

# BARRE GAZETTE

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## Select Board approves health insurance package

By Ellenor Downer  
Editor  
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BARRE – The Insurance Advisory Committee attended the March 18 Select Board meeting to present their recommendation for health insurance for town employees.

The committee recommended the town accept the 8.45% increase for health coverage from Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association. Treasurer Jake K. Voelker gave a summary of the proposed Fiscal Year 2025 insurance proposal. He said employees were not in favor of high deductibles and they wanted to keep their benefits the same.

He said currently the town pays 62% of health insurance and the employee pays the remaining 38%. He recommended slowly implementing a 70% and 30% ratio by increasing the town's share by 2% per year to reach 70%.

The town did not offer competitive wages, but offering good benefits was a way to keep employees. Select Board Chair Maureen Marshall said a change in health benefits must be negotiated as the town's union contracts had specifics about health insurance.

The town must notify MIIA of its decision on their proposal by Monday, April 1. The Board approved the committee's proposal to accept the 8.45% increase on health insurance and to hopefully lower the share split for employees.

### Regionalization grant

Select Board Vice Chair John Dixon said he was looking into a Regionalization grant. The grant covers the first year of cost for a regionalization plan. He said a maintenance of facilities, which Barre did not have, was a possible regionalization project. The grant deadline for applying is February 2025.

He suggested connecting with other communities for possible regionalization projects. He said at the next meeting the Board should appoint someone to reach out to the surrounding communities. He said he felt it was "worth exploring" and called it a "very valuable grant" as it covered the cost for the first year.

Select Board Chair Marshall said the town has down some regionalization such as a building inspector, ambulance coverage with New Braintree and the Wheelwright section of Hardwick and the Senior Center with Hardwick.

### Select Board report

During Select Board report Marshall said she was concerned about the Town Hall and Henry Woods Building. Both building recently failed fire escape inspections and they need to be repaired. She said the Town Hall also needed painting and said at least the front of the building should be painted for the 250th anniversary celebration.

### Drone

Police Chief James Sabourin proposed the purchase of a drone for search and rescue for his department. He said the cost was \$16,752 and the town received \$10,000 from Seven Hills Foundation and \$1,000 from Athol Savings Bank. The cost to the town would be \$5,752.

Chief Sabourin said the department had three Federal Aviation Administration licensed pilots. In

See BARRE, page 6

## Off to Neverland



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette

Captain Hook takes a swing in a fight scene during a rehearsal of Athol High School Theater Department's production of "Peter Pan".

## Students prepare to present 'Peter Pan' April 5-7

By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

ATHOL – All it takes is faith, trust and just a little bit of pixie dust to fly to Neverland; but there's no need to take to London's night sky, when you can simply visit Athol High School for the Theater Department's spring production of "Peter Pan".

Co-Directed by Barre resident Zachary Finne along with stage veteran Erin Shine, this year's production features 22 students from the high school, middle school and elementary school levels; all working together to present a unique and entertaining theatrical performance.

While Shine is no stranger to theater, having acted in the greater Boston area, this is her first time taking on a director's role.

Finne previously worked for the Quabbin Regional School District, including as a fifth grade teacher at Hardwick Elementary School where he coached the students through a moving performance of the song "See You Again" at their graduation.

Now a third grade teacher at Athol Community Elementary



Co-Director Zachary Finne and Stage Manager/Props Master Cody Germain carry the crocodile puppet made by Co-Director Erin Shine.

School, Finne decided to try his hand at directing when he saw the position open for the spring play.

This production differs from those put on by other school theater departments, because it includes students from all grade levels – not just middle and high school.

"We had such a wide age

range," Finne said. "We have a lot of new talent."

The older students have also taken on a mentoring role for their younger castmates, leading them through warmups and other exercises to improve their acting technique. The students even helped select the script for the production.

Senior Cody Germain got



Sixth grader Brohden Whitney plays Starkey, one of Captain Hook's crew members.

his start backstage during a middle school production. Now, he's serving as the stage manager and props master for "Peter Pan", and helping the directors.

This is the second year Germain has taken on this role; this year expanding it to building sets and finding props by scour-

See PETER PAN, page 5

## Hubbardston faces large financial challenges

By Eric Goodhart  
Correspondent

HUBBARDSTON – On March 18 the Town Administrator, Nathan Boudreau, shared with the Select Board the projected town budget for Fiscal Year 2025.

The budget is something he has been keeping a close eye on since the June 2023 town meeting. June 2023 was his "baptism under fire" as he explained what and how he and the town Boards worked together through compromise and cajoling to balance the budget for FY 24, given the higher expenses and lower revenue.

Fortunately, at the previous Board meeting on Feb. 5 state Senator Durant and Representative Donald Berthiaume, Jr. were present to hear the not so good news. It is the biggest fiscal challenge that Hubbardston faces for decades. The new being the huge increase in the budget assessment from the Quabbin Regional School District for FY25.

The most recent budget proposal from the QRSD on Feb. 29, estimates an increase of 12% for Hubbardston's assessment or share. The town's state mandated minimum contribution to the school district is rising by \$285,386 to over \$6,350,000.

The projected increase is concerning because Hubbardston was the only member town in the Quabbin district expecting an increase of students, 20, in fact. Hubbardston will soon outpace Barre as the member town with the highest per-pupil assessment, placing an even more disproportionate burden on Hubbardston taxpayers.

Boudreau has been in conversations with both the new Superintendent of Schools, Colleen M. Mucha, and Anne Gobi, former state senator, now the Director of Rural Affairs; as well as the above-mentioned visiting legislators as well as other member town administrators.

The goal is to find solutions that will bring the growth in school spending closer to a sustainable level while still providing a quality education for students. This education will teach them the basic academic subjects efficiently, but also how to think critically along with learning the science of systems through studying history and psychology.

This may involve exploring opportunities for cost savings,

See HUBBARDSTON, page 6

## MAP assessment shows district-wide growth in math

By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Superintendent Timothy McCormick shared Measure of Academic Performance assessment results from fall to the winter.

At the March 18 School Committee meeting, he said students are tested three times a year to look for growth and achievement. Students are measured against students across the country. McCormick said there were "bright spots" in the data, but not all of the students in the high school completed the test, so the growth data only accounts for half of the students.

For math, the school district is in the 67th percentile for growth.

"We also saw an increase in achievement," McCormick said, reaching 55%.

McCormick said all grade levels are moving toward the higher growth/higher achievement quadrant. He said classrooms in

the second year of using Bridges or Illustrative math curriculums showed the most improvement of growth percentiles.

He said the lower student performers have remained low.

"We need to figure out, how do we move our lowest performing students up to the highest performing quadrant," he said.

For reading, growth has reached the 36th percentile, but achievement has remained at 47%.

"We definitely realized that we have some areas of improvement here with our reading and we have been addressing that this year," McCormick said. "We're looking to get some growth like we have with our math."

Elementary School Principal Sarah Priestley shared data from kindergarten through third grade.

"The math growth this year has been awesome, it's just been incredible," she said.

Priestley said the kindergarten students had lower growth compared to other grade levels, which is expected, she said.

"Our kindergartners come in with varying levels of readiness," she said. "Still, 27% of students are in that 80 or above percentile of growth."

Priestley said teachers and students in the second year of the program have shown the most growth. She said fourth grade piloted this program last year and that 74% of fourth grade students showed growth in the 80% or above percentile.

"We see that it helps create and build a foundation of conceptual understanding for math that carries year to year," she said.

Priestley said reading scores were not as strong as math scores, and the staff recognize that their current program is not aligned with the school district's needs. She said the literacy leadership committee is looking to adopt a new program.

Fourth grade is currently piloting a new curriculum, and has shown the "most promising" data in reading in the MAP assessment. Priestley said the new reading

curriculum has been added to the budget for next year.

High School Principal John Diorio said grades nine and 11 saw both growth and achievement in math, and grades seven, eight and 10 saw growth, but were lower in achievement.

Diorio said there is an algebra support class for grade nine students and there have been lesson studies to build upon the math program with the math coach. He said similar to elementary school students, those in the second year of the math program have shown the most growth.

Diorio said next year his staff will work to improve students' scores by making better use of flex block and encouraging students to make a greater effort during MAP testing.

He said English Language Arts scores were lower than math for high school students. Grades 10 and 11 stayed consistent with achievement and growth, but grades seven and eight "really struggled."

An enrichment block will be scheduled to target ELA instruction and help support those students.

McCormick said he is "very proud" of the school district's improvements in math, which he credited to the curriculum, increased time for math instruction, intervention times and having a math instructional coach.

"The hope with both math and reading is that we're going to see this translate to increased MCAS scores," McCormick said.

Administrators' reports Diorio said the Wellness Day for students was a "huge success" and focused on mental, social, and physical wellbeing. Students participated in yoga, martial arts, Zumba, dancing, knitting, coloring, board games, origami and more.

Students took part in activities that brought awareness to mental health.

See NB SCHOOL COMMITTEE, page 8



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# News of the Towns



**Round Town**  
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**Hubbardston**  
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**Town Election set for April 1**  
The Annual Town Election will be held on Monday, April 1 from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. The only contest on the ballot is for a three-year term as Select Board member. Candidates are Maureen Marshall, incumbent and Richard C. Stevens.

**OES pancake breakfast**  
Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will sponsor a designer pancake breakfast on Saturday, April 6 from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at the Mt. Zion Masonic Lodge hall, 71 Pleasant St., Barre. Cost is \$9 per adult and \$5 for children 10 and under. Complete breakfast includes: design your own pancakes, waffles, sausage gravy with biscuits, bacon, sausage, orange juice, coffee and 100% real maple syrup.

All are welcome to enjoy an "I can't eat anymore, I'm stuffed, breakfast."

**Fridays with friends**  
Fridays with Friends will be held on Friday, March 29 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant St., Barre in the multipurpose room for school age children. Different activities are held each week ranging from arts and crafts to Science Technology Engineering Arts and Mathematics based challenges all meant to bring the community closer together. The program is held Fridays during January, February and March and is recommended for ages five plus.

| MOC COORDINATED FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT   |  |  |  |   |  |   |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| April 2024  |  |  |  |   |  |   |
| Sun   | Mon  | Tue  | Wed  | Thu   | Fri  | Sat   |
|   | 1 10AM Playgroup<br>16 Elm St. Baldwinville<br>10AM Outdoor<br>Playgroup Hubbardston<br>Curtis Rac Field | 2 10AM Puppet Show<br>Old Town Hall<br>2 Exchange St, Barre  | 3 10AM Playgroup<br>68 Coleman St. Gardner   | 4 10AM Farm Playgroup<br>833 New Braintree Road<br>Oakham<br>No Fitchburg Playgroup           | 5 10AM Playgroup<br>307 Main St. Gilbertville  | 6   |
| 7 National Child Abuse Awareness Month: MOCFCFE recognizes the importance of families & communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect<br>childwelfare.gov/preventionmonth | 8 10AM Infant Playgroup<br>7 Exchange St. Barre  | 9 10AM Playgroup<br>7 Exchange St, Barre<br>10AM Outdoor<br>Playgroup Fitchburg<br>Crocker Playground                | 10 10AM Playgroup<br>68 Coleman St. Gardner<br>1pm Playgroup Forbush<br>Memorial Library,<br>Westminster | 11 10AM Playgroup<br>Fitchburg Public<br>Library  | 12 10AM Playgroup<br>307 Main St. Gilbertville<br>10AM Playgroup<br>601 River St. Fitchburg  | 13 Please check our MOCFCFE and Parent Child+ Facebook page for updates & cancellations |
| 14  | 15 MOC CLOSED<br>Patriots Day  | 16 10AM Playgroup<br>7 Exchange St, Barre  | 17 10AM Puppet Show<br>68 Coleman St. Gardner  | 18 10AM Playgroup<br>601 River St. Fitchburg<br>6PM Evening Playgroup<br>7 Exchange St. Barre | 19 10AM StoryWalk<br>Memorial Park,<br>Off Prospect St.<br>Gilbertville                      | 20  |
| 21  | 22 10AM Infant Playgroup<br>7 Exchange St. Barre   | 23 10AM Playgroup<br>7 Exchange Street, Barre<br>10AM Outdoor<br>Trail walk Playgroup<br>Streamline Trail, Fitchburg | 24 10AM Puppet Show<br>601 River St.<br>Fitchburg  | 25 No Fitchburg<br>Playgroup  | 26 10AM Playgroup<br>307 Main St. Gilbertville<br>10AM Playgroup<br>601 River St., Fitchburg | 27  |
| 28  | 29 10AM Outdoor<br>Playgroup<br>Hubbardston<br>Curtis Rac Field<br>10AM Playgroup<br>Ashburnham Library  | 30 10AM Playgroup<br>7 Exchange St, Barre  | Program Manager: kford@mocinc.org<br>CFCE Coordinators -rburke@mocinc.org , qt12683@aol.com              |   |  |   |

All MOC CFCE programs are funded by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care  
Free Playgroups, StoryWalks, and Family Events. No registration is required. For ages Birth to 6yrs and their guardians!

**Town Clerk lists election info**  
The 2024 Hubbardston Annual Town Election will be held on Tuesday, June 11. Nomination papers for candidates interested in running for town-wide offices are available at the Hubbardston Town Clerk's Office. Tuesday, April 23 at 5 p.m. is the last day to submit nomination papers to Registrars. Offices, which will appear on the ballot. Are: Select Board two positions for three-year terms; Board of Assessors one position for three-year term; Board of Health three positions - two three-year terms and one two-year term; Cemetery Commission one position three-year term; Library Trustees three positions two three-year terms and one one-year term, Quabbin Regional School District Committee two positions for three-year terms; Finance Committee three positions two three-year terms and one one-year term; Parks Commission four positions one three-year term, two two-year terms and one one-year term and Planning Board one position five-year term. Those interested in running for any of these positions must collect a minimum of 24 signatures from registered Hubbardston voters. Nomination papers can be picked up at the Town Clerk's office during regular business hours Monday from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. and Tuesday through Thursday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. People may call the Town Clerk's office at 978-928-1400 extension 202 or email clerk@hubbardstonma.us with any questions. Deadline to register to vote at the Annual Town Meeting is Saturday, May 25. Deadline to vote for the Annual Town Election is Saturday, June 1.

## Up, Up and Away

**Quilt guild announces spring show**

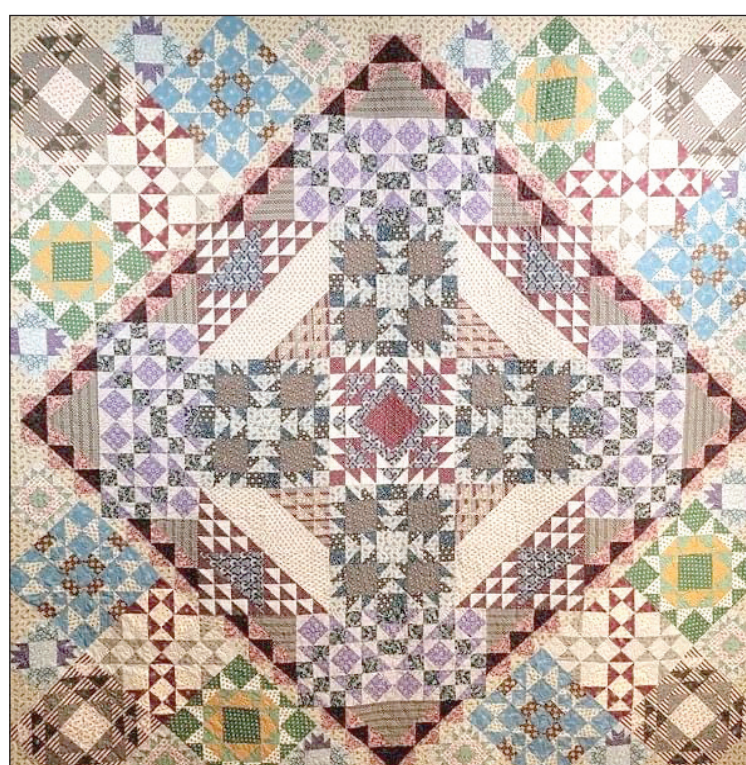
By Emily-Rose Pappas  
Staff Writer  
epappas@turley.com

SPRINGFIELD - The Pioneer Valley Quilt Guild was formed in 1988, and since then, has been an amazing addition to the community where lovers of quilting can come together.

"The Pioneer Valley Quilt Guild was originally formed in 1988 by six quilters who met at Calico Stitchery. Enthusiasm was so great that in less than six months the space was outgrown, and they moved to the Agawam Baptist Church," Elaine Conway said.

Since then, the guild has over 60 members, and meets once a month on the first Wednesday, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Elks Lodge #61, 440 Tiffany St.

The guild meets together to learn new quilting techniques from the occasional speaker, or a workshop will happen. At the end, there's always a show-and-tell for members to talk about



Submitted Photos

This year's Quilt Show raffle quilt, made by the Pioneer Valley Quilt Guild, has beautiful shapes and colors.

their recent projects.

Conway, the secretary and publicity person for the group, is very excited to announce that the guild will be hosting a special "Up, Up and Away" Quilt Show the first weekend of May, on Saturday, May 4 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, May 5 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The cost of admission is \$10, and groups of 10 or more are eligible for a discount by calling Janet at 413-267-9997.

"The main attraction is going to be the 82 quilts and quilted items on display for people to enjoy and look at. We will have a ballot for people to vote for their favorites, with ribbons given for the winners," she said.

The show will also feature a beautifully made raffle quilt made by members of the guild, along with tables of quilted items the guild members made to sell. There will also be a basket raffle.

The guild will also include its famous Hot Air Balloon for display. The balloon part is made of quilts the guild has made, and is

composed of 24 panels total, 12 on top, 12 on the bottom.

"It's our pride and joy," Conway said of the Hot Air Balloon. It was made in 2012, and to this day is a treasured part of the guild and its foundation.

The show raises funds for the guild to buy supplies for the quilts, as well as providing speakers and workshops to enhance quilting skills for those who attend.

But that's not all the Pioneer Valley Quilt Guild does.

"We donate to shelters across the Pioneer Valley," Conway said.

The beautifully made quilts are donated to organizations that help people in need, including the Springfield Rescue Mission.

They also donate quilts and quilted items to veterans organizations, foster children organizations, and before COVID, brought quilts to people recovering from surgeries.

"We want to serve the community and also bring an aware-

See QUILTS, page 9



One of the Pioneer Valley Quilt Guild members finished and shared their vibrant animal quilt at this past meeting.

## 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 April 1. 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 - Chicken Mornay, couscous, Roman blend vegetables, butterscotch pudding, diet = sugar free vanilla pudding, marble rye bread

TUESDAY - Meatloaf with gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, carrots, mixed fruit, whole wheat bread

WEDNESDAY - Roast turkey, gravy, mashed sweet potatoes, roasted Brussels sprout, pear crisp, diet = pears

THURSDAY - Macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, green beans, blondie, diet = cookie, pumpkin bread

FRIDAY - Fish, parmesan cream sauce, wild rice, roasted broccoli and carrots, fresh fruit, French 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.

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

**VOTE FOR TRANSPARENCY**

**Richard C. Stevens**  
Barre Selectboard

Monday, April 1, 2024

PAID FOR BY RICHARD C. STEVENS, 905 OLD COLDBROOK ROAD, BARRE

**50th Anniversary Sale**  
Thursday, April 4th  
Friday, April 5th &  
Saturday, April 6th

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Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.

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## Town Clerk reminds residents to license their dogs

HARDWICK - Town Clerk Ryan J. Witkos posted a friendly reminder that dog licenses are due no later than Monday, April 1.

Dog owners may leave rabies, and payment information in the drop box outside the Myron E. Richardson Municipal Building, 307 Main St., Gilbertville, or outside Town Clerk's door if he is not in his office.

The cost to register your dog is \$8 for spayed/neutered and \$15 for intact.

According to M.G.L. Ch. 140, § 137, all dogs 6 months or older must be licensed. All dogs six months or older that have moved to Hardwick must be licensed within 60 days of arrival.

After April 1, a late fee of \$10 shall be charged in addition to the regular license cost, plus a \$5 administrative fee. Each reminder sent to the owner will constitute an additional \$5 administrative fee.

Deceased or relocated dogs: If you no longer have your dog(s) please notify the Town Clerk's office so they may be removed from the street list and the licensing database.

The dog officer receives a list of owners whose dogs are not registered as of April 1 and owners may be subject to fines issued by the animal control officer for dogs that are unregistered, unvaccinated, and/or running at large as the Town of Hardwick has a 24-hour leash law.

If a valid rabies certificate is not on file with the Town Clerk's office, please send a non-returnable copy along with your payment. You or your veterinarian may also email or fax a copy of the certificate to: clerk@townofhardwick.com; fax number 413-477-6703.

Please contact the Town Clerk with any questions or if you are having difficulty in licensing your dog.

# News of the Towns

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

### BARRE.

Town Election Day – April 1 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.  
 Select Board – April 1 at 6 p.m.  
 Board of Assessors – April 2 at 6 p.m.  
 Felton Field Commission – April 2 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Planning Board – April 2 at 7 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – April 3 at 12:30 p.m.  
 250th Anniversary Committee – April 3 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Board of Health – April 8 at 5 p.m.  
 Water Commission – April 8 at 6:30 p.m.  
 DPW Commission – April 8 at 7 p.m.  
 Cable Advisory Committee – April 9 at 7 p.m.  
 Library Trustees – April 10 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Barre Housing Authority – April 11 at 3 p.m.  
 Sewer Commission – April 18 at 7 p.m.

### HARDWICK

Finance Committee – April 1 at 7 p.m. and April 8, April 22 and May 6 at 6 p.m.  
 Master Plan Steering Committee – April 2 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Recycling Commission – April 2 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Personnel Committee – April 3 at 4 p.m.  
 Parks and Recreation Committee – April 4 at 1 p.m.  
 Board of Health – April 4 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Paige Library Trustees – April 4 at 7 p.m.  
 Planning Board – April 9 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – April 10 at 9 a.m.  
 Gilbertville Public Library – April 10 at 4 p.m.  
 Conservation Commission – April 17 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Hardwick New Braintree Cultural Council – May 13, June 10, July 8 and August 12, Nov. 11 and Dec. 9 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Capital Planning Committee – May 20 at 3 p.m.

### NORTH BROOKFIELD

Board of Selectmen – April 9 and April 23 at 6 p.m.  
 Planning Board – April 17 at 6 p.m.

### OAKHAM

Select Board – April 1 and April 29 at 6 p.m.  
 Library Trustees – April 1 at 4:30 p.m.  
 Cemetery Commission – April 1 at 6 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – April 12 at noon  
 Planning Board – April 16 at 7 p.m.  
 Board of Health – April 22 at 4:45 p.m.

### PETERSHAM

Select Board – March 28 at 6 p.m.  
 Advisory Finance Committee – March 28 at 6 p.m.  
 Planning Board – March 28 at 7 p.m.  
 Conservation Commission – April 2 at 7 p.m.  
 Open Space and Recreation Committee – April 2 at 6 p.m.  
 Board of Health – April 4 at 6 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – April 8 at 10 a.m.  
 Cemetery Commission – April 9 at 10 a.m.  
 Capital Improvement Planning Committee – April 9 at 7 p.m.  
 Petersham Historic District – April 18 at 6 p.m.

### RUTLAND

Agricultural Commission – March 28 at 6:15 p.m. and April 2 at 7 p.m.  
 Finance Committee – March 28 at 6:15 p.m.  
 Select Board Hearing – April 1 at 6 p.m.  
 By Law Committee – April 4 at 7 p.m.

## Traumatic brain injury survivor to speak April 7

RUTLAND – A traumatic brain injury survivor will be presenting “I AM ...” on Sunday, April 7 at 2 p.m. in the Rutland Public Library, 280 Main St.

This event is sponsored by the Rutland Cultural Council, as part of the Massachusetts Cultural Council’s commitment to help better the lives of communities throughout the Commonwealth. As a college senior, Maloney had everything going for him. He was a star athlete, the MVP of his cross-coun-

try team, had a close-knit group of friends and a loving family.

But in an instant, all of it changed. Maloney recounts the night that life as he knew it was turned upside down by one poor choice. After an evening of drinking, Scott climbed out of his dorm room in an attempt to gain access to his dorm room to retrieve his keys. He lost his balance, falling three stories and striking his head on the ground.

The resulting traumatic brain injury nearly killed him, left

Maloney in a coma for three weeks and required years of therapy to relearn how to eat, talk and walk again. His message to audiences in his presentation, “I AM ...”, is simple, one poor decision can change a life forever and he’s an example of that. Infusing humor to help him deliver his message, Maloney impresses upon audiences the power of positive thinking and how negative influences can have a drastic impact on the preservation of mental health.

## Paige Memorial Library lists upcoming events

HARDWICK – The staff at the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, invites people to explore their programs.

Story Hour meets Wednesday mornings at 11 a.m. and the Paige Writing group meets on alternate Tuesdays at 3 p.m. The Paige Book Club meets at 2 p.m. monthly.

The Cookbook Club meeting at 5:30 p.m. monthly on the last Wednesday of the month. Legos open building session meet Wednesday, April 11, a half day for Quabbin Regional School District students, from 2-4 p.m.

On Saturday, April 13 the

Friends of the Paige Memorial Library will launch their 2024 Seed Library. Paige Memorial Library offered one of the first Seed Libraries and they will do it again with a bake sale, a book sale and a garden themed raffle basket. If people would donate to the bake sale or raffle, they may drop off their donations at the library or call 413-477-6704 with any questions.

On Saturday, April 27 at 1:30 p.m. at the Town House, on the Common, there will be a workshop with Gariné of Kalina Folk Arts on how to create a “Scrunch-Paint” tie-dye

style silk scarf. This workshop is for teens and adults. Each participant will leave with a beautiful silk scarf masterpiece. This program is supported by a grant from the Hardwick Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Registration is required. People may email Directorpaigelibrary@gmail.com, call 413-477-6704 or stop in.

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

## Quabbin Visitor Center lists First Thursday hikes

BELCHERTOWN – The Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, is hosting First Thursday Habitat Hikes each month.

All ages are welcome at these programs; however, dogs are not allowed anywhere at Quabbin Reservoir.

Quabbin is an area of immense diversity of habitat, from shady vernal pools to sunny mountaintops. Staff will be hosting hikes one Thursday each month (weather permitting) to spotlight some of these beautiful landscapes.

Hikes will vary in location and intensity and may focus on an individual species or on a more general area. For more information and to register visit [www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir](http://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir) or email [Quabbin-Visitor.Center@mass.gov](mailto:Quabbin-Visitor.Center@mass.gov)

### Wetlands Walk

A 1.5-mile easy Wetlands Walk will be held on Thursday, April 4 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (<https://goo.gl/maps/RvC5y8AMtmWTOtTq5>).

This Habitat Hike will visit two different types of wetlands. It will begin at the parking area for Goodnough Dike in Quabbin Park and walk the Dike Road down to the wetlands’ location and back, covering approximately 1.5 miles round trip.

Please dress appropriately for the weather and be prepared for wet/muddy conditions (wear appropriate footwear).

Register at: <https://app.smart-sheet.com/b/form/fe46ba-08256404fa1bd49660f68c624>.

### Gate 37 Forest Walk to Wetlands

A 1.5-mile east Gate 37 Forest Walk to Wetlands will be held on Thursday, May 2 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (<https://goo.gl/maps/wPedFYxiN5Qp8sVv9>)

Meet at Gate 37 off Route 122 in the North of Quabbin Reservation. Parking is limited.

This Habitat Hike will be a short walk down a forest road to a stunning wetland habitat. It is a little over 1-mile round trip.

Those who are feeling adventurous may opt to hike further, up the side of Soapstone

Mountain to a spectacular view of the Quabbin, though be advised this portion is difficult and will not be a part of the official hike. Please wear appropriate footwear and protect yourself against ticks.

Register at: <https://app.smart-sheet.com/b/form/c3936c4d-26c8443694b6b3fc0beb97d4>.

### Tower Trail Habitat Hike

Join a 3-mile moderate Tower Trail Habitat Hike on Thursday, June 6 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. (<https://goo.gl/maps/9K3L4xf44nbVK4bG7>)

This hike will meet at the parking area inside the Middle Entrance off Route 9. It is a moderately difficult hike, approximately 3-miles round-trip up Quabbin Hill through woodland and mountain habitat and back.

Due to safety issues, hikers will not be able to go up to the tower itself, as it is currently closed for renovations. Please wear appropriate footwear and protect yourself against ticks.

Register at: <https://app.smart-sheet.com/b/form/c2dd1551fbb7467bbdda704a469c7929>.

## Oakham

Ellenor Downer  
 edowner@turley.com



### Last day for nomination papers is March 29

The last day for candidates to obtain nomination papers for the Annual Town Election is Friday, March 29. The last day to submit nomination papers is Monday, April 8. The last day to register to vote for election is Friday, May 10. Positions on the ballot for three year terms are Select Board, Assessor, Board of Health, Library Trustee, Cemetery Commission, School Committee, Moderator, Town Clerk and Tree Warden. There is a one year term for Constable to fill a vacancy and a five year term for Planning Board. Nomination papers may be picked updating regular business hours at the Town Clerk’s Office Monday 6-7:30 p.m. and Fridays 10 a.m.-noon. A minimum of 20 signatures are required. People may call town clerk’s office at 508-882-5549, extension 4 for more information.

### Roadway Cleanup

On Saturday, April 20 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. there will be a town wide roadside clean up day in recognition of Earth Day on Monday, April 22. All Oakham residents may participate in a roadside clean up day, before all the ticks and grass grow too high. There will have a dumpster available for drop off behind the municipal buildings, Fire, Police and Highway. Blue trash bags and gloves will be available. This is only for roadside trash that can go into regular trash. There will be no disposal of electronics, tires, mattresses or other items not usually disposed of in weekly trash.

### Recycling Day

The Oakham Board of Health will hold a Recycling Day on Saturday, June 8 where they will be accepting electronics, mattresses, medical sharps, medications as they have in years past.

### Golf Tournament

The GABB Tournament sponsored by the Oakham Congregational Church will be held Monday, Aug. 5 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Quail Hollow Golf & Country Club, Old Turnpike Road, Oakham.

Registration is from 7:30-8:45 a.m. The tournament named in memory of Gretchen Nahkala, Art Gray, Bob Lajoie and Bob Tyck benefits local charities. Cost is \$100 per player and include 18 holes of golf, a cart and a barbecue buffet. Cost is \$360 per foursome if paid by July 26. There will be prizes, raffles and silent auction. For more information, people may call Dawn Histle at the Oakham Congregational Church at 508-882-5537 and leave a message if there is no answer.

### Senior center

The Oakham Senior Center, lower level Town Hall, is open Monday through Thursdays until 3 p.m. Fun fitness is held at the New Braintree Town Hall every Friday at 10:30 a.m. Ongoing activities also include Tuesday at 10 a.m. Wii and Tuesday and Thursdays walk away at 11 a.m., and Wednesdays at 9 a.m. coffee with friends.

## Gilbertville Public Library lists events

GILBERTVILLE – The Gilbertville Public Library, Main Street, will hold on Thursday, March 28 from 1-4 p.m. an Easter bake sale and book sale.

On Saturday, April 27 they will participate in the Craft Fair at St. Joseph’s Church, South Street, Barre. On Thursday, May 16 from 3-4 p.m. people may stop by to make Mother’s and Father’s Day cards. On Thursday, May 30 from 3-4 p.m. they may plant a mini garden.

## New Braintree Library hosts story times

NEW BRAINTREE – The New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive, is offering three Story Time programs in April on Mondays, April 1 April 15 and April 29, each will begin at 9 a.m.

The focus of the April 1 program will be on eggs and will feature “Peep and Egg” by Laura Gehl, “Egg” by Kevin Henkes and “Whose Egg?” by Guy Troughton and Lynette Evans.

The April 15 program will focus on bugs and will feature “Back Yard Bugs” by Jill McDonald, “Bugs for Lunch” by Margery Peckham and “How Does A Caterpillar Change?” by Eric Carle.

The April 29 program will have an Earth Day theme and will feature “The Curious Garden” by Peter Brown. This reading and crafts program for preschool children is typically held twice a month on Mondays at the library. Parental supervision is required. People may call the library at 508-867-7650 during regular business for more information.

## Library holds Rainforest Reptile Show on April 21

NEW BRAINTREE – Rainforest Reptile Shows, a hands-on traveling animal show, is coming to the New Braintree Town Hall, 20 Memorial Drive, on Sunday, April 21 at 3 p.m.

Children of all ages will have a chance to come into direct contact with live reptiles, artifacts and their incredible stories. This program is presented by the New Braintree Public Library and is sponsored in part by a grant from the Hardwick/New Braintree Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

The program is free and open to the public. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. People may call the library at 508-867-7650 during regular business hours for more information.

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

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# Opinion

## Letter to Editor

### What is going on in the small town of Oakham?

As of March 23, 2024, seven employees and one selectman have left employment in the town of Oakham.

Why? I think anyone watching selectmen's meetings can see the answer. The rude and dismissive attitude of the Board of Selectmen towards their constituency and anyone who questions them is evident.

One should ask why certain employees are granted numerous raises and extra benefits above town by-laws and others cannot even have a day off with pay. The town has lost a town clerk (23 years), a principal assessor (20 years), a town collector/treasurer (13 years), two board of health clerks leaving shortly after hiring, the library director (10 years), a selectman (5 years) and now the new principal assessor after two years.

There is a lack of transparency when questioned as to the reasons why. The Select Board talks about complete transparency, but that is not the case. The people in Oakham deserve better.

Ask what is going on and hold your elected officials accountable. Get involved, attend meetings, pay attention and vote.

Bradford and Lisa Taylor  
Oakham

## Guest Column



### Veteran uncertain about Social Security and healthcare coverage

Dear Rusty

*I'm not sure what I should sign up for in terms of Social Security; I am 64 and I am still employed full time and intend to stay employed until age 70.*

*I am retired from the Navy and receive military retirement payments and have military TriCare, as well as medical, dental, eye and life insurance through my employer. I don't want to lose benefits, but I also don't want to take Social Security until it reaches the maximum at age 70 (I think that is correct?). I will turn 65 in four months. Can you advise me?*

Signed: Uncertain Veteran

Dear Uncertain Veteran

First of all, thank you for your service to our country. From what you've shared, and since you're still working full time, not claiming Social Security yet is a smart decision. If you were born in 1959 your Full Retirement Age is 66 years and 10 months and, if you claim SS before your full retirement age, you'll be subject to Social Security's earning test, which would likely make you ineligible to receive SS benefits at this time.

The 2024 earnings limit (limit changes yearly) when collecting Social Security early is \$22,320 and, if that is exceeded, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 over the limit (half of what you exceed the limit by). If you significantly exceed the limit, SS will declare you temporarily ineligible to collect SS benefits until you either reach your FRA or earn less.

The earnings test no longer applies after you reach your FRA. So, if you're now employed full time and plan to stay so until age 70 and you expect at least average longevity (about 84 for someone your current age), delaying until age 70 to claim Social Security is how to get your maximum Social Security benefit.

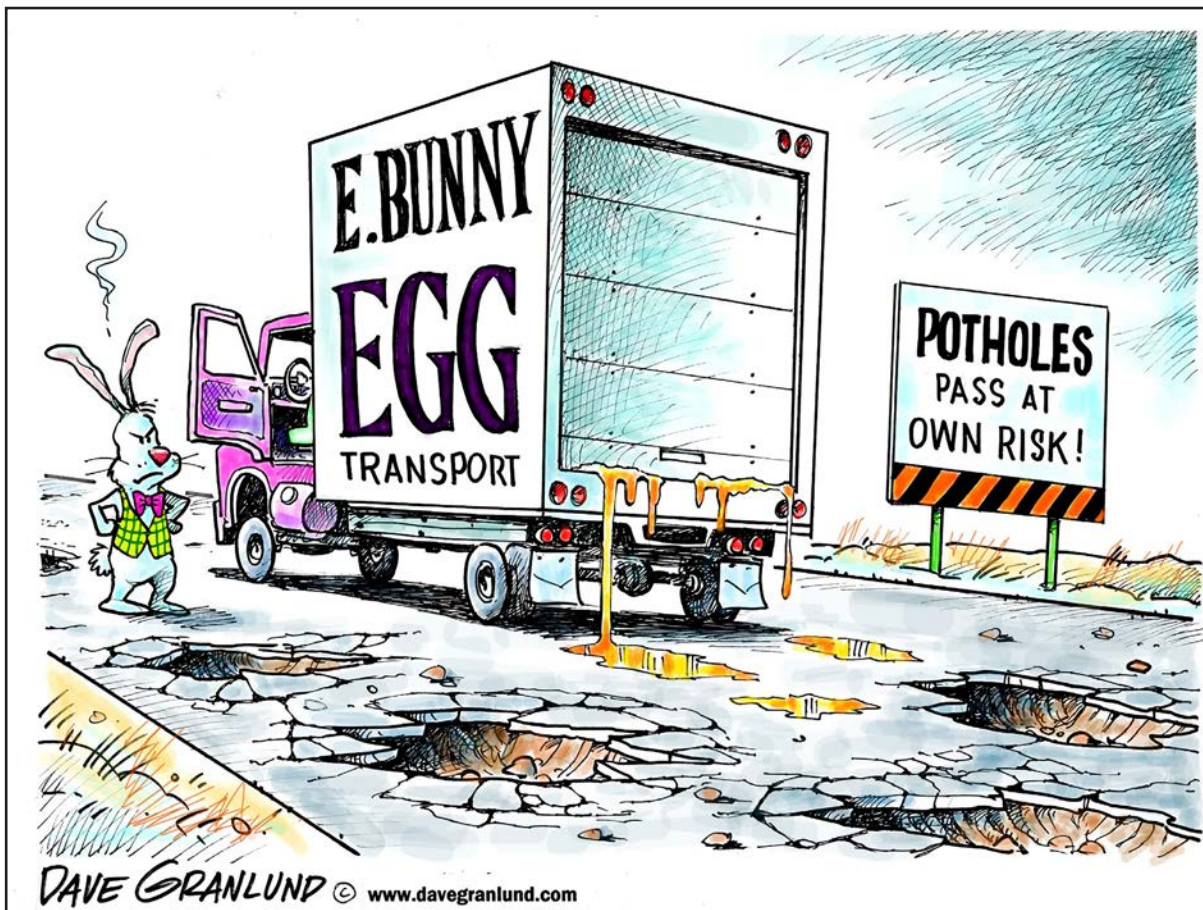
As for your healthcare coverage as a veteran: TriCare requires you to enroll in Medicare Part A inpatient hospitalization coverage and Part B coverage for outpatient services at age 65, but you do not need to take Social Security when you enroll in Medicare. You must, however, enroll in Medicare at age 65 or you will lose your TriCare military healthcare coverage.

You could choose to delay enrolling in Medicare at 65 because you have "creditable" employer coverage, but if you do so you will lose your current TriCare coverage and need to rely solely on your employer healthcare plan. In that case, you would still be able to enroll in both Medicare and TriCare-for-Life without penalty prior to your employer coverage ending and have coverage under both programs thereafter. I suggest you contact TriCare directly at 1-866-773-0404 to discuss your personal TriCare coverage after age 65. You can also go to [www.TriCare4U.com](http://www.TriCare4U.com).

Whenever you enroll, Medicare will be the primary payer of your healthcare costs and TriCare

See **SOCIAL SECURITY**, page 5

**PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BARRE, MA**  
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DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

## In Past Pages

5 years (April 4, 2019)

Barre Selectmen unanimously approved and adopted a natural hazard mitigation plan for the town, a Federal Emergency Management Agency. Planning assistant, Peter Peloquin of Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, presented the plan at the Monday night Selectmen's meeting. He explained the plan was not a disaster response. Instead, its goal was to reduce hazard impacts before a disaster happens. The handout he prepared said, "A mitigation plan identifies natural hazards and the risks they pose to residents, infrastructure, property and natural resources and it prioritizes projects, policies, education and procedures for reducing these risks, now and in the future."

It was a full house with an adoring audience when Andrew Moon Bain took the stage last Saturday evening and performed two original acoustic pieces during the spring Petersham Jams session. Standing well over six feet tall with a commanding presence Bain's melodic vocals and guitar playing enchanted those in attendance as he share "Piercing the Veil" and one of his new pieces, "Soulmate." Bain was one of almost two dozen local musicians, who gathered for the widely popular Jams event held at Davis Hall, a part of the Petersham Unitarian Church on the Petersham Common.

During the past winter several members of the community witnessed long time Oakham resident, Larry Mascroft, bagging up the trash along the roads on Route 148. Now with spring upon us and Earth Day quickly approaching the passion was rekindled within the community and discussions began again. On March 27, the Parks and Recreation Committee attended the Oakham Selectmen's meeting to inform them of the plan for a town wide clean up day and asked their permission to use certain town areas as staging points for the community to deposit the trash picked up from the residents. The Board granted permission. The road clean up will be held Saturday, April 28.

10 years (March 27, 2014)

Stephanie Benoit is a very talented senior citizen. She not only writes poetry, but she recently had a selection of her poems published, "Between a Lily Pond and a Star." Reeds Country Store was the location this past Sunday for a book signing and poetry reading. Sue Reed introduced this multi-talented woman and pointed out that Benoit painted the artwork on the wall behind her as well. She came to New Braintree in 1947 just a couple of years after World War II. Benoit served as a Marine during the war.

This year the Barre Players Theater selected a musical comedy for its spring production. "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying." The production is based upon a book by Shepherd

### LOOK BACK Bicentennial -1974



File photo

As part of Barre's Bicentennial celebration in 1974, this picture was taken at a flag raising ceremony on Old Home Day on Aug. 11 at North Park. Ward Brown, Stewart Reed, George Rogers and William Hudson, all members of American Legion Post 2 of Barre participated.

Mead of the same name. Frank Loesser wrote the music and lyrics and Abe Burrows, Jack Weinstock and Willie Gilbert wrote the script.

Matthew Castriotta, 48, a fifteen-year selectman for the town of Hubbardston and past president of the Massachusetts Selectmen's Association has announced plans to run as a Democrat for the 5th Worcester District seat being vacated by State Representative Anne Gobi (D-Spencer). Gobi has announced her candidacy for the Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex senate seat held by Senator Stephen M. Brewer (D-Barre) who has announced his retirement.

25 years (April 1, 1999)

President David Gale announced he has appointed a building committee to study the possibility of expanding the Barre Savings Bank's presence on the Barre Town Common. This is in keeping with the bank's strategic plan and its growth projections for the next 10 years. Gale said, "When I came to Barre Savings Bank in 1992, we had \$55 million in assets, a new branch in Paxton and 21 employees in the main office. We now have \$93 million in assets, a second branch in Princeton. He said, "We have very little, if any room to grow.

Plans for the improvement and expansion of the Woods Memorial Library building have risen to a

new level with the organization by the Barre Library Association of a fund-raising committee whose aim will be to involve interested members of the community in attracting that portion of the necessary money beyond those being provided by the Library Association. Library Association members John H. Allen and James F. Malley have agreed to serve as committee co-chairmen.

"Brush Up Your Shakespeare" and just enjoy the current Barre Players production, "Kiss Me Kate," to be staged at the theater on Common Street for the second weekend tonight, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. The many songs are done in fine style by two sets of lead characters, always backed up in a professional manner by the four-member orchestra.

38 years (April 3, 1986)

The annual Oakham town election will be held next Monday, April 7 in the Oakham Town Hall. /The polls will be open from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. There will be a contest for two offices: Selectmen and Planning Board. Robert J. Leary and Raymond B. Crawford, incumbent are both candidates for a three-year term on the Board of Selectmen. Bruce Lavallee and Denis deLaGorgendiere are running for Planning Board.

George McDonald, Barre

See **PAST PAGES**, page 9

### Election letters to the editor welcome

The Barre Gazette welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to the Barre Gazette care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com). Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

#### Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in the Barre Gazette.

## Guest Column



### Primroses serve double duty

This week's column was half done when I received a text from a good friend who I haven't seen in a few months.

She had just read last week's article and was reaching out to congratulate me on my impending delivery. What? If I were having a baby, my name may end up in more than just the local paper- try the Guinness Book of World Records.

Anyhow, I accidentally sent an old column in, not the one I revamped in honor of my first born's birthday. I am sorry you all missed out on a few new things I had to say about the Gerber daisy, but I hope this gave you a good laugh.

Another dear friend visited Cape Cod this past week. She left the morning that we had some freezing rain and light snow.

Later in the day I received a picture in a text message that said, "at least it's spring somewhere!" I chuckled as I looked at the pretty Polyantha Primroses (Primula spp.) planted outside of an establishment, almost beckoning tourists to jump start the busy season!

I countered her picture with one of my own, a picture of a primrose in my garden, just greening up but still weeks away from flowering. Why not take a closer look at this double duty plant, just in time for Easter giving.

What exactly do I mean by double duty? Pick one up at the grocery store to enjoy indoors this spring and then plant it in the garden.

Better yet, purchase a primrose as an Easter hostess gift and it will be a spring harbinger for years to come - a memory of you! 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. Like the infamous pregnancy gift from last week's column, primroses also fall into the happy plant category!

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 originally started out as a potted plant.

If it's been growing indoors for a while, be sure to let it harden off a bit before planting it in the ground; a partly shady spot with moisture retentive soil is best.

Typically, primroses need to be divided every three years or so, evident by die-out that begins in the center of the plant. Simply separate a chunk from the outer portion of the plant and replant it in rejuvenated soil.

I prefer to do this early in the season, but it can also be accomplished right after flowering has ended. In the heat of the summer, and especially in drier soils, the plant can look a little yellow and ragged.

Keeping it well watered helps.

One year, when money was tight, I divided a plant and potted up one of the divisions and gave it to my sister in law as a hostess gift. She still has it growing in her garden, and every once in a while, will send a picture of it happily blooming.

See **GARDEN**, page 9

### Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources. Send letters to: Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01065 or via email to [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com). The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

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# Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

Spring came and went, it seemed. I had the driveway plowed on Saturday. At least the electricity stayed on, but I guess they call this snow "Poor Man's Fertilizer."

I wonder if it will affect the daffodil bulbs that were up about four inches. How about the buds on some of the bushes? Last year, they were frozen.

I have been picking over recipes and household hints. I made a special notebook of favorite recipes so I don't have to hunt for them. I made each category like breakfast, desserts, drinks, main meals etc. using file folders cut in half to make divisions.

### Household hints

Here are a couple of household hints I plan to try. Natural cooking spray may be made by combining one part of extra virgin olive oil with five parts distilled water in a glass spray bottle. Shake well before spritzing onto cookie sheets or baking tins.

Pine pitch is another problem to get off your skin.

Having to pick up so many pine cone this year, I plan to use this hint. Take rubbing alcohol, put on a rag and the pitch will come right off. Another hint I used was to apply shortening and it will come right off. In Extension Service we use to make pine cone wreaths and they taught us to use shortening to remove the pine sap. Is it pine sap or pine pitch?

I just spent a few hours shining my silverware. Here is a quick way to do it. Get an aluminum pan, put your silver in the pan and cover it with baking soda. Pour boiling water over it and let science work. The chemical reaction of the aluminum and soda gets your silver all nice and polished.

### This and That

Easter comes early this year. I hope the readers all have a very nice day and can spend it with their friends and relatives. I hope the Easter Bunny will bring me some of my favorite jelly beans.



By Ellenor Downer



Fox sparrow

I had fox sparrows under my feeder for several days now.

Most recently I counted five of them usually it is two or three. The fox sparrow is a large sparrow about seven inches long. It has a gray head and back with bold, rufous or brown streaking. It has an irregular shaped central dot on its breast and reddish, brown rump and tail. The reddish coloring resembles the color of a fox, hence its name.

It often jumps forward and back, pulling aside ground cover to find food underneath. It may come to feeders when seed is scattered on the ground. I not only put seed in the tray feeders, but I sprinkle some on the ground for the juncos, sparrows and mourning doves.

The female lays four to six light blue green eggs with darker marks in a cup like nest of grasses, lichens and leaves lined with hair, fur and rootlets. When we had horses, I would often find nests with their hair in them. My daughters and I would leave hairs groomed from their manes and tails on the ground for the birds.

The fox sparrow's song is a short series of clear melodious whistles and it is more melodic than most sparrows. Males may have one to three versions their

songs, which are distinct to each male.

### Interesting sightings

I have received emails of several interesting sightings. A Granby resident wrote, "I recently saw a bald eagle in my neighbors tree right next to my property. It was on Feb. 28. To make sure what I was seeing, I grabbed my binoculars and sure enough it was a bald eagle. He stayed there for around five minutes then he flew away." She said, "It was my first time spotting an eagle in Granby. I did spot one in the 90s at the Quabbin flying around. I usually see hawks in my neighborhood on a regular basis. But this was a nice site to see for sure."

A Barre resident saw a snow bunting on March 15. An Oakham resident saw two sandhill cranes on the morning of March 15. He said, "While driving down Rutland Road in Oakham, I did a double-take and hit the brakes. There, near the road at Eva Grimes' old place, stood two Sandhill Cranes. They almost could have been mistaken for lawn ornaments, but they were real. One stood erect while the other pecked at the lawn grass. Last year I observed three cranes fly over my house. Perhaps they plan to nest in one of our large beaver-impacted marshes?"

### Brimfield resident

A Brimfield resident reported on March 18, he saw 22 ring-necked ducks and an immature bald eagle at a pond in Warren. He also said, "On South Street where last year there were three great blue heron nests and an osprey nest. There were two great blue herons standing in one of the nests used last year and an osprey sitting on the nest used previously. The osprey have been present there for three years, producing at least one chick each year. He also said his wife saw a dozen chipping sparrows in their yard, a first of the year at this location.

He report the only spring arrival in our yard had been one male robin a few days ago. No phoebes yet and he still has some juncos and at least one white-throated sparrow.

The Brimfield resident said he did a tour of some local ponds on Wednesday. At the heron rookery at Conant Brook in Monson he saw one great blue heron and one tree swallow. In Brimfield, there were 54 male and 18 female common mergansers.

### Turkey vultures

On Tuesday, I spotted about four turkey vultures perched in a dead tree in Oakham. Several more were circling overhead. I have seen them at this location in past years.

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

## SOCIAL SECURITY, continued from page 4

will be the secondary payor. Your vision, dental, and prescription drug coverage would be through TriCare (Medicare does not cover those services) or acquired separately. Just remember, you must be enrolled in Medicare Part A and Part B to have TriCare-for-Life

coverage after age 65.

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opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Seventh grader Bronwyn Whitney stars as Peter Pan in Athol High School Theater Department's spring play.

# Off to Neverland

## PETER PAN, continued from page 1

ing thrift shops. "This year we get to actually do it ourselves," Germain said.

Germain has also enjoyed the challenge of building the sets, and coordinating between the cast and crew.

Alma White has been performing since she was able to, following in her mother's footsteps.

"I would sit backstage and watch mom perform," she said. Her mother is helping run the lights for "Peter Pan".

White has taken on the role of Wendy Darling, a character she can really relate to as she's become a mother figure to the younger students.

"The kids always come up to me...I love working with the kids and making connections," White said.

In addition to being seniors at Athol High School, both Germain and White also attend Mount Wachusett Community College in the dual enrollment program.

Seventh grader Bronwyn Whitney stars as the lead, Peter Pan.

Whitney has been acting since she was in kindergarten and had her first stage role at the high school as an extra in "Annie". She was also the Gingerbread Man in "Shrek Jr."

The role of Peter Pan has considerably more lines than Whitney's previous roles, including a monologue.

Whitney said what she enjoys most about being Peter Pan is



Nana the dog is a puppet made by Co-Director Erin Shine.

channeling his confidence, as well as his sassy and emotional side, which comes out when Wendy tries to leave Neverland.

Sixth grader Brodhen Whitney has joined Captain Hook's crew as Starkey, after previously playing five different roles in "Shrek Jr.". He has been working hard to learn his blocking and all of his lines.

Other cast members include Sonia Arroyo as John Darling, Yadira Hernandez Colon as Michael Darling, Chevonne Stockwood as Tinkerbell, Sean Kelley as Captain Hook, William Zangarine as Smee, Ann DeBarros as Mrs. Darling, Aubrey Sumner as Noodles, Karma Chandler as Curley, Greta Kelley as Cookie, Riley Woods as Pots & Pans, Liliana Gaudet as Two Moons, Nicole Woods as Skylight, Gianna Harkness as Nibs, Addison L'Ecuyer as Tootles, Emmalyn

Talbot as Slightly, Sarah Day as Tigerlily/Liza, Peace Osoro as Big Little Panther and Brady Wehmeyer as Raging Waters.

Finne thanked the staff and administration for being so supportive of the cast and crew of "Peter Pan", and for helping out with rehearsals.

"Peter Pan" is a play based on J.M. Barrie's classic novel adapted for the stage by Craig Sodaro. It is produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc., Denver, Colorado.

Performances at Athol High School, 2363 Main St., include Friday, April 5 at 7 p.m., Saturday, April 6 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 7 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Tickets are available at the door and are \$8 for adults, \$2 for children and free for children aged 4 and under.



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Members of the Neverland Indian Tribe search for Captain Hook.

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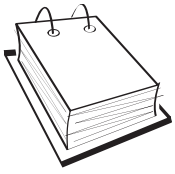
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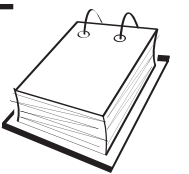
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**GOLF COURSE OPENS APRIL 1**



# Calendar of Events



## THURSDAY, MARCH 28

**EASTER BAKE AND BOOK SALE** will be held at the Gilbertville Public Library, 259 Main St., Gilbertville today from 1-4 p.m. There will be pies, breads, squares, cakes, cookies and more

**CIRCLE OF SONG REHEARSALS** take place tonight at 7 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street, Barre. The choral group of 23 years sings in four-part harmony and often in other languages. People may email julie@mhof.net or call 978-257-1192 for more information. They perform several concerts during the year. The next concert will be Saturday, May 18 at the Barre Town Hall. New members are always welcome. Membership dues are sliding scale from \$25 per year for students and \$40 - \$70 for adults according to ability to pay. If people are interested in joining Circle of Song, they may email Julie Rawson, director, at julie@mhof.net, or call 978-257-1192 or show up at a rehearsal.

**RUTLAND SCHOLARSHIPS** sponsored by the Rutland Historical Society are now accepting scholarship applications. The scholarships are offered to any two Rutland high school seniors planning to enter college, who have resided in the town of Rutland for at least two years. The two \$500 awards are based on scholarship with an emphasis given to involvement and contributions in the areas of both school and community. Applicants can obtain scholarship forms by emailing Sheila Judkins at sljwheeler@gmail.com. Forms should be submitted with an official transcript, SAT or ACT scores and a letter of recommendation by May 31. They should send completed app

## FRIDAY, MARCH 29

**FRIDAYS WITH FRIENDS** will be held today from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant St., Barre in the multipurpose room for school age children. Different activities are held each week ranging from arts and crafts to STEAM based challenges all meant to bring the community closer together. The program is held Fridays during January, February and March and is recommended for ages five plus.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 30

**SATURDAY STORY TIME** will be held today from 10:30 a.m.-noon at the Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant St., Barre in the multipurpose room at the library. The program is recommended for ages three to six. Each week Ms. Katie will read a story and pair it with a craft or related activity. To request sign language interpretation or other accommodation for special needs for any program, people should call the Library Director at least two weeks before the program date at 978-355-2533 extension 101 or email jhood@barrelibrary.org.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 6

**DESIGNER PANCAKE BREAKFAST** sponsored by Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will take place today from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Mt. Zion Masonic Lodge hall, 71 Pleasant St., Barre. Cost is \$9 per adult and \$5 per child 10 and under. Menu

## BARRE, continued from page 1

answer to a question by the board of the drone's longevity, he replied about 10 years. The drone has a 44 minute run time and came with spare batteries. Following discussion the Board approved the use of American Rescue Plan Act funds of \$5,752 toward the drone.

### 911 Memorial

Dennis Fleming and Charles Fullam of the 911 Development Committee attended the meeting to request funds to complete the 911 Memorial on Barre Common. He

said the committee ideally would like it completed for Sept. 11 of this 250th anniversary year.

The cost to complete the monument was \$38,000. He said the turnaround time for ordering materials was two months.

### Public comment

During the public comment period at the beginning of the meeting, Neil Anders questioned why the town still had a fire truck on the road, which Fire Chief Rob Rogowski said was non-complaint with current requirements in his grant application to replace that piece of equipment. Anders said the

truck in question even went out of town on three occasions for mutual aid. The Board said they would talk with the town's insurance carrier. Select Board Vice Chair Dixon said as of now the truck has insurance.

### Old business

Under old business, Sam Lipson brought up the new fire truck purchases and the need for the Board to hold a public meeting on this issue before the Town Election on April 1. The Select Board held an informational meeting on this two weeks ago.

Select Board Chair Marshall

said the meeting should not be held without the Fire Chief present. He will return the end of this month from his two week training with the National Guard. Both parties spoke longer than the allotted two minutes for public comment.

Anders said his lawsuit with the town brought up at the Feb. 7, 2022 meeting should be in the minutes. Select Board Vice Chair Dixon said he would review the meeting recording. The Administrative Assistant left the meeting, returned and presented Anders with a copy of those minutes. The discussion became heated.

## HUBBARDSTON, continued from page 1

advocating for changes in state funding formulas and making difficult decisions about budget priorities. The severity of the projected increase in Hubbardston's QRSD assessment for FY25 cannot be overstated. Urgent action is needed. People should come equipped with knowledge and ideas to the Annual Town meeting on June 4.

Boudreau encourages everyone to review the projected FY

2025 budget on the Town website by visiting <https://www.hubbardstonma.us>. They should click on FY 2025 proposed budget now available for review and all will be open to see. Residents should familiarize themselves with the important committee meeting videos also available under Meeting Videos on the left side. In addition,

if they have not yet done so, click the Subscribe box and sign up for anything they want to stay on top of as it happens in the town.

## 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 or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, April 1. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in the following edition.. Bill Bowles, Gary Brigham, Peggy Civilik, Stephen Craven and Evelyn Luukko correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was the Nexamp solar array on Barre Road Cutoff in New Braintree.

includes design your own pancakes, waffles, sausage gravy with biscuits, bacon, sausage, orange juice, coffee and 100% real maple syrup. All are welcome to this all you can eat breakfast.

**WARWICK CHILDREN'S BUSINESS FAIR** will be held today from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Warwick Community School Gym, 41 Winchester Road, Warwick, MA. For more details, people may email Warwickchildrenbusinessfair@gmail.com.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 7

**RAISE THE CROWN**, a musical for Easter, will be performed by the Christian Community Choir presented today at 3 p.m. Today's performance is on Sunday, April 7 at 3 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 131 Blaine Avenue, East Brookfield.

## TUESDAY, APRIL 9

**HISTORY AT PLAY (TM, LLC)** with Judith Kolaora is hosted by the Rutland Historical Society and the Rutland Cultural Council today at 7 p.m. at the Rutland Library, 280 Main St., Rutland. Kolaora will portray, "Unsung Heroines of WWII." She delivers a

one-woman, dynamic performance highlighting the accomplishments of five women, who risked their lives in defense of their country. A display of WWII memorabilia will be on display. This event is free and open to the public.

**POETRY AND JAZZ** to celebrate National Poetry Month will be held tonight and Tuesday, April 23 at 6 p.m. at the Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant St., Barre. Each night will feature two local poets reading from their books and two local musicians playing live jazz music. Tonight features poets, Susan Roney-O'Brien and David Thoren and musicians, Dick Hummel and Jerry Willfong. On April 23, the program features poets, Jonathan Blake and Clair Degutis and musicians, Rich Falco and Jerry Willfong. This program is supported by a grant from the Barre Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

## TUESDAY, APRIL 16

**ENDANGERED SPECIES EDUCATIONAL PUPPET SHOW** for all ages will beheld during school

vacation week for this special program today at 7 p.m. at the Boylston Town House, 599 Main St., Boylston. Life-size puppets created by artist Amanda Gibson will delight the audience with information on the African Painted Dog, the Kakapo, the Vaquita, the Chimpanzee, and the Tiger, and their endangered status. A graduate of the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Gibson combines her love of storytelling and art to showcase the versatility of puppetry. This 'Night of Community Spirit' is sponsored by Worcester Central Pomona, a district Grange, and the local chapters of Central Community, Holden, North Orange, Petersham and Sterling. In addition to the entertainment, a donation of items, the result of a five-month community service foster care project, will be presented to a representative from the Worcester East office of the Department of Children and Families. Door prizes and refreshments will conclude the evening. All are welcome to join us for this free educational and entertaining event. The program is funded through an Opportunity Grant awarded by the Massachusetts State Grange. For more information, people may email jsegru55@gmail.com or call 508-886-2341.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 19

**SUPPORT GROUP** for grandparent raising grandchildren will be held today from 9:30-11 a.m. at Worcester Family Resource Center, 20 Cedar St., Worcester. This group meets the third Friday of every month. People should call 508-796-1411 or email yiwfrycyouice@sevenhillsg.org to register or for more information.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 27

**STERLING GRANGE 150th ANNIVERSARY** will be observed with a public supper and program on today at 5:30 p.m. at the Sterling Senior Center, 36 Muddy Pond Road, Sterling. Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, green beans, tossed salad, bread, cake and ice-cream will be served. A brief history of the Grange will be presented by the Massachusetts State Grange historians, Amber and Randy Vaill. Lively tunes from The Sterling Strummers will conclude the festivities. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$8 for children 6 - 12 and free for children 5 and under. Reservations can be made by calling 508-886-2341 or emailing name and number of tickets to sterlinggrange53@gmail.com.

## SATURDAY, MAY 4

**PIONEER VALLEY QUILT GUILD** will be presenting their "Up, Up and Away" quilt show today from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, May 5 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Elks #61 Lodge at 440 Tiffany St., Springfield. The venue is handicapped accessible. In addition to beautiful quilts and our eight foot quilted balloon on display, there will be vendors, an appraiser, raffle baskets, a raffle quilt and a food vendor. They will also be selling handmade items from their members at the PVQG Boutique. Admission is \$10. Groups of 10 or more can receive a discount by asking for Janet Foy upon arrival.

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# SPORTS

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## Quabbin baseball nears season opener

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional High School baseball team is hoping to improve on last season's performance as they failed to make the state tournament. The Panthers are scheduled to host Littleton in its season opener on Monday, April 1, followed by a home game against Oakmont on Friday, April 5.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

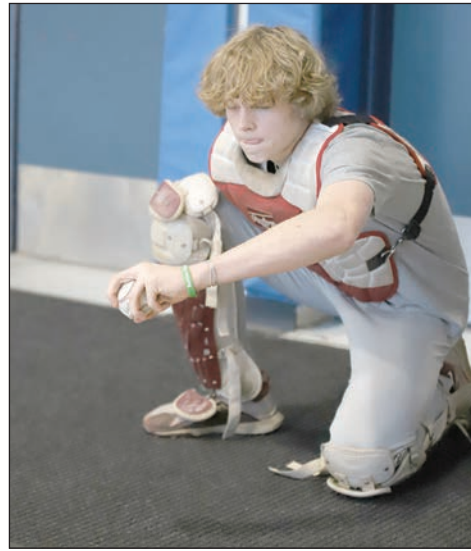
Quabbin Regional baseball works out in the high school gymnasium Monday afternoon.



With muddy conditions, the Panthers used the gym to work on infield drills.



The Panthers did not have any scrimmages scheduled this week.



The Panthers are hoping for a better season this year as come back a year more experienced.

## Panthers face preseason competition

BARRE – On Monday afternoon, Quabbin softball hosted Athol High School in a scrimmage. With the weather not looking favorable, this could be Quabbin's only scrimmage before the Panthers start their regular season opener on Monday, April 1. The Panthers will host Littleton at 4 p.m.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Quabbin softball faced Athol in a scrimmage on Monday afternoon.



Meaghan Doyle makes a catch on a pop-up.



The Panthers are racing against the weather to prepare for the regular season.



The Panthers get the close out at first base.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Pathfinder's baseball team gathers at the start of practice.



A Pathfinder outfielder comes up throwing with the ball.



A Pathfinder player makes a throw back to the infield after making a play.

## Pioneers getting set to face Sci-Tech

PALMER – Earlier this week, the Pioneers baseball team continued its preparation for the upcoming regular season. The Pioneers are scheduled to travel to Sci-Tech on Monday, April 1 at 4 p.m., then return home to face Smith Vocation on Friday, April 5 at 3:30 p.m.



The Pioneers practice their outfield work Monday afternoon.

## Springfield Thunderbirds rebound to defeat Syracuse Crunch

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (28-29-3-2) got a hat trick from one of their key stars en route to a 6-4 triumph over the Syracuse Crunch (35-20-4-2) on Saturday night before the 11th consecutive sellout crowd of 6,793 inside the MassMutual Center.

It was the home team that drew first blood on the scoreboard. Right winger Will Bitten intercepted a Syracuse pass in Springfield's defensive zone and went in alone on a breakaway. Bitten made a nifty forehand to backhand move before tucking the puck past Syracuse netminder Hugo Alnefelt,

notching his 14th goal of the season and giving the T-Birds a 1-0 lead at 3:37 of the first.

Unfortunately, the Springfield lead slipped away in the waning seconds of Syracuse's first power play. After taking off on a rush up-ice into the T-Birds zone, Felix Robert filtered a pass into the blue paint that glanced off a defender before slipping in past Vadim Zherenko at 16:22.

The T-Birds, though, responded in kind and regained their one-goal lead with less than a minute to play in the opening period. After a brief give-and-go between Hugh McGing and Hunter Skinner

at the offensive blue line, Skinner made a terrific pass through traffic to the left-wing side. Ryan Suzuki received the pass and wasted no time whistling a release past Alnefelt on the glove side of the net for his 10th tally on the year. That marker gave the T-Birds a 2-1 lead going into the first intermission, and Zherenko made that stand up with a sensational diving stop on Walteri Merela with barely a second remaining on the clock on a crease scramble at the end of the frame.

It only took 30 seconds for the Thunderbirds to add to their lead in the second. Mikhail Abramov

found his linemate Jakub Vrana streaking down the left wing on a stretch pass. Vrana took the feed and ripped a perfect shot past the glove of the Syracuse netminder to give Springfield a 3-1 lead.

Still, Syracuse would not go away as they narrowed the Springfield lead back to one less than three minutes later. After a Syracuse shot took a crazy carom off the plexiglass behind Zherenko, the puck found the stick of Crunch defenseman Devante Stephens, who quickly spun a turnaround shot through Zherenko to make it 3-2 at 2:44.

Tempers flared shortly there-

after as Sam Bitten and Tyson Feist dropped the gloves at the 14:11 mark of the period. As he had done all season, Bitten's fight fired up the sold-out crowd in the Thunderdome, and it, in turn, led to offensive fireworks a few minutes later. After Quinn Schmiemann was called for a hooking infraction, Will Bitten got his second of the night, taking advantage of a crazy carom off the corner glass that skittered right to him in front of Alnefelt. While the Crunch goalie got a piece, the puck squeezed home, and the two-goal lead was restored, 4-2, at 9:59 of the middle frame.

Vrana and Bitten's line was not done, either. As the game went to 4-on-4 in the closing minutes, Vrana and Abramov capitalized on a 2-on-1, as Abramov slipped a left-wing shot over Alnefelt's glove, giving Springfield a 5-2 lead at 17:46, a lead that carried into the intermission.

Syracuse did not go quietly into the night, and Ilya Usau's goal at 4:46 made it a 5-3 game. Zherenko kept the Crunch at bay until Alnefelt went to the bench for an extra skater with under six minutes to play. Just moments after the

See T-BIRDS, page 8

BARRE GAZETTE

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# Sports

## Railers pick up much-needed win

READING, PA – The Worcester Railers HC (27-28-5-3, 62pts) beat the Reading Royals (26-31-5-2, 59pts) on Sunday afternoon by the final score of 6-3 in front of a crowd of 3,310 at Santander Arena. Worcester heads back home to take on the Newfoundland Growlers for the first time from the DCU Center this season on Wednesday, March 27th at 7:05 p.m.

Reading's Joe Nardi (1-1-2) scored his second goal of the weekend to open the scoring with 6:43 left in the first. Worcester fired back with three unanswered in the second from Ashton Calder (1-0-1), Keeghan Howdeshell (1-0-1) and Anthony Callin (1-1-2) to put Worcester ahead 3-1 going into the third. Andrei Bakanov (1-1-2) scored along with two empty net goals from Trevor Cosgrove (2-1-3), while Reading got goals from Jake Smith (1-0-1) and Tag Bertuzzi (1-0-1) en route to a 6-3 Railers victory.

Reading controlled the flow of play in the first, testing Tikkanen with nine shots on goal. Joe Nardi (16th) found a rebound along the near goal line and hammered it back towards Tikkanen, beating him near side to give Reading the late 1-0 advantage in the first. Worcester was outshot 9-6 in the first period.

The second period played out similarly for the Railers to their third period on Friday, which was headlined by a flurry of goals. First it was Ashton Calder (16th) in the slot off a nice feed from Ryan Scarfo to beat Maier and tie the game 1-1 2:04 into the period. The assist was Scarfo's first point as a Railer. Just 3:21 later, Keeghan Howdeshell placed a perfect wrist shot over the blocker hand of Maier to put Worcester ahead 2-1. Mason Klee picked up his first professional point on the goal, notching the secondary assist. Worcester's Anthony Callin piled on with a goal 3:26 later. Zach White hit him with a pass on the tape while he sped into the

offensive zone and sent a wrist shot top shelf past Maier and give Worcester a 3-1 lead goin into the third.

The Railers tagged on one more early in the third with a shot from Andrei Bakanov (11th). He picked up the loose puck in the slot and wristed it past Maier to open Worcester's lead to 4-1. Reading bounced back 1:06 later as Jake Smith outwaited Henrik Tikkanen and wrapped it into the open net to make it a 4-2 game for most of the third. With the net empty, Trevor Cosgrove found the puck in open ice thanks to Andrei Bakanov chipping at it and sailed it into the empty net to make it 5-2 Worcester.

Reading came back thirty seconds later with a goal from Tag Bertuzzi past the left arm of Henrik Tikkanen and cut it back down to a two-goal game. Cosgrove once again scored an empty netter, this time from 180 feet as Worcester skated away with a 6-3 win over Reading on Sunday afternoon.

## Registration now open for Quabbin Valley baseball

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to infuse new talent into its league for the 2024 season.

Registration for the 2024 season is now open and any interested players can go to [www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org](http://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org) to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated over the next month with information about the upcoming season.

There are many open roster spots available in the league for the 2024 season, which is tentatively scheduled to begin on Sunday,

April 21. The league plays most Sunday from late April through late August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley normally used.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all-abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2024. The league is also

able to entertaining taking in an entire group as a team to add to the league. Please email the league board for to inquire about entering a team.

The league is currently in the process of preparing for the 2024 season and held a meeting on March 24 to discussion plans for the upcoming season. The next meeting will be held after the league's open practice for all players, including players interested in joining the league. The open practice will be at Beachgrounds Park in South Hadley at 10 a.m. on April 7.

## Registration now open to take part in Bay State Games

WOBURN – Registration for the 42nd annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2024 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from May 11 – July 27 at venues throughout eastern and central Massachusetts including Game On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point Sports Complex in Weymouth, and North Star Ice Sports in Westborough. Bay State Games participants range in age from 5 to over age 75 and represent more than 300 Massachusetts communities as well as surrounding New England States in some sports. From grass-

roots participants to accomplished amateur athletes, the Bay State Games provide opportunities for the athlete in all of us.

Seven high school showcase sports will take place for a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, soccer, softball, and volleyball. Athletes currently in grade 8-11 who live or go to school in Massachusetts are eligible to attend regional tryouts during the month of June. These tryouts will determine teams representing the various regions of the Commonwealth that will compete against each other in July. Check each sport

page for specific eligibility requirements.

The Summer Games include a wide variety of individual sports including swimming, track & field, figure skating, pickleball, wrestling, weightlifting, badminton, and more. These sports are open to a wide range of ages and skill levels from youth participants to masters-aged athletes. Adaptive sport divisions in archery, swimming, and track & field are offered, as well. Bay State Games also organizes tournaments for pre-existing teams in rugby, and 6v6 field hockey.

Returning in 2024, Table Tennis will take place on June 1 at PingPod in Boston after a 5-year hiatus from the Summer Games sport lineup. New venues include Babson College, which will host the Girls

# Education

## Historical Society accepting scholarship applications

RUTLAND – The Rutland Historical Society is now accepting scholarship applications.

The scholarships are offered to any two Rutland high school seniors planning to enter college, who have resided in the town of Rutland for at least two years. The two \$500 awards are based on scholarship with an emphasis given to involvement and contributions in the areas of both school

and community.

Applicants can obtain scholarship forms by emailing Sheila Judkins at [sljwheeler@gmail.com](mailto:sljwheeler@gmail.com). Forms should be submitted with an official transcript, SAT or ACT scores and a letter of recommendation by May 31. They should send completed applications to Rutland Historical Society, c/o Sheila Judkins, 76 Wheeler Road, Rutland, MA 01543.

## St. Aloysius Catholic School lists honor roll

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School in Gilbertville lists students named to the second trimester honor roll.

**High Honors**  
Jason Aller

**Honors**  
Dianne Aller, Sophia Adams, Aria Carfagna, Hannah LaRochelle and Christopher Rice.

## Saint Anselm College announces Dean's List

MANCHESTER, NH – Saint Anselm College announces the following students are on the Dean's List of high academic achievers for the first semester of the 2022-2023 school year.

Mark W. Cronin, Dean of the

College, announced that the following students are on the Dean's List: Sean Kelleher of Rutland, Class of 2024 environmental studies and politics major and Jacob Nadeau of Rutland, Class of 2024,

business major.

To be eligible for this honor, a student must have achieved a grade point average of 3.4 or better in the semester with at least 12 credits of study which award a letter grade.

## NB SCHOOL COMMITTEE, continued from page 1

"Students were able to connect with each other and their teachers in a new way that strengthened their relationships," he said.

Seniors took part in several tours to local manufacturers as part of the work-based learning pilot program. These students can then apply for an internship with these manufacturers.

A career day is also planned for grades seven-12 on March 28. Almost 25 representatives from a variety of career fields will speak with students.

On May 8 from 5-7 p.m., John Morello will perform "Dirt" for students, families and community members.

Priestley said kindergarten enrollment is now open and families of prospective students have been sent notices.

She thanked guest readers who participated in Community Reading Day earlier this month.

The Friday before April vacation, the Elementary School will hold its annual Earth Day celebration, which features a fun-filled day of learning and activities. She said they are looking for donations of empty two-liter bottles.

Director of Student Services Ann Knapp gave an update on English Language Learners, adding that testing has been completed and groupings have been adjusted based on results.

Knapp said the first list for extended year services for special education students has been drafted.

"We all know that this is going to change as IEP meetings come up and different children qualify or come off, but we have a working list to go from," she said.

Knapp said the list will drive program scheduling and staffing needs. Tentative dates for extended year services are July 8 through Aug. 9.

A parent interview questionnaire for parents of incoming preschoolers has been refined, and is receiving positive feedback.

**Regionalization update**

School Committee Chair Ron Rye said the Regional Agreement Amendment Committee met and reviewed what the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education had sent to the attorney regarding the regionalization agreement. He said the committee sent back answers to the questions posed by DESE in the correspondence.

Rye said he hopes the committee will hear back from DESE prior to its next meeting.

**Recognitions**

McCormick recognized basketball coaches Caitlyn Malone and Steve Carrington for both being named Coach of the Year and 1,000-point scorer Jose Rivera for being named the Most Valuable Player.

He said of the two basketball teams, four girls and four boys made the All-Star team.

This season was, "a fantastic showing by both basketball teams," McCormick said.

McCormick also recognized Student Representative Olivia Giangrande and the Student Council for a success-

ful Massachusetts Association of Student Councils conference, including earning the Gold Council of Excellence award.

"Only 65 or so schools get recognized out of all the high schools in the commonwealth," he said. "So it's quite an achievement."

Student Council update

Giangrande said the students enjoyed their winter sports pep rally to celebrate the school's basketball teams.

"We were very excited to celebrate the girls' varsity league championship win and Jose Rivera's 1,000 points," she said.

Giangrande said 10 members of Student Council attended the state conference in Hyannis where they participated in workshops and elections, and heard from keynote speakers.

"This conference teaches members new leadership skills and helps us to improve our council as a whole," she said.

Three seniors received the Commonwealth Award for excellence within their council and the Student Council earned the Gold Council of Excellence award.

Spring spirit week will be held the week prior to April vacation featuring different themes for each day and a lip sync competition.

**New staff**


McCormick said the school district welcomed a new speech language pathology assistant, as well as a new paraprofessional who will start on April 1. He said he is meeting with a teacher candidate as well.

"We're constantly looking to bring new people on!" he said.

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# Turleysports

## Athlete of the Month



**NAME:** Mia Ducos  
**SCHOOL:** Quabbin

Ducos helped lead Quabbin girls basketball to a Central Mass. Championship for the first time with a win over Notre Dame Academy. She led the team with 11 points in the win.

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](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com).

**T-BIRDS, continued from page 7**

ensuing faceoff, Cole Koepke redirected a pass in the slot from Alex Barre-Boulet, and the Springfield lead was down to 5-4 with just 5:05 to go.

Things got dicey for Springfield

with just over a minute to play when a Barre-Boulet shot squeezed through Zherenko's legs and rolled precariously across the goal line. Jack Finley seemed to have a wide-open net, but he could not get the puck across the line, and the T-Birds survived the threat.

Bitten capped off his sweet

night by racing up ice and chipping the loose puck into the empty net with 1:01 remaining, making it a 6-4 final.

Springfield begins a crucial six-game road trip on Friday night in Hartford against the Wolf Pack.

night by racing up ice and chipping the loose puck into the empty net with 1:01 remaining, making it a 6-4 final.

Springfield begins a crucial six-game road trip on Friday night in Hartford against the Wolf Pack.

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# KofC sponsors first major fundraiser of the year

## Eddie Forman band plays for playground

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
Staff Writer  
epappas@turley.com

WARE – The St. Aloysius Catholic School in Gilbertville is working to raise money through several fundraisers to construct a playground for the students to enjoy at recess.

The school's Financial Manager and Enrollment Coordinator, Roberta McQuaid, has been working with the members of the school's PTO and the Ware Council 183 Knights of Columbus to bring this playground into being.

"The playground is for the school, for our elementary school

students. For them to actually have playground equipment will be wonderful," McQuaid said.

The Joe C. Knight Memorial Playground will be built in memoriam of a beloved community member. With the fence built first, it brings safety as the school awaits the final construction of the play equipment.

"Joe and Jen Knight were founding parents of the school in 2016, and Joe was a board member up until his passing two years ago," McQuaid said. "His mother, Kathy Knight teaches second and third grade at the school."

The first major fundraising event this year will be a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on Saturday, April 6 at St. Mary's Church hall on South Street. Ware Council 183 Knights of Columbus is sponsoring

the event, and they will be using the hall to host and the kitchens to cook.

Keeping toes tapping and the beat going at the dinner is the renowned Eddie Forman polka band. The band is donating their performance for the entire event.

"The families have been contributing and helping by selling tickets, and contributing items for themed baskets that will be raffled off at the end of the night," McQuaid said.

The next fundraising event will be a 5K held at Grenville Park the first weekend of May. "Many of our families participate in the 5K – you can walk or run," McQuaid said.

The school and community are looking forward to the construction of this playground, and it will bring fun and enjoyment to the children for many years to come.

# Mysterious women in history: the Mary Lane Version

By Lynn Caulfield Lak

Years ago, my friend Craig Simmons asked me if I would portray Mary Lane for the cemetery tour that he was planning for Aspen Grove Cemetery.

I said, "I'd love that," and set about learning more about Mary Lane so I could bring artifacts and enhance my costume. I was stymied by the lack of information about her that was readily available.

A friend told me that prominent women were only in the paper twice during their lifetime, when they were born and when they died! Even so, I was equally surprised when I read a blog posting of an interview with Dr. Bettany Hughes who said, "...it's the inconvenient truth that women have always been 50% of the population, but only occupy around 0.5% of recorded history."

Therefore, I shouldn't have been surprised when I started looking for information about the buildings that comprise the Mary Lane Complex...Wetherby, Storrs, Davis, Gilbert. Two may have been men: John H. Storrs, of the generous Storrs family of Ware, and Lewis Gilbert, who donated his home, property, and a trust to

become forever the Mary Lane Hospital, named after his dear departed wife.

But we are not sure: could these also have been named after the women in their lives?

And who was Wetherby? I got everyone involved, asked all my historical friends, consulted the three Ware histories and quizzed everyone I knew who had worked at Mary Lane once upon a time. No one knew!

I gratefully turned to Heidi Reed, at the Young Men's Library in Ware, and she was able to unearth a family history written by Charles Frost, who was Mrs. Charles Wetherby's grandson. His grandmother "served as president of the Ware Visiting Nurse and Hospital Association from 1915-1940, a full quarter century.

In that capacity she oversaw the building of the present-day Mary Lane Hospital. The Flora B. Wetherby Memorial Wing was added to the hospital in 1949. The hospital was founded by women, was managed by a board of directors composed entirely by women, and employed women as superintendents until 1954."

Oh, we were thrilled!  
Next, the next mystery was the

Davis Wing. How is it possible no one knows?

Once again, Heidi was able to help: she found a fundraising letter to the Ware Visiting Nurses Association signed by Nathalie, and a phone book listing for Nathalie and her husband Arthur. Jane Sterndale was able to confirm that Nathalie was a generous contributor to Trinity Church.

I spent some time in the archives at the Ware River News (thank you, Paula and Dan) to try to confirm that this is who the wing is named after, but no luck.

Finally, I was conversing with Stephen Katz, who had generously signed and sent some books for our book hunt this May, and asked him. He was able to confirm that the Davis Wing was named after Arthur L. and Nathalie G. Davis.

Stephen was also able to confirm that the Gilbert Wing: honors Lewis N. Gilbert and members of his family and the Storrs Wing: honors Rachel O. Storrs (1889-1991). What a relief!

If you have any other information about the hospital's history that you'd like to share, please give me a call at 413-967-7223 or email me at llak310@comcast.net.

Thank you!

## QUILTS, continued from page 2

ness of quilting to the general public and encourage people who may be interested in quilting to go ahead and do so. We are open to men and women," she said.

The upcoming April meeting will focus heavily on prep-work for the Quilt Show, and the members will put together the baskets for the raffle and any other finishing touches.

Conway started quilting in 2014 and joined the guild in 2018 at the

recommendation of a friend after falling in love with the craft, and the guild itself.

"My favorite part is the camaraderie with the people who are a part of the guild," Conway said. "I think that there is always something to learn from one another."

The guild and its members want to open their doors to the community and let them know that anyone with an interest in quilts or quilting is welcome – no requirement for skill level.

"Joining the guild has given me a chance to improve upon my quilting skills, while at the same time mak-

ing lifelong friendships," Conway said.

You can join the guild at any time, and the cost for a yearly membership is \$30. A guest can be brought by an existing member for \$5, and it will go toward membership if they choose to join.

"We started with the formation of the guild because of its desire to give back to the community," Conway said. And it does, in many, many ways.

For more information about the Pioneer Valley Quilt Guild, visit pvquilt.org or follow them on Facebook.

## PAST PAGES, continued from page 4

Highway Superintendent, updated the Barre Selectmen on the traffic pattern project at their Monday evening meeting, March 31 McDonald said the project could not be started until the town applied for a temporary permit, which would allow the project to begin and continue for 90 days. The town would then apply for a permanent permit for the project. As soon as the town receives the temporary permit, the project will begin.

"If everything works out with Phase 1 of our plan, ideally we could have 250 inmates into the former Pioneer Valley Academy in one year and expand with an additional 250 inmates with time was James Circo's of the Department of Human Services response to a time frame question posed by Donalyn Schofield of New Braintree. The information meeting was called by the Selectmen to give town offices and residents a chance to hear about the state's renewed interest in PVA, this time for a medium security prison.

## BAYSTATE GAMES, continued from page 8

Basketball Showcase, and NorthStar Ice Sports, which will host Figure Skating and the Girls Ice Hockey Showcase. Game On in Fitchburg will serve as a hub venue for eight sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game On during the second week of July.

Bay State Games is pleased to announce a new partnership with Marathon Sports to provide athletes, officials, and volunteers with a special, traditional Bay State Games gift. Details will be released later in March.

"We are excited to present the 2024 version of the Bay State Summer Games where Massachusetts amateur athletes of all ages and abilities can have their 'Time to Shine,'" said Kevin Cummings, Executive Director of the Bay State Games. "This year will feature the addition of table tennis and ultimate as well as several new host venues including Babson College in Wellesley, Howard Park and Maplewood Park in Malden and NorthStar Ice Sports

in Westborough. We look forward to welcoming athletes from across the Commonwealth as we celebrate the 42nd year of the Bay State Summer Games."

An additional feature in 2024 is that in over a dozen sports, athletes who win a gold, silver, or bronze medal at the 2024 Bay State Games will qualify to participate in the 2024 State Games of America in San Diego, California. The State Games of America features more than 8,000 athletes from over 25 different state games programs nationwide. To see the list of qualifying sports, please visit www.stategamesofamerica.com.

In addition to sports programming, Bay State Games offer college scholarships, a sportsman-ship initiative, college internship opportunities, and a High School Ambassador program.

For more information on all sports in the 2024 Summer Games, links to online registration, and information on other programs, go to www.baystategames.org.

For questions, email info@baystategames.org or call 781-932-6555.

## GARDEN, continued from page 4

I've tried in earnest to grow Japanese Primrose (Primula japonica) but something in my soil apparently isn't right. I will probably buy another one this year and hope beyond hope to eventually end up

with a stand of them like they have in the display gardens at Positively Perennials.

The sea of whorled flowers in light and dark pink is arboretum worthy.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of

Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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.

# Church News

## Local pastors offer sermons

### The Difference Easter Makes

What difference does Easter make?

I suppose our response depends entirely upon how we define Easter. If Easter, to us, is simply about a bunny, colorful eggs and copious amounts of candy, it is likely just another holiday that comes and goes.

If Easter, however, centers upon the reality of the resurrection of Christ, then it is truly impacting. This premise is worthy of exploration.

If there is one thing that binds us together it is our broken nature. It is a commonality we share regardless of age, ethnicity or income. Do you deal with inadequacy, insecurity and recurring character flaws? Do you put the "fun" in dysfunctional? Have you ever known shame or felt alone in this crazy world? We all have in varying seasons, yet the Risen Christ provides the remedy for what ails us. Ultimately a living Jesus makes all the difference.

1) The Issue of Confusion  
We all wrestle with confusion. We face uncertainty and doubt regarding matters both great and small in the course of living.

For instance, one of the more common questions I hear is, "How can I be sure of the right religion when there are so many options?" The following excerpt speaks to this challenging circumstance in light of the resurrection of Christ:

"Modern men and women ask with great sincerity, 'How can I know which religion is the right one?' This is a legitimate question. The average person today faces a veritable supermarket of religions from which to choose. He or she sees the well-stocked shelves and wonders, 'Which should I choose?' It is also a crucial question because on the surface there seems to be no great difference between Christianity and the religions of the world."

"They have written scriptures and so do we. They have miracle stories and so do we. They have ethical standards and so do we. They have long and rich histories, as do we. It is easy for the casual shopper to doubt, confused as to which religion is the correct one. They can even-wrongly-assume that all religions are the same! But there is one fundamental difference, one fact that sets Christianity apart from every other faith: Jesus is alive and rose from death as He promised. I can take you all over the world and show you the tomb of long-dead leaders. Yet there is no place on earth where I can point to a dead Jesus. The only thing I can point you to is an empty tomb."

**Matthew 28:6a (NIV)**  
6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.  
2) The Issue of Guilt  
Have you ever known the sting of guilt? Have you ever felt shame over some wrongdoing? The Word is quite clear that we all have sinned and fallen short of the standards of God (Rom. 3:23).

None of us-left to our own devices-are righteous, not even one (Rom. 3:10). As one author notes: "The record of our failure haunts us day and night. It whispers to us in the darkness and shames us in the light. Sin stalks the trail of every person born on planet earth. No one is born without sin, no one lives without sin, and no one can claim to be totally free of its power. The question is not, 'Am I a sinner?' because the answer is always yes. The question is, 'How do I get rid of the guilt I feel in my soul?'"

The only real solution to the problem of human sin is the finished work of Christ (John 19:30). It was He who offered His life on the Cross as the atonement for our sin (1 John 2:2). It was He who rose from death, demonstrating that God the Father had accepted His substitutionary work (Matt. 20:28).

The following text articulates the wonder of Jesus' death and resurrection, as well as what they achieved on the behalf of those who believe in Him:  
**Romans 5:6-10**  
6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly, 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a

good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! 10 For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life.

3) The Issue of Loneliness  
We all know what it feels like to be lonely. Isn't it amazing that the most connected generation in human history often feels so lonely? The following quotation addresses this shared experience:

"Men and women across the world ask, 'Where can I find a friend? How can I find someone who really cares for me?' It seems so odd since many people are connected via the internet and technology, but so many still feel so alone. It is not that hard to understand, however. We are all living in the fast lane now. We get up in the morning, get dressed, go to work or school, come home to eat supper, watch TV and go to bed-only to get up the next morning and do it all over again. Who can make time for friends? Moreover, we do not know our neighbors. We put up fences, shrubs and security systems to protect our privacy. People move so much these days, there seems little incentive for making the effort. In the end, countless millions are frustrated, bored, tired and with no one they deem a close friend. We scream and no one answers. We cry for help, but who hears our voice?"

Against this awful reality stands the Word of God and its promises:  
**Matthew 28:20b (Jesus Speaking)**  
"Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Such words would be meaningless if Christ were still dead. If Easter never happened, we are truly and forever alone. Yet a risen Savior can be the friend we all need and the confidant we crave. Are you in need of a compassionate companion and comforter? I would point you to Jesus-Jesus who remains the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb. 13:8).

4) The Issues of Death and Eternity  
Have you ever wondered about matters of death and eternity? Do you long for hope in the life to come? If so, you are not alone! After all, it is natural for us to want some assurance that there is something beyond this life-something good and hope-inducing. Death seems a rather frightening, permanent condition. As one writer adds: "Have you ever touched a dead person? Ever experience the cold, clammy, waxy feel of death? There is no movement in the nostrils, no twinkle in the eye, no smile on the lips. Death feels terrible, unreal and unnatural. When we stand over the body of someone we love, we feel helpless, angry, defeated and afraid." No wonder the Bible speaks of death as an enemy (1 Cor. 15:26)!

Truly a dead Jesus would be of little help to us. What good would such a Savior be against the backdrop of death? If He could not save Himself, how could He save us? But what of a living Jesus-One who conquered the grave "because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on Him" (Acts 2:24)? Such a Savior would change everything. Hope founded upon Him and His promises would provide the certainty we seek.

I close with this promise and penetrating question of the Lord:  
**John 11:25-26**  
25 Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Do not take such words lightly. What say 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 convenience using the information below.

Also, feel free to check us out online by visiting www.NewLifeBarre.org or come 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

### Palm Sunday

"Hosanna! Blessed is the One Who comes in the Name of the Lord!"

Our services can be found on our website at www.barrechurch.com and Facebook page.

Scripture Reading: Mark 11 v 1-11. Introduction

In all or many of our achievements, we feel the need to celebrate our successes, and we also feel good when others celebrate with us.

Our celebrations can take many forms, from a small gathering, or a more elaborate party, celebrating birthdays, an anniversary, Christmas, New Year and more. There are other forms of public celebrations, for example in sports, or political leadership where there is a winner and a loser. In these kinds of celebrations there are feelings of joy and feelings of disappointment and sadness, as well as negative reactions and actions.

II. Hosanna is He who comes in the Name of the Lord

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem was filled with joy as the crowds around Him celebrated and shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!" and, "Blessed is the coming Kingdom of our father David!"

His riding on a colt was a sign of an Old Testament tradition, where the king or government official for example Solomon with his coronation, entered Jerusalem on David's mule with numerous celebrations, (See 1 Kings 1 v 32 – 48). Jesus received the red-carpet treatment by the crowds, who spread branches, long grasses, palms, and their outer clothes on the road where Jesus was traveling.

The Hebrew word for Hosanna, was used for a general shout of praise, "in the highest place, in heaven or in God's presence". Mark Strauss in his commentary on the Gospel of Mark says the crowds saw Jesus as the One who will come to reestablish the throne of David. He is their Messiah, for He had shown Himself to have the characteristics of someone whose ministry and person was that of God.

His love and care and compassion felt to them like the Messiah would be. Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey spoke to His intention to make Himself known and fulfill the prophetic word of Zechariah 9 v 9 that referred to a King who is humble, riding on a donkey, and victorious and righteous. He knew the time had come to reveal Himself, even though it would also be a dangerous step to take.

In Jerusalem, His Messiahship would bring Him directly in conflict with the religious leaders there.

Jesus had His disciples and friends to lean on during this time. The Gospels describe to us that He traveled from Bethany, which is the place where Lazarus and his sisters lived, and as His friends they were there to give Him the physical and emotional comfort He needed. He would be anointed at their home before taking this difficult journey.

III. Conclusion:  
Palm Sunday is therefore a joyful celebration of the One who came to give His life for our salvation and reconciling us with God.

See SERMONS, page 10

## 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 \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

PLEASE REMEMBER TO  
RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

# Public Safety

## Barre Police Log

**Sunday, March 17**  
 7:20 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Stroke (CVA), Fruitland Road, Transported to Hospital  
 10:44 a.m. Harassment, Worcester Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
 11:56 a.m. Administration, South Street Administration Complete  
 Summons: Morales Santiago, Eddie Nelson, 58, Fitchburg  
 Charges: License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With Safety Standards, Motor Vehicle Not Meeting Registry Motor Vehicles  
 Arrest: Malin, Jacob, 30, Gilbertville  
 Charges: Operating Motor Vehicle OR .08%, Inspection/Sticker, No, Brakes Violation, Motor Vehicle  
 5:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Written Warning  
 6:17 p.m. Harassment, South Street, Officer Advised  
 6:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Disabled, Worcester Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
 8:27 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, New Braintree, Mutual Aid Assist

**Monday, March 18**  
 2:37 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Station Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal  
 2:44 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Mutual Aid Assist  
 2:47 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Worcester Road, Mutual Aid Transported  
 4:54 p.m. Public Assist, South Street, Property Returned  
 7:50 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Hubbardston, Mutual Aid Assist  
 10:19 p.m. Gunshots, Cutler Road, Unfounded

**Tuesday, March 19**  
 12:14 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Valley Road, Written Warning  
 11:34 a.m. Emergency Medical Services – Sick/Unknown, Worcester Road, Transported to Hospital  
 12:21 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issue, Ruggles Lane, Negative Contact  
 12:39 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Stroke (CVA), Cutler Road, Transported to Hospital  
 4:11 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, West Street, Transported to Hospital  
 6:04 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problems, Wauwinet Road, Transported to Hospital  
 11:34 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problems, Barre Deport Road, Transported to Hospital

**Wednesday, March 20**  
 9:56 a.m. Larceny or Theft, 655 South Street, Report Filed  
 3:03 p.m. Speak to the Chief/Officer, South Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
 3:15 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Summer Street, Animal Returned to Owner  
 4:07 pm. Suspicious Person – Vehicle Activity, Summer Street, Area Search Negative  
 6:37 p.m. Property – Lost and Found, Summer Street, Brought to Station

**Thursday, March 21**  
 11:19 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Wheelwright Road, Officer Advised  
 12:28 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures, South Street, Mutual Aid Transported  
 12:46 p.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield District Court, Court Duty

4:47 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Worcester Road, Removed Hazard  
 5:29 p.m. Fire – Power Lines Down – Arcing, Granger Road, Investigated  
 6:55 p.m. Suspicious Person – Vehicle Activity, Worcester Road, Unfounded  
 7:23 p.m. Suspicious Person – Vehicle Activity, South Street, Negative Contact

**Friday, March 22**  
 10:15 a.m. Fire – Brush and Wildland Fires, Wheelwright Road, Investigated  
 12:13 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Station Road, Transported to Hospital  
 4:12 p.m. Road Condition Notification, Nichols Road, Message delivered  
 8:39 p.m. Suspicious Person – Vehicle – Activity, South Barre Road, Information Given  
 11:27 p.m. Erratic Operator, West Street, Negative Contact

**Saturday, March 23**  
 10:45 a.m. Fire – Power Lines – Down – Arcing, Valley Road, Referred to Other Agency  
 11:11 a.m. Fire – Power Lines – Down – Aching, South Street, Removed Hazard  
 4:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning  
 8 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Summer Street, Report Filed  
 9:55 p.m. Fire – Power Lines – Down – Arcing, Washburn Road, Investigated  
 10:11 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Worcester Road, Peace Restored.

## Rutland Police Log

**Sunday, March 17**  
 12:01 a.m. Public Assist, East County Road, Report Filed  
 11:09 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Pleasantdale Road, Transported to Hospital  
 1:52 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Main Street, Public Assist  
 2:07 p.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), Richards Avenue, Referred to Other Agency  
 4:33 p.m. Threats, Turkey Hill Road, Report Filed  
 4:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 7:59 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
 10:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning

**Monday, March 18**  
 12:09 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Hubbardston, Mutual Aid Assist  
 1:25 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Hubbardston, Mutual Aid Assist  
 6:05 a.m. Property Damage, Main Street, No Police Service Necessary  
 9:12 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Maple Avenue, Report Filed  
 9:48 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Officer Spoke to Party  
 2:50 p.m. Suspicious Person – Vehicle Activity, Main Street, Report Filed  
 3:05 p.m. Erratic Operator, East County Road, Officer Advised  
 3:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 4:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
 4:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
 7:48 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Hubbardston, Mutual Aid Assist  
 9:49 p.m. Erratic Operator, East County Road, Officer Advised  
 10:06 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Charnock Hill Road, Report Filed  
 10:57 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Glenwood Road, Transported to Hospital

**Tuesday, March 19**  
 7:23 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Ware, Dispatch Handled  
 1:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning  
 2:06 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, River Road, Transported to Hospital  
 2:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning  
 2:32 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 2:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 3:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning  
 3:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 3:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning  
 3:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued  
 4:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning

4:29 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Animal Bites, Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal  
 5:10 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Vista Circle, Officer Advised  
 6:17 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Central Tree Road, Negative Contact  
 Wednesday, March 20  
 7:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 8:45 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued  
 9:07 a.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield District Court, Court Duty  
 9:38 a.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Main Street, Animal Returned to Owner  
 10:25 a.m. Serve Warrant, Brunelle Drive, Arrest(s) Made  
 Arrest: Johnson, Neil Joshua, 54, Rutland  
 Charges: Warrant  
 12:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 12:59 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Sedona Circle, Officer Advised  
 1:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued  
 1:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Main Street, Removed Hazard  
 1:54 p.m. Harassment, Stevens Way, Information Given  
 2:37 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Negative Contact  
 2:49 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Tufts Animal Hospital, Animal Brought to Tufts  
 3:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
 7:41 p.m. Trespasser or Prowler, Turkey Hill Road, Officer Took Call

**Thursday, March 21**  
 8:15 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 8:24 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogusset Road, Written Warning  
 8:57 a.m. Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Prescott Street, Transported to Hospital  
 10:51 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Athol, Message Delivered  
 1:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning  
 1:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning  
 1:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning  
 1:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning  
 2:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Wachuset Street, Written Warning  
 2:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning  
 Summons: De Figueiredo Laranj, Humberto, 61, Worcester  
 Charges: Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle  
 2:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
 3:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 3:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 3:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning  
 3:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning  
 3:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Citation Issued

3:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
 4:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogusset Road, Written Warning  
 5:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Wachuset Street, Citation Issued

**Friday, March 22**  
 1:56 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Athens Avenue, Negative Contact  
 7:43 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Sycamore Drive, Transported to Hospital  
 8:29 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 9:50 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, New Braintree Road, Transported to Hospital  
 10:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning  
 11:14 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Criminal Complaint  
 Summons: Johnson, Hector D., 21, South Barre  
 Charges: Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With, Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Unregistered Motor Vehicle  
 11:47 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital  
 12:36 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, River Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
 2:45 p.m. Fire – Brush and Wildland Fires, Prison Camp Road, Fire Extinguished  
 3:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning  
 5:32 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Kosta Avenue, Officer Spoke to Party  
 7:26 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Crestview Drive, Ambulance Signed Refusal  
 11:34 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Old Turnpike Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

**Saturday, March 23**  
 1:14 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Whole Town, Referred to Other Agency  
 8:02 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Pleasantdale Road, No Fire Service Necessary  
 9:09 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Turkey Hill Trail, Ambulance Signed Refusal  
 10:16 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, No Fire Service Necessary  
 11:22 a.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), Maple Avenue, Entry Gained  
 11:55 a.m. Fire – Power Lines – Down – Arcing, Glenwood Road, No Fire Service Necessary  
 12:58 p.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Pommogusset Road, Message Delivered  
 4:51 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Skyline Drive, Officer Advised  
 6:35 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Glenwood Road, Investigated  
 10:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Citation Issued  
 11:16 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Cheryl Ann Drive, Investigated

## Hubbardston Police Log

**March 17**  
 12:28 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Pitherville Road, Transported to Hospital  
 12:54 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Rutland, Officer Spoke to Party  
 9:34 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written Warning

**Monday, March 18**  
 8:35 a.m. Court Duty, Main Street, Court Duty  
 7:49 p.m. Serve Warrant, Main Street, Arrest(s) Made  
 Arrest: Blaisdell, Micah William, 25,

Hubbardston  
 Charges: Warrant  
 8:58 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Bemis Road, Officer Advised

**Tuesday, March 19**  
 8:37 a.m. Court Duty, Gardner District Court, Court Duty

**Wednesday, March 20**  
 12:07 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, New Templeton Road, Vehicle Towed

**Thursday, March 21**  
 11:23 a.m. Animal – Lost and Found,

Old Princeton Road, Information Given  
 11:59 a.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Worcester Road, Message Delivered

**Friday, March 22**  
 8:50 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Main Street, Investigated

**Saturday, March 23**  
 1:13 a.m. Unwanted Party, Streeter Road, Party Departed without Incident  
 11:31 a.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Birches Road, Fire Extinguished  
 10:51 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, New Templeton Road, Vehicle Removed

## Hardwick Police Log

During the week of March 18-25, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 74 building/property checks, 39 directed/area patrols, nine traffic controls, six radar assignments, eight emergency 911 calls, two assist other agencies, five citizen assists, one complaint, six safety hazards, one brush fire, one motor vehicle accident, two animal calls and 15 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

**Monday, March 18**  
 9:30 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Transported to Hospital  
 1:31 p.m. 911 Assist Other Agency, Barre Road, Dispatch Handled  
 6:24 p.m. Assist Citizen, Bridge Street, Spoken To  
 10:27 pm. Motor Vehicle Failure to Stop, Hardwick Road, Arrest(s) Made

**Tuesday, March 19**  
 7:57 a.m. 911 Misdiad, Schoolhouse Drive, Officer Handled  
 10:14 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main

Street, Spoken To  
 1:55 p.m. Assist Citizen, Petersham Road, Report Taken  
 6:03 p.m. Assist Citizen, Town of Hardwick, Officer Handled

**Thursday, March 21**  
 6:50 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Barre Road, Report Taken  
 10:22 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Joslyn Road, Dispatch Handled  
 1:21 p.m. Complaint, Parker Court, Spoken To  
 10:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning

**Friday, March 22**  
 8:17 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled  
 11:44 a.m. 911 Fire/Brush, Prouty Road, Extinguished  
 3:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 4:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 5:08 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled

**Saturday, March 23**  
 12:32 a.m. Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
 8:46 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Street, Removed Hazard  
 9:18 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Prospect Street, Transported to Hospital  
 10:01 a.m. 911 Fire/Other, Barre Road, Services Rendered  
 10:26 a.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Removed Hazard  
 10:48 a.m. Safety Hazard, North Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

**Sunday, March 24**  
 12:06 a.m. Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Officer Handled  
 6:48 a.m. Safety Hazard, Chagnon Road, Checked/Secured  
 8:31 a.m. 911 Animal Call, Taylor Hill Road, Could not Locate  
 10:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Vehicle Towed

**Monday, March 25**  
 1:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Church Street, Written Warning

## Oakham Police Log

Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
 1:45 p.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield District Court, Court Duty

**Thursday, March 21**  
 11:10 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Barre Road, Report Filed  
 12:23 p.m. Fire – Power Lines – Down – Arcing, Gaffney Road, Referred to Other Agency

**Friday, March 22**  
 9:50 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, New Braintree Road, Transported to Hospital  
 11:47 a.m. Emergency Medical

Service – Sick/Unknown, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital  
 11:34 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Old Turnpike Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

**Saturday, March 23**  
 10:22 a.m. Fire – Power Lines – Down – Arcing, North Brookfield Road, Referred to Other Agency  
 11:22 a.m. Fire – Power Lines – Down – Arcing, Spencer Road, Referred to Other Agency  
 11:54 a.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Scott Road, Removed Hazard

## Public Notices

**BARRE PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING**  
 The Barre Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.**, Henry Woods Building, 40 West Street, Boards' Office, 3rd Floor, requested by John George for the installation of a 11.34 kw, 28 modules, residential ground mount solar system located at 40 Root Road, Assessors Map D, Parcel 5 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds Book 31630, Page 357.  
 Anyone wishing 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  
 03/21, 03/28/2024

The Town of New Braintree will accept sealed bids for pavement surfacing of Old Turnpike Road. MassDOT prequalification of contractors with the class of work as, Pavement - Surfacing, for the project with an estimated value of **\$100,191.36** will be required. The estimated value provided in this Invitation to bid is for FY2024.  
 All bids signed with the name and address of the bidder should be submitted in a sealed envelope that is plainly marked in the lower left-hand corner of the envelope **"FY2024 BID FOR OLD TURNPIKE ROAD"**.  
 All bidders are required to be in compliance with Mass. General Laws, Chapter 149, Prevailing wage rates, where applicable.  
 The Town of New Braintree reserves the

right to reject any or all bids and waive any informalities in the bidding if they deem it in the best interest of the town to do so.  
 Bid specifications must be obtained from the Select Board office, 20 Memorial Drive, New Braintree, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or can be emailed upon request by calling the Highway Department at (508) 867-2451.  
 Bidders must be pre-qualified by the Contract Engineer of Mass. D.O.T., before specifications can be handed out.  
Bids will be received until 6:30 p.m., Monday April 22, 2024, and will be opened and read at 6:35 p.m. in the office of the Select Board. The bid shall include a statement of non-collusion.  
 03/28, 04/04/2024

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
 The New Braintree Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 6:30 PM** in the Town Hall, Memorial Drive, New Braintree, MA on the following application:  
 Rebecca Berg, Applicant, seeks a Variance under the provisions of MGL Chapter 40A, Section 9, and Section 4 of the Town of New Braintree Zoning Bylaw (Chapter 4) to add a 32' x 36' garage to existing structure located at 11 Tucker Road, Town Assessor's Map 408 parcel 19.  
 The application is on file in the Town Clerk's Office. All those interested must be present, or send a representative, or send communication in advance of the hearing date.  
 ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS  
 03/28, 04/04/2024

## New Braintree Police Log

During the week of March 18-25, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 20 building/property checks, 28 directed/area patrols, eight traffic controls, four radar assignments, two emergency 911 calls, one citizen assist, one assist other agency, six safety hazards, one motor vehicle investigation, one identity theft, one chimney fire, one animal call and four motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

**Monday, March 18**  
 5:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning

**Wednesday, March 20**  
 1:42 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

**Thursday, March 21**  
 6:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Hardwick Road, Spoken To  
 7:28 a.m. 911 Fire/Chimney, Barr Road, Extinguished

**Friday, March 22**  
 4:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ravine Road, Citation Issued

**Saturday, March 23**  
 12:33 p.m. 911 Assist Citizen, Gilbertville Road, No Action Required

1:58 p.m. Safety Hazard, Utley Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
 2:06 p.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Officer Handled  
 2:39 p.m. Safety Hazard, Worcester Road, Removed Hazard

**Sunday, March 24**  
 1:16 a.m. Safety Hazard, Hardwick Road, Checked/Secured  
 7:58 a.m. Safety Hazard, Pierce Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
 12:07 p.m. Identity Theft, Memorial Drive, Report Taken

**Monday, March 25**  
 6:55 a.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

## SERMONS, continued from page 9

It is also a reminder that His entry into Jerusalem led to His suffering and crucifixion.  
 He would spend those last days still ministering and teaching and challenging the authorities, doing everything He could to convey the will of God. He also knew who would remain with Him and who would leave Him, deny, and betray Him, and so He made peace with all those aspects of the journey He was on.  
 Today we celebrate Him with our palms, remembering Him surrounded by the crowds who rec-

ognized Him as the King of Kings, with their humble red carpet made of palms and branches and clothing. Today we came to this sanctuary to express our joy for being forgiven for our sins, for being accepted by the Son of God for who we are, with our shortcomings and weaknesses, with no discrimination based upon any human-made distinctions, of race and gender, and culture and all kinds of things we tend to create to divide us.  
 We are just here in His presence and in the presence of God, waving our own palms, saying thank you to the King who did not need much of a red carpet, whose whole being was about peace and love and

acceptance. May God bless us on this day as we celebrate not only our own achievements, but the most significant achievement in the history of Christianity, the triumph of the King who gave His life for us, and for this world.  
 He may have been criticized and resented by those who did not celebrate with Him, but He rose from the death and destruction in victory for everyone to witness. May God help us to surrender our lives to this Messiah.  
 Amen.  
**Pastor Margaret Keyser**  
 Barre Congregational Church  
 30 Park St., Barre

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**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1                     | 2                     | 3                     | 4                     |
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Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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