

BARRE GAZETTE

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Select Board chair reports on MWRA meeting

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
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BARRE – Select Board Chair Maureen Marshall reported on the recent Massachusetts Water Resources Authority meeting she attended.

She said the topic was a proposed bill brought forth

by state Sen. Joanne Comford of Hampshire, Hampden and Worcester district. The bill was tabled last year and will be discussed this year by the legislature, but not until summer.

The proposed bill included access to using Quabbin Reservoir water by towns in the Western part of the state and increased Payment In

Lieu of Taxes for the Quabbin Reservoir and watershed land for towns, which about the reservoir and those in the watershed area. The proposal would compensate towns through PILOT program, which about the water for the land under the reservoir, which is not done at this time.

Chair Marshall said Barre, which has no waterfront prop-

erty would not benefit for the payment of land under the Quabbin Reservoir, but would possibly receive a large PILOT sum. She said the town of Wellesley gets paid more per acre for state owned land than the Central and Western Massachusetts towns.

Although not a waterfront town, Barre has an underground aqueduct under

its land used to move water from the Ware River to the Quabbin Reservoir when needed. The aqueduct also can move water east to the Wachusett Reservoir as well. It is not used in that direction.

Since the Quabbin Reservoir has more water than needed by the Metropolitan Boston area, there would be extra for the

more western towns to have access. Currently, Barre operates on only one well. A second well was shut down due to high iron content. The second well could return to service by installing an iron filter system. Another option for the town would be to drill another well. Access to

See BARRE, page 5

Select Board adopts RFP for Calvin Paige building

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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HARDWICK – The Select Board met at the end of February and had a discussion and vote on a request for proposal for the Calvin Paige building.

The town is requesting proposals for the acquisition, renovation and redevelopment of a town owned historic building. The Calvin Paige building was built back in the 1930s and is located within the socially, culturally and economically emerging Hardwick Center.

The Select Board have listed the redevelopment options for the Calvin Paige building as well as uses. The preferred uses include historical, office space, studio space and community use.

Select Board Clerk William Tinker wanted to review one section of the RFP, the Comparative Selection Criteria. Tinker wanted to amend the evaluations and measures for the proposals.

The board would agree to use the point system as follows: Highly Advantageous, 3 points, Advantageous, 2 points, Not Advantageous, 1 point and Unacceptable, 0 points. Tinker explained the point system to the Select Board and will send a copy to the Town Administrator.

Part of the RFP is to focus on Public Benefit and Community Impact. A possible project for the Calvin Paige building provides significant public benefits, such as community space, economic growth, or services that directly enhance residents' quality of life.

“Rates for health insurance are skyrocketing,”

- Justine Caggiano
Town Administrator

“Highly Advantageous,” as Tinker described it. “What is the public benefit.”

The Select Board voted and adopted the RFP for the Calvin Paige building. The property shall be conveyed with a historic preservation restriction, protecting the exterior of the historic building. A copy of this RFP can be found on the town website, www.hardwick-ma.gov.

Town Administrator's report
Town Administrator Justine Caggiano shared her report

See HARDWICK, page 5



Q-Munity Closet holds grand opening Monday



Courtesy photo by Ashley Roy
Kylie Gagnon takes new winter jackets out of their packaging to hang on the rack before the grand opening of Q-munity Closet at the New Braintree Grade School.

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
edowner@turley.com

NEW BRAINTREE – A teacher's idea with the help of eight dedicated Post Grad students and the community came to fruition this Monday, March 3.

Post Graduate Employment and Community Specialist Ashley Roy thought creating a Q-munity Closet modeled on the one at the Quabbin Regional Middle High School would be a great learning experience for the class, but also a resource for the community at large.

New Braintree Grade School, located at 15 Memorial Drive, where the Post Grad class meets, was a perfect location for such a project. The former cafeteria provided the ideal seating. It is located in the front section of the building just off the main entrance. It has plenty of natural light and has a department store look.

The department store vibes were due to the fact a former plant and facilities manager for the Quabbin Regional School District was able to acquire display stands and racks from a department store. On the day of the Grand Opening staff member Michaela Valley was applying white sticky paper to a display box. This was a quick way to give the display

stand a new look without having to paint it. The one she worked on was headed for the infant area which had many 0-3 month sizes.

An email sent to parents said, “This is also very beneficial to our Post Grad students, who are able to work on their communication skills while dealing with the public, inventory of items, organization skills, as well as building a small business.” The email also said, “This space is designed for all community members to pick out clothing items that you, your family or someone you may know could benefit from free of charge. We currently have a significant supply of brand new winter coats in a variety of sizes. If you, or someone you know could use one for this year, or looking ahead to next winter, please stop by.”

The Q-munity Closet will be open on Mondays from noon-2 p.m. at New Braintree Grade School, located across from the Town Hall on Memorial Drive. If people are unable to make it at that time, they may email Ashley Roy at arroy@qrdsd.org to make an appointment for a time that is convenient for them.

Roy said this new student run business endeavor needed donations

See Q-MUNITY CLOSET, page 7

Board hears CDBG project proposal for FY 25

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Joe Ferguson, Principal Planner with Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission and Janet Pierce, Executive Director, discussed the town's application for the fiscal year 2024 Community Development Block Grant.

“Tonight's forum is meant for an open discussion but also to get some direction related to the FY 25 funding cycle for CDBG,” Ferguson said at the Board of Selectmen's Feb. 25 meeting.

He detailed recent projects funded by the CDBG program, including the FY 21 cycle which included housing rehabilitation and improvements to the Senior Center, as well as comprehensive design and phase 1 construction for the Mount Pleasant Street project.

Ferguson said the town sat out of the FY 22 and FY 23 cycle (which the state combined due to the pandemic), and received funding to complete the final phase of the Mount Pleasant Street project with FY 24.

He said to develop the application for the FY 25 CDBG program, they are looking at pre-

vious studies funded through the program including the West Side and East Side neighborhood infrastructure studies.

“There's two main national objects that CDBG has to operate within,” Ferguson said. “It's either you're providing benefit to a low/moderate income population, or you can do another national object around the prevention of blight,” he said.

Ferguson said they have been focusing on projects to benefit low/moderate income populations.

“We see the need...we know projects can happen in these areas,” he said, adding that CMRPC is having difficulty income-qualifying individual streets.

He said the next street they were going to focus on was Batchelor Drive, which needs surface and subsurface improvements, but it did not qualify for income range. They have now shifted their focus to creating a design/construction project for South Common Street.

Ferguson said South Common Street would qualify for the CDBG program due to the Grove Street Apartments family hous-

See CDBG Project, page 6



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette
Quabbin Regional High School senior Ellie Frost stands next to a chart that tracked the number of pints of blood collected during a community blood drive she organized on Feb. 27.

Quabbin senior organizes community blood drive

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

BARRE – In less than one hour, a single person can save the lives of up to three people by donating blood.

Hardwick resident and Quabbin Regional High School senior Ellie Frost and her team of volunteers helped to save dozens of lives on Feb. 27, when they organized an all-day blood drive in the school's gymnasium, in partnership with

See BLOOD DRIVE, page 7



News of the Towns



ROUND TOWN

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Post 2 holds corned beef and cabbage supper

Barre Post 2, American Legion, will be hosting their annual corned beef and cabbage supper on Saturday, March 15. Meals will be served from 5-6:30 pm at the Post at 450 South Barre Road. Dinners are available to eat in or carry out. Ham will also be available, tickets are \$16. For reservations, people may call Post 2 at 978-455-2370, Tony Musnicki at 978-337-2351 or Scott Tourtellot at 508-320-9899.

American Legion Auxiliary to meet March 10

The March meeting of American Legion Auxiliary, Barre Unit 2, will be held on Monday, March 10 at 7 p.m. at American Legion Post 2, 450 South Barre Road.

Refreshments will be provided by Kara Franciosi, Barbara Rossi and Karen Nurmi.

Community Friendship Supper

A Community Friendship Drive Thru Supper sponsored by the Missions Committee will be held Thursday, March 20 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St. The menu is hot dog, beans and dessert.

Sen. Durant and Rep. Berthiaume office hours

Staff from state Sen. Peter Durant's office and state Rep. Donald Berthiaume office will be available to meet with constituents to assist with issue involving state agencies or to hear legislative ideas and concerns. As always, staff would be happy to set up meetings at another time with any constituent who needs assistance. Kim Mongeau (Ring), Communications Director office of Sen. Peter J. Durant Worcester and Hampshire District at 413-896-0794. Donna M. Farmer, Chief of Staff Rep. Donald Berthiaume fifth Worcester District at 774-402-4742. Office hours will be held at the Barre Senior Center, 457 South Barre Road on Tuesday, March 11 at 11 a.m. and on Monday, April 14 at 11 a.m.

Food Pantry distribution

The next Barre Food Pantry distributions are Wednesday, March 12 from 10-11:30 a.m. and on Thursday, March 20 from 5:30-7 p.m. In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients March 12 and 20 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church. They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers at multiple stations.

People should not arrive to volunteer without first contacting Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921 or Chuck Radlo at 978-355-6463. Because conditions have been changing rapidly, please continue to check for updates on the Barre Food Pantry website by visiting <http://www.barrefoodbank.org/index.htm> and the Barre Food Pantry Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Barre-Food-Pantry-100156068300314/>.

New Braintree Library holds story time March 17

NEW BRAintree – Story time will be held Monday, March 17 at 9 a.m. at the New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive.

The March 17 program for preschoolers focuses on St. Patrick's Day. The readings will include "The Night Before St. Patrick's Day" by Natasha Wing and "Pete the Cat, The Great Leprechaun Chase" by James Dean.

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

HUBBARDSTON

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Pot O Gold event set for March 16

On Monday, March 16, the Friends of The Hubbardston Senior Center are hosting "A Pot O'Gold Event" at 11:30 a.m. featuring authentic Irish beef and lamb stew with all the fixings in the Senior Center, 7 Main St. Tickets are \$10 per person. At the same time, a fund raiser raffle is being held. Raffle tickets are \$10 for 26 chances. At 12:30 p.m. there will be the drawing of the winners of the three lottery trees. People don't need to be present to win. Tickets for the luncheon and the lottery trees are available at the Hubbardston Senior Center.

Hubbardston Community Theatre

The Hubbardston Community Theatre presents "Lionel Bart's Oliver on Friday, March 14 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 15 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 16 at 1 p.m. in the gymnasium at Hubbardston Center School, 8 Elm St. Tickets are \$15 adults and age 12 and up, \$12 children age 3 to 11 and seniors and free for age 2 and under. Tickets available at the door or in advance by sending an email to hubtheatre123@gmail.com. "Lionel Bart's Oliver" is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International.

Office hours Sen. Durant and Rep. Berthiaume

Staff from state Sen. Peter Durant's office and state Rep. Donald Berthiaume office will be available to meet with constituents to assist with issue involving state agencies or to hear legislative ideas and concerns. As always, staff would be happy to set up meetings at another time with any constituent who needs assistance. Kim Mongeau (Ring), Communications Director office of Sen. Peter J. Durant Worcester and Hampshire District at 413-896-0794. Donna M. Farmer, Chief of Staff Rep. Donald Berthiaume fifth Worcester District at 774-402-4742. Office hours will be held at the Hubbardston Senior Center on Tuesday, March 11 at 9:30 a.m. and on Monday, April 14 at 9:30 a.m.

Online dog licenses

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

Senior Center

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

Correction

The Hubbardston story in the Feb. 27 edition jumped to page 11, but it was under the header OAKHAM instead of HUBBARDSTON.

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 10. 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 – Buttermilk chicken, cranberry stuffing, roasted California vegetables, Rice Krispy Treat, whole wheat bread

TUESDAY – Beef stew, rice, corn niblets, Mandarin oranges, pumpernickel bread

WEDNESDAY – Hot dog, baked beans, coleslaw, baked cinnamon pears, hot dog bun

THURSDAY – Meatloaf with gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, peas and onions, fresh fruit, marble rye bread

FRIDAY – Macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, green beans, fruited Ambrosia, Italian 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.

Petersham Montessori School hosts Book Bingo on March 15

PETERSHAM – The Petersham Montessori organizers invite all local families in Petersham, Barre, Athol and neighboring towns to celebrate National Reading Month for Book Bingo on Saturday, March 15 from 3-5 p.m. at Petersham Town Hall, Main Street.

For \$20 per family, participants will receive bingo cards and counters and get

several opportunities to win a pick of a large variety of children's books. Pizza, chips and beverages will be available for purchase at their concession stands. They may purchase some raffle tickets at \$1 per ticket or \$5 for six tickets. Petersham Montessori will be raffling off several themed gift baskets.

Some parking is avail-

able at the Petersham Town Hall and overflow parking can be found around the common. All proceeds from the fundraiser will go to Petersham Montessori School. Local librarian Patty Upshaw is leading the Book Bingo event. Her favorite children's book is "The Year We Learned to Fly" by Jacqueline Woodson.

Orange Community Band begins rehearsals

ORANGE – The Orange Community Band began rehearsing on Wednesday, March 5 for the 2025 Pops Concert on April 4 at 6:30 p.m.

Other rehearsal dates are Wednesdays, March 12, March 19, March 26 and April 2 at 7 p.m. in the Central

Congregational Church. Area

musicians are welcome to join the band for the pops and for the summer concert season. Summer rehearsals begin Wednesday, June 11, and the Friday concerts begin June 20 through July 25 with a back to school concert Aug. 29. New members are always welcome to join the band. They should either contact an officer or

come early to rehearsal.

The spring Pops Concert has been scheduled earlier than in past years, on Friday, April 4 and a change of day from the past weekend afternoons. In order to avoid other important events involving band members, the pops will be performed on Friday, April 4 at 6:30 p.m. at a location to be announced.

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WE WILL RE-OPEN 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 18
Hours: Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.; Sunday 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

QRSD Budget Subcommittee – March 6 at 6 p.m.
 Water Commission – March 10 at 6:30 p.m.
 DPW Commission – March 10 at 7 p.m.
 Conservation Committee – March 11 at 7 p.m.
 9/11 Memorial Development Committee – March 12 at 5 p.m.
 Select Board – March 12 and March 13 at 5:30 p.m. and March 17 at 6 p.m.
 Library Trustees – March 12 at 6:30 p.m.
 250th Anniversary Committee – March 12 at 6:30 p.m.
 Barre Housing Authority – March 13 at 1 p.m.
 Cemetery Commission – March 27 at 11 a.m. and at noon
 Planning Board – April 1 at 7 p.m.
 Election Day – April 7 from 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
 Cable Advisory Committee – April 8 at 7 p.m.

HARDWICK

Paige Library Trustees – March 6 at 7 p.m.
 Capitol Planning Committee – March 10 and March 17 at 3 p.m.
 Select Board – March 10 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – March 11 at 6:30 p.m.
 Gilbertville Public Library – March 12 at 4 p.m.
 Hardwick New Braintree Cultural Council – March 12 at 6:30 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – March 12 and April 9 at 6:30 p.m.
 Master Plan Steering Committee – March 13 at 6:30 p.m.
 Gilbertville Water District – March 18 at 5:30 p.m.
 Board of Health – April 3 at 6:30 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – April 9 at 6:30 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Library Trustees – March 6 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – March 19 at 6:30 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Post Owner/Architect/Contractor Meeting – March 6 at 3 p.m., March 13, March 20 and March 27 at 4 p.m.
 Council on Aging – March 10 at 2 p.m.
 Insurance Advisory Committee – March 11 at 2:30 p.m.
 Community Development Block Grant Public Hearing – March 18 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – March 19 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Selectmen – March 25 at 6 p.m.

OAKHAM

Sen. Durant and Rep. Berthiaume Office Hours – March 11 12:15-1:15 p.m.
 Special Town Meeting – March 11 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – March 14 at noon
 Planning Board – March 18 at 7 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Select Board – March 6, March 13, March 20, March 27, April 3, April 10 and April 24 at 5:30 p.m.
 Advisory Finance Committee – March 6, March 13, March 20 and March 27 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Health – March 6 at 6 p.m.
 Council on Aging – March 10 at 10 a.m.
 Cemetery Commission – March 11 at 10 a.m.
 Zoning Board of Appeals – March 12 at 7 p.m.
 Petersham Historic District – March 20 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – March 21 at 9 a.m.

RUTLAND

Finance Committee Joint Meeting with Select Board – March 6 at 6 p.m.
 Rutland Development and Industrial Commission – March 6 at 6 p.m.
 Select Board Joint Meeting with Finance Committee – March 6 at 6 p.m.

Read or Subscribe online at www.barregazette.turley.com

Food Pantry lists distributions

BARRE – The next two Barre Food Pantry distributions will occur on Wednesday March 12 from 10-11:30 a.m. and on Thursday, March 20 from 5:30-7 p.m.

Clients are invited to pick up groceries from the food pantry either in the morning on Wednesday, March 12 or in the evening on Thursday, March 20, whichever is more convenient for them. The Barre Food Pantry volunteers strive to continue to fulfill their mission to get food to hungry and food insecure clients. The pantry must also continue to protect clients, volunteers and the larger community from the spread of disease viruses. Many clients and volunteers are classified as high-risk due to their age and/or underlying health conditions. The Barre Food Pantry Board of Directors has considered changing how the pantry currently operates, but has decided that the most respon-

sible path forward is to continue to operate as we have since March of 2020.

In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and clients March 12 and March 20 will again be “drive-through” style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church. They will remain in their cars. They’ll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers at multiple stations.

Based on the success of distributions so far, the Food Pantry volunteers believe this “drive-through” style is the safest possible way to get food to clients and to help keep everyone well.

On Tuesday night,

March 11 at 5 p.m. the Barre Food Pantry will be gathering volunteers at the Barre Congregational Church to unload incoming groceries from their truck, to sort through donated groceries, to pre-fill grocery bags and in other ways to prepare for the distribution the following morning. If people can help pitch in for an hour on the March 11, they should call Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921.

Please do not arrive to volunteer on March 11, 12 or 20 without first contacting Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921 or Chuck Radlo at 978-355-6463.

Because conditions have been changing rapidly, please continue to check for updates on the Barre Food Pantry website: <http://www.barrefoodbank.org/index.htm> and the Barre Food Pantry Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Barre-Food-Pantry-100156068300314/>.

Congregational church holds Community Friendship Supper



Submitted photo

Volunteers help prepare and serve the monthly Community Friendship Supper on Thursday, Feb. 20 at Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., Barre. The Missions Committee has been preparing and serving the suppers for 16 years. It was started by members of the diaconate in 2009.

Stone Church Cultural Center presents Cicilai Yudha on March 9

GILBERTVILLE – Award-winning pianist Cicilia Yudha made her debut with the Cleveland Orchestra at Severance Hall in 2003 and was also awarded the “Rosario Marciano Prize” with a solo recital in Vienna.

As a versatile soloist and an avid chamber musician, she has given performances in the U.S.A., Cambodia,

Canada, Austria, France, Germany, and Indonesia. Passionate about music education and community service, Cicilia was recognized as a Steinway Top Teacher in 2016 and 2022.

The program on Sunday, March 9 at 3 p.m. at Stone Church Cultural Center, 283 Main St., Route 32, will feature: J.S. Bach English Suite

No. 2 in A minor, BWV 807, Robert Schumann Piano Sonata No. 2 in G minor, Op. 22 (1838), Emile Mayer Impromptu, Op. 44, Margaret Bonds Troubled Water, Trisutji Kamal Sunda Seascapes (selections) and Maurice Ravel Oiseaux tristes and Alborada del Gracioso from Miroirs. Tickets are \$25.

Paige Memorial Library lists events

HARDWICK – Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, offer books and workshops to try a new hobby or rediscover an old interest.

Knitting for adults will be held on Saturdays at 11 a.m. during March. The following events meet: Paige Writers meet on alternate Tuesdays at 3 p.m., Book Club meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 2 p.m., Cookbook Club on the last Wednesday of the month at 5 p.m. and Fundamentals of Art on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. People can explore calligraphy on Tuesday, March 11. They will learn from the Uncial alpha-

bet. Other offerings are printmaking, card making, painting, and more or bring your craft and join with others to socialize and share knowhow. Interacting with others is part of the fun. People may email for information or to register at Director.paigelibrary@gmail.com or call 413-477-6704.

Ireland to America come sing, clap, dance and play spoons with singer, yodeler, and multi-instrumentalist Roger Tincknell on Saturday, March 15 at 1:30 p.m. at the Hardwick Town House. Participants will celebrate with traditional Irish music and culture, lovely ballads,

work songs and singalong interspersed with lively jigs and reels.

Instrumentals performed on guitar, banjo, mandolin, Irish bouzouki, Irish bodhran (drum), harmonica, penny-whistle and spoons. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. For more information, people may call 413-477-6704. The library is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-7 p.m., Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.



OAKHAM

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

STM takes place March 11

A Special Town Meeting will take place Tuesday, March 11 at 7 p.m. in the Fire Station on Barre Road. There are two articles on the warrant. Article 1 asks voters to transfer from available funds \$15,000 from the Assessors Stabilization account to fund the Assessors revaluation line item account. Article 2 asks voters to transfer from free cash to various accounts including Police Department training salary account, Fire Department training/wages account, Town Clerk election workers wage account, Town Clerk to election expense account, Board of Selectman to Administrative Assistant account, Board of Selectman to administrative account and Town Counsel account. This restores funds previously cut from various departments.

Church breakfast

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will hold a benefit breakfast for Kentucky flood victims on Saturday, March 8 from 8-9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. A freewill donation will be taken. The menu includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, strawberries, orange juice, coffee, tea and hot cocoa. All are welcome to attend.

Office hours Sen. Durant and Rep. Berthiaume

Staff from state Sen. Peter Durant’s office and state Rep. Donald Berthiaume office will be available to meet with constituents to assist with issue involving state agencies or to hear legislative ideas and concerns. As always, staff would be happy to set up meetings at another time with any constituent who needs assistance. Kim Mongeau (Ring), Communications Director office of Sen. Peter J. Durant Worcester and Hampshire District at 413-896-0794. Donna M. Farmer, Chief of Staff Rep. Donald Berthiaume fifth Worcester District at 774-402-4742. Office hours will be held at the Oakham Town Hall on Tuesday, March 11 at 12:15 p.m. and on Monday, April 14 at 12:15 p.m.

Fire Department senior lunch

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

Podiatry clinic

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

Senior Center activities

Oakham Senior Center activities in March include: Monday through Thursdays at 9 a.m. walking group, meet at Senior Center and on Tuesdays through Thursdays at 11 a.m. walking group meet at Senior Center. On cold days, the walking groups will walk to tapes inside the Senior Center. Other activities are Wednesdays Zumba Gold 9 a.m. in the Rutland Senior Center - \$2 donation per class; Thursdays at noon weigh in support weight loss group and Fridays Functional Fitness 10.30 a.m. at the New Braintree Town Hall - \$2 donation per class.

Hot lunches are offered at the Senior Center dining area Monday through Thursday at 11.30 a.m. Reservations are needed at least two days in advance and can be made through the Congregate Meal Coordinator from 9 a.m. to 12.15 p.m. by calling 508-882-4072.

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

Editorial deadline reminder

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



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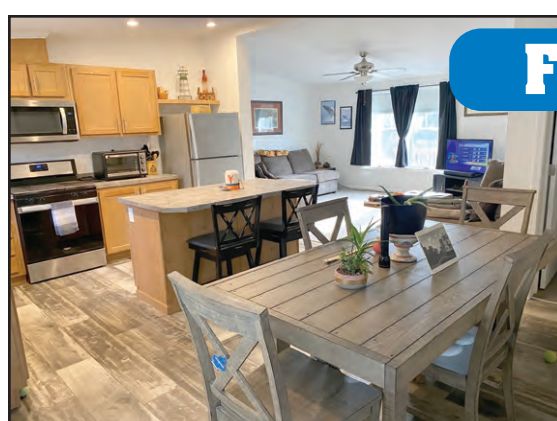
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Opinion

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



And just like that it's spring

Well, maybe I am getting a bit ahead of myself. This coming weekend the days will feel a little longer because of Daylight Savings, when we "spring forward" an hour.

The evenings will begin to lure us outside after supper, maybe for a walk or just a look-see around the yard. For, me, one sign of "spring" is starting my pepper seeds indoors.

They are the earliest transplants I grow at home, and I am so excited to get started!

Regular readers of the column may remember that I love growing peppers. Perhaps it is because I have the perfect spot-stone edged raised beds – that contain the heat and help them to grow quite successfully.

By week's end my pepper seeds will have been sown in moist lightweight seed starting mix and placed on bottom heat. Seventy-eight to 80 degrees is perfect for germinating pepper seeds; at those temps I expect to see sprouting in eight days or so.

Once they sprout, I will place the flats within inches of my shop lights and adjust the lights as they grow. When the second set of leaves form, known as the "true leaves," the pepper seedlings will find their way into six packs or their own two inch pot.

By late April or early May, they will be given a larger pot once more; usually a four inch pot will do. After a hardening off period, I will transplant them into the ground once it has warmed considerably – usually by June first.

A couple weeks prior to that I provide black plastic mulch on top of soil to get it pre-heated and ready for these tropic loving plants.

Although there are over 20 species of pepper, just one is known to American gardeners. It goes by the Latin name *Capsicum annuum*. Five categories of peppers fall under this heading, but I typically grow only the sweet types.

Green when immature, sweet bell peppers ripen to a rainbow of colors: yellow, orange, red, purple, ivory and even chocolate brown. We eat them in the green stage more so than when fully ripe, and that's a shame. A little patience and a week or two longer in the garden will yield a sweet treat.

If I had to choose only one variety to grow it would be AAS award winner "Carmen," bred right in Maine at Johnny's Selected

Seed. Numerous six inch by two and a half inch red peppers make an appearance beginning in late July and continue through the first frost.

Yes, I did say "late July!" If I'd dare to guess at the total yield of peppers per plant, one dozen would be a fair estimate. They are great fresh, frozen or fire roasted!

Renee's Garden sells a lovely little pepper by the name of "Yummy Belles." The description is accurate when they say that the plants are "highly productive" and "load up" with lots of little three to four inch bright orange peppers.

They call them snack peppers, and they are just that. Make a decadent snack by filling with veggie cream cheese, or stick to healthier eating by adding one or two to a personal salad.

Paprika peppers also fall into the sweet pepper category. Fruits are up to six inches long and three inches wide at the top and come to a blunt point.

Dry and grind to make your own paprika spice in a coffee grinder. Indispensable when sprinkled on deviled eggs!

Frying or pickling peppers go by the names Sweet Banana, Sweet Hungarian, or Cubanelle among others. They are good candidates for frying because of their thin walls and scant water content.

Sweet Banana was noted in 1941 as an All American Selections winner and is still growing strong 60+ years later!

Pimento peppers are those used to stuff with green olives. My Italian husband just loves it when his sister Denise makes this holiday treat!

They grow a squat three by four inches and are ripe when red or orange, depending on variety. Expect these to take a bit longer than the other types, a full 85 or more days from transplant to harvest.

If you too are a pepper lover, and want to see the earliest yields possible, get ready, get set, and get sowing those pepper seeds!

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



In Past Pages

5 years (March 12, 2020)

Rutland Selectman, Jeffrey Stillings, attended the Monday, March 2 Hubbardston Select Board meeting to ask the Select Board to sign a letter to the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The three members present signed the letter. The Ware River Watershed area in question included land in Hubbardston, Barre, Oakham and Rutland. In Rutland, the land was part of the old prison camps. Stillings said, "The Rutland Board asked to keep roads open and the current access remain unchanged." Barre Selectmen signed the letter and the Oakham Selectmen did the same.

What does a person do with old medication and how do they dispose of it safely? Medication Safety How to Store and Dispose of Medications was the second program offered to the public last Wednesday afternoon at the Barre Senior Center during Purple for Prevention Week sponsored by Q-DRUG. Dr. Stephen Martin, Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Massachusetts Medical School and of the Barre Family Health Center was the special guest speaker helping to navigate the some-

Look Back – Barre Historical Society – 1997



File photo

Enjoying some lollipops they bought at the Barre Historical Society are Patrick Hugh McGovern, age 4 and his sister, Katie Margaret, age 2 With them are their parents, Chris and Bridget McGovern

time confusing subject of medications.

Q-DRUG organizers held a program at Quabbin Regional High School on Thursday night entitled "Your Story Matters." This program highlighted real life stories about addiction recovery. Ice cream and toppings provided by Becki's Bistro and Wholesome Farmers Market were served after the pro-

gram.

10 years (March 12, 2015)

"Almost Maine" by John Cariania is the latest production by the Barre Players Theater, 64 Commons St. For people fed up with winter weather, a trip "north" to Maine will lift up spirits

See PAST PAGES, page 6



Should I wait until age 70 to claim Social Security?

Dear Rusty:
I am a married woman, at my full retirement age and the primary earner in my marriage.

How do I know if I should take my Social Security now or wait till 70? I will lose quite a bit if I take it now. How will it affect my taxes if I take it now while still working a full-time job?

Signed: Undecided

Dear Undecided:
As you apparently already know, waiting until you are 70 to claim Social Security will result in you getting your maximum possible monthly SS retirement benefit. After your full retirement age, you get about 8% more each year you delay claiming up to age 70. But deciding exactly when to claim should consider both your financial needs and, importantly, your life expectancy.

If you don't urgently need the money now and your life expectancy is at least "average," then waiting until age 70 to claim is usually

the right choice. But if you urgently need the money or your life expectancy is less than average (mid-80s for a woman your current age), then claiming before age 70 is usually prudent.

Regarding taxation, Social Security benefits may be taxable if your combined income from all sources exceeds the threshold for your IRS filing status. If you file taxes as "married/jointly" and your combined income including your work income exceeds \$32,000, then half of the SS benefits you received during the tax year becomes part of your taxable income.

But if your combined income is over \$44,000, then up to 85% of your SS benefits becomes taxable income (the thresholds are lower for those who file as a single). So, your full-time work income will likely affect how much of your Social Security benefits are subject to income tax by the IRS.

In the end, only you can decide when you should claim Social Security.

Taxation of benefits may be a factor to consider since you are still working full time (thus more of your SS benefits will be taxable). But waiting longer to claim results in a higher benefit for the rest of your life (your SS retirement benefit will be .667% more for each month you delay, up to age 70). If the "rest of your life" is a long time and you don't urgently need the money, waiting is often the right choice. If not, claiming earlier may be wiser.

If you want to get a more personalized estimate of your life expectancy, I suggest you use the tool we use here at the AMAC Foundation: www.socialsecurityreport.org/tools/life-expectancy-calculator/.

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-advisor/ or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Barre Gazette, please email edowner@turley.com.

Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

March came in like a lion with a blizzard after we just had the icy driveway sanded.

Hopefully because there was some salt in the sand, it did melt some ice. Icy driveways have been a problem all over town and there is a scarcity of salt so the sanding man told me.

This week I made a mincemeat pie, jello and some brownies. We need to have some dessert besides ice cream. Also, the vehicle would not start this week as we had not driven it for three weeks. We ended up having to get a new battery after starting the old one with a battery charger. Thank goodness for the handyman.

I have not wanted to go outside as the yard is very icy and the driveway was also. Therefor my helpers have gotten our mail, groceries and did the post office. I have been doing a lot of watercolors when I need to rest and finished a couple of books.

Our oldest daughter arrived with a bag of books and magazines and some canned goods. I had her work on my computer as I could not get my lock screen changed. She also paid to have our icy driveway sanded.

Here is a recipe I plan to make that my friend from New Hampshire sent me.

BAKED WALNUT SHRIMP

4 to 6 jumbo shrimp
1 1/4 cups fresh bread crumbs
1/3 cup coarsely chopped walnuts
3 tablespoons melted butter
salt and dash of cayenne pepper
2 tablespoons dry sherry or water
Peel, split and devein shrimp, leaving on tails. Wash and dry well. Cut pockets through center backs but leaving intact. In small bowl combine fresh bread crumbs, walnuts, butter, salt and pepper and enough

water or sherry to hold mixture together. Pile mixture in slit of shrimp, place in shallow pan, stuffing side up and bake for 12 to 15 minutes on 450 degrees oven. Serve with warm yellow sauce.

YELLOW SAUCE

1/2 cup melted butter
1/2 teaspoon prepared mustard
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
Chopped parsley
Combine melted butter, prepared mustard, lemon juice and Worcestershire sauce. Heat sauce until warm and drizzle over baked shrimp. Top with chopped parsley.

This and That

Don't forget to change the clocks ahead March 9. Spring ahead, fall behind. It will be nice to have it a little lighter at night.

I imagine we will be seeing buckets hanging on the maple trees soon collecting sap for maple syrup and maple candy. Two of our neighbors do this and our handyman does also. In fact, he gave a demonstration, of the process at Hardwick last week to adults and children.

I have been dreaming of what plants I will be planting in the three planters I have. I put broccoli in two of them last year and that did not work out so I probably will stick to flowers or short tomatoes and peppers this year.

I really miss that we cannot have a big vegetable garden this year. Will have to depend on our family to provide some fresh vegetables.

I'm waiting for the snow drops to show up, but about two feet of snow needs to melt first. Spring is hopefully coming.
Have a good week and stay on your feet. I heard of too many falling on the ice. Martha, forget about feeding the birds and stay on your feet. The birds will find food some where else.

HARDWICK continued from page 1

with the Select Board. Caggiano heard from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation regarding a project being done on Route 32 in Hardwick and neighboring towns.

Caggiano said there is rented space currently in the Planning Board office in the upstairs of the municipal building. Caggiano is still waiting on quotes for the tree removal project behind the municipal building.

She is also waiting for quotes for projects such as front door repairs or replacement.

Caggiano said she's been attending the meetings of the Finance Committee and lately their meetings have been focused on the fiscal year 2026 budget.

The town is also looking for someone to write grants for them at eight hours a week. The town is hoping to find someone to start soon.

Caggiano said she's heard back from several health insurance companies and consultants and have informed the Select Board the high increase of insurance policies and costs.

"Rates for health insurance are skyrocketing,"

Caggiano said.

Caggiano is continuing to speak and hopefully meet with consultants soon to find a better health insurance situation.

There are several vacant highway positions available in the town. Fortunately, the town has received some applications, and those applications and references will be reviewed. The Treasurer/Collector position is currently posted on the town website.

Visitor comments

At the beginning of the Select Board meeting, there were several visitor comments that were addressed.

One of the biggest topics is regarding repairs to Hardwick Elementary School's roof. Part of the current damage to the roof involves leaks in the cafeteria. The school is looking for reimbursement programs to help with the repairs.

The school staff left a copy of the information for the Select Board to review and see if Capital Planning could help out as well. The idea of switching to a metal roof was brought up to the Select Board and are longer lasting. If solar panels were added to the roof, there would be no additional damage.



By Ellenor Downer

Male and female cardinal



I received an email from a Worthington resident, who reported the one male "red bird" in his yard all winter.

He said, "I feel like I know him and throw seeds to a special place he likes. His habit of showing up in the dim light of dusk and dawn almost makes him shine. He's real quiet right now, but I really look forward to hearing him as it warms up."

The red bird is also known as the northern cardinal. The male cardinal is bright red with black around the base of its red beak. The female is grayish brown above with buffy color below. Her beak is reddish and she has dark around her bill, but not as black as the male.

Both sexes have crests and are 8 1/2 inches long. Although the Worthington resident said the cardinal was quiet now,

soon he will sing a series of clear repeated whistles that vary and sound like "whoit whoit whoit, cheer, cheer, cheer." The call is a metallic "chip." Both male and female sing.

The female cardinal lays two to five buff white eggs with dark marks in a nest of twigs, bark strips, vines, leaves, rootlets and paper lined with fine grass and hair. They build their nest in dense shrubbery or among branches of small trees.

Bird watchers may witness mate feeding, a common ritual between a breeding pair. The male picks up a seed and brings it to the female. They touch beaks and his mate takes the offered seed. Mate feeding continues through egg laying and incubation.

Cardinals come to feeders. They feed either on the ground and come to platform style feeders. They prefer sunflower seeds, safflower seeds and cracked corn.

Tuesday morning I saw a female cardinal in a lilac bush. I love to see the male cardinal perched on a snow covered branch or ground especially after newly fallen

snow. I have a pair of cardinals, which I usually see early in the morning or at dusk.

Red-winged blackbirds

The Worthington resident saw a red-winged blackbird at his feeder and heard them on snow shoe recent hike by a beaver pond. He said, "They don't sound very confident and I wonder what they find down there with the pond totally frozen and the cattails denuded by the wind." He said, "The arrival of redwings is exciting for me, as I consider them our first migratory returns."

Bald eagle

In his email, the same resident wrote about seeing a bald eagle. He said, "Two weeks ago driving along the East Branch in Cummington, I saw an eagle lite in a dead tree, break off a small branch and fly off, hopefully to a new or repaired nest. It sure didn't feel like spring then and even today [written March 3] I had zero degrees this morning." He also reports pretty good numbers of goldfinches at his feeder along with the winter regulars.

Brimfield birds

On Feb. 19, I received an email from a Brimfield resident, who sends emails on a regular basis. He said, "Hope you survived our recent bout of nasty weather. Our driveway was cleared on Sunday evening and subsequently turned into a skating rink. Fortunately I had lots of sand and rock salt and a little calcium chloride on hand. Using all of that, I was able to get

our cars up and out of the driveway. Of course I had to get the frozen garage doors unstuck before I could get the cars out of the garage."

He took part in the Great Backyard Bird Count of Saturday and Sunday. He said, "I had nine species Saturday, things got a little more interesting on Sunday when there were 15 species seen including an adult sharp-shinned hawk that chased some junco into a quince bush (it missed) and a Carolina wren."

Bluebirds

He had a pair of eastern bluebirds earlier in the day on Feb. 18 and later five bluebirds showed up, two males and three females. He said, "That's the most we have ever seen in the yard. Previously we had seen a single bird a few times and a pair investigated a nesting box one year but were chased away by house wrens."

Non-bird critters

During the snow/ice storm in February, my daughter and I saw a wet opossum digging in the snow for seeds while clearing my walk and driveway. On March 1, two of my grandchildren and I saw a porcupine in a tree while driving on our road.

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

BARRE, continued from page 1

Quabbin water supply would alleviate the need for the second well.

Select Board Chair Marshall said the legislators present at the meeting referred to the bill as "terribly flawed," but asked for town support. Resident Neil Anders also was on the agenda to discuss this as well.

Informational meeting

Elizabeth Martin proposed holding a citizen informational meeting on the non-binding ballot question regarding a yes or no vote for the Select Board to move forward with the acquisition of the land containing the dam at the Old Barre Reservoir off Williamsville Road. She said the Select Board Meeting Room at the Henry Woods Building was too small a venue and suggested using the Town Hall on Exchange Street.

Martin proposed holding an hour meeting on Thursday, March 27 where both pro and con speakers could present their reasons followed by time for questions and answers. The Annual Town Election is Monday, April 7 with polls open from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. The Circle of Song booked the Town Hall for Thursday rehearsals, but the Select Board office will ask if they could change their rehearsal date on March 27 for the informational meeting.

Since this is a ballot question on an election ballot, the Select Board by law can not give their opinions. However, they will post a meeting for the event and be in attendance.

Citizen comment

Robert Kane said he visited Sanderson Road and looked from the road at

the two water tanks there. He thought the metal tank appeared to be in good condition and could be used to hold water as the concrete one does. He handed a paper with his findings to the Select Board when the two minute public comment period was not sufficient time for him to talk about it.

Town Administrator report

Town Administrator Tammy Martin discussed the possible expansion of regional dispatch and the feasibility study the town of Rutland commissioned. The study said the expansion would be more cost effective and they were looking for space for the center. She said the lower level of Town Hall with some modifications for American Disability Act requirements

was a possible location. She also received a letter regarding Chapter 90 money. If the \$1.5 billion Chapter 90 funding request is approved, the town of Barre would receive \$750,000.

Other business

Select Board Vice Chair John Dixon disclosed that the other town Fire Department representative selected to be present at the Fire Chief interviews was his step mother, Tina Dixon. She has served in this capacity before and has 25 years on the Hubbardston Fire Department.

Correspondence included a resident letter praising the Department of Public Works Superintendent Tim Batchelor for the job he and his department did on Peach

Street. There were several emails about the potholes on Christian Hill.

The board approved the Common Victualer license renewal for J & J Family Restaurant and a special permit for Greg's Restoration Car Show and Swap meet at Felton Field on Saturday, May 3. They granted Q-Drug permission to put up purple ribbons on the Town Commons from March 17 - 21.

The Select Board approved the election warrant for the Annual Town Election. They voted to go into Executive Session at the end of their meeting to discuss collective bargaining or litigation and to discuss conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel.

2025 Fly Fishing Expo

Hosted by: Western Mass. Fly Fishermen
Established in 1971

Monday, March 17th
6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.



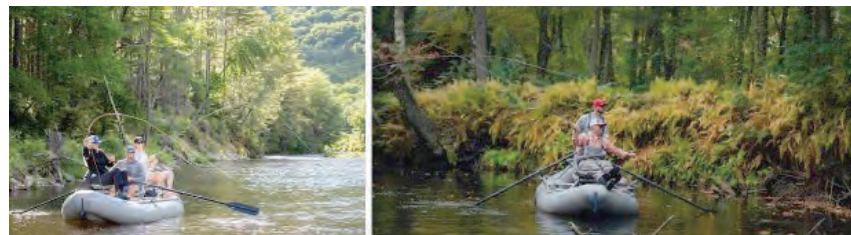
Speaker at 7:30 p.m.

Ludlow Elks Lodge 69 Chapin Stree, Ludlow, Mass
ADMISSION: \$8.00; Free for children under 12 years

Guest Speaker: Harrison Anglers!

We target trout, pike, shad and smallmouth bass on the rivers on Western Mass and Southern VT.

We'll focus on our winter fisheries but will discuss our warm water options as well.



Exhibitors: Fly rod builders, fly fishing/material vendors. Mass State and Wildlife experts, other related exhibitors, and WMFF member demonstrating fly tying.

Giant Raffle: Many fishing items, a complete fly-tying kit. Bucket raffles for custom tied flies. Door prize is a fly rod combo.

Refreshments/Food for sale

Mention where you saw this advertisement or show your WMFF membership card and get \$1.00 off your admission

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Public Notices

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Bruce S. Bolivar and Britanni A. Beeso to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Freedom Mortgage Corporation, It's successors and assigns, dated April 19, 2022 and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 67451, Page 329, subsequently assigned to Freedom Mortgage Corporation by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Freedom Mortgage Corporation, It's successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 69229, Page 133, subsequently assigned to Freedom Mortgage Corporation by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Freedom Mortgage Corporation, It's successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 69818, Page 265, subsequently assigned to Freedom Mortgage Corporation by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Freedom Mortgage Corporation, It's successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 69907, Page 189 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 PM on March 13, 2025 at 58 Ruggles Street, Hardwick (Gilbertville), MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

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

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

ing and running westerly one hundred (100) feet by said southerly line of Ruggles Street to the point of beginning.

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

For title see deed recorded herewith The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

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

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

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

TOWN OF NEW BRAINTREE PUBLIC HEARING

Upon the petitions of National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., the Select Board of New Braintree has scheduled a public hearing on **Monday, March 24, 2025, at 7:10 p.m.** at the New Braintree Town Hall, 20 Memorial Drive, New Braintree, MA.

Plan marked jointly for National Grid and Verizon New England Inc. No. 31061985 dated November 27, 2024, for permission to install 1 JO Pole on Moore Road beginning at a point approximately 869 feet west of

the centerline of the intersection of Worcester Road. Installing P60-1 for customer service. New Braintree MA

Also, for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables, and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes.

The public is welcome to attend.

Questions regarding the above can be directed to the municipal contact:

Rebecca Acerra
Town of New Braintree
Executive Secretary
selectboard@newbraintree.org
508-867-2071 ext. 100
03/06, 03/13/2025

Quabbin Regional School District PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

Quabbin Regional School District School Committee
In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 38N, the Quabbin Regional School District School Committee will hold a Public Hearing regarding the FY26 Budget on **Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Educational Support Center, 872 South Street, Barre, MA 01005. The public is invited to attend in person or via Zoom at 6:00 p.m. Please use the link below to join the presentation directly through Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting: bit.ly/QuabbinRSDSC
Meeting ID: 840 3950 2276
Passcode: qNR6R0

A copy of the FY26 budget will be available for review on our website at www.qrsd.org or at the Educational Support Center, 872 South Street, Barre, MA 01005 after 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11, 2025.

****Pursuant to Section 13 of Chapter 4 (enacted by Chapter 174 of the Acts of 2015, entitled An Act Relative to Electronic Publication of Certain Legal Notices), it is stated that the newspaper is to post on their website and on the MNPA website: masspublicnotices.org 02/27, 03/6/2025**

Town of Oakham Transfer of On-site Liquor License

The Oakham Board of Selectmen as the Local Licensing Authority will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, March 17, 2025 at 6 p.m.** in the Selectboard Meeting Room, 2 Coldbrook Rd., Oakham, MA pursuant to MA Gen. Laws Chapter 138 § 15A, on the transfer of the Application for licenses; and change of ownership from Golfers Arms, Inc, current owner Garrett Donlin, 1822, Old Turnpike Road, Oakham, MA to Quail Hollow Country Club, 1822 Turnpike Road, Oakham, MA and naming Carl Fitz as Owner/Manager.

Oakham Board of Selectmen 02/27, 03/06/2025

St. Mary's Women's Club will host dinner theater March 11

ORANGE – St. Mary's Women's Club will host Greenfield's Comical Mystery Tour cast at their Tuesday, March 11 meeting at 6:30 a.m. in St. Mary's Parish Center on Myrtle Street.

The public is invited to join the Women's Club, St. Vincent de Paul members, and parishioners an original dinner theater mystery program spaghetti dinner at 6:30 in the Parish Center.

For more information

or to reserve tickets people should email Emily White at Bulletin@Stmarys.org before Saturday, March 8. This dinner theater will take the place of the regular monthly Women's Club meeting.

CDBG PROJECT continued from page 1

ing. CMRPC will also look at St. Claire Avenue as well as South Common Street.

"We have a conceptual cost estimate [for South Common Street] which fits well under the FY 25 maximum budget of \$850,000," Ferguson said. "We think this will work very well for FY 25."

Ferguson said he believes the next grant cycles for FY 26 and FY 27 should focus on preventing blight. He said many towns comparable to North Brookfield have designated a blight district through the state, where at least 25% of the infrastructure is in fair to poor condition.

If the town has a neighborhood with the blight designation, it will eliminate the need for income qualification from individuals.

"With approval of that designation, it allows the town to do design and construction projects for a period of 10 years within that district," he said. "And that gets us over the income qualification piece."

Ferguson said some towns that had this blight designation were able to complete six-to-seven streets in that 10 year period.

A public hearing for the FY 25 CDBG application is scheduled to be held on March 18.

Pierce said it is great to work with the town of North Brookfield and thanked the board for their partnership

with CMRPC.

"It's great to see the improvements coming in," she said.

Fire Department report

Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair Elizabeth "Brooke" Canada read the monthly Fire Department report submitted by Fire Chief Darin Anderson.

For the month of December, the department responded to 34 calls which included two building fires, one chimney fire, one natural/vegetation fire, 12 medical assists, one motor vehicle accident with injury, two motor vehicle accidents without injuries, two assist to police of other governmental agencies, one good intent, five false alarms, one sprinkler activation due to malfunction, two smoke detector activations due to malfunction, one unintentional transmission of alarm, two smoke detector activations (no fire, unintentional).

Anderson stated that 23 permits and inspections were issued and completed during this time.

The Fire Department participated in the Spencer Parade of Lights and held its annual pizza with Santa at the fire house as well as the annual Santa tour.

"We had a lot of happy people, young and old, that enjoyed seeing Santa and Buddy the Elf," Anderson wrote.

The Fire Department also participated in the town's First Night event held on Dec. 31.

Concerts on the Common
The Parks and Recreation

Committee and the North Brookfield Cultural Council will hold monthly concerts on the common this summer. Concerts will be free and held on the last Saturday of each month: May 31, Ravenwood; June 28, Tabby LeBlanc; July 26, Stan Matthews and the Rough Riders; and Aug. 30, The Super Chargers.

The committee is also looking to host movie nights on the common throughout the summer, and plan a "Gobble Wobble" 5K run/walk on Thanksgiving morning.

Public comment

Resident John Tripp asked if the American Rescue Plan Act money set aside to fund the Town Administrator's salary could be reallocated to another department, such as the Highway, Police or Sewer departments.

Canada said it is past the date that the town can identify where that money is being spent.

Spending requests

The board approved the following spending requests: \$1,100 to purchase air hose reels for the new Highway Department building on Donovan Road; \$1,358 for two laptops to replace broken equipment for the Fire Department; \$2,445 for five pairs of structural fire boots for the Fire Department; \$800 for a battery operated saw for the Fire Department; \$2,013.60 for a pump unit on a Highway Department truck; and \$520 to upgrade the fire monitoring system at Senior Center.

38 years (March 19, 1987)

Twelve of Hardwick's young members of the Girl Scout Troop 730 were present at the Selectmen's meeting in the Hardwick Town Hall Monday night to witness the signing of the proclamation making the week of March 8 through 14 one in which National Girl Scout Week was to be observed. The young ladies were led by Troop Leader Linda Thompson of Hardwick. The roster of members included Laure Lareiere, Choloe Moreale, Amanda Thompson, Sadie Delisle, Becky Kusek, Lauara Nimtz, Jessica Bergeron, Tamara Hanson, Cindy Boissy, Gay Huntress, Deborah Bergeron and Kate Moreale.

The Quabbin Regional National Honor Society will be holding a phone-a-thon in raise money for the American Heart Association on Sunday, March 15. Honor Society members will be calling members of the Quabbin communities from noon to 6 p.m. from the office of Fran Cranston Jr. in Barre. Please be generous when pledging your money and help us make this fundraiser a successful one.

The Quabbin Regional High School Music Department will present their annual Senior Center on Thursday, March 19. This annual concert is an evening of music in which senior students are featured as soloists with singing groups and Symphonic Winds. This year's program will feature nine senior students as soloists. These students are Cathleen L. Bechan, Linda J. Clarkson, Mark A. Riendeau, Corice M. Boyer, Lori A. Clouture, Kelle J. Murphy, Amy L. Coopers, Susan C. Briggs and Clayton J. March.

PAST PAGES continued from page 4

despite the snow. The play features eight different scenes set in an unnamed township in northern Maine. The scenes offer both laughter and sadness. Nine actors surprise the cast with several of them playing two or three different roles. Director Jessie Olson has both acting and directing experience. One of her favorite roles with Dabby in the Barre Player's production of "Our Country's Good."

"Fighting for 5" is holding a fundraising event that promises to be an evening of fun for the whole family. Dan Candell, master hypnotist will bring his comedy show "The Wild Side of Hypnosis" to the Quabbin High School, 800 South St. gym for one performance on Saturday, March 21 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 the night of the show. The family friendly show combines the fun of total audience participation with the incredible abilities of the mind.

Since 1983, the family run Calico and Creme has been a fixture in town. For many, spring arrived not at the vernal equinox, but when the seasonal ice cream and restaurant opened. Donald and Elaine McKay decided this winter to retire. The couple believed they had to "retire" the business as well. Elaine said it was not an easy decision and it took several months for them to make it.

25 years (March 16, 2000)

Fran Gromelski reported on the Central Office ad hoc subcommittee's recent activities at a meeting of the Quabbin Regional School District Committee held last Thursday in the media center of Ruggles Lane School. The subcommittee met Tuesday night, March 7,

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

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

BLOOD DRIVE
continued from page 1

Rhode Island Blood Center.

This blood drive was Frost's community service project as a member of the school's National Honor Society.

"I really liked the idea of a blood drive," Frost said. "I don't think we've done one in about 11 years."

Once she settled on the idea of hosting a blood drive, Frost reached out to several blood donation centers and quickly heard back from the Rhode Island Blood Center, which was eager to be involved.

"They set it up quick and easy," Frost said. "They were really great."

Frost said Rhode Island Blood Center is a subset of New York Blood Center and serves the greater New England region.

By 2:30 p.m. on the day of the blood drive, Rhode Island Blood Center had collected 52 pints of blood from students, school staff and members of the community. Frost said they had 89 people sign up in advance, which was just one person shy of the 90 person maximum for the day, not including walk-ins.

Frost said she also had 18

students sign up to volunteer during the blood drive; with each one earning community service hours.

She said a number of the student volunteers are interested in joining the medical field after graduation and they were able to receive some firsthand knowledge from the nurses on staff with Rhode Island Blood Center.

"This gave them good insight," Frost said.

After graduation, Frost plans to attend college in New York and study art history and anthropology.

About Rhode Island Blood Center

Rhode Island Blood Center was founded in 1979 as a nonprofit community blood center. For over 40 years, we have been the primary supplier of blood and blood products to patients being cared for in hospitals throughout Rhode Island and the New England area.

As part of New York Blood Center Enterprises, with national reach through our many divisions, the Rhode Island Blood Center proudly serves as a vital community lifeline dedicated to helping patients and advancing global public health.

For more information, visit ribc.org.



Kylie Gagnon proudly stands by one of the display racks she set up for the grand opening of the Q-munity Closet in New Braintree Grade School. New and used clothing are available for free. This is a project of the Post Grad class for students ages 18 to 22.

Q-MUNITY CLOSET
continued from page 1

of plastic coat hangers as well as used and new clothing. They may be dropped off on Mondays from noon-2 p.m. There are plans in the future to extend the hours of operation to Saturdays as well. Both Roy and Superintendent Mucha were

willing to man the store on Saturdays. Post Grad student Gagnon quickly offered her assistance on Saturdays when she was available. Two Quabbin High School students, who earn community service, volunteer time during the week at the Post Grad program.

The school has a washer and dryer to clean the used clothing. In addition to wash-



Staff member Michaela Valley puts sticky paper on this display box, which will be used to display infant clothes. There are several more displays behind her as well as circular units for displaying items at the Q-munity Closet.

Turley photos by Ellenor Downer

ing all the used clothes, the students sorted through it to make sure the clothing was free of stains, which the wash did not remove and tears. Everything is free, but there will be a donation jar at the closet for those wishing to make a monetary donation. Any proceeds would help fund, field trips for the students.

The email conclude, "As

this is a new venture for our Post Grad students, we invite you to extend this invitation to family members and friends, even if they do not have a need for resources at this time. We want to provide the students with a lot of foot traffic to build their communication skills and praise them for all the hard work they have done getting this venture off the ground."

SUMMER CAMP GUIDE



The benefits of attending summer camp

Summer camp is something akin to a rite of passage for millions of youngsters each year. Many adults look back fondly on their experiences at summer camp, often crediting such times as formative periods in their lives. Summer camp benefits children in a myriad ways.

• Campers continue to socialize throughout summer. Socializing isn't just for the school year. While children in high school might be independent enough to come and go with their friends during summer break, kids who are still in elementary school or middle school might not be old enough to handle such freedom. That

can make it hard to stay in touch with friends, which in turn can contribute to feelings of boredom and loneliness. Camp provides ample opportunities for young children to socialize during a time of year when they might not see their school friends as often as they're used to.

• Campers can expand their horizons. Though some summer camps are exclusive to residents of certain communities, many tend to feature children from numerous towns or municipalities. Such camps provide an opportunity for campers to expand their horizons by engaging with youngsters who come from different backgrounds.

• Camp can get kids off their devices. Modern children are growing up in a digital world, and parents know how hard it can be to get kids to put down their devices and get outdoors. But the key to making that pivot could be access to outdoor play spaces. Many summer camps are structured around outdoor play, making them a potentially invaluable ally as parents seek to help children cut back on the time they spend using their devices. Children who do not attend camp and live in households where both parents work or in single-parent households where Mom or Dad works may be forced to spend much

of summer indoors, which could increase the frequency with which they turn to devices to occupy their time.

• Camp adds structure to summer days. Once a school year ends, the structure a school day provides vanishes into thin air. Couple that with extracurricular activities that go on hiatus during summer vacation, and kids accustomed to structure are left with little to do and no need to schedule their time.

There's no shortage of benefits to enrolling youngsters in summer camp, where kids can socialize, grow and get off their devices while engaged in structured but stress-free activities.

Camp by the numbers

Each year, campers of all ages head off to nearby recreation centers or travel to rural areas to claim their cabins and bunks. Here's a deep look at some of the statistics surrounding summer camps.

1,467: The number of day camps in the United States run by the YMCA. - *YMCA*

\$3.91 billion: The peak market size of the summer camp sector in the United States in 2019, before stay-at-home-restrictions affected statistics in subsequent years. - *Statista*

14 million: The average number of American summer camp registrants each year. - *American Camp Association*

1 week: The most popular session length for summer camp, although the majority of independent camp operators offer four-, six- and eight-week sessions. - *American Camp Association*

50: The percentage of respondents whose camps charge \$1,000 or more per session, with most programs costing between \$1,000 and \$1,500. - *CampMinder*

58 to 63: The percentage of female staff members at overnight and day camps, respectively. - *American Camp Association*

200 to 300: The average number of campers served each session. - *CampMinder*

7 in 10: The number of camps that run 10 or more different programs. - *CampMinder*

79: The percentage of camps that maintain a screen-free environment. - *CampMinder*

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Calendar of Events

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

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

ALL ABOUT OWLS, presented by the Massachusetts Audubon Society and sponsored by the Friends of the New Braintree Library will take place today at 2 p.m. in the New Braintree Library, 45 Memorial Drive, New Braintree for school age children. They will learn about the variety of owls that live in Massachusetts as they examine owl wings, feet and skulls. They will compare themselves to an owl – how long is their “wingspan” and how far around can they turn turn head. They will discover what owls eat as they dissect an owl pellet. There will be an optional take home craft: make an owl mask. This program is funded by the Hardwick/New Braintree Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a State Agency. This program is free and open to the public.

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

OPEN HOUSE AND TEA TASTING hosted by the Rutland Historical Society will take place on Sunday, March 9 from 2- 4 p.m. at the Wood House, 232 Main St., Rutland. Teas available for tasting will include black, herbal and specialty teas with origins from China, England, India and Iraq. This is a free event and is open to the public. People can taste some tea and browse the museum’s collection of Rutland history.

MONDAY, MARCH 10

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY BARRE UNIT 2 will meet today at 7 p.m. in the American Legion Post 2, 450 South Barre Road, Barre. Refreshments will be provided by Kara Franciosi, Barbara Rossi and Karen Nurmi.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12 BROWN BAG CONCERT will be held today with show time at noon at Mechanics Hall, 321 Main St., Worcester. These free concerts open to the public are supported by a grant from the Worcester Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Today’s concert features Cassandre McKinley, a jazz and blues singer. Harshitha Krishnan, a singer of Indian origin with Indian folk and western genres like jazz, soul and R & B, performs March 19. Jazz Streams perform contemporary jazz on March 26. Doors open at 11:30 a.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

QRSD PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING will take place today at 6 p.m. in the Educational Support Center, 872 South St., Barre. People may attend in person or via Zoom. To join Zoom Meeting: bit.ly/QuabbinRSDSC, meeting ID 840 3950 2276 passcode qNR6R0. A copy of the FY26 Quabbin Regional School Budget will be available for review on their website at www.qrdsd.org or at the EducationalSupportCenter, 872 SouthSt., Barre on Tuesday, March 11 from noon on.

Where is this?

This week’s mystery photo is from Oakham. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, March 10. Bill Bowles, Peggy Civilik, Stephen Craven and Evelyn Luukko correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was taken of Hannaford Market from Grant Road in North Brookfield.



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

HUBBARDSTON COMMUNITY THEATRE presents “Lionel Bart’s Oliver” today at 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 15 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 16 at 1 p.m. in the gymnasium at Hubbardston Center School, 8 Elm St., Hubbardston. Tickets are \$15 for adult and age 12 and up, \$12 for children ages 3 to 11 and seniors and free for children age 2 and under. Tickets are available at the door or in advance by sending an email to hubtheatre123@gmail.com. “Lionel Bart’s Oliver” is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

CORNERED BEEF AND CABBAGE SUPPER hosted by Barre Post 2, American Legion, 450 South Barre Road, Barre, will take place today from 5-6:30 p.m. at the post. The meal is available to eat in or carry out. Ham will also be available, tickets are \$16. People may call the Post at 978-455-2370, Tony Musnicki at 978-337-2351 or Scott Tourtellot at 508-320-9899 for reservations.

“SPAY”GHETTI SUPPER will take place today at 5-6:30 p.m. in the First Congregational Church of Brimfield, 20 Main St., Brimfield to benefit Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary. Advance tickets are \$15 adult, \$10 senior 65 plus and children under age 12. Tickets at the door are \$20 adult, \$15 senior 65 plus and children under age 12. For more information, people may visit www.heretodaysanctuary.org.

BOOK BINGO organized by the Petersham Montessori School will take place today 3-5 p.m. at the Petersham Town Hall, Main Street, Petersham. This event is in celebration of National Reading Month. Cost is \$20 per family. Participants will receive bingo cards and counters and get several opportunities to win a pick of a large variety of children’s books. Pizza, chips and beverage

es will be available for purchase at the concession stands. People may purchase some raffle tickets at \$1 per ticket or \$5 for six tickets. Petersham Montessori will be raffling off several themed gift baskets. Some parking is available at the Petersham Town Hall, and overflow parking can be found around the common. All proceeds from the fundraiser will go to Petersham Montessori School. Local librarian Patty Upshaw is leading the Book Bingo event.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

POT O GOLD EVENT sponsored by the Friends of The Hubbardston Senior Center, 7 Main St., Hubbardston will take place today at 11:30 a.m. in the Senior Center. It will feature authentic Irish beef and lamb stew with all the fixings. Tickets are \$10 per person. At the same time, a fund raiser raffle is being held. Raffle tickets are \$10 for 26 chances. At 12:30 p.m. there will be the drawing of the winners of the three lottery trees. People don’t need to be present to win. Tickets for the luncheon and the lottery trees are available at the Hubbardston Senior Center.

MONDAY, MARCH 17

STORY TIME will be held today at 9 a.m. at the New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive, New Braintree. Today, the program for preschoolers focuses on St. Patrick’s Day. The readings will include “The Night Before St. Patrick’s Day” by Natasha Wing and “Pete the Cat, The Great Leprechaun Chase” by James Dean. Parental supervision is required for this reading and crafts program. People may call the library at 508-867-7650 during regular business hours for more information.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

GRANDPARENTS AND KINSHIP CARE SUPPORT GROUP meets today from 9:30-11 a.m. at the Worcester Family Resource Center,

20 Cedar St., Worcester. The group meets in person for breakfast the third Friday of the month. For questions or to register, people may call Debbie at 508-796-6118 and leave their name and contact information.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

ANTIQUES ROADSHOW will take place today from 1-3 p.m. at the New Braintree Historical Society Museum, 10 Utley Road, New Braintree. People will bring an item or two of choice. No jewelry will be appraised. Renown appraiser and auctioneer Kenneth Van Blarcom from South Natick will conduct an individual appraisal and history of the item. Cost per appraisal is \$5. Refreshment will be served. People may call 508-867-3324 for more information.

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES FOR SCHOOL GROUPS of “Curious George, The Golden Meatball” will be held at Theatre at the Mount, 444 Green St., Gardner today at 10 a.m.; Wednesday, April 9 at 10 a.m. (already sold out); Thursday, April 10 and Friday, April 11 at 9:30 a.m. and noon. All seats are \$10. To book a school group, people should email Paul at box-office@mwcc.mass.edu or call 978-630-9388.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

FOAM ROLLER AND TRIGGER POINT BALL WORKSHOP will be held today from 6-7:30 p.m. at Listening Wellness Center, 35 South St., Barre. Cost is \$35. Dive into the world of self-myofascial release in this hands-on workshop, perfect for improving muscle recovery, reducing tension and enhancing overall mobility. Participants will learn how to effectively use foam rollers and trigger point balls to release tight muscles and fascia, promoting better movement and potentially alleviating pain. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/foam-roller-trigger-point-ball-workshop-tickets-1228514703549?aff=oddtcreator> or call Listening Wellness Center at 978-355-3501 for more information.

FRIDAY, MAY 2

2025 SPRING SHOW sponsored by the Princeton Arts Society and located in the Princeton Community Center, Post Office Place, 206 Worcester Road, Princeton will take place take place today from 6-8 p.m. opening reception and on Saturday, May 3 and Sunday May 4 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The show is free and open to the public. For more information, people may visit www.princetonarts.org.

Calendar Policy

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

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This special section will run in the April 10th issue of the Barre Gazette.

Ad deadline: March 26, 2025

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

Contact Dan Flynn to reserve your space today
413.297.5886 or dflynn@turley.com

Friends group hold all about owls program

NEW BRAINTREE – On Saturday, March 8 at 2 p.m. the Friends of the New Braintree Library will host the Massachusetts Audubon Society program all about owls for school age children at the library, 45 Memorial Drive. They will learn about

the variety of owls that live in Massachusetts as they examine owl wings, feet and skulls. They will compare themselves to an owl - how long is their “wingspan” and how far around can they turn turn head. They will discover what owls eat as they dissect an

owl pellet. There will be an optional take home craft: make an owl mask. This program is funded by the Hardwick/New Braintree Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a State Agency. This program is free and open to the public.



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State tourney berth spoiled for Quabbin boys basketball

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE — All the Quabbin Regional boys' basketball team needed to do to clinch a berth in the Division 3 state tournament for the first time since 2022 was defeat the Groton-Dunstable Crusaders in the final game of the regular season.

Things looked very promising for the Panthers who held a 30-19 halftime lead. It was a very different story during the second half.

The Crusaders scored 46 second half points with the help of 13 three-pointers, and they ended the Panthers post-season dreams with a 65-50 road victory on Feb. 18.

"Give Groton-Dunstable a lot of credit for coming out and playing a great second half against us. They increased their defensive intensity, and we just didn't match it," said Quabbin head coach Dennis Dextradeur. "We gave up close to 50 points in the second half, which is something that we haven't done very often in the past."

Dextradeur, who completed his 46th season as a var-



Kyle Clark chases down a rebound.

sity basketball coach, has won a total of 391 games as the Panthers boy's coach. He also won 84 games as the girls' varsity coach giving him a total of 475 career victories.

While Dextradeur is planning on returning to the sidelines next year, it was the final high school basketball

game for Quabbin seniors Jaxon Warburton, Bryce Venne, Zeke Santoro, Quinn Geary, and Kyle Clark.

"Our five seniors didn't play basketball for two years when they were in middle school because of the COVID-19 pandemic," Dextradeur said. "After winning only four games in each



Quinn Geary inbounds the ball to a teammate.

of the past two seasons, they helped restore our tradition and our culture this year. I'm very proud of what the seniors did for our basketball program. They've worked very hard and they're passing the baton to the younger

See QUABBIN BOYS, page 10



Jacoby Dilling attempts to keep the ball inbound.



Brady Patchen drives toward the basket.



Christiana Dunn tries to block a pass.



Bella Smith sends a pass around the perimeter.

Pioneers win first-ever state tournament game

PALMER — For the first time since the MIAA changed tournament formats, Pathfinder Regional High School girls basketball won a matchup in the Division 5 State Tournament. Last Tuesday evening, the Pioneers defeated Boston United 47-36. Megan Clark had a huge game with 24 points. Addison Doktor had 17 points and Greenly Lagimoniere scored six points. The Pioneers moved into the Round of 32 after that. Highlights from that game will be in next week's edition.



Taylor Allen heads into the paint.



Greenly Lagimoniere gets ready to shoot the three-pointer.



Megan Clark tries to get control of the loose ball.

Panthers score win in season finale

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE — Celebrating a victory in the final game of the season was a very important thing for Quabbin girls' basketball head coach Evan Barringer and his players.

Led by senior co-captain Brooke Austin, who scored a career-high 20 points, the Lady Panthers wrapped up the 2024-25 campaign with a 50-18 non-playoff home win over the Nipmuc Warriors on Feb. 18.

"You certainly couldn't have asked for a better last game of the season. A lot of the things that we haven't done very all season, we did do in tonight's game," said Barringer, who coaches every game with the same amount of passion. "All of the seniors

also played very well in their last home game."

Both girls' basketball teams entered the final game of the season with 5-14 overall records.

"Because we graduated four starters from last year's team, I wasn't really sure how many games we would win this season," Barringer added. "Coaching this group of players has been so enjoyable. They've done everything that I asked them to do. I'm very proud of them."

Quabbin kicked off the regular season with a pair of non-league road victories against Narragansett Regional (44-31), and Worcester Tech (50-30).

The Lady Panthers also defeated South Lancaster Academy, 34-30, in the opening round game of



Sadie Ouimette sends a pass out of the arc.

the Gardner High School Holiday Tournament. Their other two victories during the regular season came against Lunenburg.

The home victory against the Warriors in the season

See PANTHERS, page 10

Worcester State falls to Westfield in conference playoffs

WESTFIELD — Jordan Grant (Gray, Maine) delivered a game-high 22 points as Westfield State pulled away in the fourth quarter to defeat Worcester State 89-75 in a MASCAC quarterfinal game from the Woodward Center last Tuesday night.

The Owls took control late, riding a massive fourth-quarter effort from Maddie Pond (Holyoke, Mass.), who poured in 14 of her 20 points in the final frame to propel Westfield State to victory. The game

remained tight through three quarters, but Westfield's ability to make key plays down the stretch proved to be the difference. The Owls' three seniors led the charge, with Grant's 22 points, Pond's 20, and Olivia Hadla (Westfield, Mass.) adding 17. The trio combined for 59 of Westfield's 89 points, showcasing their leadership and experience in a high-pressure postseason battle.

Kayley Downie (Easthampton, Mass.) also played a crucial role, knock-

ing down three three-pointers to provide a perimeter spark. Morgan Berthiaume (Webster, Mass.) led the effort on the glass with eight rebounds, while Pond added five steals on the defensive end. Tavi Williams (Springfield, Mass.) contributed valuable minutes with six points and three steals, helping disrupt Worcester's offense and generate transition opportunities.

Despite the loss, Worcester State put forth an impressive effort, playing a

well-coached and physical game that kept them in contention until the final minutes. Mia Haynes (Worcester, Mass.) was dominant inside, scoring 20 points on 10-of-14 shooting while pulling down six rebounds. Katie Hurynowicz (Tyngsboro, Mass.) posted a double-double with 18 points and 12 rebounds, knocking down 8-of-10 free throws while

See WORCESTER STATE, page 10



Addison Doktor tries to keep the ball in play.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Sports

Registration now open for Quabbin Valley baseball

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to infuse new talent into its league for the 2025 season. Registration for the 2025 season is now open and any interested players can go to www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated over the next month with information about the upcoming season. There are many open roster spots available in the league for the 2025 season,

which is tentatively scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 27. The league plays most Sunday from late April through mid-August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley normally used. The Quabbin Valley league is an all-abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league.

Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2025. The next league board meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 23 at 11:45 a.m. at the Hangar Pub & Grill in South Hadley. The league has also scheduled two open practices on Sunday, March 30, and Sunday, April 6. Both practices are scheduled to be held at Beachgrounds Park in South Hadley and are weather-permitting. The league website and social media accounts will have updates as the preseason continues.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – It is week three of the final 10-week round for the Commercial Elks League.

After the first two weeks, there is a tie for first place between Team BK, Gutter Mouths, Compression and Last in Line. All four teams have a record of 5-3, however the tie is broken by way of team's high single and high series (three-game total). Out of the four teams, Team BK has the high team single of 446 and the high series of 1212.

The Daft Kings bowled against the Mailmen during week three of the final round. In game one, Daft Kings defeated Mailmen by a score of 402-386. Matt Bertelli of Daft Kings bowled great by putting up a score of 129.

In game two, The Mailmen salvaged a win over the Daft Kings by a

score of 381-378. The high game was bowled by Bryan Surprise, 111. Bertelli followed up with a 104.

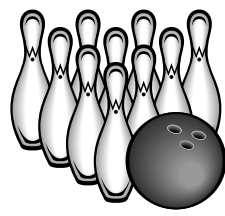
In game three, The Mailmen pulled off another victory over the Daft Kings, 364-350. Bertelli had the highest series out of all the bowlers in the match with a 319. Just two pins shy of 317 was Bryan Surprise of Mailmen.

The Mailmen won total pinfall by one pin, with a final score of 1131-1130. Mailmen take three points out of a possible four.

Team BK bowled against Compression in an effort to break the 5-3 tie for first place between them and two other teams. In game one, Team BK won a close game by a score of 365-362. Jason Dominick of Compression had a spare to fill in the tenth and needed a seven or higher to win, he only filled the spare with three.

In game two, Team BK were victorious again by a score of 418-371. Paul Nothe of BK bowled his best game of the season with a 130 to help the team increase their lead.

In game three, Compression won the last game by a score of 384-380. Team BK won total pinfall and a total of three points out of a possible four, 1163-1117. After this match, Team BK's record is bumped up to 8-4.



The Gutter Mouths bowled against Last in Line. In game one, Last in Line was victorious by a score of 356-342. Vinny Navarro of Last in Line bowled a 117 to get the win.

In game two, Gutter Mouths were the winners by a score of 396-356. Stephen Manolakis of Gutter Mouths bowled a 120. In game three, Last in Line won the last game by a score of 346-338. Navarro had the highest series of 314.

Gutter Mouths won total pinfall with a final score of 1076-1058. Each team received two points.

QUABBIN BOYS, continued from page 9

players now." Quabbin finished the 2024-25 campaign with a 9-11 overall record. The Panthers won eight of their first eleven regular season games. They then only won one of their final eight games.

The last time that the Panthers qualified for the Division 3 state tournament was in 2022. They lost a preliminary round game at Belchertown High School by the final score of 58-46.

Geary, who scored 10 points against the Crusaders (9-10), is the only remaining player from that team.

Clark led the way offensively in last Tuesday's home game with a team-leading 16 points. He just missed recording a double-double as he pulled down nine rebounds.

Venne finished the contest with five points, which all came during the first quarter. Warburton and Santoro each scored two points.

Rounding out the scoring column for the home team were sophomore Jacoby Dilling (9 points), and

freshman Brady Patchen (6 points).

The Panthers first half points were evenly spread out among five different players.

Clark and Dilling scored seven points apiece in the first half. Patchen contributed with six points, while Geary and Venne each scored five points.

In the closing seconds of the opening quarter, a Dilling put-back hoop gave the Panthers a 16-9 advantage.

After making a spin move in the lane, Clark scored an inside hoop pushing the Panthers lead into double digits (19-9) for the first time with 6:35 left in the second quarter.

With less than two minutes remaining in the first half, the Panthers built a 30-16 lead following a Patchen inside basket.

The Crusaders closed out the first half with senior Zach Romich burying his third 3-pointer of the game from the top of the key.

Romich, who scored 13 of his team's 19 points in the first half, recently scored his 1,000th career point. He put on an incredible offensive show during the second half,

as he made five more shots from beyond the three-point arc giving him a game-high 32 points.

Groton-Dunstable junior Finn Frazier also made six 3-pointers after halftime leading to his 18 points. No other G-D player scored more than six points in the contest.

The Crusaders made a total of 22 field goals and 16 of them were three-point shots.

After Romich began the second half by hitting a trey, the Panthers answered with a Clark inside basket and a Warburton lay-up following a steal.

The Panthers 34-22 lead slipped away very quickly, as the visiting team scored the final 21 points of the third quarter.

The Crusaders, who made a total of seven 3-pointers during the third quarter, entered the final eight minutes of the non-playoff contest holding a 43-34 lead. The visiting team continued to pull away during the final quarter, as they made six more 3-pointers.

Dextradour is really hoping that his team will be playing in the state tournament a year from now.

LADY PANTHERS continued from page 9

finale snapped Quabbin's four game losing streak.

Prior to the opening tip-off, Quabbin senior Lianna Leger did an outstanding job of singing the National Anthem.

Leger was a member of the girls' soccer team last fall and she'll be playing for the softball team this spring.

Austin and Leger, along with classmates Bella Smith, and Christiana Dunn, were standing on the court together for the final time at the start of the game.

The Lady Panthers fifth starter was junior co-captain Mia Ducos, who scored nine of her 12 points during the first half.

The other senior listed on the Quabbin roster is Makaylah Kingsbury, who didn't attend the home game

because she was on vacation.

"The five seniors are very special to me," Barringer said. "There were members of our Central Mass. championship team last year, but they didn't get to play in many games. Each of them had signature games this year. We're like a big family and I'm really going to miss them a lot."

The only time that the Lady Panthers trailed in the game was at 2-0 less than a minute into the first quarter.

With 6:55 left in the opening quarter, Dunn buried a 3-pointer from the left corner, which started an 8-0 run. The 3-pointer was her only points of the game.

After an Austin put-back hoop, Ducos made a free throw and a lay-up giving the home team an 8-2 lead with 4:50 remaining in the quarter.

The Lady Panthers entered the second stanza holding a 10-2 advantage.

The duo of Austin and

Ducos combined to score all nine of Quabbin's second quarter points.

The home team headed into the locker room with a 19-5 advantage.

With a little more than three minutes left in the third quarter, Smith, who finished the contest with seven points, banked home a 3-point shot from the right side pushing the Lady Panthers lead to twenty points (29-9) for the first time. Her father, Brian, is one of the Lady Panthers assistant coaches.

Julia Hamel was also an assistant coach this season.

Austin scored 13 of her points during the fourth quarter, as the Lady Panthers continued to pull away.

"I'm very happy for Brooke," Barringer said. "She has battled a lot of injuries during the past couple of years and is a very tough kid. Coaches aren't supposed to have favorite players, but Brooke is one of my all-time favorites. She's just a great kid."

Austin is planning to play soccer at Anna Maria College in the fall. Barringer is also hoping she joins the Amcats women's basketball team next winter.

The Lady Panthers' other two scorers were sophomore's Abby Rogowski, who scored her six points in the second half, and Izzy Doty (2 points).

The other members of the Quabbin girls' basketball team were sophomore's Aubrey Thorpe and Sadie Ouimette.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Mia Ducos attempts to shoot.



WORCESTER STATE, continued from page 9

also adding five blocks on the defensive end to keep Worcester within striking distance. Lena Waldron (Quincy, Mass.) also finished with a double-double, adding 15 points and 10 rebounds, and three blocks of her own as the Lancers controlled the glass, outrebounding Westfield State 54-44, including 17 offensive boards.

The game was a back-and-forth battle for most of the night, with Worcester jumping out to an early lead behind Haynes' hot start. Westfield responded with an offensive surge in the second quarter, fueled by their tran-

sition game and three-point shooting. Hadla connected on a pair of threes to spark a run, while Grant asserted herself in the post, scoring through contact and getting to the free-throw line. At halftime, the Owls led 52-44, setting the stage for a tense second half.

Worcester controlled much of the third quarter, using their size advantage to crash the boards and create second-chance opportunities. Hurynowicz and Waldron dominated the interior, forcing Westfield to adjust defensively. A late push from the Lancers saw them cut the deficit to just three, as the score was 65-62 going into the final quarter.

A Haynes baseline jumper

at the 7:51 mark of the fourth quarter gave the Lancers a 68-67 lead before Westfield responded with a relentless fourth-quarter attack, spearheaded by Pond's 14-point outburst. She knocked down a clutch three to tie the game early in the quarter and followed it up with a series of aggressive drives to the basket. Grant continued to be a force in the paint, while Hadla's steady ball-handling and scoring touch helped keep the Owls in control. Worcester continued to fight, with Haynes and Hurynowicz making key baskets to keep the pressure on, but Westfield's experience and shot-making ability proved too much to overcome in the final minutes.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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55			56		57	58	59		60			
61			62					63				
64			65						66			
67			68						69			

CLUES ACROSS

- Cut a little bit off
- State with confidence
- River in NE Scotland
- Not narrow
- Lacking social polish
- Amount of time
- Frame
- Automobile
- Toadstools
- High school dances
- Utilize
- Challenged
- One-sided
- Showing extreme greed
- Potted plants
- Everyone has one
- Lake in Botswana
- E.T. rode in one
- Juniors' parents
- Small amount

CLUES DOWN

- Brushed aside
- Water sprite
- Ones to look up to
- Monetary units
- Mother of Perseus
- Ornamental box
- Gov't investigators
- Uncertain
- A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- The vast grassy plains in S. America
- Your consciousness of your own identity
- Noted consumer advocate
- Spanish sports club
- Body part
- Tractability
- Woman (French)
- Ready and willing to be taught

CLUES ACROSS

- A number everyone has
- Marine invertebrate
- One who takes you to court
- Indicates outer
- Parallelograms
- Strains
- Cross
- A way to remove
- Some pages are dog-__
- Ukraine city
- A citizen of Denmark
- Summer month (abbr.)
- Hindu queens
- Jewelry brand
- Fictional rider of Rohan
- Wet dirt
- Russian city
- Observed

CLUES DOWN

- Furious
- Drivers' licenses
- Musical composition
- Auction
- They __
- Women
- Inspire with love
- Japanese ankle sock
- Appears
- Old World lizard
- The leading performer
- Type of protein
- Pennsylvania town
- Art __: around 1920
- __ Blyton, children's author
- Abnormal breathing
- A place to sleep
- Muslim ruler title
- Depressed
- Gradually gave way
- Clear-thinking

Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

Proverbs Part 2

The Book of Proverbs is among the most beloved and practically-beneficial books in the whole of Scripture.

Last week we noted that this work was penned by Solomon, son of David and king of Israel—a man renowned for God-given wisdom. Yet why did he write this book? Solomon opens Proverbs with this passage, which speaks to his inspired purpose or intent:

Proverbs 1:1-6 (NIV)

1 The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:

2 for gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; 3 for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair;

4 for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young—

5 let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance—

6 for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise.

Why was it written? Proverbs was penned to impart wisdom to all who would receive it!

Of course, this raises another question: what is wisdom? How does the Bible define wisdom?

Broadly speaking, it is defined as insight into two critical elements. Firstly, it is insight into the nature and working of God. Those who are wise rightly regard the person and purpose of the Lord. Such individuals properly perceive His nature and their place before Him. Secondly, it is insight into godly living.

Those who are wise understand how to effectively navigate earthly experience(s) in a spiritually-informed yet deeply practical manner. Thus said, wisdom is not exclusively the domain of the intellectual or philosopher, but of all who seek to live well. Do you seek to live well before the Lord and among men? If so, heed the contents of this timeless yet timely work!

The next query is among the most important for the sake of our series. Namely, how does Solomon work to impart wisdom throughout his writing? What are the means through which he communicates and articulates the wisdom of the Lord? Though this is a question we will contend with at length in upcoming editions, let me move to a close with this reality: Solomon worked to convey wisdom through the use and utilization of proverbs. Hence the very name of this work.

Ultimately, the Book of Proverbs is a compilation of individual proverbs, truisms or adages meant to express insight on an array of topics. Beginning with chapter 10, the reader is faced with a number of short and simple, yet profound statements meant to offer wisdom. The ancients loved this form of instruction. In truth, we still do! Contemporary culture abounds with many proverbs, passed down from one generation to the next. Have you ever heard any of the following expressed?

“The early bird gets the worm” - a proverb stressing the need for industry and maximizing opportunity.

“A penny saved is a penny earned” - a proverb affirming the need for both saving and frugality.

“Look before you leap” - a maxim that serves to express caution in making decisions.

The Book of Proverbs abounds with such maxims, each offering insight into life and living. Note this sampling:

Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 13:20

20 Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

Proverbs 14:12

12 There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.

Proverbs 16:18

18 Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 18:21

21 The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

We will continue next week with the tools Solomon used to impart wisdom. Until next time, thank you for taking the time to read this publication. Should you have any comments or questions, feel free to contact me at your convenience using the information below.

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

Pastor James Foley

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978-355-6407

Transfiguration Sunday

“When God Enters with Power and Light”

Scripture Reading:

Luke 9 v 28 -43a

I. Introduction

The following excerpt is from an article I wrote for our church newsletter, The Spire, in the March edition.

“Experiencing the gentle glow of dawn or the bright sunlight in the middle of the day is truly a delightful blessing. Darkness can also be appealing, but it often symbolizes periods of struggle. Occasionally we have experiences of darkness in our own lives and when we look around, we see it there too.

At present, the world is going through a turbulent period of uncertainty, fear, loss, and despair, a period that leaves us with more questions than answers, with differences that are hard to resolve, and poverty and loss of human dignity that leaves many without hope...” I then went on to emphasize that these conditions do not align with the teachings of Christ; rather, the Son of God was born to bring light, peace and joy into this world. I believe that the passage in Luke chapter 9 concerning the Transfiguration of Jesus underscores the significance of God’s light for addressing our present-day challenges.

II. When God enters with power and light

Our passage demonstrates the power and light of God entering the space on the mountain where Jesus and His disciples were gathered. The Son of God would be transfigured into a heavenly Being with the appearance of His face transformed and His clothes turned bright as lightning.

It is important to note that this happened while He was praying to God. We do not know the content of His prayer, but He was clearly in some serious communication with God when this extraor-

dinary event occurred. At that moment He was visited by Moses and Elijah, who had gone before Him and already had the experience of the heavenly existence.

We do not know what they talked about, but their presence alone and Jesus’ transfiguration were enough for the disciples to be in awe and led Peter to propose that they put up a tent for each one of them, so they could spend more time with them.

In the previous passage, verses 18 – 27, Jesus heard from His disciples that the crowd believed He might be John the Baptist, the prophet Elijah, or some other prophet who came back to life. Peter then identified Jesus as the Christ, after which Jesus instructed them to refrain from disclosing this information to anyone. And, how wonderful to see this amazing encounter, about eight days after this conversation, here on the mountain, where Jesus received this visit from Moses, and the Prophet Elijah.

According to David E. Garland and Clinton E. Arnold in their commentary on Luke, this visit by Moses and Elijah refuted the notion by the crowd that Jesus would have been either of them, or some other prophet. Jesus knew He was the Son of God, and He knew that the disclosure of His identity would endanger Him before He departed from this earth.

It was the voice of God breaking through the clouds with power and light, that would reveal the truth about Jesus, that He is the Son of God, with whom God is pleased, and to whom they must listen. God’s words brought this transfiguration experience to a climax for the disciples, confirming for them what they already knew, that they were with a very special person and that they were too eager to listen to Him and follow Him.

III. Conclusion

The disciples needed to witness the transfiguration, which demonstrated the light, truth and change that God wanted to bring through the life of God’s Son. God’s light shines in all the dark places of suffering, conflict, poverty, oppression and sickness. Wherever God is, love and light move to transform these conditions of darkness into enduring moments of relief, peace, abundance, health and healing.

They were to listen to the Son of God, carry forth His message, and be the light and change in a world that can be dark and troubled. And here we are, in a world that can be a wonderful place but is also plagued with darkness and many troubles. We are disciples of Christ charged with the same call the disciples were charged with, to bring light, peace, and relief where there is darkness, conflict, and need. May God help us to reflect on this message, and give us the courage to follow Christ, to listen to Him, and be the change and light God wants us to be in this world of ours.

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

Obituaries

Charles Keith Roberts, 99



BARRE- Charles Keith Roberts, 99, of Barre, passed away on Feb. 23, 2025, in Linda Manor in Leeds, MA.

He was born in St. Stephen, New Brunswick and moved to Barre in 1932 when he was 7 years old. Charles was a United States Air Force Veteran and enlisted in 1943 after graduating from Barre High School. He served our country, both in the US and overseas, as an airplane engine mechanic and rifleman for 3 years during WWII.

After serving our country, Charles worked for the Chas. G. Allen Company for 20 years as a machinist and then went on to work for Massachusetts Electric Company as a technician for 17 years until he retired. Charles or Keith as most knew him as, was a life-time member of the American Legion post #2 and a member of the Barre Congregational Church. He enjoyed traveling, camping and working with his hands.

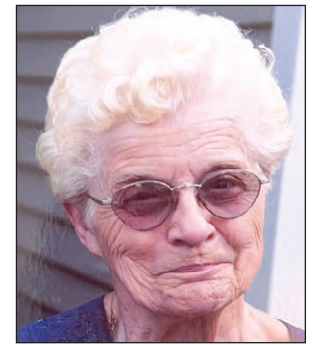
He especially liked tinkering with things like TVs, computers, appliances, cars, lawnmowers and rebuilding small engines. Charles could fix just about anything. He was an amazing man with many talents and will be missed by all who knew him.

Charles is survived by his daughter, Leslie A. Marsland and her partner Richard Provencal of Ware; his sons David K. Roberts and his wife Angela of Leominster and Richard K. Roberts of Hubbardston; his grandchildren David Roberts of South Yarmouth, Rebecca Roberts James and her partner Keith

Abramo of Worcester, and Nicole Roberts of Templeton and several nieces and nephews. Charles was predeceased by his wife of 50 years Barbara (Backus) Roberts; his parents Hazel and Gordon Roberts; his brother Wilfred Roberts; his sister Bernice (Roberts) Elberfeld; his half-sister Kathleen McQueston; his grandson Richard J. Roberts; his daughter-in-law Lois (Mackie) Roberts and his long-time companion, Pauline Gifford.

In accordance with Charles’ wishes, his burial in #4 Cemetery, Barre will be held privately at the convenience of his family. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you honor Charles’ memory by making donations to the American Legion Post #2 Building Fund, 450 South Barre Road, Barre, MA 01005. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 96 South Barre Road, Barre.

Eleanor E. (Going) Simmons, 96



OAKHAM – Eleanor Estelle (Going) Simmons, age 96, wife of 70 years to the late Richard Simmons, died Feb. 28, 2025 at Gardner Rehabilitation and Nursing Center.

Eleanor was born in Cambridge, a daughter of the late Percy J. and Elizabeth (Downer) Going and was a resident of Oakham since 2006; having previously lived in Hopkinton, West Brookfield and North Brookfield.

Eleanor was a graduate of Newton High School in 1947 and attended Newton All Music School. Eleanor taught piano in her home or at the home of others. She had started playing piano at the age of six. While living in Hopkinton, Eleanor was a real estate broker. She was a member of Oakham Congregational Church and Hardwick Hand Bell Ringers’ Choir.

In addition to her parents and husband, Eleanor was predeceased by her brothers, Richard B. Simmons, Jr, Warren J. McDonald and her sister, Jean Jones. Eleanor is survived by

her children: Janet E. Paradis (George), Lee Ann Nelson (Richard), Richard A. Simmons (Deborah), Nancy E. Larence (Roger) and Matthew B. Simmons (Beth); grandchildren, Aimee P. Velasco, Julie P. Hollowell, Matthew A. Nelson, Jennifer Nelson, Brandon A. Simmons, Alexander Lapierre, Ciara Larence, Bryan M. Simmons, Britain Simmons; great-grandchildren, Isabel Velasco, Sofia Velasco, Colin G. Hollowell, Owen A. Hollowell, Jonathan Marrogerin, Trevor Nelson and Brawley Lapierre; along with extended family members.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday March 8, 2025 beginning with a calling hour from 1-2 p.m. followed by a 2 p.m. service, all being held in the Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, Oakham. A private burial will take place in Pine Grove Cemetery, Oakham. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to a charity of your choice. Pillsbury Funeral Home, 44 Gilbert Street, North Brookfield, is entrusted with arrangements www.pillsburyfuneralhome.com

DEATH NOTICES

Roberts, Charles Keith

Died Feb. 23, 2025
Burial will be private at the convenience of his family.

Simmons, Eleanor E. (Going)

Died Feb. 28, 2025
Calling hour 1-2 p.m. March 8 and
Funeral Service March 8 at 2 p.m.
both at Oakham Congregational Church
4 Coldbrook Road, Oakham

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.

Barre Gazette OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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



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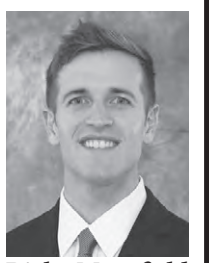


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Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 16
 8:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Wauwinet Road, Public Assistant
 8:52 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issued, Mechanic Street, Negative Contact
 9:20 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Stroke (CVA), West Street, Transported to Hospital
 12:32 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Vernon Avenue, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 4:01 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Hubbardston Road, Information Taken
 5:49 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Cut Off Road, Information Given
 5:56 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Gilbert Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 6:02 p.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Wheelwright Road, Fire Extinguished
 7:16 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Williamsville Road, Vehicle Towed
 8:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Barre Depot Road, Removed Hazard
 8:23 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, West Street, Information Given

Monday, Feb. 17
 1:24 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Hardwick Road – Public Assistant
 5:42 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Exchange Street, Officer Spoke Party
 7:37 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), South Barre Road, Removed Hazard
 11:24 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Hubbardston Road, Removed Hazard
 11:33 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Mechanic Street, Referred to Other Agency
 11:58 a.m. Road Condition Notification, High South Street, Referred to Other Agency
 12:31 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Station Road, Officer

Spoke to Party
 1:01 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Mill Road, Referred to Other Agency
 1:27 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Town Farm Road, Referred to Other Agency
 2:03 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Elm South Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 2:42 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Hubbardston Road, Message Delivered
 4:56 p.m. Public Assist, West Street, Information Taken
 7:17 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Williamsville Road, Vehicle Towed
 11:18 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Fir Street, Investigated

Tuesday, Feb. 18
 8:27 a.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield District Court, Court Duty
 11:32 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle/Parking Issue, Elm South Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 12:02 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Stetson Road, Message Delivered
 12:26 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Marsh Road, No Fire Service Necessary
 12:57 p.m. Harassment, South Street, Chief Met with Party
 2:25 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Town Farm Road, Message Delivered
 3:12 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Edward Lane, Officer Spoke to Party
 4:20 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Hancock Road, Information Given
 4:42 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Worcester, Information Given
 5:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Main Street, Officer/Chief Advised

Wednesday, Feb. 19
 10:01 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Ruggles

Lane, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 4:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision – Fire, Gilbert Road, No Fire Service Necessary
 6:42 p.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Summer Street, Referred to Other Agency

Thursday, Feb. 20
 8:11 a.m. Suspicious/Vehicle Activity, Summer Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 8:21 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Gauthier Road, Report Filed
 11:11 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Edson Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 4:44 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Cut Off Road, Message Delivered
 5:41 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Walnut Hill Road, Information Taken
 6:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Hit and Run, Pleasant Street, Report Filed
 8:50 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Fir Street, Officer Spoke to Party

Friday, Feb. 21
 7:36 a.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, West Street, Referred to Other Agency
 10:20 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Mechanic Street, Message Delivered
 1:10 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Cut Off Road, Referred to Other Agency
 4:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Old Stage Road, Referred to Other Agency
 8:03 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Hubbardston Road, Report Filed

Saturday, Feb. 22
 9:58 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, South Street, Investigated
 1:51 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic), Williamsville Road, Transported to Hospital

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, Feb 16
 12:59 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Crawford Road, Public Assist
 8:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Main Street, Public Assist
 9:36 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Miles Road, Vehicle Removed
 10:15 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Brintnal Drive, Vehicle Removed
 10:35 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Pequot Trail, Referred to Other Agency
 12:16 p.m. Fire – Illegal Burn, Prospect Street, Fire Extinguished
 3:39 p.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Pommogussett Road, Officer Chief Advised
 3:54 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Prescott Street, Removed Hazard
 4:39 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 4:50 p.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Pioneer Circle, Officer Spoke to Party
 5:12 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Pommogussett Road, Vehicle Removed
 10:09 p.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Forest Hill Drive, Investigated
 10:40 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Old Turnpike Road, Vehicle Towed
 11:24 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Main Street, No Action Required
 11:43 p.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Referred to Other Agency

Monday, Feb. 17
 12:01 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Rufus Putnam Road, Investigated
 1:25 a.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Negative Contact
 1:39 a.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), Welch Avenue, Entry Gained
 6:10 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Edson Road, Removed Hazard
 7:52 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Cedar Avenue, Referred to Other Agency
 8:03 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Turkey Hill Road, Referred to Other Agency
 12:27 p.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Main Street, Referred to Other Agency
 1:07 p.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Main Street, Referred to Other Agency
 1:16 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Ware, Information Given
 1:28 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures, Maple Avenue, Transported to Hospital
 4:18 p.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), East County Road, Public Assist
 9:17 p.m. Public Assist, East County Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 9:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Pommogussett Road, Public Assist
 10:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Pommogussett Road, Message Delivered

Referred to Other Agency
 11:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
 12:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Redmond, Luke S., 34, Princeton
 Charges Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle, Inspector/Sticker, No
 4:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Written Warning
 4:32 p.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Maple Avenue, Referred to Other Agency
 7:32 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Kenwood Drive, Officer/Chief Advised

Wednesday, Feb. 19
 7:26 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unattended Death, Old Schoolhouse Road, Report Filed
 9:19 a.m. Fire – Vehicle Fires, Grizzly Drive, Report Filed
 9:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued
 Summons Roman, Jocelyn Marie, 51
 Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle with, Unregistered Motor Vehicle
 1:37 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Soucy Drive, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 1:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 2:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning
 2:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Citation Issued
 2:31 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, East County Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 2:44 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, South Road, Vehicle Towed
 2:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 3:19 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures, John Robert Drive, Transported to Hospital
 3:47 p.m. Property – Lost and Found, Main Street, Property Returned
 4:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Citation Issued

11:11 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Edson Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 11:16 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Main Street, Vehicle Removed
 12:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Pommogussett Road, Vehicle Towed
 2:25 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Barre Paxton Road, Referred to Other Agency
 3:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Main Street, Public Assist
 4:43 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Wachusett Street, Transported to Hospital
 5:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning
 8:14 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Juniper Lane, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Friday, Feb. 21
 2:28 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Kenwood Drive, Citation Issued
 2:51 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Maple Avenue, No Fire Service Necessary
 3:53 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issue, Winifreds Way, Citation Issued
 4:01 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issued, Marjorie Lane, Citation Issued
 8:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Written Warning
 9:36 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 9:49 a.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 11:49 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Main Street, Public Assist
 3:28 p.m. Road/Traffic/Hazard, Pleasantdale Road, Investigated
 5:59 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 8:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Ten Rod Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 9:25 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Barre Paxton Road, Officer Spoke to Party

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of Feb. 24-March 3, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 15 building/property checks, 17 directed/area patrols, two radar assignments, one traffic control, one emergency 911 call, three safety hazards, two assist other agencies, one citizen assist, one complaint, one fire/illegal burn and three animal calls in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, Feb. 24
 4:22 p.m. Serve Warrant, Out of Town, Arrest(s) Made

Tuesday, Feb. 25
 1:11 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Wednesday, Feb. 26
 8:13 a.m. Complaint, Ware Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 4:06 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Moore Road, Officer Handled
 6:31 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

5:19 a.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 5:17 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Ware Road, Dispatch Handled

Saturday, March 1
 7:38 p.m. Safety Hazard, West Road, Services Rendered

Sunday, March 2
 6:32 a.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency
 11:22 p.m. Fire/Illegal Burn, Old Common Road, Services Rendered

Oakham Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 16
 5:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, South Road, Vehicle Removed
 8:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Barre Depot Road, Removed Hazard
 10:16 p.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Ware Corner Road, Investigated
 10:44 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Old Turnpike Road, Vehicle Towed

Monday, Feb. 17
 7:51 a.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Ware Corner Road, Referred to Other Agency
 8:34 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Lincoln Road, Message Delivered

9:38 a.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Barre Plains Road, Referred to Other Agency
 9:49 a.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Coldbrook Road, Referred to Other Agency

Tuesday, Feb. 18
 9:01 a.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Coldbrook Road, Message Delivered
 9:06 a.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Coldbrook Road, Message Delivered
 10:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Robinson Road, Vehicle Removed

Wednesday, Feb. 19
 7:26 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unattended Death, Old

Schoolhouse Road, Report Filed
 10:33 a.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Coldbrook Road, Referred to Other Agency
 2:44 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, South Road, Vehicle Towed

Thursday, Feb. 20
 11:11 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Edson Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 6:11 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Crocker Nye Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Saturday, Feb. 22
 3:25 p.m. Property – Lost and Found, Town Wide, Information Taken

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 16
 12:24 p.m. Safety Concern, Gardner, Officer Spoke to Party
 2:40 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Gardner, Vehicle Removed
 2:47 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Barre Road, Referred to Other Agency
 7:21 p.m. Threats, Barre Road, Report Filed
 8:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Gardner Road, Investigated
 10:18 p.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, New Templeton Road, Information Given
 10:32 p.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Adams Road, Information Given
 10:48 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Gardner Road, No Fire Service Necessary
 10:48 p.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Lombard Road, Negative Contact
 10:59 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Dogwood North Road, Removed Hazard
 11:54 p.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Root Road, Referred to Other Agency

Monday, Feb. 17
 7:15 a.m. Fire – Power Lines

Down/Arcing, New Templeton Road, Referred to Other Agency
 9:37 a.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Twin Hill Road, Referred to Other Agency
 9:43 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Brigham Street, Vehicle Removed
 9:55 a.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Brigham Road, Referred to Other Agency
 10:12 a.m. Road Condition Notification, New Templeton Road, Referred to Other Agency
 3:31 p.m. Notification, Hubbardston Police Station, Information Given
 5:43 p.m. Public Assist, Hubbardston Police Station, Public Assist

Tuesday, Feb. 18
 4:39 p.m. Notification, Hubbardston Police Station, Information Given
 9:19 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Williamsville Road, No Fire Service Necessary
 9:50 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Iroquois Avenue, Message Delivered

Wednesday, Feb. 19
 9:31 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Falls, Mt. Jefferson

Road, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, Feb. 20
 12:30 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Underwood Road, Investigated
 2:13 p.m. Property Dispute, Mt. Jefferson Road, Report Filed
 4:31 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Abenaki Street, Message Delivered
 6 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Birches Road, Investigated

Friday, Feb. 21
 8:57 a.m. Follow-Up Investigation, Mt. Jefferson Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 11:14 a.m. Court Duty, Gardner District Court, Court Duty
 11:27 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures, Ed Clark Road, Transported to Hospital
 5:33 p.m. Follow-Up Investigation, Hubbardston Police Station, Officer Took Call

Saturday, Feb. 22
 7:50 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Lombard Road, Public Assist

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HELP WANTED

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The Worthington Police Department is seeking qualified candidates for **Full-time Police Officer.** Applicants must be a minimum of 21 years of age or older, a U.S. Citizen and possess a valid driver's license. They should also have a high school diploma/GED, license to carry and be certified by Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee and be POST certified.

This is a benefited position with a salary range of: \$52,000.00 - \$75,733.00. The successful candidate shall be highly motivated, self-disciplined, possess a community policing philosophy and live in or near Worthington. This position has the potential to be elevated to Police Chief.

Send letter of interest, resume and three references with relevant contact information to:
Worthington Police Department P.O. Box 247 Worthington, MA 01098
Or via email to: **sboard@worthington-ma.us**
Subject line: Employment

Responses will be accepted and reviewed until the position is filled.
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Oliveira leads call for urgent review of energy rate increases

BOSTON – In response to unprecedented spikes in energy bills across Massachusetts, state Sen. Jake Oliveira (Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District) is leading a coalition of state legislators to jointly call on the Department of Public Utilities to immediately reassess recent rate hikes approved for investor-owned utility companies, including Eversource and National Grid.

In a letter addressed to DPU Chair James Van Nostrand, Oliveira was joined by more than 80 legislators who expressed grave concern over the financial strain these increases place on households and small businesses.

“Residents across our districts have reported alarming increases in their utility bills, with some seeing their costs double,” said Oliveira in the joint letter. “A senior constituent of mine’s Eversource bill jumped to \$449.91 in January, nearly \$300 of which was due to supply costs alone. These excessive rate hikes are unsustainable for working families, seniors, and small business owners who are already struggling to keep up with the rising cost of living.”

The letter highlighted the burden on vulnerable residents, including seniors on fixed incomes who are experiencing an astonishing 27% increase in their heating costs. Despite claims from Eversource that the spikes are due to colder temperatures and increased usage, many ratepayers who have maintained consistent energy consumption are still seeing drastic hikes.

“Families are having to make the impossible decision between putting food on the table and heating their homes. This is unacceptable,” he said.

Oliveira and the legislators are demanding that the DPU conduct a comprehensive and transparent review of Eversource’s pricing structure to determine whether these rate increases are justified.

“Time and again, we see profits prioritized over the well-being of Massachusetts families,” said Oliveira. “We cannot allow utility companies to impose unpredictable and excessive financial burdens on ratepayers without proper oversight. The DPU must act now to protect consumers and ensure fairness in energy pricing.”

As winter continues, Oliveira and the legislators are calling on the DPU to take immediate action to hold Eversource accountable and implement measures that prioritize affordability for all Massachusetts residents.

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As winter continues, Oliveira and the legislators are calling on the DPU to take immediate action to hold Eversource accountable and implement measures that prioritize affordability for all Massachusetts residents.

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