

BARRE GAZETTE

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'Ireland to America' program presented at Town House



Submitted Photos by Julie Bullock

Roger Tincknell is a performer who presented his program "Ireland to America" at the Town House in Hardwick this past weekend.

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Paige Memorial Library welcomed musician and performer Roger Tincknell to the Town House this past weekend.

The program was called "Ireland to America", where guests could sing, clap, dance and witness the multi-instrumentalist who provides music programs for all ages.

This program was 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. This event was also supported by the Friends of Paige Memorial Library.

The Town House had a great turnout as Tincknell of Shutesbury brought multiple instruments to play in celebration of traditional Irish music and culture. Tincknell would perform ballads, sing-alongs and work songs.

"This is one of the biggest

See IRELAND, page 7



There were children participating in Roger Tincknell's performance at the Hardwick Town House.

Town Administrator to resign June 1

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – The Select Board received the resignation of Town Administrator Tammy Martin at their Monday, March 17 meeting.

She tendered her resignation effective June 1. Select Board Chair Maureen Marshall thanked her for all the work she did for the town especially on the playground. She said, she hoped Martin would come back for the High Plains playground dedication.

When the Chair asked for a motion, Select Board Member Mark Regienus said he did not want to do it. They accepted the Town Administrator's resignation with "deep regret." Select Board Chair Marshall said the town would begin the process of finding an interim Town Administrator and the search for a Town Administrator.

CDBG hearing

Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission planner Joe Ferguson and project manager John O'Leary conducted a public hearing on the town's proposed application for a Community Development Block Grant for Fir Street in South Barre. Ferguson said a preliminary study on Fir Street improvement was done last September and the final would be completed next month.

CDBG projects must meet one of two criteria: providing benefit to low to moderate income areas or reduce urban blight. Project manager, O'Leary said the South Barre site has 51% low to moderate income residents, the result of a recently completed income survey. He also said CDBG required no financial outlay or matching funds from the town. The fee for CMRPC would come from the grant if awarded.

The grant application deadline for this highly competitive grant would be Monday, April 14. Award notification would be late summer or early fall. The grant source is the United States Housing and Urban Development. The program began in the 1970s and has a maximum cap amount of \$850,000. A "ballpark" estimate was \$575,000 for design and construction of Fir Street.

After the closing of the hearing, the two Select Board members present voted to accept the project proposal and approved the submission of the CDBG application. If the town received the grant, a preconstruction hearing would be held before the project begins.

TA Report

Town Administrator Martin said she met with the Senior Center Director

See BARRE, page 7

Board designates assessor Special Municipal Employee

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
edowner@turley.com

OAKHAM – At the request of the Board of Assessors, the Select Board appointed Assessor Diane Peterson a Special Municipal Employee at their Monday, March 3 meeting.

Peterson will be a working assessor to assist during

this revaluation year from March 3 to Dec. 31, 2025. She will be paid \$50 per hour for this extra work with an amount not to exceed \$14,000, the amount in the Assessors Account after the \$24,500 for the outside firm to conduct the revaluation in 2025. The Board approved the designation.

Select Board Vice Chair Donald Haapakoski, who

arrived late, said the other Assessor on the Board, Peter Joyce must also file for Special Municipal Employee designation per State Ethics Commission policy. He would not be receiving extra compensation as a working assessor.

Assessor Peterson said the Board's goal was to finish the revaluations by Sept. 30. All inspectors would have an ID

lanyard and a sign on their vehicle.

Parks and Recreation budget

The Select Board reviewed the Parks and Recreation budget. At present, there were only two members on the Parks and Recreation Committee. They submitted a level funded amount of \$5,000. One of the two members said the

Parks and Recreation planned scaled down activities for next year. They would include installing a skating rink, movie nights, ski club, Memorial Day activities and bring back the holiday light contest.

Building

Commissioner budget Building Commissioner Robert Lanciani participated via zoom. He said with

the new zoning regulations he needed to purchase new code books for the town. The cost was about \$800 for ten different code books. This would be placed as a separate article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant as it was not a yearly expense.

He also proposed fee

See OAKHAM, page 6

Town looks at budget shortfall and staffing needs

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – As town departments and boards and committees work to develop the budget for fiscal year 2026, Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis shared some insight about the town's financial outlook and needs.

Budget and override

Petraitis said all of the departmental budgets have been received, and there is a considerable gap to fill. He said every budget in town has a shortfall.

"Right now, we're well over what we have that can be allocated to everything. So that makes it difficult," he said.

Petraitis said this includes the school district's budget, which is needing an increase greater than what is allowed with Proposition 2 1/2. The proposed FY 26

budget for the school district is about 17% or \$1.2 million greater than the current fiscal year.

"We just don't have it," Petraitis said.

Petraitis said there has been talk of seeking an override to bridge the fiscal gap, but he said he can't put that article on the town meeting warrant in good conscience, due to its potential impact on taxpayers.

"You're looking at what would potentially be a 25% increase in taxes," he said, of which more than half would go toward the school budget alone.

This potential increase in taxes doesn't include sewer betterment rates for the upgraded wastewater treatment project.

"It's really tragic the way this happens. There are things that can be done on the state level but that's nothing I can have control over," he said.

Petraitis said even though the regionalization process with the Quaboag Regional

School District has stopped, he doesn't believe that it's outside of the realm of possibility for the future.

"There's potential for a tuition agreement with Quaboag, but we have to wait for the school committees to do the investigating and find out what that would cost," he said.

Petraitis said in grades nine-12, there are about 50 students in North Brookfield Public Schools, adding that teachers' salaries (not counting benefits) account for over \$1 million of the budget.

He said the lowest paid teachers are making mid-\$50,000 and the highest paid administrators are earning over \$100,000. He said the average taxpayer in town earns \$34,000 a year, and the average household \$80,000.

"I can't possibly ask for an override with those kind of numbers," he said.

See NORTH BROOKFIELD, page 8

Litany for a Broken World



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

Hardwick author Lisa "LJ" Cohen reads from her newest novel, "Litany for a Broken World" at the Stone Church Cultural Center on March 16.

Hardwick author releases ninth science fiction novel

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – Resident and author Lisa Janice "LJ" Cohen has recently released her ninth novel, the first in a trilogy called "Litany for a Broken World".

Cohen began writing science fiction novels about 20

years ago, having previously worked as a physical therapist for 25 years.

"I wrote this book...or sort of this book, six years ago," she said.

Cohen said she was inspired to write "Litany for a Broken World" after hearing a story about a tent city in Boston on NPR. She decided to set her novel in the world of the unhoused.

"I thought it would be important enough to do that," she said. "As a physical therapist you worked with unhoused patients."

It is also set in the multiverse, where some of the characters are able to travel between universes.

"The walls between the universes are a little bit porous," Cohen explained. "The multiverse is a really interesting concept."

Cohen held a book reading and signing at the Stone Church Cultural Center on March 16, welcoming questions from the audience and sharing her creative process.

She started by thanking those in attendance for their support, and reading the novel's two epigraphs, one by Rabbi Tarfon and the second by William Sloane Coffin, which she heard at the funeral of her husband's coworker.

"It struck me, and I knew I had to use it," Cohen said.

Cohen read several pages of the first chapter of the novel, which introduced the character Jace, "a lone man wandering the streets of a small, post-industrial, pre-spacefaring city." Readers learn that this city is Boston, as Jace comes upon

See AUTHOR, page 8



News of the Towns



ROUND TOWN

by Ellenor Downer
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Lincoln program has date change

The Barre Congregational Church Women's Fellowship hosts a program on Abraham Lincoln with former State Senator Stephen Brewer on Monday, April 14 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 conversation. Note: The date was changed to April 14 and will not be held on April 7 as stated last week's Round Town.

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. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church. They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers at multiple stations. People should not arrive to volunteer without first contacting Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921 or Chuck Radlo at 978-355-6463. Because conditions have been changing rapidly, please continue to check for updates on the Barre Food Pantry website by visiting <http://www.barrefoodbank.org/index.htm> and the Barre Food Pantry Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Barre-Food-Pantry-100156068300314/>.

Spring arrives and goodbye to ice skating



Turley photo by Ellenor Downer
Last week, someone drained the water out of the ice rink on the Barre Common. The ice skating season lasted for a long period of time due to the cold weather. The ice rink now will be stored until next winter.

HUBBARDSTON

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Country Hen Scholarship deadline is April 25

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.

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 24. Lunches are back at the senior center, but require a pre-sign up. Volunteers are needed at the Barre dining site. Volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels (mileage reimbursement) and in the kitchen. People should contact 978-355-5027.

MONDAY — Pork rib-i-que, barbeque sauce, mac n cheese, mixed vegetables, fresh fruit, sandwich roll

TUESDAY — Beef with peppers and onions, Yokon gold potatoes, carrots, vanilla pudding, diet = vanilla pudding, sandwich roll

WEDNESDAY — Chicken vegetable stir fry, steamed white rice, green beans, fruited ambrosia, Italian bread

THURSDAY — Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes. Scandinavian vegetables, birthday cake, diet - hal piece, marble rye bread

FRIDAY — Fish with crumped topping, lemon seasoned rice, Tuscany stlye vegetables, pineapple, whole wheat bread

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

Woods Memorial Library April events

BARRE — In today's digital age, it's more important than ever to understand the source of the news and how to assess its accuracy.

Melody Friedenthal, Reference Librarian, will present an informative session where participants will explore how to evaluate news sources and spot false claims in the media on Saturday, April 5 at 10:30 a.m. at the

Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant St. This free program will provide valuable tools to help determine if the information people are consuming is reliable, complete and up-to-date, or if it is simply "fake news." Online registration by visiting www.barrelibrary.org is requested, but not required.

On Thursday, April 10 at 6:00 p.m., the Honorable

William J. Ritter, Associate Justice of the state Superior Court and member of the Massachusetts Judicial Speakers Bureau, will visit Woods Memorial Library to give a talk titled, "Preserving the Rule of Law — Supporting and Protecting a Fair and Impartial Judiciary." This presentation is free and open to the public; all are invited to attend.

Gilbertville Public Library lists upcoming events

GILBERTVILLE — The Gilbertville Public, 259 Main St., will hold a Pot of Gold story time on Thursday, March 20 from 4-5 p.m. Children will find the leprechaun's pot of gold and snacks.

On Thursday, April 17 from 1-4 p.m. there will be an Easter bake sale and an Easter egg hunt from 4-5 p.m. plus more.

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Barre/Hardwick Senior Center lists events

BARRE — The Barre/Hardwick Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, heads into their second month of the 2025 year long Stronger Together Initiative going strong.

There are new participants coming to the Senior Center. The theme for April is Life Balance. Seniors will learn tips and trick on how to balance busy lives and stay organized. They will gain awareness of how much there is to balancing life and what resources can help them to make life better and avoid frustration, anxiety and feeling overwhelmed.

The introductory workshop of the month takes place at the Senior Center two (2) times, Wednesday, April 2nd at 11:00 a.m. and Thursday, April 3 at 1 p.m. In this workshop participants will be introduced to the concept of Life Balance and how that fits into our lives. They

will gain insight and resources for balancing life no matter what stage they are in.

A reminder to everyone, 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 the "aging population, those 60 years of age and over" from the towns and villages of Barre and Hardwick to come by the Senior Center and say hello. They ma stop by for a morning cup of coffee or join us for lunch, pick up a newsletter and a calendar of events.

Calendar Events for April: (These are in addition to the regularly scheduled very full calendar of activities) which can be found in the newsletter at www.townofbarre.com/coa

Thursday, April 10 at 8:30 a.m. Deborah Stoodley from Fidelity Bank is offering a free Budgeting Workshop-

how can we best manage our money. Each participant will receive a hardcover Budget Book to take home and use. Sign up at Senior Center Front Desk.

Thursday, April 17 at 9 a.m. they will be sharing free tips and tricks for scheduling calendar and keeping oneself organized. Whether daily, weekly or monthly, our calendars seem to get filled up fast, and that can be stressful. Learn how we can prioritize to make life less stressful. Sign up at Senior Center Front Desk.

Tuesday, April 22 at 11 a.m. Wendy Bolognesi, will be teaching Self-Applied Acupressure and at 12:30-2:30 p.m. will be offering chair massage (\$10/10 minutes). Sign up is required, limited space available.

Tuesday, April 29 at 9 a.m. Jennifer Baker of RightSized Living will offer a presentation on downsizing

and organizing whether for a move, or just to give you peace of mind. Free, sign up at Senior Center Front Desk.

All events are held at the Senior Center-557 South Barre Road, Barre. The theme for May is the me-Environment.

Maybe you know someone who has knowledge and skills that they could bring to a presentation or program, we would love to hear about it. People can reach out to Betty-Jo O'Brien at the Senior Center.

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

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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

Quabbin Regional School District Student Services Subcommittee – March 20 at 5 p.m.
 Select Board – March 20 and April 7 at 6 p.m.
 DPW Commission – March 20 and April 14 at 7 p.m.
 Finance Committee – March 25, April 8 April 22, May 6 and May 20 at 6:30 p.m.
 250th Anniversary Committee – March 25 and April 9 at 6:30 p.m.
 Conservation Committee – March 25 at 7 p.m.
 9/11 Memorial Development Committee – March 26 at 5 p.m.
 Cemetery Commission – March 27 at 11 a.m. and at noon
 Felton Field Commission – April 1 at 6:30 p.m.
 Planning Board – April 1 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – April 2 at 12:30 p.m.
 Election Day – April 7 from 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
 Cable Advisory Committee – April 8 at 7 p.m.
 Barre Housing Authority – April 10 at 1 p.m.
 Board of Health – April 14 at 5 p.m.
 Water Commission – April 14 at 6:30 p.m.

HARDWICK

Personnel Committee – March 24 at 5 p.m.
 Finance Committee – March 24 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – March 25 at 6:30 p.m.
 Master Plan Steering Committee – March 27 at 6:30 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.
 Gilbertville Public Library – April 9 at 4 p.m.
 Capital Planning Committee – May 19 at 3 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Planning Board – March 20 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 20, March 27, April 3, April 10 April 17 and April 24 at 4 p.m.
 Board of Selectmen – March 25 and April 8 at 6 p.m.
 Sen. Durand and Rep. Berthiaume Office Hour – April 9 at noon
 Sewer Commissioners – April 14 at 4 p.m.
 Planning Board – April 16 at 6 p.m.

OAKHAM

Board of Selectmen – March 31, April 14 and April 28 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – April 15 at 7 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Select Board – March 20, March 27, April 3, April 10 April 24, May 1 and May 8 at 5:30 p.m.
 Advisory Finance Committee – March 20 and March 27 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Health – March 20 at 6 p.m.
 Petersham School Committee – March 26 at 6 p.m.
 Open Space and Recreation Committee – April 1 at 6 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – April 1 at 7 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – April 4 at 9 a.m.
 Cemetery Commission – April 8 at 10 a.m.
 Council on Aging – April 14 at 10 a.m.

RUTLAND

Events Committee – March 20 at 6 p.m.
 Finance Committee – March 20 at 6 p.m.

Editorial deadline reminder

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

Art Center presents group show

PETERSHAM – Spring has sprung at the Petersham Art Center, 8 North St. On Sunday, April 6 from 4-6 p.m., the Art Center will open its 2025 exhibition season with a public reception.

All are welcome for a festive reception with the artists, refreshments and good cheer. “Welcome Spring! A Group Show” will fill the Barbara Ellis Gallery with a bouquet of spring themed artwork by thirteen area artists. Using a diverse range of mediums and styles, the artists invite viewers to share their expressions of the changing season.

From Jane Duderstadt’s Petersham studio will come three never before exhibited cut and folded hand painted paper medleys singing the language of Spring through their exciting combinations of colors, textures, and shapes. Also working with paper is Princeton artist Leonard Haug whose new Spring inspired mosaic pieces focus on feelings of joy and happiness.

Looking back on a long career in the arts, participating painter Linda Paul Ganson, remembers taking her first art class at the Petersham Craft Center at the age of ten. For her, “Spring is a welcoming time of the year where plant forms emerge and develop into amazing blooms of color and intricate displays of nature’s wonder.”

Two artists working with colored pencils are Ken Levine of Petersham and Mathilde Duffy of Barre. Ken is a lettering artist and found object framer who infuses his work with humor and irony. For Mathilde, the arrival of Spring inspires her to “appreciate the cycle of life and observe its intricacies, patterns and designs.”

Art teacher Katie Walsh sees the reemerging colors and increased light this time of year as a welcome sign of Spring. Her manipulation of the season’s color, light, and form inspired the mixed-media piece “Reawakening” for the show. Susan Paju of Athol, another mixed-media artist, pays homage to patient over-wintering birds in “Finches.” “I cannot imagine there is any creature more welcoming of Spring than our Winter songbirds.”

Janet Palin, a self-de-



Submitted photos

The Petersham Art Center invites the public to join artists for “Welcome Spring: A Group Show,” the first exhibition reception of the 2025 season. Len Haug stands next to artwork he will exhibit.

scribed “painter of landscape using pastels since 1996,” joins painters Tracey J. Maroni and Susan Pepper in drawing inspiration from nature and being outdoors. Watercolor artist Donna Eaton will present a trio of atmospheric scenes she’s found while meandering the cart-roads and woods of Central Massachusetts.

Oakham neighbors Elaine Griffith and Dena Hengst celebrate the transition from Winter into Spring as one of the most cherished times of the year. Visitors will enjoy Elaine’s themes of gardening and listening to a brook babble. Dena’s paintings of

water explore ice and snow giving way to warmth, growth and new life, “a time when light breaks through the darkness, colors return to the landscape, and water flows with new energy.” “Welcome Spring! A Group Show” is a joyful reminder that we have once again made it to SPRING!

The Petersham Art Center is a nonprofit organization offering classes, exhibits, and a retail fine art & hand-made crafts shop. The center is open Thursday through Sunday, from noon-4 p.m. The exhibition will remain on view through Sunday, April 27.



Donna Eaton holds up one of her watercolors.

Historical Society presents History at Play program

RUTLAND – The Rutland Historical Society and the Rutland Cultural Council is hosting a special Performance of History at Play with Judith Kalaora delivering a dynamic performance highlighting, Challenger on Tuesday, April 8 at 7 p.m. in the Rutland Library, 280 Main St., lower level at 7 p.m.

The program pays homage to Christa McAuliffe, the United States’ Teacher in Space Program and the crew of the NASA space shuttle. They

will journey through Christa’s life in this multimedia Immersive Living History Experience. Discover the true story behind the incredible educator, the American Pioneer and the internationally recognized heroine.

Judith Kalaora is a professional educator, award-winning playwright, and living historian.

This event is appropriate for all ages, is free and open to the public. Refreshments will follow the presentation.

Corrections policy

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



OAKHAM

by Ellenor Downer
 edowner@turley.com

Senior pen pal letters ready for pickup

Senior pen pal letters from the Oakham Center School students will be ready for the seniors to pick up on Thursday March 20 after 2:30 p.m. outside the back door of the library. Senior response letters are due back at the library on Thursday, April 3.

Lunch 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

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 now 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 restrictions.

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 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.

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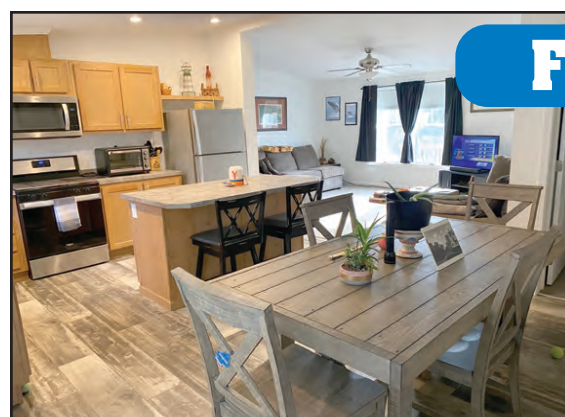
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Opinion

Letter to Editor

Reader supports ballot question

The non-binding question on the next town election is whether or not the town should take acquisition of the land containing the dam.

I am in favor of this and I can tell you why. If the state should remove the dam in order to return that section of the Prince River back to what it was in the 1800s (just an extension of the Prince River) as they have proposed, many of the low lying areas in Barre may be in danger of flooding, especially if we get one of those monsoon storms 'like they got in the western part of the state and Vermont last year.'

When I bought my house in the plains 36 years ago, I was assured by many townspeople that the Barre Falls dam would alleviate any worries of flooding. But only recently have I learned of another large dam out in the woods off Williamsville

Road that was originally built to supply the old mills down in the Valley Road area.

I am very concerned that without a dam to buffer the water flow, we could see roads and bridges get washed out, along with flooding many residences all along the way. Another thing to consider is beavers, you can be sure they will rebuild new dams up there and who will be responsible for overseeing that problem? One more reason I would like to see the reservoir preserved is the East Quabbin Land Trust hiking trail that leads out to it. It's like a hidden sanctuary out in the wilderness for wildlife and people to enjoy. That's why I say, let's vote "YES" on the question to move ahead with the land acquisition.

Sincerely,
Paul Gardner

Vote Yes to repair Old Reservoir Dam

By Robert Kane

On April 7, Barre residents will make crucial decision regarding the repair and upgrade of the dam at the Old Reservoir.

The Select Board is seeking input through a non-binding question: "Shall the Town direct the Select Board to issue an opinion to the Massachusetts Office of Dam Safety that the Town intends to take possession of the Old Reservoir Dam in order to repair the dam to maintain the current water level of the Old Reservoir?"

There are many compelling reasons to vote YES. The most important is that the Old Reservoir is a critical component of our town's water supply. As groundwater levels decline due to over-extraction, droughts and climate change, the reservoir could continue to provide essential backup to maintain the one and only groundwater aquifer. This potential should be studied by a hydrologist before we just give it away.

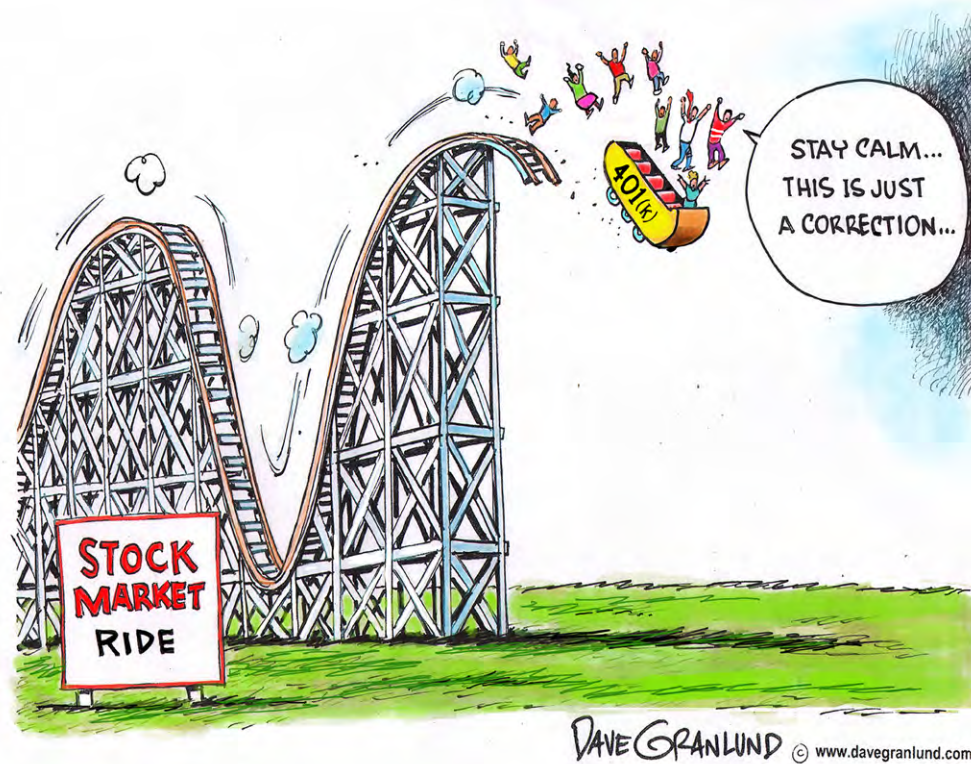
One argument against repairing the dam is, "Who cares?" This assumes incorrectly that only homeowners concerned about losing the recreational "pond" would benefit. This is far from the truth.

While the Old Reservoir is already accessible via a public hiking trail, the dam repair project would require an access road, which could later allow all Barre residents to enjoy the space, whether for fishing, kayaking, or simply appreciating its beauty.

A landowner is even donating the right of way. The only costs involve one-time legal fees to transfer ownership of the land to the town. It's true that the group of people closest to the reservoir, who have grown up fishing and hunting there, are particularly passionate about preserving it. Over the past 175 years, a thriving ecosystem has developed and the pond is home to various species of fish, including stocked trout from Templeton, bass, perch, horn pout, chain pickerel and several varieties of native shiners.

But this is not just about preserving a personal pastime or sentimental attachment; it's about something far more significant: our town's water supply. The Old Reservoir could play a vital role in replenishing the Prince River aquifer, which supplies our town's wells. The aquifer is being

See **SAVE THE DAM**, page 5



In Past Pages

5 years (March 26, 2020)

Over two dozen Hubbardston residents and town officials attended a design public hearing to discuss the proposed highway reconstruction of Route 68 from Elm and Brigham Streets to Curtis Recreation Field. MassDOT highway superintendent Jonathan Gulliver and chief engineer Patricia A. Leaveworth, P.E. held a public hearing in the Slade Building Thursday, March 5. Gulliver said the \$4.9 million project would receive 80% federal funding and 20% percent funding from MassDOT. The \$4.9 million did not include the cost for right of ways. He said the project following the hearing was ready to progress to the 75% design phase. The design should be at 100% by early fall. The project once started would take about 15 months to complete.

In the midst of all the current bad news. North Brookfield Elementary School was recently given the exciting news the school had been chosen to receive the Mass Reading Association Exemplary Reading Program award, an accolade given to only one school each year. "We are so excited and honored," said NBES principal, Sarah Priestly. "While the award is not tied to any financial benefits directly, we hope that the recognition will make us eligible for grant opportunities in the future. We also offer to open our doors to visiting districts that are interested in building strong literacy programs to their schools."

They call it the "monthly miracle" and for many, this miracle has provided the food to keep families from going hungry. Normally a

Look Back Fishing Derby – 1993



File photo

Several youngsters and their parents line the banks of the pond at South Barre Rod and Gun Club for the fishing derby held last Saturday at South Barre Rod and Gun Club.

large group of selfless volunteers are seen helping at the monthly distribution days and nights for the Barre Food Pantry. However, last Thursday evening at the Barre Congregational Church the helpers may have been few, but their contributions were enormous. With the closing of everything going or around the area and people being advised to stay home as much as possible, board members from the Barre Food Pantry completely understand and wanted to comply with the direction to the best of their ability. Thus, the reason for the limited volunteers, though people still need to eat and depend on their assistance. A drive-thru service seemed to be a perfect solution of combat the complex situation and based on the results from last week, a big success.

10 years (March 26, 2015)
For a group of language

students at Quabbin Regional High School, Monday was a not a typical school day. Thirty French exchange students shadowed their host family students to classes. Twenty-three language students from Quabbin along with a student or two from North Brookfield High School will be traveling to France from April 14 to 27. While there, the students will stay part of the time with French students from Lycee Saint School in their homes.

People can support Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts and help themselves and the environment at the same time by bringing old electronics to Electronics Recycling Day on Saturday, April 4 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Curtis Recreation Field, Route 68. Each item costs just \$7 to recycle and the Scouts can accept a range of

See **PAST PAGES**, page 6

Grateful for the March garden

I don't know about you, but those first few warm days do something to my brain. I begin to expect that we are in for nice weather all the time.

It's easy to start dreaming and scheming, but alas, we are not exactly on a fast track to summer just yet, nor should we be. There is much to enjoy about this time of year.

Here are just a few of my favorite things about March.

First on the list is that my however-many-year-old Gerber daisy houseplant gave me a flower, with a couple more on the way. I had three of these plants last year. I gave a two away in one of my "less is more" moods.

Do they bloom as well as they did when they were a year old? No, but that bright and cheery daisy in seashell pink was just the pick-me-up I needed last week.

Soon, you will see Gerber daisies for sale in the grocery stores and plant nurseries. Try overwintering one in a bright



but cool window next winter for your own dose of pre-spring happiness.

After the size 10 footprint landed on the corner of my front border, in exactly the spot that I planted some tulip bulbs last fall, I made a fence out of apple tree prunings. What a fun March activity!

I bent each long piece into a U shape and plunged the ends into the ground, starting the next one in the middle of the one prior. That outta keep my husband off the bulbs; I hope at least.

Speaking of prunings, I have started to accumulate

"pea brush." I'll be sowing pea seeds in the next few weeks, and although I typically plant the seeds right up against the garden's fence, I am going to need more room this year, and these leftover prunings will be perfect for the tendrils to grab hold of.

I make a wide bed the length of the garden row, insert the prunings in the middle of the row and plant pea seeds four deep up against the branches. In addition to my old stand by, shelling peas, I am going to be sowing sugar snap and snow peas.

My first experience with

sugar snap peas came from harvesting some pods while on a weekend getaway at bed and breakfast. It was a cool little place in southern New Hampshire where you could pick the vegetables from the kitchen garden and eat them for dinner.

It'll be fun to grow my own for fresh eating.

"Pea brush" can also be used to support annual or perennial flowers that tend to have weak or floppy stems. The brush blends into the scenery a little better than stakes and twine, and it's easily dismantled when the time comes.

My favorite March bulb is a harbinger of all harbingers, the Snowdrop (*Galanthus nivalis*). Toughened points on the leaf tips make it possible for the snowdrop to push through the crusty soil of late winter.

Two or three strappy leaves grow from each bulb; most often there is just one flower. You'll notice three white outer

petals first and upon closer inspection you'll see green tipped inner petals.

The flowers are held on the stem in a nodding fashion and in my experience they stay in bloom for upwards of three weeks. Reportedly they are well adapted for bees, at least those that are brave enough to venture out of the hive in search of pollen during the warmest days of late winter!

Snowdrops will naturalize if happy, increasing in numbers both above and below the ground! Although we "deadhead" most bulbs, keeping spent flower heads of this genus in place will allow seeds to ripen and new plants to form.

It is interesting to observe the process of a snowdrop self-sowing. Once the flower has gone by a large seed will form; because of its weight, the stem will bend toward the ground dropping its ripe seed

See **GARDEN**, page 5

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Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources. Send letters to: Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005 or via email to edowner@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

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Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

This week has been quite the weather week.

One day it was cold and the next day it was warm. Spring is coming, but it is struggling to get here.

I have spent several days raking and picking up branches from winter. First I try to get the gardens raked out as so many things are trying to come through the soil.

I noticed snow drops and leaves of daffodils so far. My handyman has started to prune the fruit trees and the blueberry bushes. This is the time of year that they need to be done before the buds come out.

A new light has been installed in the kitchen and now it is easier to see the stove and sink area. My helper can finally see to clean the area.

I have a penpal, who got my name from The Barre Gazette and this week she sent me three packages of flower seeds and several good recipes. Here is one I hope to try soon as I love beets.

SWEET AND SOUR BEETS

- 1 3/4 pounds whole fresh beets
 - 1/2 cup sugar
 - 1 tablespoon cornstarch
 - 1/4 teaspoon salt
 - 1/2 cup cider vinegar
 - 2 tablespoons orange marmalade
 - 1 tablespoon butter
- Place beets in a large saucepan and cover with water. Bring to boil and reduce heat, cover and cook

for 25 to 30 minutes or until tender.

Drain and cool slightly. Peel and quarter beets, keep warm.

In a large saucepan combine the ingredients, except marmalade and butter, boil for one minute until thickened. Add marmalade and butter until melted. Reduce heat to low and put in beets and heat through. Makes 6 servings.

This and That

My late aunt had this in her high school yearbook and I thought it was good advice. The thing that goes the farthest toward making life worthwhile that costs the least and does the most is just a pleasant smile.

Speaking of smiling. I needed help to reach something at the grocery store and I saw this tall man and asked him I need someone high. He said I am not on drugs, but I will be happy to help you. That brought a smile to both of us. I meant someone tall and forgot what high means in today's world.

I was sorry to hear that a good friend of mine and of many others passed away. She was the late Elaine Edwards Rodecki, who used to live at the Morgan Farm, but later lived in Gardner. She was 92 years old and was a member of the Hubbardston Historical Society and the former Nonesuch Garden Club.

Have a good week and take a day at a time. Life is too short.

SAVE THE DAM, continued from page 4

drawn down faster than it can recharge and climate change will only increase pressure on our water resources. Buying Quabbin water isn't a solution, as surrounding town records show it would be far more costly than sourcing our own. Our aging water storage tanks that only hold about 500,000 gallons combined are about half-way through their life expectancy. Repairing the dam could allow us to store up to 56 acre-feet of water, about 18.2 million gallons, that could sustain our water needs. We have the potential capacity to store plenty of water into the future. Or throw it away.

Some argue that the Old Reservoir is too far away to impact the municipal water supply or that permitting will address these concerns once the dam is removed. However, MassDCR confirmed in a letter to a proponent of dam removal that they do not plan to conduct further analysis regarding potential impacts on municipal wells. This is a significant oversight.

The aquifer that feeds our town's wells spans eleven miles, running downhill from Templeton, through the Old Reservoir, and to South Barre wells 1 and 2. Templeton uses the same aquifer. The Old Reservoir is fed by underground springs. When there's excess water in the reservoir especially after heavy rains or snowmelt it seeps into the ground, recharging the aquifer.

This replenished groundwater gradually flows through underground rock and soil layers, eventually reaching nearby wells, including those that supply our town. Without the reservoir or adequate surface water storage, the aquifer may not recharge effectively, leading to water shortages in town wells. The potential resource is already there, unless we choose to

destroy it.

Beyond providing water for residents, the reservoir also supports farms that rely on irrigation, who benefit from a reliable water source and will suffer without it. The reservoir could serve as an emergency water supply for firefighting needs. A simple gravity-fed pipe system could be installed to provide water pressure for filling fire trucks in emergencies.

Those who argue against repairing the dam, citing costs, have misled residents by overstating future expense. The state is offering to pay \$1.5 million for the repairs, funding that won't be available forever and future maintenance costs are minimal compared to the price of destroying this water resource. Estimate \$400 annually for inspections (\$2,000 every five years) and maintenance at most \$7,500 to \$10,000. Given the town's broader operational expenses, these costs are insignificant.

Furthermore, grants, fundraisers, and donations could significantly reduce the financial burden. The state's offer of no-payback funding to repair the dam is a rare opportunity that we cannot afford to overlook. If we fail to act now, the entire cost of repairing the dam and addressing the town's water supply challenges could fall on the taxpayers of Barre.

The preservation of the Old Reservoir, its dam and the Prince River aquifer is crucial to the future of our town. If we kept it, it could provide a reliable water supply, flood control, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities and agricultural support.

The costs of maintaining the dam are minimal compared to the long-term benefits, and the opportunity to repair it with state funding is too valuable to miss. We urge all residents of Barre to vote in favor of repairing and preserving the Old Reservoir dam.



Sandhill cranes



I received an email from a Worthington resident, who saw two sandhill cranes on Sunday, March 16.

It was most likely was just a coincidence. However, the next day March 17, I spotted a pair of sandhill cranes in my hayfield, a first ever sighting at that location.

Several people reported seeing sandhill cranes at various locations in town last year. There is a breeding pair, who successfully raised young, in nearby Hardwick.

The sandhill crane is a tall, 45," gray, heron like bird. It has a dark red patch on its forehead and a black bill. Some of the feathers on the sandhill crane's back are iron stained due possibly to

preening from mud rich in that mineral.

Immature cranes are grayish with more rust stained feathers. They keep this plumage for two years. The female sandhill crane lays one to three olive eggs with dark marks in a mound like nest of weeds, grasses and marsh like plants placed on the ground or in shallow water. They migrate in flocks, feed on agricultural fields and roost in the center of shallow lakes or rivers. They display courtship behavior of jumping off the ground during their migration. They feed on seeds, agricultural grains and small animals.

Common mergansers

I received reports of seeing common mergansers. My daughter saw common mergansers in Hardwick. A Hubbardston couple also saw common mergansers. A Brimfield resident, who sends bird reports on a regular basis, saw common mergansers at a pond in Warren last week. There was a large section of open water. He

also saw lots of mallard, Canada geese, a few black ducks and a hooded merganser.

Bald eagles

The Brimfield resident in an email on March 8 said, "Yesterday in Ludlow I visited an eagle's nest on the bank of the Chicopee River. Eagles have nested in this area for over ten years with four different nest locations. I first found a nest across the Chicopee River in Springfield that was visible from Ludlow. Then the nest was on the Ludlow side of the river for one year. I lost track of the nest for a few years when it was in a tree that subsequently fell down. I was told about the fourth and current nest three years ago. If the bird on the nest is the female that has been nesting in this area and had at least one young two years ago she is banded and is twenty years old."

Two of my grandchildren and I saw a mature bald eagle perched in a tree at the edge of my hayfield on Saturday, March 15. I stopped the car and my granddaughter, Lizzie, got out of the car to take a photo with her cellphone. I said the eagle will probably fly away. As she approached, the eagle turned its head to watch her. As she approached it bent down, opened its tail feathers displaying the white feathers and then took off. She got a photo of its white tail.

The Brimfield resident saw two bald eagles at a pond in Warren, an adult and

an immature. The immature eagle flushed up some ducks while flying around the pond. On another day he saw four eagles, two adult and two immature. An Oakham resident also saw a bald eagle recently.

Other birds

The same person saw a great blue heron, hooded mergansers, three ringed bill gulls and a small flock of red-winged blackbirds. Earlier this month, he said, "Two fox sparrows showed in the afternoon, always nice to see them. A pair of blue birds are irregular visitors as are sharp-shinned hawks. Last week an adult chased juncos into a quince bush without success. And this week an immature sharpie was in the yard for awhile."

He said he takes in his feeders at night as bears should be out and about. He read an article that the skunk cabbage is up and is a sign that so are the bears. Black bears eat skunk cabbage leaves in the spring when they first emerge from the dens to "kick start" their digestive system. They also return to their favorite feeding grounds, often back yard bird feeders.

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

Paige Memorial Library lists events

HARDWICK – The Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, will host author Edward Orzechowski on Saturday, March 29 at 1:30 p.m.

Orzechowski will present 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. Darlene was "Discharged from Placement" at age 17 with no skills or training.

Registration is requested by emailing Director.paigelibrary@gmail.com or calling 413-477-6704.

The library has books and workshops for those interested in starting a hobby. Knitting for Adults meets on March Saturdays at 11 a.m., Paige Writers on alternate Tuesdays at 3 p.m., Book Club on the third Wednesday at 2 p.m. and FUNDamentals of Art on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. There will be a workshop Pysanky egg dying on Tuesdays,

April 1 and 8. People should call for more information or to register at 413-477-6704 or email Director.paigelibrary@gmail.com.

On Saturday, April 12 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., the Friends of the Paige Memorial Library open their Seed Library and bake sale. People may buy home baked goodies and choose some seeds for their garden. They will learn tips on seed starting and growing with special guest Paulina Borrego, UMass Science

and Engineering Librarian, Mass Aggie Seed Librarian, and the Common Seed program teaching gardening and seed saving. Children can visit with the Easter Bunny and make a craft. For information, people may call 413-477-6704 or email Director.paigelibrary@gmail.com.

The library is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-7 p.m., Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

GARDEN, continued from page 4

at a perfect distance from the mother plant.

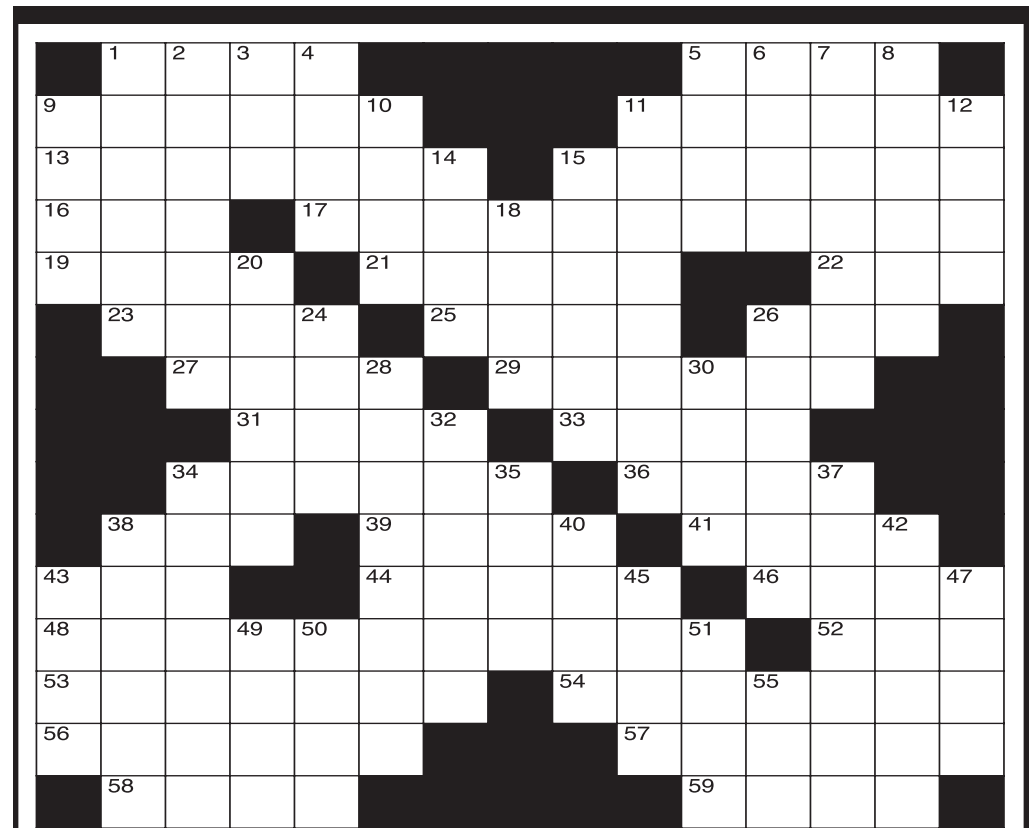
Under no circumstances should the foliage of a bulb be removed until it is brown and dry. It may not be the most beautiful to look at, but all the while that it is green it is making and storing food for next year's flowers.

Enjoy these early days in and around the garden.

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.

NOTICE

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Take heed
5. One's superior
9. Prepped meat
11. Tighten anew
13. Type of textile fiber
15. Animalistic
16. When you hope to get somewhere
17. Offender
19. Former NYC mayor Ed
21. Type of cryptocurrency
22. Mauna ____, Hawaiian volcano
23. Herring-like fish
25. Popular PBS program
26. Congressman (abbr.)
27. Flightless Australian birds
29. Defrosted

CLUES DOWN

1. Pages
2. Head pain
3. A loud utterance
4. Large brown seaweed
5. Hulu's chef Carmine
6. Greek mountain
7. Made final
8. Bar
9. Tai subgroup
10. What you eat
11. Teaches again
12. Small constellation
14. Type of berry
15. Cows fattened for meat
18. A way to hoof it
20. Exaggerated a role
24. About two
26. Long upholstered seat

28. What employees earn
30. Fiber from a coconut husk
32. Digits
34. Polish by rubbing
35. Liquid body substances
37. Furniture with open shelves
38. Edible part of a chicken
40. Satisfy
42. Tool used to remove
43. Icelandic poems
45. Swiss village
47. Drunks
49. Evergreen plant genus
50. Light precipitation
51. Ribosomal
55. An informal debt instrument

ANSWERS ON PAGE 10

Students learn about dating violence and relationships

Submitted Article

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The month of February was Teen Dating Violence Awareness.

The month is dedicated to increasing awareness about dating abuse within teenage relationships and the resources that are available for teen survivors. To support our students, North Brookfield High School worked with the Worcester County District Attorney's office to provide assemblies and workshops around healthy peer relationships and teen dating.

Students discussed healthy relationships during their flex block classes during the month of February and then had assemblies with Hope Rudzinski from the Worcester County District Attorney's office. Rudzinski spoke to the students about healthy peer relationships, teen dating violence, and resources available for all students.

Principal John Diorio stated, "We want our students to understand that we want

when the day ends. Students' mental health and safety are a priority at North Brookfield High School."

Then on Friday, Feb. 28, the high school girls attended a workshop on dating violence awareness and prevention, sponsored by the Vanessa Marcotte Foundation. The Vanessa Marcotte Foundation partners with organizations and schools to provide educational programs and self-defense classes that promote female empowerment and gender equity.

The goal of the program is to reduce violence against women in our society.

According to their website, "We're achieving our goals by partnering with organizations that provide educational programs and mentorship opportunities to promote female empowerment and gender equality. We believe these efforts will ultimately help reduce violence against women in our society. We are just getting started! By joining this important cause, we can work together to make a



Male students in grades nine-12 attended a presentation and fitness class with Anthony Bizzotto from Revive of the USA.

Female students in grades nine-12 participated in discussions around dating violence prevention and healthy relationships before moving into self-defense classes.

"The students were really engaged in the workshop. It was great to see so many students participating in the workshop," according to a NBHS Teacher Shelly Lacaire.

Sarah Moshin, NBHS junior, said, "It was very beneficial, they were able to get their point across, while still

of different scenarios."

"I think they did a really, really good job of keeping everybody engaged and actively taught us what to do in real life situations," stated NBHS student Sophia Giangrande.

The high school boys attended a presentation and fitness class with Anthony Bizzotto from Revive of the USA. According to Bizzotto, Revive of the USA is a non-profit community outreach program that passionately collaborates with youth and adult substance-abuse recovery and mental health facilities, seamlessly integrating movement and nutrition as potent therapies.

It focuses on fostering holistic well-being by unleashing the transformative power of physical empowerment for mental and emotional health.

Bizzotto shared his own journey as a high school and college student/athlete who struggled with substance abuse and how he was able to overcome his struggles. Bizzotto told the students to "Lean on your family. Lean on your friends. If you don't have good support at home, find it somewhere else. Don't forget, asking for help is not a

weakness. It's a superpower."

Bizzotto ended his talk by adding, "So here's my challenge to you: Find a healthy outlet. Find movement. Find community. And never let life's struggles take away your strength. Real freedom comes from helping others without expecting anything in return."

After he spoke to the students he led them through a fitness routine that included sandbag pulls, boxing drills, and cardiovascular exercises.

According to Diorio, "This was an important event for our high school boys. We wanted to show them there are healthy ways to deal with their challenges."

Student Brody Traska stated, "I learned a lot from the presentation by Mr. Bizzotto. It was very relatable and helpful."

NBHS freshman Fran Cotter said, "I think the way he says things is just straight up, and it's easier for kids who have been through stuff to understand and relate and talk to somebody who's been through the same."

Student Spencer Davis added, "I like how he was understanding and let people talk. Not that everything is ok, but the way he encouraged us helped a lot."

All in all, it was a great day for the North Brookfield students.



Submitted Photos

Female students in grades nine-12 at North Brookfield High School participated in a dating violence awareness and prevention workshop with the Vanessa Marcotte Foundation and Worcester County District Attorney's office.

them to be safe in school and out of school. We don't stop worrying about our students

difference. And we know that Vanessa would want us to do so."

making it an enjoyable experience. They covered a lot of topics and went through a lot



Self-defense techniques were put to use during the training.

Public Notices

BARRE PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

The Barre Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 7:15 p.m.** in the Henry Woods Municipal Building, 40 West Street, Boards' Office, 3rd Floor, requested by Paul A. Johnson, property owner, for the keeping of horses with fencing and shelter on property located at 379 Town Farm Road, Assessors Map H, Lot 202 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds Book 35008, Page 0239.

All persons who wish to comment on this matter should attend the hearing, or submit comments in writing prior to the hearing to the Planning Board.

Floyd Kelley
Chairman

03/20, 03/27/2025

PUBLIC AUCTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN 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 TOWING & STORAGE CHARGES AND EXPENSES OF SALE AND NOTICE:**

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VIN 1FAHP3E23CL285540
2009 Dodge Journey
VIN 3D4GH57V79T176875
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VIN JTKKU10449J048929
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1993 Toyota Corolla
VIN 2T1AE09E2PC018052
1995 Toyota Corolla
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2011 GMC Yukon XL
VIN 1GKS2KE33BR163097
2008 Land Rover Range Rover Sport
VIN SALS254X8A149606
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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

BARRE PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

The Barre Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Henry Woods Municipal Building, 40 West Street, Boards' Office, 3rd Floor, Barre, MA requested by Caruso Construction Corp. for a preliminary plan for a subdivision known as Piper Lane located at the gravel operation on South Barre Road, Assessor Map H, Lots 120 K, 120P, 120A and 120Q.

Anyone wishing to comment on this matter should attend the hearing or submit comments in writing. The plan can be viewed at the Boards' Office, 3rd floor.

Floyd Kelley, Chairman
03/20, 03/27/2025

OAKHAM continued from page 1

increases, which had not been changed since 2014. Select Board Vice Chair Haapakoski recommended the Board take the fee proposal under advisement. He said he believed a hearing must be held to change the fees.

Wire Inspector budget
Wire Inspector Dennis Bergin said he added bat-

tery storage to his fee list and he eliminated the two designations of underground and overhead service for residential property to just a single designation.

He also said the town never took their share of the electrical fee for the Barre Road Solar from his revolving fund. The total permit fee was \$52,000 with about \$47,000 the town's share. The Select Board will place an article on the Annual

Town Meeting warrant to move the town's share of the fee from the Wire Inspector's Revolving Fund to the town's General Fund.

Select Board Chair Lucy Tessnau said she believed this was the last of the budget meeting with town departments, officials and boards.

One Stop Grant
Select Board Chair Tessnau said she met with someone from One Stop

Grants. The current grants were for economic development and there were no grants that suited the town of Oakham at this time. She also said some grants would be available for bridge repair in the future. Highway Superintendent Patrick Mardirosian told the board the bridge on Robinson Road needed repairs so that might be a possible source for the repairs other than Chapter 90 money.

PAST PAGES continued from page 4

electronics. All broken, used and outdated electronics are recycled or reused in accordance with all local and state laws.

Debbie Ennis of the Listening Wellness Center, 35 South St., and an avid bicycle rider, offers a hand-on health and wellness program entitled "Wheels in Motion." This six-week program is "geared towards children and their families, who could medically benefit from increased activity and nutritional counseling and/or for children, who could use techniques improve their social skills." The project has been a long time dream for Ennis and was something she wanted to do, but did not have the funds. She received \$8,000 from Baystate Mary Lane Hospital through the Community Health Initiative Grant. She partnered with Worcester Earn a Bike, who will give the children a bike, helmet and water bottle. Parents can obtain a bicycle for themselves by donating

five hours with Worcester Earn a Bike.

25 years (March 23, 2000)

Michael Kowal, captain of the Barre Emergency and Rescue Squad, bought a letter before Barre Selectmen Monday night detailing Medicare's allowable increase for the year 2000. The billing increase is across the board and two percent above 1999 rates. For example, Basic Life Support Transport has been increased from \$224.26 to \$228.75. The board asked Kowal whether or not the increase fell within the allowable rates for private insurance carriers. He said a representative from the town's billing service, Medicompts, Inc., indicated to him that most private insurances use Medicare rates a base for their own allowable charges.

A sign to commemorate the historical importance of Quork Walker to Barre and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts stands high above the Welcome to Barre sign in the center of town.

It reads," Quork Walker – Nearby on James Street stood the home of Quork Walker, former slave, whose law suits resulted in the freeing of slaves in the Commonwealth in 1783." The town seal is at the crest of this historic marker, the third in series to be put up by the Barre Historical commission to document to landmark events in the town's history.

Whether due to apathy or satisfaction with the status quo, there is only on contest of the upcoming Hubbardston town election in May. The two men are Thomas Cover of Brigham Street and Michael Walsh of Williamsville Road. The only other new candidates are Susan Flagg, running unopposed for a one-year position on the Cemetery Commission, returning to to town office after a hiatus of several years and John Baird, running unopposed for a five-year term on the town's Housing Authority.

38 years (March 26, 1987)

Conserve Our Small Town has retained the services of

Attorney John Mirick of Worcester to help them fight the state from putting a prison in New Braintree. Mirick will be filing a suit against the state Department of Capital Planning and Operations, said Steering Committee member Susan Reed. Legal Committee member John Brennan said Mirick came well recommended. He said he was told Mirick was "a good choice" and "one of the best."

With all the publicity on Girl Scouts of late, our faithful Petersham historian said it was time to write about that subject as it pertains to the Hilltop Town – Petersham. The town can't lay claim to a troop at present, but scouting has been around since 1935 when the late Mrs. Corrine Babbitt got the first troop going.

Oakham Clerk Town Clerk Abby Dobson has announced that dog licenses are in and may be obtained during her office hours in the Town Hall on Monday evenings. These licenses must be obtained by April 1.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

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www.turley.com

IRELAND
continued from page 1

turnouts we've had," said Julie Bullock, Director of the Paige Memorial Library.

Tincknell has been performing for children, families, and seniors in the U.S., Canada and Europe for over 45 years. "Ireland to America" is one of many of his most requested programs for seniors. There were various age groups who attended the program at the Hardwick Town House and the program included audience participation.

For some musical numbers, Tincknell invited several kids of various ages to do a dance to one of his songs. The performance was very much adored by the audience and the kids had a lot of fun.

"He was excellent at revamping his program to



The program was supported in part by a grant from the Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council. Roger Tincknell is shown playing on his guitar.

accommodate the children in the audience," Bullock said.

The instruments played by Tincknell included guitar, banjo, mandolin, Irish bou-

zouki, and the Irish bodhran, which is a type of drum. One of the unique instruments Tincknell brought out was a wooden figurine, a limberjack man.

"Ireland to America" is a popular program that Tincknell has been offering for the last 10 years, and it certainly brought a lot of joy in time for St. Patrick's Day.



Children danced while Roger Tincknell played one of his instruments.

BARRE
continued from page 1

Betty-Jo O'Brien. A free Information Fair is planned for Wednesday, April 23 at 10 a.m. at the Barre Senior Center. She also said she continued to work on the Fiscal 2026 budget.

Insurance Advisory Committee

Treasurer/Collector Jake Voelker and part of the Insurance Advisory Committee said the union representative recommend-

ed not switching insurance plans. Voelker recommended the Select Board accept the third option and proposed insurance increase from Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association and a \$250 deductible plan from Network Blue Northeast for employees that wanted to lower their insurance costs. The Select Board approved option 3 and the rate increase from MIIA and the proposed deductible plan.

DPW equipment

Department of Public

Works Superintendent Timothy Batchelor said his department has two loaders, aged 22 and 26 years. Both had considerable rot. He said the DPW needed to upgrade this important piece of equipment, which is used on a daily basis. A purchase lease agreement offered in a new program would use \$60,000 per year from Chapter 90 funds for a five year lease and at the end of the five years the town would buy it. The John Deere loader cost was \$299,581 and on the state

bid list. The Select Board approved the motion.

The Select Board also authorized the DPW Superintendent to seek the exact cost of a one-ton Ford F600 pickup truck on the state bid list. He would have the exact cost for the next DPW/Select Board meeting.

Ware River Watershed access

The Select Board read a draft letter to the Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner seeking to keep open and

allow vehicle access to Reuben Walker Road and Prison Camp Roads. The letter said senior citizen's and disabled people's only access to watershed land was vehicle access. Closing off that access would curtail the use of a large segment of the population. Mike Wood, Barre's representative on the Ware River Watershed Committee, read the draft and approved it. The Board voted to send the letter to the DCR Commissioner. Woods said the towns of Hubbardston,

Oakham and Rutland, who have watershed property like Barre, would also be sending letters.

Other business

The Select Board accepted the resignation of Claire Adomaitis from the Council on Aging with regret. They appointed Mike Wood to the Town Common Oversight Committee and a wage authorization of Step 7 of \$37.87 per hour for Chief Water Operator. The Select Board voted to go into Executive Session for negotiations.

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Calendar of Events

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.

APPLE TREE PRUNING at Frohloff Farm, 250 Church St., Ware and sponsored by East Quabbin Land Trust will take place today starting at 9 a.m. Participants will spend the morning pruning eight old apple trees. They should bring their hand saw, loppers and gloves. Dave and Tom will guide helpers in how to determine what to prune to bring these trees back into better production. There will be snacks and water. RSVP to chenshaw@eqlt.org.

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.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26 BROWN BAG CONCERT will be held today with show time at noon at Mechanics Hall, 321



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer
This week's mystery photo is from Rutland. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, March 24. Bill Bowles, Stephen Craven, Doreen Elliot, Evelyn Luukko and Phil Warbasse correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was taken of the Petersham Orthodox Congregational Church, 21 North St., Petersham.

Main St., Worcester. These free concerts open to the public are supported by a grant from the Worcester Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Today's concert features Jazz Streams contemporary jazz today. Doors open at 11:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

PIONEER VALLEY BRASS will perform at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Cross Street, Gardner today at 1 p.m.. This will be the 814th vespers program sponsored by the First Universalist Parish of North Dana. The Pioneer Valley Brass is a group of talented musicians from throughout the area, and has been performing for over 40 years with various membership. Dick Tandy and Steve Babineau play trumpet, Tabatha Greelees plays horn, Dana Tandy performs on trombone and Susan Lemei is featured on tuba. These musicians have performed and are well known throughout the region. People may call Music Coordinator Maureen Riendeau

at 978-413-6867 for information about First Universalist Parish of North Dana or to schedule a vespers program.

C4R SPRING KICK OFF EVENT will take place today from 2-4 p.m. at the Palmer Historical Cultural Center, 2072 Main St., Three Rivers. People will come to discover details of their plans and how they can participate including water quality sampling, river restoration/clean ups, new Blue Trail plans at lower Quabog, establishing trail crews and more. C4R's focus is to Care 4 Rivers in the Chicopee basin. The four rivers are: Chicopee, Swift, Ware and Quabog. The group sponsors paddling trails, water quality monitoring and some restoration. There is more to be done with added collaborative leaders. If people are interested in either helping or attending this event, they should email Keith at chicopewatershed@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

PROGRAM ON REAL OR FAKE NEWS

will be presented by Melody Friedenthal, Reference Librarian, at the Woods Memorial Library 19 Pleasant St., Barre today at 10:30 a.m. In today's digital age, it's more important than ever to understand the source of the news and how to assess its accuracy.

Participants will explore how to evaluate news sources and spot false claims. This free program will provide valuable tools to help determine if the information people are consuming is reliable, complete and up-to-date, or if it is simply "fake news." Online registration by visiting www.barrelibrary.org is requested, but not required.

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

HISTORY AT PLAY WITH JUDITH KALAORA will deliver today at 7 p.m. in the Rutland Public Library, 280 Main St., Rutland (lower level), a dynamic performance highlighting, Challenge: This pays homage to Christa McAuliffe, the United States' Teacher in Space Program and the crew of the NASA space shuttle. Participants will journey through Christa's life in this multimedia Immersive Living History Experience. Discover the true story behind the incredible educator, the American Pioneer and the internationally recognized heroine. Judith Kalaora is a professional educator, award-winning playwright, and living historian. This event sponsored by the Rutland Historical Society and Cultural Council is appropriate for all ages, is free and open to the public. Refreshments will follow the presentation.

Calendar Policy

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

NORTH BROOKFIELD, continued from page 1

Staffing

"All of our other departments are sorely understaffed," Petraitis said.

This includes the town administrator position, recently vacated by Michael Szlosek, the town's first ever town administrator.

"We are currently looking for a town administrator," he said. "In theory, it [the position] will pay for itself if we can find the right fit.

Currently, the town administrator's salary is funded by money set aside from the American Rescue Plan Act. Petraitis said this money should cover two more years of salary, depending on salary negotiations with the next candidate.

Petraitis said the town has seen some turnover in the Highway Department, and has recently hired a new superintendent. He said there are some vacancies in the department and poten-

tial candidates will be interviewed to fill them.

He addressed allegations made on social media, noting that no formal complaints have been made to the town. These allegations "don't allow for a discussion," he said.

"It doesn't allow for the back and forth you can solve a problem with. You don't have both sides of the story. You don't have the facts. It's all hearsay," Petraitis said.

Water and sewer departments

Petraitis said the town is also looking to hire more staff in the Sewer Department.

"Our sewer and water superintendents are fantastic," he said. "They are doing the best job they can possibly do under the circumstances."

Petraitis said the recent upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant were mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency, and not something the town could delay.

"It was something the EPA felt was necessary," he said.

Annual town election

Petraitis said there are two positions on the Board of Selectmen up for the annual town election, one three-year term currently held by Elizabeth "Brooke" Canada and an unexpired two-year term vacated by Vaughn Schlegel.

Canada is not seeking re-election this term.

Both Jamie Gilman and John Tripp have returned

papers for the three-year term and Ralph Kay has returned papers for the unexpired two-year term.

The annual town election will be held on the first Monday in May.

Petraitis said it can be difficult for people to take out papers for the annual town election, partly due to comments on social media that target elected officials.

"They don't want to deal with the vitriol of being involved," he said.

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Half page ad with story (9.75"x6") \$460
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AUTHOR, continued from page 1

a sign for the Boston Public Library, where he goes to seek warmth and information.

"The library was my refuge. My best place," Cohen said.

Raised by a couple of avid readers, Cohen began fully reading books by kindergarten and recalled that Meg from "A Wrinkle in Time" was a character she was very drawn to.

Cohen described the character of Meg as her friend, but added that her own characters that she has created tend to fight her all of the time. She said she "eavesdrops" on her characters having interactions to capture their authentic identity.

Cohen noted that her char-

acters are not heroes, but rather people, with flaws like anyone else. This novel has even included the addition of an animal character.

Poplar the dog, showed up in "Litany for a Broken World" rather unexpectedly, and was not part of the original story.

"She's my favorite character," Cohen said. "I've had a lot of dogs in my life."

Cohen said she kept trying to make this novel simpler, but ended up with almost 10 different points of views being shared throughout the novel.

"Sometimes you just have to finally let the story read how it wants to read," she said.

Cohen incorporates science and facts in her writing, to give it more depth and realism.

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

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

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

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

"They say that every fiction writer can use the element of 'hand waveium'...I try to limit my making things up whole cloth," she said.

Cohen credited her team with giving her the support she needs to bring her stories to life, including her editor Karen Conlin, cover artist Chris Howard. She also thanked her husband, Neil, who always reads her first drafts.

"It's important to have a good team," she said.

Cohen said she originally intended "Litany for a Broken World" to be a standalone novel, but now it is the first in a trilogy with the second book, "Every Sky a Stranger" due out next February, followed by the third book, "Compass for the Lost".

"This was a hard book," Cohen said. "It took a lot out of me...I'm also really glad I wrote it."

"Litany for a Broken World" and Cohen's other novels are available in both print and eBook. Books can be ordered through Amazon or bookshop.org, or ordered from any independent books store.

For more information about Cohen and her work, visit ljcohen.net.

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Hall of Fame names senior all-stars

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the team rosters for the 2025 Western Massachusetts Senior High School All-Star Games. On Thursday, March 20, the Hall of Fame will host the 2025 All-Star event on the Jerry Colangelo Court of Dreams at the Hall of Fame. A total of 60 players were selected from different divisions within the region to participate in three games that will showcase the top seniors in their final high school contest.

“We are proud to host the top high school basketball players from Western Massachusetts at our 14th annual All-Star celebration at the Basketball Hall of Fame,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. “Residents of Western Mass. are encouraged to join us as we honor these exceptional seniors as they play the final game of their high school careers.”

A committee of local coaches and media members who represent each division



Turley photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Mahar's Jayden Delgado was named to this year's Senior All-Star Game.

See **HALL OF FAME**, page 10



Gardner had a season that ended in the state tournament.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Hockey co-op makes state tournament

GARDNER – Quabbin Regional High School participates in one co-op program during the winter months, sending some players to football rival Gardner High School for ice hockey.

This year's team was able to make the state tournament with a 10-8-1 record, securing the No. 24

seed in the Division 4 State Tournament.

The Wildcats faced North Reading in the Round of 32 on Feb. 25 out in Eastern Mass. North Reading, however, had too much offense on its side and defeated the co-op 7-2 in that matchup. Gardner's season ended at 10-9-1.



Aiden Lapointe represented Quabbin on the Gardner co-op hockey team.



Gardner and Quabbin have co-oped in hockey now for several years.



Cullan White also represented the Panthers end of the co-op.

Registration now open for Quabbin Valley baseball

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to infuse new talent into its league for the 2025 season.

Registration for the 2025 season is now open and any interested players can go to www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated over the

next month with information about the upcoming season.

There are many open roster spots available in the league for the 2025 season, which is tentatively scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 27. The league plays most Sunday from late April through mid-August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams

each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley normally used.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all-abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the

See **QUABBIN VALLEY**, page 10

Worcester wins close matchup with Southerners

WORCESTER – The Railers have not played seven periods of sudden death overtime the last two nights here, it only feels that way.

Less than 24 hours after Worcester took a wild 6-5 decision from the Norfolk Admirals, the Railers beat the Southerners, 2-1, in an equally tense affair Saturday night. The victory kept them two points ahead of Reading in the North Division playoff race, although the Royals do have two games in hand.

Reading also won Saturday night. It beat Trois-Rivieres, 2-1.

As can happen when teams are playing a third game in three days, this was a goal-tending duel. The winner was Michael Bullion, who stopped 27 of 28 shots. He beat Thomas Milic, who was spectacular in the third period and made 25 saves on 27 shots.

The game ended appropriately.

The Admirals pulled Milic in favor of an extra skater. They won a faceoff with four seconds left in the third period and got the puck to Graham Sward at the left point. He delivered a slap shot from about 55 feet and Bullion, following it all the way, smothered the puck in his gut as the green light went on.

“I got a sight line,” Bullion

said, “so I was watching it the whole time, and I stayed high the whole time, then just went down and ate it.”

Had the shot gone in, it probably would have counted. Bullion made sure there was no replay needed and was happy to hear the buzzer.

“Yeah, that was really nice,” he said.

The Railers got goals from Matt DeMelis and Anthony Callin. They had a 2-0 lead going into the third period but gave up a shorthanded goal to Sean Montgomery at 8:28. That left the Admirals with a lot of time to tie it, or worse.

Worcester's penalty killing was once again a key factor in a victory. The Railers were 4 for 4 while shorthanded (all four penalties were for slashing) and are 20 for 20 in the last six games.

“Right now it is getting guys who are comfortable with each other and super aggressive,” coach Nick Tuzzolino said of the killers. “There are certain penalty kill details you have to follow — good sticks, lots of shot blocks — and your goalie has to be your best penalty killer and Michael was ours tonight.”

DeMelis scored at 9:56 of

See **RAILERS**, page 10



The Lusitano Club of Ludlow returned to their tradition of giving out awards and scholarships to outstanding soccer players in the region

By **Tim Peterson**
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW- More than 3,400 high school soccer players from throughout Western Massachusetts have been honored at the Lusitano Alumni and Fans (LAF) Awards Banquet during the past 35 years.

Because of the COVID 19 pandemic, the soccer banquet has been a lot smaller, but it's always a very special event.

Six scholarship winners were honored at this year's LAF banquet, which was held at the Gremio Lusitano Club in Ludlow on March 9.

The six award recipients are Thomas Wadas (Ludlow High School), Gabriella Fialho (Pope Francis/Ludlow), Samantha Lowe (Pathfinder Tech), Kylee Gamache (Franklin County Tech), Kennady Marino (East Longmeadow High School), and Burke Warchol (Longmeadow High School).

Wadas, who's ranked seventh in the senior class academically with a 4.5 G.P.A., will be playing college soccer at UMass Amherst. He's also a member of the

Lusitano awards return



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

The scholarship winners show off their awards.

National Honor Society. “I'm going to be playing soccer at UMass, which was my top college choice,” Wadas said. “Staying close to home was really important to me.”

A year ago, UMass lost at third-seeded Denver, 3-0, in the Elite 8 of the NCAA Division 1 tournament. The Minutemen finished with a 13-4-5 overall record.

“UMass had an outstanding season last year,” Wadas said. “I'm just going to try my best to make an impact as a freshman. I'm really looking forward to playing soccer at the next level. The college game is a lot more

physical and quicker.” The UMass men's soccer coach is Fran O'Leary.

Wadas, who's planning to study business in college, was a four year starter for the

Ludlow boys' varsity soccer team, which is coached by Greg Kolodziej.

“Coach Kolodziej made a big impact on my life both on and off the field,” Wadas



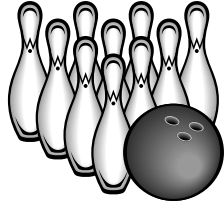
See **LUSITANO AWARDS**, page 10

Samantha Lowe represented Pathfinder Tech at this year's event.

Sports

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com



Last in Line. Both teams are playing for a playoff berth. In game one, Last in Line defeated Compression by a score of 348-300. Rich Chambers scored the best for their team with a 96.

In game two, Last in Line were victorious again by a score of 330-306. Vinny Navarro of Last in Line scored 105 to help his team win two games in a row.

In game three, Compression salvaged a win over Last in Line, 351-344. Navarro finished the match by bowling a 110. Last in Line won total pinfall by a final score of 1022-957.

Gutter Mouths bowled against the Mailmen during league night on March 11. In game one, Gutter Mouths defeated the Mailmen 356-342. In game two, Gutter Mouths were victorious again by a score of 366-355. Stephen Manolakis bowled a 112 in game two, helping Gutter Mouths with the back-to-back win.

In game three, Gutter Mouths won again for a three-game sweep over Mailmen, 331-325. The final score was 1053-1022 in favor of Gutter Mouths.

Bogey Doubles

EAST BROOKFIELD – The bi-weekly Monday Doubles League at Bogey Lanes met this past Monday night; their first league night in the Month of March.

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League
PALMER – The Commercial Elks League at Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes is halfway finished with their third round.

On league night on March 11, The Daft Kings bowled against Team BK. Daft Kings have already qualified for the playoffs and Team BK is currently in the running to win the third round.

In game one, Team BK dominated Daft Kings by a score of 435-374. Three out of four bowlers from Team BK broke the century mark with scores of 128, 111 and 104.

In game two, Daft Kings were the winners by a score of 398-386. Ken Trudel bowled a 111 to help his team get a victory.

In game three, Daft Kings bowled a 419 to win the last game and Team BK bowled a team score of 375. Trudel and his teammate, Matt Bertelli, broke the century mark with scores of 108 and 107.

Team BK managed to win total pinfall by a final score of 1196-1191. Each team won two points as the third round continues.

The next match featured Compression bowling against

The team of Erik Pellett & Jim Nester are two points ahead of Dan Gauthier & Phil Clough for first place in the third round, 46 wins in total.

Lonny Murphy & Trevor Kenneson bowled against the team of Jack Talamini & Bill Gravel. In game one, Murphy & Kenneson won the first game by a score of 312-252. Kenneson began the match with a 152.

In game two, Murphy & Kenneson won again by a score of 275-247. Kenneson followed up with a 126 in game two. In game three, Murphy & Kenneson swept Talamini & Gravel by winning 255-245. The final score was 842-744 in favor of Murphy & Kenneson. Trevor Kenneson finished with a 106 and a series of 384.

Clauson & Santora took all three games and total pinfall against Sandman & Marvin. The final score was 772-739 in favor of Clauson & Santora. Gary Santora had a 122 to go with a series of 324. Luke Marvin had a 127 as a high game and a series of 321.

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

HALL OF FAME, continued from page 9

on the boys' and girls' sides selected the teams. Using the designated classes for the PVIAC Tournament, the players will be divided into six teams: two girls' teams, two boys' teams of Class A and B players, and two boys' teams of Class C and D players. Only graduating seniors are eligible for the All-Star Games. Rosters can be found on the next page.

For the 14th year, the Naismith Basketball Hall of

Fame will recognize one boy and one girl as the Western Massachusetts Players of the Year. A special presentation will be made for the recipients during halftime of one of the participating games. A panel of local media members selects the award winners, who are recognized for their achievements on the court in addition to their sportsmanship and character off the court.

The three All-Star Games will be held on Thursday, March 20. The first game of the evening will feature the

Class C and D boys' teams at 5:30 p.m., followed by the girls' matchup at 7 p.m., and the final game will showcase the Class A and B boys' teams at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets for the All-Star Games are available at the Hall of Fame box office on the night of the event. Each ticket provides access to all three games that evening (Adults: \$20, Students: \$10). Advance tickets can also be purchased online.

Jayden Delgado will represent Mahar boys basketball.

RAILERS, continued from page 1

the first period with a high shot from between the circles. He was set up nicely by Tyler Kobryn, who fed him from the right boards. Callin's goal came a lot later, at 15:49 of the second period, and from a similar spot in the slot but at the other end of the rink.

Matthew Kopperud made the pass.

Montgomery stole the puck at the right point and had a long breakaway.

He put a 25-footer over Bullion's blocker.

The Railers had three fabulous chances to get a third goal in that third period but Milic made memorable saves on Loughran at 2:00, Jordan Kaplan at 5:30 and Anthony Repaci at 10:10.

The Admirals goalie kept them in the game, but he could not win it for them.

The Railers have 11 regular season games left. Their playoff push resumes Friday night in Maine versus the Mariners, who are longshots in the post-season picture

but always troublesome. The first-place Trois-Rivieres Lions are at the DCU Center Saturday and Sunday.

"This group, no matter what happens with them, they are battle tested," Tuzzolino said. "They have a good foundation. They know how to play with a lead in the third period, and if and when we hopefully make it to that mark and that push, it's gonna echo in the in the post-season if we get there."

"Because they've been playing in the post-season for the last month."

QUABBIN VALLEY, continued from page 1

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

In the Classroom

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

On Saturday March 15 Quabbin Regional Middle High School students competed in the semi finals for the Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild Awards. They presented "Abigail, For Now" written by Jackie Martin. The play had to be adapted for the format of the competition and students were thrilled when the author showed up to cheer them on!

On Saturday, March 1 twenty-three Quabbin Regional Middle High School students traveled to Leominster High School to compete in The Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild High School Festival.

Quabbin entered the competition with a student director and the play "Abigail, for Now," which is written by a local playwright from Massachusetts. Quabbin was one of four schools at Leominster to move on to the semi-final round and to perform in Framingham on Saturday, March 15 at 1:30 p.m.

At the competition several Quabbin students were recognized with individual awards. Senior Isabel Coviello won an all-star award for directing. Isabel was the only student director for a winning show at the competition held in Leominster. Aidan Mahoney and Winter Boyea won all-star awards for acting. As you are aware, it takes a team to make a production come to life and the team of Quabbin students was outstanding. Many other schools acknowledged our students' professionalism and hard work. One of the requirements for the festival is that the students have to be fully responsible for sound, lights and sets, which were designed by senior Madeline Oliver.



Submitted photo
Shown from left are Isabel Coviello, student director and the only student director in Saturday's competition, Madeline Oliver set design and stage manager, Lisa Payne adult advisor and mentor to Isabel and Jackie Martin author. The Quabbin team did not make it onto the final round, however, they received such positive feedback and they left a memorable mark on the audience. We are so very proud of them.

Our students acted, both onstage and off, with great maturity, efficiency and focus.

Quabbin has entered the Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild High School Festival for many years and traditionally has sent a "student director" as this is an opportunity for our students to grow, learn and lead. Recently, I discussed the play with Isabel and she shared that "working with many students who are new to theater has been very inspiring. The students handled themselves with levels of maturity that you don't often see from adults."

When Isabel was asked about why the show was chosen she responded, "It felt very relevant and like a lot of what some of our students are dealing with." The show is recommended for ages 13+ as it deals with topics of suicide and self-harm and includes

flashing lights and loud noises.

While watching the show Friday night, I personally felt many different emotions as the characters shared their stories, struggles and triumphs. The storytelling brought me to another time and place and I had truly forgotten that I was in the audience at Quabbin Regional Middle High School auditorium. Not only was the choice of the play relevant, it led to audience engagement and reflection. Our cast and crew did an exceptional job.

Their show, "Abigail, for Now" moved on to the semi-final round Saturday March 15 at Framingham. I know the Quabbin team is going to leave the judges and the audience with much to think about and isn't that what is supposed to happen? Quabbin is certain to work hard and pull together.

Open House at St. Aloysius Catholic School

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School located in Gilbertville, is hosting a spring Open House at the school on Monday, April 7 from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Prospective parents are cordially invited to visit the classrooms and meet the fac-

ulty of the growing school. Administration is also happy to tour families during the school day and provide shadow days for students presently in kindergarten through grade seven. Please feel free to call the school at 413-477-1268 or reach

out to Roberta McQuaid, Enrollment Coordinator, to set up an appointment to visit. Enrollment information and all the necessary paperwork is available on the website (www.staloyuscs.com) under the "Join our Family" tab.

LUSTANO AWARDS, continued from page 9

said. "I'm going to do everything that he has taught me at UMass. I'm also going to miss playing soccer for him a lot."

Wadas, who was a team captain last fall, was selected to the All-State soccer team twice.

The Lions won three out of the past four Western Mass. Class A titles. They also advanced to the Elite 8 of the Division 1 state tournament each year.

"The new state postseason tournament format allowed us to play a few more teams in the Boston area," said Wadas, who scored 13 goals and had 12 assists as a senior. "I think we did very well against them. We beat Newton South, who was the number one team in the state in last year's state tournament."

Fialho has been a high honors student at Pope Francis since she was a freshman, and also has 4.5 G.P.A..

During Fialho's varsity soccer career, Pope Francis has captured the Western Mass Class title three times.

Last fall, Pope moved up to Class A for the first time and posted a 1-0 victory against Longmeadow in the championship match. They also celebrated 1-0 victories against West Springfield in the quarterfinals and

Minnechaug Regional in the semifinals, which was decided in penalty kicks.

Just like Wadas, Fialho also will be playing college soccer close to home.

"I'll be playing college soccer at Springfield College next year," Fialho said. "I'm very happy that I'll be attending a college and playing soccer close to home."

The Springfield College women's soccer team is currently looking for a new head coach.

Kristin Cannon will be stepping down from her coaching duties for personal reasons on June 30. Fialho is hoping that the current assistant coach Brendon Boates is named as the new head coach.

"I was recruited by coach Boates," Fialho said. "He has a passion for the sport of soccer, and he has a lot of energy."

Prior to her freshman year, Fialho decided to attend Pope Francis instead of going to Ludlow High School.

"All of my friends wanted me to go with them to Ludlow High School," she said. "It was a very difficult decision for me to make, but I'm glad that I decided to go to Pope. It's a great school both academically and athletically."

Lowe, who lives in Ware, played soccer at Pathfinder Tech for four years and she

was a team captain the past two seasons.

"I'm really excited to receive the scholarship award," said Lowe, who's not planning to play college soccer. "I'm proud of my accomplishments during my high school soccer career. The girls' soccer team has improved a lot since I joined the team."

Lowe is planning to pursue a degree in culinary arts at a local community college.

"When I was growing up, I was always in the kitchen with my mom and we've grown a lot of our own food," she said. "I was also able to get into the culinary arts program at Pathfinder."

Lowe is currently working at Farmer Matt in New Braintree

"I've been working there for two years on April 1," Lowe said. "They have a store, and we also make homemade soups. Working in a kitchen is just as fun as being on the soccer field. I'm learning something new every day."

The LAF President is Joseph Jorge Sr., who received a 30 year service award. Jeri Humphries is the Vice President, Luis Vitorino is the Treasurer, and Steven DaSilva is the Secretary. The four board members are Joseph Jorge Jr., Richard Oliveria, Teri Myette, and Stephen Scott.



SUBMISSIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME
Send your stories and photos to edowner@turley.com

Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

Proverbs Part 4

The Book of Proverbs abounds with timeless yet timely characters.

Each character, developed and utilized by the author, Solomon, son of David and king of Israel, exists to impart or reveal the nature of wisdom (cf. Prov. 1:1-6). In this edition let us note one such figure who appears often in the early chapters of the work. This week, let us consider Lady Wisdom.

Who, or what, is Lady Wisdom? Simply stated, Lady Wisdom serves as the embodiment or literary representation of the wisdom God freely offers and His desire for us to both know and heed His ways. We come to understand something of the Lord and our lives before Him through the characterization and personification of His counsel throughout Proverbs.

Thus said, let us explore the following aspects of the wisdom of God, as revealed by the words and work of Lady Wisdom:

1) The Availability of Wisdom

Firstly, Lady Wisdom reveals the availability or accessibility of God's wisdom:

Proverbs 8:1-5 (NIV)

1 Does not wisdom call out?

Does not understanding raise her voice?

2 At the highest point along the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand;

3 beside the gate leading into the city, at the entrance, she cries aloud:

4 "To you, O people, I call out; I raise my voice to all mankind.

5 You who are simple, gain prudence; you who are foolish, set your hearts on it."

What can we learn of the Lord and the insight He offers through this portrayal of Lady Wisdom? We glean via this figure that God is ongoingly calling out to humanity to receive and walk according to His wisdom. He continually extends the invitation for us to hear His ways, meaning that His wisdom is no secret.

No, the invitation is open to us all. As one commentator posits: "The important point is that wisdom is for ordinary people-she is not confined to the academic classroom or to sacred precincts of the temple. Nor is she high atop some mountain where only the hardiest and most determined will find her. To the contrary, she wants to attract all and be accessible to all."

2) The Benefit of Wisdom

Secondly, Lady Wisdom reveals the value or surpassing benefit of God's wisdom:

Proverbs 3:13-18

13 Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding,

14 for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold.

15 She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her.

16 Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor.

17 Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace.

18 She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her; those who hold her fast will be blessed.

What does this personification of wisdom reveal concerning the Lord and His ways? Namely, that what He freely offers is incomparable in terms of utility and worth. What can you possess that is more precious than the full counsel of our God, for this life or the next? In case you are wondering, this is a rhetorical question.

3) The Peril of Rejecting Wisdom

Thirdly, the presentation of Lady Wisdom reveals the

peril of rejecting God's wisdom. Consider the warning of her words.

Proverbs 8:32-36

32 "Now then, my children, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways.

33 Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not disregard it.

34 Blessed are those who listen to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway.

35 For those who find me find life and receive favor from the Lord.

36 But those who fail to find me harm themselves; all who hate me love death."

Pay close attention to the words of verse 36: "... those who fail to find me harm themselves; all who hate me love death." You see, we pay a heavy price-in this life and the next-for spurning the wisdom God freely offers. Rebellion and folly, the antithesis of wisdom, yield consequence.

This is a theme we will pick up on next week, as we segue away from Lady Wisdom to Lady Folly. Until next time, choose wisdom and thank you for taking the time to read this weekly publication.

Should you have any comments or questions, feel free to contact me at your convenience using the information below. Also, visit us online at www.NewLifeBarre.org or join us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. See you soon.

Pastor James Foley

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978-355-6407

Second Sunday in Lent

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem"
Scripture Reading:
Luke 13 v 31 - 35

I. Introduction

I hope that during these times of uncertainty, personal needs, health issues and many societal problems, that during this period of Lent you are able to go into your wilderness spaces to find the quiet time you need with God and feel that God is still with us. Let us journey together with Christ and see that we are not alone in our struggles, that He walked ahead of us, carrying His cross, knowing that God was with Him and also with us in this world.

II. The plot to kill the Son of God: Herod Antipas and Pontius Pilate

Jesus was traveling to various villages, teaching and healing many, while making his way towards his final destination, Jerusalem. He was extremely focused on what He was doing, knowing that He was coming to the end of His mission on earth, when the Pharisees approached Him with an important message that Herod wanted to kill Him.

Jesus was not phased by this kind of warning, because He was busy with God's work. "Go tell that fox, I will drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow," He says. I found various interpretations of the metaphor "fox" in this passage. Some suggest it refers to someone, who is crafty, sly or cunning and one other theologian uses terms like weaking, small fry, clown, nobody, weasel, jerk and so forth. The exact meaning of Jesus' metaphor is not certain; however, it could have referred to any combination of these descriptions for Herod. Herod Antipas was King of Galilee and Perea during that time, and Jesus was most active in his region. He was initially intrigued by Jesus' power to perform miracles.

During Jesus' trial, He

was brought before Pilate, who sent Him back to Herod, but Herod sent Him back to Pilate's court. Pontius Pilate, who was the fifth Governor of the Roman Province of Judaea, would ultimately order the crucifixion of Jesus. So, we see Jesus during His brief ministry being followed by crowds who wanted to hear His message of love and compassion and be healed by Him and then we see the religious leaders of the time not really happy with this guy walking around being hailed by many as the Messiah.

And then we see these powerful characters Herod and Pilate, who, according to Luke 23 v 12 became friends before Jesus' trial and crucifixion and together with the chief priests and the teachers of the law, they plotted to kill Jesus, to get rid of Him, the troublemaker. He had too much power for their liking.

III. Jerusalem, Jerusalem

Was Jesus afraid, sad, frustrated or disappointed when He saw what was happening to Him? Probably not, because He knew in His Spirit that it would happen and that God was aware of things in the larger divine plan and that God was with Him. But maybe He was feeling all those feelings, hence the outcry, Jerusalem, Jerusalem.

For a prophet and someone like Him, outspoken and coming with the power He had, to enter Jerusalem, would have been a dangerous situation. In his long speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen, one of the apostles of Christ who received intense resistance from those in the Synagogue, said this in the Book of Acts, chapter 7v 52, "Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered Him..."

After he said this, they stoned him to death. Jerusalem was indeed a dangerous place for any prophet. Jesus knew about the treatment of those prophets entering Jerusalem and so He must have felt all these feelings and cried over Jerusalem, knowing that He would be next.

And still, He told them how He longed to gather them together like a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. He still cared for them, and He wanted to be like a mother hen to them, loving them and showing them the path to salvation. They did not want it.

IV. Conclusion

Jerusalem will remain close to the heart of God and I can only imagine the weeping God over the conflicts, death and destruction around this city and Holy Land today. But God's plans extend beyond the walls of Jerusalem and I can only imagine the weeping God over the many communities, towns, cities and nations today where the love for God and fellow human beings is at a deficit.

And yet, God's love for this world is like a hen who wants to gather her chicks and love and protect them. Therefore, we must remember that we are not alone in our own struggles. No, God is with us, weeping with us and wants to gather and protect us and take care of us.

May God help us to see the tears of Christ, of God, and may we during this period of Lent to grow closer to God into a community of love and peace and light here in our beloved Town of Barre and beyond. May God have mercy on us and bring peace in this world.

Amen

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

Thrift Store offers bargains for all



Submitted Photos

The Thrift Store at the George Whitefield United Methodist Church has everything from clothing to books.



The Thrift Store has a large selection of coats.

WEST BROOKFIELD – The George Whitefield United Methodist Church in West Brookfield opened a Thrift Store in June 2023 which offers low-cost children's and adult clothing and shoes, household goods, home décor, books, toys, etc. to the community on the first and third Saturdays of the month.

The Thrift Store, started by a dedicated group of volunteers, has expanded since its opening in size and hours of operation, and has proven popular with the community, as well as supporting the church's ministry and missions.

Efforts are made to update inventory regularly and seasonally as new merchandise comes in, so that there are always new bargains to discover, whether you are a regular customer or visiting for the first time. Donations of gently used clothing for the current or upcoming season and household items in good condition are always in demand and much appreciated.

Hours of operation are the first and third Saturdays of each month, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at George Whitefield United Methodist Church, 33 West Main St. (Route 9), West Brookfield. For more information or to arrange a time to drop off donations, you may call Jane Dolan at 508-867-5571.

Worcester Chamber Music Society holds two concerts in April

WORCESTER – The Worcester Chamber Music Society continues its 19th season with performances of a concert titled "Alter Egos" in Fitchburg on Friday, April 4 at 7:30 p.m. at Fitchburg Art Museum, 185 Elm St., Fitchburg and in Worcester on Sunday, April 6 at 4 p.m. in Shapiro Hall, Joy of Music, 1 Gorham St., Worcester

The April 4 concert is funded in part by the Fitchburg and Lunenburg Cultural Councils, local agencies funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

The composers on this program are best known for their iconic movie scores - Star Wars, Jurassic Park, Romeo and Juliet, The Godfather, Citizen Kane and Psycho among others - but also

produced an impressive catalogue of classical music. Join WCMS for two evenings of chamber music by three Academy Award winners, John Williams, Nino Rota and Bernard Herrmann and get to know their other sides. Tickets are available by visiting <https://worcesterchambermusic.org/alter-egos/> or by calling the WCMS office at 508-926-8624.

NOTICE

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

Barre Gazette OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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



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Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Saturday, March 1
11:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Vernon Avenue, Written Warning

Sunday, March 2
1:16 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Summer Street, Criminal Complaint

Summons Dallaire, Kathleen Marie, 38, South Barre
Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Unregistered Motor Vehicle
1:34 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, West Street, Public Assist
8:46 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures, Pine Tree Terrace, Ambulance Signed Refusal

11:36 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Hubbardston Road, Referred to Other Agency
4:29 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Neurological/Head Injury, Gauthier Road, No Fire Service Necessary

Monday, March 3
6:30 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Rindge NH, Officer/Chief Advised
8:43 a.m. Assault and Battery, Barre Police Headquarters, Officer Spoke to Party

Tuesday, March 4
7:30 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Summer Street, Officer Spoke to Party

7:32 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Gauthier Road, Ambulance eSigned Refusal
8:43 a.m. Follow-Up Investigation, Summer Street, Report Filed

11:54 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Childbirth, Worcester Road, Mutual Aid

Transport
3:44 p.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Pleasant Street, Investigated
5:28 p.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Worcester Road, Referred to Other Agency
7:12 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Mechanic Street, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, March 5
2:30 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Barre Police Headquarters, Report Filed
Summons Strachan, Alexander, 60, Templeton
Charges Larceny Over \$1,200

Thursday, March 6
7:36 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic), Newton Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
12 p.m. Fire – Public Service Call, Station Road, Public Assist
12:46 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Stetson Road, Mutual Aid Transport

4:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
8:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, South Road, Vehicle Removed

Friday, March 7
7:53 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Wauwinet Road, Investigated

10:21 a.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Summer Street, Referred to Other Agency
11:42 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Old Petersham Road, Referred to Other Agency
1:22 p.m. Noise Complaint, Barre Police Headquarters, Information Taken

1:40 p.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, South Barre Road, Referred to Other Agency
2:06 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Vernon Avenue, Transported to Hospital
3 p.m. Assault and Battery, Barre Police Headquarters, Officer Spoke to Party
5:11 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Grove North Street, Referred to Other Agency
5:27 p.m. Complaint, Main Street, Report Filed
5:29 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Wheelwright Road, No Police Service

Saturday, March 8
12:56 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Varney Lane, Ambulance Signed Refusal
11:52 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, School North Street, Referred to Other Agency
2:58 p.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Old Dana Road, Referred to Other Agency
8 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party

SOUTH BARRE

Saturday, March 1
7:16 p.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Vernon Avenue, Message Delivered

Wednesday, March 5
2:18 p.m. Follow-Up Investigation, South Barre Road, Investigated

Friday, March 7
3:02 p.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Vernon Avenue, Officer Spoke to Party

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, March 2
10:05 a.m. Court Duty, Rutland Police Department, Court Duty

Arrest Hernandez, Angela M., 48, Westborough
Warrant Straight
3:56 p.m. Escort/Transport, UMass Memorial, Removed to Court/Lockup

3:57 p.m. Threats, Rutland Public Safety Lobby, Officer Spoke to Party
4:32 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Kosta Avenue, Building Checked/Secured

Monday, March 3
6:43 a.m. Safety Concern, Main Street, Negative Contact
8:03 a.m. Illegal Dumping, Turkey Hill Road, Investigated
10:14 a.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), East County Road, Public Assistant

1:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Citation Issued
1:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
1:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning

1:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lewis Street, Criminal Complaint
Summons De Figueiredo Laranj, Humberto, 62, Worcester
Charges Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle
2:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning

2:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued
3:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
3:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

3:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
4:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Written Warning
4:12 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Davis Street, Report Filed

4:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
11:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Criminal Complaint
Summons Mukoone, Joeria, 34, Worcester
Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle with

Tuesday, March 4
5 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
5:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning

8:10 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
8:13 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
8:24 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Summons Gardner, Andrea, 40, Worcester
Charges License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle with
8:40 a.m. Complaint, Turkey Hill Road, Officer/Chief Advised

10:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Criminal Complaint
Summons Castro, Christopher S., 39, Holden
Charges License Suspended as HTO, Operator Motor Vehicle with (Criminal) C90 S23, Number Plate Violation to Conceal ID C90 S23, Unregistered Motor Vehicle C90 S9

11:48 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Pommogussett Road, Transported to Hospital
2:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
3:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

5:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
Summons Lockwood, Emma Owens, 24, Oakham
Charges Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle with

6:16 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Rutland Police Department, Report Filed
6:25 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, East County Road, No Police Service Necessary
9:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Welch Avenue, Written Warning

10:58 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, East County Road, Transported to Hospital
11:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Citation Issued

Wednesday, March 5
10:01 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Maple Spring Drive, Ambulance

Signed Refusal
12:14 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Barre Paxton Road, Public Assist

2:55 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Animal Bites, Maple Spring Drive, Ambulance Signed Refusal
5:08 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, East County Road, Returned to Family/Guardian

7:25 p.m. Fire – Fumes/Odor/Gas Leaks, Glenwood Road, Investigated

Thursday, March 6
11:59 a.m. Fire – Fumes/Odor/Gas Leaks, Pommogussett Road, Investigated
1:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Arrest(s) Made
Arrest Fratantonio, Michael George, 25, West Boylston

3:15 p.m. Dizzy, Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
6:09 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures, Prescott Street, Transported to Hospital

Friday, March 7
2:04 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
10:18 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Watson Lane, Transported to Hospital

10:48 a.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Pommogussett Road, Referred to Other Agency
12 p.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Campbell Street, Officer Spoke to Party
6:05 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Negative Contact

Saturday, March 8
11:16 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Emerald Road, Referred to Other Agency
12:22 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Prouty Lane, Report Filed
2:23 p.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Stevens Way, Officer/Chief Advised

4:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Wachusett Street, Citation Issued
4:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Irish Lane, Information Taken
4:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning

Oakham Police Log

Monday, March 3
10:31 a.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield District Court, Court Duty

Tuesday, March 4
3:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued

5:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
Summons Lockwood, Emma Owens, 24, Oakham
Charges Registration

Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle with

Wednesday, March 5
2:47 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Forest Hill Drive, Report Filed

Thursday, March 6
7:30 a.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Barre Road, Referred to Other Agency
9:20 a.m. Assist Other Agency/Non-Police, Barre Road,

Chief Took Call
5 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning

Saturday, March 8
11:49 a.m. Property Dispute or Exchange, Barre Road, Public Assistant

2:02 p.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, North Brookfield, Removed Hazard

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, March 2
3:34 a.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Elm Street, Officer Spoke to Party

8:16 a.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Simond Hill Road, Referred to Other Agency
12:30 p.m. Road Condition Notification, New Templeton Road, Message Delivered
2:52 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Gardner Road, Arrest(s) Made

Arrest Wagg, Nancy Anne, 55, Hubbardston
Charges Warrant

Monday, March 3
10:52 a.m. Property Damage, Gardner Road, Information Given
5:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Brigham Road, Public Assist

Tuesday, March 4
8:36 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Winchendon, Negative Contact
9:34 a.m. Public Assist, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party

10:26 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Worcester Road, Report Filed

1:27 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick Unknown, Kruse Road, Transported to Hospital
2:04 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Burnshirt Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
5:19 p.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Williamsville Road, Investigated

Wednesday, March 5
7:43 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Old Boston Turnpike, Information Given
8:51 a.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Lombard Road, Information Taken

11:36 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Burnshirt Road, Transported to Hospital
2:29 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Cheyenne Drive, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, March 6
12:41 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Madison Way, Mutual Aid Transported
3:10 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Moore Avenue,

Negative Contact
1:33 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Burnshirt Road, Vehicle Towed

3:44 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Barre Road, No Transport Required
9:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Citation Issued

Friday, March 7
4:23 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Simond Hill Road, Mutual Aid Transport
4:43 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Old Boston Turnpike, Referred to Other Agency
5:37 a.m. Assault and Battery, Healdville Road, Report Filed

7:13 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Hale Road, Transported to Hospital
7:28 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Burnshirt Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Saturday, March 8
12:33 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Brigham Street, Mutual Aid Transported
1 p.m. Complaint, Barre Road, Investigated

Job Connection

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The Town of West Brookfield Highway Department is seeking TWO FULL TIME OPERATOR/DRIVER/LABORERS

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Please contact:
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The Town of West Brookfield is an Equal Opportunity Employer and values diversity at all levels of the workforce. EOE

Town of Warren Full-Time Police Officer Vacancy

The Warren Police Department is seeking a qualified candidate to fill the vacant position of FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER. The Warren Police Department is a non-civil service department that is seeking individuals who are motivated, proactive and community oriented. All candidates must be at least 21 years of age, be a U.S. Citizen, have a minimum of a high school diploma, possess a valid driver's license, and currently have, or have the ability to obtain a Class A license to carry firearms in the state of Massachusetts. Candidates must have successfully completed a Massachusetts full-time police academy or the equivalent to be considered for the position.

All applicants who move forward in the hiring process will be subject to a background investigation as well as a medical, physical, and psychological examination. All candidates will also be required to meet all requirements set forth by the Peace Officer and Standards Commission (POST). It is preferred that applicants currently hold an unrestricted certification from POST at the time of applying.

The Town of Warren currently offers full-time employees of the Police Department with an education-based incentive. Officers with the Warren Police Department will be required to work a schedule consisting of four (4) consecutive days on followed by two (2) days off and will be assigned to a shift based on departmental needs. All Officers will also be eligible for vacation time, personal time and holiday pay as outlined in the union contract.

All interested applicants are asked to please submit a cover letter and resume to:
Lieutenant Kyle P. Whitcomb, 1 Milton O. Fountain Way, P.O. Box 606, Warren, MA 01083 or E-mail to Whitcomb@warren-ma.gov

The deadline for applications is **Friday, April 4, 2025**. Therefore, it is required that the Warren Police Department be in receipt of the candidates resume and cover letter no later than this date to be considered. The Town of Warren is an equal opportunity employer (EOE).

NEWS & FEATURES

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

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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Petersham Lions Club welcomes new members

PETERSHAM – The Petersham Lions Club welcomed four new members at its March 7 International potluck themed dinner meeting. The new Lions were inducted by Massachusetts District 33A Zone 8 Chair Barry Alman. The new Petersham Lions are Jillian Wessel, Jen Howes, Steve Murno and Cynthia Crosson.

Zone Chair Alman shared some history about Lions International, the clubs in Massachusetts District 33A, and the symbolism of the Lions International logo. Petersham is happy and proud to welcome the new members. For more information on joining the Petersham Lions Club, people may contact Past District Governor/

Club President and current membership chairman, Denis Legare at Hilltopchief@gmail.com. The Petersham Lions Club will be hosting its annual Curling Tournament and Raffle at the Petersham Curling Club on Saturday, March 22. Spectators can enjoy a buffet lunch for \$12. The raffle table has over

50 items with a value of over \$ 2,600. The Club will also be offering an April Prize Calendar for a donation of \$10. The Prize Calendar has over \$1,600.00 in cash and gift cards. If people win, their name goes back into the drawing and they can win again. Lions International is the largest service organization in the world with over 1.4 mil-

lion members in 49,000 clubs in over 200 countries and geographic areas. There are five districts in Massachusetts. Petersham is in District 33A with 49 clubs. The Lions motto is "We Serve." Local Lions Club programs include sight conservation, hearing and speech conversation, diabetes awareness awareness, youth out-

reach, international relations, environmental issues and many other programs. For more information or if people have an interest in a prize calendar, they should email Lynneshaw@gmail.com. The Lions Club hopes people will stop in to see the curling fun and all the great raffle items on Saturday, March 22.

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