search

of pollen during the warmest days of late winter!

Snowdrops will naturalize if happy, increasing in numbers both above and below the ground! Although we

while that it is green it is making and storing food for next year's flowers.

Glory of the Snow (*Chionodoxa luciliae*) is also one of the first spring bulbs to appear, sometimes right through the melting snow. Most common in periwinkle blue with a white center, these six inch tall, six petaled flowers also appear in pink and white.

They thrive in full to part sun situations, whether it be the rock garden, at the base of shrubs or deciduous trees or even when planted in the lawn! They naturalize easily, forming large colonies by bulb offsets and self-sowing. They are deer resistant.

Glory of the Snow stay in bloom upwards of two weeks, maybe longer if temperatures don't spike. Like other spring bloomers, the bulbs go dormant after the foliage ripens. It does not stick around long enough to be much of an eyesore in the garden.

One word of caution for those looking for the blue flowered lawn effect: don't



"deadhead" most bulbs, keeping spent flower heads of this genus in place will allow seeds to ripen and new plants to form. It is interesting to observe the process of a snowdrop self-sowing.

Once the flower has gone by a large seed will form; because of its weight, the stem will bend toward the ground dropping its ripe seed at a perfect distance from the mother plant. Under no circumstances should the foliage of a bulb be removed until it is brown and dry.

It may not be the most beautiful to look at, but all the

See GARDEN , page 5

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## Barre Gazette

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## Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

This will be a short column this week as I am writing it before the big storm in case I lose power.

This has been a winter of horror. I don't know where we will put any more snow as the piles are so high beside our long driveway.

This week I have been trying to clean up my project room. I have piles of projects that need to be completed. I did take out

some ceramic Easter eggs and placed them in a wooden bowl on the dining room table and have a few St. Patrick Day decorations out.

I also made a menu for the week so I know what I will have for meals. My handyman got some groceries and my helper got some so we are all set for food. Our biggest problem is getting our mail so whoever

comes gets it for us as we do not go out in this weather.

Taxes are all done so that is one thing off my mind. Now I need to order or get a new printer that is attached to my computer. I have one that I can make copies from, but I could not get it to work with the computer.

Have a good week and hope we all survive the storm.

### GARDEN from page 4

mow until the foliage has yellowed or mow high to miss the foliage.

Another one of my favorite harbingers is the Snow Crocus (Crocus tommasinianus). Not to be confused with the large Dutch crocus, Snow Crocus is typically lilac in color and has white stems.

They grow about three inches tall and naturalize well with daughter corms forming around the mother corm. They are both squirrel and deer

resistant.

Native to Hungary, Snow Crocus are sometimes called "Tommies" thanks to their species name, which was a tribute to Muzio G. Spirito de Tommasini, a Hungarian botanist. Years ago we had these beauties in a sequence of spring bloomers that started with Snow Drops, moved on to the Snow Crocus, then on to a Daffodil and then finally the Spanish bluebell. The combination spanned March through May.

Just the thought of that

versus what we are expecting in terms of weather has lightened my mood some; I hope it has done the same for you.

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

### GUEST COLUMN from page 4

He was trying to influence her to take pride in her personal space by keeping her room neat. He told her of the oriental notion of "Feng suis" and how much better she would feel about herself if her space was admirably kept. He helped her clean everything out and paint the room, then bought her a new bedroom set. She did much better at keeping that space special and learned something valuable about herself in the process. Mericola related his admiration for Ashley and the fact that he had not spoken of this incident until this interview and helped immensely in understanding what Ashley was like.

Jack Foley, Ashley's birth grandfather, was a great athlete in the Worcester area in

the 1960s. He was a teacher at South High School and a basketball coach as well. When he moved to Barre he and his first wife Susan adopted five children, all of grammar school age, including three brothers and later a daughter and another son. His great love of the outdoors and fascination with snakes are the stuff of local legend. During his time in Barre, Foley befriended the Barre Police chief "Jimbo" Thompson as the two played a lot of basketball together. Thompson offered Foley the part-time police officer's job and the two worked and played together for many years.

After Jack and Susan split up, Jack met and married Gail Raney, who was also a teacher at South High School in 1992. He and Gail made many road trips to Alaska as they both

had a great love of the area. His career as a teacher in Worcester and as a police officer in Barre gave him a great life after big time basketball was done and he is very well remembered in both places. Jack died of Parkinson's disease on Nov. 29, 2020.

I wish to thank Doug Mericola for his thoughtful insights about Ashley and Gail Raney for her willingness to share about Jack. The bench is both a place of peaceful remembrance for both of them and the one place where grandfather and granddaughter could be considered together. My thanks to Gary and Debbie Donlin for their continuing friendship and thoughtful consideration of me when my wife Sandy died in Sept. 2021 and for the privilege of telling this touching story.

### PAST PAGES from page 4

#### 10 years (March 3, 2016)

William Mucha at the Oakham Selectmen's meeting said that the spruce tree planted in 1946 in memory of Robert Dwelly, who was killed at the end of World War II, had "divine intervention." He said that the tree was dying and it would have cost about \$1,700 to remove it. Last Thursday, it toppled during heavy rains, winds and a thunderstorm. He suggested a tree possibly a flowering one that would not grow as tall as the spruce be planted to replace. He also would like to replace the flagpole with aluminum one. Mucha said that he talked with Robert Dwelly's son, Rodney, about removing the tree before the tree fell down and he was agreeable. Mucha said when the tree fell it knocked down the Veterans' monument. He hoped that it would be reset and a new tree planted for Memorial Day.

Selectmen conveyed their support for the historic district application. Selectman Starbard asked Lucy Tessnau of the Oakham Historical Commission if there was any cost involved with the application process. She said the commission hired a consultant that will document all of the 25 buildings in the historic district that includes Maple Street and Coldbrook Road to

the town pound near Deacon Allen Drive. The cost for the consultant was \$4,000 that would be paid over two years - \$2,000 this year and \$2,000 next year.

Voter turnouts in the region ranged from 43 percent in Barre to 60 percent in Petersham for the presidential primary election. Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald J. Trump were top vote getters. In Barre, 1,532 (796 precinct 1 and 734 precinct 2) of the 3,548 registered voters cast ballots. Hubbardston had a 46 percent voter turnout with 1,506 casting ballots of the 3,258 registered voters. In New Braintree, 327 of the 718 registered or 45.5 percent went to the polls. Oakham Democrat ballots tallied 226 for Bernie Sanders and 101 for Hillary Clinton. On the Republican ballot it was 203 for Donald J. Trump, 60 for Ted Cruz and 45 for John Kasich. Petersham had the highest voter turnout with 60 percent or 553 of its 918 registered voters going to the polls. Rutland had a 45.7 percent turnout with 2,725 of its 5,952 registered voters casting ballots

#### 25 years (March 1, 2001)

State Rep. David Tuttle (R-Barre) said proponents of the so-called Clean Elections Bill are being disingenuous in their advocacy for public financing of elections. Tuttle,

an outspoken critic of the measure and a member of the Joint Committee on Election Laws, said Tuesday he was unimpressed by the testimony he heard during a major hearing on the bill Monday. That hearing was to address a 32 page corrections submitted by the state Office of Campaign and Political Finance, the agency charged with overseeing and implementation of the new law.

A record crowd gathered at the Eagle Hill School for the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Boar's Head Feast and organizers are hoping to better the mark next year. Event organizer Peter McDonald said there were 170 people at the dinner and more than \$3,000 was raised to benefit several area groups. The Boar's Head Feast is part festive meal, spirited entertainment and an old fashioned tradition brought alive and part fundraiser and recognition benefit to raise funds for local charities as well as honor people, who have been

## REMEMBERED STORMS AND FORGOTTEN YEARS

By A.B. Splaine Feb. 23, 2026

My first winter living in our hilltop house on Park Terrace Road, we had a storm like this,

It was Christmas time in 1954 and we were dying to tryout our new Flexible Flyers.

The main roads were somewhat passable, but ours was still ten inches deep.

Only a few cars had braved the hill and left their tracks to follow when the time was safe,

I wonder now from so far away, how safe we actually were sliding there,

Such fearless youth and treasured joys, where have you gone?

In February '58, we found a hill near Worcester State Hospital, perfect for tobogganing,

A long, long hike to the very top and a hair-raising ride to the bottom,

A half hour of trudging for two minutes of exhilaration, a worthwhile bargain back then.

With the Blizzard of '78, marooned in an ocean of swells, as drifts climbed the gables.

A fortunate oil delivery and wise grocery shopping set us up for days of waiting,

Till the snowplows could reach us, we huddled inside safe and warm with games and movies.

They called it the Storm of the Century, but in 2003, it seemed too soon to say,

Wachusett blanketed in white was the perfect playground for Skiers, snowboarders, ski jumpers, even skaters found a play yard to ply their skills.

A nuisance to work through, a feast for the eyes, and a few days off to enjoy.

2015 brought a parade of storms that added up to a mountain of snow upon us,

Got stuck while plowing an access to my workshop and the tow truck barely got me out.

Wondered if living on a Mountain was such a good idea.

In early December of 2020, a storm more of slush than snow came to call,

The worst of my life, as the waterlogged slog laughed at my snow-blower and frost-bit my soaked and frozen feet.

Still now, no feelings there and no hope for a change in sight.

These years have passed with memories of fun, hard work and thoughtful poetry,

But each was a memory I've held onto for the longest time,

Nature brings the storms that fill our wells with water and our hearts with memories.

It's interesting, the way we mark time by memorable storms, but indeed we do,

Perhaps the need to find a way to archive special memories,

Reflecting times we shared of remembered storms and forgotten years

## John John Brown brings 'Songs, Stories, & Art' to Workshop13

WARE - Workshop13 welcomes award-winning songwriter John John Brown for a performance of his emotionally rich live show, "Songs, Stories, & Art: Lessons From Strangers."

This all-ages event takes place in Workshop13's Grand Hall at 13 Church St. on Saturday, Feb. 28. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the performance begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and are available at [www.workshop13.org](http://www.workshop13.org).

In recent years, Brown has been chosen as a Kerrville New Folk winner and an Emerging Artist at the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival. Most notably, in concert, he is known for mixing storytelling songs with the visual



Submitted Photo

**John John Brown will perform "Songs, Stories & Art: Lessons From Strangers" at Workshop13 on Saturday, Feb. 28.**

arts creating "an imaginative musical performance woven

into a unique visual experience."

With only a guitar, a projector, and a storyteller's heart, Brown guides audiences through 14 compelling character portraits - each one brought to life with original hand-drawn comics and narrative-driven songs. It's part concert, part illustrated story hour, and unlike anything else on stage today.

#### About Workshop13

Workshop13 is a dynamic center where arts, culture, and community converge - expanding access to the arts and nurturing creativity and self-expression in our rural region. For more information visit [workshop13.org](http://workshop13.org), or call 413-277-6072.

#### 38 years (March 4, 1988)

The Barre Board of Health has expressed disapproval of the conditional approval of the Planning Board gave to Barre contractor David A. Robinson concerning two subdivisions in developmental stages. In letters dated Feb. 25, Michael E. Huppert, chairman of the Board of Health, requested the Planning Board reconsider their modified approval of the Arrowhead Estates subdivision and rescind their modified approval of the Deer Run subdivision. According to Huppert, Arrowhead Estates, located off Sheldon Road, has serious deficiencies. He noted that no speculation testing nor approved deep hole testing has been completed.

The Barre Republican Party Committee Member elections will be held Tuesday, March 8, the same day as the Massachusetts Presidential Preference Primary and 16 slots are still vacant. According to records on file with the Elections

Division of the Secretary of State's Office, Barre's Committee was authorized 35 seats for the March 8 ballot. However, records show only 29 Republicans are running for those seats. Republicans of Barre are urged to fill those slots prior to the March 8 election. This can be accomplished through the "write in" or sticker process.

A concert to benefit the historic renovation of the No. 4 Schoolhouse in Barre will be held this coming Friday at 8 p.m. in the Quabbin Regional High School. The Worcester Men of Song will sing Barbershop Harmony under the direction of Mark Goodney. The group will feature two award winning quarters, Beginner's Luck and Haystack Four. Haystack Four offers a humorous interpretation of several songs. Refreshments will be provided by the No. 4 Schoolhouse Community Club.

### Town of Barre FY26 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

**Time:** 5:00 PM  
**Location:** Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, Barre, MA 01005  
**Topic:** FY26 CDBG Application Discussion

The Town of Barre is working with the Central Mass. Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) to pursue Fiscal Year 2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for proposed public infrastructure project on Elm Street S/Oak Street and accessibility improvements at the Barre Senior Center. Additional projects may be discussed and may be included in the grant application.

#### All are Welcomed and Encouraged to Attend

This meeting is open to the public, and residents are strongly encouraged to attend and provide input on potential CDBG projects. The meeting will also be available on Zoom through the following information Meeting ID: 857 6423 8050 Passcode: 174036. Those who cannot attend may submit their comments in writing to John O'Leary, at the Central MA Regional Planning Commission, 1 Mercantile Street Suite 520, Worcester, MA 01608 or via email at [joleary@cmrpc.org](mailto:joleary@cmrpc.org).

The meeting room is handicapped accessible. Persons who require special accommodations for the meeting should contact the town at least three days prior to the meeting date at (978) 355-5023. For additional information please contact John O'Leary at (508) 459-3331 or [joleary@cmrpc.org](mailto:joleary@cmrpc.org).

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

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

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

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

# A watershed is full of action

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

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

By 2014, the original Chicopee River Watershed Council (1970s) had ceased to exist, it had not been able to engage new people.

A small group of people saw a need to change that and began to renew an idea: the Chicopee Watershed and its tributaries are a special place and should be better known and appreciated by its local residents. Why and how to do that?

Rivers have long been the lifeblood of communities across the region. They helped build New England and they were worked hard and taken for granted.

By the 1970s, people began to realize we needed to clean up our rivers, they benefited us and wildlife in ways we had overlooked. Watershed Councils sprang up and helped start a process to turn things around and in the big picture,



Turley File Photos

**Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council Coordinator Keith Davies prepared paddlers for the inaugural launch on the Lower Ware River Blue Trail in spring 2023.**

things improved, our rivers were cleaned up a great deal.

Yet the job is not done, and some practices still impact healthy rivers in undesirable ways. Today we enjoy rivers recreationally and realize they serve wildlife and people in many important and healthy ways.

The new effort started with going community to community sharing the idea and inviting people to get involved. We held many local meetings at town halls, libraries, and community centers and it stirred interest and awareness.

We hosted river paddles and clean ups. Some joined the effort!

To give this effort focus and connect people in meaningful ways to the rivers, C4R inaugurated two programs: Water quality monitoring and Paddling trail development.

We would monitor the basic bacterial health of the river for recreational use and enjoyment. This would invite people to see these special places and learn if they were a healthy place to enjoy.

We started with six sites on two rivers in 2015 and are now at 20 sites on all four rivers. We have created four Blue Trails, routes on and maps of the rivers that highlight both historical and natural places that people can explore to see how special our four local rivers are.

Knowing their special character and health benefits reveals their value.

Good progress, yet just a start. The initial excitement of renewing the idea has worn off a bit.

But once something of value is recognized, it needs to be maintained, cared for, what a handful of people had started needs more hands to keep things going. Could you help?

Next week we share our vision going forward...

**Volunteers participated in one of many river cleanups in the Chicopee River**



Volunteers stood near a pile of trash and debris collected during a cleanup.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

**On the left sits Donna Major and Tom Lewandowski, and on the right is Sue Lewandowski and Mike Gibbons enjoying a chicken BBQ meal at the American Legion in North Brookfield.**

## Sons of the Legion held chicken BBQ

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** – The Sawyer-Mathieu-Kearns American Legion Post 41, 163 North Main St., was the place to go and enjoy a delicious chicken BBQ meal.

This past weekend, the Sons of the Legion prepared around 80 meals in total. The American Legion had a delicious dessert after dinner. There was a red, white, and blue American flag themed cake already sliced and ready for the taking.

In charge of running the chicken BBQ was

Commander of the Sons of the Legion, Jim Brown, who was selling tickets for the meals. Brown has been a member of the American Legion for 20 years and says they've always put on a meal during the middle of winter.

The Sons of the Legion wanted to carry on with offering this popular dinner because "the people enjoy it," according to Brown. The chicken BBQ meal came with a baked potato, green beans, and a dinner roll.

Funds from this meal help the American Legion support various causes. Over the years, Sons of the Legion have supported kids groups,

scout groups, youth sports, members in distress, Hearts for Heat and various causes.

A total of eight members of the American Legion help put the meals together. The chicken was cooked in the style of over the flame.

The American Legion also offers a monthly breakfast and features various breakfast meals. Breakfasts include eggs, ham, sausage, home fries, pancakes, and French toast.

The next breakfast will be held on Sunday, March 8 at the American Legion. Breakfast will be served at 10 a.m. and is \$15 per meal.

### BARRE from page 1

said she had a tour of the Woods Memorial Library courtesy of the Barre Library Association and Library Director Joseph Hood.

#### Host Municipal Equity Policy

Town Administrator Jackson met with the Cannabis Commission about the town not competing the Host Municipal Equity Policy, which was due May 2024. She said she will be working with Nicole at KP Law on the policy.

#### CMRPC

Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission will be visiting Oak and Elm Street residents for an income survey for a grant they are working on for the town. They will be accompanied by someone from the town as well.

Library upstairs windows  
Select Board Vice Chairman Regienus said he

received a call before the meeting about the windows on the top floor of the Woods Memorial Library leaning inwards. Elizabeth Martin said she wasn't sure if there was access to the windows from inside the attic. Select Board Member Stevens said he would contact Steve Morrell, who has worked on the library as well as a church in town about the windows.

#### ARPA Expenditure Revision

Town Administrator Jackson said she reviewed all American Rescue Plan Act expenditures and said the town should not have to return any of those funds to the Federal Government. The Select Board made several revisions. They voted to approve the spending of \$160 for Capital Strategic Solutions. They also voted to rescind \$76,246.94 for Rice Park equipment, \$9,990 from Beacon, \$9545 for outside security cameras for the Henry Woods Building,

\$1,660.60 for preparing data phones for the second floor, \$9,497 for security cameras for the interior of the Henry Woods Building, \$9,014.40 for security cameras at the Department of Public Works and \$1,030 for stone dust for the High Plains playground.

#### Appointments

The Select Board appointed Ann Meilus, Mike Perkins and Martha Petrovick to the Citizen's Committee for Right of First Refusal. They also appointed Michelle Rice to the Council on Aging.

#### Executive session

The Select Board voted to go into executive session citing MGL c.30A § 21(A) (3) "To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares." They will return from executive session to adjourn.

### DPW from page 1

at town meeting in April or May to cover the deficit.

Washburn Road plowing  
Batchelor said he and the DPW have not been plowing Washburn Road for the past

two years, other than the two entrances where residents live. He said there are no residences in the middle portion of the street, and there is no reason to use resources on the middle portion.

He said there have been

complaints from residents, and he plowed it.


Batchelor said he wants to formally close the road next winter, and that there are already multiple roads in town that are not plowed because they have no homes.


# JOIN THE TEAM!

**JP McCarthy & Sons is now hiring great van drivers to help transport the students of the Quabbin Regional School District.**


Beginning July 1, 2026, McCarthy will be adding van service to serve the District. Vanpool drivers are encouraged to apply and will get preferred assignments!

Email your interest to:  
[jobs@mccarthybus.com](mailto:jobs@mccarthybus.com)






**J.P. McCarthy & Sons**  
[www.MCCARTHYBUS.COM](http://www.MCCARTHYBUS.COM)



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Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped

- Walk to Five Islands Wharf and Ledgewood Preserve Beach
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\$1200/week

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# SUMMER CAMP

Check Out These Great Camps!

## Registration open for HCC Summer Youth Programs

It's still winter, but it's not too early to start thinking about summer.

Registration is now open for 2026 Summer Youth Programs at Holyoke Community College.

Starting July 7 and running through August 8, HCC will offer 16 week-long, in-person summer programs for youth aged 8 to 16.

For more than 40 years, HCC has offered fun, challenging summer education activities for youth, providing early opportunities for students to experience a college environment guided and encouraged by experienced professionals.

HCC's 2026 on-campus

summer youth programs run Monday through Friday, some for a full day and others for a half day.

All in-person programs will be held on the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave., except for cooking classes, which are held at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St., Holyoke:

**July 6-10:**

Cooking without Borders with Chef Marangelly Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16): In this lively hands-on camp, young chefs will team up to chop, stir, and create tasty dishes from around the world. Each day brings a new theme and a chance to dis-



cover fresh ingredients, cool cooking techniques, and the joy of working together in the kitchen. By week's end,

they'll walk away with new cooking skills, delicious recipes to show off at home, and plenty of tasty memories. (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

**Fun Bites with Chef Diana Swanigan (ages 9-16):** Join us for an exciting week of hands-on culinary fun, where young chefs will discover the joy of cooking delicious, easy-to-prepare meals to share with family and friends. Participants will work together to chop, season, cook, and taste a variety of recipes – all made from scratch. Each day introduces new menu themes, ingredients, and techniques designed to build confidence in the kitchen. (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

**July 13-17:** Cooking without Borders with Chef Marangelly Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

**Fun Bites with Chef Diana Swanigan (ages 9-16, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)**

**ROBLOX Coders (ages 8-10; 11-14):** Discover the Lua coding language while designing experiences in ROBLOX, an online universe where you can create anything you dream of. New developers will learn to use ROBLOX's Studio software to reimagine the popular game genres with their own custom code. Instructor Brittany Pietskowski. (9 a.m. to noon for ages 8-10; 1 to 4 p.m. for ages 11-14, \$199)

**July 20-24:** Around the World with Chef Diana Swanigan (ages 9-16): Cuisine around the world serves as a universal language that unites people across cultures through shared flavors, traditions, and stories. Learn to prepare full-course meals from Asia, Puerto Rico, Greece, Italy,

and New Orleans. (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

**Make Your First Video Game (ages 8-10; 11-14):** Go beyond the limitations of traditional 2D game design classes and create an immersive 3D world. Students will learn the physics behind 3D games, explore beginner event scripting, level design, controlling the flow of gameplay, and storytelling. Instructor Brittany Pietskowski. (9 a.m. – noon for ages 8-10; 1 – 4 p.m. for ages 11-14, \$199)

**Passport to Flavors with Chef Marangelly Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16):** This hands-on cooking camp takes kids on a delicious journey across global cuisines, exploring flavors, techniques, and ingredients that make each culture unique. Dive into fun daily themes like diner classics, Mexican favorites, Mediterranean feasts, Filipino street bites, and southern comfort food, all while building confidence one tasty dish at a time. (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

**July 27-31:** Around the World with

Chef Diana Swanigan (ages 9-16, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

**Minecraft Designers (ages 8-10; 11-14):** Learn how to create a custom map, design structures to share between worlds, build with Redstone and Command blocks, and create custom textures for you to import at home or share with friends. Instructor Brittany Pietskowski. (9 a.m. – noon for ages 8-10; 1 – 4 p.m. for ages 11-14, \$199)

**Passport to Flavors with Chef Marangelly Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)**

**August 3-7:** Python Programmers (ages 8-10; 11-14): Learn the world's fastest-growing programming language favored by Google, NASA, YouTube, and the CIA. Learn how to code with Python to create engaging apps and games. Instructor Brittany Pietskowski. (9 a.m. – noon for ages 8-10; 1 – 4 p.m. for ages 11-14, \$199)

For more details or to register for Summer Youth Program classes, please go to: [hcc.edu/summer-youth](http://hcc.edu/summer-youth).

# summer@HCC

## Holyoke Community College Summer Youth Programs for Ages 8-16

Save your spot and register today for summer fun!

**July 27-31,** Minecraft Designers (ages 8-10, 11-14)  
**August 3-7,** Python Programmers (ages 8-10, 11-14)  
**July 20-24,** Make Your First Video Game (ages 8-10, 11-14)  
**July 13-17,** ROBLOX Coders (ages 8-10, 11-14)  
**July 6-10 and 13-17,** Fun Bites with Chef Swanigan (ages 9-16)  
**July 20-24 and 27-31,** Around the world with Chef Swanigan (ages 9-16)  
**July 6-10 and 13-17,** Cooking without Borders with Chef Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16)  
**July 20-24 and 27-31,** Passport to Flavors with Chef Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16)

**HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Check out our adult enrichment courses, too! [hcc.edu/bcs](http://hcc.edu/bcs)

### Greene Acres Equestrian Center L.L.C.

**2026 Summer Riding Sessions**  
 June 29 - July 3 • July 20 - July 24  
 August 10 - August 14 • August 24-28

9AM - 3PM LUNCH NOT PROVIDED

Basic Horse Care, Daily Riding, English & Western, Ages 5 & up

Call to Register (413) 813-9291  
 53 Ware Road, Belchertown  
 Email: [Amanda.greeneacres@gmail.com](mailto:Amanda.greeneacres@gmail.com)

### Girl Scout Camp For All Girls!

DAY & OVERNIGHT

[www.gscwm.org](http://www.gscwm.org)

## Belchertown Kidz Club

TODDLER • PRESCHOOL • SCHOOL AGE  
 Offering Flexible Care Programs For Kids Ages 15 mo. - 12 yrs.  
 Open 7:00 a.m.-5:30\* p.m. / MONDAY - FRIDAY  
 Both Full Time & Sibling Discounts

**NOW ENROLLING FOR SPRING/SUMMER/FALL PROGRAMS**

**KIDZ SUMMER PROGRAM/K-6TH GRADE**  
 Ages 5 - 12 yrs. • JUNE 22ND-AUGUST 21ST  
 9 Weeks • Full & Part Time Options/Single Weeks or All Summer!  
 Swimming • Field Trips • Close walk to Playgrounds & CHCS Pool  
 Daily Creative & Educational Indoor/Outdoor Activities!  
 \*Start of camp based on Belchertown School Schedule

**BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE**  
 K-6th Grade • Full & Part-Time • Homework Support  
 School Bus Pick Up & Drop Off • Indoor & Outdoor Activities

**PRESCHOOL** Year round program for Ages 3-5 yrs.  
 Full & Part Time • Choose from Full Day or 3/4 Day Options  
 Creative Educational Kindergarten Readiness Curriculum

**TODDLER/YOUNG PRE-K** Year round program for Ages 15 mos.-3 yrs.  
 Choice of Full Day 7:00-5:00 or 3/4 day option 8:30-2:30  
 Come Grow, Learn, and Play!

**4 Stadler Street • (413) 323-5439** Follow Us   
[belchertownkidzclub@gmail.com](mailto:belchertownkidzclub@gmail.com) EEC LICENSED PROGRAM #177446

REGISTER FOR SIX WEEKS, GET THE SEVENTH FREE!

## BEMENT SUMMER CAMP

FOR CHILDREN ENTERING GRADES K-9  
 Campers participate in a wide variety of fun activities including arts & crafts, swimming, nature programs, hiking, and 18 enrichment themes! Lunch is included and before and after care is available!

DAY CAMP JR. DAY CAMP	ENRICHMENT CAMPS	Weekly Tuition \$350- \$500	MOUNTAIN BIKING & ADVENTURE CAMPS
--------------------------	---------------------	-----------------------------------	--

WEEK 1: JUNE 15-19  
 WEEK 2: JUNE 22-26  
 WEEK 3: JULY 6-10  
 WEEK 4: JULY 13-17  
 WEEK 5: JULY 20-24  
 WEEK 6: JULY 27-31  
 WEEK 7: AUGUST 3-7

Studio Arts & Crafts Speech & Debate Broadway at Bement Magic Behind the Music Graphic Novel Camp Little Explorers Camp Movie Magic Camp	Cross Country Camp Taylor Swift Camp Soccer Club D&D Camp Counselor in Training Soccer Camp Spanish Explorers	Game's Guild STEM Challenges! Mission Monadnock History Hunters Flag Football & More PE Games & Sports
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The Bement School  
 94 Old Main Street  
 Deerfield, MA 01342

Registration Link  
[bement.org/summer](http://bement.org/summer)

# Calendar of Events

## THURSDAY, FEB. 26

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

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

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

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

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

**PAXTON COA TRIP** through the Canadian Rockies and Pacific Northwest

## Where is this?



Turley Publications photo by Ellenor Downer

**This week's mystery photo is from Barre. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) with their answer by noon on Monday, March 2. Robert Augustine, Joyce Bousquet, Bill Bowles, Peggy Civilk, Rosemary Horan, James Laramie, Greta Scully, Carolyn Semon, Jeremy Varnum and Phillip Warbasse correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was of the Rutland Historical Society, 232 Main St., Rte. 122A, Rutland.**

will take place on Thursday, Sept. 3 through Thursday, Sept. 17. Cost is \$7,625 per person (double) includes 14 days with 20 meals, hotels and all transfers within tour; but does not include airfare and transportation to airport. Pricing for airfare and ground transportation to airport will be finalized soon, but plan for under \$1,000 per person. For more information, people may email Bill Murwin @ [whmurwin@gmail.com](mailto:whmurwin@gmail.com) or by phone at 508-756-3193.

## SATURDAY, FEB. 28

**FIRST EVER QUARTER AUCTION** sponsored by the Barre Lions Club takes place today beginning at 1 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street, Barre. The doors open at noon and the auction begins at 1 p.m. Local vendors will be on hand offering a variety of items, along with exciting raffle prizes and a super raffle for a 58-inch Hisense Roku TV. A quarter auction is a unique and affordable way to win great items. Upon entry, attendees purchase numbered paddles, one for \$3 or two for \$5. As the auc-

tion begins, each vendor presents an item and bidding is done using quarters. Each quarter represents a \$10 value. For example, a \$20 item requires two quarters. Paddle numbers are drawn at random and the matching numbered paddle wins the item. In addition to the auction, attendees can shop with local vendors, purchase raffle tickets and enter the super raffle. Snacks and beverages will be available for purchase. All proceeds support Barre Lions Club community projects in 2026, all of them local.

## MONDAY, MARCH 2

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

## THURSDAY, MARCH 5

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

## FRIDAY, MARCH 6

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

## SATURDAY, MARCH 7

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

**BEES 101** takes place today at 2 p.m. in the New Braintree Town Hall, 20 Memorial Drive, New Braintree. The New Braintree Library and Friends of the New Braintree Library welcome you to join representatives from the MA Dept of Agricultural Resources for an introductory lecture on beekeeping. This session will cover the basics of honey bee biology, hive management, seasonal care and best practices for supporting healthy pollinator populations. Ideal for beginners and the bee-curious alike. This program is free and open to the public.

## Senior Center lists events coming up in March

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** – The North Brookfield Senior Center, located at 29 Forest St., will offer the following events and activities during the month of March.

Activities include: Free Art Classes March 5 and 19 at 11 a.m.; Free Drawing Classes March 12 and 26 at 11 a.m.; Music Bingo March 16 at 10 a.m.; MassEDP Presentation March 17 at

11 a.m.; St. Patrick's Day Lunch by Tri Valley (sing up required) March 17 at noon; Ed Spater Medicare Specialist drop in hours March 24 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Bemis Nursery Workshop (sign up required) March 23 at 1 p.m.; and Hip Hop Square Dance sponsored by the North Brookfield Cultural Council March 24 at 1:15 p.m.

## Cultural Council announced FY 26 grant awards

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** – The North Brookfield Cultural Council is pleased to announce the approved grants for fiscal year 2026.

Grants are as follows: Deborah Kirk Roberts - Introduction to Watercolor Workshop; Laura Nelson - Making Space: Conversations on Life, Death & What Matters Most, Death Literacy Programming; Timothy Van Egmond - Intergenerational Concert at the Senior Center; Quaboag Regional Middle/High School - QRMHS Performing Arts Programming; Legally Blonde, Jr.; Haston Free Public Library - Mystic Aquarium - Traveling Touch Tank, MA Horticultural Society Plantmobile Sessions, Wingmasters -

New England Birds of Prey, Fused Glass Workshop, Sourdough Starter Workshop; Worcester Winds / Pakachoag Music School- Worcester Winds Concert; The Athol Historical Society, Inc. - Uniquely Quabbin magazine; Coalition for a Healthy North Brookfield - Christmas in North Brookfield; Apple Country Radio, Inc.- WACF-LP 98.1 FM; East Quabbin Land Trust, Inc.- EQLT Story Walk at Wendemuth Meadow; Friends of the Stone Church, Inc. - Spring 2026 Concerts; and Music Dance- Rondae Drafts - Hip Hop SQUARE Dance for Seniors!

For more information about the North Brookfield Cultural Council, follow them on Facebook.

## 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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**THE BARRE GAZETTE**

is offering our local businesses an opportunity to advertise at a **SPECIAL REDUCED RATE!**

- Business profile - 250 words
- Photo - yourself employees or building

**ONLY \$275!**

This special section will run in the April 2, 2026 issue of the *Barre Gazette*.

**AD DEADLINE: March 18, 2026**

Quarter page ad with story (4.75x6) \$275  
 Half page ad with story (9.75x6) \$460  
 Full page ad with story (9.75x13) \$650

**Fidelity Bank**  
Celebrating 20 years of LifeDesign

At Fidelity Bank, it is part of our mission to help improve the quality of life for our clients, colleagues and our community. We strive to be the most caring bank in the community because not only do we work here, but we also live, shop, go to school and raise our families here.

This year, we are delighted to be celebrating an exciting milestone – two decades of LifeDesign! For 20 years, our unique LifeDesign approach has been helping individuals and businesses reach their financial goals with care, clarity, and confidence.

With our LifeDesign approach, you get the clarity you need to make sound financial decisions, so you feel confident knowing you're getting where you want to be.

Our 4-step C.A.R.E process is how we deliver LifeDesign. We start with understanding where you are, and together we explore where you want to go. Then, we recommend solutions that can help you accomplish your goals. Just like that smart friend who always seems to know what to do, we will help you make sound decisions for you, your business and your family.

Even though we are a bank, with all the rules and regulations, we stay focused on the individual's needs and wants, not just policies and programs. Because while the economy is ever-changing, while interest rates fluctuate, the need to feel heard, connected and understood is eternally present in all of us. It has always been there and it always will be there. So will LifeDesign.

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## Panthers pick up win over Narragansett

BARRE – Last Tuesday evening, the Quabbin Regional High School girls basketball team picked up a victory, defeating rival Narragansett 45-26 in a nonplayoff matchup. The Panthers had more game to play the following night against Monty Tech.

Aubrey Thorpe tries to come up with a rebound.



Mia Ducos sends a pass toward the corner.



The defense sets up for the Panthers.



Abby Rogowski holds the ball away from the opposition.



Izzy Doty tries to steal the rebound away.



Milcalia Ayala looks for a layup.

## Indians lose regular season finale

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Last Tuesday evening, North Brookfield girls basketball suffered a defeat against the Collegiate Charter School of Lowell 62-37 in the final regular season game. The Indians finished the season with overall record of 11-6 and are scheduled to play in the preliminary round of the Division 5 state tournament this week.



Olivia Holmes passes out of the paint.



Kalyn Roy travels down the court.



Sophie Dufresne attempts a shot.



Sophia Giangrande tries to secure the ball.

## Registration for Pioneer Valley Baseball opens

SOUTH HADLEY – The Pioneer Valley Baseball League, an adult baseball league for players who are age 18 and over, has just opened up its registration for the 2026 season.

The adult league will be administered by the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, and a registration link is on the home page of the league's website www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. Thought it will be under the Quabbin umbrella, there will be no major changes in how the league is operated.

This year, the PVBL will have a 22-game regular season schedule followed by a double-elimination playoffs. The league, which had five teams last year and had to utilize multiple byes throughout the season, will be fielding a sixth team this season.

There are several spots open for that sixth team, so

players interested in joining the league should get signed up as soon as possible to claim a spot.

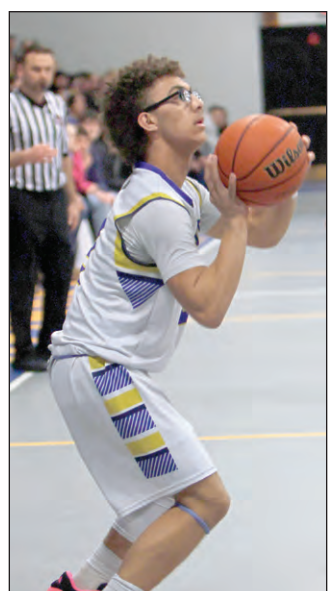
The league is a wood-bat only league utilizing playing under regular baseball rules though all players do bat. The league operates on a Saturday-Tuesday schedule. Games are played on Saturday mornings with 10 a.m. starts typical and on Tuesday evenings with start times in the 5:30 to 6 p.m. range. The league will start play in late April and running through the end of August. There are slots open for both full-time players and part-time players. The fee for full-time players will be \$260 with part-time players getting up to 11 games for \$130. Fees paid go toward the operation of the league, paying for insurance, umpires,

See PVBL page 10

## Pioneers edged by Franklin Tech in final home game

PALMER – On Thursday, Feb. 12, Pathfinder Tech boys basketball was in non-playoff action and faced Franklin Tech and fell 53-49. Pathfinder got off to a slower start, trailing 16-9 early. They came back slowly and nearly

pulled off the win, but came up just short. Cassian Kowalik had 28 points to lead all scorers in the game. Dayne Shoney scored eight points. Pathfinder had one final nonplayoff game last week, also against Franklin Tech.



Dustyn Cook prepares to shoot a three-pointer.



Cayden Bousquet calls out a play as he crosses midcourt.



Cassian Kowalik gets ready to shoot.



Maddox Baer inches toward the hoop.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

# Sports

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www.turleysports.com
facebook.com/turleysports

## Turleysports



### Athlete of the Month

**NAME: Abby Rogowski**  
**SCHOOL: Quabbin**

In a matchup earlier this month with Littleton, Rogowski had a double-double with 17 points and 15 rebounds.

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

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### Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

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59					60									
62					63									

**CLUES ACROSS**

1. What travelers must do
5. Calendar month
8. Hopefully quickly
12. Once more
14. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
15. "Cheers" actress Perlman
16. Astronomy unit
18. Savings vehicle
19. Get your ducks in this
20. Right away
21. Popular sports league
22. Containers
23. Entireties
26. One who wassails
30. Turned-up position
31. Extreme modesty
32. Writing utensil
33. Rewards (archaic)

34. Ancient capital
39. S. American wood sorrel
42. General discomfort
44. Philippine island
46. A witty saying
47. One who summarizes
49. Covered in
50. Mimic
51. Henry was a notable one
56. Daughter of Hera and Zeus
57. Retired NFLer
58. Playground equipment
59. Concept
60. Satisfaction
61. Fishing net
62. Hammer end
63. A father's male child

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Off-Broadway figure
2. Gelatinous substance
3. Concern
4. "Lick It Up" rockers
5. Serbian river
6. Part of a hat
7. Bowl-shaped drinking vessel
8. Semitic language
9. Utter a shrill cry
10. Long times
11. Animal parts
13. Causing annoyance
17. Amorous talker
24. Attempt
25. Harmonic effects
26. Cost per mile
27. They \_\_\_
28. Bitterly regret
29. Not even
35. A way to drop

36. Title of respect
37. World leader
38. Georgia rockers
40. National capital
41. Great Plains people
42. Duck-sized dinosaur genus
43. Architectural recesses
44. Member of U.S. Navy
45. Mountainous
47. Kite bird
48. Sweetheart (archaic)
49. Popular snack made of potato
52. 70s songsters The Bee \_\_\_
53. SE China port \_\_\_ - men
54. Something to fill up
55. League of Legends character

ANSWERS ON PAGE 12

## Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

### Bondsville League

WARE – Week 23 of the Wednesday night Bondsville League is now complete and has a new #1 seed.

Sandri pulled ahead of the pack and is now in first place with a record of 97-64, just half a point ahead of Fire Mountain (96.5-64.5). The league will wrap up in March following two weeks of play-off matches.

During week 23, Zeke's Freaks bowled against Team UMass. In game one, Team UMass was the winner by a score of 453-434. In game two, Team UMass won again by a score of 497-486. Zeke Sicard of Zeke's Freaks had a good game of 107.

In game three, Zeke's Freaks won by a score of 498-454. Sicard had another good game of 106. The final score was 1418-1404 in favor of Zeke's Freaks.

Flaming Bowling Balls bowled against Fire Mountain this past week. In game one, Flaming Bowling Balls squeezed out the win, 450-447.

In game two, Flaming Bowling Balls won again by a score of 502-489. Ryan McCarthy was the hero of the team with 126.

The final game was won

by Flaming Bowling Balls, 472-466. The final score was 1424-1402 in favor of Flaming Bowling Balls.

Night Hawks and Ironmen of the eastern division bowled against each other during week 23. In game one, Night Hawks reigned supreme by a score of 454-400. Gavin Sinclair of Night Hawks began the match with 125.

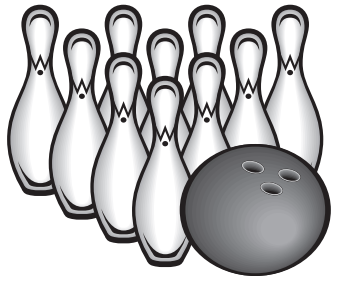
In game two, Ironmen won by a score of 479-470. Ryan Drago of Ironmen regained the lead with two spares and a strike in his back half to score 141. Sinclair remained consistent and scored another 125.

In game three, Night Hawks held on to a slim lead and defeated Ironmen 440-434. The final score was 1364-1313 in favor of Night Hawks.

Snappers bowled against the Cannonballs in week 23. In game one, Micah Hinkley scored 116 during his team's victory over Snappers, 470-468. Kevin Krasnecky had a strong start with an opening game of 130.

In game two, Snappers won by a score of 456-442. Eddie Stachowicz of Snappers had the highest game of 105, the same game he scored in game one.

In game three, Snappers defeated Cannonballs by a score of 450-423. Stachowicz finished the match with 109



and a series of 319. The final score was 1374-1335 in favor of the Snappers.

Sandri bowled against Slow Burners during week 23. In game one, Sandri put up some high scores and won, 511-442. Brandon Lane of Sandri had the highest game of 131 and Nate Orszulak of Slow Burners had the highest score of 119.

In game two, Sandri won again by a score of 486-482. Rich Picotte of Sandri scored 116 and Dean Koczur of Slow Burners had the highest score of game two, 130.

In game three, Sandri won for a three-game sweep over Slow Burners, 446-432. Picotte finished with a 104 and a three-game series of 329. The final score was 1443-1356 in favor of Sandri.

Spare Parts Bud bowled against P&J Meats. In game one, Spare Parts Bud won by a score of 461-456. In game two, Spare Parts Bud won by a score of 459-417. Game three was won by Spare Parts Bud by a score of 511-455.

The final score was 1431-1328 in favor of Spare Parts Bud, who move to fourth place with a record of 84-77.

## T-Birds come up with win in shootout with Isles

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (19-25-4-2) rode a turbulent night to an eventual 5-4 shootout win over the Bridgeport Islanders (21-21-3-4) on Friday night inside the MassMutual Center.

Unlike their last contest on Wednesday, the T-Birds and their opposition had a much slower start to the night offensively, with a scoreless struggle carrying late into the first. Thomas Bordeleau finally broke the ice at 14:54, winning a draw and darting to the right wing circle and rifling home a feed from Calle Rosen to give Springfield a 1-0 advantage. Just 1:16 later, and less than half a minute into their first power play of the night, the T-Birds built a cushion as Chris Wagner jammed a loose puck through the legs of Marcus Hogberg from the blue paint to make it 2-0. Bridgeport's power play provided a response at 19:05 when Julien Gauthier intercepted a loose puck deep in the offensive zone before sifting a forehand over Vadim Zherenko to

make it a 2-1 game into the first intermission. Zherenko proved to be pivotal in the second,



especially when he made a lurching post-to-post skate save on Matt Maggio to keep his team in front. Later in the same sequence of play, Matt Luff hit Alek Kaskimaki on a 2-on-1 pass, and Kaskimaki picked the glove-side corner on Hogberg, making it 3-1 for Springfield at 6:53 of the second. Down 3-1 heading into the third, the Islanders turned the game upside-down in the span of just over six minutes. After Springfield killed two straight Islander power plays, Hunter Drew finally got Bridgeport's second goal of the night at 5:02, moments after Hogberg kept

Springfield from goals on two straight odd-man rushes. Liam Foudy followed Drew's lead with a sneaky wrist shot from the left side at 8:42, tying the score at 3 before

Pierrick Dube got a fortuitous bounce in the slot and whistled a shot over Zherenko's blocker at 11:31 to get Bridgeport its first lead of the night, 4-3. In desperate need of a momentum shifter, Hugh McGing delivered just that for Springfield, crashing the low slot area and firing a forehand over a fallen Hogberg at 14:28 off a centering pass from Juraj Pekarcik. For a fourth time in 10 meetings, overtime was needed between the clubs, and for a third time, it reached the shootout. Bordeleau put his stamp on the night with a gorgeous backhand deke to beat Hogberg in the opening round. Zherenko then stood his ground and made three successive saves on Adam Beckman, Gauthier, and Dube to secure Springfield's first shootout triumph of the season.

### PVBL from page 9

fields, and baseballs and no one profits in any way.

In addition to the new sixth team, there are limited open roster spots on the other teams in the league, so get

your registration in as soon as possible to participate in this season.

Games are played at ballfields throughout the region from as far south as Southwick's Whalley Field, through South Hadley's Beachgrounds and up north

at Frontier Regional High School in South Deerfield.

For any questions, please go to the league website for more information. The league hopes interested players will come out and join the fun this spring and summer.

## Now Hiring!

### Advertising Sales Representative

▶ Do you want to work in your community helping local businesses connect with their customers?

▶ If so, then join our team! Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers and supplements. The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

▶ You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

▶ Do you want a career supporting local journalism, which tells the unique stories of our communities?

Send resume & cover letter to:

Jamie Joslyn  
24 Water Street  
Palmer, MA 01069  
Email: jamie@turley.com

Turley Publications is a locally owned family business, offers a competitive commission structure, 401k, and health plan.

## Church News

# Local pastors offer sermons

### Promises of Christ Part 3

We do well to consider the promises of Christ.

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

Matthew 16:13-18 (NIV)

13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

14 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter and on this rock I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."

Let us unpack the promise of Christ posited in verse 18b:

1) On This Rock

What "rock" is Jesus referring to? It would be easy to assume that Peter was said rock, for his name means "rock or stone." Yet a closer examination of the text leads to a more fitting interpretation (one that best aligns with the whole of the Word). There is some interesting wordplay happening in the underlying Greek language herein. The name Peter does mean "rock or stone," but specifically a small stone or pebble. That is, the type you might take in your hand to cast. However, the word employed by Jesus means a large foundational boulder or rock formation. This points well beyond the likes of Simon Peter.

So what is the foundation for the Church? The best answer seems to be that the foundation for the Church of Christ is the inspired confession that came through Simon Peter. Namely, the Church is built upon the profession of Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the Living God. What binds believers together throughout space and time? Not Simon Peter, certainly. Rather, it is the reality of who and what Jesus is for both time and eternity. This perspective comports best with biblical literature:

Acts 4:11-12 [Peter Speaking]

11 "Jesus is 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone' [lit. the foundational stone laid at the corner of a building to provide structural support, stability, and direction for all other stones cf. Psa. 118:22]. 12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

2) I Will

This point is brief but meaningful. A promise is only as good as the one making it. If Jesus is faithful and true, and He is, then His promise shall come to pass. He shall fulfill what He has purposed or obliged Himself to do. There is no force in heaven, earth or hell that can ultimately thwart His divine intention. He will build His church.

3) Build

The underlying Greek term herein has to do with erecting a home or a structure. In the same way that

a carpenter might build a home, the Lord Jesus is fashioning for Himself His Church. That is, He is making for Himself a unique dwelling-place in the earth. To what degree is the Lord Jesus truly "at home" in our congregations? How about in our lives and our hearts?

4) My

What does this indicate but that the Church of Christ, individually and collectively, belongs to Him. Consider this selection:

1 Peter 2:9-10

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

5) Church

This is the first time in Scripture the term "church" is used. This does not point to a series of buildings or a denomination. Rather, it speaks, literally, to a "called out assembly." Quite simply, the Church is the assembly of all believers, throughout space and time, who have been called out of the sinfulness of our world to life by faith in the gospel of Christ. Note again:

1 Peter 2:9-10

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

6) Gates of Hades

To what degree is Christ able to keep His word? Does He have the power to accomplish His purpose? In response, consider that He proclaimed that the gates of Hades would not overcome His work. Biblically, Hades is the Greek term for the place of departed spirits and the abode of the dead.

What is the gate or point of entry into the realm of the dead? Death. Thus, He is saying that the power(s) of death would prove powerless against His labor in building His Church. Death could not keep Him. It shall not keep those who trust in Him. In the end, death will be defeated and He will prove utterly victorious.

Thank you for taking the time to read this publication. Should you have any comments or questions, feel free to contact me at your leisure using the information below.

Also, feel free to check us out online at [www.NewLifeBarre.org](http://www.NewLifeBarre.org) or visit 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

### Transfiguration Sunday

"May the Glory of God  
come upon us."

**Scripture Reading:**  
Exodus 24 v 12 - 18 and  
Matthew 17 v 1-9

I. Introduction

While preparing the sermon on Christ's transfiguration atop the mountain, I began reflecting on people in our midst who might be experiencing loneliness, sadness, illness or financial hardship.

I was thinking of close

friends and acquaintances, who are all dealing with significant loss simultaneously this week. There was the passing of a mother and her granddaughter, who suffered severe heart issues and is on life support; the ending of a loving relationship between two people, and the pain of another, who expressed the difficulty of dealing with all the challenges in our world today.

She believed that, aside from her church, there are few sources offering her a strong foundation or a sense of stability. I faced the fragility and tenderness of human life this past week and saw the need for connection, support, peace and love. I was reminded of the power and glory of God that transcend human suffering, and that God is always ready to help us during difficult times.

II. May the Glory of God come upon us

When Moses responded to God's call to leave the people behind whom he was leading and go up the mountain to meet with God, I sensed in him the weight he carried of being a leader leading his flock and how much they needed his teaching and guidance and prayers. But God needed him to walk up Mount Sinai and see the Glory of God. He would not see God immediately. Instead, he had to wait six days in front of a cloud in which God resided and on the seventh day he was invited into the temple of God's glory, where he would receive the word of God to give to the people of God.

These would not just be laws they had to obey, but the deep meaning of God's words that would shape them as human beings. Moses transitioned from the realm of human limitation, imperfection and vulnerability to a domain characterized by divine authority and radiance.

This is the same Moses who, together with Elijah, joined Jesus on the mountain and witnessed the extraordinary manifestation of God's presence and power. They encountered the amazing transformation of Jesus, the Teacher, into Jesus the Son of God, filled with the Kingdom of God. A voice from the heavens, the voice from God, declared to those present, including the disciples, that this was God's Son, in whom God is well pleased and instructed them to listen to Him. The three disciples would be witnesses of this life changing event with God, with Christ

III. Conclusion

Everyone experiences moments of loneliness, and many have personal struggles with pain and loss that they continue to carry. This is part of the human experience; at times it is positive, while at other times it may be less so. As I am thinking about those in their pain and loss, I am so grateful that God did not just send God's Son into this world as a human being with no power and no glory. God gave Him the glory and the power from God to spread the Good News to those He encountered, to heal the sick, forgive the sinners and embrace the foreigners. The power and glory of God come over all of us, because this is who God is! God gives to everyone the love and care and hope that we need. So, when we come to God in and through all circumstances, we must remember that God had already met up with Moses and all those who came before us,

See **SERMONS** page 12

## Obituaries

### Paul J. Sullivan, 84

BRATTLEBORO, VT – Paul J. Sullivan, 84, of Black Mountain Road, a longtime resident of town, died Sunday afternoon, Feb. 15, 2026 at Cheshire Medical Center following a lengthy illness and extended period of declining health.

Paul was born in Worcester, Massachusetts on Jan. 29, 1942, the son of the late Walter F. and Mary G. (Molloy) Sullivan. He was raised and educated in Barre, Massachusetts, attended local schools and graduated from Barre High School with the Class of 1961.



Following graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Army serving during the Cuban Missile Crisis and stationed in Washington State. Following his honorable discharge from active service, he returned home and attended the New England School of Accounting where he graduated with high honors.

He worked his entire career as a CPA beginning in Worcester, MA.

After relocating to Brattleboro in the early 1970s he secured a position with Blake Edwards & Co. which later became Livingston & Hayes and then Joseph Pieciak & Company, all of Brattleboro.

Paul later owned and operated his own accounting business based downtown and then out of his home in Brattleboro for over thirty years.

Fraternally, he was a long-time member of the B.P.O. Elks, Brattleboro Lodge #1499 and also held membership in the VFW.

Of his leisure time activities, he enjoyed golf and was a member of the Brattleboro Country Club. Additionally, he enjoyed fishing, camping

and skiing in his younger years and time shared with his family and close friends.

On Dec. 30, 1961, Paul married his high school sweetheart, Carol Jean Gulino of Barre. They raised four children while living in Barre and Chesterfield, New Hampshire. Paul later married Patricia Jane Cobb of Brattleboro, Vermont. The couple exchanged wedding vows on Nov. 15, 1974. They shared a very happy life together until Pat passed away on Feb. 17, 2019.

Survivors include his three children, Craig Sullivan of Worcester, Mark Sullivan and his wife Diana of Barre, and Laurie Ann Ward and her husband Paul of Georgia; three step-children, Kelley Aither and Mark Jameson of Brattleboro, Todd Aither and his wife Maureen of Brattleboro and Martin Aither of Winter Park, Colorado and one brother, Robert J. Sullivan of Worcester. Additionally, he leaves five grandchildren, one great-grandson, and several nieces, nephews and cousins, especially Maureen Ann Listro of Florida and Keagan Jameson of Brattleboro.

Paul was predeceased by a son, Michael P. Sullivan and two sisters, Geraldine A. O'Connor and Sheila E. Sullivan.

In keeping with his final wishes, there are no formal funeral services scheduled.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in his name may be made to the Silver Towers Camp, in care of the Brattleboro Lodge of Elks, P.O. Box 8051, Brattleboro, VT 05304-5101.

To share a memory or offer condolences to Paul's family, please visit [www.atamaniuk.com](http://www.atamaniuk.com).

### DEATH NOTICES

**Sullivan, Paul J.**  
Died Feb. 15, 2026  
No formal funeral service

**Thorng, Matthew D.**  
Died Feb. 9, 2026  
Calling hour Feb. 28 from 9-11 a.m. at Pillsbury Funeral Home, South Barre Road, Barre Funeral Mass Feb. 28 at 11:30 a.m.  
St. Francis of Assisi Church, Vernon Avenue, South Barre

### Barre Gazette OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

**Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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

### Matthew D. Thorng, 67

BARRE - Matthew D. Thorng, 67, of Barre and Spencer, passed away on Monday, Feb. 9, 2026 in Spencer.

He was born in Holden, on Sept. 12, 1958 to the late George and Dolores (Franciose) Thorng. Matt is survived by his significant other, Maria Thompson and his siblings, William "Chuck" Thorng, George Thorng, Nancy Spinney, Eric Thorng and many nieces and nephews.

Matt was retired and last worked at C & C Pools in Barre. He loved the out-

doors including hiking, skiing, rafting, fishing, boating, the beach, walnut gathering, mushroom hunting and camping. He and his cousin once climbed Mt. Rainer.

"Wrinkles will only go where the smiles have been."  
- Jimmy Buffet

The funeral for Matthew will be held on Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. in St. Francis of Assisi Church, Vernon Avenue, South Barre.



A calling hour will be held from 9-11 a.m. in Pillsbury Funeral Home, 96 South Barre Road, Barre prior to the Mass.

Burial will be in the spring in Evergreen Cemetery in New Braintree. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in his name to: ALSAC/ Saint Jude's Children's Research Hospital 501 St Jude Place, Memphis TN 38105.

## Public Notices

### BARRE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Barre Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Henry Woods Municipal Selectmen Meeting Room, 1st Floor, 40 West Street, Barre, MA requested by Insight Meditation Society, Inc. for a variance from the maximum height requirement for properties in the R-80 zoning district and the minimum parking requirements of the Zoning Bylaw in connection with the construction and development of a retreat center building (the "New Retreat Center") and three duplex cottages (the "New Teacher Housing") (collectively, the "New Buildings") located on Pleasant Street, two parcels. Assessors Map B-107A and a 3.23 acre portion of B-90. Recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Books 54612, 18293, Pages 48 (B-107A), 157 (B-90) consecutively. Plan can be reviewed by contacting the Boards' Office.

Anyone wishing to comment on this matter should attend the hearing or submit comments in writing prior to the hearing to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Henry Woods Building, 40 West Street - Suite 5, Barre, MA, [barreboards@townofbare.com](mailto:barreboards@townofbare.com) or contact the Boards' Office at 978-355-2504 ext. 8. 02/26, 03/05/2026

**PUBLIC AUCTION  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN  
PURSUANT  
TO THE PROVISIONS OF  
M.L.C. 225 SEC.39A  
THE FOLLOWING  
VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD  
ON February 28, 2026.  
AT A SALE TO  
SATISFY OUR GARAGE  
LIEN THEREON  
FOR TOWING & STORAGE  
CHARGES AND EXPENSES  
OF SALE AND NOTICE:**

2016 Mercedes-Benz C-Class  
VIN 55SWF4JB7GU140041  
2015 Subaru Forester  
VIN JF2SJABC1FH437794  
2006 Honda Civic  
VIN 1HGFA16896L042833

2011 Chrysler 300  
VIN 2C3CA5CG6BH545980  
2009 Volkswagen Tiguan  
VIN WVGBV75N09W529770  
2019 Jeep Compass  
VIN 3C4NJDDB7KT733089  
2008 Audi A6  
VIN WAUDV74F68N013776  
2000 BMW 7 Series  
VIN WBAGH8341YDP14855  
**The sale will be held at  
Early's on Park Avenue  
536 Park Avenue,  
Worcester, MA 01603  
02/12, 02/19, 02/26/2026**

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
NOTICE TO COMMERCIAL  
TIMBER OPERATORS**  
The Dept. of Conservation & Recreation, Division of Water Supply Protection, is offering for sale standing timber and cordwood located on the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs and Ware River Watershed. For details, contact the Water Supply Protection Division Office on or before March 9, 2026, at 857-274-7090. 02/26/2026

# Public Safety

## New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Feb. 2-9, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 15 building/property checks, 27 directed/area patrols, three radar assignments, two traffic controls, nine emergency 911 calls, one scam, two citizen assists, two assist other agencies, two motor vehicle accidents, one chimney fire, one animal call and one motor vehicle stop in the town of New Braintree.

### Monday, Feb. 2

9:12 a.m. Assist Citizen, North Brookfield Road, Referred to Other Agency  
 1:24 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Ravine Road, No Action Required  
 10:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, North Brookfield Road, Removed Hazard

### Tuesday, Feb. 3

1:08 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Moore Road, Officer Handled

### Wednesday, Feb. 4

1:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ravine Road, Written Warning

### Thursday, Feb. 5

11:12 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled  
 11:26 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled  
 3:31 p.m. Scam, Worcester Road, Officer Handled

### Friday, Feb. 6

5:17 a.m. Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Patient Refusal  
 9:47 a.m. 911 Fire/Chimney, West Road, Extinguished  
 9:58 p.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, Unitas Road, Officer Handled

### Saturday, Feb. 7

2:45 a.m. Medical Emergency, Barre Road, Patient Refusal  
 8:51 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital  
 9:55 a.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, West Brookfield Road, Officer Handled

### Sunday, Feb. 8

12:55 p.m. 911 Notification, Old Common Road, No Action Required

During the week of Feb. 9-16, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 17 building/property checks, 35 directed/area patrols, nine radar assignments, two traffic controls, five emergency 911 calls, one safety hazard, three citizen assists, one disturbance, one animal call and nine motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

### Monday, Feb. 9

9:35 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Unitas Road, Spoken To  
 10:27 p.m. 911 Suspicious

Activity, West Brookfield Road, Services Rendered

### Tuesday, Feb. 10

10:49 a.m. Assist Citizen, West Brookfield Road, Spoken To  
 5:25 p.m. Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Patient Refusal  
 10:47 p.m. Safety Hazard, Town Wide, Dispatch Handled

### Wednesday, Feb. 11

12:22 a.m. Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Patient Refusal  
 3:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning  
 8:55 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Served in Hand

### Friday, Feb. 13

2:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning  
 3:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning

### Saturday, Feb. 14

4:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning  
 10:51 p.m. Disturbance, Dennis Whitney Road, Transported to Hospital

### Sunday, Feb. 15

12:23 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Spoken To  
 1:39 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Dennis Whitney Road, Arrest(s) Made

### Friday, Feb. 13

6:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Main Street, Investigated  
 8:25 a.m. 911 Medical Alarm, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital

### Saturday, Feb. 14

11:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Written Warning  
 1:26 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Barre Road, Citation Issued  
 3:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 3:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

### Sunday, Feb. 15

11:50 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Prospect Street, Patient Refusal  
 7:50 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Hardwick Road, No Action Required

## Hardwick Police Log

During the week of Feb. 9-16, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 84 building/property checks, 36 directed/area patrols, nine radar assignments, eight traffic controls, six emergency 911 calls, one citizen assist, two assist other agencies, two complaints, one safety hazard, two motor vehicle investigations, one fire, one burglary, one harassment, one motor vehicle accident, one animal call and 19 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

### Monday, Feb. 9

8:33 a.m. Fire/Other, Church Lane, Investigated  
 7:08 p.m. 911 Burglary/Breaking and Entering, Main Street, Report Taken

### Tuesday, Feb. 10

2:03 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Main Street, Officer

Handled  
 10:26 a.m. Complaint, Main Street, Officer Handled  
 11:06 a.m. Assist Other Agency, High Street, Officer Handled  
 4:19 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Main Street, Negative Contact  
 9:01 p.m. Assist Citizen, Ridge Road, Services Rendered  
 9:52 p.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, Main Street, Negative Contact  
 10:46 p.m. Safety Hazard, Town Wide, Dispatch Handled

### Wednesday, Feb. 11

12:51 a.m. Medical Emergency, Upper Church Street, Transported to Hospital

### Thursday, Feb. 12

3:02 a.m. Parking Complaint, Main Street, Written Warning  
 12:09 p.m. Harassment, Joslyn Road, Spoken To

# Education

## Quabbin Middle School lists honor roll

BARRE – Quabbin Middle School announces the second quarter honor roll.

### Sixth grade high honors

Sixth grade students making high honors are: Moriah Baxter, Elias Bellemer, Ella Bourgeois, Casey Coates, Troy Corbett, Clayton Cranston, Nolan Cronk, Kayla Despres, Ralph DiBenedetto, Joshua Doherty, Derek Ferreira, Rose Fleming, Logan Grandmaison, Annabelle Ickler, Aria Jackson, Jase Johnson, Abigail Kaijaia, Kylee Lomastro, Thendara Magario, Richard May, Sage Morin, Owen Nally, Avery Phelps, Nathaniel Putelis, Jacob Rigney, Aubree Roseberry, Sophia Serrano, Jorja Thorpe, Emma Tyler, Richard Valcourt, Irelyn Venne and Luna Yules.

### Sixth grade honors

Sixth grade students making honors are: Caiden Ahearn, Lia Aiesi, Bella Arriola, Leona Barre, Aubree Barreto, Starlee Bisceglia, Danica Bjorklund, Edgar Blanchard, Makayla Boos, Audrey Breault, Emily Conway, Autumn Dahn, Hudson D'Amato, Charlotte Daniels, Riley Depasquale, Milena DeSouza, Elise Flores de Oliveira, Mckinley Ford, Andrew Gingras, Riley Greene, David Groner, Skylar Heyes, Michael Hicks, Brady Holmes, Laine Jenkins, Byran Jones, Mason Kazanovicz, Juliette Leger, Mia Longtin, Evelyn Lord, Annabelle Mazyck, Scarlett McDonald, Liam McKenzie, Logan McManaman, Chase McQueston, Anna Medine, Jonah Melad, Olivia Mellor, Tonseth Miller, Aria Missildine, Julia Montague, Valkyrie Moore, Tyler Nadeau, Hunter

Nagle, Kelsey Nickson, Marjorie O'Connor, Penny Ouimette, Harris Paakkonen, Ivy Packard, Dylan Potter, Sadie Russell, Deklan Sampson, Raymond Seitz-Lagrang, Vincent Stark, Jaide Stillman, Tristan Tesell, Andrei Timofeev, Elias Tolman and Katara Tran.

### Seventh grade high honors

Seventh grade students making high honors: Ayla Clark, John Cook, Anna Coomey, Matthew Flamand, Maia Flint, Davin Goodwin, Lincoln Graves, Brady Malin, Kayla McHugh, Theodore Minton, Nolan O'Connor, Ximena Palomera-Espinoza, Liam Shaw, Alonzo White and Joseph Youngstrom.

### Seventh grade honors

Seventh grade students making honors: Nevaeh Andrews, Prince Asare, Asher Baker, Julianna Bienvenu, Ava Blancato, Jacob Blanchard, Talasyn Boissoneau, Aleksander Bonenfant, Garrett Boos, Colton Brooks, Vincent Broten, Jaysen Cassano, Josie Castell, Cameron Charpentier, Charley Chauvin, Ryan Colgate, Hannah Cutler, Joey DeMalia, Ethan Donaldson, Hannah Dube, Pipsissewa DuBois, Mason Ferguson, Andrew Fuller, Addyson Garceau, Alexander Girouard, Colby Hill, Madilyn Houle, Jack Johnson, Ryan LaRange, Walker Larson, Maishao Lee, Carter Majoy, Adalyn McHugh, Sawyer Minton, Adelaide Moeller, Annaleigh Moncoeur, Magnum Rivera, Hazel Serra, Weston Stukuls Barrieau, Brayden Surprenant, Landon Swindlehurst, Kenzie Thorpe, Regan Toohill, Hana Mae Tousignant,

Easton Vayo, Anthony Wade, Everett Weisman and Brady White.

### Eighth grade high honors

Eighth grade students making high honors are: Harrison Ashton, Saylor Bissonnette, Julia Blanchard, Winter Boyea, Eliza Brown, Joyce Brown, Emily DeMalia, Brody Despres, Maria Hamm, Nolan Herrick, Aimee Ickler, Evelyn Johnson, Pele Johnson, Caiden Lance, Grace Lantiegne, Mathieu LeBlanc, Ava Maxim, Cameron McDonald, Madeline Omasta, Sebastian Palomera-Espinoza, Owen Pears, Evelyn Priestley, Madeleine Proulx, Lily Ryan, Andrew Scott, Hannah Shotwell, Madalyn Simons, Fiona Stevens, Baelin Sullivan, Kailyn Traynham, Katy Twarog, Maggie Ward, Elizabeth Welch and Raegyn Wnek.

### Eighth grade honors

Students making honors are: Albert Afonso, Nicholas Badwin, Addyson Barringer, Amelia Breault, Caleb Brouillet, Ashlynn Casey, Henry Corbett, Enzo Fagnoli, Addison Ford, Eden Fortier, Lucas Gaspar, Emily Johnson, Amy Landrin, Theodore Langer, Maggie Leander, Jack Leclair, Pa Huam Lee, Aiden Leger, Mackenzie Levesque, Alessandrea Lewis, Chiara Manna, Bree May, Valerie Metterville, Brayden Nadeau, Jonathan Nunes, Caleb Oliveira, Coleton Pina, Autumn Rector, Kira Roden, Maci Roseberry, Thomas Schoonmaker, Bella Spring, Bentley St. George, Eva Stasiowski, Emma Stauder, Daisy Stevens, Arina Timofeev, Lila Wilson and Skylar Wisniewski.

## SERMONS from page 10

in their own search for help and hope and transformation. But more, we must remember that Christ's Transfiguration was a gift to all of us. The Spirit of God and the Son of God want to give us hope and the reassurance that there is certainty with God, and that in our experiences of pain and suffering we have

our God who sees all of it, and through God's power and glory wants to help us, ease the pain and guide us through the valleys of life's challenges. May God help us to remember this and tell others about this gift. It is not just a gift we can't see. It is the gift that wants to make our lives here on earth more meaningful, a gift that we must share with our neighbors, with those whom we dis-

agree with, and share it widely, so that the Glory of God's Kingdom would be seen and felt and experienced in our world. May the Glory of God come upon us. God bless us all.

Amen

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

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE from page 1

estimate for the cost of special education services was in a "few percentage points" of his calculations.

"I've been in special education now for two decades and I don't understand how its possible to provide special education services to our high school at such a significantly discounted rate as we do and every school district in the state does as well," he said. "The calculation that we did was appropriate and it was inline with what we were given verbally, but I have yet to be given a written methodology of how those costs would be calculated."

Baldassarre said the Quabbin Regional School District proposal tells them "almost to the penny" how

much special education services would cost the school district.

He also shared concerns about the school district having to pay for special education services at the discretion of another school district.

School Committee Vice-Chair Tim Canada said the reason the task force looked at tuition agreements with other school district was due to financial reasons. He said the cost of special education services is part of the big picture.

He said he was in support of regionalization when it came up, but he didn't feel comfortable entering into a tuition agreement contract and closing the high school. He said the town as a whole, needs to "buy-in" to the school district and support

and promote it.

"The kids should feel like the town has their back when they're in this school; not that they are a burden to the town," Canada said.

Giangrande said she does not feel comfortable taking away educational choices from the families of North Brookfield by entering into a tuition agreement. She said the financial savings to the town are also less than expected.

Superintendent Timothy McCormick spoke of the need to create a strategic plan to bring the North Brookfield Public Schools "to the next level."

Grant said the school district also needs to communicate with the town in order to move forward. He said they need to develop a solid plan to boost enrollment and help the school district to thrive.

"We just have to figure out what path, and what's realistic," he said.

### Public comment

Deb Arnold spoke about the 2011 educational task force report. She served on the committee with three other residents.

She said it took a year to research and create the report, at the Board of Selectmen's request.

"I think you're coming to some of the same conclusions," Arnold said to the School Committee.

Arnold said they need a vision and a plan to move

forward positively.

Student Dante Giangrande said the opportunities at North Brookfield High School are different than those at either the Quaboag or Quabbin school districts. He described his school as a family.

"That is what we are and that is what we have become," he said.

School staff and parents shared concerns about students getting overlooked in the larger school districts, and missing out on key leadership and athletic opportunities.

Town Accountant Shiela LeBlanc said the town is facing a \$700,000 deficit in the town budget.

She said there needs to be a plan to bring students back to the school district, that is followed through by the School Committee members.

"You've got to get people back here and that's the plan you have to work on, but with no money," LeBlanc said.

LeBlanc said she understands that many of the students like the smaller population in their high school, but she questioned if this fully prepared them for attending college after graduation.

"I think we should encourage the kids that they can do it in a bigger school...they can work hard, they can make these teams...look at maybe get-

ting a late bus to come home for the sports or the afterschool things," she said. "Everybody wants everything but no one wants to pay for it and there's just no money."

Rich Rigney, president of the North Brookfield Teachers Association, said the School Committee needs to support the staff and teachers.

"We are willing to work to keep the school open, we just need to be empowered to do so," he said.

Selectman Jamie Gilman said Net School Spending won't change by entering into a tuition agreement, but he said if they can't turn things around for the high school, each year will become "more desperate than the one before."

"The conversation will never go away," Gilman said. "This hope that kids will stop leaving because we stop talking about it; we're not going to be in that position. The more desperate we get, the less bargaining power we have into any of these agreements because we are quickly going to get to the point of unsustainability."

He said eventually there will be no choice.

"What it all boils down to is the money," Gilman said.

### School Committee vote

The School Committee voted 4-1 in favor of ending discussion to enter into a tuition agreement with another

school district and keeping the middle/high school open. Grant was the only opposing vote.

McCormick said in a statement after the meeting: "This topic has been a significant and, at times, emotional conversation within our community since last spring. We are grateful to now have clarity and closure on this matter."

McCormick thanked the School Committee, district and school leadership and the members of the tuition task force for their efforts to research, analyze data and engage in discussions.

"Their work was thorough, transparent, and grounded in what they believed to be in the best interest of our students and community," he said.

McCormick said it is important that the school community and the town come together to strengthen and grow the North Brookfield Public Schools. "Our district's small size is not a limitation; it is one of our greatest strengths," he said. "Now is the time to lean into those strengths while continuing to think boldly about our future. I believe it is important that we continue engaging all stakeholders in conversations about how we can innovate, expand opportunities, and build on the strong foundation that already exists."

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