

BARRE GAZETTE

USPS 044560

March 30, 2023 | Vol. 188, No. 51 | \$1.00



A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

www.barregazette.turley.com

Town election takes place April 3

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – The Annual Town Election will be held on Monday, April 3 with the polls open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Precinct one is located at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road and Precinct 2 at American Legion Post 2, 450 South Barre Road.

There are two contests on the ballot with two candidates for one three-year term to the Select Board and four candidates for two positions as Library Trustee. Incumbent Gregory P. O'Sullivan, 27 School St. North and Mark A. Regienus, 300 Springhill Road seek a seat on the Select Board.

Catherine Chase, 120 Hardwick Road, a candidate for re-election; Heather Rene Bernard, 1629 West St.; Charlotte A. Gareau, 20 Oakham Road and Allison Nicole Laundis, 127 Root Road all seek the two positions for three-year terms as Library Trustee.

All other positions on the ballot are uncontested. Michael G. Landry, 463 West St., seeks another three-year term to the Board of Assessors. Christopher J. Jenkins, 788 Dana Road, is running for a two-year term to the Board of Assessors.

Karen Keegan, 168 Main St. and a candidate for re-election, seeks a three-year term on the Board of Health. Incumbent John J. Pimental Jr., 785 Williamsville Road, is running for a three-year term as Water Commissioner.

Glen C. Alt, 53 Summer

See TOWN ELECTION, page 5

All that Jazz

Gilbert Players present 'Chicago'; opening Friday

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Gilbert Players are getting ready to put on the old "razzle dazzle" in preparation of what is sure to be their best show ever, the vaudeville musical "Chicago."

"Chicago" is one of the longest running shows on Broadway, logging almost three decades of crime, corruption, dark humor, sex appeal and of course, dance.

"It's been a dream of ours," Artistic Director and Producer Linda Klem Tomasi said of performing the show on The Center at Eagle Hill's stage. "This theater lends itself to cabaret."

The Gilbert Players have waited eight years to secure the rights to perform the incredibly popular musical, and the timing just couldn't be better.

With an all-star cast of Gilbert Players regulars as well as many newcomers, Tomasi said each actor is perfectly cast in their roles.

"It ["Chicago"] was always done with young girls, but I was hoping to get that middle-aged woman," Tomasi said.

The reason for this, is many of the women in the Cook County Jail have been there for many years, serving lengthy sentences for murder.

"When we're at this age, we don't get to perform a lot," Tomasi said. "If we didn't get these women, we wouldn't have done it...I want women who fit the role."

One of those women is Julie Bouchard, who many will recognize for her iconic portrayal



Julie Bouchard (center) performs as Velma Kelly.

of the villain in many of Gilbert Players productions.

Bouchard first performed "Chicago" at Theatre at the Mount 23 years ago, and said this was her last shot to play lead Velma Kelly.

"It's my favorite musical of all time," she said. "I'm used to playing the villain, but I love that Velma and Roxie are able to connect at the end."

This is Bouchard's first time working with Rutland resident Kaitlin Ekstrom-Doig, who plays Roxie Hart.

Together, Bouchard and Ekstrom-Doig also led the choreography.

While many of the cast members are not trained dancers,

See CHICAGO, page 7

Select Board sets STM for April 25

Warrant to close Monday, March 27

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – The Select Board during their regular business on Monday, March 20 voted to set the Special Town Meeting for Tuesday, April 25.

They also voted to open the warrant that night and close it on Monday, March 27 at 5 p.m. This would give Town Administrator Jessica Sizer time to complete the warrant before she leaves for her new position.

The Board asked the 250th Anniversary Committee to present a warrant article for the STM in writing. Select Board Chair Maureen Marshall said the article did not need to contain the actual amount requested at this time.

They voted to appoint Amanda Clapman to fill her late mother's position on the 250th Anniversary Committee. Clapman was not a resident of Barre, but she grew up in Barre. The Town Administrator said the charge to the committee did not include a resident requirement.

Town Administrator report

The Town Administrator in her report offered information for a smooth transition to an Interim Town Administrator. She included a list of all projects currently in the works, budget information including the latest revenue projections and information about the

See BARRE STM, page 5

Select board selects interim town administrator

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – Select Board Chair Maureen Marshall and member John Dixon interviewed two candidates for the position of interim town administrator.

Vice-chair Greg O'Sullivan arrived after the interviews.

Chair Marshall said to both candidates, Robert Reed and Greg Balukonis, Town Administrator Jessica Sizer would be leaving the end of next week for a position with the state. The interim town administrator would fill in during the busy budget and town meeting season. The board planned on making a quick decision on the interim position and would notify the candidates within 24 hours.

She said the board would begin the search for a full-time Town Administrator after the Annual Town Meeting.

The two candidates were both

retired Town Administrators, who currently filled in as interim town administrators. Both candidates said they were not interested in the full-time position.

Reed, the first to be interviewed, said he served recently as interim for Rutland and Sturbridge.

He said the fundamental job as an interim was to ensure all deadlines were met and the town moved smoothly.

Reed said when he was Town Administrator in Leicester he did a "lot of regional work" and said the town received grants for regional cooperation. He said regional agreements were the "way to go for small towns."

Balukonis said he started his career in Orange and most recently he was interim in Webster and before that Blackstone. He said the interim was an "opportunity to put things in good condition for the new Town Administrator." Balukonis said his budget approach was conservative. He said while he was at Blackstone he negotiated five collective bargaining contracts.

Neither candidate had procurement officer certification.

See SELECT BOARD, page 7

Chamber's Legislative Breakfast looks at region's needs

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

WARE – Last Thursday morning, people gathered in the dining room Cedarbrook Village at Ware to enjoy a hearty breakfast buffet while socializing.

The repast, however pleasant, was not the reason for attendance. Guests and members of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce were there for a Legislative Breakfast, hosted by the Chamber.

Andrew Surprise, Chief Executive Officer of the Chamber took the podium to introduce the event. He spoke about the purpose of the day and mentioned the next QHCC event is to be held April 19 at Diamond Junction Lanes in Palmer and will combine bowling and cider tasting, as well as Chamber business.

The first legislative speaker would be state Sen. Ryan Fattman from Webster who represents towns in Hampden and Worcester counties in the state senate.

He addressed the East-West Passenger Rail, a project that has been a long time coming. The other members would also speak about the initiative to restore rail



State Sen. Anne Gobi spoke about the East-West Rail project, and issues employers face recruiting and retaining employees.

service west of Worcester.

Fattman would be back at the podium later, but next up would be state Rep. Todd Smola.

Smola of Warren serves towns in Hampshire, Hampden and Worcester Counties. He spoke about the aforementioned East-West Rail project, and noted it is picking up momentum.

Smola addressed the problems the state is experiencing regarding employment. It is a different world with the rise of remote hiring ver-

sus brick and mortar.

He said we are not necessarily the state potential hires flock to, but we need them. Regulation and policy need to be balanced.

Smola characterized the Healy administration's budget as solid.

Long-serving legislator, Spencer's state Sen. Anne Gobi, representing towns in Worcester and Hampden County, came up to speak. Pledging herself to brevity, she kept her word.

Gobi is well aware of the East-



State Sen. Ryan Fattman said Massachusetts is an expensive place to live, with average housing costs nearing half a million dollars.

West Rail question, being a member of the commission, and spoke about the two more hearings coming up regarding the issue. She also spoke about the extremely difficult issue of recruitment and retention of employees.

Fattman returned to the podium to address issues in more depth.

The senator addressed how many people are leaving the

See CHAMBER BREAKFAST, page 7



FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED

The Original Weekly Newspapers Serving Your Community Since 1962

Local News • Local Stories • Local Advertisers

Do you have a story to tell, let us know 413.283.8393

News of the Towns



Round Town
Ellenor Downer
413-967-3505

Quabbin NJROTC holds spaghetti dinner

The Quabbin High School Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps will hold its Spring Fling Spaghetti Dinner on Thursday, March 30 from 5-7 p.m. in the cafeteria at the Quabbin High School/Middle School, 800 South St. It's an all you can eat spaghetti festival including pasta, meatballs, salad, rolls and choice upon choice of homemade desserts. Tickets may be purchased in advanced from any Cadet or at the door of the community entrance to the high school cafeteria.

Adult tickets are \$9; child tickets are \$5 and, children under 2 eat free. During the dinner, there will be several raffle items of interest including a Fire TV and a Red Sox game package worth nearly \$1,000. All proceeds will defray the cost of numerous NJROTC educational activities and initiatives to enable all Cadets to take advantage of every opportunity of the program.

Cradle Rock pancake breakfast

The next designer pancake breakfast sponsored by Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will be held Saturday, April 1 from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Mt. Zion Masonic Hall, 71 Pleasant St. Cost is \$9 per person for adults and \$5 for children age 10 and under. All are welcome. People can design their favorite pancakes, maybe apple, blueberry, banana, nuts, choc chips and more. Complete breakfast includes; pancakes, waffles, sausage biscuits with gravy, bacon, sausage, juice and coffee and "real" maple syrup.

Food pantry distributions

The next two Barre Food Pantry distributions will occur on Wednesday April 12 from 10-11:30 am and on Thursday, April 20 from 5:30-7 p.m. Clients are invited to pick up groceries from the food pantry either in the morning on Wednesday, April 20 or the evening on Thursday, April 20, whichever is more convenient for them. In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients April 12 and April 20 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church. They will remain in

See ROUND TOWN, page 11

Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Tianna Hester on board USS Nimitz



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Caitlin Flynn
U.S. Navy Machinist's Mate 1st Class Jordan Hailey from Winston-Salem, North Carolina, from left and Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Tianna Hester, from Barre, Massachusetts, inspect maintenance documents aboard the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68).

PHILIPPINE SEA – Nimitz is in U.S. 7th Fleet conducting routine operations. 7th Fleet is the U.S. Navy's largest

forward-deployed numbered fleet, and routinely interacts and operates with Allies and partners in preserving a free

and open Indo-Pacific region. Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Tianna Hester from Barre is aboard the USS Nimitz.

New Braintree Library to hold story time

NEW BRAINTREE – Easter and bunnies will be the focus of Story Time on Monday, April 3 at the New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive.

The two readings will be

"The Night Before Easter" by Natasha Wing and "The Bunny of Bluebell Hill" by Tim Preston. Story Time is a reading and crafts program for preschool children held twice a month on Mondays at

the library and begins at 9:30 a.m.

Parental supervision is required. People may call the library at 508-867-7650 during regular hours for more information.

Hubbardston

Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com



C.A.S.H Scholarship applications due April 15

The Hubbardston Civic Association has been awarding scholarships since 1967.

The organization awards three \$1000 scholarships to any Hubbardston resident, who will be attending college or trade school full time. The deadline to apply is Saturday, April 15. The winners are responsible, after their fall semester of the award, to forward their semester grades and proof of attending their spring semester and then the \$1,000 check will be mailed to them.

Applications are available by visiting the town website at hubbardstonma.us and clicking on Civic Association Scholarship for Hubbardston. They should be mailed to: Civic Association Scholarship of Hubbardston, Scholarship Selection Committee, P.O. Box 375, Hubbardston, MA 01452 or through the student's guidance department.

Rabies clinic

Gardner Animal Control Facility, 899 Broadway, Gardner, will be holding a rabies clinic on Sunday, April 2, from 9 a.m.-noon. Pre-registration is required. The registration form is available by visiting the Hubbardston website at www.hubbardstonma.us. People will receive a call with their appointment time. Only exact cash will be accepted.

Senior center events

The Hubbardston Senior Center, 7A Main St., events include: Coffee with Friends Monday through Thursday at 9:45 a.m.; Bingo from 12:30-3 p.m. on Mondays; Knitting Group at 10 a.m. every Tuesday at 10 a.m. and Wii Bowling beginning at 8:30 a.m. every Monday and Wednesday beginning at 8:30 a.m. Cribbage will be played on Thursday, March 30 from 1:30-3 p.m.

Post 2 to hold Easter Egg Hunt April 8

BARRE – Veterans at American Legion Post 2 will host a family oriented Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8 at 1 p.m. at Post 2, 450 South Barre Road.

Cost is \$10 per family for ages 7 and under. Participants, who bring a non-perishable canned good, get \$5 off. The Easter Bunny will be in attendance so bring a camera.

Barre Food Pantry to hold distributions

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

Clients are invited to pick up groceries from the food pantry either in the morning on Wednesday, April 20 or the evening on Thursday, April 20, whichever is more convenient for them.

The Barre Food Pantry volunteers strive to continue to fulfill their mission to get food to hungry and food insecure clients. The pantry must also continue to protect clients, volunteers and the larger community from the spread of the COVID-19 sub variant viruses, the influenza virus and the respiratory syncytial virus. Many clients and volunteers are classified as high-risk due to their age and/or underlying health conditions.

The Barre Food Pantry Board of Directors considered changing how the pantry currently operates, but with the prevalence of all three viruses this winter the board decided that the most responsible path forward is to continue to operate as we have since March of 2020.

In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients April 12 and April 20 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church.

They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers at multiple stations.

While the pantry typically used to have an "all hands on deck" approach to welcoming volunteers, in April they will once again be working with just a very small crew. Volunteers should not arrive without first contacting Dave Petrovick at 978-852-1696 or Chuck Radlo at 978-355-6463.

Because conditions have been changing rapidly, people should visit the Barre Food Pantry website at <http://www.barrefoodbank.org/index.htm> and the Barre Food Pantry Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Barre-Food-Pantry-100156068300314/>.

Editorial deadline reminder

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

CHECK OUT ALL THE

Turley Publications

www.turley.com

Keep Your Money 100% Safe

We've got you covered.

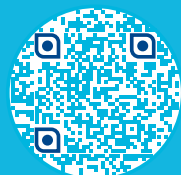
With both FDIC and DIF deposit insurance.

Fidelity Bank's unique combined insurance coverage by the FDIC and DIF insures all of your deposits, even beyond the FDIC limit. So, whether it's \$10K or \$10M every dollar you deposit with us is safe, secure, and 100% insured.

Fidelity Bank. Secure, Strong, and Stable.



\$300 bonus* with any new checking account!
Offer ends April 30th!



Fidelity Bank
FidelityBankOnline.com/300bonus
800.581.5363

Member FDIC. *To be eligible for promotion, enter Promo Code "Checking Bonus" when opening account online or bring this ad or mention promotion when opening account in person. To earn the \$300 bonus, open any Fidelity Bank personal checking account before April 30, 2023, and within 60 days of account opening you must: have direct deposits into your new account that total at least \$1,000; enroll and use online or mobile banking (log-in to check balance, make transfer, etc.); and have at least 20 posted point-of-sale debit card transactions of \$10 or more. Note that transaction and posting dates can vary and some transactions may take up to three business days to post to your account. Direct deposit is defined as a paycheck, pension, Social Security, or other eligible monthly income electronically deposited by an employer or outside agency into your checking account. Transfers done via ATM, online banking, payment apps or websites (such as Venmo or Paypal), in banking center, or from a bank or brokerage account are not eligible. New account bonus to be deposited into your account during the subsequent statement cycle after meeting the eligible criteria above. Offer is not valid for Fidelity Bank clients with an existing or prior Fidelity Bank checking account and is limited to new checking account clients only. Limit one account per tax reported owner. Account must be open, active, and in good standing to receive the bonus. Accounts closed within 6 months of receiving bonus will incur a \$300 early account termination fee. The value of any bonus may constitute taxable income and will be reported on IRS Form 1099 (or other appropriate form). Offer valid only for new checking accounts including SecureCare, CareFree, CareDiscover, CareMore, CompleteCare, and LifeDesign 18/65 accounts. All account applications are subject to approval. Minimum opening deposit for eligible Checking accounts are: SecureCare (\$25), CareFree (\$25), CareDiscover (\$10), CareMore (\$100), CompleteCare (\$250), and LifeDesign 18/65 (\$10). \$5.95 is the monthly service charge for SecureCare. As of 2/1/23, the Annual Percentage Yield (APY) for CompleteCare is 0.03% and SecureCare is 0.01%. Rates subject to change after account opening. Fees may reduce earnings. Promotional offer subject to change or cancellation at any time.

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 3. 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 Fajitas, Spanish rice, black beans and corn, sour cream, pita bread, pineapple

TUESDAY – Lasagna with meatballs and Marinara sauce, roast broccoli and carrots, mixed fruit, Italian bread

WEDNESDAY – Roast pork with gravy, cranberry stuffing, winter blend vegetables, apple crisp, diet = applesauce, marble rye bread

THURSDAY – Baked ham, sour cream with chive mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, cream puff, French bread

FRIDAY – Fish with crumb topping, rice pilaf, roasted California vegetables, chocolate pudding, diet = diet chocolate pudding, pumpernickel bread

*Diabetic friendly dessert **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 \$2.50 per meal helps keep the program running.

Stasukelis APPLIANCE & TV

WE SERVICE ALL MAJOR BRAND APPLIANCES
NAME BRAND APPLIANCES & TV'S AT WAREHOUSE PRICES
287 Main Street Gardner
978-632-0241

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.

REMINDER: APRIL 30TH IS THE DEADLINE TO REMOVE STUDDERED TIRES

ORIGINAL TIRE CO.
Joseph West, Prop.
SOUTH ATHOL ROAD, ATHOL 978-249-3477
OPEN TUESDAY & THURSDAY 8 A.M.-2:00 P.M.
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY 8 A.M.-5:00 P.M.
SATURDAY 8 A.M.-12:00 P.M.
Service While You Wait

News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

Superintendent Search/Screening Subcommittee – March 30 at 6 p.m.
 Select Board – April 3 at 6:30 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – April 4 at 6 p.m.
 Annual Town Election – April 3 from 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
 Felton Field Commission – April 4 at 6:30 p.m.
 Planning Board – April 4 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – April 5 at 1 p.m.
 Barre Housing Authority – April 6 at 3 p.m.
 CMRPC Barre Master Plan Steering Committee – April 6 at 5:30 p.m.
 Board of Health – April 10 at 5 p.m.
 Water Commission – April 10 at 6:30 p.m.
 DPW Commission – April 10 at 7 p.m.
 Cable Advisory Committee – April 11 at 7 p.m.
 Library Trustees – April 12 at 6:30 p.m.
 Sewer Commission – April 20 at 7 p.m.
 Cemetery Commission – April 27 at 11 a.m.

HARDWICK

Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee – March 31 at 9 a.m.
 Recycling Commission – April 4 at 6:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – April 5 at 9 a.m.
 Board of Health – April 6 at 6:30 p.m.
 Paige Library Trustees – April 6 at 7 p.m.
 Wheelwright Water District – April 10 at 7 p.m.
 Gilbertville Public Library – April 12 at 4 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – April 12 at 6:30 p.m.
 Gilbertville Water District – April 19 at 6:30 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Agricultural Advisory Committee – March 30 at 5 p.m.
 Historical Commission – April 1 at 10 a.m.
 Conservation Commission – April 4 at 7 p.m.
 Planning Board – April 5 and April 20 at 6:30 p.m.
 Memorial Day Committee – April 10 at 5 p.m.
 Board of Health – April 11 and April 25 at 7 p.m.
 MassDOT Public Information Hearing – April 13 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – April 19 at 6:30 p.m.
 Planning Board – April 20 at 6:30 p.m.
 Finance Committee Public Budget Hearing – April 20 at 6:30 p.m.

NEW BRAINTREE

Planning Board – April 3 at 7 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Library Board of Trustees – April 3 at 6 p.m.
 Downtown Development Committee – April 3 at 6:30 p.m.
 Town House Committee Meeting – April 12 at 7 p.m.
 Friends of the North Brookfield Town House – April 12 at 7:10 p.m.
 Planning Board – April 19 at 6 p.m.

OAKHAM

Board of Health – April 19 and May 17 at 5 p.m..

PETERSHAM

Conservation Commission – April 4 at 6 p.m.
 Open Space & Recreation Committee – April 4 at 7 p.m.
 Board of Health – April 6 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – April 7 at 9 a.m.
 Council on Aging – April 10 at 10 a.m.
 Cemetery Commission – April 11 at 10 a.m.
 Petersham Historic District – April 20 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – April 27 at 7 p.m.

RUTLAND

Board of Health – March 30 at 5 p.m.
 Finance Committee – March 30 at 6:15 p.m.
 Select Board Public Hearing – April 3 at 6 p.m.
 Ad Hoc By-Law Committee – April 4, April 11 and April 18 at 1 p.m.
 Community Outreach – April 6 at 6 p.m.

Paige Memorial Library to hold Pysanky workshop

HARDWICK – The Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, will host a Pysanky Workshop, April 4 at 6 p.m.

Participants will learn about the art, history and lore of the ancient Eastern European art of egg decorating, a wax process like batik. Legend has it that there is a huge evil creature chained to a hillside. Every year when Easter Eggs are decorated, the creature's bonds are tightened and its evil is kept in check. Spaces are limited, so registration is required. To register, people may visit the library, call 413-477-6704 or email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com. A \$5 donation to the Friends of the Paige Memorial Library for supplies is appreciated.

The Friends of the Paige Memorial Library seed library and raffle basket is back. People can choose some seeds, record what they take, plant and nurture the seeds, borrow a book and buy some raffle tickets. The raffle basket is full of valuable gardening items including a \$50 gift certificate given by the Hardwick Farmers Coop. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. The drawing will be Sunday, May 21. For more information, people may email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com or call 413-477-6704.

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

Corrections policy

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

Hardwick seeks grant funding for boiler replacement

By Dallas Gagnon
 Staff Writer
 dgagnon@turley.com

HARDWICK – Town Administrator Nicole Parker said because of more water damage caused by the heating system, all of the walls had to come down in the Board of Health/Conservation Office as well as the entire wood floor of the playgroup room.

There was also a small amount of mold found in the treasurer and collector's office.

"It's all encapsulated right now and there is this fan going [but] it's really disruptive for them," Parker said at the Monday night meeting.

She added, "They had a floating floor and then a sub floor and then the hardwood underneath and even the hardwood may have to come up...It's not ideal, but we're making the best of it."

To replace the boiler, it would cost "approximately a million dollars."

The Green Community grant Parker was hoping to use for a boiler is at \$200,000. Parker said she is, "looking for other grants and funding sources" and has reached out for repairs in the meantime.

"Green energy came out and they were the ones that I requested to give us a quote so I could write a Green Community grant for a new boiler," said Parker. However, as there is a \$200,000 cap, "we pivoted a little bit."

The grant could potentially be used to replace doors and add insulation on municipal buildings including the highway and fire department in an effort to save energy as they "consume the most" energy.

Superintendent's report
 Water Pollution Control Facilities Superintendent Scott Potter said they are experiencing "a lot of alarms at the Wheelwright pump station," that "hopefully the warmer weather will put a stop to."

A motor was changed out of one of the aeration tank mixers in Gilbertville. The change was

completed in house.

A gearbox was rebuilt by Mike Dougan of Environmental Equipment Repair Services, who did not charge for labor, but completed the project and only charged for parts.

Potter said Dougan has helped "quite a few times-both in Wheelwright and in Gilbertville... changing our pumps, changing our motors."

"It's really incredible," said Potter.

Preconstruction meeting
 A preconstruction meeting for the Hardwick Road pump station took place March 22 at the Town House. Parker said the meeting included DPC Engineering, Richardi, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Potter, Highway Superintendent Marty Gyszowka and herself.

"Groundbreaking was supposed to take place in September but DPC was requesting that Richardi return some... testing soon to understand what kind of rock and ledge they are looking at. Richardi stated he can get some machinery to the location and perform some testing in May," said Parker.

Lead time for a generator was also discussed at the preconstruction meeting with a potential ship date of April 2024 with rental options as another possibility as the project "needs to be done by June of 2024."

There was discussion of the legal budget which is "running really high," due to the "location change and all of the extra legal work that needed to be done," said Parker.

Parker said, "It was a good meeting overall, I think. We are moving forward, and the project is moving forward."

Personnel policy
 The Board unanimously voted in favor to accept and adopt the personnel policy that is dated March 2023 "with the understanding that any financial impacts do not take effect until a new fiscal year or July 1 of 2023."

Chair Julie Quink said the personnel policy revisions have

been being discussed for over two years now, and it is "basically a complete overhaul of the personnel policy to make sure it's appropriate with current laws and that we are doing what we want to do for the town employees."

Appointments and approvals

The board motioned to accept the Mayflower evaluation quote for fiscal year 2024 state recertification in the amount of \$13,500.

John Petrgli was appointed to the Historical Commission with the approval of commission members including Emily Bancroft who spoke with Nicole Parker regarding his appointment.

He is appointed for a two-year term ending in June 2025.

Email domain
 A quote from a company called "liftoff" was presented at the meeting to change the town employee emails from a ".com" domain to a ".gov."

"To do this for the annual... for the licenses, it's \$8,460 and a \$3,500 one-time fee," said Parker.

Formerly, a company called "net hostlers" charged \$4,000 annually for the ".com" domain.

The fee also applies to Office 365, Plan G 3, Plan G 1 and exchange.

While the town website will remain ".gov," the board is unsure if they will transition to ".gov" emails in lieu of the \$4,000 increase.

ARPA spending

The Board approved the use of American Rescue Plan Act funding in the amount of \$3,859.31 for an emergency repair for a fire line break at the intersection by Upper Church Street and Church Street

Rural policy
 Parker said she will be attending a meeting with Governor Healy and lieutenant governor Kim Driscoll in Deerfield to discuss the announcement of the creation of director of rural affairs.

"This is the first time that a staff is dedicated to rural policy... Hopefully we'll have some sort of liaison for rural policy," said Parker.

Oakham
 Ellenor Downer
 edowner@turley.com



Sunrise breakfast benefits Mississippi tornado victims

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will hold an Easter breakfast following the Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 9 at 6:30 a.m. A free will offering will be taken to benefit Mississippi tornado victims. The breakfast menu includes scrambled eggs, pancakes with maple syrup, sausages, orange juice, coffee, tea and hot chocolate. As an Easter treat, homemade doughnut holes will also be served. The sunrise service is held behind the church.

Library events

Read and Play is held Wednesdays from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Fobes Memorial Library, 4 Maple St.

All preschool children are invited. The next Read and Play is Wednesday, April 5. The Book Club will meet Wednesday, April 5 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the library. The book is "Alas Babylon" by Pat Frank. No registration is required. Family paint night will be held Thursday, April 20 from 5:30-7 p.m. at the library. This free event is lead by Samantha Kirkland and is for ages 6 plus. Registration is required.

Church news

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will observe Palm Sunday, April 2 at 10 a.m. A Maundy Thursday Service will be held on Thursday, April 6 at 7 p.m. On Easter Sunday, there will be a Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. followed by a breakfast in Fellowship Hall and the regular Easter Sunday service at 10 a.m. There will be no Sunday School on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday.

Couple celebrates 75th wedding anniversary



NORTH BROOKFIELD – Edmund J. Decoteau, age 98 and Jean M. (Baltrus) Decoteau, age 95, were married on April 2, 1948, at St. Stephen's Church in Worcester. The couple will celebrate their 75th anniversary and their life together this month with family and friends.

Poet John Brand presents at library April 4

WEST BROOKFIELD – The Merriam-Gilbert Public Library will be hosting local poet, John Brand, Professor Emeritus at Quinsigamond College and author of "Things I Might Have Said", for an evening of poetry on Tuesday, April 4 at 6:30 p.m.

All are welcome to enjoy an entertaining session of personal storytelling that will make you laugh, think and feel, and hopefully entice you to continue exploring poetry with a newfound appreciation.

Please stop by or call the Library to register or call 508-867-1410.

C4R spring kick-off event April 20

PALMER – The Chicopee 4 Rivers Watershed Council invites everyone to a spring kick-off event on Thursday, April 20 from 7-8 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.) at Palmer Historical Cultural Center, 2072 Main St., Three Rivers.

Join C4R and catch up on who they are, what they have done and what they plan to do in 2023 for our local rivers.

As we all get back to "normal" let's get back to the rivers, caring for them and enjoying them.

C4R created four Blue Trails to enjoy and care for, they monitor water quality, restore places, and they hope to do more. They are looking to build a stronger group of local river folk to connect more people to our local rivers and to strengthen their work.

C4R will talk about padding, monitoring water quality, clean ups, how anyone can participate and begin to rebuild team C4R. All are welcome.



For more information, email chicopeewatershed@gmail.com

Seed library and raffle now open

HARDWICK – The Friends of the Paige Memorial Library's Seed Library and raffle is back at the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road.

All are welcome to choose

some seeds, record what they take, plant and nurture what they take, borrow a book, and buy some raffle tickets. The raffle basket is full of valuable gardening items including a gift certificate given by the

Hardwick Farmers Co-op. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. The drawing will be Sunday, May 21.

For more information, email director.paigelibrary@gmail.com or call 413-477-6704.

McNeely Tree Service

Insured • References

- Hazardous Tree Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Bobcat Work
- Lot Clearing • Storm work
- Furnace Wood
- Firewood \$300/cord
- 101 ft Aerial Lift Rental POR
- Credit Cards, Cash & Venmo Accepted



H: 508-867-6119 • C: 978-888-1693

Bruce Coffin, C.P.A. INC.

Tax Preparation Service
 Accounting, Bookkeeping
 & Payroll Services

926 Old Turnpike Road, Oakham

508-882-3394

www.brucecoffin CPA.com

TO ADVERTISE IN THE BARRE GAZETTE, CALL TIM MARA AT 978-355-2254

Coupon

10% OFF

Recliners, Glide Rockers & Sofas

With This Ad. Expires April 30, 2023.

S&S APPLIANCE
 447 MAIN ST., ATHOL • (978) 249-7535
 Visit Our Website at www.shopsandsappliance.com
 Mon, Tues, Wed., Fri. 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.,
 Thurs. 8:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Sat. 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Opinion

Column



By Ellenor Downer

Snow Goose



Photo by Kyle Tourville

A Palmer resident and bird photographer sent an email this week. He said there was a snow goose in Palmer and it was his first time seeing the bird in this area. He shared this photo he took of the snow goose.

Snow geese are about 29 inches long and are mostly white with black wing tips, which are prominent in flight. Immature snow geese are either light or dark gray with dark legs and bill.

Snow geese winter along the Atlantic and Pacific coast and summer in the tundra where they nest. They are highly colonial and winter in huge flocks, which can number in the tens of thousands. The female snow goose lays three to five white eggs in a nest of grasses and down placed near the water.

They dig up roots and tubers of aquatic plants and also feed on waste grain and tender shoots of grass. They make a high pitched honking.

Years ago, Ricky Adams in New Braintree called me to come see a flock of snow geese, which had landed in his field. It was a first time sighting for me and a thrill. Another Oakham resident was also there to see the geese.

Blue heron rookery

I received an email from a Hardwick resident. He said, "There is a great blue heron rookery at a beaver pond not far from my home in Hardwick. My wife and I often walk there. Last week my son and daughter in-law counted 20 blue herons." He said there were approximately 13 heron nests and one osprey nest. They are keeping an eye out for the return of the osprey.

Purple finch and more

An Oakham couple recently saw a purple finch at their feeder. They also have lots of goldfinches and the males are sporting their spring yellow feathers.

Bears and more

I r said in a previous column about bears being out of hibernation and the loss of my suet feeder. An Oakham resident reported in an email he saw a bear crossing my road on two different occasions. He said, "I actually saw it twice. The first time was on Saturday, March 11 around 7:15 p.m. crossing between your home and your daughters, heading into the woods across from your residences. The following evening, I saw it again at 8 p.m. crossing at the same spot heading in the same direction. It wasn't a big bear and I couldn't tell if it was colored or not."

He also said he was at work Monday night during the recent heavy snowstorm. While walking outside he noticed a bird, slightly smaller than a cardinal, flying under the light, then landing on the ground, then flying again. He was not sure what kind of bird it was, but it seemed confused by the bright, exterior lighting.

More blackbirds

I now have over a dozen red-winged blackbirds coming to my feeders. Since the bears are out of hibernation, I only put a small amount of seed out in the morning for the birds. I no longer have suet cakes hanging outside.

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.

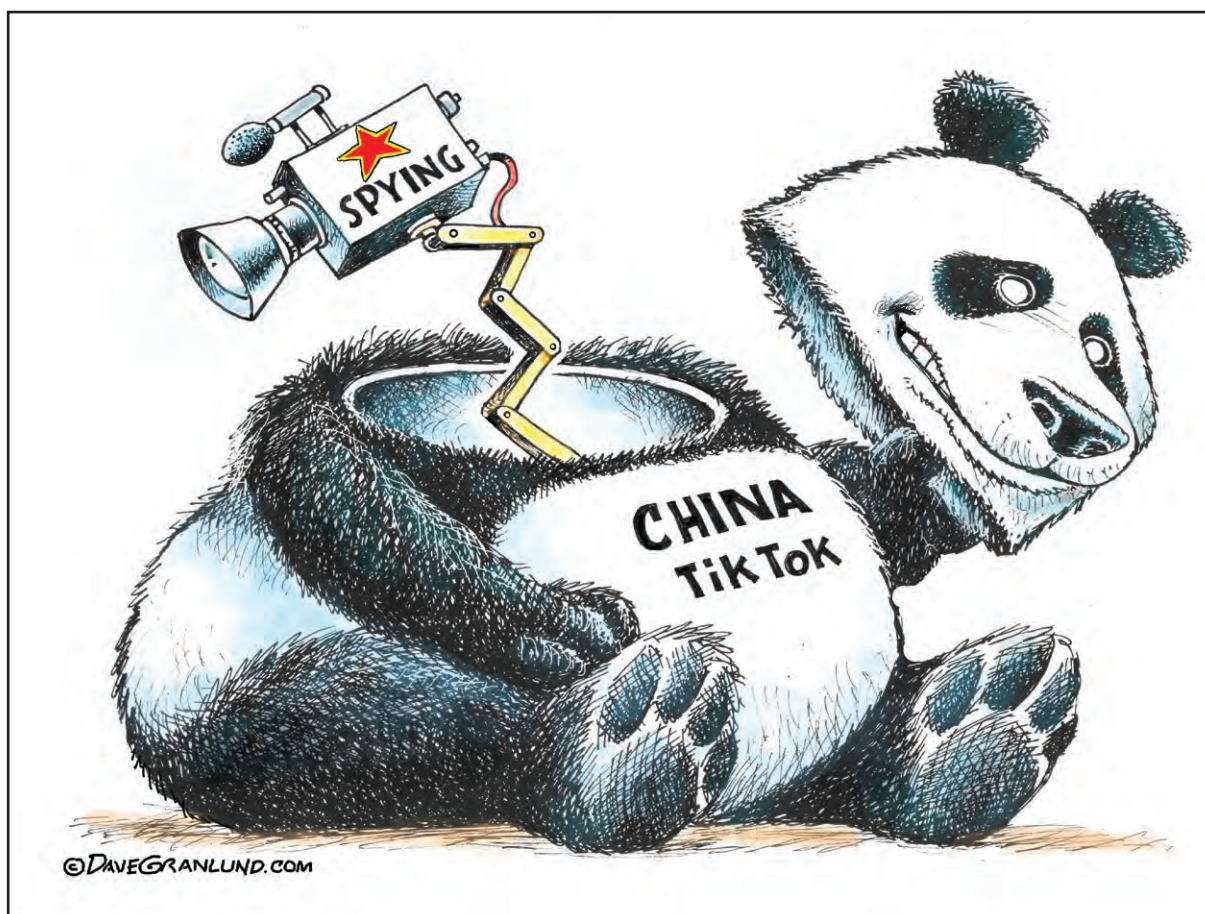
PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for the Barre Gazette, please email edowner@turley.com.

A TURLEY PUBLICATION
www.turley.com

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BARRE, MA
The Barre Gazette is a weekly newspaper published every Thursday by Barre Gazette, Inc., with offices located at 5 Exchange St., Barre, MA 01005 and at 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone at 978-355-4000 or FAX at 978-355-6274.
USPS number is 044-560. Postmaster: Send address changes to: Barre Gazette, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 \$1.00 per copy
Subscription rate: \$33 for one year, \$44 for two years
Out of State: \$38 for one year, \$54 for two years



©DAVEGRANLUND.COM

In Past Pages

5 years ago (March 2018)

More residents, 201, responded to a survey conducted by Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission than the 11 that attended a town public meeting last Wednesday. The Quabbin Educational and Municipal Partnership, formerly a task force changed with looking at school closing and consolidations such as shared and consolidated services. David Deschamps, member of QEMP, commented the five Quabbin district member towns were not in favor of closing or consolidating schools. According to the Quabbin Regional School District the town must vote to close a school, not the school committee.

Although Massachusetts voters approved the use of recreation marijuana at the November 2016 election, the town of Barre said no at this Monday's town election. Voters said yes to the first question on the ballot with 272 for and 242 opposed to prohibiting the establishment of marijuana retailer, store front within the town of Barre. They voted in the affirmative to prohibit the establishment of marijuana retailer, delivery only with the town of Barre. They voted yes on the final question to prohibit the establishment of marijuana retailer, marijuana social consumption establishment within the town of Barre.

Resident Robert Kane discussed the need to update the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan that expired in October 2017. He recommended that the board re-form the Open Space and Recreation Committee for the purpose of updating the plan. He commented that having an expired plan might cause the town to lose out on grant opportunities.

10 years ago (April 4, 2013)

The Oakham Board of Selectmen decided to make Deacon Allen Drive one-way from 7:30-8:30 a.m. and from 2-4 p.m. on days school is in session. People using Dewacon Allen Drive have been driving past the school buses when the bus lights are flashing. For safety reasons, people must enter Deacon Allen Drive from Coldbrook Road instead of Barre Road during those hours when students are dropped off or picked up.

The Petersham Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Finance Committee spent about two hours discussing the Petersham Center School budget with Superintendent Mike Bladassarre and School Committee member Chuck Berube. Tempers flared at times over the \$1,686,620 proposed budget for the coming year. A bone of contention was the budgeting process itself. Bladassarre explained that a zero-based process was used, where every line item is reviewed and all request must be justified.

In recognition for its commit-

LOOK BACK Petersham Antique Show - 1997



File Photo

A table full of tinware at the Petersham antique show was attractively arranged.

ment to safety and controlling costs, the town of Hardwick was awarded a \$5,000 loss control grant to install closed circuit camera security system at Hardwick Elementary School. Hardwick received the grant from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association, which provides property and casualty insurance to the town.

25 years (April 2, 1998)

The Oakham Town Accountant informed selectmen Monday night the town has unpaid legal expenses of \$16,300. The budget for the legal account was depleted several months ago and it will be necessary to hold a Special Town Meeting to ask voters to transfer money from Stabilization Fund to the legal account to pay the bill. According to the Town Accountant most of the money is for the Oakham Sand and Gravel case that was heard in land court in February. The judge has six months to make a decision.

More than 50 Oakham children recently participated in a bookmark design contest held in conjunction with the Robert Wile Children's Art Festival at Fobes Memorial Library. The children competed in four age groups. In the age four and under group first place winner was Erin Young. In the five to seven year old division, Kelley Young placed first. For the eight to ten year olds, Jeffrey Wells placed first. Jessica Katz received first place in the 11 to 12 year old division.

The Parent Teacher Organization at Ruggles Lane School will hold an Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 4 at the school. The hunt is for Barre children ages 12 and under. The PTO is grateful to the Barre Business Association for its \$200 donation to support the event. The rain date is Saturday, April 11.

38 years (April 4, 1985)

James E. Sullivan, director of the Woods Memorial Library, announces the establishment with the Barre Library Association of the George S. Benouski Memorial Fund, the interest from which will be used for the purchase of books primarily in the area of adventure and fantasy. The fund was established by an initial contribution from Mr. and Mrs. George J. Benouski of Worcester Road and a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Karl J. Sladek III of Westford. John E. Benouski of Worcester Road has also contributed to the fund to which the Benouski family have indicated they plan to add from time to time.

The Barre Players announces that its spring production, "Sunrise at Campobello," will be presented on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening April 11-13 in the Barre Town Hall. This historical drama takes place between the years of 1921 and 1924 and chronicles the ascent of Franklin Delano Roosevelt from his diagnosis of crippling polio to his address at the Democratic National Convention. James Sullivan, Barre librarian and poet, leads the cast as FDR. His wife, the devoted Eleanor Roosevelt, is portrayed by JolLee Rengo.

Barre Selectmen are following upon sewerage overflow violation by Barre Wool. They are in receipt of a letter addressed to Walter Flister for the Barre Wool Combing Company from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The letter indicated that the overflows from the septic tanks at Barre Wool discharge directly into the Ware River, which is a direct violation of the Clean Water Act.

Guest column

Adventures of Gertrude the Cat

By Ruth Robinson

Dear Folks,
I am not sure Missy is speaking to me today after what I did yesterday.

In fact, I didn't get my nice buttered toast this morning. I was a little late going into the dining room while Missy was having her breakfast and she didn't even offer me any toast bits. I guess that is the breaks.

But you know folks, I enjoyed my caper and I simply couldn't resist. The dining room chair has been pushed next to the window and there hung Missy's new Christmas wind chimes. I jumped up and batted the chimes. They made such a pretty noise so I hit them a little harder to make them move faster.

That was my mistake. Down they came off the window lock and hit the floor. I don't think there was any damage, but it was a no no.

I decided to hide somewhere so Missy wouldn't find me right away. She had put a big box that held the strips for her rag rugs up on the bed in the spare room out of sight when the family came to visit last weekend. I had no trouble getting to the box, which was fairly deep, so you could not see me.

When Missy called and couldn't find me anywhere she looked all over the house and even went downstairs thinking I was in trouble. I heard Missy calling, but I was so comfortable there in the box I hated to get out.

I had no trouble getting in the box, but getting out with my arthritic legs was a problem. I finally made it and didn't tip the box over, which was a miracle as it wobbled.

"Oh, there you are Gertrude. I was worried when I couldn't fine you. The wind chimes are just fine, but don't mess with them again because the glass top might break. Okay?"

I didn't know what to do so I purred loudly and rubbed against her legs. I better be good the next few days and forget about messing up the papers.

Have a good week folks.

Love,

Gertrude



Channeling Thomas Paine

Lawsuits and lawsuits and lawsuits galore, but no courage to speak inside the courtroom door

Raising greenbacks and greenbacks for counsel and more, grasping for power even more than before

Bashing Lady Justice - demanding immunity, no respect for the law - a life of impunity

Are you beginning to see all these patterns and flaws?
Then remember: The law should be king and we have no king to be law!

Matt Castriotta
Hubbardston

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 01005 or via email to edowner@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

BARRE GAZETTE TEAM



EDITOR
Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Tim Mara
tmara@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

The Barre Gazette (USPS 044560) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.

Barre Gazette
WEB
www.barregazette.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager

Turley Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

FOSC presents silent film with organ accompaniment

GILBERTVILLE – Friends of the Stone Church are delighted to offer organist Peter Edwin Krasinski presenting The Hunchback of Notre Dame, the 1923 dramatic silent film starring Lon Chaney, with live improvised accompaniment on the historic 1874 Johnson organ at the Stone Church Cultural Center, 283 Main Street, on Saturday, April 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 at the door or at <https://buytickets.at/friendsofthestonechurch/738357>. Youth under 18 are admitted free. Group tickets for families of more than three will be capped at \$60 for the group.

Peter Krasinski holds a Bachelor of Music Degree in music education and organ performance and the Master of Music Degree from Boston University. He is internationally known for his art of live improvised silent film accompaniment. His unique performances take the audience on a captivating journey through “vintage video.” To achieve such artistic integration, Krasinski memorizes each film. His spontaneous performances seamlessly reflect characters’ actions and states of mind, bringing century-old productions to life with relevance and compassion. In recognition of his talent and creativity, he received the First Prize in Improvisation from the American Guild of Organists National Competition.

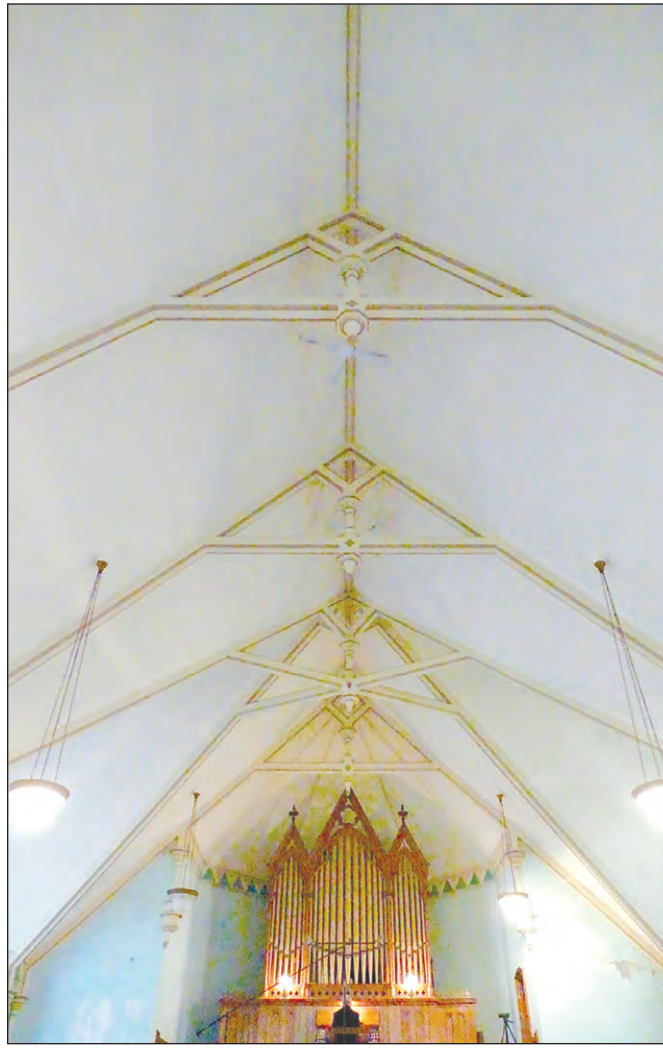
A native New Englander, Krasinski is broadly recognized as a motivating consultant for the pipe organ community and as a conductor, organist, and music educator. He is currently House Organist of the Providence Performing Arts Center and was recently named the official House Organist at Mechanics Hall, Worcester. A past Dean of the Boston Chapter AGO, Krasinski is active as Organist at First Church of Christ Scientist in Providence, accompanist at Beth El Temple Center in

Belmont and he recently presented Master Classes at the Sibelius Academy, Helsinki, Finland.

American actor Lon Chaney was 41 when he made his legendary performance as Quasimodo, the deaf, half-blind hunchbacked bell-ringer who falls in love. The role brings out Chaney’s ability to convey a basic decency beneath a grotesque exterior. As a child of deaf parents, he had learned to communicate through facial expressions, sign language and pantomime.

Gilbertville viewers will enjoy “The Hunchback of Notre Dame” on a theater-sized movie screen provided by Cape Anne Community Cinema. Concerts at the Stone Church through September 2023 are supported by grants from the Mass Cultural Council and from Local Cultural Councils of Hardwick-New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham and Petersham. Local Cultural Councils are local agencies supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

FOSC participates in the Card to Culture program of the Mass Cultural Council, by extending discounts to EBT, WIC and ConnectorCare health plan insurance cardholders. Eligible participants may



Submitted photograph

Peter Krasinski will offer live, improvised accompaniment on the historic 1874 Johnson organ for the silent film, “The Hunchback of Notre Dame.”

request up to two free tickets at the box office on the day of the event. They should bring EBT, WIC or ConnectorCare health plan card for 2023.

Fidelity Bank appoints Murray to Senior Vice President

LEOMINSTER – Fidelity Bank announces the appointment of Lesly Murray to Senior Vice President, Director of Business Banking Services.

In this role, she will oversee the strategic development and growth of the bank’s cash management and commercial deposit portfolios.

She comes to Fidelity Bank from People’s United Bank, where she served as Senior Vice President, Head of Commercial Deposit Product Management. She also previously worked at Citizens Bank as Senior Vice President, Liquidity Product Segment Head.

“We understand there are new challenges for business owners every day, and we know every decision matters in business, especially when it comes to making smart financial decisions,” said Murray. “I am looking forward to helping businesses confidently move forward, to take their business to the next level.”

She earned a bachelor’s degree in finance from Bentley University and a master’s degree in business administration from the F.W. Olin Graduate



Lesly Murray

School of Business at Babson College. A resident of Needham, she has earned the Certified Treasury Professional (CTP) Designation from the Association for Financial Professionals.

Great Falls Discovery Center list upcoming events

TURNER FALLS – All programs at Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, are free and open to the public.

An adult must accompany children. Inclement weather cancels outdoor programs.

Visitor center hours are open six days a week. Hours are Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Wednesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and open Monday, April 17 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

A Great Hall Exhibit is ongoing and is an exploration of being through the eyes of local young people now through Wednesday, April 26.

Nice and easy walks will take place Fridays, April 7, 14, 21 and 28 from 1-2 p.m. This an easy-paced, 1 to 2-mile guided walk, along the Canalside Rail Trail or downtown Turners Falls, geared for seniors, but open to all ages. A DCR Park interpreter highlights natural and local history along the way. Participants should wear appropriate clothing for the weather and sturdy boots and meet outside the main entrance.

Kiddleidoscope Story Hour for ages 3-6 accompanied by an adult will be held Friday, April 7 frogs, April 14 chipmunks, April 21 beavers and April 28 trees from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Program includes a story, activities and a craft. Activities are indoors and outdoors, weather permitting. Siblings and friends welcome. They should meet in the Great Hall.

Great Falls Coffeehouse presents

Alive & Pickin’ on Friday, April 14 from 7-9 p.m. in Great Hall.

Alive & Pickin’ plays an eclectic mix of country, bluegrass, blues, and Americana. Refreshments available. Sliding scale suggested donations, all in support of educational programming at the Center.

StoryWalk® “We Planted A Tree” Friday, April 14 through Sunday, April 30. This StoryWalk® is provided by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Interpretive Services.

On Saturday, April 15 from 10:30 a.m.-noon. There will be a free art naturally program for adults, teens and children ages 6 and up, accompanied by an adult. All materials are free and people should meet in the Great Hall.

Earth Week from April 15 to April 23 there will be Investigation Station: Trees

during school vacation week in activities to inspire taking care of where we live, with a special focus on trees, including scavenger hunts.

On Sunday, April 16 from 2-4 p.m. people will celebrate mud season with an exploration of rare Jurassic-age rocks found only in Turners Falls-armed mud balls Family friendly activities for all ages. People should meet in the Great Hall. Weather permitting, they will hunt for Jurassic armored mud balls on an easy walk to nearby Unity Park.

3 EASY WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE TODAY

Don't miss a week of your hometown news source!

PLEASE CONSIDER SUBSCRIBING

Current recipients of our weekly paper enjoy town news, local stories and articles of interest generated in Barre, Oakham, Hubbardston and the surrounding communities.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!



Get the Barre Gazette mailed directly to your home

Each week you'll receive

TOWN HALL NEWS • BUSINESS HAPPENINGS • AREA EVENTS • SPORTS
COMMUNITY STORIES • SCHOOL COVERAGE • CLASSIFIEDS & MORE!

1 Please complete the form below, and mail it in a secure envelope to:

Barre Gazette
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

2 **CALL NOW**
413.283.8393

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER!

Yes!

I want to subscribe to the Barre Gazette!

Enclosed is my payment for:

- \$33 1 year in state
- \$38 1 year out of state
- \$44 2 year in state
- \$54 2 year out of state

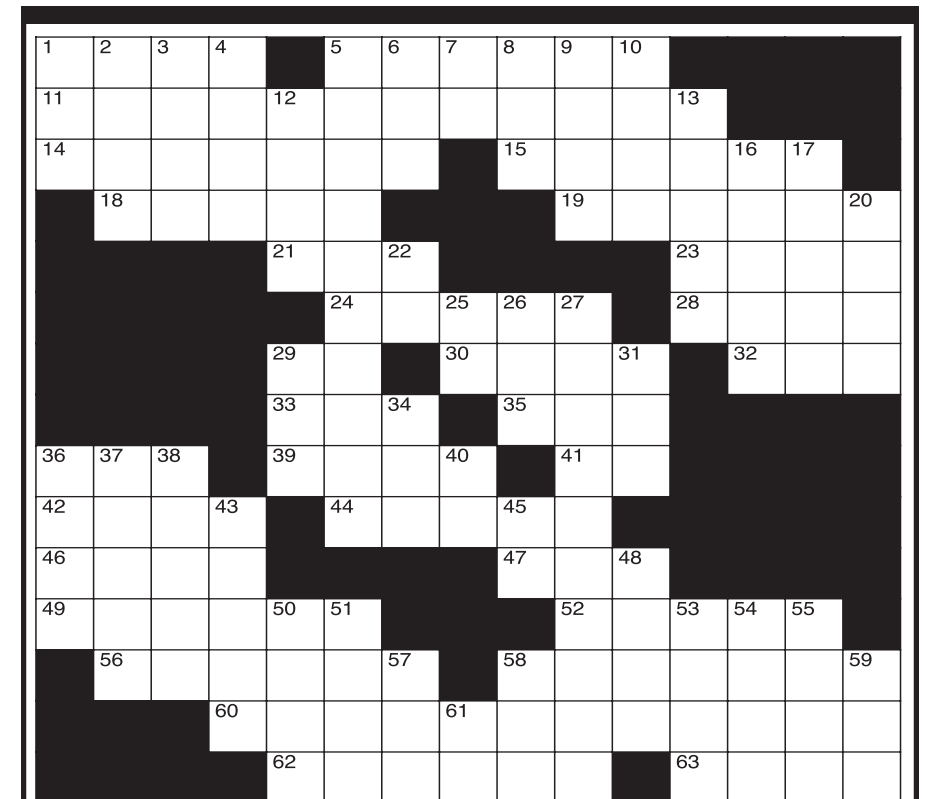
CHECK ENCLOSED CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD

3 Use our website to securely subscribe online at BARREGAZETTE.TURLEY.COM

New Renewal Gift A GIFT CARD WILL BE SENT TO ANNOUNCE YOUR GIFT!

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Credit Card #: _____
 Exp. Date: _____ CV2 code: _____
 Signature _____

GIFT TO:
 Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____



- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Millisecond
 5. Narcotic drug
 11. Accident
 14. Formal submissions
 15. Popular 70s rock band
 18. Discourage from doing
 19. More socially elite
 21. Arid
 23. A way to look
 24. Heroes
 28. A surfer rides it
 29. Potato state
 30. Insect repellent
 32. Cool!
 33. Have already done
 35. Collegiate women's fraternity
 36. To the ___ degree
 39. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Woman (French)
 2. Province of Pakistan
 3. This (Spanish)
 4. Transportation device
 5. Greater in importance or priority
 6. The human foot
 7. Within
 8. Consumed
 9. Respectful Malaysian term
 10. Therefore
 12. Ceased to exist
 13. Type of macaroni
 16. English composer
 17. Wooded tract
 20. Tall, slender-leaved plant
 22. 36 inches (abbr.)
 25. Take too much (abbr.)
 26. Allow
 27. Individually
 29. Journalist
 31. Bar bill
 34. Hong Kong food stall: ___ pai dong
 36. Not messy
 37. Species that includes reed-mace
 38. Former MLB catcher Ed
 40. Northern U.S. state
 43. Wilt
 45. Commercial
 48. Bolivian river
 50. Nursemaid
 51. A car needs four
 53. Guns (slang)
 54. American state
 55. Clusters of fern fronds
 57. Body part
 58. A person's brother or sister
 59. Breed of sheep native to Sweden
 61. Of I

CHICAGO,
continued from page 1

the audience would never know that.

"They are the most driven, hard-working group I've ever seen," Bouchard said.

Ekstrom-Doig has been performing her whole life and is joined in this production by her real-life husband, Nick Doig, who plays Fred.

Doig said he met his wife during a performance of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," in which he played Rocky and she played Magenta.

He was grateful for the opportunity to perform on stage together again.

"We're always doing opposite shows," Doig said.

Playing Roxie's husband on stage is Barre actor Larry Johnson, who began performing about 30 years ago with the Barre Players.

A respiratory therapist, Johnson didn't originally audition for the role of Amos Hart, but decided to jump in when the first actor had to drop out.

"It's been a blast," he said.

In his second performance with the Gilbert Players, James Lamoureux of Worcester will play defense attorney Billy Flynn.

"He's such a suave, sly character," Lamoureux said. "He's almost an antihero."

Lamoureux became involved



Kaitlyn Ekstrom-Doig plays the role of Roxie Hart.

in community theater nine years ago, when he was looking for a hobby to supplement his career as a welder. His sister-in-law, who is an opera singer, pointed him in the

Turley Publications Photos by Paula Ouimette

direction of the stage.

Now a nurse, Lamoureux still finds time to pursue his love of performance.

"We have a lot of great talent in



Larry Johnson plays Roxie's devoted husband Amos Hart.

this show," he said.

Choreography is one of the biggest challenges for performers in "Chicago", which features Robert Louis Fosse's distinctive style of dance.

Fosse was known for using many signature moves, including turned-in knees and jazz hands, as well as the use of hats, canes and chairs as props.

One of the dancers, Pattie Rich of Ware, received extensive dance training from the late Margaret

Dymon of Barre, but this is her first time performing in a musical.

With her background in ballet, pointe and modern, Rich said she has "always loved Fosse," and decided to audition when a friend had mentioned it.

Several of the dancers are also dance teachers themselves, including Sarah Nydam and Caitlin Cunningham of Gilbertville's Get Up and Dance Studio, along with Alice Rainka and Gloria St.

George of Alice's Fitness and Dance in Sturbridge.

A lot of the issues facing women a century ago when "Chicago" is set, are still prevalent today, Tomasi said.

"We have the same things going on in our world today as back then," she said.

This performance, Tomasi said, will be one-of-a-kind, going from the fringe and feathers of the 1920s to modern day punk.

"We go from era to era. We end up completely different from where we started," Tomasi said.

Tomasi said she first fell in love with "Chicago" 25 years ago when she starred as imprisoned vaudeville performer Velma, on Martha's Vineyard.

Her love for "Chicago" is shared by many, with close to 40 people auditioning for this cast of 15 performers.

"The end result is so masterful," Tomasi said of the production. "We've just brought Broadway here."

About "Chicago"

The Gilbert Players will perform "Chicago" at The Center at Eagle Hill, 242 Old Petersham Road, March 31, April 1, 7 and 8 at 7 p.m. and April 2 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$16 adults and \$14 seniors and students.

Reservations are highly recommended, and tickets are available at www.thecenterateaglehill.org or by calling the Box Office at 413-

SELECT BOARD,
continued from page 1

Balukonis did have that certification, but let it lapse when he retired.

Following the interviews, the board held its regular meeting. At the end of the meeting, Chair Marshall said both candidates were qualified for the position. She said Greg Balukonis would be a good fit for the position. Board member Dixon said he rated both candidates and his top choice was Balukonis, also. They voted to appoint Balukonis interim administrator and instructed Town Administrator Sizer to check his references. She would meet with him and then the Select Board would hold contract negotiations with him in executive session.

CHAMBER BREAKFAST,
continued from page 1

state due to tax policy. The Commonwealth is an expensive place to reside, not to mention die in.

Housing prices average over half a million dollars. Frugal couples might have saved over a lifetime and unless one has an estate plan in place, much less will go to heirs.

The super-rich will be fine, but the economic middle strata of the state will be up against it.

Fattman spoke to the need to develop ecotourism and how QHCC was part of that.

Next to the podium was Ludlow's own state Sen. Jake Oliveira who serves towns

in Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester Counties.

Oliveira was, like the other members, supportive of the East-West Rail service. He spoke of it differently, that we should be thinking of it as West-East.

He noted that it is easier to get to three other state capital cities than our own and he was supporting a Palmer stop.

Oliveira cited a need to reinvest in community colleges that are underfunded relative to many other states. He is working for regional equity as the new administration has signaled its interest in agriculture and Western Massachusetts.

Oliveira is looking to see the formula for highway funding to be revised to take into account the local situation

Surprise and the Chamber organized the day well as people will

be able to see when the video, recorded by M-Pact.TV of Palmer, is on local cable access. Bruce Marshall of The Valley's Classic Hits 97.7 FM and 1250 AM in Ware, recorded audio.

Cedarbrook staff should also be complimented for a well-organized affair.

Sponsors of the Legislative Breakfast were Country Bank, who also co-hosted, as well as Superior Plus Propane, Nesco Sales of Bondsville along with the aforementioned Valley's Classic Hits.

Turley Publications Photo by Paula Ouimette
Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive Officer Andrew Surprise introduced the speakers at the Legislative Breakfast.



Happy Easter
from
PARKER HOUSE OF PIZZA
17 Pleasant Street, Downtown Gardner
The Building with the Blue Awning
978-632-9383
Open Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Closed Sun.

Hubb Town Diner
32 Main Street, Hubbardston
978-820-1600
OPEN EASTER SUNDAY
7:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
Check Out Our Facebook Page
For Easter Specials
Like Us On Facebook@hubbtowndiner

HAPPY EASTER

J&J
Family Restaurant
815 Worcester Rd.
Rte. 122 • Barre, MA
(978) 355-2122

OPEN EASTER SUNDAY
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Breakfast Only
CHECK OUT OUR SPECIALS ON OUR facebook PAGE
Hours:
Tues., Wed. & Thurs.
7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Fri. & Sat.
7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Sun.
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Rutland Pharmacy
18 Maple Avenue • Rutland • 508-886-6261

Your Hometown
GIFT STORE

Easter Gifts, Village Candles, Jewelry, Gifts For Family and Friends, Rutland, Barre, Oakham & Hubbardston Themed Gifts, Toys, Handmade Gifts, Hallmark Cards, Porch Boards, Air Plants and More
myrutlandpharmacy.com
Open: Mon-Fri: 8:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m., Sat: 8:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Sun: 8:30 a.m.-2:00 pm.

We Frame Memories
Call for an appointment 7 days
HAPPY EASTER
HAPPY SPRING
Chuck and Vicki Heidorn
SURROUNDINGS GALLERY & CUSTOM FRAMING
377 Main Street
Gardner
978-630-2340

SUNDAY, APRIL 9TH

The Place The Easter Bunny Goes For His
CARATS
DIAMONDS AND COLORED GEMSTONES
LUMINOX & CITIZEN WATCHES
REPAIRS
978-632-5715
6 West Lynde St., Downtown Gardner
Open Tues.-Fri. 9am-5pm
Thurs. 9am-6pm, Sat. 9:30am-2pm
TRADE IN YOUR UNWANTED JEWELRY FOR STORE CREDIT OR CASH!

Get Hoppin...
down to Priscilla's for your Easter candy
Priscilla
CANDY SHOP
4 MAIN STREET GARDNER, MA 01440 (978) 632-7148
19 WALDEN STREET CONCORD, MA 01742 (978) 371-0585
Mon.-Fri. 9am-5:30pm • Sat. 9am-5pm
Open: Sun., April 2 11am-4pm
Mon., April 3, Tues., April 4, Wed., April 5 9:30am-5:30pm
Thurs., April 6 & Fri., April 7 9:30am-7:00pm
Sat., April 8 9am-5pm
Closed Sun., April 9 & Mon., April 10
Our family has been making candy since 1936

Eggs, Rabbits, Baskets and All Your Easter Favorites
www.priscillacandyshop.com
Facebook Instagram Twitter

Dioguardi Jewelers

Master Jeweler Gabriel Serrano continues Michael Harris' passion for fine jewelry and exceptional customer service.
EASTER SALE!
(excluding fire & ice diamond)

95 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082
413-277-0364 | dioguardijewelers.com

Happy Easter!

Easter Candy, Hallmark Cards, Easter Baskets & Gifts

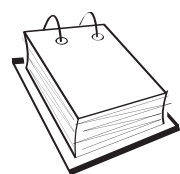
Barre Family Pharmacy
547 Summer Street, Barre
978-355-2359

So many options - just change the clasp!

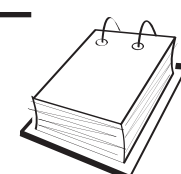
First Communion Confirmation Anniversary A Great Gift for... Mother's Day Birthdays Graduation

EASTER

LeStage
by MARATHON
Cormier Jewelers
152 Main Street • Spencer, MA 01562
www.cormierspencer.com • 508-885-3385



Calendar of Events



THURSDAY, MARCH 30

CALENDAR PHOTO CONTEST sponsored by the 250th Anniversary Committee is accepting submission local photographers to be used in a commemorative 2024 calendar titled, "Celebrate Barre's past, inspire Barre's future." Photographers are invited to send the committee their photographs of Barre. The committee will select twelve images to be featured in the calendar. Submissions are being accepted now through Monday, May 15. Photographers of all ages are invited to apply. The commemorative calendars will be available for purchase starting in October 2023, all proceeds from the calendar sales will benefit the 250th Anniversary Committee. All photos must be of Barre. Each photograph submitted must be the photographer's own original work and must have not been previously published in any commercial publication. The photo must be in its original state and cannot be altered, including but not limited to removing, adding, reversing or distorting subjects within the frame. All photos must be submitted in color, 8"x11," 300 dpi and landscape format. A maximum of five photos may be submitted per photographer.

CRAFTER APPLICATIONS for the GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club 46th Annual Harvest Craft Fair are being accepted. The fair is Saturday, Nov. 4 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Robert E. Mexican Middle School, 145 Lincoln St., Northboro. This is a juried show requiring that all items are handmade. Crafters should visit NJWC'S website for applications and more show details at www.northborojuniors.org/craft-fair.html. The Northboro Junior Woman's Club is a non-profit organization that has been active in Northboro for over 40 years. They support community projects in Northboro as well as internationally. The Harvest Fair is the club's major fundraiser.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK & BARRE LIBRARY PRESENTATION hosted by the Barre Congregational church, 30 Park St., Barre, Women's Fellowship will be held today in the church at 5 p.m. Participants should bring a favorite dish to share and then the group will be going to the Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant St., Barre, to see the presentation on the Women of '76. The presentation will be from 6-7:30 p.m. The program will be given in celebration of Women's History Month. Rita Parisi will be portraying Baroness von Riedesal, Prudence Wright and Nancy Hart. All members and friends are invited to come and enjoy dinner and a show.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

DESIGNER PANCAKE BREAKFAST sponsored by Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will be held today from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Mt. Zion Masonic

Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

This week's mystery photo is from Barre. 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 3. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in next week's edition. Bill Bowles, Gary Brigham, Paul Carlson, Stephen Craven, Elizabeth Laramée, James Laramée, Marianne Meyer, Evelyn Luukko, Gretta Scully and Carolyn Semon correctly identified the photo. Last week's photo was the Rail Trail on Route 122, in Rutland.

Hall, 71 Pleasant St., Barre. Cost is \$9 per person for adults and \$5 for children age 10 and under. All are welcome. People can design their favorite pancakes, maybe apple, blueberry, banana, nuts, choc chips and more. Complete breakfast includes; pancakes, waffles, sausage biscuits with gravy, bacon, sausage, juice and coffee and "real" maple syrup.

SPRING FLING CRAFT AND VENDOR FAIR will be held today from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at George Whitefield United Methodist Church, 33 W. Main St., West Brookfield. Local crafters and vendors will be featured along with Gramma's Attic, bake sale and eat-in or take out luncheon of spaghetti and meatballs. Vendor space is available by either emailing Heidi Jeldres at heidi.jeldres@gmail.com or call-

ing 978-989-5736.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

MANY VOICES MECHANICS HALL YOUTH SINGERS CONCERT will be held today at 4 p.m. in Mechanics Hall, 321 Main St., Worcester. The concert "Cover Me in Sunshine is free. Door open at 3:30 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 3

EASTER AND BUNNIES will be the focus of Story Time today at 9:30 a.m. at the New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive, New Braintree. The two readings will be "The Night Before Easter" by Natasha Wing and "The Bunny of Bluebell Hill"

by Tim Preston. Story Time is a reading and crafts program for preschool children held twice a month on Mondays at the library. Parental supervision is required. People may call the library at 508-867-7650 during regular hours for more information.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

PYSANKY WORKSHOP sponsored by the The Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, Hardwick will take place today at 6 p.m. Participants will learn about the art, history and lore of the ancient Eastern European art of egg decorating, a wax process like batik. Legend has it that there is a huge evil creature chained to a hillside. Every year when Easter Eggs are decorated, the creature's bonds are tightened and its evil is kept in check. Spaces are limited, so registration is required. To register, people may visit the library, call 413-477-6704 or email director.paigeli-brary@gmail.com. A \$5 donation to the Friends of the Paige Memorial Library for supplies is appreciated.

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

EASTER BAKE AND BOOK SALE will take place today from noon-3 p.m. at the Gilbertville Public Library, 259 Main St., Route 32, Gilbertville. There will be pies, breads, squares, cakes, cookies and more. There also will be a festive basket raffle.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

EASTER EGG HUNT sponsored by the veterans at American Legion Post 2 will host a family oriented Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8 at 1 p.m. at Post 2, 450 South Barre Road.

Cost is \$10 per family for ages 7 and under. Participants, who bring a non-perishable canned good, get \$5 off. The Easter Bunny will be in attendance so bring a camera.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

IN PERSON CAREGIVER WORKSHOP begins today and runs for a total of six Thursdays, April 13, 20, 27, May 4, May 11 and May 18 from 2-3:30 p.m. at the Millbury Senior Center, 1 River Road, Millbury. Powerful Tools for Caregivers is a class designed to provide the family caregiver with the skills they need to take care of themselves. The will learn to: reduce stress, improve self-confidence

balance their life, better communicate their feelings, increase ability to make tough decisions and locate helpful resources. Cost of attendance is free and financial assistance for respite is available. People may call Debbie Dowd-Foley at Elder Services of Worcester Area, Inc. at 508-756-1545 extension 390 or

See CALENDAR, page 13

BEER

Truly 12 pk	\$14.99 + dep.
Twisted Tea 18 pk	\$21.00 + dep.
Hamm's 24 pk 12 oz (America's Classis Beer)	\$11.79 + dep.
Bud & Bud Light 18 pk cans/bottles	\$16.09 + dep.
Busch & Busch Light 30 pk cans	\$18.49 + dep.
Cutwater Cocktails 4 pk cans	\$9.99



STORE PICKED SINGLE BARREL BOURBONS SELECTED BY DAN BRUSO

Knob Creek 120° 750 ml	\$49.99
Old Elk 113.3° 750 ml	\$54.99



WINE

Woodbridge 1.5L	\$11.99
Josh Cabernet 750 ml	\$12.99
Black Box 3L	\$16.99

SPIRITS

Svedka Vodka* 1.75L	\$13.99
*1 case per visit	
Grey Goose Vodka 1.75L	\$43.99
Jim Beam Bourbon 1.75L	\$26.99
Bicardi Silver Rum 1.75L	\$19.99
Hennessy VS Cognac 750 ml	\$41.99
Dewar's White Label Scotch 1.75L	\$29.99

Close Outs!!!

888 Tres Ocho 750ml 100% Agave Silver Tequila	\$19.99
Benromach 10yr Old Scotch Single Mat 50 ml	\$1.00
Box of 12 for	\$10.00
Durham Cucumber Vodka 750ml	\$6.99
Everest Vodka 750ml	\$9.99
Paddy's Irish Whiskey 375ml	\$4.99



4 LOCATIONS

- 367 E. State St., GRANBY
413-467-9433
- 144-146 Main St., WARE
413-967-8332
- 1240 Park St., PALMER
413-283-5811
- 15 Exchange St., BARRE
978-257-8391

BRUSO'S

DISCOUNT LIQUOR MART

FULL REDEMPTION CENTER WARE LOCATION

Hometown Service

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

Unified track to return for second season



The Quabbin Unified Track team and athletes, partners, coaches and administrative staff pose for a group photo after a meet last season. The program will be returning this spring.

BARRE – Capping off the massive success of last year’s team as well as a great league meet, Quabbin Regional High School Athletic Director Mark Miville confirmed this week there will be a Unified Track team for a second season.

Miville was very excited for Quabbin to host the program last year and the school hosted a few meets, including the final league meet in late May.

Miville said the team will have a meet schedule and Quabbin will once again be the host school for the league meet at the end of the season. The meet will gather unified track teams from all over the region to participate in the various events offered.

Miville also said coach Rich Zalneraitis would be returning this season to coach the team.

The Unified Track program is the second unified team to participate in Quabbin athletics. Unified Basketball is offered in the fall.

“We’ve wanted to be involved and talked about it for a while now, but it didn’t run the last two spring seasons because of COVID-19,” Miville, who intro-



Quabbin's Chad Plouffe leads the way as he competes with his Unified Track team.

duced the basketball program for the first time last fall. “The program has been wonderfully rewarding to both our athletes with intellectual disabilities and their partner athletes without. We



Quabbin's Javier Patterson leaps in the long jump event during a Unified Track meet last season.

have a number of one and two sport athletes who decided to be partners since they don’t play a spring sport at Quabbin. Unified Sports are recognized as varsity sports by the MIAA.”



Quabbin Coach Rich Zalneraitis (right) keeps stats and gives direction to the track athletes on the Unified Track team.

Athletes practice twice a week and events held at meets include shot put, long jump, turbo javelin, 100M, 400M and 880M dashes, the 4 x 100M and the 4 x 400M relays.

Lacrosse preseason

SOUTH HADLEY – Last week, Monson High School boys lacrosse, which now has a co-op program with Pathfinder, got its season jumpstarted with a scrimmage at South Hadley. The Mustangs are set to open the season April 4 against Smith Vocational.



The Mustangs are once again co-oping with Pathfinder.



Monson lacrosse will open the season next week.



Monson boys lacrosse has its first scrimmage at South Hadley last Friday.



The co-op proved successful last year with the Mustangs earning a state tournament berth.

No individual state tournament for tennis

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

FRANKLIN – There have been a lot of adjustments made as schools, especially Western and Central Massachusetts schools get used to the state tournament format after being used to regional competitions for so many years.

But for logistical reasons, certain regional tournaments have remained due to the nature of the sport and narrowing down competitors for higher level competition. Examples include golf, track, cross country, and wrestling.

Another sport that will be seeing a change, for at least year this year, is tennis.

In an update on March 23, the executive director’s office of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Conference confirmed there would be no individual tennis tournament held at the state level this year. It has been ruled out for 2023, but MIAA commit-

tees are still working on the issue.

“At the fall Tennis Committee meeting the members discussed the Individual Tennis Tournament and appointed a subcommittee to meet with TMC representatives to consider the structure and future direction of that tournament,” a report from the MIAA stated. “The group met to discuss parameters and aspects of the Individual Tournament and how it fits into Association goals for the entire membership. For this spring 2023 there will only be a MIAA Team Tournament. The subcommittee will continue to dialogue and report back to the Tennis Committee.”

When the Western Mass. tournament sponsored by the MIAA was removed, the PVIAC in Western Mass., and the Central Mass. Athletic Directors Association began holding their own tournaments the week prior to the start of state tournaments.

Western Mass., in particular,

held individual tennis tournaments during the season and should again this season.

The team tournament will go on this season, with teams battling out essentially in a best of five matches. There are three singles matches and two doubles matches. Whichever teams wins at least three of those matches, wins the overall team match.

Prior to instituting the state tournament format, Western Mass. held both team and individual regional tournaments. The individual tournament allowed a place for talented competitors that were not part of qualifying teams a place to play for a championship, much like wrestling, which does not have a team tournament in the playoffs. Team scores are kept, but there are not dual meet competitions where teams go head-to-head like in tennis.

Spring tennis is set to get underway late this week and early next week for most teams.

Valley Wheel tryouts this weekend

Remember how much fun baseball was when you were a kid? There’s an adult recreational baseball league that’s an answer to a prayer you never gave words to.

That’s right, baseball. It’s the real deal, live pitching, nine innings, 90 ft. bases, umpires, fastballs, curveballs, uniforms, stealing, rounding third, and scoring. The Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League is going into its 18th season. They are a 28+ league where players need to be 28 by June 1. Players are not able to pitch unless they are 30 by June 1.

Practice is held in April and a 15 games schedule is played on Sunday afternoons from the end of April thru mid-August. There are two board certified umpires each game. Full uniforms. There are six teams with each team having a 15-man roster. Every year the league seeks to fill open roster spots with 15 to 20 players.

Tryouts are scheduled for April 2, 8, and 16. Contact the league



The 2022 Valley Wheel Champion Angels. Valley Wheel baseball tryouts are set to begin this weekend.

for further details on the times and locations of the tryouts for new players.

It is a recreational baseball league for players of all ability levels and the play is pretty good. Players range in experience from former college players to players

who never played organized ball. Everyone else is somewhere in between and age is a great equalizer. Inexperienced players really improve in a competitive but friendly environment. You can

See VALLEY WHEEL, page 10

BARRE GAZETTE

It's easier than ever to **SUBSCRIBE** to your hometown paper.

Visit barregazette.turley.com and click on SUBSCRIPTIONS!

You can also browse our archives, submit your news and view our facebook feed all from the same page!

\$33/Year | \$38 Out-of-State

Home Who We Are Find Us Contact Us Advertising Classifieds Submissions Turley Publications Archives **SUBSCRIPTIONS**



Education

QRSD to hold kindergarten registration

Registration is now open for all children, who reside in the Quabbin towns of Barre, Hardwick, Hubbardston, New Braintree and Oakham and who will be five-years old on or before Thursday, Aug. 31.

Registration forms may be downloaded from the Quabbin Regional School District website by visiting qrdsd.org. They should be completed and returned to: Kindergarten Registration,

QRSD Educational Support Center, 872 South St., Barre, MA 01005.

Paper copies may also be picked up at the home town school or the Educational Support Center.

All registration forms, including birth certificate and proof of residency must be returned by Friday, May 5. People may call 978-355-4668, extension 8500 with questions.

COLLEGES ANNOUNCE DEAN'S AND PRESIDENT'S LISTS

University of Rhode Island announces Dean's List

KINGSTON, R.I. – The University of Rhode Island announces the Fall 2022 Dean's List.

Local students making the Dean's List are: Emily Mitko of Barre, Sarah Barry of Hubbardston, Hannah Haines of Hubbardston, Rebecca Norcross of Hubbardston, Koichi Ash of Rutland, Conor Looney of Rutland and Grace Marrier of Rutland.

To be included on the Dean's List, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades which are

GPA applicable during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 quality point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable earning at least a 3.30 quality point average.

Henry Foley made Champlain College Dean's List

BURLINGTON, VT – Henry Foley of Hubbardston made the Champlain College Dean's List for the Fall 2022 semester.

Students on the Dean's List achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher during the semester.

Quinsigamond Community College holds inaugural apprenticeship conference

WORCESTER – In honor of National Apprenticeship Week, Quinsigamond Community College gathered innovators in the field of apprenticeships, as well as industry professionals for its inaugural Apprenticeship Conference, "When Old Is New Again: Expanding Apprenticeships in Massachusetts," on Wednesday, Nov. 16 held at the AC Marriott in Worcester.

The daylong event included speakers U.S. Department of Labor Region 1 Director Bernard Trembl, Office of Apprenticeships; Worcester City Manager Eric Batista, State Senator Robyn Kennedy, Worcester Business Journal Editor Brad Kane, and three moderated panels that addressed the importance of apprenticeship programs, and the powerful impact apprenticeships can have on the region and our economy.

Massachusetts Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Rosalin Acosta, along with Executive Director of 1199 SEIU Training and Employment Funds, Sandi Vito, and Executive Vice President of

Competency-Based Education Network, Dr. Amber Garrison Duncan spoke on the importance of including wrap-around services with apprenticeship programs.

They discussed issues such as affordable housing and childcare as essential components to remain competitive in retaining and recruiting a skilled workforce.

Secretary Acosta noted that Massachusetts is expanding its investment into apprenticeship programs.

"Not only have we diversified the industries that participate in apprenticeship programs, but we've also increased black, Latino, and women participants," she said.

Having long been known as a common way to start a career in a trade such as plumbing or electrical, apprenticeships have evolved into a modern-day employer-driven, "learn-while-you-earn" model that provides apprentices with on-the-job training provided by an employer, coupled with an educational program component. Industries such as advanced manufacturing, hospitality, healthcare, finance services, early childhood education and information tech-

nology are all growing industries that are benefiting from apprenticeship programs.

"If there's one word to describe why we should support apprenticeships, it's 'disruption,'" said Dean of Center for Workforce Development and Continuing Education, Kathie Manning.

"Change is the new normal and the traditional model of employment isn't effective anymore. Today's workforce wants more flexibility, and they want to learn new skills and be challenged," said Manning.

QCC President Dr. Luis G. Pedraja, expounded on the disruption that many have experienced over the last few years, in a panel discussion with Bunker Hill Community College President Dr. Pam Eddinger, and Mount Wachusett Community College President Dr. James Vander Hooven.

"The partnership between industry and higher education is more important than ever," Pedraja said, adding, "Apprenticeships allow people to earn wages while they are improving their skills. This is

especially helpful to underserved populations."

During the Apprenticeships in Action panel discussion, panelist Marko Duffy, an employer representative of the manufacturing industry, addressed the success of employee Jessica Gonzalez, who is completing an apprenticeship through the Northeast Advanced Manufacturing Consortium.

"It's raised the level of quality in our work and has also been inspirational for other employees. I want to run the kind of company where people stay," Duffy said.

"I've been out of school for a long time, so I was nervous at first, but the format was flexible, and the people were great. I've learned so much," Gonzalez added.

"With programs like these we are not just growing our workforce, we are also supporting the continued success of our workforce," said Massachusetts State Senator Elect Robyn Kennedy.

To learn more about education and apprenticeships, people may email QCC's Director of Apprenticeship Expansion, Mari Cooney, at mcooney@qcc.mass.edu.

FSU earns Military Friendly designation

FITCHBURG – Fitchburg State University announced it has earned the 2023-2024 Military Friendly School designation.

Institutions earning the Military Friendly School designation were evaluated using both public data sources and responses from a proprietary survey. The rankings measure institutions' ability to meet thresholds for retention, graduation, job placement, repayment, persistence, and loan default rates for all students, and specifically for student veterans.

Fitchburg State has been designated a Military Friendly institution every year since 2015.

"We are proud of our continued designation as a Military Friendly institution," Fitchburg State President Richard S. Lapidus said. "The ranking is a reflection of our institutional commitment to serving those who have served our country as they pursue their academic goals. We are honored to serve these students and appreciate

how their unique experiences enrich our institutional culture."

More than 150 student veterans are enrolled at Fitchburg State this semester. For more information about the university's student veteran programs, people may visit fitchburgstate.edu/veterans.

The Military Friendly Schools list is created each year based on extensive research using public data sources from more than 8,800 schools nationwide, input from student veterans and responses to the proprietary, data-driven Military Friendly® Schools survey from participating institutions. The survey questions, methodology, criteria and weighting were developed with the assistance of an independent research firm and an advisory council of educators and employers. The survey is administered for free and is open to all postsecondary schools that wish to participate. Criteria for consideration can be found at www.militaryfriendly.com.

St. Aloysius Catholic School to hold open house

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School in Gilbertville is hosting an open house at the school on Monday, April 3 from 3-5:30 p.m.

Prospective parents are cordially invited to visit the classrooms and meet the faculty of the growing school. The administration is also happy to tour families during the school day and provide shadow days for students presently in kindergarten through grade seven.

People can call the school at 413-477-1268 or reach out to the director, Roberta McQuaid at director@staloyisuscs.com to set up an appointment to visit. Enrollment information and all the necessary paperwork is available on the website www.staloyisuscs.com under the "Join our Family" tab.

Please note that preschool is full for the 2023-2024 school year, but they are accepting additions to their waitlist as well as touring families who wish to get a head start for the 2024-2025 school year.

QCC partners with CMAA for free dental care to seniors

WORCESTER – Quinsigamond Community College and The Central Massachusetts Agency on Aging partnered to offer free dental care to seniors, finishing off the first year of its partnership with an increase in seniors coming to QCC for dental care.

QCC's Dental Clinic offers culturally sensitive, professional preventative dental services for older adults, as well as a chance for QCC students to gain hands-on, real world experience working with senior patients. Adults must be 55 years of age or older and reside in Central Massachusetts to take advantage of this service.

"A lot of seniors have complicated medical situations, which is good for the students to learn about. It's also great to see the student and the patient develop a relationship. You can see that the patients just love the students," said Dental Clinic Operations and Facilities Manager Sheryl Ficorilli.

QCC has been offering low-cost dental care to seniors for over 20 years; however, now through the collaboration of CMAA there is no cost to patients. The free service covers cleanings and exams, prescription fluoride, as well as

gowns and masks for the students.

"Dental care is a key part of overall wellness. However, many older adults lack access to dental care due to cost, not having insurance, transportation issues, and other barriers," said Dr. Moses Dixon, president and CEO of Central Massachusetts Agency on Aging, Inc. "We are proud to partner with Quinsigamond Community College to ensure that seniors in the Worcester area and beyond have access to the health resources and services they need. We are committed to improving dental care in our communities. This partnership ensures that is possible."

Due to increased student enrollment in the upcoming fall 2023 semester along with support from the grant, the clinic will be able to increase the number of patients it can accommodate.

This partnership caught the attention of Dr. Joia Stapleton Mukherjee, associate professor of Global Health and Social Medicine and Director, Master of Medical Sciences in Global Health Delivery, HMS in Global Medical Education and Social Change at Harvard.

Second Chance performs 70,000th spay/neuter

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Second Chance Animal Services is proud to announce that last month they performed their 70,000th low-cost spay and neuter surgery. This milestone is a significant achievement in the organization's mission to reduce pet overpopulation and improve the welfare of animals in the community.

Spaying and neutering pets not only helps to control the population of stray and unwanted animals, but it also has numerous health benefits for the pets themselves. These procedures can prevent certain cancers and other serious health issues and can also improve pets' behavior by reducing aggression and roaming.

Second Chance is dedicated to making these life-saving

procedures accessible to all pet owners, regardless of their financial situation. The nonprofit began their low-cost spay and neuter program in 2005 at the East Brookfield shelter to help stem pet homelessness in the surrounding community. Today, hundreds of pets come to the nonprofit's hospitals each month for spay and neuter services in state-of-the-art surgical suites made possible by grants and generous donors. The nonprofit offers low-cost spay and neuter services at the North Brookfield, Springfield, and Worcester Community Veterinary Hospitals.

"We are so proud of the impact that we have made through these 70,000 surgeries," said Sheryl Blancato, CEO and founder of Second Chance.

"There is more work to be done. Our goal is to continue expanding our efforts to help as many pets as possible."

Blancato encourages all pet owners to spay and neuter their pets to help address the issue of pet overpopulation and improve their pet's health. "Many of the emergency surgeries we see are female pets suffering from pyometra, a potentially deadly infection of the uterus. Routine spays and neuters can help protect pets from many life-threatening conditions including pyometra and testicular cancer."

Pet owners who would like to take advantage of this program for their pet can visit www.secondchanceanimals.org and fill out a S.P.O.T application under the Vet Care tab.

MWCC receives Nursing Pathways Expansion Grant

GARDNER – Mount Wachusett Community has been selected by the Massachusetts Workforce Skills Cabinet Executive Office of Education to receive a Nursing Pathways Expansion Grant with a total grant award of \$525,000.

The Nursing Pathways Expansion Exploration Grant was developed by the Commonwealth to provide resources to public colleges and university nursing programs, including nurse aid training, practical nurse programs, and registered nurse programs to increase the nursing workforce talent pipeline and improve career pathways for the nursing profession. The funds provided may be used to support program planning and implementation of program-related staffing, technology, equipment, and operational costs to increase student enrollment.

MWCC will explore incorporating the Certified Nurse Assistant program into early college/dual enrollment pathways currently operating at multiple local high schools. These students will work towards completing prerequisite and co-requisite courses for the nursing degree programs while also completing the CNA program.

Similarly, the credit bearing nursing programs are looking to explore collaboration with workforce development programs through the MWCC Division of Lifelong Learning. Students in these programs would also complete the CNA certification and may enroll in the CNA to Practical Nurse walkway program to complete the prerequisite and co-requisite coursework. These pre-college programs pro-

vide students with a pathway into the field with an industry-recognized certification, while also preparing students for further education.

"The Nursing Pathway program's stackable credential structure will ensure that students are developing skills critical to a variety of nursing professions," stated MWCC Dean of the School of Nursing, Kimberly Shea. "Students will be able to enter the workforce in well-paid, high-demand roles while they pursue their next credential."

The stackable credentialing begins with the CNA program. Students who complete the CNA program may then enroll in the licensed practical nurse program. Students may leverage their CNA certification to find employment while working towards their LPN, and then as an LPN while working to complete the Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) program.

Through this tiered training process, students may elect to enter any of the three high demand career fields while continuing to pursue the next level of credentials. Further, students may also take advantage of the currently established transfer agreement with Fitchburg State University to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing online after completing the ADN.

The Nursing Pathways Expansion Exploration grant will also enable MWCC to supplement clinical components at regional health care providers with simulation equipment. Nursing simulation equipment allows students to safely practice skills without compromising patient care or safety.

ROUND TOWN, continued from page 2

their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will

Easter flowers

Once again, this year the Flower Committee at the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., is going to decorate the sanctuary with beautiful flowers for the Easter Sunday Service, April

9. If anyone would like to place an order, they must do so by Friday, March 31.

People should call the church at 978-355-4041 and leave a message on the church's answering machine with their order. They have the following choices: lilies single - \$13.50, double - \$28 or triple - \$42; tulips small - \$18 or large - \$22; daffodils - small \$18 or large - \$22 and hyacinths - 8" pot \$18 or single plant - \$7.

This paper publishes birth, engagement, wedding and significant anniversary announcements free of charge.

Simply log on to our web site, choose the paper you want the announcement to appear in, then use our SUBMISSION link to email your information.



www.turley.com

Public Safety

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, March 5
 12:23 p.m. Recreational Vehicle Complaint, Williamsville Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 9:18 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle, Old Colony Road, Officer Spoke to Party 9:18

Monday, March 6
 10:51 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written Warning

Tuesday, March 7
 9:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Citation Issued

10:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written Warning
 10:44 Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Area Search Negative
 6:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Burnshirt Road, Service Rendered

Wednesday, March 8
 3:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written Warning
 3:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written Warning
 4:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Thursday, March 9
 9:04 a.m. Court Duty, Gardner District Court, Services Rendered

Friday, March 10
 1:42 a.m. Abdominal – Back Pain, Burnshirt Road, Mutual Aid Transport
 1:24 p.m. Falls, Grove Street, Public Assist
 6:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road Written Warning

Saturday, March 11
 2:48 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Gardner Road, Negative Contact

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of March 20-27, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 60 building/property checks, 27 directed/area patrols, four traffic controls, 12 emergency 911 calls, 11 radar assignments, five citizen assists, two assist other agencies, two motor vehicle accidents, one scam, one fire/other, one safety hazard, two investigations, two animal calls and six motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, March 20
 10:34 a.m. 911 Elevator Calls/Alarms, Old Petersham Road, Services Rendered
 1:35 p.m. Assist Citizen, Patroll Hollow Road, Spoken To
 3:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Citation Issued
 3:55 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital
 4:21 p.m. Scam, Ridge Road, Spoken To
 6:42 p.m. Assist Citizen, East Street, Arrest(s) Made

Tuesday, March 21
 11:50 a.m. Fire Alarm, Barre Road, Investigated

5:45 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Bridge Street, Transported to Hospital
 7:44 p.m. 911 Disabled Motor Vehicle, Charity Hill Road, Services Rendered
 8:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Barre Road, Investigated

Wednesday, March 22
 8:44 a.m. Investigation, Pine Street, Investigated
 9:43 a.m. Assist Citizen, Pine Street, No Action Required
 11:57 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Pine Street, Dispatch Handled
 2:54 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Negative Contact
 5:04 p.m. 911 Lockout, Church Lane, Officer Handled
 5:45 p.m. Investigation, East Street, Arrest(s) Made
 8:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered

Friday, March 24
 11:44 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital
 3:19 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Street, Death/Unattended
 5 p.m. Assist Citizen, Sullivan Avenue, Officer Handled

6:07 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, School House Drive, Transported to Hospital
 10:55 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Patroll Hollow Road, Peace Restored

Saturday, March 25
 12:52 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Collins Road, Services Rendered
 1:33 p.m. Fire/Other, Pine Street, Investigated
 7:32 p.m. Safety Hazard, Lower Road, Services Rendered

Sunday, March 26
 9:06 a.m. Medical Alarm, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered
 9:29 a.m. 911 Medical Alarm, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital
 4:38 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Old Petersham Road, Transported to Hospital
 9:48 p.m. Welfare Check, Summit Road, Services Rendered

Monday, March 27
 7:58 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Route 32, Officer Handled

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of March 20-27, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 21 building/property checks, 38 directed/area patrols, four traffic controls, 12 radar assignments, one safety hazard, one scam, one investigation, two emergency 911 calls and three motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, March 20
 3:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ravine Road, Written Warning
 3:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ravine Road, Arrest(s) Made

Wednesday, March 22
 10:40 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, March 23
 9:24 a.m. Safety Hazard, Prouty Road, Removed Hazard

Friday, March 24
 9:17 a.m. Investigation, Barre Road, Spoken To
 2:28 p.m. Scam, Moore Road, Officer Handled

Sunday, March 26
 11 p.m. 911 Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Scott Road, Negative Contact

Tick season begins in Massachusetts

WORCESTER –The start of spring also heralds the start of tick season in Massachusetts. Tick activity increases once ground temperatures are above 45 degrees Fahrenheit and since ticks carry diseases, most commonly Lyme disease and babesiosis in Massachusetts, prevention and detection are key.

The experts at American Family Care in Worcester offer tips to help residents protect themselves.

“Not all ticks carry disease, but the potential is there,” said Dr. Vincent Meoli, AFC’s regional medical director for Massachusetts.

“Preventing tick bites is the first protection strategy. When you will be outside during tick season, use repellents that contain an EPA-registered active ingredient like permethrin or DEET. We also recommend doing a thorough tick check on yourself and your children if you have been outside. Pay close attention to areas under the arms, behind knees and ears, along the hairline, around the groin and between toes,” he said.

Other recommendations to prevent tick bites include wearing long sleeves and pants in areas most prone to ticks, such as wooded or grassy settings, and wearing light colors that make ticks easier to spot. Be sure to check pets when they come back inside as well, to prevent them from bringing ticks indoors.

Any embedded ticks should be removed immediately. Use tweezers and grasp the tick firmly; then with steady pressure, pull it straight up without twisting it. Safely kill and dispose of the tick and clean the skin around the bite with soap and water or rubbing alcohol.

“A tick bite in itself is not a reason to panic and does not require medical attention,” said Dr. Meoli. “Mark the bite date on your calendar and see a health care provider if you experience a rash or other signs of illness such as fever, headache, fatigue or muscle aches in the weeks following the bite.”

RMV offers Class D and M Learner’s Permit Exams in additional foreign languages

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie. “The change supports commonly requested languages, supports new residents from Afghanistan and Ukraine and assists the established Cape Verdean community in Southeastern Massachusetts.”

Each Class D or M learner’s permit exam is comprised of a randomized set of 25 questions intended to gauge the applicant’s knowledge of roadway signage and rules of the road, the dangers and penalties related to impaired operation and specific topics about sharing the road with bicyclists and hands-free driving laws. Test questions are developed using the information found in the Massachusetts Driver’s Manual: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/drivers-manual/download>.

Appointments are required for all learner’s permit applications and can be made at Mass.Gov/RMV.

The learner’s permit is now available in the following 35 languages: Albanian, Arabic, Armenian, Burmese, Cape Verdean Creole, English, Farsi, French, German, Greek, Gujarati, Haitian Creole, Hindi, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Khmer/Cambodian, Kiswahili, Korean, Laotian, Mandarin (Simplified), Mandarin (Traditional), Pashto, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, Thai, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu, and Vietnamese. Additionally, the RMV is finishing development on an American Sign Language permit exam to be offered in RMV Service Centers this spring.

The RMV has completed the translation of two critical informational resource documents into 11 languages. These documents will help customers prepare for the Registry’s identification document requirements as well as provide details on the road test process to increase the likelihood applicants arrive prepared for their test and with an understanding of the RMV applicant, sponsor, and vehicle requirements. The translated acceptable identification document checklist can be found on Mass.Gov/ID and the translated road test information document can be found on Mass.Gov/RoadTest.

CALENDAR, continued from page 8

email: ddfoley@eswa.org for more information and to register. Space is limited.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

STERLING GRANGE PUBLIC SUPPER will take place today at 5:30 p.m. at the Sterling Senior Center, 36 Muddy Pond Road. The menu includes Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, green beans, tossed salad, rolls and cake will be served. Cost is \$15 for adults, \$8 for children 6 to 12, and free for children 5 and under. Proceeds will benefit the Grange Hall Renovation Fund and community service projects. Reservations can be made by calling 508-886-2341 or emailing name and number of tickets to sterling-grange53@gmail.com. The local chapter in Sterling was established in 1874.

FRIDAY, MAY 5

PRINCETON ARTS SOCIETY presents A Tale of Two in concert today at 7 p.m. in the First Congregational Church, 14, Mountain Road, Princeton. Back by popular demand, A Tale of Two is making their second visit to Princeton. The duo combines the best of Americana and blues melodies with timeless Southern storytelling. The award-winning vocalist Stephanie Adlington and guitarist Aaron Lessard draw influence from the likes of Patsy Cline, Tom Waits and Hank Williams Sr. This Nashville Tennessee duo is making a number of stops here in the northeast. Suggested ticket donation is \$10.

SATURDAY, MAY 13

CHRISTMAS IN BARRE SPRING CRAFT FAIR will be held today from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the cafeteria at Quabbin Regional High School, 800 South St., Barre. There will be a wheelbarrow raffle, which includes a wheelbarrow full of gardening tools and supplies. Tickets are \$10 each. Vendors interested in participating may email christmasinbarre@gmail.com.

FRIDAY, MAY 19

PRINCETON ARTS SOCIETY’S ANNUAL SPRING SHOW AND SALE will be held today from 6-8 p.m. with an opening reception and Saturday, May 20 and Sunday, May 21 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Princeton Community Center, 206 Worcester Road, (Post Office Place), Princeton. The show is free and open to the public. All work is by the Society’s members, many of whom are award winning artists widely recognized in their fields. The show includes works in oils, acrylics, watercolors, pastels, photography, and more, including three-dimensional works, with subject matter as varied as our artists.

For more information on the Princeton Arts Society, people may visit www.princetonarts.org or Facebook under Princeton Arts Society.

Gas prices decrease two cents last week

WESTWOOD – The average gas price in Massachusetts is down two cents from last week (\$3.27), averaging \$3.25 per gallon.

Today’s price is four cents lower than a month ago (\$3.29), and 99 cents lower than March 27, 2022 (\$4.24). Massachusetts’ average gas price is 18 cents lower than the national average.

Spring has sprung with gas demand

surging last week as motorists took advantage of better driving weather. But fears of a recession caused global oil prices to hover near \$70 a barrel, mitigating a rise in gas prices. The national average for a gallon of regular gasoline drifted lower since last week by three cents to hit \$3.43.

“We may be seeing a return to seasonal trends in demand with warmer

weather and longer days,” said Mary Maguire, AAA Northeast Vice President of Public and Government Affairs. “But waffling oil prices could mitigate any increase at the pump for now.”

AAA Northeast’s March 27 survey of fuel prices found the current national average to be one cent lower than last week (\$3.44), averaging \$3.43 a gallon. Today’s national average price is seven

cents higher than a month ago (\$3.36), and is 81 cents lower than this day last year (\$4.24).

AAA Northeast is a not-for-profit auto club with 70 offices in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Hampshire and New York, providing more than 6 million local AAA members with travel, insurance, finance and auto-related services.

The benefits of local newspapers

Local newspapers play vital roles in communities across the globe. The Information Age has changed the way many people get their news, but local newspapers continue to serve as valuable resources for readers interested in learning more about and becoming more involved in their communities.

While local publishers continue to adapt to the changes brought about by technology, the following are a handful of benefits unique to local newspapers.

- **Local newspapers keep readers up-to-date on their own communities.** Globalization may be here to stay, but that does not mean local communities are no longer home to newsworthy events. National and international newspapers and 24-hour cable news channels can keep men and women up-to-date on national and world news, but in many instances, local newspapers are the only means people have to learn about what’s going on in their own communities. Local politics impact residents’ lives every day, and

local newspapers cover local politics extensively.

- **Local newspapers benefit nearby businesses.** Small business owners often connect with community members via local newspapers. A strong, locally based small business community can improve economies in myriad ways, creating jobs in the community and contributing tax dollars that can be used to strengthen local schools and infrastructure. And local newspapers do their part by providing affordable and effective advertising space to local business owners looking to connect with their communities.

- **Local newspapers can strengthen communities.** Local newspapers are great resources for residents who want to become more active in their communities and learn more about community events. Local newspapers often showcase community events like carnivals, local theater productions and projects like park cleanups. These are great ways for readers to become

more active in their communities and build stronger communities as a result.

- **Local newspapers can benefit children.** National newspapers may have little age-appropriate content to offer young children, but local newspapers tend to include more soft news items than national periodicals, and such stories typically are appropriate for young readers. According to Newspapers in Education, students who participated in an NIE group in Florida performed significantly better in spelling and vocabulary than nonreaders.



Additional studies have indicated that students who use newspapers in the classroom perform better on standardized reading tests than those who do not use newspapers in class.

Many local newspapers have played vital roles in their communities for decades, providing a go-to resource for local readers and business owners.

12 Weekly Newspapers Serving The Local Communities

Agawam Advertiser News • Barre Gazette • Chicopee Register • Country Journal • Journal Register • Quaboag Current • The Register • Sentinel

The Sun • Town Reminder • Ware River News • Wilbraham Times

413.283.8393 • www.newspapers.turley.com



Your BUYLINE CONNECTION

SPRING SALE!
DON'T SHOP TIL YOU SEE US!

3,000 APPLIANCES IN STOCK
NEXT DAY DELIVERY or PICKUP

PRESEASON BIKE SALE!!!
TOYS FOR EASTER!
SEE AD INSIDE!!!

WHITCO TOY & BIKE 
 12 MONTHS 0% FINANCING
 140 Main St., Spencer
 www.whitcosales.com **508-885-9343**
 Open: Mon. thru Sat. 10am-8:30pm; Sun. 10am-7pm

Expanding Hours and Looking for Talented Individuals to Join our Team!

Accepting Applications

Kitchen
 Chef/Cook
 Fry Cook

Servers
 Part Time

Contact us at:
 EBFlatts@charter.net
E.B. FLATTS
 Breakfast - Lunch - and almost Dinner
 245 W. Main E. Brookfield
 508-867-6643



Your Battery Headquarters **April 1st - 30th**


SAVE On Lawn & Garden Batteries  Marine/RV Batteries 

NAPA AUTO PARTS®
WARE • WEST BROOKFIELD

175 West St., Ware 413-967-5121 • 967-3184
 116 Federal St. (Rt. 9) Belchertown 413-323-7661 • 323-9296
 117 West Main St., W. Brookfield • 508-867-9947
 Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8-7; Sat. 8-3; Sun. 9-2

LEICESTER RANCH/CAPE \$574,900

Custom built home was originally a ranch with a Cape style roof, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 bath, back to back fireplaces, 1st floor open concept with handicap features. 2 bedrooms and a loft on the 2nd floor. 2 car detached garage, inground pool, basketball court, large shed w/electricity. Too many features to name. Call me for a showing.



CENTURY 21 North East
 109 West St., Ware
 Ready to Buy or Sell? Call Me!
 1-978-434-1990
 www.DorindaSellsHomes.com

ARMY OF 1

WATER FILTRATION
774-200-0225
WE'RE LOCAL!

- NEW INSTALLATIONS
- SERVICING ALL EQUIPMENT
- SERVICE PLANS AVAILABLE
- WELL TANK & PUMP SERVICE

James Morse - Cell: 774-200-0225 www.armyof1waterfiltration.com

FOUNTAIN
And Sons
Construction Company INCORPORATED

- Excavation Complete Site Work
- Demo
- New Home Construction
- Screened Loam, Sand, Stone, Gravel, Septic Sand
- Trucking
- Backhoe, Dozer, Excavator Work
- Water & Sewer Line Repairs & Replacements

YOUR BUSINESS IS IMPORTANT TO US!

177 Brimfield Road, Warren, MA 01083
413-436-5705 • www.fountainandsons.com

WHERE EVERYONE GOES FOR THEIR PIECE OF THE EARTH!

LANDSCAPE STONE
 ALL SIZES
 White • Blush • Blue • Brown • Purple
 Red • Lt Gray • Dark Gray

SCREENED LOAM STORED IN BUILDING

Construction Stone • Title V Septic Sand
 Concrete Sand • Chicken Coop Sand • Utility Sand
 Chip Stone • Stone Dust • Silt • Crushed Gravel
 Crushed Asphalt • Crushed Concrete • Cold Patch

Homeowner Friendly • No Minimums
PICK-UP OR CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR DELIVERY TODAY!

Bond
 Sand, Gravel & Asphalt
 www.bondsandandgravel.com

98 North Spencer Road, Route 31N, Spencer, MA
508-885-6100
508-885-2480

YARD and Garden

Turley Publications, Inc.
 www.turley.com

MAY 2023 A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO

DECKS | PATIOS | GARDENS | SPAS | LIGHTING
 TREES | FLOWERS | BUSHES | ACCENT PLANTS
 SEASONAL DECOR | GRILLS | FIREPITS
 OUTDOOR SPACES | FURNITURE | HANDYMAN
 CARPENTERS | INSECT CONTROL | POOLS
 EFFICIENCY EXPERTS | PAINT | CURTAINS | BLINDS
 CROWN MOULDING | QUICK FIXES
 REMODELS | MAKEOVERS | FURNITURE
 LAWN SERVICES | PLUMBING | ELECTRICAL
 FIREPLACES | REPAIRS | MAINTENANCE

Call Dan at 413-967-3505 for rates & information

The Barre Patch

7 Worcester Rd., Barre
978-355-3000

Thurs. 11:30am-10pm
 Sun. & Mon. 11:30am-7:30pm
 Fri. & Sat. 11:30 am - 11pm
 Closed Tues. & Wed.
 Hours may change
 Check Facebook for updates

Burgers, BBQ and More

Crab Cakes & Seafood Specials
Until April 8th
 Check Out Our Specials On Facebook
GOLABKI'S MARCH 30TH
UNTIL THEY RUN OUT!
 Closed Easter Sunday, April 9th

Adventure tours of Warren
 Share the Adventure with us!

Magical Christmas Markets of Austria and Germany
December 2-9, 2023



collette guided by travel

March 25Hadestown at PPAC \$99
 June 10.....U.S.S. Slater plus Lunch \$125
 June 24.....Perkins Cove for a Day \$99
 July 8.....Cape Cod Canal Lunch \$125
 July 22.....Escape to Rockport \$89

Share the Adventure with us soon!
 For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357
 or email adventuretours@att.net
 or go to www.adventuretoursofwarren.com



NOW OPEN WEDNESDAY
3:00 - 7:00 PM

If you enjoyed seeing Farmer Matt at the indoor farmers market on Wednesdays, don't worry. You can catch him at the farm on Wednesdays from 3:00 - 7:00 PM with your favorite items and so much more.

 **Farmer Matt®**
 FARM-FRESH + LOCAL

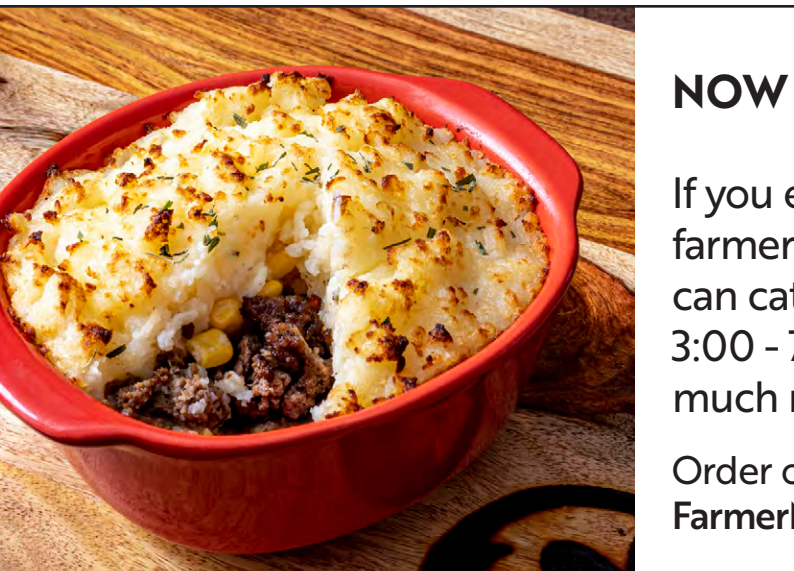
Order online or in-store
 FarmerMatt.com or call (508) 980-7085

 **Farmer Matt®**
 FARM-FRESH + LOCAL

860 West Brookfield Rd., New Braintree, MA

Farmer Matt offers farm-fresh beef, poultry, and pork along with a variety of other farm store staples. Also serving homemade meals from our farm kitchen.

FarmerMatt.com or (508) 980-7085



NOW OPEN WEDNESDAY 3:00 - 7:00 PM

If you enjoyed seeing Farmer Matt at the indoor farmers market on Wednesdays, don't worry. You can catch him at the farm on Wednesdays from 3:00 - 7:00 PM with your favorite items and so much more.

Order online or in-store
 FarmerMatt.com or call (508) 980-7085