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Select Board discuss possible space rental

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
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BARRE – The Select Board met with Council on Aging Director Betty-Jo O'Brien and COA Chairman David Flick to discuss possible renting of room space at the Senior Center.

COA Director O'Brien said the Senior Center had

underutilized room space located in the lower level. She said the rooms were too small for senior activity space, but were suitable for long term rental office space for an accountant or something similar. She asked if a room could be rented out as another source of revenue for the Senior Center.

Select Board Chairman Maureen Marshall said the

room rental would be an opportunity for someone, who would work during regular Senior Center hours and did not want an office in their home. She also said she was not opposed to the idea. The building had to be heated anyway. Select Board Vice Chairman Mark Regienus agreed. Select Board member Richard Stevens said the individual

would need liability insurance.

The Select Board agreed to look into the matter. Town Administrator Melanie Jackson will contact Town Counsel to find out if this could be done.

Town Administrator report
Town Administrator Jackson said she walked through the Senior Center

with an architect and a representative from Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission about the American with Disabilities Act upgrade. This was for a possible Community Development Block Grant that had CMRPC assistance.

She said she received one

See BARRE, page 6

Historical Commission outlined proposal to DCR

By Zacharias Fragkiadais
Correspondent

RUTLAND – The Rutland Historical Commission continued to outline their response to Department of Conservation and Recreation representative Dan Clark, who has been calling for the demolition of the Rutland Prison Camps citing unsafe structures, and hateful graffiti.

Historical Commission Chair Peter Pasierb originally began the outlines of a tiered approach, but after deliberating with the board at their Tuesday, March 17 meeting, decided to put in writing a single tiered proposal, then negotiate with Clark and DCR.

The items in the proposal are similar to ideas previously presented at public informational sessions and past meetings, which include installing cameras, signs prohibiting climbing, community paint days to cover hateful graffiti, and potential mural artists.

The commission members suggested advertising a contest which artists from the region can enter, and be chosen to paint murals on the prison camp structures. In the meantime, the members suggested coating the structures with graffiti proof paint, and painting over any hate speech.

Pasierb said a public meeting with Clark is being planned for Tuesday, April 21, and he said vital members he believes should be in attendance are Police Chief Nicholas Monaco and state Sen. Peter Durant, or somebody from his office. Pasierb said if they are not available on that date, an alternate date for the meeting would be Tuesday, April 28.

Commission members encouraged public participation, and said they could possibly present letters of support of saving the structures at the meeting to Clark.

Prison Camps historic registry

Historical Commission member Lindsay Maus said she submitted the application for the prison camps to be placed on the Massachusetts Registry of Historic Places, and the National Registry of Historic Places, but the form was incorrect. She said she resubmitted it following instructions from the registry.

"We feel that this is an important historical site for the town," she said.

Stone wall bylaw

The commission met with Select Board Chair Jen Leger to discuss the stone wall bylaw. She presented similar bylaws from the towns of Concord and Sudbury, which could be updated to reflect Rutland's needs.

Leger said updating the bylaw itself would be difficult, but the Historical Commission can update rules

See RUTLAND, page 6

Board discussed town owned properties

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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HARDWICK – The Select Board began its March 23 meeting with a discussion regarding 179 Main St., Gilbertville.

Speaking about the property during the meeting was Felix Wamburu, who owns a property near the building. Wamburu was doing work on his own property when he came across 179 Main St. and soon wanted to learn more about it.

After speaking with the Highway Superintendent, the neighboring property owner got word that the building had been abandoned for quite some time. Wamburu wanted to come before the Select Board and get an idea of any interest the town may have and help him decide on what to do with the building.

On of his proposals is pursuing the building to be renovated into some form of housing. Wamburu wanted to put out some suggestions and see if this proposal would be something that is beneficial for the town.

The Select Board and Town Administrator Justine Caggiano said they could do an request for proposal but wanted to know what kind of housing Wamburu was considering.

Wamburu wants to look

at the footprint of the building to see if the space is appropriate for apartments or possibly condos. If so, how many condos or apartments could go in.

He is aware that the building at 179 Main St. is a historic building and he said this proposal is in the very beginning stages of any potential plan.

Wamburu is looking at the building and what can be preserved. He is not looking for any drastic modifications.

"It's preliminary," Select Board Vice-Chair William Tinker said.

The Select Board also discussed the Ruggles Hill Street School after receiving a letter from resident Elizabeth Cyran to put this discussion on the agenda. There are several components tied to the school building, including what is said in the deed and the Mixer Trust.

The Select Board did receive a response from town counsel regarding the deed, which they have a copy to review. One idea is to start a draft of an RFP, as the board doesn't wish to endure a lot of legal fees like the Town did when they were addressing the Paige Building.

The board wants to make sure the title is clear and what to specifically put

See HARDWICK, page 6



Prince (Colton Butterfield) and Cinderella (Anna Labrousse) are shown during the wedding scene toward the end of the production.



Cinderella played by Anna Labrousse is shown ready for the ball.

Photo by Tiny Toes and Little Bows Photography

HCT presents memorable performance

HUBBARDSTON – There was a large community turnout last weekend at Hubbardston Community Theatre's production of "Roger & Hammerstein's Cinderella."

The cast included: Anna Labrousse (Cinderella), Colton Butterfield (Prince Christopher), Alicia Levanti (Fairy Godmother), Rebecca Gleason (Stepmother), Kailynn Schuster and Lillian Howard (Stepsisters), Owen Breuer (Lionel), Isabel Salovardos

(Queen Constantina) and Wesley Blackstone (King Maximillian). The ensemble included Madeleine Rigney, Julianna Lindsten, Emily DeMalia, Kalypso DeCologero, Grace Lantiegne, Cathy Powers, Bethany Stefano, Hailey Marean, Isaac Farrington, Brooke Butterfield, Lucas DeMalia, Fiona Kenney, Lucas Lantiegne, Ellie Levanti, Christie Stefano, Alena Stolakis, Memphis Whaland, Kennedy Correia, Alix Lindsey, Anna Medine,

Sage Morin, Kelsey Nickson, Luna Yules, Lyra Pelletier, Andie St. Clair, Lily Wilder, Kala Yules, Ren Bennington, Jack Blackstone, Jordan Blackstone, Jaime Bunton, Sarah Bunton, Tessa Burke, Taylah Cass, Jasmine Hickey, Judah Hickey, Michelle Johnston, Harper Place, Drew Romanski, Penelope Silver, Joseph St. Clair, Hana Mae Tousignant, Alexa Tower, Hailey Tower, Leah Valley, Emma Veinotte, Harper Votruba and Jerry Whaland

Pathfinder presented FY '26-27 budget proposal

By Abigail McCoy
Staff Writer
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER – Officials from across the region gathered at Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School last week as the district presented its proposed fiscal year 2027 budget, outlining continued growth, strategic investments, and increasing demand for career and technical education.

The event, held in the school's library, drew a strong turnout of select board members, finance committee representatives, town administrators, managers, and council members from all nine member communities; an indication, school officials said, of the district's deepening partnerships across the region.

"It was great to see such

strong representation from our member communities," officials noted during the presentation. "The turnout and engagement demonstrated the continued partnership between Pathfinder Tech and the towns we serve."

Budget overview and fiscal strategy

Superintendent Eric Duda led the presentation, opening with a series of recent highlights to illustrate what he described as a year of "growth and progress" for the district.

The proposed FY 27 budget reflects an overall increase of 4.98% compared to FY 26. Of that, the assessment to the district's nine member towns would rise by 2.27% collectively.

One contributing factor to the increase is a \$519,000 rise in the minimum local contribution requirement across member communities.

Despite these increases, district leaders emphasized

their continued focus on balancing fiscal responsibility with program quality.

"Our goal continues to be balancing fiscal responsibility with maintaining high quality programs and opportunities for our students," Duda said.

Expansion efforts and facility investments

A significant portion of the presentation focused on ongoing and recent expansion projects, including the district's partnership with the Cold Spring School in Belchertown. The initiative will add 150 seats, expanding access to vocational education in the region.

"The excitement around the 150-seat expansion initiative with the Cold Spring school in Belchertown could be felt in the room," officials said.

District leaders also highlighted the successful redevelopment of the former Country Bank property

at Four Corners. Renovated by Pathfinder students, the building is now fully operational and serves multiple community functions.

The space currently houses the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce and is used in the evenings for adult continuing education programs; an initiative that has grown significantly in recent years.

Costs associated with the Cold Spring expansion, including transportation and staffing, are being offset through revolving funds, meaning they will not impact member town assessments for FY 27.

Rising costs and insurance adjustments

While the district remains in a stable financial position, several cost drivers are putting pressure on the budget. Among the most significant increases are:

10% rise in transportation costs

12.7% increase in retiree health insurance premiums

9.83% increase in active employee health insurance

12% increase in non-employee insurance

District officials pointed to reforms made in FY 23 to health insurance offerings as a mitigating factor. The transition to tiered plans and expanded options has improved coverage while positioning the district for long-term savings.

Officials project that continued staff attrition and retirements over the next five to seven years will further reduce insurance-related costs.

Financial position

Despite rising expenses, Pathfinder Tech reported no outstanding debt and no major capital requests for the upcoming fiscal year.

This stability is largely attributed to the district's

See PATHFINDER, page 8



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News of the Towns



ROUND TOWN

by Ellenor Downer
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OES holds breakfast

Designer pancake breakfast sponsored by Cradle Rock Chapter of Eastern Star will be held Saturday, April 11 from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Mt Zion Lodge Hall, 71 Pleasant St. People may create their favorite pancake with chips, nuts, fruit and more. Complete breakfast includes designer pancakes, waffles, sausage gravy and biscuits, bacon, sausage, juice, coffee and always real maple syrup. Adults are \$9 and children 6 and under \$5. All are welcome.

St. Joseph's Cemetery cleanup

All winter baskets and decorations must be removed from St. Joseph's Cemetery, South Barre Road, by Saturday, March 28. To facilitate spring clean up, all remaining items will be discarded.

Legislators staff office hour

State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume's Chief of Staff, Donna and Senator Peter Durant's office invites constituents and town officials to meet them to express any concerns, ideas or issues where they may need assistance. On Monday, April 13, staff will be at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road from 11 a.m.-noon. People may call Donna at 774-402-4742 if they would like a private meeting.

Lions Club scholarship

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

Information Fair

An Information Fair sponsored by the Council on Aging will take place Wednesday, April 15 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, Barre. This event is free and open to the public.

The COA encourages seniors, caregivers, family members, friends and anyone interested in learning more about resources for the aging population to attend. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with local professionals, explore helpful programs and services and gather information that can make everyday living easier and more independent. Attendees will have the chance to speak directly with representatives from organizations offering support, safety services, financial information, health resources, housing guidance, and more. Whether people are planning ahead for themselves or helping care for a loved one, the Information Fair is a great place to learn about products, services and programs available in the community.

Senior Center to hold Information Fair

BARRE – The Council on Aging will hold an Information Fair on Wednesday, April 15 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road.

This event is free and open to the public. The COA encourages seniors, caregivers, family members, friends and anyone interested in learning more about resources for the aging population to attend. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with local professionals, explore helpful programs and services and gather information that can make everyday living easier and more independent.

Attendees will have the chance to speak directly with representatives from organizations offering support, safety services, financial information, health resources, housing guidance, and more. Whether people are planning ahead for themselves or helping care for a loved one, the Information Fair is a great place to learn about products, services and programs available in the community.

Participating organizations include: AARP; Be Safe at Home (Life Alert); Community Legal Aid; Ed Spater, Medicare Advisor; Elder Services of Worcester; Friends of the Barre/

Hardwick Senior Center; Kevin Donahue from the Office of District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr.; Leicester Health Coalition (SNAP screenings and blood pressure checks); Miles Funeral Home; National Grid (Electric bill screenings); Right-Sized Living; Tracy LaRosa Realtor; Veteran's Service; Worcester Registry of Deeds and more.

The COA hopes people will stop by, ask questions, gather valuable information and discover resources that support independence, safety and quality of life for older adults in their community.



OAKHAM

by Ellenor Downer
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Church to hold Sunrise service/breakfast

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will hold an Easter sunrise service on Sunday, April 5 at 6:30 a.m. A breakfast of pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, strawberries, homemade doughnut holes, orange juice, coffee, tea and hot chocolate will immediately follow the sunrise service. People may make a freewill donation, which will go to the church furnace fund. The lap quilt will also be raffled off at the breakfast. People may purchase tickets at the breakfast before the drawing. Tickets are \$2 each. Quilt raffle tickets are also sold every Sunday after church from 11-11:45 a.m. Proceeds from the raffle will also go to the church furnace fund. Easter Sunday Service will be held at 10 a.m.

Legislators staff office hour

State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume's Chief of Staff, Donna and Senator Peter Durant's office invites constituents and town officials to meet them to express any concerns, ideas or issues where they may need assistance. On Tuesday, April 15, staff will be at the Oakham Town Hall, 2 Coldbrook Road from 9-9:45 a.m. People may call Donna at 774-402-4742 if they would like a private meeting.

Fraud and scam program

Kevin Donahue of the Worcester County Sheriff's Department will hold a fraud and scam presentation on Thursday, April 9 at noon in the Oakham Senior Center, lower level of Town Hall. All are welcome to attend.

March COA events

Blood Pressure/Glucose screening clinic takes place on Tuesday March 31 from 11a.m.-1 p.m. in Senior Center multipurpose room. Walk ins are welcome. Ongoing activities include Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. -puzzling, Monday through Thursday at 9 a.m. walking group (meet at Senior Center); Tuesday through Thursdays at 11 a.m. walking group (meet at Senior Center), Tuesday yoga at 1 p.m. \$40 for eight classes senior center multipurpose room (registration required); Wednesdays at 8:45 a.m. Zumba Gold in New Braintree Town Hall \$3 donation/class; Thursdays at noon: Weigh in at the Senior Center support weight loss group and Fridays at 10.30 a.m. Functional Fitness at the New Braintree Town Hall \$3 donation/class. Walking group members may request being added to the text MSG group by calling the Senior Center at 508-882-4073 and leaving their name and cell phone number. If seniors 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 508-882-4073 and leave a message or email COA@Oakham-MA.gov.

Senior Center hot lunches

Hot Lunches are offered at the Senior Center dining area Monday through Thursday at 11.15 a.m. Reservations are needed at least two days in advance and can be made through the Congregate Meal Coordinator from 9 a.m.-12.15 p.m. at 508-882-4072.

Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter schedule

Barre Congregational Church

30 Park St., Barre
Palm Sunday, March 29
Service 9:30 a.m.
Maundy Thursday, April 2
Service at 7 p.m.
Easter Sunday, April 5
Service at 9:30 a.m.

First Congregational Church of North Brookfield

144 North Main St., North Brookfields
Palm Sunday, March 29
Service 10:45 a.m.
Maundy Thursday, April 2
Tenebrae Service 7 p.m.
Good Friday, April 3
Sanctuary Open for Prayer noon
Easter Sunday, April 5
Sunrise Service Bennett's Hill 6 a.m.

Service 10:45 a.m.

New Life Assembly of God

Main Street, South Barre
Palm Sunday, March 29
Service 10:30-11:45 a.m.
Good Friday, April 3
Service 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Easter Sunday, April 5
Service 10:30-11:45 a.m.

Oakham Congregational Church

4 Coldbrook Road, Oakham
Palm Sunday, March 29
Service 10-11 a.m.
Maundy Thursday, April 27 p.m.
Easter Sunday, April 5
Sunrise Sunday 6:30 a.m. behind church, breakfast after service
Service 10-11 a.m.

Rutland Congregational Church

264 Main St., Rutland
Palm Sunday, March 29
Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
Service 9:30 a.m.
Maundy Thursday April 2
Service 7 p.m.
Easter Sunday, April 5
Service 9:30 a.m.

Tri-Parish Church

Sunday, April 5
Easter Sunrise Service 6:15 a.m. at East Quabbin Land Trust, 120 Ridge Road, Hardwick with lay leader Virginia Rich
Easter Service 10 a.m. at New Braintree Congregational Church, 3 Oakham Road, New Braintree

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 30. 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 – Roast pork with gravy, cranberry stuffing, Brussels sprouts, pear crisp, diet = applesauce, whole wheat bread

TUESDAY – Ziti with meat sauce, mozzarella cheese, broccoli and red peppers, baked apples, Italian bread

WEDNESDAY – Garlic brown sugar chicken, lemon seasoned potatoes, roasted California vegetables, fresh fruit, whole wheat bread

THURSDAY – Baked ham with maple glaze, mashed potatoes, carrots, dinner roll, cheesecake mousse

FRIDAY – Vegetarian chili with cheese, roasted potatoes, country blend vegetables, brownie, diet = cookies, marble rye bread

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

'Silents are Golden' returns to Stone Church April 11

HARDWICK – The 9th "Silents Are Golden" concert featuring Charlie Chaplin's "The Gold Rush" (1925) with live improvised accompaniment by organist Peter Krasinski will be held on Saturday, April 11 at 7 p.m. on the Gilbertville Johnson & Son pipe organ at the Stone Church Cultural Center, 283 Main St., Gilbertville.

This performance is sponsored by the Friends of the Stone Church.

Organist, conductor and music educator Krasinski is broadly recognized for his imaginative and energetic performances. Winner of First Prize in Improvisation from the American Guild of Organists

National Competition, he is known worldwide for his unique accompaniment to classic silent films.

The "Gold Rush" takes viewers to the Klondike, Alaska where a comedy unfolds amid harsh conditions. Writer, producer, director and leading actor Charlie Chaplin plays his "Little Tramp."

The film also stars Georgia Hale, Mack Swain, Tom Murray, Henry Bergman and Malcolm Waite. It is the fifth-highest grossing silent film in cinema history.

Variety called "The Gold Rush" "the greatest and most elaborate comedy ever filmed." The New York Times called it

"the outstanding gem of all of Chaplin's pictures, as it has more thought and originality than even such masterpieces of mirth as 'The Kid' and 'Shoulder Arms'."

Krasinski is House Organist of the Providence Performing Arts Center, Principal Organist at Mechanics Hall, Organist of the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Boston, Organist at First Church of Christ, Scientist in Providence, Rhode Island, and accompanist at Beth El Temple Center in Belmont.

He recently presented "THE CAMERAMAN" starring Buster Keaton to a sold out audience at the Musiikkitalo, Helsinki, Finland, and appeared in an Oscar-winning move "The

Holdovers". For more information on the artist, please visit www.Krasinski.org.

All concerts at the Stone Church are free to those under 18.

Tickets are \$20 per person and holders of the Massachusetts Card to Culture may request up to two free tickets at the box office for any ticketed concert on the concert day, or may make a reservation by email to events@FriendsoftheStoneChurch.org.

Partial support for the 2025-2026 concert season has been provided by the Mass Cultural Council. Support for spring concerts, including free community concerts, has been received.

Historical Society to hold open house


RUTLAND – The Rutland Historical Society will hold an Open House on Sunday, April 12 from

1-3 p.m. at the Rutland Historical Society, 232 Main Street.

People may browse through the museum collection, do some research on their ancestors and discover the history of Rutland. Light refreshments will be available.

Editorial deadline reminder

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



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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

Finance Committee – March 31, April 7 and April 14 at 6:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – April 1 at 12:30 p.m.
 Planning Board – April 1 and April 7 at 7 p.m.
 Town Election Day – April 6 from 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
 Select Board – April 6 at 5 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – April 7 at 6 p.m.
 Felton Field Commission – April 7 at 6:30 p.m.
 Library Trustees – April 8 at 6:30 p.m.
 Barre Housing Authority – April 9 at 1 p.m.
 Zoning Board of Appeals – April 9 at 7 p.m.
 Board of Health – April 13 at 5 p.m.
 Water Commission – April 13 at 5:30 p.m.
 DPW Commission – April 13 at 6 p.m.
 Cable Advisory Committee – April 14 at 7 p.m.
 Conservation Committee – April 14 at 7 p.m.
 Master Plan Steering Committee – April 16 at 5:30 p.m.

HARDWICK

Master Plan Steering Committee – March 26 at 6:30 p.m.
 Recycling Commission – March 26 at 6:30 p.m.
 Paige Library Trustees – March 26 and April 2 at 7 p.m.
 Select Board – March 30 and April 2 at 6 p.m.
 Finance Committee – March 30 at 6 p.m.
 Council on Aging – April 1 at 12:30 p.m.
 Gilbertville Public Library – April 8 at 3 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – April 15 at 6:30 p.m.
 Gilbertville Water District – April 21 at 5:30 p.m.
 Board of Health – April 22 at 6:50 p.m.
 Capital Planning Committee – May 18 at 3 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Open Space Committee – March 26 at 7 p.m.
 Memorial Day Committee – March 30 at 3 p.m.
 Zoning Board of Appeals – March 31 at 6:30 p.m.
 Library Trustees – April 2 at 7 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – April 7 at 7 p.m.
 Planning Board – April 8 and April 30 at 6:30 p.m.
 Board of Health – April 14 at 7 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – April 15 at 6 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Community Block Grant Resident Meeting – April 1 at 6 p.m.
 Downtown Development Committee – April 6 at 6:30 p.m.
 Parks and Recreation July 4th Subcommittee – April 8 at 6 p.m.
 Rep. Berthiaume Office hours – April 15 from 11 a.m.-noon
 Planning Board – April 15 at 6 p.m.

OAKHAM

Finance Committee – March 31, April 1 and April 7 at 7 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Select Board – March 26 at 5:30 p.m., March 31 at 3 p.m. and April 2 at 5:30 p.m., April 7 at 3 p.m. and April 9 at 5:30 p.m., April 13 at 3 p.m. and April 16 at 5:30 p.m.
 Advisory Finance Committee – March 26 and April 2 at 6 p.m.
 Capital Improvements Planning Committee – March 30 at 7 p.m.
 Open Space and Recreation Committee – April 7 at 6 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – April 7 at 7 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – April 10 at 9 a.m.
 Council on Aging – April 13 at 10:30 a.m.
 Cemetery Commission – April 14 at 11 a.m.
 Petersham Historic District – April 16 at 6 p.m.

RUTLAND

Select Board and Finance Committee – March 26 at 6 p.m.
 Select Board Public Hearing – March 30 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board Bylaw Sub Committee – April 15 at 6 p.m.

Lions Club holds annual curling fundraiser

PETERSHAM – The Petersham Lions Club recently held its 20th annual charity curling tournament and raffle fundraiser on Saturday, March 21.

A curling tournament is known as a bonspiel. The event benefits Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund to help in finding a cure for blindness. This year's 16 teams were from Athol, Barre, Templeton, Hubbardston, Petersham, Mendon and The Brookfields. There were two teams each from Charlton, Paxton, Winchendon and Rutland. The Mass Eye Lions Research Fund committee also had a team.

In the final playoff, Rutland Team 2 took the win over Winchendon Team 1. The winning curlers were Jeff Moreau, Mike Maceiko, Joe Antkowiak and Jon Moody. The winning team and the names of the teammates will have their name added to the tournament plaque. The plaque goes home with the winning team to display for the year and returns for the next year's tournament.

Petersham is fortunate and proud to have its own Petersham Curling Club, which has been offering an arena for the sport since 1960. The Petersham Curling Club is one of only four dedicated clubs in Massachusetts, solely for the purpose of curling.

The Curling Club generously offers the day to the Lions for the event and it is most appreciated. This partnering allows the Lions to have this event locally and supports the Curling Club as well. The Petersham Lions tournament is always an amateur level event, held annually in March.

As they always have done, experienced Petersham Curling Club members were on hand to offer lessons and advice to those who had never curled before. As an Olympic sport, curling is a sport that requires good aim, balance and the proper amount of strength to send



Submitted photo

The winning curlers were from Rutland. They included Jeff Moreau, Mike Maceiko, Joe Antkowiak and Jon Moody.

the 40-pound granite stone, which is the curling puck so to speak, to the other end of the ice and score, with the help of team mates expertly sweeping the ice ahead of the stone to help it go farther.

For the Lions, it was not so much skill as it was a day to have fun and encourage each other. Even the losers were happy. Everyone cheered the curlers on with a hardy amount of handshakes, applause and pats on the back.

The raffle table was well stocked with 65 items up for grabs for a total value of \$2,600 made possible by the generosity of local businesses and crafters. The names of the businesses and crafters that donated items were displayed on a larger poster and the Lions talked about the various sponsors while selling tickets.

The Petersham Lions next big event is a blood drive with the Rhode Island Blood Center and will be on Saturday, April 11 in the Petersham Lower Town Hall. To sign up and reserve a donor spot, people may visit <https://donate.ribc.org/donor/>

schedules/drive_schedule/81015. They can donate one pint of whole blood or donate a double donation of just their red blood cells.

People must sign up on their own and there is information on the website about eligibility and facts about blood donation. Donors can also call 800-688-0900 if they have questions about their eligibility. Advances in medical research and care has lifted many restrictions that once existed.

If they were told they could not donate, please check and see by looking at the eligibility page or by call the 800 number. The eligibility page is <https://www.ribc.org/donate-blood/donor-eligibility/>. People may donate whole blood every 56 days. Humans are the only ones that can make blood for human, there is no substitute.

If people are interested in becoming a Petersham Lion, they may email Denis Legare, the club membership chairperson at hilltopchief@gmail.com or Jim Regan, club president at JimRegan5@gmail.com.

Lions Club offers prize calendar raffle

PETERSHAM – The Petersham Lions Club announces the offering of the annual April 2026 prize calendar raffle.

The Prize Calendar is filled with over \$1,800.00 in prize money, gift cards and passes to family oriented venues such as the New England Aquarium, the Butterfly Place and the EcoTarium. For a donation of \$10, there is the opportunity to have your name drawn on any of the 31 days in April and will win the prize of the day.

If someone wins their name goes back into the drawing and they can win

again. People can contact any Petersham Lion that they know or email Lynne Shaw at Lynnesshaw@gmail.com to make a donation for the calendar. Calendars will be sold through Tuesday, March 31 and the first drawing takes place on Wednesday, April 1.

All donations and funds raised go toward the many causes that Lions International is well-known for as well as local causes. If people are interested in learning more about membership, the Club encourages folks to email membership chair, Past District Governor Denis Legare at hilltopchief@gmail.com or President Jim

Regan at Jimregan5@gmail.com.

If people know a Petersham Lion, they can also ask them about the Club and what Lions are all about. The Petersham Lions Club is always looking for new members to welcome and hope people will consider joining the fun of being a Lion while giving back to their community and supporting the mission of Lions International, the largest volunteer service organization in the world. Where there is a need, there is a Lion. Lions are ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

HUBBARDSTON

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Egg Hunt set for March 28

The Hubbardston Park and Recreation Commission will sponsor an Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 28 at 10 a.m. at the Curtis Rec Field, Rte. 68. There will be three age groups Pre K, K-second grade and third grade and up. This is a free event; donations are accepted.

Legislators staff office hour

State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume's Chief of Staff, Donna and Senator Peter Durant's office invites constituents and town officials to meet them to express any concerns, ideas or issues where they may need assistance. On Monday, April 6, staff will be at the Hubbardston Senior Center, Main Street, from 10-11 a.m. People may call Donna at 774-402-4742 if they would like a private meeting.

Country Hen scholarships

The Country Hen Scholarship Fund awards a total of \$1,000 in scholarships to one or more graduating high school students from Hubbardston. 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. Applications are available online by visiting the town website at www.hubbardstonma.gov and are due by Sunday, April 26. For questions, they should email admin@hubbardstonma.gov.

Senior Center events

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

Recycling Center offers bulk waste day April 18

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Recycling Center, 2011 Barre Road, will hold a Bulk Waste Collection Event on Saturday, April 18 from 8 a.m.-noon.

This event is open to the residents of Hardwick and surrounding towns. A recycling center sticker is not required.

Please note, there are fees per item charged to cover the cost of hauling and processing.

Prices are as follows: mattress/waterbed mattress/futon, \$30; couch, \$30; sleeper sofa bed/pullout couch, \$40; loveseat/upholstered chair, \$25; pool table, \$25; wall unit cabinets, \$20; large entertainment center, \$20; sink, \$15; ceiling fan/upright fan/box fan, \$10; toilet, \$20; carpeting/foam carpet backing, \$15; kitchen/dining table, \$15; bookcase/bureau, \$15; trash compactor, \$10; wooden chair/end table/coffee table/night stand, \$12; car seat (baby/child), \$7; bulk Styrofoam (bagged), \$5; and suitcases, \$5.

The staff and volunteers reserve the right to price or reject other items not listed above accordingly on site.

For more information, people can email recycling@townofhardwick.com or stop by the Hardwick Recycling Center during open hours. Volunteers are also needed during the Bulk Waste Collection Event.

St. Aloysius Catholic School holds Open House on April 6

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School is hosting an Open House on Monday, April 6, from 3-5 p.m.

Prospective families are encouraged to visit the school, located at 52 Church St. in Gilbertville, where they can tour the classrooms, meet the teachers and learn more

about the rich, faith-filled educational experiences that await.

For more information, please call the school and speak to Roberta McQuaid, Enrollment Coordinator, at 413-477-1268. Or apply on line at <https://www.staloyuscs.com/join-our-family/application/>.

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Corrections policy

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

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

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

Opinion



Social Security reduced my monthly payment

Dear Rusty:
My last Social Security payment decreased by about \$400, so I went to my online SS account and found a November 2025 letter explaining that my 2024 tax return showed a greatly enlarged Adjusted Gross Income.

Thus, SSA decided to withdraw monies, as of January 2026, from my bank account because I'd owed far more monies to them. The letter itemized my greatly diminished 2026 SSA monthly payment, explaining should my next tax return show a regular AGI, then SSA would return my SS income to regular amounts and return every prior month's deficits? Said letter also mentioned an optional recourse, that of compiling an "Appeal" to regain my ongoing decreased income. The extra amounts now withdrawn for Medicare Parts A and D alone are outrageously high. I'm a retired senior citizen on a fixed income.

According to SSA, my having sold a piece of land in 2024 allows SSA to decrease my SS income. Has this become a common practice against U.S.A. senior citizens? Thank you in advance for your input. Signed: Feeling Wronged

Dear Feeling Wronged:
From what you have shared, it appears that your SS benefit amount has been affected by a provision known as Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount. IRMAA isn't really a Social Security issue, rather it is a Medicare premium thing. But when IRMAA applies, it reduces your net Social Security payment because Medicare premiums are automatically taken from your Social Security benefit, thus making your net SS payment less.

If you look at your gross Social Security payment at your online "my Social Security" account you will see that your gross SS payment did not change, but your Medicare premium did, thus affecting your net SS payment. IRMAA, essentially, makes Medicare a "means tested" program, where those with a higher AGI can pay a higher Medicare Part B (and Part D) premium.

However, IRMAA is usually based on AGI from two years prior to the current year because your current AGI information isn't available from the IRS when Medicare premiums are determined in October of each year. FYI, you may have received a notice in

the mail in early December telling you what your 2026 Social Security and Medicare amounts would be.

In a nutshell, the land you sold in 2024 apparently increased your AGI to exceed the base IRMAA thresholds, which are \$109,000 if you file your taxes as a single or \$218,000 if you file your income tax as "married/jointly." And the IRMAA supplements are "progressive" (higher if your AGI is more), so if your Medicare premiums went up by about \$400 about twice the 2026 standard premium, it's likely that your 2024 AGI was over \$137,000 if you filed as a single or over \$274,000 if you filed as "married/jointly." FYI, you can see the 2026 IRMAA brackets/premium amounts at this link: www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare/medicare-premiums.html

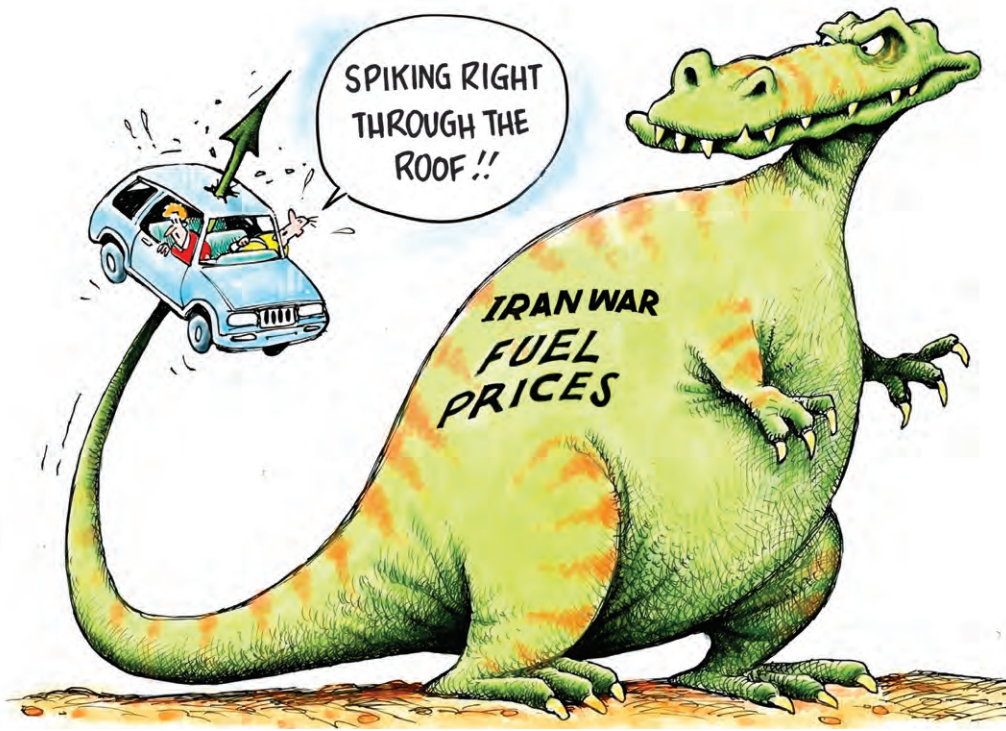
A couple of additional points:

Your Medicare premiums will, indeed, revert to the standard amounts for 2027, if your 2025 AGI amount is under the IRMAA threshold for your tax filing status.

There is no premium for Medicare Part A, which is coverage for inpatient hospitalization care, because you are receiving Social Security benefits. However, there is a premium for Part B of Medicare (which is coverage for outpatient medical services) and you must also separately pay a premium for Part D, which is coverage for prescription drugs offered by private insurers. And these IRMAA supplements apply even if you have a Medicare Advantage plan from a private insurer.

Unfortunately, your only "recourse" is, as SSA suggested, to appeal the IRMAA supplement, but that is usually successful only if you can prove you had a "life changing event," which caused (or will cause) your AGI to be less than that used to determine your IRMAA surcharge. Your best option at this point will likely be to appeal using a "Request for Reconsideration" (Form SSA-561) asking that your 2026 Medicare premium be based on a recent year's (e.g., 2025) lower income.

Finally, IRMAA isn't really a new thing – it was enacted in 2003, effective in 2007. But it does have a profound effect on many seniors, as I explained in this article I recently published on the topic: <https://amacfoundation.org/irmaa-a-medicare-surprise/>.



In Past Pages

Look Back- Cable TV comes to Barre – 1989



File photo

Hammers and saws in the capable hands of these craftsmen move the United Video Cablevision facility in North Rutland closer to completion. Under construction to provide cable TV service to Barre residents, the site will feature concrete pods for satellite dishes, as well as a tower to hold antennas for 16 broadcast channels. There will also be 23 satellite services, nine premium channels and at least one pay-per-view channel.

5 years (April 1, 2021)

The Barre Finance Committee met with fire, police and regional dispatch heads to go over their FY 2022 proposed budgets. Fire Chief Robert Rogowski said almost everything in his budget was level funded except training, 20-year longevity stipends, electricity and ladder testing. He said the fire department required fire-fighters to make 50% of the training per year. Full-time fire fighters with 20 years of service received \$300 and part-timers, \$150. He said electric consumption went up and the line item included all three stations. The annual fee for ladder testing increased by \$300. On the ambulance side some paramedics and EMTs had step increases. The town had paramedic staff seven days per week. He said overtime increased last year and had 30 calls with COVID cases and 70 suspected cases. Staff had to quarantine and this resulted in the overtime increase. Rogowski said with COVID-19 there were a lot more ambulance calls, but fewer transports as many patients did not want to go to the hospital. The town only billed for calls where the

patient was physically transported to the hospital.

About 40 citizens listened to a Zoom candidate night sponsored by the Barre Democratic Committee last Thursday. Joshua Smith moderated the event, which had three candidates participating: Maureen M. Marshall, Matthew Urban and Troy Valardi. Maureen Marshall and Troy Lee Valardi are running for a three-year term to the board of selectmen. Matthew Urban is a candidate for a five-year term to the planning board along with Anthony F. Mobilio. Frank W. LaRange and Anthony Mobilio are candidates for a one-year term as planning board associate member. Mobilio and LaRange opted to not participate in the candidate night.

At the Hardwick Selectmen's meeting of March 22, Selectman Julie Quink said Ware officials met and discussed the ambulance at a previous meeting. Quink was in contact with Ware Town Manager Stuart Beckley, and he said the town was looking at reconsidering the cost of ambu-

lance services provided to Hardwick, but no final figures were available. Town Administrator Theresa Cofske said she also understood Ware was looking at the costs, but they did not seem to be significantly lower. Chairman Kenan Young said even if Ware agreed to lower the cost there is the chance they would raise the fees next year. Quink reached out to both Barre Fire Department and West Brookfield Rescue Squad to see what documents Hardwick needs to sign to proceed. She said they are both working on drafts. Young asked Quink to schedule a meeting with WBRS to ratify a contract, as they are a private entity, and he asked Cofske to get them on the next agenda of the Barre Board of Selectmen.

10 years (March 31, 2016)

The North Brookfield Savings Bank announces the launch of their new fundraiser to help feed campers at Camp Putnam. The New Braintree area camp provides a true camping experience

See PAST PAGES, page 7

Plants to celebrate Easter and then some

It's hard to believe that in just a little over a week we will be celebrating the Easter holiday!

I am sure that many readers will be either receiving the Easter lily as a gift or purchasing one for someone else. Its pure white, intensely fragrant blooms are emblems of new life and hope for the future – I can think of no better symbol of the holiest day on the Christian calendar than this one.

If you find yourself in the market for an Easter lily this week, select one that is deep green and has more buds than

open flowers. It should be proportionate in height and not top heavy.

If outdoor temperatures remain chilly, be sure to cover the plant well upon exiting the store, and don't leave it in the car while you do other errands!

Once home, the Easter lily prefers temperatures around 65 degrees and bright but indirect light. Water thoroughly, but allow the soil to dry out in between waterings.

Be careful for the decorative foil or plastic wrapper –

sometimes water will pool in the bottom, keeping the soil too moist. If you like how the wrapper looks,



poke some holes at the base and place the pot on a shallow saucer to catch any water that drips out. Dump the

saucer as needed. You can also remove the wrapper and allow the pot to drain in the sink for a few minutes after each watering.

To prolong the life of your plant, be sure to remove the anthers before the pollen ripens. This will also prevent the pollen from staining the pure white flowers and your nose!

As flowers start to wither, cut them off – this will keep it looking its best and redirect energy back to the bulb.

Once the soil warms, the Easter lily can be plant-



ed outside in full sun and well-drained soil. Sink the bulb with foliage and stem attached, to a depth of three inches and water well.

After the original foliage

See GARDEN, page 5

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Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

Spring is here and the raking begins.

I had a couple of nice days, which I attempted to start the lawn and garden raking program. I take and pile the leaves and sticks and then pick them up and put them in two wheel barrows for the handyman to empty. We empty them in the woods or compost piles.

I have to rake off a few small stones from the driveway as the driveway is not paved. I am thinking of getting some of it paved near the house and near the main road. The driveway if very long and would be expensive to have it all done, but this year it has been a little muddy in certain areas. My handymen has made ditches off the driveway to run some of the water off which helps.

I noticed the snow drops are out and coming right through the clumps of snow. That is the first sign of spring at Serenity Hill.

I had a trip to the dentist this week so I was having to eat soft food. This is one of the meals I made.

STUFFED BAKED PEPPERS

Peppers
hamburger

egg
bread crumbs
chopped onions
can of tomato soup

I took the peppers and halved them and deseeded them and parboiled them for 15 minutes to soften them. I then made a mixture of hamburger, egg, bread crumbs, chopped onions and a little warm water to soften the bread crumbs. I stuffed the peppers and put them in a casserole and poured a can of tomato soup on them and cooked them and baked potatoes for an hour. They were very good and soft.

With the left over stuffing I made two small casserole dishes and had it for meat loaf sandwiches the next day.

When I buy a pound of hamburger I usually divide it into two packages and make two meals. American chop suey is another favorite. With the high prices of food today you have to do that.

That and That

What are your plans for this summer? I plan to make schedules for each day and do a different project each day. The list is getting very long. One project I really need to do is get rid of duplicate things that we

have in the cellar. Where Ken worked, he had tools and we had tools at home so there are duplicates of everything. Hopefully, our grandsons will want some of them.

I need to find someone that likes to work in gardens. At my age, I cannot do all the things that need to be done. I enjoy the gardens and want to keep them up, but do not plan to enlarge them. The bushes and shrubs do need to be trimmed, but they don't require a lot of work, I have arranged them so different ones bloom at different times and that lasts for the spring and summer and fall.

The land is very rocky so it is hard to dig, but when we first moved here 38 years ago we brought in extra top soil and made raised beds. Composting helps restore the gardens. Now, if we can keep the animals out of the compost.

Because we had so much snow this year, I noticed when I raked that some of the plants are coming up under the leaves. I usually don't rake all the leaves off the gardens in the fall.

I hope you all have a wonderful week and yes, spring is here.

THOSE THINGS THAT GO UNSAID

Many's the time I've come close to saying something, but then thought better of it.

And often I sense a reaction that stirs a passion in me, but then hold back,

I wonder if it's just an insignificance, not worthy of reply, or being unsure that my thoughts might be wrong.

Far too often, I think, we let public opinion sway our most deeply held beliefs,

I wonder why we fear condemnation from those whose respect we do not value,

And simply react in a way that mirrors what our hearts are telling us.

We live in a world now of instant communication and big brother watching,

Did we do something to allow this to happen, or was Orwell's vision correct,

I fear that the answer is a bit of both, and I wonder if we are happy with it?

I certainly hope the answer is a resounding "No,"

I refuse to believe that we are ready to abdicate responsibility to another,

And simply move along with the herd like sheep to the slaughter.

Surely there is a better self that can see what is happening and fears it,

Surely the time we live in cannot be the end of this democratic way of life,

Surely the very freedom that is our legacy will lead us out of the darkness.

Or will it? Will the mistaken notion of placing the reins of government in the hands of one who cares only for himself,

Be the legacy that this generation has to leave to future ones,

It's a scenario that is now, altogether too close for comfort.

But what can we do? We are only individuals with little power to affect change.

Wrong, Wrong, Wrong, Wrong!!,

We can choose to stand up and make our voices heard, in the street and in the voting booth.

The time is now, the duty is ours, and the King must be deposed,

We cannot allow what has been our sacred trust to be torn down,

We must find the courage to say those things that go unsaid.

- A. B. SPLAINE

Guest Column

Community helping community

Heating program thrives with support from sponsors

Community helping community! That is the foundation that has sustained the three Hearts for Heat chapters (North Brookfield, Leicester, and Princeton) for the last 18 years.

North Brookfield Hearts for Heat is a charitable program that helps NB residents who cannot afford to heat their homes during the winter. Emergency home heating assistance is provided to eligible residents. for oil, propane, natural gas, electricity, pellets, or cordwood - paid directly to the provider.

NB Hearts for Heat raises money locally and 100% of donations go toward purchasing fuel for households in need.

For NB Hearts for Heat to be successful, adequate funding is essential! Country Bank and North Brookfield Savings Bank have been phenomenal supporters since our first season in 2009 by providing initial capital and both have donated annually ever since. Monson Savings Bank joined our committed team last fall.

We are most grateful

for all three local financial institutions for not only the support they have given us, but all their community reinvestment and philanthropic endeavors. Thank you!

Tasse's Oil and Propane offers oil/propane at a reduced rate so clients get more fuel per delivery. Thank you!

Every January the NB Hearts for Heat board hosts a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser - an amazing collaboration with Hannaford Supermarket, Hayden Masonic Lodge, The Otters (musical ambiance), NB PTO, and students from the NB Honor Society and Valley View School. Thank you!

To complement the dinner and music, a wide variety of raffle items were donated by local businesses: Angel Nails, Barbara Conway (I Spy quilts), Bike House Brewery, Bogey Lanes, City of Smoke, Connect Restaurant, Dragon Stones, Inishoven Farms, JARS Café & Bakery, Jim's Pizza, Joy of Beans, Marks of Asgard, Nancy Waldron (popcorn quilt), NB Liquors, NB Pizza Palace, Shaman's Closet, Spencer Greenery, Strandz Salon, Subway, Wayne Boulette (cutting board), and Whitco. Thank you!

The Boston Celtics contributed two team signed basketballs, the Boston

Bruins - a signed puck, and the WooSox - four game tickets and team paraphernalia. Thank you!

The winter of 2025-2026 in Massachusetts has been colder and snowier than in recent years. Additionally, the fuel costs are more expensive.

So far NB Hearts for Heat has provided fuel assistance for 27 local families, almost double our annual disbursements by March 1. As the inclement weather continues, 20 more are anticipated before the heating season concludes. Since 2008, we have assisted 372 families.

Applications can be downloaded from <https://www.heartsforheat.org/NorthBrookfield/> and mailed to the below address or emailed to h4hnorthbrookfield@gmail.com. Applications can also be found at the police station, town offices, library and schools in North Brookfield.

Donations can be mailed to: North Brookfield Hearts for Heat, P.O. Box 44, North Brookfield, MA 01535.

I am most grateful to all who have helped support Hearts for Heat. This is community helping community at its best!

Suzanne Y. Lewandowski, Founder & President North Brookfield Hearts for Heat

Second Chance Animal Services seeks foster homes for cats and kittens

EAST BROOKFIELD - Second Chance Animal Services urgently seeks foster families to care for cats and kittens in need. The non-profit is especially looking for homes willing to take pregnant cats, kittens, cats recovering from surgery or timid cats who need time and patience to build confidence before finding permanent homes.

"Our greatest foster need right now is cat and kitten fosters," said Lindsay Doray, Chief Development Officer for Second Chance Animal Services. "In recent years, our kitten season seems to extend all year long. With more cats requiring temporary care throughout the year, every new foster home allows us to help more vulnerable animals and give them the individualized attention they need."

Foster homes provide a calm, safe environment where cats can heal, give birth or adjust to people at their own pace. Second Chance supplies everything fosters need including food, medical care, supplies, and guidance from the organiza-



Submitted photo

Moo Cow and her kittens are thriving in a foster home, where they will stay until the kittens are eight weeks old and ready for the next step in their journey.

tion's veterinary and shelter teams. "Fostering is one of the most impactful ways someone can help," Doray added. "It gives cats and kittens the chance to recover, grow, and prepare for adoption, while freeing up space in our shelters so we can continue helping all pets in need."

Foster commitments vary depending on the animal's needs. Pregnant cats

stay with the foster family through the birth until the kittens are eight weeks old, while cats recovering from surgery or needing socialization may only require a few weeks. No prior experience is required.

Those interested in fostering a cat or kittens can learn more and complete a foster application at www.secondchanceanimals.org/foster-care/.

cooler, but not freezing!

The great thing about forced bulbs is that they can be enjoyed in the house this Easter and next year in the garden.

Daffodils and hyacinth are the most dependable repeat bloomers. Tulips (depending on the type) may bloom great the following season but then take a few years off-time to recharge before blooming again.

If you wish to plant your bulbs outside, remove spent flowers as they wither and allow the foliage to brown. At this point stop watering and let the bulbs dry out. They can be planted outdoors in spring, or saved until the fall for planting as you normally would.

Sometimes I get the job done in spring, although it does feel odd to be doing it then, simply so I won't forget to plant them in the fall!

Primroses are plentiful at florist shops and nurseries this time of year as well, and they too make great Easter gifts. Even though they are usually sold in small pots, it's hard to miss their brightly colored flowers poking up through basal foliage.

They come in almost

every color of the rainbow.

Many types of primrose make great garden plants; check the label to make sure the one you purchase is hardy before planting it outdoors. I have had a clump of primroses blooming for years now that started out as a potted plant.

An inexpensive but cute gift idea is to insert a pot of primroses into a basket and fill in around it with Easter "grass," this way it can be enjoyed as a centerpiece before it makes its way to the garden.

These days I prefer green paper "grass" purchased at the craft store, or make your own by use of a shredder. It is less problematic for pets.

As you plan for Easter, make these plants part of your celebration, and enjoy them in the garden thereafter!

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

GARDEN from page 4

dies, cut it back to the soil surface. New growth will soon emerge. Lilies benefit from a layer of mulch to keep their roots cool. Although they are quite hardy, do provide some winter protection in the form of straw, evergreen boughs or the like.

With any luck you will be delighted with big, beautiful white flowers next summer. Although lilies bloom in spring under the controlled conditions of the greenhouse, they bloom naturally during the summer months.

Another good and widely available option for Easter gift giving is a pot of spring bulbs.

With tulips, daffodils and hyacinths to choose from, there will no doubt be a fragrance and flower color that appeals to you. Be sure to choose them in bud, rather than full flower because warm household temperatures will cause them to burst into bloom in no time.

To maximize indoor bloom time, enjoy in your living space during the day, but move to a basement, spare room or garage each night where temperatures are

Gilbertville library rededication is Sunday

HARDWICK - The anniversary celebration of the Gilbertville Public Library's dedication will be held on Sunday, March 29 from 2-4 p.m. at the library,

259 Main St., Gilbertville. There will be food, music and a show. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

Parking is available at

the library, and at the adjacent Stone Church Cultural Center, and the Whistle Stop Restaurant across the street.

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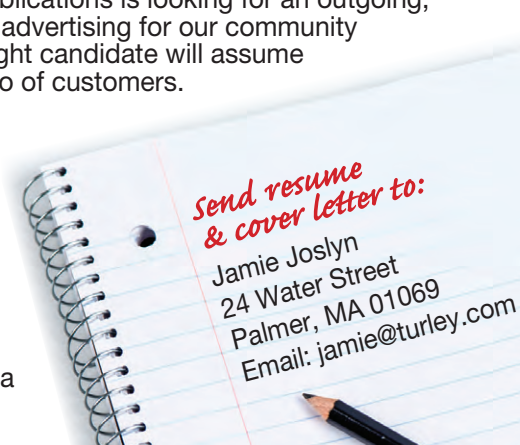
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Chicopee River Watershed looks to the future in 2026

Volunteers needed to continue watershed council

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

PALMER – The Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council held its spring kickoff meeting to reflect on the work that has been done to ensure the health of the area's rivers, and also to look ahead to the future.

Community members and volunteers joined Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council Coordinator Keith Davies and Events Coordinator Jim Emerson at the Palmer Historical Cultural Center in Three Rivers on Sunday afternoon, close to where the rivers in the watershed meet up. These rivers include the Swift, Ware, Quaboag and Chicopee.

"They all meet right here within a half mile of each other," Davies said.

The Chicopee River Watershed is the largest in the commonwealth and the largest in the Connecticut River basin. Despite its geographic area, this watershed is often overlooked.

"It's the largest watershed in Massachusetts," Davies said. "It's also one of the least recognized in the state."

Davies said the council needs a dedicated core group of volunteers to keep a focus on the watershed, and continue to grow its mission.

"We need long term commitments and people to really engage," he said.

Water monitoring and restoration

Davies said the former watershed council, the Chicopee River Watershed Council, was inactive, and by 2014, he and others worked to revitalize it, and changed its name to Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council to encompass all of the local rivers.



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

Keith Davies, coordinator of the Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council, gave the history of the council at the spring kickoff meeting held at the Palmer Historical Cultural Center this past Sunday.

In 2015, the council put a major focus on water quality sampling, with grant funding under the umbrella of the Connecticut River Conservancy. The council has also received financial support from various towns, in addition to Country Bank, the Lake Wickaboag Preservation Association and the Quaboag & Quacumquasit Lake Association.

"It largely relates to bacteria," Davies said of the water quality sampling. "The bacteria sampling is kind of that pulse...that annual physical. That's what the sampling is; it's really that check-up."

Water quality sampling is conducted at sites across the watershed from late spring to late summer. The bacteria levels are then analyzed at Connecticut River Conservancy's lab, and posted on its website ctriver.org or at isitclean.us.

Water quality is listed for "primary" or "secondary"

use, with primary being safe for swimming and secondary for boating or fishing.

In 2023, the Department of Environmental Protection awarded a grant that allowed the council to take samples from more sites than ever before.

"There were six sites in 2015," Davies said. "Since 2023 we've done 25 sites."

Davies said the council was recently notified that the Connecticut River Conservancy received DEP grant funding again for this year's sampling season.

In addition to collecting water samples for testing, the council's volunteers also collect data on weather conditions and water temperatures.

"If there's rainfall before sampling, it can elevate bacteria levels," Davies said.

He said if there's an elevated bacteria level without rainfall prior to sampling, it could be an indicator that something along the river is causing the spike.

"We do look at how those values change," he said.

C4R has also facilitated invasive plant removal from waterways, such as water chestnuts.

Davies explained the importance of continuing to monitor rivers for the invasive plant, as its spiked seeds are easily transported by waterfowl, and can lay dormant for 10 years.

"If it's not checked it will inundate the area again," he said.

Blue Trails expansion

C4R also works to establish and maintain the Blue Trails, which have sections along all of the rivers in the watershed.

This year, C4R is continuing its focus on a new section, the Lower Quaboag, spanning from Route 67 to Laviolette Park.

The new section will start at an old rest area on Route 67, passing through to Water Street, then to Laviolette

Park. Davies said a kiosk will be built by local Scouts and placed at the access point.

"The whole trail is about 12 miles," he said.

Davies displayed a draft of the map for the new section of Blue Trail, which highlighted historic points along the river. Points of interest include the second oldest flow gauge in the state at the Route 67 access point, the remnants of Blanchardville, a unique concrete T-beam bridge, a mysterious rock with the "1856" carved in it and much more.

The Lower Quaboag Blue Trail ends at Laviolette Park, which prior to 1960 was a backwater impoundment for the dam near the confluence. The Army Corps of Engineers built flood control measures and created the park following flooding in the 1930s and 1950s.

Davies shared a photo that showed people ice skating where the park is now.

"It's still a place of recreation, it's just not wet, it's land," he said.

Davies said trail crewmembers are also needed to act as stewards of the Blue Trails

Duties of a trail steward includes looking for downed trees, checking portage areas, picking up trash, talking to Blue Trail users, taking photos and reporting findings back to C4R.

Macroinvertebrate monitoring

Davies said he would like to expand the river monitoring to include macroinvertebrate sampling – taking a closer look at the insects in the water.

"Certain bugs can only live in healthy water," he said.

Davies said sampling for macroinvertebrates is especially appealing to children, and could be a great way to get them involved in the protection (and enjoyment) of the watershed.

"It's a fun way to get people involved because it's hands-on," he said.

Upcoming paddles

A special birding paddle with a Mass Audubon-certified bird guide will be held on Saturday, May 16 on the Quaboag River. A dragonfly paddle is being planned for July at a location to be determined.

More information about future paddles can be found on C4R's website, c4rivers.org.

How to get involved

"If you know someone who really loves these rivers," Davies said. "Talk to them – have them get in touch with me."

Davies said it's important to get more people involved who can help with communication, organization, and other tasks.

"If we can't get some of this organized in the next years, I don't know if we're going to be here," Davies said of the council. "We've got to bring some movers and shakers."

About C4R

Memberships and donations help C4R with resources for basic operations, including preparing events, creating and maintaining Blue Trails, collecting samples, writing reports and performing community outreach.

C4R has established a nonprofit relationship with the Connecticut River Conservancy, which holds and manages C4R funds for tax-exempt purposes for all donors who want this coverage.

To become a member, visit c4rivers.org and click on "Membership/Support – C4R."

For more information or to get involved, visit c4rivers.org, email chicopee-watershed@gmail.com or find Chicopee4Rivers on Facebook.

HARDWICK from page 1

in the RFP before moving forward. Caggiano said she'd be happy to start a draft of an RFP, but wants direction from the Select Board first.

Cyran spoke about the building and what she heard from DEP. One of the projects is to take the setback out of the building.

Cyran said the group interested in the school building wants to "stay within the general makeup of what that building has always been." It was space of learning and education.

The Select Board wants to investigate more with DEP and follow the advice they received from town counsel. The board also thought of reaching out to the Mixer Trust.

Select Board Clerk Jeffrey Schaaf said, "We should be looking at the 179 Main St. RFP, because it's clear...we own the building."

Schaaf said the board needs to find out more about Ruggles Hill Street School before doing any kind of RFP.

The board will review the deed, contact the Mixer Trust, and contact DEP regarding the school. The board will talk more about Ruggles Hill Street School at

their next meeting.

The board agreed to a draft an RFP for 179 Main Street.

Cemetery Commission

The Select Board heard from Paula Roberts of the Cemetery Commission, starting with the Revolving Account. In year's past, the Cemetery Commission only withdrew \$5,000 out of the revolving account.

For fiscal year 2026, the revolving fund has \$11,767, but the Commission can only spend up to \$5,000.

Roberts is asking both the Select Board and the Finance Committee for approval to spend up to \$11,000 in the fiscal year. Roberts updated the board and said it has been a busy first six months in the fiscal year for the Cemetery Commission with various projects at the cemetery.

Tinker confirmed with Roberts that the actual spending number she is asking for is \$11,500. This spending would take effect once accountant gets vote from the Finance Committee and the Select Board.

The board does have a joint meeting with the Finance Committee in one week after this meeting (March 23). This subject could be brought up then as well to let the Finance

Committee know.

Seeing no concern, the board voted to raise the limit of the Cemetery Commission Revolving Account to \$11,500 and passed. The Cemetery Commission is just waiting for the approval of the Finance Committee.

Roberts would then discuss the mowing contract. The Cemetery Commission voted to award the bid to a mowing service they've used in the past, Lori Crevier. The contract is up to \$25,500.

The Select Board approved the mowing contract.

The board would then discuss the appointment of Frank Hansen to the Cemetery Commission. There has been a vacancy on the commission for over a year. Roberts said the Cemetery Commission is a working board, and their candidate has appeared to be willing to put in the time to help. The board appointed Hansen to the Cemetery Commission.

Town Administrator's report

During her report, Caggiano shared that she and the Board are working well with the Finance Committee on the FY 27 budget. The Town Administrator feels the town has a good grasp of where they are with debt.

The joint meetings with the Finance Committee have proved to be helpful in discussing the budget.

Caggiano met with the Highway Superintendent to discuss an item to declare gravel surplus. This will be put on the Select Board's next meeting.

The next Select Board meeting with the Finance Committee will be Monday, March 30 at 6 p.m., and will be discussing the general government section of the FY 27 budget.

BARRE from page 1

public request from Cory Bombredi for the Select Board Executive Session minutes of June 3, 2024. The Select Board had not authorized the release of those minutes and she consulted with Town Counsel on the matter. The Board will act on the matter later in the agenda.

She said the town did not get the Information Technology grant, but she would apply next round. She asked the Select Board to send a letter of support for Community Project Funding. Congressman Jim McGovern notified the town of the funding. The letter said the Select Board supported a water main upgrade for Williamsville and Valley Roads.

The Town Administrator said Lucy Allen and Liz Martin found the name of the Prince River group, who built the old reservoir dam was the Prince River Corporation and not Prince River Inc. She let Town Counsel know.

Clarification

The Select Board members noted the gasoline situation under investigation mentioned at a previous meeting was from Fiscal Year 2024. It was not a current situation, but happened

in the past.

Special Events application

The Select Board approved the application for Greg's Restorations Car Show and Swap Meet at Felton Field on Friday, May 1 and May 2. Setup would be on Friday, May 1 from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. and the Car Show and Swap Meet on Saturday, May 2 from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. All other parties had signed off on the application.

Requests to use town property

The Select Board approved the request by the Christmas In Barre Committee for use of Town Hall on Wednesday, Dec. 2 and Thursday, Dec. 3 for setup from 4-8 p.m. and Friday, Dec. 4 and Saturday Dec. 5 for the Festival of Trees and the use Center Common for events on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

They approved use of South Common in the center of town for the Barre Farmers Market for every Saturday from May 2 to Oct. 31 from 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

They also approved a request from the Quabbin Community Band to use the Town Hall for rehearsals on Mondays, May 4 to Aug. 10, from 6-8:30 p.m. and Sunday concerts on

South Barre Common from June 14 to July 5 and Center Common from July 5 to Aug 16 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

They approved the use of Town Hall for Sunday concerts if it rained. The Select Board approved the request for the Friends of the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center for the Town Hall, Talent Show on Saturday, Sept. 19 from 2-6 p.m.

Executive Session

The Select Board voted to go into executive session citing two reasons MGL c.30A § 21(A) (7) "to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements ("Purpose 7")," the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 22(f), (g), "to review and possible vote to release the Select Board executive session meeting minutes from June 3, 2024." They also cited MGL c.30A §21(A)(3) to "discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares."

Next meeting

The next Select Board meeting will be Monday, April 6 at 5 p.m.

RUTLAND from page 1

and regulations, and present them to the Planning Board.

According to Leger, this bylaw protects stone walls in the public right of way from being removed, to pro-

tect their historic value and a developer brought down a stone wall last year and got fined for it, sparking the need to update the rules and regulations more clearly.

Maus said the town could inform homeowners with stone walls and trees

in the right of way about the laws surrounding their removal. Maus also said documenting stone walls on the historic inventory is necessary.

The commission is scheduled to meet next on Tuesday, March 31.

McNeely Tree Service

Insured • References

- Hazardous Tree Removal
- Bobcat Work
- Lot Clearing
- Emergency Services
- Firewood \$265/cord
- 101 ft Aerial Lift Rental POR
- Credit Cards, Cash & Venmo Accepted
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PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Public Notices

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Paul Muise, Sr. to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans, dated April 15, 2016 and registered at the Hampshire County Registry District of the Land Court as document number 19333, and noted on certificate of title number 2395, as modified by a certain modification agreement registered on November 8, 2021, and registered with the Hampshire County Registry District of the Land Court as Document No. 21243 as noted on Certificate of Title No. 2395, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Mortgage Research Center, LLC dba Veterans United Home Loans, its successors and assigns to PennyMac Loan Services, LLC, registered on May 5, 2021, Document No. 21027, as noted on Certificate of Title No. 2395 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at **Public Auction at 2:00 PM on April 14, 2026**, on the mortgaged premises located at 79 Pleasant Street, Ware, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.

TO WIT: The land in said Ware, Hampshire County, Mas-

sachusetts bounded and described as follows:

A certain parcel of land situate in Ware together with the buildings thereon in the County of Hampshire and said Commonwealth bounded and described as follows:

SOUTHWESTERLY by the northeasterly line of Pleasant Street fifty and seventy-five one hundredths (50.75) feet;

NORTHWESTERLY by land of Bridget Scheffer sixty-eight and seventy three one hundredths (68.73) feet;

NORTHEASTERLY by Lot C as shown on plan hereinafter mentioned fifty-seven and eighteen one hundredths (57.18) feet;

SOUTHEASTERLY by Lot A on plan above mentioned seventy-six and eighteen one hundredths (76.18) feet Being Lot B on sub-division plan numbered 609 B land in Ware, John T. Casey, Surveyor, January 1951. Sub-division plan filed in Registry District of Hampshire County November 2, 1951, Book 4, Page 13 1/2.

All of said boundaries are determined by the Court as shown on sub-division plan numbered 609 B as above referenced to. Subject to restrictions of record, if in force and effect.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed registered with Hampshire County Registry District of the Land Court as Document No. 19332, as noted on Certificate of Title No. 2395. These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or

claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

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

PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500 28437
03/12, 03/19, 03/26/2026

BARRE PLANNING BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING

The Barre Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Henry Woods Municipal Building, 40 West Street, Boards' Office, 3rd Floor, requested by Pine Hill Leasing for retail gas station, convenient store and car wash Per 140-8 B(1) at property located at Worcester Road, Assessor Map H, Lots 218 and 219 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds Book 72349, Page 62.

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
03/26, 04/02/2026

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF M.L.C. 225 SEC.39A THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD ON APRIL 4, 2026.

AT A SALE TO SATISFY OUR GARAGE LIEN THEREON FOR TOWING & STORAGE CHARGES AND EXPENSES OF SALE AND NOTICE:

2007 Lincoln MKX
VIN 2LMDU88C37BJ27689
2007 Hyundai ELANTRA
VIN KMHDU46D27U041459
2008 Toyota Camry
VIN 4T1BE46K08U216392
2007 Subaru Impreza
VIN JF1GG63647H810259
2009 Mercury Milan
VIN 3MEHM07Z39R612393

2004 Subaru Forester
VIN JF1SG65684G740144
2011 Honda CR-V
VIN 5J6RE4H72BL055630
2008 Honda Civic
VIN 2HGFG12848H526865
2013 Hyundai SONATA
VIN 5NPEB4AC9DH690064
2016 Ram 1500
VIN 1C6RR7GT9GS124425
2012 Honda Accord
VIN 1HGCP3F8XCA031442
2016 Nissan Pathfinder
VIN 5N1AR2MM7GC613241

THE SALE WILL BE HELD AT EARLY'S ON PARK AVE. 536 PARK AVE. WORCESTER, MA 01603

03/19, 03/26, 04/02/2026

(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 25 SM 003146 ORDER OF NOTICE TO:

The Heirs, Devisees, and Legal Representatives of the Estate of Penny L. Mitko

**Robert A. Earle
William B. Earle
Bradley Jay Earle**

The Heirs, Devisees, and Legal Representatives of the Estate of James Earle

**Teresa Earle
Nicole Earle
James Earle**

Stacey Lynn Earle Mullady

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C.

c. 50 §3901 (et seq):

Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, Inc.

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Barre, numbered 721 Worcester Road, given by Penny L. Mitko f/k/a Penny L. Earle and Joseph Mitko to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., its successors and assigns, dated March 6, 2013, and recorded in Worcester County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 50604, Page 105, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **5/4/2026** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of non-compliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER
Chief Justice of this Court on 3/17/2026

Attest: Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder

03/26/2026

PAST PAGES from page 4

for children and is affordable for all families regardless of income. With a total fundraising goal of \$1,500, North Brookfield Savings Bank has donated the first \$1,000 and is inviting community members, customers and bank employees to raise the remaining \$500. The bank will be collecting funds in all branches during the months of March and April.

A fir tree planted in memory of Robert Dwelly, who was killed the last days of World War II, fell down during a violent storm this winter. Tree warden, Michael Brunelle, said that he talked with Wes Dwelly, a family member, to see how the family felt about replacing the tree. Dwelly requested the monument be maintained, but did not want another tree planted. Brunelle said the tree had a lot of roots and some were probably under the monument. He suggested grinding of the stump rather than digging it up and removing it. Selectmen concurred. Now that the tree is gone as well as the shrubs by the veteran's monument, it is more visible. They decided not to replace the shrubs and will continue to just plant flowers each year by the monument.

There will be a bulk waste and textile collection event Saturday, April 23 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Hardwick Recycling Center, 2011 Barre Road, in the Wheelwright section of town.

People do not have to be a Hardwick Recycling Center patron to participate in this event. This event is open to all residents of Hardwick and surrounding towns. For those that pay by the bag for trash removal, they may find using the recycling center decreases the amount of trash, thus significantly reducing the cost for trash removal each year. Many of those that have curbside recycling services have chosen to remain or become patrons of the recycling center simply for the ability to recycle the hard to manage items (electronics, appliances, tires, motor oil, antifreeze, etc.) every day the center is open for operation throughout the year, instead of having to wait for a collection event to be held in their community. For this event, there is a \$5 charge for participation of

non-sticker holders; however, there is no participation fee for those bringing textiles only.

25 years March 29, 2001

Dick Riley was much more than a volunteer at the Oakham Center School. He was a grandfather-figure, a wonderful role model, an inspiration to all. He was also a dear friend and will be greatly missed. "Mr. Riley" to all the children at the school was a welcome and familiar sight. He seemed to have found a niche in the third and fourth grades, but he was loved by all. He was kind and gentle and possessed the wisdom of his years. He was enthusiastic about all that the children did.

Three Boy Scouts from Boy Scout Troop 141 of Rutland earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Andrew W. Pettyjohn of Oakham, Jonathan J. Toomey and Jon M. Orre, both of Rutland, received Scout's highest honor at a Court of Honor held at Naquag School, Rutland on Saturday, March 24 at 5:30 p.m. To earn the Eagle rank Boy Scouts must complete 21 merit badges (12 that are required), a community service project and be a member and leader of his troop or patrol. Only about 2% of all registered Scouts in the United States earn this rank. It takes three to four years of hard work to earn the Eagle award.

They came from seven states and a myriad of walks of life, from every age bracket and circumstance to celebrate the life of Harry C. Buell of Petersham and it was some grand party.

Saturday afternoon saw the town light up with the best wished showered upon this nearly lifetime resident that has carved a niche in the Hilltop Town that will last a long time. Buell, who came here from Eastford, Connecticut as a youth never stopped working, despite the piling up of years. His many activities, all of them built around agriculture and love of the land, have ranged from running a vegetable and dairy farm to operating a successful small restaurant and even in the past decade, annually sawing and disbursing multiple cords of wood.

38 years (March 31, 1988)

The Massachusetts Canoe Association in conjunction with Carboose's Lounge in Barre Plains, co-sponsored the fifth annual Ware River Ice Breaker Canoe Race on Sunday. The race began in Barre Plains and finished six miles downriver in Wheelwright. There were many categories of races with many area winners. They were Men's Racing Division - Peter Heed and Gus Sebring; Jim LaFortune and Charles Whitmore; Dave Bourque and Eddie Euvard.

Drilling and blasting for Barre's sewer pipeline project was halted for a time last Thursday, March 25 when contractors realized they had a potentially dangerous situation on their hands. The Atlantic Blasting Company was working about a quarter mile away from the center of town on School Street when they smelled gas. This was especially troublesome as workers had just dropped dynamite down a drilled hole only 20 feet away. According

to Fire Chief Raymond Howard, who was immediately called to the scene, options were very limited. If the dynamite was detonated, the gas could potentially ignite as well. If a hole were dug to retrieve the dynamite, wires could be accidentally cut and detonate the charge as well. The Fire Chief called the state Department of Environmental Quality Engineering, who sent a representative to the scene a short time later. He recommended that the charge be detonated, which was with-

out incident.

An appeal has been filed with the Barre Zoning Board of Appeals from an applicant who has brought in a railroad freight car on her property and who is seeking to overturn an order from the Zoning Enforcement Officer either to remove it or seek a variance. Mrs. Madeline Lukashuk of Maynard, owner of property surrounding Gaston Pond on Mill Road, surprised her neighbors when she brought in a full-size refrigerator railroad freight car and deposited it

on her wooded lot. This not only raised eyebrows, but caused Harold S. Nichols, zoning enforcement officer, to hasten to the premises to inspect the car. Nichols then issued a violation notice to Mrs. Lukashuk requiring its removal because it was a violation of the zoning bylaws. As an alternative, she was advised she could appeal to the ZBA. Mrs. Lukashuk chose the later option and filed a petition with the ZBA for a "use variance."

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CLUES ACROSS

- "Bird of Paradise" constellation
- Red Sox WS winner Bronson
- Whirl
- The State Dept. has a notable one
- Energy, style and enthusiasm
- Part of the mind
- Mountainous country
- Type of beverage
- Atomic #109
- Opposite of falsities
- Female sheep
- Rocky peak
- Sensitive information sharing environment
- Ethnic group of Thailand
- Patron saint of Rome Philip
- Psychedelics
- Japanese pine
- Have an impact on
- Violent disorder
- A French river
- Early Mesoamerican civilization
- Messenger ribonucleic acid
- Musician Clapton
- Ancient Greek sophist
- Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- Valley
- A way to unwind
- Atomic #93
- Recommending
- Indigo bush
- Larry and Curly's pal
- Off-Broadway theater award
- Fencers
- Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
- Relating to songbirds
- A way to assign

CLUES DOWN

- Some are "secret"
- Intestinal openings
- Distant planet
- Assembly possessing high legislative powers
- Genus of typical owls
- One with distinctively colored hair
- Red cross
- An alternative
- Abominable snowmen
- About ear
- The opening letters
- Feeling of regret
- Atomic #39
- Luteinizing hormone
- Atomic #55
- Carries a debt
- Albanian monetary unit
- Semitic abjad letter
- Yes
- Negative
- Earn a perfect score
- Connecticut
- Partner to cheese
- Snack nuts
- Quadruped's body part
- Locate
- Pitching statistic
- "___, myself and I"
- Utah city northwest of Provo
- Football players in the trenches
- One who runs the show
- Wood
- Performing artists
- Slang for a cut
- More breathable
- Most crafty
- Provokes into action
- University of Dayton
- Sodium
- Large fish of the mackerel family
- Not one
- ___ and behold
- Sports highlight show
- "The Great Lakes State"

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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- Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

ANSWERS ON PAGE 10

Calendar of Events

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

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

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

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

CRAFTERS APPLICATIONS are now being accepted for the GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club the 49th Annual Harvest Craft Fair, which will be held Saturday, Nov. 7 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in Robert E. Mexican Middle School, 145 Lincoln St., Northboro. This is a juried show requiring that all items are handmade. Crafters may visit NJWC'S website for applications and more show details by visiting www.northborojuniors.org/craft-fair.html. The Northboro Junior Woman's Club is a non-profit organization that has been active in Northboro for over 40 years. They support community projects in Northboro as well as internationally. The Harvest Fair is the club's major fundraiser.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

27th **ANNUAL AUCTION GALA** sponsored by Second Chance Animal Services will be held today beginning at 4 p.m. at the AC Hotel by Marriott in Worcester. The organization is grateful to early sponsors including Herlihy Insurance Group of Worcester and Tito's Handmade Vodka for helping make this special evening possible. This is the organization's largest fundraiser of the year. Proceeds support affordable veterinary care, pet food assistance, adoption services



Where is this?

Turley Publications photo by Ellenor Downer

This week's mystery photo is from North Brookfield. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com with their answer by noon on Monday, March 30. Bill Bowles, Peggy Civilik, James Laramee and Jeremy Varnum correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was the site of the Temperance House and a cheese factory on Hardwick Road, New Braintree.

and other lifesaving programs that help more than 64,000 pets each year. In-person event, a limited selection of items will be available through advance online bidding from Friday, March 20 through Thursday, March 26. Tickets are on sale now, and early reservations are encouraged as seating is limited. To purchase tickets, learn about sponsorship opportunities, participate in online bidding, or donate an auction item, people may visit <https://www.secondchanceanimals.org/annual-auction/>.

SPAY'GHETTI SUPPER will take place today from 5-6:30 p.m. at Church of St. Thomas the Apostle, 1076 Thorndike St., Palmer to benefit Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary. This is a new location. Advanced tickets are \$15 adults, \$10 seniors 65+ and children under 12 and at the door \$20 adults, \$15 seniors 65+ and children under 12. People may visit www.heretodayanctuary.org or call 413-324-8224 to purchase tickets. Local cat owners can spay or neuter their cats for \$80 or less, and strays and ferals can be fixed for free. People may visit www.heretodayanctuary.org to learn more about their community assistance programs.

SHARING HOPE SEMINAR SERIES sponsored by Miles Funeral Home will be held on Saturday, March 28 from 1-3 p.m. at the Holden Senior Center, 1130 Main St., Holden. The seminar is free. Light refreshments will be served. Participants will receive a free book. Seating is limited. People may call register by calling either 508-829-4434 or 978-422-0100 or register on Miles Funeral

Home Facebook page.

WARE RIVER NATURE CLUB PROGRAM entitled Ice and Snow: The Cold Story with naturalist and photographer John Green Jr. will take place today at 10:30 a.m. in the Rutland Public Library, 280 Main St., Rutland. He will take us on a visual journey through the beauty of all four seasons while talking about some of those changes. He has lived in western Massachusetts since 1972, where he frequently is found photographing the wilds of Quabbin Reservation, sharing his slideshows with community groups, and teaching workshops in nature photography.

GARDENING WORKSHOPS will be held today from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Westfield Middle School - South, 30 West Silver St., Westfield. The Western Massachusetts Master Gardener Association hosts the workshops. There will be a marketplace fair, raffles, an ask a Master Gardener table, refreshments, soil testing and ten classes.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

EQLT WELLNESS WALKS will be held today at 9:30 a.m. at Deer Park Preserve and Coxhall Kitchen Garden, 481 Barre Road, Hardwick. To register, people may email atrevvett@eqtl.org. Other dates are: on Sunday, April 12 at 3 p.m. Mass. Central Rail Trail New Braintree south to Creamery Road in Hardwick (meet at 1740 Hardwick Road, New Braintree) and Wednesday, April 29 at 11:45 a.m. Mass. Central Trail New Braintree north to Wheelwright and River's

Edge Preserve (meet at 1740 Hardwick Road, New Braintree).

MONDAY, MARCH 30

SUPPER hosted by the Ware Grange and Ware Senior Center will benefit the community garden and will be held today from 6-7 p.m. at the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road, Ware. The menu is chicken Marsala, roasted potatoes, carrots, salad, roll, drinks and cream puffs for dessert. The cost is \$15 per person. People should RSVP in advance by emailing waregrange164@gmail.com or calling 413-284-1135. All are welcome to purchase tickets for a good meal in support of the creation of Ware's new community garden.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

HAM RADIO CLUB MEETING for local amateur radio operators and the public will take place today at 6:30 p.m. at the West Brookfield Senior Center, 73 Central St., West Brookfield. This month's program features Smitty KCIKA, who serves as a Net Control Station (NCS) for ARES, Skywarn, and CERT - roles that require staying on the air when conditions are at their worst. Smitty will share a behind the scenes look at how he prepares for storms, power outages, and field deployments. His presentation covers the radios he relies on, the battery and solar systems he built, and the reasoning behind his equipment choices. He'll also discuss situational awareness techniques and multiple methods for maintaining communication when the grid goes down. The club also will be having a VE session for any hams looking to upgrade or newcomers looking to test for the first time. The exam fee is \$15. Session starts at 5:30 p.m. Questions? Please email Peter at pbaldracchi@charter.net.

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

TRI-PARISH EAST SUNRISE SERVICE will be held today at 6:15 a.m. at East Quabbin Land Trust, 120 Ridge Road, Hardwick. Lay leader Virginia Rich will lead the service. All are welcome to attend and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.

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.

JOIN THE TEAM!

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

Beginning July 1, 2026, McCarthy will be adding van service to serve the District. All current drivers are encouraged to apply.

Email your interest to: jobs@mccarthybus.com



J.P. McCarthy & Sons
www.MCCARTHYBUS.COM

Dog licenses are due by April 1

HARDWICK - The Town Clerk would like to remind residents of the April 1 deadline to register their dog(s) or be subject to a \$10 late fine per dog.

A valid rabies certificate is necessary to license

any dog and the dog officer receives a list of owners whose dogs are not registered as of April 1. Owners may be subject to fines issued by the animal control officer for dogs that are unregistered, unvaccinated, and/or running

at large.

Please also note the Town of Hardwick has a 24-hour leash law.

Dogs spayed or neutered cost \$8 each and those still intact are \$15 each. Cash or checks are accepted.

PATHFINDER from page 1

success in securing more than \$1.4 million in competitive grants across FY 25 and FY 26.

"Through careful planning and strategic grant funding, the district has been able to invest in programs and facilities while avoiding new debt," Duda said.

Enrollment trends

A key theme of the presentation was the contrast between regional enrollment trends and Pathfinder's continued growth.

Across the nine mem-

ber towns, K-12 enrollment has declined by more than 20% over the past 12 years. In contrast, Pathfinder Tech has seen steady increases in enrollment, with particularly strong demand among incoming ninth-grade applicants.

"Even as overall K-12 enrollment declines in many communities, demand for career and technical education continues to grow," officials said. "We are seeing that reflected in our application numbers each year."

Enrollment is expected to increase further in FY 27, driven by both in-district students and non-resident tuition applicants.

Programs and engagement

District leaders also highlighted several initiatives contributing to student success and engagement.

Among them is the "PATH to Professionalism" framework, which emphasizes core values and workforce

readiness skills. Officials credited the program, along with hands-on learning opportunities, for helping drive student interest and retention.

Pathfinder is also now in its third year as a cell-phone-free school; a policy administrators say has significantly improved focus, engagement, and productivity in classrooms.

Daily attendance rates exceed 95%, a figure officials cited as evidence of strong student investment in their education.

Expanding adult education

The district's adult continuing education program was another area of growth highlighted during the presentation. Now fully self-sustaining, the program operates without financial impact on member towns while generating revenue and expanding course offerings.

In the past year alone, the program secured more than \$500,000 in grant funding.

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Perfect day for a road race

Holyoke runs 49th holiday 10K

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – A warm and hot day is not ideal for running long distances, but give a harrier a 40-50-degree day, and it's the perfect environment make great time.

Louis Serafini, of Cambridge, experienced that as he completed a sub-30-minute 10K in the 49th running of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Road Race last Saturday afternoon. Serafini completed the hilly course throughout downtown Holyoke in 29:45. He had a great pace going, averaging 4:47 a mile with thousands of people cheering him on as he completed the course 50 seconds ahead of the runner-up.

Yankarlos Diaz was the second-place finisher. He comes from Manchester, CT. He completed the 6.3-mile course in just 30:35.

This year's top female finisher was Rachel Schilkowsky. She comes from Providence, RI and

placed 12th overall. She completed the course at 34:03, winning the race for the very first time.

Among local finisher, Monson's Matt Provost came in at 34:15. He had a pace of about 5:30 per mile.

According to the results provided by Presidential Timing, which took over the timing of the race last year, nearly 4,900 runners, male, female, and many children and teenagers, completed the 10K race.

In addition to the ideal temperature for running, the day was sun-splashed and beautiful, making for a great setting for the running of the race, which had more than 6,200 runners signed up.

The race included multiple waves of competitors, and also included a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem by a member of the Holyoke Grand Colleen Court, Bridie Bowler.

Crews in the city did an excellent job preparing for the race, getting the course prepared despite a lot of snowfall during the past couple of months.

While there were plenty



The runners are off in the 49th running of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Road Race.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

of local runners, race results showed individual participate from all over New England, New York, and New Jersey. There were even some international runners.

Last Saturday's even included a fun run for children and a walk as well that have been traditions in recent years. Prior to the race, there were musical performances and other entertainment downtown.

Rachel Schilkowsky, of Providence, RI, was the top female finisher at 34:15.



Louis Serafini, of Cambridge, won the 10K race at 29:45.

Senior All-Star games held at Hall of Fame

SPRINGFIELD – It a celebration of the basketball season last Friday night at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. This year, Mahar Regional High School was represented by Hayden Comeau. The girls game was the middle contest of the three-game evening.



Mahar's Hayden Comeau takes a couple of free throws.



Hayden Comeau drives toward the hoop.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Last Friday night, three Senior All-Star games took place at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame featuring the best senior players from all over Western Massachusetts. The tradition puts an exclamation point on the high school season as spring practices get started.

Safety first: Extra bag coming to baseball

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Over the past decade, safety has been a key theme for many of the rule changes that come through either the National Federation of High Schools, or the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association.

Rule changes have centered around taking care of athletes, limiting unsafe play, and especially anything that can result in concussions.

Years ago, softball implemented an orange bag, a safety bag, at first base. It's more commonly known as a double bag since there are literally two. The orange bag is directly to the right of first base and is mostly for the runner's use.

Any runner running out a ground ball in a way where they would run through first base, utilize the second bag, typically colored orange. The runner is required to step on the orange bag while

the fielder can use the standard white bag. The purpose has been to avoid collisions between a hustling runner and the first baseman, who could get carried in a different direction by an errant through. The second bag puts a little space between the runner and the fielder.

After seeing success with safety in softball, the double bag is coming to high school baseball. The NFHS is making the base a requirement for high schools beginning in 2027. However, several high schools, including Agawam and South Hadley, have opted to install the double bags this season and implement the new rules to help high school students get used to playing with them before the rule is fully implemented.

Some schools will wait until next year depending on the time it takes to install another anchor for the double bag.

High school umpires are also being educated on the new rules concerning using

the double bag in a baseball game. Andy Rogers, who is the coordinator and assignor for high school games, said it has been a part of recent meetings with umpires to prepare for this year. There are nuances to the double bag rule that umpires will need to enforce.

Among them, while the standard practice is that runners running through first base such as in the situation of trying to beat out a ground ball will use the orange bag and fielders trying to record a force out will utilize will use the white bag, there are couple of exceptions.

One is the dropped third strike. If there is a dropped third strike and a catcher throwing on the outside of the baseline to first base, the first baseman is allowed to utilize the orange bag to field the throw and record the out. The runner, in this situation, can use either base.

See BASEBALL, page 10

Bay State Games announces new leadership changes

BOSTON – Bay State Games has announced new staff appointments and board leadership changes leading into the 2026 Summer Games.

Alanis Tirabassi has been promoted to deputy executive director. Alanis has been with Bay State Games since 2017, when she began as an intern while attending Salem State University. She was hired full-time as sports coordinator in 2020 and later promoted to director of operations before her recent promotion.

She joins Kevin Cummings, who has been with the Bay State Games since 1984 and has served as executive director since 1999, as part of the organization's two-person full-time staff.

In addition to her role with Bay State Games, Tirabassi serves as a com-

mittee chairperson for the National Congress of State Games. She also works as a consultant for Dave McGillivray Sports Enterprises and Conventures Events, Communications & Marketing.

After more than 22 years as chair of the Bay State Games Board of Directors, Phil Gloudemans will step down this spring. Under his leadership, Bay State Games has grown into one of the largest multi-sport nonprofit organizations in New England. He joined the Board of Directors in 1987 and he will continue to serve on the board and its executive committee.

Gloudemans is the associate director of media relations at Boston College. Prior to his BC position, he held senior media relations roles at Brown University and

Boston University, as well as with three international public relations firms in Boston.

The Board of Directors has elected Dan Adams of Polsinelli PC Law Firm in Boston as its new board chair. Adams has served on the Bay State Games board for nearly 20 years and is head of sports and entertainment at Polsinelli PC. He holds a bachelor's degree from Boston College, a law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and an MBA from Harvard University.

In addition to his volunteer work with Bay State Games, Adams serves on the Board of Directors of the East Greenbush Miracle League. His experience with state games spans decades,

See BAYSTATE GAMES, page 10

Sports

In the Classroom

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Turleysports



Athlete of the Month

Sophia Giangrande
SCHOOL: North Brookfield

Giangrande was one of the players that helped lead North Brookfield High School girls basketball to a state playoff appearance this year.

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

Holden Grange announces scholarship for graduating high school students

HOLDEN – The Holden Grange is offering its W. Sumner and Howard L. Jordan Scholarship to a graduating high school senior or to a student in attendance at any recognized institution of learning beyond high school, who has not received this scholarship previously.

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

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

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

An application in the form of a letter of intent, stating future educational goals and a description of three community activities or three Grange activities in which the applicant is involved, must be accompanied by a transcript and a letter of recommendation.

All parts of the application must be emailed or postmarked by May 1 to Holden Grange, 26 Glenwood Place, Rutland, MA 01543.

For more information on this scholarship or the Grange in general, people may call 508-886-2341 or email holdengrange78@gmail.com.

Nursing student Megan Bokis receives ‘Blessing of the Hands’ at Emmanuel

BOSTON – Megan Bokis of North Brookfield received the Blessing of the Hands on Friday, Feb. 6 at Emmanuel College.

This ceremony is a long-standing tradition at the Maureen Murphy Wilkens School of Nursing and Clinical Sciences for second-year nursing students as they prepare to begin their first clinical.

This semester 72 students participated in the ceremony. Hosted in collaboration with Emmanuel Mission and Ministry in the campus chapel, the Blessing of the Hands recognizes nursing students’

hands as instruments of care, comfort and respect.

The ceremony affirms nursing as a commitment to skilled practice, compassion and respect for the dignity of every person as students enter clinical practice.

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Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Bondsville League

WARE – The regular candlepin league season has completed as Roll-A-Way Lanes prepares for the playoffs.

The teams who qualified for the playoffs are Sandri, Night Hawks and Fire Mountain. The final wildcard spot will be awarded to either Team UMass, Spare Parts Bud, or Ironmen.

During the last week, Ironmen bowled against Fire Mountain. In game one, Fire Mountain defeated Ironmen by a score of 477-442. Rick Trott of Fire Mountain began with 108. Pete Swistak of Ironmen began with 116.

In game two, Fire Mountain won again by a score of 478-463. Ryan Drago of Ironmen had the highest score of 118.

In game three, Ironmen pulled off a victory with a score of 466-462. Swistak finished strong with 127 and a three-game series of 352.

The final score was 1417-1371 in favor of Fire Mountain. After losing two out of three games, Ironmen isn't eligible for the playoffs.

Team UMass bowled against Flaming Bowling Balls (FBB) during the final week. In game one, Team UMass won by a score of 511-479. Kevin Trott led Team UMass to victory with 116 in game one.

In game two, FBB defeated Team UMass, 489-449. Ryan McCarthy of FBB bowled 108 and Don Paulus bowled 103 after beginning with 113.

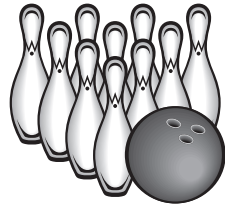
In game three, FBB won by a score of 472-456. McCarthy finished with 112 and a series of 315. The final score was 1440-1416 in favor of FBB.

Zeke's Freaks bowled against Night Hawks during the final week. In game one, Night Hawks won 460-450. The second game was won by Zeke's Freaks, 458-424. The final game was won by Zeke's Freaks, 504-443. Tony Burke of Zeke's Freaks finished with 127 as his team win with a final score of 1412-1327.

Sandri finished the regular season with a match against P&J Meats. In game one, P&J Meats won by a score of 520-516. Ron Gouin of Sandri had a triple strike while bowling 145.

In game two, P&J Meats won again by a score of 463-432. The final game was won by Sandri, 457-454. Gouin finished with 120 and a three-game series of 367. The final score was 1437-1403 in favor of P&J Meats.

Slow Burners bowled against Cannonballs in the final week. In game one, Cannonballs won by a score of 476-441. The second game was also won by Cannonballs, 470-465. The final game went to Cannonballs, 456-440, for a



three-game sweep over Slow Burners. The final score was 1402-1346 in favor of Cannonballs.

The Snappers bowled against Spare Parts Bud in the final week. Snappers took game one by a score of 492-445. Kevin "Kras" Krasnecky began with 122 during a Snappers victory. John Jebb of Spare Parts Bud began with 107.

In game two, Spare Parts Bud got the victory, 467-458. Krasnecky followed up with 115. In game three, Spare Parts Bud pulled off the victory, 496-492. Jebb finished with an over average game of 109. The final score was 1442-1408 in favor of Snappers.

After tallying the regular season standings, Team UMass was awarded the final birth into the four-team playoff round. The playoffs will begin the following week with two division winners and two wildcard teams.

The #1 seed, Sandri, will bowl against the #4 seed, Team UMass in the playoffs. The other playoff match will be Fire Mountain (2) against Night Hawks (3). The remaining eight teams will bowl against each other in a roll off during the playoffs. The finals will be held on April 1.

Schools receive Credit for Life Fairs funds

BOSTON – The State Treasurer's Office of Economic Empowerment, in partnership with the Division of Banks and the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation, announce the 2025-2026 recipients of the Financial Education Innovation Fund Grant.

Following a competitive application process that concluded in November, the state agencies awarded grants to 92 schools, totaling \$383,420. This funding will allow Massachusetts high schools and special education programs to host financial education fairs, known as Credit for Life Fairs, for their students.

Of the 92 recipient schools, 24 received funding as Seed Applicants and will host fairs for the first time.

Local award recipients are Quabbin Regional School District \$3,200 and Wachusett Regional School District \$3,200. For the third

year, participating schools that have a large population of low-to-moderate income students will receive an additional \$500. Twenty-five schools received this additional funding to bring much-needed financial education to students in the state's most vulnerable communities.

"Credit for Life Fairs empower high school students with the tools they need to succeed," said State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg. "This year, we are supporting a record number of schools, helping young adults prepare to make informed financial decisions as they approach graduation and adulthood."

"The Division of Banks is proud to support this initiative with another round of funding," said Mary Gallagher, Commissioner of Banks. "With hands-on, high-quality lessons offered at these fairs, students can learn foundational financial

management skills they can use into adulthood."

"It is important for high school students to understand how to manage their personal finances so they can be successful in life," said Layla R. D'Emilia, Undersecretary of the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation. "Funding Credit for Life Fairs through these grants provides a fun, engaging, and productive environment for students to learn fiscal responsibility."

Since 2015, over 65,000 Massachusetts students have attended Credit for Life Fairs.

The Financial Education Innovation Fund Grant was established as an ongoing effort to strengthen access to financial literacy throughout Massachusetts. This financial education program is funded by the Division of Banks through a settlement over alleged unlawful lending practices.

BASEBALL from page 9

After a runner has run through first base, typically after beating out a ground ball, that runner must come back and touch the white bag. If the runner comes back and touches the orange bag, that runners is in play once they touch the orange bag and can be tagged out.

On situations like a clean base hit, a batter/runner who heads for first and rounds

the bag, will utilize the white bag. But a runner running out a ground ball who touches the white bag instead of the orange bag could be called out on appeal because it can be treated like missing a base.

While the normal white base is the border of fair territory, the orange bag is in foul territory. If a batted ball hits the orange bag, the ball will be called foul. A ball that hits the white bag or rolls over it is still fair.

The second bag at first base is orange in most cases, but can be another color.

For 2026, players playing on fields that have the double first base bag will use them with the rules that come with them. Adult leagues in the region have pledged to observe the rules of the double bag if they play on fields that have them. Most adult leagues go by MLB rules, which do not require a double bag at first base.

Support your local sports teams

BAYSTATE GAMES from page 9



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including as a three-time participant in the Empire State Summer Games of New York.

Registration for the 2026 Bay State Summer Games will begin in early March. The 2026 Summer Games will feature events from May 9 through July 25 across 30 different sports throughout eastern and central Massachusetts.

Players from Western and Central Massachusetts schools have consistently participated in the Bay State Games during the summer, especially in sports like soccer, field hockey, and volleyball.

Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

A Good Man Part 3

One of my favorite secondary characters in Scripture is a figure called Barnabas.

How does the Bible characterize the man?

Acts 11:24a (NIV)

24 He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith . . .

As we continue our series on the life and ministry of Barnabas, we do well to ask: "What made Barnabas a good man?" Allow me to remind you that the underlying Greek term for "good" herein is "agathos," meaning virtuous and beneficial. It speaks to one who is excellent and distinguished as to character, constitution and nature; upright and honorable. Moreover, it speaks to one who is disposed to helpfulness and charity. Do we see evidence of such in Barnabas? Absolutely! Let us consider the following selection, which picks up following the conversion of the infamous persecutor, Saul of Tarsus:

Acts 9:26-28

26 When he [the newly-converted Saul] came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. 28 So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.

What can we glean concerning Barnabas herein? How is his goodness in Christ evidenced by this excerpt? We can see that the man had a heart for the outcast, the outsider and the shunned (vv. 27-28). Note that Barnabas worked diligently, putting his own reputation on the line, to bring Saul of Tarsus into the fellowship of the saints. This was quite a task, particularly in light of Saul's reputation as one who severely persecuted the early Christians (e.g., Acts 8:1-3)! Yet can you imagine what might have happened if Barnabas failed to build such bridges? What might have happened to the spiritual life and ministry of Saul-he who would become renowned as the apostle Paul and champion of the Christian faith-if Barnabas was not present in such a key moment? We owe much to the compassion, integrity and valor of dear Barnabas!

This said, should not our faith be evidenced by a concern for the outcast, the outsider and the shunned? Heed this passage:

James 1:27

27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after

orphans and widows in their distress [i.e., those reckoned the least in ancient society] and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. What did Christ teach on such a theme?

Matthew 25:31-46

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left."

34 Then the King will say to those on his right "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." 37 Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?" 40 The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

41 Then he will say to those on his left, "Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me." 44 They also will answer, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?" 45 He will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me. 46 Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Clearly Christ calls His own to care for those deemed the least. Barnabas demonstrated such with Saul (Paul). What about you?

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

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

Pastor James Foley
New Life Assembly

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

Fifth Sunday of Lent

"If You Believe, You will See the Glory of God."

Scripture Reading: John 11 v 1-23 and 38 – 44 I.

I. Introduction

There are some people, who stay calm even when circumstances are tough and challenging.

That is an admirable gift to have and I am sure such individuals will need their own space to rest, relax and let everything go for a bit. We all have needs and it is extremely important to have those, who have a presence of calm to ease the anxiety. We find many of those people in our hospital rooms and other places where they have been trained to stay calm under difficult circumstances. In our passage we see the sisters of Lazarus experiencing severe distress, because their brother Lazarus had died. They were hoping Jesus would come in time to heal their brother, but He did not. Let's take a closer look.

II. If you believe, you will see the Glory of God

Jesus had just escaped the Jewish leaders at the temple in Jerusalem, who wanted to stone Him because they accused Him of blasphemy and that He claimed He was the Son of God and that through the power of God in Him.

He was doing the miracles they have seen, including the healing of the blind man we preached about last week. Jesus crossed the Jordan to the place where John the Baptist had baptized Him. It would be a safer place to be. It was while He was there that He received the message that Lazarus, the brother of Martha and Mary, His dear and beloved friends was sick. Jesus, instead of packing up and leaving to go heal Lazarus, told the messengers that this illness will not end in death, but is for the glory of God and that God's Son would be glorified through it. What a strange answer to give to the messengers, who were sent by Lazarus' sisters, who themselves were distraught back home in Bethany. But we know Jesus knew better.

Jesus stayed in this place across the Jordan for two more days, before He told the disciples that they should all go back to Judea to the house of Lazarus, who, He said had fallen asleep. In the ancient times that meant that he had died. The disciples were unhappy with the plan to return, since Bethany was but two miles away from Jerusalem, a place of danger for all of them. We read Thomas tell the disciples that maybe they should all go and die with Him.

Jesus stayed calm

throughout this conversation, because He must have prayed during those two days for God to strengthen Him as He was facing His last days on earth. He knew that His teachings and miracles have become a threat, and that He was entering the last phase of His life.

His response highlighted those lacking inner light, implying that Christ is the light and His love for the world exceeds any fear for His own life. Jesus had to face both sisters, who complained to Him that He came too late, that their brother already died and that he was in the tomb for four days.

He reassured Martha that whoever believes in Him, will live and not die. Again, this response must have been strange for the sisters, the disciples and the messengers to hear. Then at the tomb, Jesus spoke these words, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" After these words, He thanked God for hearing His prayers and then called in a loud voice for Lazarus to come out and he did, alive.

III. Closing

We sometimes are at a loss because we do not receive the answers we expected and our situations do not always change the way we want it to change.

What this passage reveals to us though, is that God is with us and in our circumstances. Jesus' words about believing in God and then we will see the glory of God, is a promise that God hears our prayers, and that God's glory and answers will show up in ways we do not expect. Jesus Himself prayed to God before He even got to Lazarus' house and He thanked God for hearing His prayers, even before He called for Lazarus to come out.

He spoke in faith and the miracle happened. We may not always get healed or get our needs met in the ways we had hoped for, but God's mysterious glory will show up anyway and we will see it and recognize it in unexpected treatments and provisions. Jesus had a calm demeanor, because He was in prayer with God. He calmed the messengers, the disciples and then He reassured the sisters of Lazarus. He did this while He was fleeing for His life!

He is teaching us this morning that if we pray together unceasingly and believe, that the glory of God will show up in our lives. He is encouraging us to trust God's word and Spirit to calm our spirits as we pray and believe. May we follow His example to pray and believe and see the glory of God in our lives, even when it looks different from what we expected.

Amen

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

Obituary

Shirley (Crawford) Smith, 86

6/14/1939- 3/22/2026



BARRE – Shirley (Crawford) Smith, 86, died peacefully on Sunday, March 22, 2026, at UMass Memorial Healthcare – University Campus Worcester.

To view the service information and full obituary please visit the Miles Funeral Home website at www.miles-funeralhome.com

Cornerstone and Athol Savings Banks merge

WORCESTER – Directors has also expanded Cornerstone Bank announced the closing of its merger with Athol Savings Bank (ASB), effective Dec. 31, 2025, uniting the two long-standing community institutions.

The completed transaction results in an expanded banking network that brings Cornerstone Bank's full suite of digital services to the North Quabbin region while preserving ASB's trusted local identity and five branch locations.

"As of today, our partnership is officially complete and we are excited to move forward as one organization," said Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank. "This merger strengthens our ability to serve customers with improved technology, expanded products and deeper community investment, while staying true to the values that define both banks."

With the closing, Daniel J. Zona, former President and CEO of Athol Savings Bank, began his new role as President of Cornerstone Bank, succeeding the retiring Randal Webber. The Cornerstone Bank Board of

Directors has also expanded to include four new members, including Zona, broadening leadership representation across the regions the combined bank now serves.

"This is a meaningful moment for both banks," said Zona. "Our teams share a strong commitment to customers, employees and the communities we call home. With the merger now finalized, we can begin fully delivering the enhanced services and opportunities that come with joining forces."

All ASB employees have been retained, ensuring continuity for customers. Customers can expect ongoing communications and a smooth transition as Cornerstone and ASB align systems and expand access to digital banking tools, financial planning resources and new product offerings.

Luse Gorman, P.C. served as legal counsel for Cornerstone Bank while Piper, Sandler & Co. served as Financial Advisor. Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C. served as legal counsel for Athol Savings Bank.

Baystate Health implements enhanced infection prevention

As the region is currently experiencing high levels of respiratory virus activity, Baystate Health has implemented enhanced infection prevention measures across all clinical settings to help protect our communities.

What patients and visitors should know

All health care workers are required to wear a medical mask in patient care areas in our healthcare facilities to protect patients, visitors, and team members.

Visitors ages 5 and older are required to wear a medical mask in patient rooms, patient care areas, and common spaces for visitors (including waiting rooms). This applies to all Baystate Health hospitals and practices.

Patients ages 5 and older are encouraged to wear a mask in the above settings.

Masking is strongly

encouraged in non-patient care areas for team members, visitors, and patients.

These measures are consistent with guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The latest data from DPH categorizes influenza-like illness infection rates as "very high" in Massachusetts, with the severity of infection categorized as "high," resulting in an increase in patients seeking care for complications from the illness.

Baystate Health appreciates the cooperation of patients and visitors as they work together to protect the health of the communities during this period of increased respiratory illness.

Learn more before your visit

Current visitor guidelines and updates are available at: <https://www.baystate-health.org/visiting>.

CHECK OUT ALL THE

Turley Publications

www.turley.com

Barre Gazette

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

HELP WANTED

- Produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities.

- Must be dependable, professional and able to meet strict deadlines.

- Salary based on a flat rate by story and photo.

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Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com



Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 22
 9:21 a.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Barre Police Headquarters, Report Filed
 3:04 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, South Street, Negative Contact
 4:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 6:07 p.m. Safety Concern, Wauwinet Road, Returned
Monday, Feb. 23
 4:07 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Wauwinet Road, Referred to Other Agency
 4:08 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Wauwinet Road, Referred to Other Agency
 2 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Wauwinet Road, Vehicle Towed
 8:24 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, North Brookfield Road, Report Filed
Tuesday, Feb. 24
 6:53 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Summer Street, Vehicle Towed
 12:22 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Worcester Road, Negative Contact
 12:35 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, West Street, No Action Required
 2:18 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Gilbert Road, Information Taken
 2:19 p.m. ACO Lost and Found/Wildlife, Williamsville/

Gilbert Roads, Call Transferred
 6:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Citation Issued
 6:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Moulton Street, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Brooks, Melinda S., 32, South Barre
 Charges License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With, Lights Violation, Motor Vehicle, Inspection/Sticker, No
 7:25 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Vernon Avenue, Investigated
Wednesday, Feb. 25
 10:50 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Edwards Lane, Officer/Chief Advised
 11:07 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Root Road, Transported to Hospital
 4:03 p.m. Safety Concern, Edward Lane, Returned
 4:07 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Old Hardwick Road, Information Given
 4:18 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Loring Road, No Action Required
 4:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning
 7:27 p.m. Erratic Operator, Route 67, Negative Contact
 7:30 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Wauwinet Road, Removed from Scene
 9:54 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Pleasantdale Road,

Investigated
Thursday, Feb. 26
 9:48 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Diabetic, Worcester Road, Mutual Aid Transport
 12:31 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital
 10 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Wauwinet Road, No Transport Required
Friday, Feb. 27
 5:57 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures, South Barre Road, No Transport Required
 5:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
 5:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Street, Written Warning
Saturday, Feb. 28
 6:14 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Wheelwright Road, Report Filed
 10:31 a.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), North Brookfield Road, Entry Gained
 2:03 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Worcester, Area Search Negative
 6:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Summer Street, Written Warning
South Barre
Friday, Feb. 27
 1:50 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Fruitland Road, Officer/Chief Advised

Sunday, Feb. 22
 2:55 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle/Parking Issues, Grizzly Drive, Written Warning
 10:07 a.m. Animal – Wildlife, Campbell Street, Officer/Chief Advised
 4:27 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, 37 River Road, Investigated
 8:12 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Oakridge Drive, Removed to Court
 Arrest: Hayes, Justin D., 35, Worcester
 Charges Resist Arrest, Attempt to Commit Crime, Harassment, Criminal
Monday, Feb. 23
 1:12 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, East Hill Road, Investigated
 7:27 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Main Street, Removed from Scene
 9:20 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures, Miles Road, Transported to Hospital
 9:27 a.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wire, East County Road, Investigated
 10:51 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Davis Street, Transported to Hospital
 3:08 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problems, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 3:12 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Main Street, Mutual Aid Assist
 4:55 p.m. Fire – Fumes/Odor/Gas Leak, Vista Circle, Investigated
 5:41 p.m. Complaint, Sunnyside Avenue, Information Taken
 5:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident – No Fire Department/EMS Response, Irish Lane, Report Filed
 6:46 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Central Tree Road, Transported to Hospital
 8:18 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Pain in Shoulder, Irish Lane, Transported to Hospital
 9:44 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Maple Avenue, Transported to Hospital
Tuesday, Feb. 24
 12:26 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Mutual Aid Ambulance, Old Princeton Road, Transported to Hospital
 3:13 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Central Tree Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 5:37 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Stroke (CVA), Campbell Street, Transported to Hospital
 5:57 a.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, River Road, Information Given
 8:44 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, River Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 9:23 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, East County Road, Vehicle Towed
 10:10 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Gaffney Road, Transported to Hospital
 10:21 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Halfrey Road, No Transport Required
 2:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

Maple Avenue, Citation Issued
 2:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued
 3:09 p.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Main Street, Returned
 3:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 3:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Citation Issued
 3:42 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Main Street, Information Given
 7:25 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Vernon Avenue, Investigated
 11:07 p.m. Fire – Fumes/Odor/Gas Leak, Woodside Avenue, Investigated
Wednesday, Feb. 25
 7:04 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Childbirth, Glenwood Road, Transported to Hospital
 7:50 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Pommogussett Road, Report Filed
 8:44 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Glenwood Road, Transported to Hospital
 9:10 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, No Transport Required
 9:41 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Autumn Wood Drive, Information Taken
 11:34 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Blair Drive, Transported to Hospital
 11:56 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Maple Avenue, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 1:31 p.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 1:39 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Campbell Street, Checked/Secured
 4:35 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 9:54 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Pleasantdale Road, Investigated
Thursday, Feb. 26
 4:09 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Whole Town, Information Given
 4:48 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Maple Avenue, Transported to Hospital
 10:10 a.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Brintnal Drive, Returned
 10:53 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Maple Avenue, Transported to Hospital
 4:26 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Neurological/Head Injury, Ridge Road, Transported to Hospital
 4:44 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Vehicle Towed
 11:36 p.m. Safety Concern, Maple Avenue, Officer Spoke to Party
Friday, Feb. 27
 8:21 a.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Central Tree Road, Referred to Other Agency
 10:46 a.m. Emergency

Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital
 12:23 p.m. Harassment, Kyle Hunter Circle, Officer Spoke to Party
 1 p.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Glenwood Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 3:57 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures, Miles Road, Transported to Hospital
 5:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Vehicle Towed
 Summons Orre, Sandra M., 76, Rutland
 Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle #90 S34J, Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle with C90 S 23
 5:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 6:03 p.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Rutland Public Safety Lobby, Officer Spoke to Party
 9:43 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Wachusett Street, Officer Spoke to Party
Saturday, Feb. 28
 12:14 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Majorie Lane, Information Given
 2:36 a.m. Follow-Up Investigation, Majorie Lane, In Custody of ACO
 3:13 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Lewis Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 6:48 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Jackson, Deshai D., 43, Worcester
 Charges Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With
 8:59 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning
 12:03 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Laurelwood Road, Transported to Hospital
 1:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Arrest(s) Made
 Arrest Wade, Jake M., 28, Millis
 Charges Warrant
 2:03 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Worcester, Area Search Negative
 3:51 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Fernwood Drive, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 4:28 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Pleasantdale Road, Vehicle Towed
 4:54 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Charnock Hill Road, Referred to Other Agency
 6:20 p.m. Emergency Medical Service, Prescott Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 6:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Kenwood Drive, Written Warning
 8:13 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Barre Paxton Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 10:11 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 11 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Glenwood Road, Transported to Hospital
 11:56 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle/Parking Issues, Barre Paxton Road, Information Taken

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of March 16-23, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 56 building/property checks, 16 directed/area patrols, 19 radar assignments, four traffic controls, 17 emergency 911 calls, three citizen assists, three assist other agencies, one complaint, 17 safety hazards, one missing person, one fire, one threat, one larceny/theft/shoplifting, two motor vehicle accidents, six animal calls and eight motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.
Monday, March 16
 11:02 a.m. 911 Fire Alarm, Fiske Road, Services Rendered
 1:17 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
Tuesday, March 17
 2:32 a.m. Utility Issues, Old Greenwich Plains Road, Referred to Other Agency
 2:50 a.m. Safety Hazard, Turkey Street, Referred to Other Agency
 3:08 a.m. Safety Hazard, Collins Road, Referred to Other Agency
 3:40 a.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Merge
 4:09 a.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Removed Hazard
 4:17 a.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Referred to Other Agency
 4:37 a.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Referred to Other Agency
 6:15 a.m. Complaint, Ruggles Hill Road, Referred to Other Agency
 6:56 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Street, Removed Hazard
 7:42 a.m. Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Referred to Other Agency

7:43 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Ruggles Hill Road, Referred to Other Agency
 8:04 a.m. Safety Hazard, Ruggles Hill Road, Referred to Other Agency
 9:41 a.m. Safety Hazard, Ruggles Hill Road, Referred to Other Agency
 10:13 a.m. Safety Hazard, Ruggles Hill Road, Referred to Other Agency
 11:33 a.m. Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Referred to Other Agency
 12:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Written Warning
 2:41 p.m. Safety Hazard, Lower Road, Services Rendered
 2:43 p.m. 911 Utility Issues, Church Street, Referred to Other Agency
 2:44 p.m. Utility Issues, Main Street, Merge
 3:15 p.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Bridge Street, Investigated
 4:15 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Lower Road, Services Rendered
 5:41 p.m. Utility Issues, Ruggles Hill Road, Referred to Other Agency
 5:42 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Turkey Street, Transported to Hospital
 7:15 p.m. Safety Hazard, Ruggles Hill Road, Referred to Other Agency
 7:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Hardwick Road, Spoken To
Wednesday, March 18
 5:36 a.m. Assist Citizen, Turkey Street, Services Rendered
 11:57 a.m. Fire/Illegal burn, Jackson Road, Investigated
 12:21 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Turkey Street,

Transported to Hospital
 3:42 p.m. 911 Missing Person, Barre Road, Services Rendered
Thursday, March 19
 2:21 a.m. Medical Emergency, Prospect Street, Transported to Hospital
 11:52 a.m. Medical Emergency, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital
 7:52 p.m. Threat, Main Street, Referred to Other Agency
Friday, March 20
 5:29 a.m. Assist Citizen, Hardwick Road, Spoken To
 2:53 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Church Street, Report Taken
Saturday, March 21
 12 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Old Petersham Road, Transported to Hospital
 4:09 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital
 4:52 p.m. 911 Larceny/Theft/Shoplifting, Main Street, Officer Handled
 9:38 p.m. Safety Hazard, Creamery Road, Officer Handled
 11:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
Sunday, March 22
 11:34 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital
 4:21 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Peace Restored
 5:25 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Merge
 6:24 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Lower Road, Transported to Hospital
Monday, March 23
 6:04 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Hillside View, Services Rendered

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, Feb. 15
 3:58 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Madison Way, Transported to Hospital
 9:12 p.m. Erratic Operator, Gardner Road, Negative Contact
Monday, Feb. 16
 4:43 a.m. Fire – Fumes/Odor/Gas Leak, New Templeton Road, Investigated
 3:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Hit and Run, Simond Hill Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 6:43 p.m. Harassment, Worcester Road, Officer Spoke to Party
Tuesday, Feb. 17
 7:43 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Grimes Road, Transported to Hospital
 8:54 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Gardner Road, No Transport Required
 12:44 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Westminster, Information Taken
 1:34 p.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Barre Road, Report Filed
 7:12 p.m. Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Area Search Negative
 7:20 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Report Filed
 7:45 p.m. Fire – Alarm Activation, Main Street, Investigated
Wednesday, Feb. 18
 7:03 a.m. Erratic Operator, Gardner Road, Call Transferred
 11:26 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Hale Road, Fire Extinguished
 2:10 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Simond Hill Road, Investigated
 2:52 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Gardner Road, Officer/Chief Advised

7:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written Warning
 8:01 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Low Oxygen, Burnshirt Road, Transported to Hospital
Thursday, Feb. 19
 5:50 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Gardner Road, Mutual Aid Transport
 10:08 a.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Gardner Road, Information Taken
 1:20 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Stroke (CVA), New Westminster Road, Transported to Hospital
 7:06 p.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Main Street, Officer/Chief Advised
Friday, Feb. 20
 7:51 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Central Tree Road, Investigated
 10:39 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Foot Pain, Old Princeton Cutoff Road, Transported to Hospital
 10:55 a.m. Safety Concern, Malone Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 2:11 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, New Templeton Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 2:37 p.m. Fire – Fire Motor Vehicle Collision, Barre Road, Removed from Scene
 3:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Gardner Road, Information Given
 3:25 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Morgan Road, Transported to Hospital
 4:12 p.m. Illegal Dumping, Main Street, Removed from Scene
 5:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Williamsville Road, Negative Contact

11:47 p.m. Safety Concern, Old Princeton Road, Information Given
Saturday, Feb. 21
 2:55 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Worcester Road, Transported to Hospital
Sunday, Feb. 22
 7:53 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Worcester Road, Information Taken
 8:29 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Worcester Road, Public Assist
 1:53 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Pitcherville Road, Mutual Aid Transport
Monday, Feb. 23
 6:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Ragged Hill Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 1:42 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issued, Birches Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 4:30 p.m. Safety Concern, Gardner Road, Referred to Other Agency
 5:13 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Gardner Road, Removed from Scene
 6:15 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Old Westminster Road, Report Filed
Tuesday, Feb. 24
 12:26 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Mutual Aid Ambulance, Old Princeton Road, Transported to Hospital
 6:27 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Barre Road, Public Assist
 10:21 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Halfrey Road, No Transport Required
 2:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Streeter Road, Negative Contact

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of March 16-23, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 13 building/property checks, 22 directed/area patrols, 15 radar assignments, eight emergency 911 calls, eight safety hazards, four citizen assists, one assist other agency, one missing person, one complaint, one animal call and seven motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.
Monday, March 16
 12:30 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
 10:22 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital
Tuesday, March 17
 5:01 a.m. Safety Hazard, Barr Road, Referred to Other Agency
 5:11 a.m. Safety Hazard, Mara Road, Referred to Other Agency
 5:16 a.m. Safety Hazard, Old Common Road, Services Rendered
 5:38 a.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Merge
 6:27 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Road, Referred to Other Agency

6:33 a.m. Safety Hazard, Barr Road, Merge
 7:47 a.m. 911 Missing Person, West Road, Transported to Hospital
 9:11 a.m. Safety Hazard, Pierce Road, Referred to Other Agency
 2:56 a.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Referred to Other Agency
 5:09 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
 8:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Vehicle Towed
Wednesday, March 18
 4:26 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Patient Refusal
 9:04 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
 5:25 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Webb Road, Referred to Other Agency
Thursday, March 19
 5:05 a.m. Medical Alarm, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital
 10:03 a.m. Utility Issues, Cushman Road, Services Rendered
Friday, March 20
 3:36 a.m. 911 Medical

Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Patient Refusal
 7:38 a.m. Complaint, Ravine Road, Officer Handled
 7:46 a.m. Disabled Motor Vehicle, Gilbertville Road, Removed Hazard
 9:34 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
 9:56 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ravine Road, Written Warning
Saturday, March 21
 11:35 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
 1:53 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Oakham Road, Transported to Hospital
 4:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ravine Road, Written Warning
 5:13 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Patient Refusal
Sunday, March 22
 5:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning
Monday, March 23
 3:36 a.m. Medical Emergency, Scott Road, Transported to Hospital

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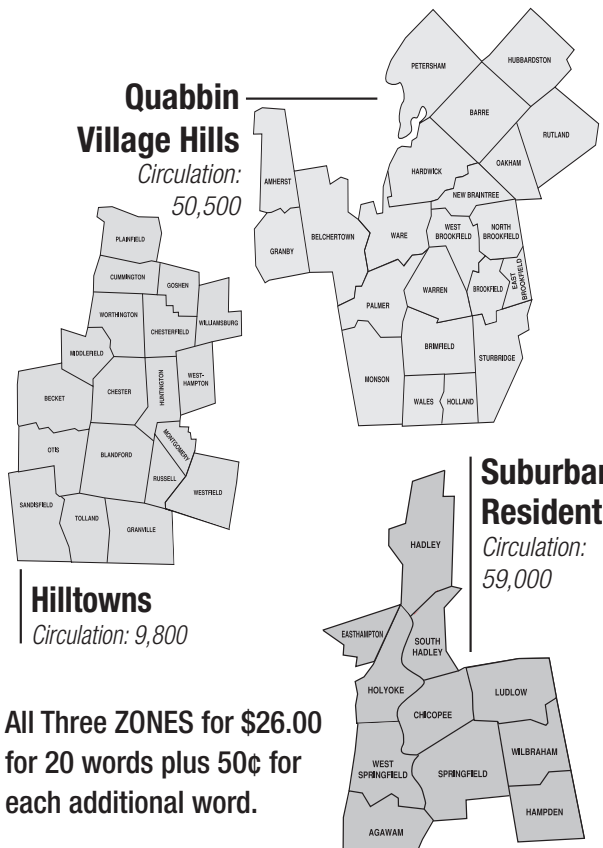
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Museum sells rare artifact to secure future preservation efforts

NEW SALEM – The Swift River Valley Historical Society, the leading resource in preserving the artifacts, stories and records of the lost towns of the Swift River Valley, has announced the successful sale of a seventeenth century artifact from its collection.

The Symon and Rebeckah Horne Pilgrim Century valuable cabinet, attributed to the Symonds shops of Salem and dated 1677, was sold by Sotheby's in New York, achieving \$1.6 million.

The decision to sell the

piece was made after a thorough review by the museum's board of directors. The cabinet, while valuable and historically significant, was owned by a family that moved to the Swift River Valley from eastern Massachusetts, and did not directly support the museum's core mission to preserve and interpret the history of the Swift River Valley towns that were destroyed to build the Quabbin Reservoir, Boston's water supply.

"This is not a decision the board made lightly," said

Judith McIntosh, Chair of the SRVHS Board of Directors. "We are deeply committed to our mission to preserve the history of the Swift River Valley. The sale allows us to strengthen our operations, make much-needed capital improvements, and expand educational programming that serves the greater community."

Proceeds from the sale will be used to make capital improvements and accessibility updates to the Whitaker-Clary House, fund long-term maintenance of museum

buildings, and implement a new strategic plan.

"We understand that the community places great trust in us as stewards of Quabbin history," said McIntosh. "This sale ensures that we can devote greater resources to fulfilling our mission."

The Swift River Valley Museum is open during the summer season and by appointment. For a glimpse into the life of each of the four lost towns, visit the Whitaker-Clary House, Prescott Church Museum, and Carriage Shed at the his-

torical society's location at 40 Elm St.

About the Swift River Valley Historical Society

The Swift River Valley Historical Society is the leading resource in preserving the artifacts, stories and records of the towns that were lost in order to create the Quabbin Reservoir water supply that serves eastern Massachusetts: Prescott, Dana, Enfield, and Greenwich.

SRVHS collaborates with communities, organizations and agencies to provide educational opportunities and

programs about the history of this region and to ensure appropriate management and protection of those resources and artifacts, including the Quabbin watershed, to engage public interest and support.

The Swift River Historical Museum is open Wednesdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. from June to September. Admission to the museum is free.

Read more at www.swiftrivermuseum.org, or on Facebook at Swift River Valley Historical Society.

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