# BARRE GAZETTE

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# **Oakham** holds short STM

By Ellenor Downer Editor edowner@turley.com

OAKHAM - About 40 registered voters came out Tuesday, March 11 for a short Special Town Meeting.

The meeting opened at 7:08 p.m., adjourned, reopened and adjourned for the final time at 7:18 p.m. Voters unanimously approved both articles on the warrant.

Article 1 transferred from available funds \$15,000 from the Assessors Stabilization account to fund the Assessors Revaluation line item account. Article 2 used free cash to restore line items cut from the approved Fiscal Year 2025 budget at the June 2024 Annual Town Meeting.

The total amount taken from free cash was \$22,394.49. The items included Police Department \$6,000 for training salary account, Fire Department \$4,000 to the training/wages account, Town Clerk \$2,500 to the election's workers wage account, Town Clerk \$2,894.49 to the election expense account, Board of Selectmen \$3,000 to the Administrative Assistant Wage account, Board of Selectmen \$2,000 to the Administrative account and Town Counsel \$2,000 to the Town Counsel account.

During discussion on Article 2, Fire Department Captain Jake Nahkala read a letter from Fire Chief Timothy Howe, who was

See OAKHAM STM, page 5

# Community Theatre presents



Director Anthony DeNorscia gives cues to Jody Ryan (Mr. Brownlow) and daughter Amelia Ryan (Oliver) while choral director Bethany Stefano looks on.



Erin Blackstone and Susanna Stefano, who play "Nancy" and "Bet," try on their costumes for the

HUBBARDSTON – The **Hubbardston Community** Theatre will present 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.

The directing team of "Oliver" is Director Anthony DeNorscia, Choral Director Bethany Stefano and

Choreographer Amanda Hakala Schuster. All shows will be at Hubbardston Center School, Elm Street, in the gymnasium.

Tickets are \$15 for adults aged 12 and up, \$12 for children aged 3 – 11

and seniors and free for children aged 2 and under. Tickets are available at the door or may be reserved in advance by emailing hubtheatre123@gmail.com.

"Oliver" is a classical musical by Lionel Bart based on the Charles Dickens novel, "Oliver Twist." The streets of Victorian England come to life as Oliver (Amelia Ryan), a malnourished orphan in a workhouse, becomes the neglected apprentice of an undertaker. Oliver escapes to London and finds acceptance

See OLIVER, page 5

# Select **Board** continues budget talk

By Ellenor Downer Editor edowner@turley.com

OAKHAM - The Select Board at their Monday, Feb. 24 meeting continued budget discussions with various departments, boards and commissions.

On the agenda were Conservation Commission, Cemetery Commission, Historical Commission, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and Tree Warden. First up was the Conservation Commission. Their Fiscal Year 2026 budget reduced education from \$532 to \$300 and increased dues from \$199 last year to \$235 this year as the cost increased. Their total budget was just \$535. Select Board Chair Lucy Tessnau spoke on behalf of the Conservation Commission as no members were present. In response to a question about education costs from Select Board Vice Chair Donald Haapakoski, she said many courses are now available online. Some course pertaining to wetland could be taken from the Commission's Wetland Fund.

Select Board Chair Tessnau said the Cemetery Commission remained the same as the FY 25 budget with a \$300 stipend and \$11,000 in expenses. Matthew Brunelle, Chair

See OAKHAM SELECT

# **School Committee accepts** proposed FY 26 budget

**By Paula Ouimette** pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD Superintendent Timothy McCormick told School Committee members there are no changes to the proposed fiscal year 2026 school budget that he presented at a previous meeting.

Last year's approved budget was \$7,028,605.89 and the current recommended budget for FY 26 (with offsets) \$9,763,911.89. Of this, the town would be responsible for paying \$8,227,837.31.

This is an increase of 17% over last year.

At the Feb. 24 meeting, School Committee Chair John Magario said this number is "still in flux" due to ongoing negotiations with teachers' contracts. He said salaries are projected to increase by 6.7%.

Magario said the major budget drivers are salaries, special education and transportation – with transportation increasing by 11% for the next fiscal year.

"This is the current working number," he said. "We have to start somewhere."

The budget proposal includes the addition of two positions; a sub-separate teacher and a full-time ABA.



These new positions would create an additional sub-separate classroom for special education students.

McCormick said this classroom would serve students with specific needs in the elementary school. He said creating this classroom could prevent students in need of additional support from having to be placed out of district.

"This workshop really kind of gave us an idea of what we want to see in our classrooms."

> **Superintendent** Timothy McCormick

"It's keeping those kids in district, it's keeping those kids closer to home and it's also a short and long term savings," he said. "When we look at our special education numbers, specifically our out of district placements, it is always with students in mind."

School Committee Vice-Chair Tim Canada said the cost of out of district placements "is a big impact on the overall budget" for the school district. This year, the cost for out of district tuition for 15 students totaled \$1,797,939.30.

"This is a big part of the budget," Magario said. "Being able to keep some students within the district would certainly offset some of this cost. I think it's a great goal to move toward."

McCormick said if this program is successful, it could also be a draw for student choice families.

The School Committee members voted to approve the budget as presented.

**Superintendent's report** 

McCormick said on Feb. 6 he went to Boston with High School Principal John Diorio and teacher Caitlyn Malone to visit Boston Collegiate and John D. O'Bryant School as part of the One8 Foundation's Applied Learning grant.

He said they observed 10 classrooms and experienced what applied learning is.

"This workshop really kind of gave us an idea of what we want to see in our classrooms," McCormick said. "We want to see that student discourse. We want to see the release from the teacher to the students where the students are doing the learning."

McCormick said they will bring this information back to the school district and support staff with some of these

"This grant opportunity will allow Mr. Diorio and two teachers to attend a conference in Denver in April, it's paid for by the grant," he said.

See SCHOOL COMMITTEE page 6 Teens and librarians try to become record holders at Barre library

By Ryan Drago Staff Writer rdrago@turley.com

BARRE - There was a possibility that a new record was going to be set this past week at the Woods Memorial Library.

The library put on a fun activity for teens and tweens to attempt at breaking a world record that is currently in the Guiness Book of World Records. Youth Services Librarian Kayla Phillips researched fun records that could be done by some local teens and tweens and possibly set a record that are actual held records.

There were a total of six stations in the activity room and Phillips had timers and record sheets in place to track the attempts made by teens and the librarians.

The first station is to set up 10 books like dominoes and topple them over as fast as you can. Phillips said the record is 6.94 seconds. Assistant Youth Services Librarian Kate Murray attempted this station and got it done in 19 seconds.

Later on, somebody came into the activity room and attempted to beat the record. The person bested Murray's time by eight seconds, but was about five seconds shy of the record time.

The next station was the fastest time to flip three



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Kate Murray tried to set up 10 books like dominoes

water bottles over with every bottle standing after each flip. Phillips gave this station a try and perfectly flipped each water bottle, but no record was broken.

Another fun station was the fastest time to sort M&Ms using chopsticks. Murray tried out this station on two occasions and bested her first attempt by 27 seconds.

The record for this activity is 36.26 seconds. The record holder is HyeongJin Cho of Korea, who was 13 years old when he set this record back in January of 2023.

See RECORD HOLDERS, page 8



The Woods Memorial Library offered a fun teen and tween event where kids could try to break a **Guiness Book Record.** 

# News of the Towns



# **ROUND TOWN**

by Ellenor Downer edowner@turley.com

#### Women's Fellowship holds Lincoln program

The Barre Congregational Church Women's Fellowship hosts a program on Abraham Lincoln with former State Senator Stephen Brewer on Monday, April 7 at 7 p.m. at the church, 30 Park St. Brewer will bring Lincoln to life through stories and historical antidotes. People are invited to come early at 6:30 p.m. for light refreshments and conver-

#### 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.

#### **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, 557 South Barre Road, on Monday, April 14 at 11 a.m.

# **Food Pantry distribution**

The next Barre Food Pantry distribution is 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 20 will again be "drivethrough" 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 Blanev at 978-355-6921or 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/.

# Local author offers new work of fiction

# LJ Cohen book signing at Stone Church

HARDWICK - Lisa Janice Cohen will celebrate the release of her ninth novel, "Litany for a Broken World," at 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 16, at the Stone Church Cultural Center, 283 Main St., Gilbertville.

The public is invited to a reading, book signing and reception with the author.

Cohen describes her newest work of speculative fiction as follows: "When three strangers, each broken in some way, are pulled into a conflict between those with the ability to travel the multiverse and the organization seeking to exploit them, they must risk everything that matters to heal the fractured places in themselves and through-

The author characterizes her story as "The Wizard of Oz', set in a Boston homeless encampment." It is Book One of a new series.

Cohen's novels have been praised by Sarah Pinsker, a Hugo and Nobula Awardwinning author; by Lynn Viehl, a New York Times bestselling author, and by

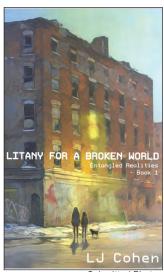


Local author LJ Cohen is celebrating the release of her newest novel, "Litany for a Broken World" at the Stone **Church Cultural Center** on Sunday, March 16 at

Publishers Weekly. One reviewer said of this new novel that writing in the multiverse isn't easy, but "Cohen makes it work."

Since moving permanently to Gilbertville where she lives with her spouse, Cohen has been a writer in residence at Eagle Hill School. She is also an active potter and homestead farmer, and she serves on the Board of the Friends of the Stone Church. Her website: www.ljcohen.net

**About FOSC** Friends of the Stone



Author LJ Cohen has released her ninth novel, "Litany for a Broken World."

Church, Inc. is a public charitable corporation and community group organized in 2015 and open to all. Its mission is to preserve and protect the Gilbertville Stone Church Cultural Center and to make it available as a place of community enrichment.

The Friends welcome donations toward their ongoing preservation project online at www. FriendsoftheStoneChurch. org or by mail to FOSC, P.O. Box 347, Gilbertville, MA 01031.

# **HUBBARDSTON**

by Ellenor Downer edowner@turley.com

#### **EOLT** to burn brush at Hidden Meadow

The East Quabbin Land Trust will be burning brush on Saturday, Marc15 starting at 10 a.m. at Hidden Meadow 71 Lombard Road. Volunteers are needed to help with invasive plant control. People may join for an hour or for the whole day. They should wear clothes that can get dirty along with sturdy shoes and work gloves. They will continue burning the invasive plants, such as honeysuckle and bittersweet, which are prolific in the hidden meadow on the preserve. There will be snacks and lunch food. People should register by emailing chenshaw@eqlt.org.

# **Country Hen Scholarship**

The Country Hen Scholarship Fund is now accepting applications for the 2025 scholarship award. This annual scholarship provides a total of \$1,000 to one or more Hubbardston students pursuing higher education. Applicants must be a Hubbardston resident for at least three years, be a graduating high school senior planning to attend an accredited college or university and have demonstrated community involvement during their high school years. To apply, they should complete the online form and submit the required materials by Friday, April 25. Applications are available by visiting the town website at https://www. hubbardstonma.gov and click on Country Hen Scholarship. Applicants must submit a completed and signed application form, an essay (maximum 1,000 words) describing community involvement during high school and how it prepared them for college or why they should be considered for the scholarship. For questions or additional information, they may contact the Hubbardston Select Board

# Nomination papers

Nomination papers for the upcoming Annual Town Election on Tuesday, June 10 will be available beginning Tuesday, March 18. The last day to obtain nomination papers from the Town Clerk's office is Tuesday, April 22. Nomination papers may be picked up at the Town Clerk's office during regular business hours Mondays from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. and Tuesday through Thursday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Town Offices have moved to 48 Gardner Road. A minimum of 23 signatures of registered voters in Hubbardston are required. Papers must be returned by 5:00pm on Tuesday, April 22 at 5 p.m. People may call the Town Clerk's office directly via phone at 978-928-1400, extension 202 or by emailing townclerk@hubbardstonma.gov.

# **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.

# **Food Pantry lists distribution**

BARRE – The next Barre into the right hand (east) Food Pantry distribution will occur on Thursday, March 20 from 5:30-7 p.m.

In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients Thursday, March 20 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed 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.Please do not arrive to volunteer on March 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/.

# Friends of Library host herbs for health program March 21

NEW BRAINTREE - On at the New Braintree Iown Hall, the Friends of the New Braintree Library present Herbal Answers for Common Health Issues with Elaine

Sunday, March 23 at 2 p.m. experience using and helping the Hardwick/New Braintree others use holistic medicine. She will share her knowledge of how to use herbs, vitamins and other foods to deal with life's unexpected moments and inevitable annoyances.

Elaine has over 50 years This program is funded by 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.

# **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 17. Lunches are back at the senior center, but require a presign 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 - Corned beef, boiled potatoes, cabbage and carrots, pear crisp, diet = pears, pumpernickel bread

TUESDAY – Roast turkey with gravy, mashed sweet potatoes. roasted Brussels sprouts, baked apples, whole wheat bread

WEDNESDAY – Shepherd's pie, carrots, peas, brownie, diet = cookie, pumpernickel bread

THURSDAY - Greek lemon chicken, herbed potatoes, roasted broccoli, Lorna Doone cookies, Italian bread

FRIDAY - Vegetarian chili, steamed rice, carrots, fresh fruit, marble rye 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

# **EQLT** to hold game night and potluck

HARDWICK - The East Quabbin Land Trust will hold team crossword, them team trivia followed by a potluck on Saturday, March 22 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at their office, 120 Ridge Road, Hardwick.

The program will start off with a team crossword followed by team trivia. Themes for the evening will include local history, conservation, recreation and the environment. They had a crack team working on the puzzles and trivia questions and promise it will not boring. People should bring a snack or dish to share, along with their thinking cap and sense of humor. People should RSVP by Wednesday, March 19 by emailing atrevvett@eqlt.org.

# **Editorial deadline reminder**

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







207-607-9333

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# **Corrections** policy

The Barre Gazette will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2. To request a orrection, send information to Editor Ellenor Downer at barrenews@turley.com or call 978-355-4000. Corrections may also be requested in writing at Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

# News of the Towns

# **PUBLIC MEETINGS**

Select Board – March 13 at 5:30 p.m. and March 17 at 6 p.m. QRSD Budget Hearing/School Committee – March 13 at 6 p.m. Board of Assessors – March 18 at 6 p.m. Finance Committee – Mary 18, March 25, April 8 April 22, May 6 and May 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Planning Board – March 18 at 7 p.m. and April 1 at 7 p.m.

Cemetery Commission - March 27 at

11 a.m. and at noon Felton Field Commission - April 1

at 6:30 p.m. Council on Aging – April 2 at 12:30 p.m. Election Day - April 7 from 8 a.m.-

Cable Advisory Committee - April 8 at 7 p.m.

Board of Health – April 14 at 5 p.m. Water Commission – April 14 at 6:30 p.m.

DPW Commission – April 14 at 7 p.m.

#### **HARDWICK**

Master Plan Steering Committee -March 13 at 6:30 p.m. Capitol Planning Committee-March 17

at 3 p.m. Wheelwright Water District - Mary 17 at 7 p.m.

Gilbertville Water District – March 18 at 5:30 p.m.

Council on Aging – April 2 at 12:30 p.m. Board of Health – April 3 at 6:30 p.m. Paige Library Trustees – April 3 at 7 p.m.

#### HUBBARDSTON

Council on Aging – March 19 at 6:30 p.m. Community Preservation Committee -March 24 at 7 p.m.

Board of Park Commissioners – April 9 at 5:30 p.m.

## NORTH BROOKFIELD

Post Owner/Architect/Contractor Meeting – March 13, March 20, March 27, April 3, April 10 April 17 and April 24 at 4 p.m.

Finance Committee – March 13 at 6 p.m. Community Development Block Grant Public Hearing – March 18 at 6 p.m. Board of Selectmen - March 18, March 25 and April 8 at 6 p.m Cultural Council – March 19 at 5:30 p.m. Planning Board – March 19 and April 16

Sen. Durand and Rep. Berthiaume Office Hour – April 9 at noon Sewer Commissioners – April 14

# **OAKHAM**

Council on Aging – March 14 at noon Planning Board – March 18 at 7 p.m Board of Selectmen - March 17 and March 31 at 6 p.m.

at 4 p.m.

Library Trustees – March 18 at 5 p.m. Planning Board – March 18 at 7 p.m.

# **PETERSHAM**

Select Board - March 13. March 20, March 27, April 3, April 10 April 24, May 1 and May 8 at 5:30 p.m. Advisory Finance Committee – March 13, March 20 and March 27 at 6 p.m. Petersham Historic District - March 13 and March 20 at 6 p.m. Board of Health – March 20 at 6 p.m.

Board of Assessors – March 21 at 9 a.m. Open Space and Recreation Committee -April 1 at 6 p.m.

Conservation Commission - April 1

at 7 p.m. Council on Aging – April 14 at 10 a.m.

# **RUTLAND**

Finance Committee and Select Board Joint Meeting – March 13 at 6 p.m. Town Charter Committee – March 13 at 6:30 p.m. Bylaw Committee – March 13 at 7 p.m.

PARKER

Plexiglass/Lexan

Woodstove Glass

• Tempered Glass

Library Trustees – March 13 at 7 p.m.

# **Barre/Hardwick Senior Center** list upcoming events

BARRE - The Barre/ Hardwick Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road. launched the first "theme" of the 2025 year long Stronger Together Initiative this month.

The first theme, Mind/ Body, is about creating an awareness of just how interconnected our minds and our bodies are in everything we do. The introductory workshop took place two times this month.

One of the overarching messages every day at the Senior Center is "Join Us, and, As Always, Bring a Friend." The Council on Aging invites people 60 years of age and over from the towns and villages of Barre and Hardwick to come by the Senior Center, even if for a cup of coffee or lunch, just check it out, or to pick up a newsletter and a calendar.

There are March activities in addition to the regularly scheduled very full calendar of activities, which can be found in the newsletter at www.townofbarre. com/coa.

On Wednesday, March 19 at 10 a.m. join Yoga Instructor Brandy Lefsyk for a Guided Meditation.this if free, sign up at the Senior Center front desk.

On Wednesday, March 26 is Game Day, all day from 9 am.-2 p.m. Seniors will use their minds to strategize with board games, billiards, card games and more There will be snacks, music and lots of fun.

Each month builds upon the next yet participation is not required or even needed to get something out of the Initiative. Maybe people know someone who has knowledge and skills that they could bring to a presentation or program, they would love to hear about it. People can reach out to Betty-Jo O'Brien at the Senior Center.

Coming in April, the theme is Life Balance. There will be two Introductory Workshops-Wednesday, April 2 at 11 a.m. and Thursday, April 3 at 1 p.m. at the Senior Center. To support the Life Balance theme, the COA

will be offering a free Budgeting Workshop with Deborah Stoodley from Fidelity Bank, Thursday, April 10 at 8:30 a.m., FREE Tips & Tricks for time management, Thursday, April 17 at 9 a.m. at the Senior Center. Tuesday, April 22nd, FREE Acupressure presentation at 11 a.m. and Chair Massage at 12:30 p.m. (\$10/10 minutes) with Wendy Bolognesi, Ending the month with a free Downsizing and Organizing presentation with Jennifer Baker of Right-Sized Living, Tuesday, April 29 at 9 a.m. All events are held at the Senior Center-557 South Barre Road, Barre, MA.

To keep up-to-date, follow us on Facebook at Barre MA Senior Center. People may call the Senior Center with any questions or to register for these events at 978-355-5004.

If people would like to help sponsor this Initiative, they may email the COA/ Senior Center Director, Betty-Jo O'Brien at coa@ townofbarre.com.

# **OAKHAM**

by Ellenor Downer edowner@turley.com

#### **Lunch takes place at Fire Station**

On Friday, March 21 at 12.30 p.m. there will be a lunch at the Fire Station. The menu is pasta, meatballs, dessert and soft drinks. Seniors may sign up for the "Lunch at the Fire Station" in the main room of the Senior Center. If people can't get to the Senior Center to make reservations or sign up or for more information on offerings, they may call the Senior Center at 508-882-4073 and leave a message or email COA@ Oakham-MA.gov.

#### 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 Monday, April 14 at 12:15 p.m.

#### **Oakham Senior Center**

Podiatry will be held at the Oakham Senior Center, lower level Town Hall, on Monday, March 17 from 9 a.m.-2:30 p..m.; reservations are required. Mondays through Thursdays 9 a.m. the walking group meets and Tuesdays through Thursdays at 11 a.m. at the Senior Center. On cold days, the walking groups will walk to tapes inside the Senior Center.

On Tuesdays from March 4 to April 22 Yoga is held at 12.30 p.m. Tuesday, March 25 is the blood pressure/glucose testing from 11 a.m.-noon. On Tuesday, March 25 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program information will be available from 11 a.m. -1 p.m. All are welcome. There is no age

Other activities include: Wednesdays Zumba Gold 9 a.m. in the Rutland Senior Center - \$2 donation/class; Thursday, March 13 Blood Pressure at 11 a.m.; Thursday, March 20 Serving Health Insurance Needs of Everyone from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. - reservations are required; Thursdays at 12 noon weigh in – support weight loss group and

Fridays Functional Fitness at 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.-2.15 p.m. by calling 508-882-4072.

# Paige Library hosts Roger Tincknell

HARDWICK - The Orzechowski will present Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, presents Ireland to America on Saturday, March 15 at 1:30 p.m at the Hardwick Town House, on the Common.

Singer, yodeler and multi-instrumentalist Roger Tincknell will celebrate with traditional Irish music and culture, lovely ballads, work songs and sing-alongs interspersed with lively jigs and reels. Instrumentals performed include 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.

On Saturday, March

his latest book, "Becoming Darlene The Story of Belchertown Patient #4952." Darlene, the eighth of fourteen children, was abused, neglected, and sent to Belchertown State School.

Although established with good intentions, Belchertown State School grew overcrowded, under budgeted and understaffed. Darlene was "Discharged from Placement" at age 17 with no skills or training, but she dreamed of getting married and raising a family. She married a man, who had recently returned from the Vietnam War and they had two sons. Darlene was determined to raise them to see that the world isn't an awful place.

Registration is requested, people may call 413-477-6704 or email Director. paigelibrary@gmail.com.

The library provides 29 at 1:30 p.m., Edward books and workshops for those interested in starting a hobby. Knitting for adults meets on the library on Saturdays at 11p.m., Paige writers on alternate Tuesdays at 3:00, Book Club on the third Wednesday of the month at 2 p.m. and Cookbook Club on the last Wednesday of the month at 5 p.m. FUNdamentals of Art meets on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. and offers printmaking, card making, painting, calligraphy or bring their craft and join with others to socialize and share know how.

The library will explore Pisanky on Tuesdays, April 1 and 8.

People may call for more information or to register at 413-477-6704 or email Director.paigelibrary@ gmail.com.

Library hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 2-7 p.m., Wednesdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m.-1

# Special program March 16 honors Larry Buell

PETERSHAM – On Sunday, March 16 at 3 p.m. in the Petersham Town Hall, there will be a special program to honor Larry's accomplishments and for all those who helped him along the way. All are welcome to attend. Invited guests include people of Petersham and the central New England region and

beyond including, Dr. Mary Swenson, who nominated Larry for the Award, and Greg Prince, the former President of Hampshire College who directs the International Alliance for Self-directed Learning through the University of the Wild in Petersham. Other attendees will be the present coordinator of the Outdoor Leadership Program at Greenfield Community College, present and former students and staff, and a wide range of local and regional folks who know of and value Larry's far-reaching

For his many hours of dedicated service as a volunteer, Larry was recognized at the Jan. 20 Awards Ceremony in Washington DC where he received the U.S. President's Lifetime Award for Volunteer Service. The award was presented to 506 recipients for outstanding leadership and voluntary service for human development, civic engagement and other initiatives that foster hope and transformation within the United States and beyond.

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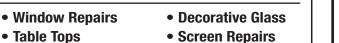
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# Opinion



# Did we make a mistake starting my wife's Social **Security now?**

Dear Rusty:

I hope we haven't made a mistake.

My wife just applied for her Social Security benefit. She was born in May 1962 and the estimated amount of her benefit is \$1,280 per month. Her work income last year was \$5,616; however, mine was about \$65,000. I do not plan on taking my benefit until the age of 70 in July of 2027.

My worry now is about the penalty for earning too much. We figured that since her income was so low, we wouldn't have to worry about that penalty, so we signed her up, and then it hit me: what if they look at my income, especially since our tax return is filed as Married Filing Jointly. Do we have a problem, or are they just going to look at her income to determine if there is a penalty? I hope I haven't messed this up. Also, I think I read that any penalty you are assessed for earning too much is returned to you once you reach Full Retirement Age; is that true?

Signed: Uncomfortable Senior Citizen

#### Dear Uncomfortable **Senior:**

First, let me ease your anxiety - you haven't "messed this up." While it's true that your income will be included when the IRS determines how much of your wife's Social Security benefits are taxable, changing your IRS filing status is usually not wise. However, considering vour combined income and your "married/jointly" IRS filing status, up to 85% of the SS benefits your wife receives during the tax year will be included as part of your overall taxable income as a married couple. Your wife's monthly SS benefit is about \$1,280, so about \$13,000 annually will be included in your Adjusted Gross Income when you file your taxes. You can have income tax withheld from your wife's SS benefit by filing IRS Form W-4V at your local SS office (you can have 7%, 10%, 12% or 22% withheld). Note your wife's tax obligation for this year

will be less because she will not get SS benefits for all of 2025.

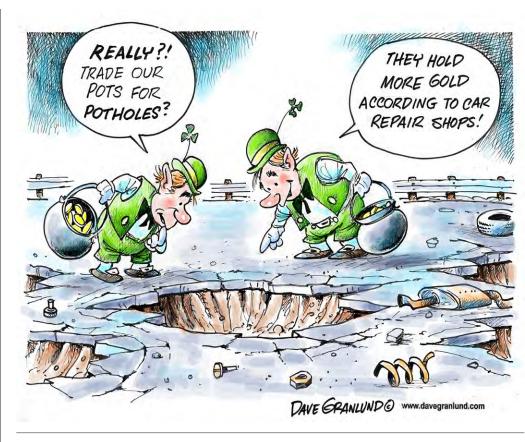
The other thing you are concerned about is whether your income will be counted when determining if your wife will be subject to Social Security's "Annual Earnings Test" and the answer to that is "no." At her current earnings level (about \$5,600), your wife is well below the annual earnings limit (\$23,400 for 2025) for those collecting early Social Security benefits. So, the AET will not apply and will not reduce your wife's monthly Social Security benefit. FYI, if her earnings did exceed the annual earnings limit, it is true that some of the resulting penalty would be recovered after she reaches her full FRA of 67.

Note the distinction between "taxation of SS benefits" and the "annual earnings test" for those collecting early benefits. Taxation of benefits is always based on your joint income when filing married/jointly, but the Annual Earnings Test looks only at your wife's personal work earnings until she reaches her FRA.

As I expect you already know, by claiming now (at age 62 plus), your wife's monthly SS retirement benefit will be permanently reduced (by about 26%). Until you later claim your SS benefit, your wife will receive her reduced personal SS retirement amount. But, when you claim, her benefit amount will be reassessed to see if she is also entitled to an incremental amount as your wife. If her SS entitlement at her FRA (even though she claimed at 62+) is less than 50% of your FRA entitlement, then her benefit will increase. However, she will not get the full 50% of your FRA entitlement because she claimed her own SS retirement benefit before her FRA (more likely, she will get about 34% of your FRA entitlement).

In the end, you really did not make a mistake by filing for your wife's Social

See SOCIAL SECURITY, page 5



# In Past Pages

5 years (March 19 2020)

The Barre Senior Center, 457 South Barre Road, was established to serve the needs of elders in the community. For those who may be unaware, the Hardwick Senior Center merged with the Barre Senior Center in May of 2017. As a result, the role of the Barre Senior Center in the community has expanded. The Barre Lions Club mad a donation to the Senior Buddies to help in their efforts to purchase a steam table for the lunch program at the Barre Senior Center.

Barre Selectmen Monday night unanimously declared a local state of emergency. Selectman Dylan Clark participated remotely. The action came following similar action on both the state and national level. The public had access to the March 16 meeting by broadcast only. Interim Town Administrator Heather Budrewicz said she and the town's Emergency Management Team were in contact during the weekend. She gave the Selectmen a draft of declaration.

The Quabbin Regional School District Committee unanimously approved a preliminary budget of \$36,023,026 and \$658,641 less than the first proposal of \$36,681,667. The approved preliminary budget was 3.4% increase over last year. The first proposal was a 5.3% increase. Assessments for the five-member towns would be Barre 7.49%, Hardwick 10.12%, Hubbardston 7.8 %, New Braintree 6:40 % and Oakham 7.79%. This was a preliminary budget based on the Governor's budget, the

# Look Back – Barre Housing for the Elderly – 1975



This photo shows the Community Building at Barre Housing for the Elderly taken at the Oct. 15, 1975 dedication.

only budget available at the time. The house version budget would be out the third week of April and the senate version, mid-June.

10 years (March 19, 2015)

Have you ever wondered what it was like to be under hypnosis? Many people could get the chance as the Fighting for 5 Fundraising Committee is getting ready to host their inaugural event, "Dan Candell's Wild Slide of Hypnosis," at the Quabbin Regional High School gymnasium this Saturday evening. "I think it will be a lot of fun," Lisa Huntington, President of the Fighting for 5 Committee said. The Fighting for 5 has only been around for a couple months, created when Quabbin Regional High School junior Rachel Myra came down

with an illness while getting ready for her varsity basketball season.

The Barre Board of Selectmen denied a special permit to Andrew Scavone for music/diss golf event at Camp Coldbrook at the continuation of a public meeting Monday night. At a public meeting held two weeks ago, the two selectmen present, Richard Jankauskas and Lief Ericson, decided to hold off on a decision until this Monday night's meeting with the third member, Kathy Inman, was present. The promoter of the event, Scavone, told the board that he had some remedies for a few of the residents concerns.

Members of the Oakham Parks and Recreation Committee presented a cit-

See PAST PAGES page 8



# Sweet potatoes get my vote

My dad was a "meat and potatoes" kind of guy. Mashed, baked or fried, potatoes were his thing.

Growing up, we usually had potatoes most nights for dinner. Since I have been an adult, I don't eat potatoes very often at all.

I often wonder if that particular Irish gene missed a generation, since I prefer the sweet potato over the regular potato any day of the week. Read on to learn all about this nutritional powerhouse.

According to www.nutritiondata.com, sweet potatoes are "low in sodium, and very low in saturated fat and cholesterol. They are also a good

source of dietary fiber, vitamin B6 and potassium, and a very good source of vitamin A, vitamin C and man-

If these facts aren't reason enough to try adding this veggie to your garden this growing season, delight in the fact that it is also a very pretty vine!

In fact, once I grew "sweet potato vine" in the planter boxes at Old Sturbridge Village. I didn't know at the time that the variety I was growing also produced bountiful tubers. It was one of those obvious things that I

just didn't put together. It's kind of funny that

when I attempted to grow them on purpose at home, they were an utter failure. By the time I peeled the thumbsize roots, there was literally nothing left to eat.

It is time for a refresher on sweet potato culture.

Sweet potatoes require a long growing season - somewhere between 90-150 days. The tender shoots are cold sensitive, and must be planted into the ground after all danger of frost has passed. In our area we use Memorial Day as our "frost-free date."

Then, the edible root, aka the sweet potato, must be harvested before the first frost of fall. By my records, the first frost usually occurs in early to mid-October.

This equates to 100 days bare minimum of growing

You can purchase plants through the mail or try sprouting your own from sweet potatoes purchased from the grocery store.

Dick Raymond, author of my favorite gardening book of all time, "Garden Way's Joy of Gardening" (Storey

Publishing \$24.95) has some great tips for doing this: Seven or eight weeks prior to Memorial Day, simply cut the spuds in half lengthwise and lay them down in moist peat moss in a shallow tray. Cover with plastic wrap and place in a sunny window until sprouting occurs.

Slips should be separated and planted about six inches deep, twelve to fifteen inches apart from one another.

He advises to water well for the first two weeks; after that sweet potato plants are reportedly somewhat drought tolerant. When fertilizing, choose a formulation that is a bit lower in nitrogen, otherwise you will have lots of vines at the expense of sweet

Dig up your bounty on a dry day, being extra careful not to damage the skin. Don't leave them exposed to the sun for more than an hour and don't wash them either.

Picky, aren't they?

Fresh sweet potatoes aren't all that sweet - a curing period of two weeks in the dark at 70-80 and at high humidity

will bring out the great flavor we are accustomed to. Longterm storage should be at temperatures around 60 degrees.

To make sweet potato fries simply cut the root into thick wedges then toss them with seasoned olive oil (or a favorite salad dressing). Bake on a cookie sheet at 350 degrees for one hour, flipping occasionally. Some ketchup as a dip may help reluctant kids to give the "funny orange French fries" a try.

My dad is probably looking down and wishing I did an article on good, old fashioned russets. Sorry, Dad, but Happy St. Patrick's Day anyway!

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.





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year, \$54 for two years

# Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

There are a few signs of spring at Serenity Hill.

The driveway has a little mud. When we had the ice, our oldest daughter had a company come and sand and salt the driveway, which was nice. It would be nice to have it tarred but the price would be too great as it is a very long driveway.

My handyman provides me with a lot of topics for this column. He was kind enough to pick up four bags of salt and a bag of potting soil at Tractor Supply. He also got a lot of the bargains at Big Lots that was closing.

He also helped solve the dead battery problem. I had not used the vehicle for over four weeks so we had to have a new battery.

Our house is over 37 years old and it seems one thing after another needs to be replaced. I opened the garage door the other day and the garage door seal came down. It is another job to do.

I am anxious to start gardening. I have been making plants from cuttings of coleus and a white cactus so I will use the potting soil for that purpose. I may plant a few herb seeds.

My oldest daughter has a green house so she is starting her peppers and tomatoes. She does not heat the greenhouse so she starts them inside.

I used to have a plant stand with lighting, but I gave it away as the bulbs cost too much money to replace. Now I place the starting pots on a step in the den that has heat under it, place paper towels on top and once they sprout I take the paper off. When you water them with the paper on, it does not disturb the seeds.

#### This and That

I see where the transfer of town offices is taking place at the former Breezy Hill Plaza off Gardner Road. I hope they name it after the original owner of the plaza Kenneth C. Green as he was very active in town politics and he named it after his father-inaws Breezy Hill Farm, located near this area.

Yes, I remembered to change my clocks ahead. It will be nice to have more daylight toward the evening. Sometimes the nights seem too long.

Hopefully, we had the last delivery of oil for the winter. Oil is so high now and so is the cost of living, including the groceries.

Have a good week.



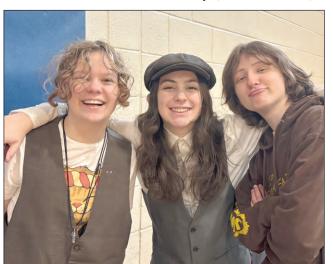
Fagin (played by Steve Long) and his gang of thieves and pickpockets.

#### **OLIVER** continued from page1

amongst a group of petty thieves and pickpockets led by the elderly Fagin (Steve Long). When Oliver is captured for a theft that he did not commit, the benevolent victim, Mr. Brownlow (Jody Ryan) takes him in.

Fearing the safety of his hideout, Fagin employs the sinister Bill Sikes (Rhys Long) and the sympathetic Nancy (Erin Blackstone) to kidnap him back, threatening Oliver's chances of discovering the true love of a family. "Oliver" is a musical theatre masterpiece, perfectly showcasing the talents of a large ensemble cast as they bring these classic characters and

score to life. Book, music and "Oliver" is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International. All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.



Members of Fagin's Gang, Layla Nally, Amelia Ryan ("Oliver") and Clance Streb ("Dodger").



Lyra Pelletier, Taylah Cass and Andie St.Clair wait patiently for their scene.

# **Adventures of** Gertrude the Cat

By Ruth Robinson

Editor's note: Ruth Robinson, who wrote the Gertrude, the Cat column for the Barre Gazette died March 3 at the age of 97. One of her column's appears below.

Dear Folks,

I have been watching Missy as she cleans out closets and drawers in hopes I can find something of inter-

So far, I haven't had any luck, but I am sure that will change as the week progresses. Yep, I was right.

I found a piece of cording, which had two dark things on each end of it. I pulled on it me as I dragged it.

Wow, in fact I got really brave and headed for the kitchen with it in my mouth. Missy exclaimed, "Gertrude, what have you got now."

It seems it was the old printer cord her son forgot to take away with him after installing the new printer. I had great plans for it, but Missy took it and threw it away down cellar, darn.

I also know of another thing to play with, but I'll wait until she goes up for the mail before I tackle it. There she goes.

In the computer room,



Missy apparently missed the wastebasket when she put in a new ink cartridge, as the box is here for me to play

I am having a great time with it and decided to put it behind the door for safe keeping. All went well until I got about half-way behind the door and then my rear hit the small wooden clothes drying rack and over it came on top of me and hit the door, which almost closed shut.

I wiggled out of the rack, forgot the box and started for the door where I had to squeeze out to the hall. Whew, what an experience. Missy will have to shove the door open and try to move the rack with her extender.

Anyway, I will be long gone and sound asleep in the rocking chair in the living room. I'm so innocent, you known.

Love. Gertrude

training wages account. **OAKHAM STM** Other questions asked were continued from page 1 why the accounts were reduced and how much unable to attend as he was money was in free cash. away at training. In Chief The reduction at the Annual Howe's letter, he said the Town Meeting was to bal-Fire Department had a "record year" with many brush fires and a house fire. ance the budget and free

cash had \$180,500 and

Meeting adjourned for the first time at 7:14 p.m., Administrative Assistant Maribel LaRange spoke to the moderator. The moderator said he needed to reopen the meeting as one of the amounts read in the motion by Select Board Chair Lucy Tessnau was not correct.

was correct - \$2,894.49 to the Town Clerk's election expense account for a late received bill.

Select Board Chair Tessnau reread the motion with the correct amount and it was approved unanimously. The Special Town Meeting then adjourned for After the Special Town The amount on the warrant a second time at 7:18 p.m.

# **SOCIAL SECURITY**

The Chief said he "hopes

the town will vote to restore

Security to start now. By the time you personally apply at age 70, your wife will have collected about \$46,000 in Social Security benefits which, I'm sure, will be helpful. And only a relatively modest amount of income tax will be paid on her Social Security benefits.

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

# continued from page 5

# 18 19 21 22 20 23 24 25 30 32 40 46 48 50 56 57 58 59 60 61 63

LET'S PLAY

second line was omitted so this is the corrected version.

Note: This poem appeared in the Feb. 27 issue. The

Walk on the outside for fear of a splash.

Cover the puddle with your favorite threads. While never noticing others that turn people's heads.

I'll be roast beef instead of the hash, (Thank You Paul).

Nickname me Ivory, tell them I float. I'll call you Captain, the original, "GOAT".

Let's play lovers forevermore,

Let's play lovers, you and me.

Hold my hand for all to see.

# - Patricia Masten





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announcements (—)

39. Cub

**CLUES ACROSS** 1. Unsheared sheep

Rock TV channel 8. Streetcar

12. Concerning 14. Expression of

recognition 15. Greek goddess of

youth 16. An iPad is one

18. Adult beverage 19. Manning and Wallach

are two 20. Makes a petty verbal attack

21. Tyrion Lannister's nickname

22. Pointed ends of pens 23. Wristwatches

26. Body part 30. Made a mistake

31. Adjusted

32. Turkish honorific title 33. Yell 34. Historic Alabama city

42. Type of sea bass dish 44. To call (archaic)

46. Unfortunate 47. Separate oneself from others

49. Hero sandwiches 50. Former OSS 51. Open spaces in a

forest 56. Innermost brain membranes

57. Fortune

58. Hunting expedition 59. Doomed gueen Boleyn 60. Peyton's little brother

61. Type of wrap 62. Scottish tax 63. Soviet Socialist Republic

64. An increase in price or value

**CLUES DOWN** 1. Works of body art

26. Expresses surprise 27. What one says on a wedding day

28. Crony

29. Where you entered the world (abbr.) 35. Unit of length 36. Side that is sheltered

4. Eat greedily 5. Doomed French queen 6. Beat

7. One who survives on blood 8. As a consequence

2. Abba \_\_\_, Israeli

3. A desert in Asia

politician

9. Counted on 10. Acquired Brain Injury Behavior Science

11. Unclean 13. One who does not drink

17. Wild ox of the Malay Archipelago

24. student, learns healing 25. Bacterial skin infection

48. Nocturnal hoofed animal

49. Relaxing spaces

from the wind

38. Autonomic nervous

40. Violent troublemakers,

something is untrue

42. Greek alphabet letter

43. Suspends from above

47. U.S. philosopher and

44. Popular types of cigars

originally in Paris

41. Statements that

37. More (Spanish)

system

45. Girls

logician

52. From a distance

53. Form of Persian

54. Amounts of time 55. Trigonometric function

**ANSWERS ON PAGE 8** 

#### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE** continued from page 1

"It allows one of our leaders and two of our teachers to observe in real-time, some exemplars of what this applied learning concept looks like,"

McCormick said last summer the school district received \$15,000 as a startup grant for its Innovative Career Pathways. He said they have submitted part B of the application and should hear back from the state this month.

'We did receive an additional \$35,000 to support the durable hardware for those programs...that's a good sign," he said.

McCormick said on Feb. 13 he attended a legislative luncheon with other school superintendents, state senators and representatives. Topics included Chapter 70 funding and increased need for special education funding such as Circuit Breaker.

"We talked about small rural schooling and how we need to make sure that we continue to see that grow at the state level," he said. "It was a good conversation."

McCormick said he will be meeting with a newly formed superintendent's advisory committee comprised of six students from the high school and middle school. He said they will be working on creating positive messaging geared toward elementary school students.

#### Administrators' reports

Diorio said the high school celebrated senior night for the boys' basketball team and dedicated a 1,000 point banner to Class of 2024 graduate Jose

"He's currently one of our success stories," Diorio said. "He attends Assumption College as a finance major."

Rivera scored over 1,000 points during his high school basketball career.

Diorio said an awards ceremony was held on Feb. 14 to celebrate middle school students for achievements in attendance, academic excellence and overall growth.

Hope Rudzinski from the Worcester County District Attorney's office will speak with high school students about healthy relationships and preventing teen violence.

Diorio said the girls will participate in dating and positive relationships workshop presented by the Vanessa T. Marcotte Foundation, which includes a self-defense class. The boys will listen to a keynote speaker and have a discussion with the District Attorney and the legal ramifications around dating violence, as well as building positive and healthy relationships.

Diorio said juniors and seniors will be visiting Flexcon as part of the Innovative Pathways program.

"This is the second year of our program," he said. "Our students will have an opportunity to apply for a paid internship at Flexcon and earn a full-time job after graduation."

He said about five students took advantage of this program last year.

A career fair will be held at the high school on March 11, featuring 25 different companies and speakers.

"It's a great opportunity for our students to prepare for their future," he said.

The school's first STEAM night will be held on March 25 at 6 p.m. He said STEAM education combines science, technology, engineering, the arts and math to helps students solve problems.

Elementary School Principal Arthur Murphy said Camp Read-a-Lot had eight stations for classes to rotate through during the school day. He said local firefighters also came and spoke about fire and ice safety.

Murphy said the PTO donated pancakes to the event, and he said they do great work for the students and families.

He said the high school's adjustment counselor Tova Margolis led a presentation about identifying trauma in the classroom and how trauma impacts the brain and development.

"Teaching is hard work, but it can be made easier if we use a trauma informed lens," Murphy said.

Murphy said the PTO hosted a "glow" dance in February which had a huge turnout. He said there was music and photobooth as well.

Student Services Director Amy Emory said access and alternate access testing for English Language Learners was completed the past week. She credited ELL teacher Kailyn Lachapelle and the teachers for their work and

flexibility during this process. Emory said she participated in a training session held by Department of Elementary and Secondary Education about utilizing the EL data dash-

#### **Public comment**

Town Accountant Shiela Leblanc said she received a school budget report from the Board of Selectmen that doesn't show how much of the budget has been spent for the school district. She said her own records shows there is \$3,550,712.30 remaining of the more than \$7 million approved for the annual budget, but the report from the school still shows the starting

McCormick said they are working through some technology issues and staff are receiving training to utilize the software.

Resident Matt Grant asked about the possibility of revisiting regionalization after watching the video from the Quaboag Regional School Committee meeting where the decision to move forward with the amended regionalization agreement was voted down.

Grant said it was a multiyear process, and he thinks regionalization is a direction the school district should explore.

Leblanc, who served on the Regional Agreement Amendment Committee, said some members from the Quaboag Regional School District didn't think adding North Brookfield would be a financial benefit.

Magario said he believes both committees should have voted to put the decision in front of residents, but there has been no further discussion about joining the Quaboag Regional School District.

#### **New member**

The School Committee welcomed Ralph Kay as its newest member. Kay is filling a vacancy until the upcoming annual town election.

#### Recognitions

McCormick recognized reading teacher Clementine McNamara for organizing Camp Read-a-Lot, an annual tradition that occurs the Friday before February vacation.

"Every classroom in the Elementary School spends parts of the day reading together, out loud, individually...another way to instill the love of reading into our stu-

dents," McCormick said. McCormick also recognized the school district's custodial staff for cleaning up

after winter storms. 'They've done a nice job of making sure that our sidewalks and our parking lots are clear," he said.

He also recognized the girls' basketball team, which qualified for the MIAA State Tournament. He congratulated the team and the coach for a winning season.

#### **Student Council update**

Student Representative Dante Giangrande said the Student Council has submitted its Massachusetts Association of Student Councils' Excellence Book and applied for the National Council Excellence Award.

He said Unity Week took place before February break to show support for people including members of the LGBTQ+ community and children with special needs.

"Even just everyone's individuality," he said.

The MASC Spring Conference will be held March 4-7 in Hyannis and the Spring Conference will be held in April. He said about 10 students will be attended the Hyannis trip and said, "it's a great experience."

# MMER CAMP CUIDE

# Kamp for Kids to celebrate 50 years of summer fun for all abilities with a Golf FUN-raiser on April 10

**SPRINGFIELD** Kamp for Kids, a summer day camp for children and young adults with and with-

out disabilities, has planned a season of special celebrations in honor of the camp's 50th Anniversary, starting with a Golf FUN-raiser event on Thursday, April 10, 2025, from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Max's Swing Lounge, located at 1000 Columbus Av-

enue in Springfield. The Golf FUN-raiser event will bring together supporters, community membegin a season of celebration businesses and individuals.

for 50 years of growth, inclusion, and joy for children and young adults of all abilities. Proceeds from the Golf FUN-raiser will directly benefit Kamp for Kids, helping to ensure that the camp continues to thrive for years to

Tickets are \$100 and include access to the driving range, mini golf, appetizers, two drinks, and the chance to win exciting contests and prizes. Tickets can be purchased at kamp50.eventbrite. com. Sponsorship Opportubers, campers and friends to nities are also available for

Those interested in sponsoring this event should reach out to Kelly Brown at Kelly. Brown@BHNInc.org or 413-654-0930. Sponsorships can also be made on the event website, Kamp50. EventBrite.com.

1975 by Dick and Judy Hoyt, Kamp for Kids was created to offer an inclusive camp experience for their son, Rick, who had cerebral palsy, and his brothers without disabilities. Over the years, the Hoyts

Founded in

have championed disability inclusion, inspiring countless families worldwide. Today, Kamp for Kids continues to honor their legacy,

demonstrating that every child-regardless of ability-deserves

the chance to participate in meaningful, fun, and educational experiences.

Located 1n Westfield, Kamp for Kids serves children and young adults ages 5-22, both with and without disabilities,

hailing from cities and towns throughout Western Massachusetts. Each summer, the camp provides a unique environment for growth and inclusion, offering activities such as expressive arts, outdoor education, arts & crafts, non-competitive sports, and a spray park-all designed to create a sense of belonging and joy for every camper. Kamp for Kids operates during the summer months, serving about 150 campers in three sessions.

"Kamp for Kids is celebrating 50 years of creating a space where every child, re-

gardless of ability, can grow, learn, and have fun together," said Anne Benoit, Program Director of Kamp for Kids. "We're excited to celebrate this milestone and look forward to many more years of providing life-changing experiences that foster inclusion, friendship, and personal growth."

BHN has been providing behavioral health services to children and families in Western Massachusetts since 1938.

The agency provides community-based services that include innovative, integrated whole-health models as well as traditional clinical and outpatient and therapeutic services, day treatment, addiction services, crisis intervention and residential

> limited so don't



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN Fun all summer long for ages 4-14! hartsbrook.org/summer-programs



We have summer enrollment options for school age children.

Hours 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., \$350/wk. Accepting vouchers.

Structured daily schedule to include curricular content, free play, and arts and crafts.

Lots of outdoor and weather permitting water play. www.packardmountain.com



**OVERNIGHT** www.gscwm.org

supports. Greene Acres Equestrian Center LLC.

April Vacation Riding Camp - April 22-24 2025 Summer Riding Sessions 🎉 June 23-27 • July 14-18 July 28 - August 1 • August 18-22 9AM - 3PM LUNCH NOT PROVIDED

Basic Horse Care, Daily Riding, English & Western, Ages 5 & up Call to Register (413) 813-9291

53 Ware Road, Belchertown Email: Amanda.greeneacres@gmail.com





meaning of summer...having fun and making friends!

Camp MacDuffie offers seven weeks of exciting camp experiences:

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Monday-Friday 9am-3pm • Area fields trips and lunch included Extended care available if needed 7:30am-5pm

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Belchertown Kidz Club TODDLER • PRESCHOOL • SCHOOL AGE **Providing** Offering Flexible Care Programs For Kids Ages 15 mo. - 12 yrs. Childcare for 30 years! Open 7:00 a.m.-5:30\* p.m. / MONDAY - FRIDAY Both Full Time & Sibling Discounts **NOW ENROLLING FOR SPRING/SUMMER/FALL PROGRAMS** KIDZ SUMMER PROGRAM Ages 5 - 12 yrs. • JUNE 23RD-AUGUST 22ND
9 Weeks • Full & Part Time Options/Single Weeks or All Summer. wimming • Field Trips • Close walk to Playgrounds & CHCS Pool Daily Creative & Educational Indoor/Outdoor Activities! \*Start of camp based on Belchertown School Schedule BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE
K-6th Grade • Full & Part-Time • Homework Support School Bus Pick Up & Drop Off • Indoor & Outdoor Activities PRESCHOOL Year round program for Ages 3-5 yrs.
Full & Part Time • Choose from Full Day or 3/4 Day Options Creative Educational Kindergarten Readiness Curriculum TODDLER/YOUNG PRE-K Year round program for Ages 15 mos.-3 yrs. Choice of Full Day 7:00-5:00 or 3/4 day option 8:30-2:30 Come Grow, Learn, and Play!

4 Stadler Street • (413) 323-5439 Follow Us 📑

belchertownkidzclub@gmail.com EEC LICENSED PROGRAM #177446

# Library hosts owl program

The New Braintree Library was filled with children and adults, who enjoyed a Saturday afternoon of fun learning about

Kathy Kennedy from Massachusetts Audubon brought wings, claws, photos, and skulls for everyone to pass around.

This program was supported by a grant from the Hardwick/ Braintree Cultural Council. A local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a State agency.



The highlight of the interactive owl presentation was the dissecting of an owl pellet to see what bones could be found beneath the layers. Timothy, Skylar and Vincenzo Gondola enjoyed finding hidden bones and matching them to a provided chart.

#### **OAKHAM SELECT BOARD** continued from page 1

of Cemetery Commission, said the commission spent \$9,900 so far in expenses, but it would leave enough for Memorial Day cemetery cleanup and mowing. He said the commission may need to adjust the mowing schedule by reducing frequency and cut back the weed whacking of the gravestones depending on the quotes the commission receives for the mowing

Select Board Chair said the Historical Commission was willing to lower the amount of \$1,500 requested. The commission purchased a computer with the FY 2025 amount and hoped to purchase another sign with this year's amount. She said the sign costs \$1,000. The Select Board opted to leave the amount requested at this time. She also said the Historical Commission was looking for members.

Next on the agenda was the Planning Board. Planning Board member Tom Hughes said their budget was level funded for the new fiscal year at \$1,015. The amount included \$515 wage and \$500 expenses.

The Zoning Board of Appeals has a full compliment of members. There FY 26 budget was \$25 for expenses and \$125 for dues for a total of \$150.

The Tree Warden budget was the final one on the agenda. Select Board member Michael Brunelle, also Tree Warden, presented the Tree Warden budget that included \$375 salary, \$20,000 expenses and \$2,500 road details. He reduced the road detail from \$4,000 last year to \$2,500 this year. The total budget was \$22,875.

The Select Board Chair said the Building Inspector budget would be on the agenda for their next meeting. She said he also wants to discuss

Select Board Member Brunelle said with all the cuts in grants from the federal government was the Quabbin Regional School District impacted by this and if so, were they hoping the state would step up their funds to the towns. He said he hoped the "towns were not to back fill those grants."

Under old business, Select Board Vice Chair Haapakoski asked if the town accountant had given revenue projections. Administrative Assistant Maribel LaRange said the town accountant would have those numbers in another week.

Select Board Chair Tessnau said she would be meeting tomorrow with someone from the One Step Community Grant on what programs were available and what might be a choice for the town.

The board voted to go into executive session to discuss collective bargaining or liti-

# Education

# **BSCF** donation supports nature's classroom



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

The Barre Savings Charitable Foundation donated \$8,000 to the Hardwick Elementary School PTO to help pay for the fifth grade nature's classroom trip this spring. Shown front row from left are teacher Pamela Dunigan, fifth grade students, teacher Mary Fleming and Hardwick PTO representative Tina Swindlehurst. Back row from left are Hardwick Elementary School Principal Emily Soltysik and Barre Savings Charitable Foundation President Stephen Brewer.

HARDWICK - The Hardwick Elementary School PTO recently received an \$8,000 donation from the Barre Savings Charitable Foundation, to help cover the cost to send fifth grade students to nature's classroom in the spring.

Stephen Brewer, president of the Barre Savings Charitable Foundation, said one of the best things the foundation does is help send children to programs like

"You're in for a wonderful time and a great learning experience too," he said.

Brewer, who is a retired state senator and former state representative, said that while the youth are only 20% of the population, they are "100% of our

Brewer said to date, the Barre Savings Charitable Foundation has dispersed \$750,000 in donations over the last seven years, including to the Hardwick Elementary School PTO.

The Barre Savings Charitable Foundation was formed after the 147-yearold Barre Savings Bank merged with Fidelity Cooperative Bank in 2016. A fund was created to honor the bank's legacy of serving the community, which has now grown to \$2.7 million.

The purpose of the foundation is to provide charitable support for the people in communities previously served by Barre Savings Bank. The foundation focuses its giving on youth and senior programs, programs supporting education and health and human services and other projects improving the quality of life for the region.

# Public Notices

PUBLIC AUCTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIV-EN PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF M.L.C. 225 SEC.39A THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD ON March 29, 2025 AT A SALE TO SATISFY OUR GARAGE LIEN THEREON FOR TOW-ING & STORAGE CHARGES AND EXPENSES OF SALE AND NOTICE: 2012 Ford Focus VIN 1FAHP3E23CL285540 2009 Dodge Journey VIN 3D4GH57V79T176875 2009 Scion xD VIN JTKKU10449J048929 2009 Saturn Outlook VIN 5GZEV23D29J215953 2003 Toyota Highlander VIN JTEHF21A830129334 2006 Honda Pilot VIN 2HKYF18516H533557 2009 Honda Civic VIN 19XFA169X9E005035 1993 Toyota Corolla VIN 2T1AE09E2PC018052 1995 Toyota Corolla VIN 2T1AE04B9SC092977 2012 Dodge Charger VIN 2C3CDXBG5CH190239 2011 GMC Yukon XL VIN 1GKS2KE33BR163097 2008 Land Rover Range Rover Sport

VIN SALSK254X8A149606 2008 Honda Civic VIN 2HGFA16578H310929 2006 Toyota Corolla VIN 2T1BR30E26C680431 2005 Honda Civic VIN 1HGEM22925L078868

The sale will be held at Early's on Park Avenue at 536 Park Ave., Worcester, MA 01603 03/13, 03/20, 03/27/2025

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 at-

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

Commonwealth of Massachusetts **The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Division** Docket No. WO25P0732EA Estate of: **Edward T. Thompson** 

newspaper title.

Massachusetts newspapers.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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public notice web site to search all notices in

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Also Known As: **Edward Thurlow Thompson** Date of Death: January 27, 2025 INFORMAL PROBATE

**PUBLICATION NOTICE** To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Christopher

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

Edward Thompson of Barre,

**Christopher Edward Thomp-**

son of Barre, MA

on the bond.

03/13/2025

# RUTLAND - Holden Grange offer the W. Sumner

and Howard L. Jordan Scholarship to a graduating high school senior or to a student in attendance at any recognized institution of learning beyond high school, who has not received this scholarship previously

Scholarships are offered for a degree-granting program and a full-time or part-time non-degree granting vocational education program designed to prepare students for work in a trade or a specific field. Scholarship awards range from \$300 to \$1,000, depending upon type of program and enrollment status.

An applicant who does not belong to Holden Grange must reside in Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland or Sterling and be pursuing a course of study in agriculture/horticulture, veterinary science,\ or conservation/environment. A Holden Grange member in good standing for at least one year preceding the date of application is eligible to pursue any course of study.

The scholarship recipients will be named in June and funds will be awarded to the applicant upon successful completion of the first semester with at least a 3.0 grade point average for a degree-granting program or evidence of successful

Holden Grange announces scholarship completion for vocational

courses. An application in the

form of a letter of intent, stating future educational goals and a description of three community activities or three Grange activities in which the applicant is involved, must be accompanied by a transcript and a letter of recommendation. All parts of the application must be emailed or postmarked by May 1 to Holden Grange, 26 Glenwood Place, Rutland, MA 01543. For more information on this scholarship or the Grange in general, people my call 508-886-2341 or email holdengrange78@ gmail.com.



# Calendar of Events

#### **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. qrsd.org or at the EducationalSupportCenter, 872 SouthSt., Barre on Tuesday, March 11 from neon on

#### FRIDAY. MARCH 14

HUBBARDSTON COMMUNITY THEATRE presents "Lionel Bart's Oliver" today at7 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**

CORNED 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.

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 beverages will be available for purchase at the concession stands. People may purchase

# Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

This week's mystery photo is from Petersham. 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 17. Bill Bowles, Stephen Craven, Bob Crawford, James Laramee, Evelyn Luukko and Claire Bechan-Noberg correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was taken of Eva's Woods on Ware Corner Road in Oakham.

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.

GAME NIGHT AND POTLUCK with team crossword followed by team trivia will take place today from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at East Quabbin Land Trust's office, 120 Ridge Road, Hardwick. The program will start off with a team crossword followed by team trivia. The themes for the evening will include local history, conservation, recreation and the environment. EQLT has a crack team working on the puzzles and trivia questions. Participants should bring a snack or dish to share along with their thinking cap and sense of humor. They should RSVP by Wednesday, March 19 by emailing atrevvett@eqlt.org.

#### **SUNDAY, MARCH 23**

ELAINE GRIFFITH OF HERBAL ANSWERS will present "Herbal Answers for Common Health Issues" today on 2 p.m. at New Braintree Town Hall. Friends of the New Braintree Library hosts the program. Elaine has over 50 years experience using and helping others use holistic medicine. She will share her knowledge of how to use herbs, vitamins and other foods to deal with life's unexpected moments and inevitable annoyances. 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.

# **Calendar Policy**

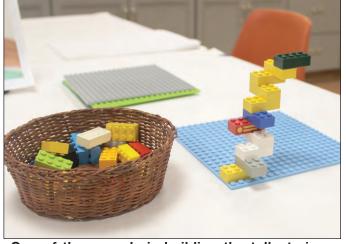
POLICY: Our calendar section is intended to promote "free" events or ones hat directly affect a volunteer-driven organization that benefits the community. Paid events that are not deemed fund-raisers or benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public to enter are not allowed as 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.

# RECORD HOLDERS continued from page 1

Another timing station was building the tallest zigzag structure of Lego bricks in 30 seconds, using only one hand. Out of all the attempts this past week at the Woods Memorial Library, the most was 10 Lego bricks tall.

One of the toughest activities was catching the most stuffed animals blindfolded in one minute. A bag full of cute stuffed animals were found by Phillips and she said "these stuffed animals have been around for years."

Murray enjoyed playing this activity, which was the most times to hit a target with a paper airplane in three minutes. The target used at the library was a bowl and from a certain distance, the



One of the records is building the tallest zigzag structure of Lego bricks in 30 seconds with one

person would toss the paper airplane into the bowl.

Murray's best attempt was three targets in three min-

The library will save these world record activi-

ties for guests to try out on a later date. Visit the Woods Memorial Library at 19 Pleasant St. Go to www.barrelibrary.org for more information on activities and pro-



Youth Services Librarian Kayla Phillips attempted to flip three water bottles as fast she could.

# PAST PAGES continued from page 5

izen petition to the Board of Selectmen requesting an article on the Annual Town Meeting to accept three parcels of land next to the town owned beach at no cost to the town. Selectmen Matthew Broderick expresses surprise that the committee submitted a petition rather than seek the Board of Selectmen's approval to put the article on the warrant.

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# 25 years (March 16 2000)

Two issues involving the way Hubbardston residents are taxed will be dealt with this spring at the annual meeting and election. One will be an article on the regular warrant and the will be a ballot question. The warrant article will deal with a solution to the gaps in cash flow often encountered by the treasurer. These gaps necessary extra expense of frequent short-term borrowing to pay for the town's regular expenses, as well as payments of outstanding debt. The article, if passed, will require real estate taxes to be paid quarterly instead of semi-annually. The question on the ballot would take effect Jan. 1, 2001. This provision would allow the town to collect taxes, which are due, but have not been collectable because of the taxation timetable.

Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent Maureen Marshall cited an article which recently appeared in the Boston Globe, praising Quabbin District students for performing about their anticipated level in the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System exams. This level was set by comparing districts with similar socio-economic backgrounds.

nomic backgrounds.

Hubbardston Police Chief Larry Barrett brought his choices for the two open full-time officer shots before the Board of Selectmen on March 13. After brief interviews, the Board approve the appointment of Robert Deschenes of Wheelwright and Ronald Newton of Gilbertville. The men will fill the position of former officer Shawn Denis and the position created by the COPS FAST grant approved

at the Town Meeting in February.

# 38 years (March 26, 1987) The Robert Jackson fam

The Robert Jackson family of Barre was left homeless last March 19 when their two-story hoe on School Street was heavily damaged by fire. Ninety minutes before the house fire, around 1:48 p.m. the Russell B. Chase farm on the Oakham Road in Barre had caught fire and burned to the ground. Under mutual aid, a Hubbardston pumper, which had been covering the Barre Fire Station, was the first to arrive at the Jackson home while help was on its way from the barn fire near the Oakham Town line. The Jackson home is about a quarter mile from the fire station while the barn fire was about five miles away from the burning home.

A joint meeting of the

town board's was held at the Barre Selectmen's meeting on Monday, March 23. Members of the Board of Health, Planning Board and Conservation Commission as well as Harold S. Nichols, Building Inspector, joined the board in an effort to determine a means to streamline the building permit process. Under the current system a "Building Packet" is compiled by the individual, who is applying for a building permit. The packet contains plans and other necessary documentation. Each packet has a sign off sheet on the bak to indicate approval by each of the boards.

Spring is here and Michael Kowal would like to inform those concerned that the winter baskets must be removed by March 29 from St. Joseph's Cemetery so the spring cleanup can begin.

# SPORTS

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# ROMERS

Desiree Croteau makes her way down the court during the state playoffs.

# Pioneers fall in Round of 32

SPRINGFIELD – Following a win on Feb. 25 in the preliminary round, the Pathfinder girls basketball team fell to host Renaissance in the Round of 32 72-20. The Pioneers' season ends at 16-6 overall as the Pioneers had an excellent regular season



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli Megan Clark shoots for the Pioneers.

and won a game in the state tournament for the first time. In the Round of 32 loss, Megan Clark and Greenly Lagimoniere had six points each to lead the Pioneers.



Taylor Allen gets ready to pass into the paint.



Greenly Lagimoniere hustles down the court.



Addison Doktor grabs a rebound.

# Wrestlers complete tournament competition

Wrestling season has come to an end and several area teams crowned champions at the sectional and state levels.

In the Division 2 state tournament, Max Holloway took home a state title at 215 pounds. Stella Christopher won a state title in the girls meet while Gabriella Ramos was a runner-up. Minnechaug's Kal Ly won the 132-pound bracket while John Bermudez was a runner-up at heavyweight. Holyoke's Steven Santiago finished second in D2 at 120

pounds.
Ludlow's Lucas Alvan
was a state champion in
the Division 3 meet at 175

In the sectionals held last month, Agawam had a big day with multiple placers. They had four champions. Ryan Sexton at 150, Max Holloway at 215, and Jordin Agosto at 126 all took home titles. Cole Ingham was a runner up at 175, as was Kaleb Progulske at 106. Keymani Rivera (157), and Tyler Gervais (190) both took third place. Agawam would finish third overall in the meet with 204 points.

Minnechaug was the second-place finisher behind champion West Springfield with 213 points. They had two champions, Kal Ly

at 132 pounds and John Bermundez at 285. Matthew Macphail and Hunter Gormally had runner-up finishes. The Falcons had one third place finisher and five fourth-place finishers.

Chicopee's Michael Jenkins placed second at 144 pounds.

In the Division 3 Western Mass. tournament at Mt. Greylock, Belchertown, which returned its program to varsity status this season, saw Jack Bergerson finish fourth at 175 pounds and Evan Perkins finish fifth at 150 pounds. Brogan Bottari also took fifth place at 120 pounds.

Ludlow, Granby, Quabbin, and Pathfinder participate in the Central Mass. Championship meet. Ludlow's Lucas Alvan took first place at 175 pounds while Noah Simard was second at 150. Ryan Gomes had a third-place finish at 126 pounds.

Quabbin's top finisher was Abe Brown at 126 pounds. He finished in second place. Three others, Brady Dennis at 215, Brent Benoit at 132, and Cole Wilson at 150, all took fourth place in the meet.

Pathfinder had one placer, which was Dominic Jerry at 165 pounds. Granby's Nathan Benson finished fifth at 113 pounds.

# Streets of Holyoke set for 10K Road Race

By Gregory A. Scibelli gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The rich tradition that is the Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race will make its return next Saturday, March 22. This will be the 48th running of the popular race.

Louis Serafini was the big winner of last year's event. He completed the very hilly, 6.2-mile course in 30:12. Serafini is from Cambridge.

The top female was a local runner from Western Massachusetts. Anna Steinmen, of Springfield, came across the finish line at 37:00.

Ryan Davis, of South Hadley, was one of the top local finishers at 34:36. He was 20th overall.

This year's race would feature runners from all over the region, the state, and surrounding states as many are preparing for the Boston Marathon, set to take place in just under a month. Many runners over the years have enjoyed using the St. Patrick's Day Road Race as practice for the marathon because of the challenging



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

The runners are off in the 2024 Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Road Race.

hills throughout the streets of Holyoke that runners

More made their way out to participants we

must navigate through.

Of the more than 6,000 runners who were registered, 4,442 finished the 10K course last year. Race officials have said the participation level in the event is still rebounding from the pandemic. Prior to the pandemic in 2019, race participants totaled about 7,000. The race was not held in 2020 and 2021 before

it returned in 2022 with

around 5,000 participants. More made their way out to the race last year, but that number was surpassed this

Because of that, the start of the race featured multiple waves, though 4RUN3 ran the bibs and electronic results kept accurate results for all those involved.

A number of this year's participants were featured in the usual celebratory costumes and outfits for St. Patrick's Day, while many others opted for cartoon and other fictional characters, such as Spider-Man. Several local running clubs

See ROAD RACE, page10



The wave of runners head down the first stretch of the 6.2-mile course.



The pace truck makes its way across the finish line followed by state police, which escorts the first set of runners.

# Valley Wheel tryouts set for next month

Players looking to join the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League can attend the tryouts beginning Sunday April 6. The time and location of the tryout is to be determined.

The league, which plays its games in Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut, makes sure that everyone gets a fair share of the action. Everyone plays a minimum of 4 innings in the field, and everyone bats. The league follows MLB rules with some modified rules adapted with safety in mind.

The Valley Wheel stands apart from other leagues across the country for this reason:

Their league charter and one of their main goals, is to work toward having a league with teams of equal strength.

The league is now seeking new players to fill open roster slots. Enjoy the competition and camaraderie with a great group of guys who enjoy the game as much as you do. Stay in shape and make new friends. Be part of something that happens once a year, and with luck, win a championship that might be once in a lifetime. Grab your glove and cleats and join a team for a great adventure. It's not too late don't miss out; opening day is just around the corner.

For more information, contact Jim Nason at 413-433-4308 or visit the website www. ValleyWheelBaseball.org

# 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.

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 wel-

come 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

for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2025.

The next league board

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 eather-permitting. The

are weather-permitting. The league website and social media accounts will have updates as the preseason continues.

# **Sports**

# **Candlepin League News**

By Ryan Drago Staff Writer rdrago@turley.com

**Tuesday Night Commercial Elks** League

PALMER - It is week four of the third round for the Commercial Elks League.

After three weeks, Team BK, consisting of Tom Bedard, Jeff Whyte, Paul Nothe and Mark Fitzpatrick, reigns as the #1 seed at 8-4. Tied for second place is Gutter Mouths and Last in Line with a record of 7-5. Gutter Mouths won the first round and received a berth in the championship roll off.

Compression is in fourth place with a record of 6-6 and want to win round three. Daft Kings and Mailmen are tied for last with a record of 4-8. The Daft Kings won round two and will be competing in the roll offs with Gutter Mouths and the winning team of round three.

In week four, Last in Line bowled against Team BK. In game one, Team BK

won the game by a score of 361-344. Mark Fitzpatrick of BK began the match with a 112 to get the first win for his team.

In game two, Team BK won again by a score of 343-335. Vinny Navarro of Last in Line broke the century mark with a 104. In game three, Last in Line won the last game by a final score of 359-341. Dave Chambers of Last in Line bowled a 101 to finish the

Team BK won total pinfall with a final score of 1045-1038. The #1 seed won three points.

The Daft Kings bowled against Gutter Mouths this past week. In game one, Daft Kings were victorious by a score of 428-422. Every bowler on Daft Kings broke the century mark with Dave Cobleigh having the highest game of 118.

In game two, Daft Kings won again by a score of 389-370. Stephen Manolakis of Gutter Mouths bowled 108 and Cobleigh bowled 103.

In game three, Daft

Kings won the last game by a score of 376-362. Cobleigh bowled a 110 and had a series of 331. Daft Kings won four points with a final score of 1193-1154.

Compression bowled against Mailmen; both teams are trying to win the last round for a playoff berth. In game one, Mailmen defeated Compression by a score of 415-360. Bryan Surprise of Mailmen bowled a 116 to start the match.

In game two, Mailmen won again by a score of 390-338. The highest game was bowled by Surprise with a 104. In game three, Compression won the last game by a score of 394-377. Surprise finished with a 114 and a series of 334.

The Mailmen won three points, including total pinfall, by a final score of 1182-1092.

Next week will be the halfway point of round three for the Commercial Elks League. One more team will be joining Gutter Mouths and Daft Kings in the championship roll off.

# Railers fall to Lions in weekend finale

TROIS-RIVIÈRES, OC – The Worcester Railers HC (27-24-2-4 60pts) lost to the Trois-Rivières Lions (38-12-4-2, 82pts), on Sunday afternoon by a final score of 3-1 in front of a crowd of 2,684 at the Colisée Videotron. The Railers are back on the ice next at the DCU Center on Thursday, March 13th at 7:05 p.m. EST.

Trois-Rivières scored first Sunday afternoon as Isaac Dufort (1-0-1) gave the Lions a 1-0 lead followed by a Tyler Hylland (1-0-1) shorthanded goal. Worcester answered back with a shorthanded goal of their own, as it was Tyler Kobryn (1-0-1) who cut the Lions lead to one. Anthony Beauregard (1-0-1) finished off the scoring with an empty net goal, leading to the 3-1 Trois-Rivières win.

Despite Worcester outshooting Trois-Rivières 14-5 in the first period, it was the Lions who went into the second period with a 2-0 lead. It was Isaac Dufort (11th) who scored the first Lions goal 7:15 into the first period on a loose puck in the slot. Tyler Hylland (10th) then scored a shorthanded goal on the rush off of a Worcester turnover 18:47 into the first. The Railers brought in Michael Bullion in from the bench for Hugo Ollas following the second Lions goal after allowing two goals on five shots faced.

The Railers got on the board in the second period with a shorthanded score of their own. Tyler Kobryn

(7th) made it a 2-1 game 15:42 into the second period. Despite power play opportunities for both sides neither team was able to net another goal in the second. Shots favored Worcester 13-7 in the second.

The Railers had two power play opportunities to tie this one up in the third but were not able to capitalize on the man advantage. Later in the period Railers sent Michael Bullion to the bench in an attempt to tie the game up late in the third but Anthony Beauregard (23rd) was able to jump a pass and score on the empty Worcester net to give the game its 3-1 final score. Shots favored Worcester 17-11 in the third and 46-25 in the game.

# ROAD RACE,

also made their way to the race, as did the youth of the region. Youth participants in the race were as young as

seven-years-old.

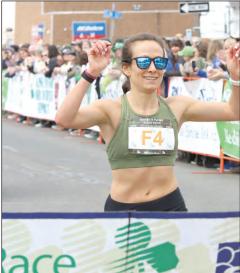
Security was in full force at the event with plenty of presence from the Massachusetts State Police, Holyoke Police, and Hampden County Sheriff's

Department, and the event went off without any inci-

If you're still looking to participate in this year's race, go to www.holyokestpatricksroadrace.org.



Male top finisher and first overall Louis Serafini, of Cambridge, finishes the race at 30:12.





Anna Steinmen, of Springfield, was the top female finisher at 37:00.



Have you taken photos at a local sports event and want to see them published in this paper? Email your image(s) with description to: sports@turley.com

# Church News

# New Life Assembly participates in **Operation Christmas Child 2025**

SOUTH BARRE --Several months ago New Life Assembly of God, 60 Main St., participated in the ministry of Operation Christmas Child, a project of the larger Samaritan's Purse led by Rev. Franklin Graham.

Operation Christmas Child collected and delivered over 220 million shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories since 1993. Each shoebox, containing an array of gift items packed by folks just like you, serves to spread Christmas cheer and the good news of Jesus Christ to impoverished children all over the world.

This past year New Life

packed 221 shoeboxes for this global effort and tracked one of them. They recently learned through Samaritan's Purse that one of their 221 shoeboxes safely reached a child in the far-off nation of Liberia. This nation, situated on the Atlantic Ocean in West Africa, was the first African republic to proclaim its independence and is the continent's first and oldest modern republic. Only God can fully comprehend the impact that this one package-any such package-might well have

Christmas 2026 will be here near the end of the year and New Life Assembly of God are already planning on participating in Operation Christmas Child 2025. This will be nearly their tenth year joining in this global

Interested parties, who want to participate may call Pastor James Foley at 978-355-6407 or email james foley@newlifebarre.org. Those looking for more information on Samaritan's Purse and the ministry of Operation Christmas Child should visit their website at https://www. samaritanspurse.org. May 2025 provide us with an even greater opportunity to reach out through Operation Christmas Child.

# Local pastors offer sermons

# **Proverbs Part 3**

The Book of Proverbs is among the most beloved and 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, for the purpose of imparting wisdom (cf. Prov. 1:1-6). Yet how did Solomon seek to impart insight into godly life and living? In this edition let us explore his use of what we will call the fatherly tone.

What is the fatherly tone? Simply stated, it is an impacting literary device by which Solomon addresses his readership as a father speaking to

cherished children. Of course, Solomon is not trafficking in condescension or infantilization herein. He is not talking down to us. Rather, he is employing a technique meant to arrest our attention and soften our hearts, that we might heed the wisdom of God expressed through him. This means of spiritual impartation is especially evident in the opening chapters of the Book of Proverbs. Let us take note of the following selections and the parental tenor within:

# **Proverbs 1:8-19 (NIV)**

8 Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

9 They are a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.

10 My son, if sinful men entice you, do not give in to them.

11 If they say, "Come along with us; let's lie in wait for innocent blood, let's ambush some harmless soul: 12 let's swallow them alive, like the grave, and whole, like those who go down to the pit; 13 we will get all sorts of valuable things and fill our houses with plunder; 14 cast lots with us; we will all share the loot"-

15 my son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their paths;

16 for their feet rush into evil, they are swift to shed blood.

17 How useless to spread a net where every bird can see

18 These men lie in wait for their own blood; they ambush only themselves.

19 Such are the paths of all who go after ill-gotten gain it takes away the life of those who get it.

Proverbs 2:1-8

1 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you,

2 turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding-

3 indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding,

4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure,

the fear of the Lord and find

5 then you will understand

the knowledge of God. 6 For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

7 He holds success in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blame-

8 for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones. Proverbs 3:1-4

1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, 2 for they will prolong

your life many years and bring you peace and prosper-3 Let love and faithfulness

never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.

4 Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

Can you not feel the concern and sense of urgency in the words of the writer? Do they not move you to listen and obey? There is something endearing yet sobering about being addressed as a treasured child. It is as if we can sense the heart of our heavenly Father through Solomon's use of the fatherly tone! For homework, continue to study the presence and place of this literary device by reading the following texts: Proverbs 3:21-26; 4:1-17; 4:20-27; 5:1-14; 6:20-24; 7:1-5; 7:24-27. We will continue our series next week, further examining the means through which Solomon proclaimed wisdom divine!

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

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

# First Sunday in Lent

"Jesus, our Steadfast Lord!" **Scripture Reading:** Luke 4 v 1-13

I. Introduction

We all know about the importance of selfcare, how we need time for ourselves to relax, recuperate and do things that we enjo and are good for us.

For some it means going to the hairdresser, for a massage, and for those who can afford it, going away on a retreat, some place away from it all, for the purpose of self-care. Our home can serve as a space for self-care, allowing us to spend time alone reading a book, listening to music, or

watching a movie. Churches and religious groups often organize spiritual retreats, where participants spend a day or weekend focused on prayer and fellowship. These retreats provide an opportunity to renew one's spiritual well-being and strengthen relationships with God and fellow members. I

have personally benefited from these self-care and spiritual retreats through the years.

II. Jesus, our Steadfast Lord

We know that Jesus often took time to be away from his disciples and the crowds to spend time with God, to pray and recuperate. One can call those His spiritual retreats. We also know that He spent time with friends in their homes, sharing food, and being in conversations with them, enjoying their company. In our passage, Jesus is not on a peaceful retreat but in a hazardous area with venomous snakes and scorpions, as described in Deuteronomy

He did not go out of His own, but was led there after His baptism by the Holy Spirit and would stay there for 40 days and forty nights, without eating anything during that period. This would be a time to spend with God in prayer, and in preparation for His ministry. He would be tested by Satan and overcome the attractive offers he gave Him and instead remained steadfast in His faith and reliance on God for His sustenance and spiritual strength.

No, He did not need to change the stones into bread, even though He could through the power of God, and no, He would not bow down to worship Satan and accept his offer to have authority over all the kingdoms of the world, and no, He would not throw Himself down the highest point of the temple in Jerusalem, because it was stated in the Torah that He would be protected by the angels of God. He knew who He was dealing with there at the end of His forty days in the wilderness, hungry and faint and weak perhaps and though it would have been extremely difficult and lonely, to pass on those offers,

He said no and spoke directly and clearly to His tempter to stop tempting Him. He knew He had to fulfill His mission to God. even though it would lead to suffering. He did not need all the earthly power in the world according to the values of this earthly Kingdom. His purpose was to bring peace and healing and reconciliation to an earthly kingdom that needs it. He declined the final offer, as it did not align with the true purpose of His coming into the world. We read that when the devil finished all his tempting, he left Him until another opportune time. Yes, this would not the end of Jesus' wrestling with Satan and His temptations.

Why was Jesus able to remain steadfast in these difficult circumstances? He was able, because He was filled with the Holy Spirit. David Garland and Clinton Arnold in their commentary on Luke remind us that from the beginning Jesus had a unique relationship with the Holy Spirit; that He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, that the Holy Spirit came over Him at His

See SERMONS page 11

# **Obituaries**

# Richard P. "Chech" Celona 83

BARRE - Richard P. "Cheech" Celona, 83, of Barre, passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 8, 2025 in Life Care Center of Auburn.

Richard was born in Ware, the son of the late Joseph Celona Sr. and Antonia "Lena" (Lamacchia) Celona and has been a life long resident of South Barre. He was a graduate of Barre High School Class of 1959. Richard received food service education at David Hale Fanning Trade School in Worcester and New England Chef's training at Copley Hotel in Boston.

He leaves his brother, Joseph Celona Jr and his wife. Evelyn of Sturbridge; four nieces: Lori Gleason, Lisa Celona, Nancy Laurie and Linda Day and a nephew,



Joseph Laurie. He was predeceased by a sister Elaine

Richard worked at the Colonial Donut Shop in Barre, Old Mill Restaurant in Westminster, Framingham State College, Stetson Home in Barre, State Mutual Insurance Co in Worcester and Rutland Heights Hospital in Rutland. He was also employed for six years as a janitor for the Oakham Center School, during this period he was taking care of his elderly mother, who lived with him at his home until her death in

Richard was active in baseball and softball for many years. He also loved hunting, fishing, gardening and his treasured Beagles. He was a member of St Thomas A Becket Church in South

Friends and family were invited to attend the funeral for Richard at 11a.m. on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 in Pillsbury Funeral Home, 96 South Barre Road, Barre. A calling hour was held from 10-11 a.m. prior to the funeral in the funeral home. Burial followed in St Josephs Cemetery in Barre.

# Charles Stephen Lubelczyk, 77

HARDWICK - The family of Charles Lubelczyk sorrowfully announce his passing on March 1, 2025, at the age of 77. Charlie passed peacefully with family by his side as his courageous fight with cancer came to its conclusion.

Born at Mary Lane Hospital in 1947, Charlie was one of five children of Stanley and Pauline (Zielinski) Lubelczyk. Charlie grew up in and lived in the small town of Hardwick, for his entire life, apart from a brief time living in Ware. Charlie grew up working on the family farm with his siblings and continued to do so until his early 30s.

While not a farmer by trade in the years later, he was always a farmer at heart never losing the work ethic, ingenuity, and technical tinkering that comes with the lifestyle. Charlie worked at EJP, and the Hardwick Kiln for most of the remainder of his life. His passion for problem solving and improving processes were great assets to these companies.

Charlie graduated from New Salem Academy in 1966, where he was the President of the school's chapter of the Future Farmers of America and President of his class for his sophomore and Junior year. As a young



civic activities as a member of the Quabbin Regional School Committee.

After their own children had grown, Charlie and his wife Jean opened their home to the foster care system of Worcester County. In 2014 they were awarded the Dorthy Sullivan Memorial Award for their dedicated service. They opened their home to the care of more than 200 children over their years of service, providing children with a safe and loving environment when they needed it the most.

Charlie was predeceased by his parents, his brothers John and Edward, and his daughter Pamela Brown. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Jean, and his children and grandchildren; Paul and Crystal Mailhot and their children Matthew and Rebecca; Lisa Lubelczyk and her children Owen and Adam Faulha; Steven Lubelczyk and Keturah Sawyer and adult, Charlie continued his their daughter Eliza. He is also survived by his brother Chester Lubelczyk, sister Mary Ouellette, son-in-law Greg Brown and over 200 foster children, including but not limited to Sam, Josephine, James, Christopher, Chris, Nick, Tyrese and Karma.

A Funeral Mass for Charlie was held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 10 a.m. in St Aloysius Church, 64 Church St., Gilbertville, MA 01031. Guests are asked to please meet directly at church on Tuesday morning. Burial will be held immediately following the Mass, in St. Aloysius Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to the Dana Farber - Jimmy Fund for cancer research (either by mailing the donation form on their website to P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284-9168 or online at https://danafarber.jimmyfund.org/site/ Donation2?df\_id=2101&mfc\_pref=T&2101.donation=form1) or to the Future Farmers of America (National FFA Foundation, 6060 FFA Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46278, or online at https:// ffa.givenow.stratuslive.com/ ffadonate).

Charbonneau Funeral Home is honored to serve the Lubelczyk family. An online tribute page is available at charbonneaufh.com.

# Eleanor Estelle (Going) Simmons, 96

OAKHAM -Eleanor Estelle (Going) Simmons, 96, of Oakham, wife of 70

years to the late Richard B.Simmons Jr. died February 28, 2025 in Gardner Rehabilitation & 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 E. Going, 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 S. Larence (Roger), Matthew B. Simmons (Beth); grandchildren, Aimee P. Velasco, Julie P. Hallowell, Matthew A. Nelson, Jennifer Nelson, Brandon A. Simmons, Alexander Lapierre, Ciara Larence, Bryan M. Simmons, Brytni Simmons; great grandchildren, Isabel Velasco, Sofia Velasco, Colin G. Hallowell, Owen A. Hallowell, Jonathan Marroquin, Trevor Nelson, Brawley Lapierre; along with extended family members.

Funeral services were 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 in

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to a charity of you choice. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home, 44 Gilbert Street, North Brookfield.

His life. This period of Lent speaks to us about the steadfastness of our Lord, who shows us a way that is not the way of the world.

The world can offer beautiful things, and yes, we sometimes need selfcare to be restored and to recuperate from the stresses of life, but the The Importance of Reviewing Your Insurance Programme Today most wholesome form of restoration and healing come from our Lord who wants to dwell within and among us, who shows us that we, His fol-

lowers have found in Him the way of complete and true love to heal and be healed. May the Holy Spirit of God help us in our wilderness experiences in the same way the Spirit helped Jesus Christ in the wilderness of Judea. May the help from the Holy Spirit make us obedient and steadfast as we surrender our lives to God.

Amen.

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

# **DEATH NOTICES**

Celona, Richard P. "Cheech" Died March 8, 2025 Calling, funeral and burial held March 12

Lubelczyk, Charles Stephen Died March 1, 2025 Funeral Mass held March 11 St. Aloysius Church, Gilbertville Burial immediately followed in St. Aloysius Cemetery

Robinson, Ruth A. (Butterfield) Died March 3, 2025 Calling hours Friday, March 28 5-7 p.m. Witty' Funeral Home in Orange Funeral Service Saturday,

March 29 at 11 a.m. Orthodox Congregational Church in Petersham. Burial will be private.

Simmons, Eleanor Estelle (Going) Died Feb. 28, 2025 Calling hour and funeral already held.

# Ruth A. Robinson (Butterfield), 97

PETERSHAM - Ruth A. (Butterfield) Robinson passed away peacefully with family by her side on Monday March 3, 2025, at the age of 97.

She was born on May 17, 1927, in Northbridge to Vance L. and Doris (Clifford) Butterfield. She grew up in Westminster and graduated from Fitchburg High School in 1945. She continued her education at Clark University, graduating in 1948 in one of the first classes that enrolled women. While at Clark, she played on the women's basketball team.

She met her future husband, Charles E. Robinson, at weekly dances in the Templeton Grange Hall and other venues in the area. They were married in 1954 at the Westminster Congregational Church and enjoyed 49 years together until his death in 2003. During their retirement, they enjoyed camping in their travel trailer throughout New England and Upstate New York. They also had a seasonal site at the Old Sawmill Campground in West Brookfield that they enjoyed immensely.

Following college, she shared her love of learning through a teaching career that spanned twenty-five years, which was interrupted to be a "stay at home" mom to raise her family. She began as a physical education teacher in Manchester, Maryland. Following her return to Massachusetts, she was a teacher at the former Templeton High School where she taught English and physical education where she coached two championship basketball teams as well as softball. She returned to education at R. C. Mahar Regional High School in Orange teaching middle school geography, history and social studies. Many times, her teaching methods included fun ways to remember geographical facts. She retired from Mahar after 17 years in 1989.

Ruth was active in the town of Petersham serving as Town Clerk for 10 years. She also served on the Cemetery Commission, as a Trustee and Corporator of the Petersham Memorial Library and the Zoning Board of Appeals. She was also a member of the Petersham Historical Society. Ruth also served as one of the original "red phone" operators for the Fire Department prior to radio dispatching; answering the call for assistance and then telephoning the fire-



fighters to notify them of the

Additionally, she was an active member of the Orthodox Congregational Church holding many positions over the years, including clerk, Sunday School teacher, fair chairperson, singing in the church choir and as the substitute organist. She continued to offer children's messages up until she was 96 years young.

She was also an active member of the Petersham Grange #95 for 60 years, serving in various roles including as Master, Lecturer, Secretary and Pianist. She directed three Minstrel Shows for the Grange when they were raising money to build the new Grange Hall, now the Petersham Montessori School. She also directed several additional shows as fundraisers for various community organizations.

Not one for sitting around, after retiring, she soon volunteered a few mornings each week at the Regional Family Health Center in Barre, receiving recognition from the UMass Memorial Volunteer Department in 2019 for 30 years of service. She continued for another year until the volunteer program was shut down due to

In 2013, Ruth was honored by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women with the "Unsung Heroine Award" after being nominated by the Select board of Petersham. She received the award at the Statehouse in Boston.

By accident, she became a weekly columnist for the Barre Gazette with "The Adventures of Gertrude the Cat." She had submitted one story for the fun of it and the story was so well received that she continued writing each week until her health prevented her from continu-

With the onset of Covid and despite the arthritis in her hands, she kept herself busy with crafts and sewing of some sort. She made many pillows, Christmas decorations and potholders for the church fairs and many

quilts for family members over the years. She made over 40 crocheted rag rugs that were given away to family and friends, stopping only because her eyesight wouldn't allow her to continue. These rugs and quilts are greatly treasured by the recipients.

Besides her parents and husband, Ruth was predeceased by her brother, Stuart Butterfield in 2024, a son-inlaw John Tandy in 2002 and a granddaughter-in-law Amy O'Malley in 2024.

She is survived by her son, Dana Robinson (Jean) of Petersham and daughter Susan Tandy Songer (Kent) of Phillipston. Two stepdaughters, Jane O'Malley Sardo of Central Islip, New York and Carol Symonds (Earl Taylor) of Harmony, North Carolina. Grandchildren: Matthew (Janelle) Robinson, Erin (Benjamin) Ghazali, Kyrra Nee, Robyn (Brian) Hartin, Peter (Nichole) O'Malley, Kevin (Diana) O'Malley, Stephen O'Malley, Glenn Nicholas and Deb (Greg) Williams. Greatgrandchildren: Macie and Levi Robinson, Eve and Benjamin III Ghazali, Sophia and Zoey Nee, Logan and Gavin Hartin, Taylor (Luke) Bednar, Jami Daigle, Kate, Megan, Riley, Benjamin and Emma O'Malley and two great-great grandchildren Evelyn and Jennings Bednar with a third Syvia Bednar to be born in August. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers donations are suggested in Ruth's memory to the Orthodox Congregational Church P. O. Box 183, Petersham, MA 01366 for the Capital Improvement Fund or the Memorial Fund for the maintenance of the Church Organ.

Calling Hours will be held at Witty's Funeral Home, 158 South Main Street, Orange, on Friday March 28, 2025 from 5-7 p.m.

A Memorial Service will be on Saturday March 29, 2025, at 11 a.m. in the Orthodox Congregational Church, 21 North Main St., Petersham, MA 01366.

Burial will be private at the convenience of the fam-

Witty's Funeral Home, 158 South Main Street, Orange, is assisting the fam-

 $b \circ o k$ Guest online at WWW. WITTYFUNERALHOME.

# **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.

## SERMONS continued from page 10

baptism, that He was led by the Holy Spirit in the wilderness, and that He was filled by the Holy Spirit in Galilee at the beginning of His ministry, and it was through the power of the Holy Spirit that Jesus healed the sick and drove out evil spirits.

III. Conclusion

Jesus was entirely dedicated to God, and He navigated His challenging journey with the guidance and empowerment of the Holy Spirit in

# Public Safety

# **Barre Police Log**

Sunday, Feb . 23 4:04 a.m. Emergency Medical

Service - Breathing Difficulty, Peach Street, Transported to Hospital 8:18 a.m. Emergency Medical

Service Sick/Unknown, Hancock Road, Transported to

1:58 p.m. Landlord Tenant/ Neighbor Dispute, Wheelwright Road, Peace Restored

4:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning

#### Monday, Feb. 24

5:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Written

11:08 p.m. Emergency Medical Service - Unconscious/ Unresponsive/Syncope, Cat AlleyRoad, Ambulance Signed

> Tuesday, Feb. 25 1:37 a.m. Assist Other Police

> > Sunday, Feb. 23

Bechan Road, Officer/Chief

Found, New Braintree Road,

Monday, Feb. 24

and Found, Coldbrook Road,

9:10 a.m. Property - Lost

5:03 p.m. Emergency

Medical Service - Allergic

Reaction, North Brookfield Road,

Tuesday, Feb. 25

Down/Arcing, Bechan Road,

10:15 p.m. Fire - Power Lines

Advised

Investigated

Information Given

Removed Hazard

Transported to Hospital

11:20 a.m. Notification,

4:26 p.m. Animal - Lost and

Department, Natick, Message

Wednesday, Feb. 26 2:15 a.m. Road Condition

Notification, South Barre Road, Message Delivered 3:46 p.m. Keep the Peace,

Williamsville Road, Peace

5:26 p.m. Emergency Medical Service - Sick/Unknown, Worcester Road, Mutual Aid

7:54 p.m. Fire - Illegal Burn, School North Street, Fire Extinguished

#### Thursday, Feb. 27

11 a.m. Animal - Lost and/ or Found, Worcester Road, Referred to Other Agency 11:02 a.m. Emergency

Medical Service - Breathing Difficulty, Williamsville Road, Mutual Aid Tranportt

Friday, Feb. 28 8:15 a.m. Suspicious Person/

**Oakham Police Log** 

Wednesday, Feb. 26

Vehicle), New Braintree Road,

Thursday, Feb. 27

Medical Service - Unconscious/

Unresponsive/Syncope Edson

1:55 p.m. Animal - ACO Call

8:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

9:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

North Brookfield Road, Written

North Brookfield Road, Written

Friday, Feb. 28

5:30 a.m. Road Condition

Road. Transported to Hospital

Boston, Message Delivered

4:51 a.m. Emergency

**Public Assist** 

5:31 p.m. Lockout (Home or

Vehicle Activity, West Street, Unfounded

9:28 a.m. ACO Lost and Found/Wildlife, South Street, Referred to Other Agency

2:38 p.m. Emergency Medical Service - Bleeding (Non-Traumatic), School North Street, Transported to Hospital

3:48 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Hardwick, Negative

3:52 p.m. Animal - Lost and/or Found, Kendall Street, Property Returned

#### Saturday, March 1

11:03 a.m. Larceny or Theft, Old Coldbrook Road, Report

11:32 a.m. Fire - Public Service Call, Station Road, Public Assist

1:28 p.m. Property - Lost/ Found/Surrender, Hubbardston Road. property Returned

Notification, North Brookfield

6 a.m. Road Condition

12:37 a.m. Animal - ACO

4:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle

Disabled, Worcester Road,

6:50 pm. Suspicious Person/

Vehicle Activity, North Brookfield

Saturday, March 1

Service - Diabetic, Shore Drive,

Old Turnpike Road, Report Filed

2:41 p.m. Emergency Medical

8:03 p.m. Safety Concern,

Road, Referred to Other Agency

Notification, Worcester Road,

Call, Boston, Information Taken

Dispatch Handled

Officer Spoke to Party

Transported to Hospital

Road Unfounded

Death, Edson Avenue, Report Filed 1 p.m. Motor Vehicle Hit and

Sunday, Feb. 23

10:01 a.m. Unattended

Run, Main Street, Report Filed 1:33 p.m. Emergency Medical Service - Sick/Unknown, Miles Road, Report Filed

2:21 p.m. Suspicious Person/ Vehicle Activity, Main Street. Building Checked/Secured 2:28 p.m. Fraud or Forgery.

Glenwood Road, Officer Spoke to Party 4:57 p.m. Emergency Medical Service - Sick/Unknown, Central

Tree Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal 5:19 p.m. Erratic Operator,

East County Road, Negative Contact 6 p.m. Erratic Operator, Barre

Paxton Road, Officer Spoke to 7:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

Main Street, Written Waring

#### Monday, Feb. 24 12:10 a.m. Suspicious

Person/Vehicle Activity, Marjorie Lane. Officer Spoke to Party 7:31 p.m. Fire - Motor Vehicle

Collision,, Barre Paxton Road, Report Filed 3:21 p.m. Emergency Medical Service - Chest Pain/

Heart Problem, Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal 3:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

Main Street, Written Warning 3:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint Summons Mikelonis, Bruce

Thomas, 65, Oakham Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Unregistered Motor

3:46 p.m. Animal - ACO Call, Rutland Animal Shelter, Message

4:18 p.m. Suspicious Person/

Vehicle Activity, Wachusett Street, Investigated 4:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

Main Street, Written Warning 5:03 p.m. Emergency Medical Service - Allergic

Reaction, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital 7:09 p.m. Suspicious Person/

Vehicle Activity, Campbell Street, Unfounded

# Tuesday, Feb. 25

8:11 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning 8:40 p.m. Emergency Medical

Service - Breathing Difficulty. Glenwood Road, Mutual Aid Transported

9:59 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint Summons Abdalla, Rayek Girgis Nashed, 49, Gardner

Charges Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle 10:09 a.m. Emergency

Medical Service - Sick/Unknown, Campbell Street, Transported to

11:25 a.m. Fire - Motor

Sunday, Feb. 23

Found, Morgan Road, Officer

East County Road, Officer Took

Hubbardston Police Station,

Monday, Feb. 24

Mt. Jefferson Road, Public Assist

Notification, Halfrey Road,

Tuesday, Feb. 25

Navajo Street, Officer Took Call

Service - Falls, Lombard Road,

Transported to Hospital

12:02 p.m. Public Assist.

7:46 p.m. Emergency Medical

9:16 p.m. Emergency Medical

11:54 a.m. Keep the Peace,

8:16 p.m. Road Condition

Report Filed

Information Taken

4:12 p.m. Property - Lost &

5:19 p.m. Erratic Operator,

8:17 p.m. Larceny or Theft,

#### Plantation Street, Arrest(s) Made Arrest: Manzi, Lisa M., 49, Worcester

Investigated

Warning

Took Call

Charges Warrant 9:51 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning

**Rutland Police Log** 

Vehicle Collision, Pommogussett

Collision, East County Road,

2:04 p.m. Fire - Motor Vehicle

Summons Kelsey, Sabrina

Charges Negligent Operation

2:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

3:42 p.m. Emergency

8:50 p.m. Emergency Medical

10:42 p.m. Emergency

11:19 p.m. Public Assist,

Wachusett Street, Citation Issued

Medical Service - Unconscious/

Unresponsive/Syncope, Ridge

Service - Falls, East County

Road, Ambulance Signed

Medical Service - Chest Pain/

Heart Problem, Maple Avenue,

Pommogussett Road, Public

Wednesday, Feb 26

Collision, East County Road,

Hazard, Maple Avenue,

Barre Paxton Road, Written

Investigation, Main Street, Officer

Ambulance Signed Refusal

6:57 a.m. Fire - Motor Vehicle

7:47 a.m. Road/Traffic

8:56 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop.

9:14 a.m. Follow-Up

9:16 a.m. Serve Warrant.

Transported to Hospital

of Motor Vehicle, Stop/Yield, Fail

Road, Transported to Hospital

Criminal Complaint

Road, Report Filed

Candace, 42. Leicester

10:16 a.m. Emergency Medical Service - Chest Pain/ Heart Problem, Turkey Hill Road,

Transported to Hospital 10:45 a.m. Emergency Medical Service - Chest Pain/ Heart Problem, Oakridge Drive,

Transported to Hospital 1:17 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Spencer, Negative

3:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Hit and Run, Main Street, Report

Filed 4:09 p.m. Fire - Power Lines Down/Arcing, Davis Street,

Officer/Chief Advised 4:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle -Disabled, Main Street, Officer

Spoke to Party 7:50 p.m. Emergency Medical Service - Sick/Unknown, Laurelwood Road, Transported

to Hospital 10:44 p.m. Safety Concert, Brunelle Drive, Area Search

Negative 11:17 p.m. Emergency Medical Service - Medical Alarm,

Prescott Street, Transported to Hospital Thursday, Feb. 27

4:51 a.m. Emergency

Medical Service - Unconscious/ Unresponsive/Syncope, Edson Road, Transported to Hospital

8:36 a.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield District Court, Court

2:07 p.m. Animal - ACO Call. Hillside Road, Animal Brought to

#### Friday, Feb. 28

3:18 a.m. Suspicious Person/ Vehicle Activity, Whitehall Road, Officer Spoke to Party

5:29 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Whole Town, Message Delivered

5:49 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning 7:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written

8:06 a.m. Animal - ACO Call, Hillside Road, Referred to Other

9:28 a.m. Safety Concern, Maple Avenue, Negative Contact 10:03 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued

10:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle -Disabled, Main St., Officer Spoke to Party

11:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written

12:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint

Summons Fountain, Robert Frances, 71, Rutland

Charges Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With

4:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle -Disabled, Intervale Road, Officer Spoke to Party 5:48 p.m. Property - Lost/

Found/Surrender, Main Street, Property Returned 8:27 p.m. Emergency Medical

Service - Falls, East County Road, Transported to Hospital

#### Saturday, March 1 8:26 a.m. Suspicious Person/

Vehicle Activity, Wachusett Street, Officer Spoke to Party 9:09 a.m. Follow Up

Investigation, Campbell Court, Investigation (On-Going),

10:04 a.m. Emergency Medical Service - Stroke (CVA), Transported to Hospital

12:02 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Maple Avenue, Report Filed 12:52 p.m. :Property Dispute

or Exchange, Walnut Street, Property Returned 1:11 p.m. Road/Traffic

Hazard, Pommogussett Road, Referred to Other Agency 2:41 p.m. Emergency Medical Service - Diabetic, Shore Drive,

Transported to Hospital 3:14 p.m. Property - Lost/ ound/Surrender, Barre Paxton

Road, Information Taken 3:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

Brunelle Drive, Written Warning

# **Hardwick Police Log**

During the week of Feb. 24-March 3, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 68 building/property checks, 38 directed/area patrols, six radar assignments, one traffic control, 11 emergency 911 calls, nine citizen assists, two assist other agencies, four complaints, four safety hazards, one investigation, one identity theft, one illegal dumping, two fire alarms, four motor vehicle accidents, one trespass, four animal calls and three motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

# Monday, Feb. 24

9:29 a.m. Identity Theft, Pine Street Officer Handled 10:09 a.m. Past Motor Vehicle

Accident, Lower Road, Spoken 10:22 a.m. Parking

Complaint, Grove Street, Spoken 12:22 p.m. Assist Citizen,

Broad Street, Spoken To 5:28 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Maple Street, Officer

Handled 6:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Lower Road, Officer Handled

# Tuesday, Feb. 25

8:30 a.m. Safety Hazard,

6:15 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Petersham Road, Written Warning

Barre Road, Officer Handled 8:59 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital

1:23 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Church Street, Transported to Hospital

3:31 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Report Taken 4:28 p.m. Assist Citizen,

Church Street, Services

#### Wednesday, Feb. 26 6:15 a.m. Safety Hazard, New Braintree Road, Dispatch

Handled 3:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning

4:10 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered 4:12 p.m. 911 Suspicious

Activity, Church Street, Merge

4:58 p.m. Complaint, Broad Street. Officer Handled 5:15 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Accident, Upper Church Street.

Services Rendered 8:51 p.m. Assist Citizen, Joslyn Road, Officer Handled

# Thursday, Feb. 27

7:01 a.m. Safety Hazard, Lower Road, Taken/Referred to

12:38 p.m. Illegal Dumping, Main Street, Officer Handled 6:02 p.m. Fire Alarm, Prospect Street, Investigated

# Friday, Feb. 28 4:54 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Off Prospect Street,

Transported to Hospital 5:19 a.m. Safety Hazard New Braintree Road, Dispatch Handled

1:40 p.m. Welfare Check, Petersham Road, Transported to 5:48 p.m. Assist Citizen,

Lower Road, Spoken To 9:10 p.m. Complaint, Hardwick Road, Services

Saturday, March 1 1:58 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Ruggles Hill Road,

Services Rendered

9:56 a.m. Assist Other Telephone, Officer Agency, Handled

12:51 p.m. Assist Citizen, Broad Street, Spoken To 1:51 p.m. Assist Citizen, Broad Street, Services Rendered 3:37 p.m. Fire Alarm, Upper Church Street, Services

Rendered 5:22 p.m. Complaint, Jackson Road, Officer Handled

Sunday, March 2 10:43 a.m. Assist Citizen, Creamery Road, Officer Handled 12:55 p.m. Assist Citizen.

Lower Road, Officer Handled 1:38 p.m. 911 Trespass, Taylor Hill Road, Services

Rendered 4:10 p.m. Investigation, Church Lane, Officer Handled 5:23 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road,

Transported to Hospital 6:50 p.m. 911 Neighbor Dispute, Prospect Street, Spoken

During the week of March 3-10, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 46 building/property checks, 28 directed/area patrols, six radar assignments, four traffic controls, eight emergency 911 calls, five citizen assists, two assist other agencies, one complaint, one safety hazard, one investigation, one motor vehicle investigation, one larcenv/theft/shoplifting, two animal calls and 15 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

# Monday, March 3

5:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Written Warning

BARRE GAZETTE - SERVING THE TOWNS OF BARRE,

# Tuesday, March 4

Services Rendered

11:50 a.m. Complaint. Hardwick Road, Spoken To 12:23 p.m. Assist Citizen,

> Wednesday, March 5 10:32 a.m. Assist Citizen,

Agency, Main Street, Spoken To

Lower Road, Spoken To

Thursday, March 6 Activity, Church Street, Services

Transported to Hospital 4:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

Friday, March 7 Emergency, Off Ruggles Street,

Transported to Hospital 2:17 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Negative Contact

Main Street, Written Warning Emergency, Delargy Road,

Street, Transported to Hospital

Taken Broad Street, Officer Handled

Stop, Prospect Street, Criminal Complaint Street, Officer Handled

Street, Officer Handled 9:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning

1:43 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Collins Road,

8:47 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued

Delarav Road, Spoken To 1:05 p.m. Assist Citizen, Mechanic Street, Spoken To

# 7:10 p.m. Assist Other

Rendered 8:01 a.m. Medical Alarm, Hardwick Pond Road,

# Main Street, Citation Issued

12:25 a.m. Medical

10:56 a.m. Safety Hazard. Main Street. No Action Required

# 3:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

Saturday, March 8 7:06 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, 9:54 a.m. 911 Medical

Transported to Hospital 1:58 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Upper Church 8:03 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Officer Handled

10:34 a.m. Larceny/Theft/

Sunday, March 9 8:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Barre Road, Investigated

Shoplifting, Broad Street, Report 3:39 p.m. Assist Citizen. 3:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle

8:01 p.m. 911 Misdial, Bridge 8:20 p.m. Investigation, Broad

Service - Sick/Unknown, Old Princeton Cutoff Road, Mutual Aid Assist

During the week of March 3-10, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 12 building/property checks, 15 directed/area patrols, five radar assignments, four traffic controls, five emergency 911 calls, six safety hazards, one citizen assist, two investigations, one fire/illegal burn, two animal calls and four motor vehicle stops in the town of

# Monday, March 3

New Braintree.

2:06 p.m. 911 Assist Citizen, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled 5:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation Issued

#### Tuesday, March 4 10:47 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Road, Services

#### Wednesday, Feb. 26 8:26 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle/

**Hubbardston Police Log** 

Parking Issues, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party 10:50 a.m. Emergency

Medical Service - Sick/Unknown, Halfrey Road, Transported to 11:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle -Disabled, New Templeton Road,

# Gone on Arrival

Thursday, Feb. 27 5:52 a.m. Notification, Whole Town. Information Taken 11:56 a.m. Fire - Power

Lines Down/Arcing, Barre Road,

Investigated 3:20 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Gardner, Officer Took Call 3:41 p.m. Emergency Medical

Service - Animal Bites, Elm Street, Report Filed 5:41 p.m. Emergency Medical

Service - Falls, Worcester Road, No Fire Service Necessary

#### Notification, New Templeton Road, Referred to Other Agency Friday, Feb. 28 9 a.m. Emergency Medical

Service - Breathing Difficulty,

Collision, Pitcherville Road, Transported to Hospital

9:03 a.m. Fire - Motor Vehicle

Transported to Hospital

Transported to Hospital

6:02 p.m. Emergency

7:22 p.m. Road Condition

Medical Service - Chest Pain/

Heart Problem, Madison Way,

2:56 p.m. Safety Concern, Coldbrook Road, Area Search Negative 4:08 p.m. Complaint,

Pitcherville Road, Message

# Delivered

Saturday, March 1 9:50 a.m. Emergency Medical Service - Welfare Check, Lombard Road, No Transport Required

# **New Braintree Police Log**

Wednesday, March 5

Road, Officer Handled

Gilbertville Road, Officer Handled Thursday, March 6 12:41 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Barre Road,

1:28 p.m. 911 Misdial, Barre

6:01 p.m. Investigation,

#### Transported to Hospital 2:30 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Worcester Road,

Transported to Hospital

Mara Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency Friday, March 7

5:21 p.m. Safety Hazard.

# 3:48 a.m. Safety Hazard,

West Brookfield Road, Services Rendered

10:15 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Brookfield Road, Dispatch

3:38 p.m. Safety Hazard,

Scott Road, Taken/Referred to

Other Agency 4:44 p.m. Safety Hazard, Scott Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

4:48 p.m. Safety Hazard, Oakham Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

#### Saturday, March 8 7:58 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ware Road, Citation Issued

9:30 a.m. Fire/Illegal Burn, North Brookfield Road, Investigated 2:40 p.m. Investigation, Webb

Road, Officer Handled 3:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Cut Off Road, Citation

#### Sunday, March 9 3:30 a.m. 911 Medical

Emergency, McEvoy Road, Transported to Hospital

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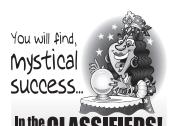
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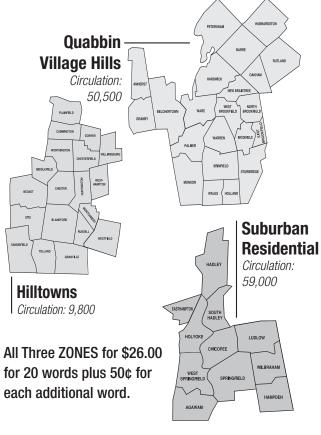
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#### **Worthington Police Department Full-time Police Officer**

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 elevat-

ed 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

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# Joint Ways and Means to hold important budget hearing

The Joint Committee on Ways and Means has scheduled an FY26 budget hearing focused on Local Aid Education and Municipal for Monday, March 24 starting at 11 a.m. at the UMass Campus Center, 1 Campus Center Way, Amherst.

Currently, the House and Senate Ways and Means committees are crafting their Fiscal Year 26 state budgets, set to be unveiled in April (House) and May (Senate). Presence at this hearing is vital for school committee members, town officials, elected representatives, parents and community members to join them in attending.

In Fiscal Year 26 (H.1), 232 school districts will be classified as "hold harmless," meaning towns must shoulder the full cost of their budget increases, a situation that has become untenable. The Chapter 70 education funding formula is no longer serving the communities effectively.

A collaboration with education budget and policy groups create an advocacy document outlining allocation requests for the \$1.4 billion FY24 Fair Share Act surplus and the FY26 State Budget. Access the K-12 Funding Advocacy Letter/ Funding List here and a detailed explanation, along with a call to action, here:

Project 211+21 Uniting to Advocate for Increased K-12 Funding Meeting Recording 03.04.25 (link) (Passcode: w@ib6u+d). Please share the funding list with state legislators via email, requesting their support and providing specific FY26 fiscal crisis details for your district or town. They need to hear directly about the real numbers and impacts of this funding formula.

Lauren Salmon-Garrett concrete data from your from the Wachusett Regional School Committee has updated the funding list to include a column where your school business official can detail how additional funding for each line item would benefit your district.

At the hearing, please bring written testimony to submit after the education policy groups (MARS, MASS, MASC, etc.) speak. Legislators must receive

district or town about the FY26 budget such as revenue shortfalls, override needs or potential layoffs if overrides fail. People are encouraged to bring a sign identifying their district or town to visually demonstrate the statewide scope of this financial crisis. Additionally, show solidarity by standing in support when MARS, MASS and similar groups testify.

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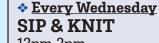
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