

# BARRE GAZETTE

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## Mark Regienus wins Select Board seat

Voters narrowly say yes to debt exclusion

By Ellenor Downer  
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BARRE – Mark A. Regienus won a three-year term on the Select Board with 295 votes over Gregory P. O’Sullivan, candidate for re-election with 106 votes in the April 3 Annual Town Election.

With a total of 412 of the 4,058 registered voters or 10.15% turnout, Regienus received 163 votes in precinct 1 and 132 in precinct 2 and O’Sullivan got 62 votes in precinct 1 and 44 in precinct 2.

A total of 233 out of 2,025 in precinct 1 and 179 out of 2,033 registered voters in precinct 2 went to the polls.

In the only other contest of two positions for Library Trustee, incumbent Catherine Chase was the top vote getter with 269 votes (143 precinct 1 and 126 precinct 2). Charlotte A. Gareau also won a seat as Library Trustee with 156 votes (72 precinct 1 and 84 precinct 2). Heather Rene Bernard with 94 votes (57 precinct 1 and 37 precinct 2) and Allison Nicole Laundis with 131 votes (78 precinct 1 and 53 precinct 2) also ran.

Voters narrowly supported a debt exclusion by a margin of five votes with 189 yes (93 precinct 1 and 96 precinct 2) and 184 (113 precinct 1 and 71 precinct 2). The debt exclusion was to exempt from proposition 2 1/2 the purchase of Fire Department Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, Engine One, Engine 4, an ambulance, highway pickup truck with plow, highway one ton dump truck with plow and a solar array.

A debt exclusion is a two part process and now a town meeting article must pass for the amount of the remaining debt on these old loans, which have about five years left, to be excluded. If the second part of the process passes at town meeting, this will free up additional money for the general budget. Once the loans are paid, the amount will no longer factor into the real estate tax amount.

All other candidates for positions on the election ballot ran unopposed. Michael G. Landry won another three-year term to the Board of Assessors with 332 votes (184 precinct 1 and 148 precinct 2) and Christopher J. Jenkins won a two-year term on the Board of Assessors with 314 votes (172 precinct 1 and 142 precinct 2). Karen Keegan, candidate for re-election, won a three-year term to Board of Health with 311 votes (166 precinct 1 and 145 precinct 2) and John J. Pimental Jr., also a candidate for re-election, won a three-year term as Water Commissioner with 301 votes (166 precinct 1 and 135 precinct 2).

Glen C. Alt won a three-year term as Sewer Commissioner with 321 votes (171 precinct 1 and 150 precinct 2) and Lawrence F.

See BARRE, page 6



## Historical Society holds fundraiser for powder horn



Courtesy Photo

The Hardwick Historical Society has an 18th century powder horn on loan with its roots in the town's history. The Society is fundraising to make the powder horn part of their permanent collection.

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Historical Society has an 18th century powder horn on loan that has significant ties to the town and its history; and the goal is to bring it home to stay.

All are invited to come hear the story from the 1970s about the powder horn's significant ties to Hardwick.

On Sunday, April 30, from

3-5 p.m. at the Hardwick Town House, Don Madden from Belchertown will bring the audience back to the 18th century with some artifacts of the era and a lecture. Donation at the door is \$20.

In addition, the Hardwick Historical Society will offer any person or business a spot on the donation plaque for \$100 or more.

There will be mocktails and light food, as well as the chance to get a glimpse of the historic powder horn.

Hardwick Historical Society is a 501c3 nonprofit and your donations are tax deductible. Donations can also be mailed to Hardwick Historical Society, P.O. Box 492, Hardwick, MA 01037.

## Selectmen hear about potential sewer rate structure options

By Paula Ouimette  
Staff Writer  
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HARDWICK – During Monday night's Board of Selectmen meeting, Laurie Stevens of Rural Community Assistance Partnership Solutions presented her research to determine sewer rates.

Stevens has been working with RCAP Solutions and town officials to determine sewer rates after the completion of the wastewater systems upgrade.

The sewer system is an enterprise fund, Stevens said.

She said the U.S. Department of Agriculture, who is providing a large amount of the funding for the multimillion-dollar three-part project that includes update both water pollution control facilities and adding a pump station on Hardwick Road, requested RCAP Solution's services to design a rate structure for commercial and residential users.

Stevens said she reviewed the financial plan and revenue requirements, did a cost of service analysis, reviewed and evaluated rate structure options to design a rate structure for the town.

"Unlike other towns, it has two facilities instead of just one, which makes it more expensive," she said of the two water pollution control facilities

Stevens said she reviewed the past five years of expenses, comparing year to year, to project potential costs five years out. She also looked at the past five years of revenue.

The Gilbertville pump station and the Wheelwright sewer plant already have existing debt, with a principle and interest payment of \$84,185 for fiscal year 2024.

"Existing payments that you have, they're going to continue for a good number of years," Stevens said.

She said the town is "very fortunate" they have a lot of grant money to fund the project as well as a low-interest loan.

The loan amount totals \$5,681,000 with a term of 40 years at 1.375% interest.

"The annual payment would be \$185,599," Stevens said. She said that will be split half to the sewer enterprise fund, and the other to the general taxbase.

The sewer enterprise fund will levy betterments to pay the \$92,799.50 and shouldn't be included in the operation and maintenance budget.

Stevens said the sewer enterprise fund budget is estimated at \$850,000.

A short-lived asset reserve account has been mandated by the

See HARDWICK, page 6

## Select Board accept town clerk resignation

By Ellenor Downer  
Editor  
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HUBBARDSTON – The Select Board accepted the resignation of Town Clerk, Kristin Foster, at their Monday, April 3 meeting.

Town Administrator Nate

Boudreau said he found a replacement for Foster and would present Candace Livingston as a candidate at the next Select Board meeting as he was waiting for a Criminal Offender Record Information check. Livingston would be starting Monday, April 24. He said Foster's last day was April

13 and he would ask her if she could stay another week.

### School sign signs

The Town Administrator said Police Department, Highway Department and Quabbin School Superintendent applied for and received a grant for school zone signs. The solar powered signs would show vehicle speed in

a school zone in an effort to reduce speeding and be placed on Elm Street. Flashing school zone signs already exist on Main Street (Route 68) and their replacement would be part of the Town Center project. The Select Board approved the

See HUBBARDSTON, page 6

## Food policy council looks at Quaboag Valley's food needs

By Paula Ouimette  
Editor  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – The Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council kicked off the first in a series of meetings Monday afternoon, to discuss the Valley's food system.

Those attending the meeting ranged from farmers to health care and outreach workers, local business members, food pantry coordinators to municipal employees and community members. Each person shared their thoughts about our region's connection to food, and how to improve access to this vital need.

The Council is open to anyone, regardless of their background and whether or not they have professional knowledge of food systems or policy.

"You do not have to have extensive knowledge," Council Coordinator Caitlin Geaghan said. "Just an interest in the local food system."

A food policy council, Geaghan said, is "a group of community members who come together to improve their local food system through actions such

as education, policy and connection."

Geaghan said many food policy councils in the region run community food assessments, start community and school gardens, host composting webinar series, advocate for Healthy Incentives Programs, sponsor healthy eating and cooking classes, support existing programs such as Breakfast in the Classroom and Farm-to-School, as well as aiding those that do not qualify for government assistance but still need help.

"Our first question we wanted to ask everyone, are what issues related to food do you think need to be addressed in this region?" she said.

Responses included offering cooking classes, teaching young families how to prepare healthy food that is both easy and inexpensive to make.

Transportation to farmers' markets was another suggestion, especially for locations that do not have a nearby grocery store or farmers market, making them "food deserts."

See FOOD POLICY, page 6

## Bald eagle watches from lofty perch



Photo by Mike Brozek

In mid-March the photographer was taking a walk along the Swift River at the Herman Covey Wildlife Management Area in Belchertown when he came across a pair of bald eagles in a tree. One eagle flew off quickly, but the other stayed eagle long enough to take photos.

## Lucas McDiarmid announces office hours

BOSTON – Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer), announces office hours with her Communications and District Director, Lucas McDiarmid, for the month of April.

Members of the public are invited to meet with him to discuss issues, request assistance with state government agencies and for general inquiries.

Office hours for Region Three Barre and Hubbardston will be held on Monday, April 10 from 11 a.m.-noon at Barre Senior Center.

Office hours for Region Seven, Hardwick, New Braintree and Ware will be held at Hardwick Town Hall on Tuesday, April 11 from 11:30 a.m.-noon.

Office Hours for Region Four Oakham, Paxton, and Rutland will be held on Wednesday, April 12 at Oakham Senior Center from 9-10 a.m.

Office hours for Region Five, East Brookfield, Leicester and Spencer will be held on Monday, April 17 from 1-2 p.m. at East Brookfield Town Hall.

Office hours for Region Two Holden, Princeton, Sterling and Westminster will be held Tuesday, April 18 from 2-3 p.m. at Holden Senior Center.

Office Hours for Region Six, Brookfield, North Brookfield and West Brookfield, will be held Wednesday, April 19 from 1-2 p.m. at Brookfield Town Hall.

Office hours for Webster Square will be held on Monday, April 24

See MCDIARMID, page 6

BARRE GAZETTE

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# News of the Towns



**Round Town**  
Ellenor Downer  
413-967-3505

## Historical Society holds membership drive

The Barre Historical Society is holding its annual member drive. An individual membership is \$20 per year, a family membership is \$30 per year, cooperative membership is \$100 per year and a life membership is \$200. The Barre Historical Society has members only events. The next members only event is a summer solstice soiree on Wednesday, June 21.

### Barre Food Pantry

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. 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.

## American Legion Auxiliary to meet April 10

BARRE – The American Legion Auxiliary April meeting will be held on Monday, April 10 at 7 p.m. in Post 2, 450 South Barre Road. There will be a penny sale so please bring some goodies.

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## Adventure awaits!



Courtesy Photo by Adventure Tours of Warren  
Carol Haire of West Brookfield, Dot Dimo of Warren, and Carol Borowiec of Palmer are shown at the Acropolis in Athens, Greece.

### Adventure Tours of Warren makes travel fun for all

By Paula Ouimette  
Staff Writer  
pouimette@turley.com

WARREN – The chance to explore the world is closer than you think, and thanks to Adventure Tours of Warren, the trip of a lifetime can start right in your own backyard.

Traveling is something Randall Decoteau has been passionate about since a young age, when he first traveled by himself to visit

family. "I was 13-years-old and I went to visit my aunt and uncle in Montreal. I went by myself on Eastern Air Lines," he said.

Decoteau's aunt and uncle met him at the airport and from then on, he was hooked.

"It was a nice experience," he said.

Decoteau experienced his first trip overseas when he went to Europe between his junior and senior year of college. He traveled for two months, armed with a Eurail pass and a copy of Arthur Frommer's "Europe on 5 Dollars a Day".

"I went to maybe 10

countries...I love Europe," he said.

Decoteau has now been to 48 countries and said he has "a passion for travel."

In 2000, Decoteau used this passion when he teamed up with the Warren Cultural Council to raise money for a scholarship program by offering tours.

By 2006, he had officially formed Adventure Tours of Warren.

Within a year, Adventure Tours was offering 45 trips a year.

Since its founding, Adventure Tours has

See ADVENTURE TOURS, page 7

## Hubbardston

Ellenor Downer  
edowner@turley.com



## Budget public hearing set for April 20

The Select Board and Finance Committee will hold a hybrid public hearing on Thursday, April 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the Shade Building Conference Room, 7A Main St. to discuss the proposed operating budget for FY 24. There will be both remote and in person options for residents to attend. This is an opportunity for residents to voice their thoughts and concerns about the budget and how it will impact the community. Resident feedback is crucial in helping town officials make informed decisions that will benefit everyone.

### Scouting Earth Day events

The Boy Scouts will hold fee based electronic recycling on Saturday, April 22 from 8 a.m.-noon at the Curtis Recreation Field, Route 68. The Girl Scouts will hold a redeemable can and bottle drive at the same day and time at the recreation field.

### C.A.S.H Scholarship applications

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.

### 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 WiiBowling beginning at 8:30 a.m. every Monday and Wednesday beginning at 8:30 a.m.

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## 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 10. 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 – Beef stew, rice, corn niblets, pineapple, French bread

TUESDAY – Buttermilk chicken, vegetable rice, peas, Mandarin oranges, whole wheat bread

WEDNESDAY – Baked potato with chili and cheese, broccoli, sour cream, chocolate mousse, pumpkin bread

THURSDAY – Hot dog on bun, baked beans, coleslaw, fresh fruit, mustard,

FRIDAY – Shepherd's pie, carrots, green beans, frosted banana cake, diet = cookie, Italian 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.

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# Opinion

## Guest Column



### Heavenly scents define two favorite Easter plants

For the last few days my dining room has been filled with a wonderful fragrance – Hyacinths in bloom.

To me, at least, they are simply the “smell of Easter.” Don’t worry, I didn’t forget about Easter Lilies- they smell great too.

More on those beauties in a bit.

The hyacinths I speak of were purchased in the fall on clearance. I actually think I was out Christmas shopping when I spotted a bag marked 50% off.

I paid around \$3 for 10 bulbs. The bulbs looked and felt fine, no mold and not soft or dried out. Once I got them home, the mesh bag was placed in my mudroom where temperatures run about 50-55 degrees. There they sat for the longest time going through a chilling process.

Sometime in early March I found the bag and potted five bulbs in individual 4” pots and the other half I placed in forcing glasses. Vases, really, the kind that are an hourglass shape, whereby all but the very bottom of the bulb stays dry.

Roots are initiated where the bulb comes in contact with the water. I put the pots and vases back in the cool mudroom to give them a chance to root.

Once roots form down the side of the vase (you can see them through the glass) and green begins to emerge from the top, it was time to share them with my friends so that they could watch the blossoms unfold.

It took about 10 days once the bulbs were moved into the warm house for the flower stalks to emerge and for the individual flowers to open. And boy, when they do, you know it.

As I mentioned, the fragrance is heavenly!

I wish I would write dates down, so that I could time the flowers better, but with how busy life is I am happy they got planted at all, even if they are blooming a week before Easter!

There is no guarantee that flowers forced in a vase can be replanted in the garden, but those in pots should be just fine planted the ground post-bloom. Be sure to “deadhead” the blooms and let the greens ripen before moving in the garden once the weather improves; remember, these plants have been coddled indoors and may not be able to withstand a frost.

What nice lead into a conversation about our other favorite Easter flower- the Easter Lily, of course!

Most people assume that it should be hauled off to the compost pile once it has finished blooming. On the contrary, it can become a regular feature of your perennial garden providing you give it the appropriate care.

First, remove any spent flowers from the plant as you did with the hyacinth. We all know that the process of “deadheading” redirects energy away from seed making and back to the bulb. Leaves, however, are left in place until they have browned; as long as they are green they are photosynthesizing and helping the bulb grow stronger.

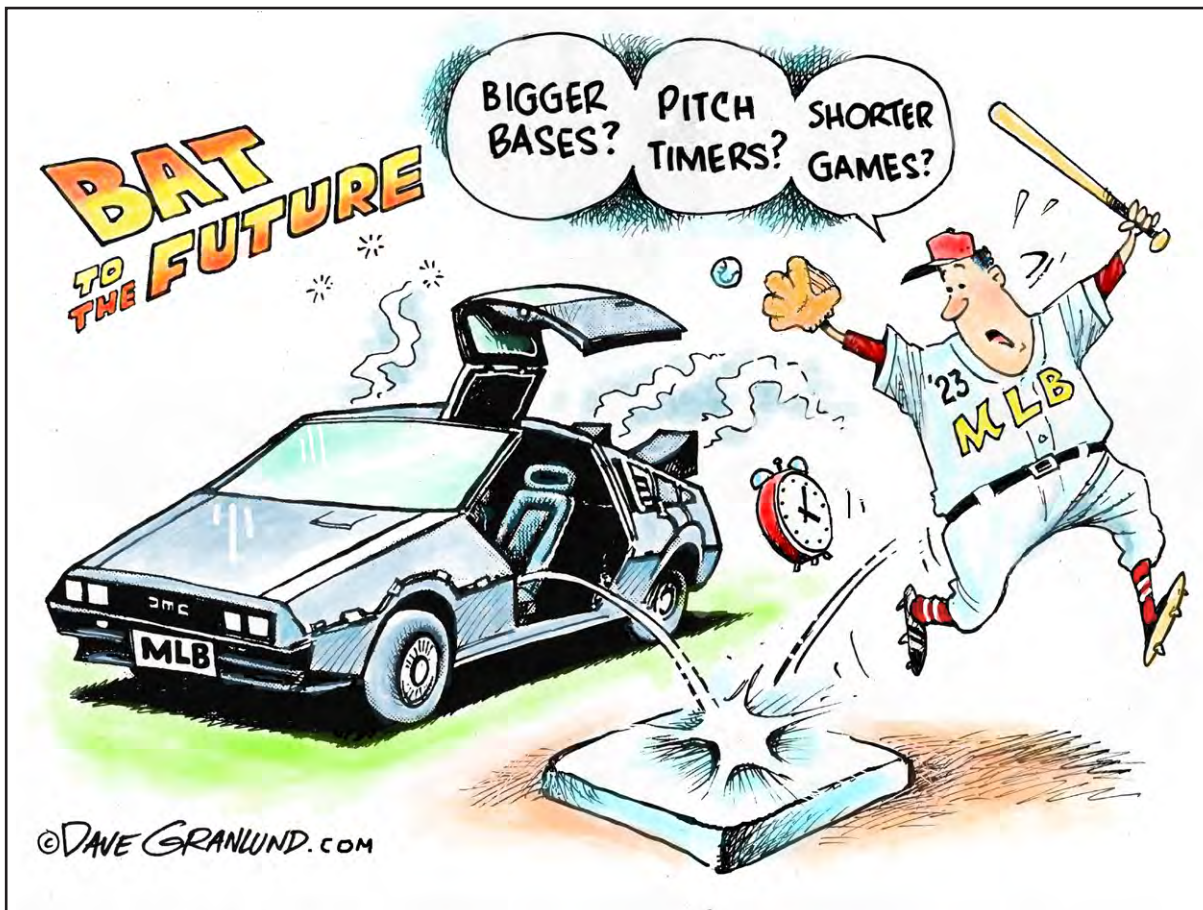
A large, healthy bulb will give you the best chance of return.

When the weather has warmed up, it’s time to plant your lily in the garden. Sink the bulb about 3” below the soil surface- just about the depth that it was in the pot. Don’t expect much out of it the first season or even next spring.

Easter lily growers manipulate the plant to bloom much earlier than it would normally. Its natural bloom time is during the summer months.

Hopefully, you will enjoy pure white blooms and a heady fragrance at the height of barbecue season! These same rules can be applied to those of you looking to rebloom colorful Asiatic or Oriental lilies you received as Easter gifts as well.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.*



## In Past Pages

5 years (April 12, 2018)

Oakham police, fire and highway department heads met with Selectmen and Finance Committee to discuss their budgets. Police Chief Fred Gehring presented a budget with a few increases. It included salary and wage increases and a 2% increase in computer fees. Fire Chief Jeff Nahkala presented a level funded budget. He said he lowered the telephone line item as he eliminated all town funded cell phones as staff all had their own. He wanted to put the \$1,000 savings in the phone account to the vehicle repair account. High Superintendent C. Kevin Currier said salary and wages needed to get up to the level. Selectmen asked him to get wage comparisons from other towns in the area.

Slightly more than 5% or 96 of the town’s 1,800 registered voters, went to the polls Monday at Hardwick Elementary School for a mostly uncontested election. The only contested seats this year were for Planning Board, with three candidates vying for two five-year seats.

This year weather delayed the annual Oakham Easter egg hunt until after Easter. This time it was held despite about two inches of snow falling the day before. About 60 children came with their parents and families for the hunt sponsored by the Oakham Congregational Church. This year the Easter Bunny and helpers hid 3,000 plastic eggs filled with wrapped candy.

10 years (April 11, 2013)

The Hampshire Council of Governments teamed Hampshire Power with solar developer Example to produce the best combination of electrical supply with solar energy in the Commonwealth. This alliance provides the best opportunity for municipalities to save 21-30% on the cost of electricity by participating in Hampshire Solar. The town of Barre is the first customer of Hampshire Solar. Barre selectmen executed a contract with senior vice president Jonathan Abe and revenue services manager, Emma Kosciak, from Nexamp on March 18.

The Town Administrator Steering Committee presented the Hubbardston Board of Selectmen with three final candidates for the town administrator position at the Monday night meeting. The committee reviewed 28 applicants. The three candidates recommended to selectmen were Anita Scheipers, Ross Perry and Carlotta Pini. Before making a decision, selectmen plan to visit with the three candidates in the towns where they serve - Lincoln, Stow and Rindge, N.H. respectively

Students at North Brookfield High School had a unique experience recently, hosting a group of students from Southern China for the week. Thanks to the efforts of Superintendent Dr. John Provost in making NBHS a destination school through certification with SEVIS, the Cambridge Institute for International Education made one of the stops for this group of 12 students experiencing the American

### LOOK BACK Hardwick Turkey Farm - 1988



File Photo  
May Robinson is shown with a rabbit at the Hardwick Turkey Farm.

educational culture in hopes that they, their families and their friends will consider pursuing continued education in the United States.

25 years (April 9, 1998)

Grace Yaglou of Barre is the new executive director of 4-H Camp Marshall in Spencer. She has been busy for some time preparing a new staff manual, hiring staff members and implementing programs. Grace is well qualified to be the new director of Camp Marshall. She graduated from Tufts University with a degree in health, physical education and recreation. She received a Master’s Degree in curriculum and education from Northeastern University. She was on the Olympic Fencing squad and taught secondary school for 12 years.

Michelle Wronski of Barre began her massage therapy business last fall after graduating from Stillpoint Center School of Massage in Hatfield. “I have been interested in this for awhile. My son Petr has muscular dystrophy and massage was good for him and his muscles,” she said. He walked longer than most children with muscular dystrophy do and I feel diet and massage therapy helped make this possible.” Petr is wheelchair bound now and is an honor student at Quabbin Middle School. It wasn’t until she had her first massage that she realized how beneficial it is to the human body.

The New Braintree Grange will be giving its annual community citizen award to an outstanding citizen on Wednesday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m. Those in charge of the program

said the award is a surprise, but the person to be honored this year is from West Brookfield. A program of country and gospel music featuring Gertrude Thompson of New Braintree will be the entertainment.

38 years (April 11, 1985)

On April 20, New Braintree will dedicate their new Town Hall. After eight years of frustration a new building is now ready for use. At 1:30 p.m. Paula Schur, Chairman of the Selectmen, will welcome those in attendance. The Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts will raise the flag on a new flag pole given to them in memory of Russell O. Dean. The attending people will then proceed to the Main Hall of the new building for the dedication.

The election of Oakham Town officers on April 1 wen as expected since there were no contests. Gary W. McEachern received 79 votes for selectman; Linda Leppanin was elected Town Clerk with 74 votes; Lionel A. Lajoie, Jr., moderator and John F. Kennedy, Planning Board, with 80 votes. A total of 86 voters participated, about 13% of registered voters. Timothy Gilrein was elected to the school committee.

Petersham Postmaster Joan Kenney was honored March 24 for her 11 years in that office by a retirement party at the Petersham Town Hall with over 100 guests attending. The occasion was organized by her daughter, Mary, who was assisted by former postal clerk Ellen Moriarty of Petersham, close friend Down Germond and Mrs. Kenney’s other children, Joseph, Michael and Bernadette.

## Guest Column

### Adventures of Gertrude the Cat

By Ruth Robinson

Dear Folks,  
Missy just told me that her great-granddaughter is coming to spend the morning with us.

I am looking forward to seeing her. She pets my head, ears and strokes my tail and knows she can’t pick me up.

I know she will run over and grab her favorite book called “I Am Not a Skunk” written by Missy’s friend, Ellen Pilch. She loves to have Missy read books to her and often tells Missy the stories.



I will jump up on the back of the couch and listen to Missy read while I rest and look at my birds. All of a sudden there aren’t any birds and a big, black thing is at the bird feeder and seems to be eating the seeds.

How to tell Missy about the thing? She doesn’t understand cat language, so I’ll simply hunch my back and hiss loudly. At first Missy didn’t pay any attention so I hissed louder and jumped around.

“Gertrude, what is the matter?” Then she looked out the window and saw the little bear and had her great-granddaughter look too. He or she was so cute sitting there eating away.

Missy banged on the window and the bear ran off into nearby woods. My, what a sight. Fortunately, the bear didn’t damage the feeder very much.

I watched the great-granddaughter play with the farm set and then it was time for her to go home. What should I do next for fun? Oh, I remember Missy sewed this week and there were small pieces of cloth on the floor waiting to be picked up.

One of them seems a little thicker than the others and would make a good thing to play with sometime. Where to put it? Oh, yes, I wanted something to go into the other slipper in the closet. The cleaner has been here twice and so far left my treasures alone hidden in the slipper.

Yippie, time for a quick snack.

Love,  
Gertrude

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### BARRE GAZETTE TEAM



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## Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

Did anyone trick you on April Fools Day?

The only thing that happened to me was I was allergic to a face cream with retinol and my face turned bright red and hurt so badly. Saturday I decided to go to Urgent Care in Gardner as I was so worried as my face puffed up and I could hardly see. The doctor told me to put cold compresses on it and to take Tylenol. I hope it goes away as I look terrible.

I want to get out into the yard and get some of the clean up done but do to my face I decided I need to stay out of the sun.

We had a bad thunderstorm Saturday night and I was ready to run to the cellar when I thought I heard hail, but I guess it was just raining hard.

Here is a recipe I plan to make for myself. Ken can't have seafood as he gets gout too easily.

### SHRIMP SCAMPI

2 lbs. unpeeled med-size shrimp  
1 package linguine  
8 cloves garlic, minced  
1 cup butter or margarine, melted  
1 cup white wine  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1/8 teaspoon pepper  
1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley  
Peel and devein shrimp and set aside.  
Cook linguine according to package directions. Keep warm. Cook garlic in

butter and wine in a large skillet over medium high heat, stirring constantly until garlic is tender. Add reserved shrimp and cook over medium heat 3 to 5 minutes or until shrimp turns pink. Add salt and pepper and spoon mixture over linguine. Sprinkle with chopped parsley and serve immediately. Serves 4. Note: You can half the recipe as I will do.

### This and That

I went down and got eggs and potatoes at the Hubbardston Senior Center on Thursday. The workers looked fairly cold, but they bundled up with winter coats. They are so great to volunteer with that program of free eggs for Hubbardston Seniors from the Country Hen and Rich's potatoes.

Most of the seeds I planted have now sprouted so they are in the sun now. The four amaryllis bulbs also came up with leaves and I hope the flowers will follow.

This year my pink geraniums that I put out in pots each summer even blossomed inside for me. This will be the second year I have had them.

I noticed a few crocus in bloom and the snow bells are out. Most of the snow has melted on Serenity Hill.

Easter will be here before one knows it. Where did March go to? Have a nice spring.

## Petersham residents invited to public gathering April 23

PETERSHAM – All residents of the town of Petersham are called to gather at the Town Hall on Sunday, April 23 from 2-4 p.m. to tap their imaginations and share visions of the world they know in their hearts is possible.

The public gathering is based on the premise that residents can be creators and they do have the power to remedy all that is problematic in society. They have the opportunity to change the future of the community.

It is possible, essential, and timely, now more than ever, for citizens to take responsibility and create what they want for themselves and for each other from the inside out. Petersham residents and friends can experience the uplift and sense of community that many crave during these uncertain times.

Over the last one hundred years the residents of Petersham have dealt with the challenges of the influenza of 1918, the hurricane of '38, the tornado of '53, the massive snow storm of '78 and presently, the on-going COVID pandemic. But now, the multiple threats of climate change, cultural fragmentation, and social and environmental injustices are demanding that large and small com-

munities everywhere come together to build resilient and sustainable neighborhoods in new and creative ways to meet the unfathomable demands of the 21st Century.

David Boeri, resident of Petersham and retired senior commentator of WBUR Boston radio said, "We can't fight the future it's coming. So let's talk of how to make Petersham better".

The creators of the event feel that in community members have the power to develop resilience and can change the circumstances of their lives. The meeting will be hosted by local residents, John Root and Rose Stanley, together with Larry Buell, Brother Northstar and Michele Cunningham. The focused gathering will allow residents to speak or just listen to those in attendance to share their ideals, which may very well begin the process of future manifestation.

The event is free and open to residents and friends of Petersham where participation is an essential ingredient.

For more information, people may call Rose Stanley at 978-549-5123, email admin@justabundance.com or mail, 32 East St, Petersham, MA 01366.

## Petersham Town Hall receives grant for water treatment system

BOSTON – The Healey-Driscoll Administration today awarded more than \$1 million in grants to 21 small public water suppliers to support their efforts to address elevated levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances in drinking water.

The grant program, managed by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection is intended to pay for or reimburse long-term actions to address PFAS, such as construction of treatment systems or connection to an uncontaminated water supply. MassDEP is awarding funding to small public water suppliers who provide drinking water to fewer than 3,300 users. The grant recipients include condominium associations, schools, churches, businesses and public buildings.

PFAS chemicals are a family of chemicals widely used since the 1950s to manufacture common consumer products and used in some legacy fire-fighting foams. Drinking water may become contaminated if PFAS deposited onto the soil seeps into groundwater or surface water. PFAS have been linked to a variety of health risks, particularly in women who are pregnant or nursing and in infants. In October of 2020, MassDEP finalized a protective standard of 20 parts-per-trillion (ppt) for PFAS in drinking water, as well as cleanup standards for soil and groundwater.

All community public water systems are required to test for "PFAS6" (the sum of six PFAS substances). If found above the state standard, water systems are required to eliminate or

minimize the threat to public health by turning off a contaminated water source, connecting to a neighboring water supply, or taking other steps to ensure that clean drinking water is available to all system users.

Among the grant recipients was Petersham Town Hall in Petersham with \$35,000. The grant will support the design, permitting and construction of a PFAS treatment system.

To help ensure the safety of drinking water around the Commonwealth, \$28.4 million was secured in two recent supplemental budgets for water infrastructure and PFAS testing. Through the supplemental budget, \$20 million was appropriated to the Commonwealth's Clean Water Trust, providing financing that can be used by communities to address contamination issues. \$8.4 million of the funding supported a statewide sampling program for public water supplies and private wells. Conducting statewide testing of drinking water for PFAS provided the data to support MassDEP's strategy for treatment and mitigation of this emerging contaminant. This additional \$1.05 million in state funds will further address the needs of small public water systems with PFAS6 concentrations exceeding MassDEP's drinking water Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). These systems are required to eliminate or minimize the threat to public health by providing treatment, connecting to a neighboring water supply, or taking other steps to ensure that clean drinking water is available to all system users.

# Tolman Home Solutions hold grand opening celebration

By Dallas Gagnon  
Staff Writer  
dgagnon@turley.com

HARDWICK – Tolman Home Solutions launched the grand opening of their new location at 550 Lower Road, Gilbertville this past Sunday.

Lynette Tolman, supportive wife to Mat Tolman, said "over the years the business has been expanding, [and] it's only right the location reflects that and gives us more space and resources to further build the business in the years to come."

Tolman Home Solutions is a third generation, independent, family-owned business established in 1969. Though the company originated in Worcester, it was relocated to South Barre and based out of the Tolman family home until the latest transition to the Gilbertville location.

Today, third generation business owner Mat Tolman leads the company.

Tolman said "since we have opened up at this location, the positive feedback and support from the community has been amazing... We will do our best to support and give back to the community that welcomed us with open arms."

To show their thanks, Tolman Home Solutions prepared a \$1,000 check for donation to Hardwick Elementary School.

"The children are our future," said Tolman.

Lynette Tolman added that "as a family with four children, it has always been our priority to be able to provide our children with good education," and "being able to donate to a local school to help not only our children but other families means a lot to us!"

Tolman Home Solutions donated several prizes for raffle at the event, in addition to many other prizes donated by local businesses.

Captain T's not only catered the event, but donated \$100 worth of gift cards from local businesses such as The Whistle Stop, Red Tomato, Cafe on The Common, Quabbin Cafe, the Barre Patch, along with free ice cream coupons.

"Local businesses help build a strong community... Supporting local businesses will help give the community more resources to build altogether," said Lynette Tolman.

Tolman Home Solutions also raffled off baskets which included 20% off exterior project coupons with to-go mugs, Tolman Home Solution T-shirts and hats as well as other baskets offering free windows and replacements.

Cathy Celko left the event very happy, taking the grand prize grill home.

The grill was a joint donation item, which was generously contributed to by Tolman Home Solutions and the Hamshaw's.

Tolman Home Solutions is a company dedicated to the community and the customer.

Mat Tolman offers over 30 years of contracting experience and is "dedicated to providing you with exceptional customer service every step of the way."

Whether a customer is "looking to remodel the interior or exterior" of their home, Tolman Home Solutions has "got you covered."

Lynette Tolman said Mat "really brings customers' visions to life... [he] is always willing to help in any way he can."

"He treats every customer's home like it is our home... Mathew has built an amazing community within his company over the years, we're all a family," she said.



Owner Mat Tolman and wife Lynette Tolman are shown holding a check for \$1,000 to donate to Hardwick Elementary School.



Shown from left are Alina Laverdure, Elias Tolman, Mathew Tolman, Lynette Tolman, Lauren Kenney and Mathew Tolman Jr.



A third-generation business, owner Mathew Tolman can be seen alongside former owner and father.

If you or someone you know is in need of a general contractor who takes "great pride" in their workmanship and would like to support a local, family-owned business, call Tolman Home Solutions at 508-470-4488.

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## Paige Memorial Library lists events

HARDWICK – Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, 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.

Every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. there is a Story Hour for little ones and their adults at the library with stories and activities. A variety of ages enjoy playing and socializing. All are welcome, but people should notify the Paige staff so there are enough materials available for all by stopping by the library, emailing director.paigeli@paigeli.com or calling 413-477-6704.

The Friends of the Paige Memorial Library seed library and

raffle basket is back. People may choose some seeds, record what they take, plant and nurture their 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.

The Paige Library and MOC Coordinated Family and Community Engagement program towns: Barre, Hardwick, Oakham, New Braintree, Hubbardston and Templeton will host Mark Moomaw Jackson, guitarist/singer/songwriter. With hats and wigs and stories galore, "Moomaw4kids" will present his humorous and energetic interactive program. Moomaw, his middle name shortened to Moo so he can wear a cow hat and sing the Moomaw Song, presents original story songs, which encourage laughing, singing, wiggling, spinning and dancing. This will be held on Wednesday, April 12 at 2 p.m. at the Town House, 32 Common Street.

For more information come to the Paige Memorial Library, a CWMars library. For more information visit, people may call 413-477-6704, email director.paigeli@paigeli.com or check out the latest updates by visiting www.paigeli.com and Facebook.com/paigeli.com

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## New Braintree Library holds story time April 17

NEW BRAINTREE – The next story time will be Monday, April 17 at 9:30 a.m. at the New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive.

This reading and crafts pro-

gram for preschool children is held twice a month on Mondays at the library. The program will feature "Fill a Bucket, A guide to Daily Happiness for Young Children" by Carol McCloud and Katherine

Martin, M.A. and "Right's Animal Farm," a Little Golden Book. Parental supervision is required. People may call the library at 508-867-7650 during regular hours for more information.

## Annual egg hunt brings awareness to open space

HARDWICK – Visitors to the Parks and Recreation Committee's annual Easter egg hunt, were not only given the opportunity to collect candy-filled eggs and meet the Easter Bunny, but they also learned about plans to update the town's open space and recreation plan.

Volunteers from Hardwick Youth Center and Eagle Hill School assisted in the day's festivities.

Having an updated open space and recreation plan will allow the town more grant opportunities, including the ability to apply for Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities grants.

The PARC grant could be used to construct a playground at Gilbertville Memorial Park on Prospect Street, where the Easter egg hunt is held each year.

Currently Memorial Park has a T-ball diamond, basketball court, tennis courts and a field, with limited parking.



Turley Publications Photo by Paula Quimette  
**Children and volunteers enjoyed a visit from the Easter Bunny at Hardwick Parks and Recreation Committee's second annual Easter egg hunt held this past Sunday.**

A survey taken earlier in the year showed that residents have a strong interest in the town's open space, including making improve-

ments to Memorial Park. For more information about the open space and recreation plan, visit hardwick-ma.gov.

## ADVENTURE TOURS, continued from page 2

amassed a following of 800 travelers hailing from all over New England, with more than half being repeat customers.

"I have really loyal customers," Decoteau said.

Adventure Tours takes the hassle and stress out of traveling, by providing safe and comfortable transportation so travelers can just sit back and enjoy the ride.

"I think some people might never travel if it weren't for tours like these," Decoteau said. "I have people tell me all the time, 'I never would have gone here.' They no longer have to do the driving; all they have to do is get on the bus. That is part of the appeal of group travel."

What also makes Adventure Tours unique, is that you become part of a "travel family."

"You're never alone when you're on a tour, motor coach or cruise or whatever. You always have your fellow travelers who

are part of your travel family," Decoteau said.

While many travel agencies gear their trips toward certain age demographics, Decoteau takes pride in making his trips inter-generational.

Intergenerational travel is a "wonderful experience," that allows people to celebrate their differences, Decoteau said. "Everyone is welcome."

"I think we have something to learn from people that are older than us, and younger than us. It's wonderful to see a destination through the eyes of a senior or the eyes of a child," he said.

One of the biggest draws for young travelers is the Bronx Zoo, which Decoteau has planned every two years since he started.

"You can't see it all in one day," he said of the 265-acre zoo.

Independent exploration is another key feature to the service Adventure Tours offers.

"We encourage our travelers to explore neighborhoods, shopping streets, and restaurants on their own as part of the Adventure Tour experience," Decoteau said.

Decoteau and his tour guides

offer a variety of tours to suit the needs of all travelers, including theater trips, day trips, multi-day coach tours, cruises and international trips.

Adventure Tours partners with Norwegian Cruise Lines for all of its cruises and Collette Vacations for both international and domestic air tours.

Planning your cruise or an international trip is something that takes time, book early in order to get the best possible cabin locations, international flights and more.

"The earlier you book, the better you do," Decoteau said. "You really should book a cruise a year ahead, same with international trips."

Adventure Tours will be offering an early booking discount for the 2024 cruise season, which includes a 12-night Eastern Caribbean cruise, a seven-night Bermuda and Maine cruise and a seven-night Canada and New England cruise.

These cruises will take place on Norwegian's ships the Getaway and the Gem and their new ship Prima.

"What really matters is the ship experience. The dining is better than anything you do at home and the shows are wonderful," he said.

Cruise travelers can also enjoy cocktail dates with friends, art classes like painting and origami, cooking classes, along with days spent exploring on shore.

Decoteau and a group of 24 travelers just returned from a 10-night Caribbean cruise aboard the Prima, visiting five ports.

For inexperienced travelers, one of the easiest ways to travel is a cruise. The cabins also allow travelers to enjoy their own space and privacy.

"You get to know your fellow passengers in a small group," Decoteau said.

Adventure Tours is also offering discounts on Collette Vacations trips, which include Dec. 2-9, Magical Christmas Markets of Austria and Germany; Feb. 29-March 11, 2024, Treasures of Egypt; April 14-21, 2024, America's Music Cities; May 22-31, 2024, Reflections of Italy; and July

21-30, 2024, Iceland: Land of Fire and Ice.

Decoteau said this is the third time Adventure Tours will experience the Treasures of Egypt, which is one of his personal favorites.

"It's a country of contrast, rich and poor, limousines and donkey carts...to me it's magical," he said.

Theater trips to the non-profit Providence Performing Arts Center are always popular Decoteau said, booking six to eight shows a season. Adventure Tours always secures 45 prime orchestra seats.

"Their shows are every bit as good as any Broadway performance. It's sensational," he said.

In September, Adventure Tours offers the chance to see "Funny Girl" and the legendary crooner Johnny Mathis perform his Voice of Romance tour.

Some trips have food as the focus, including the Lake Winnepesaukee Turkey Train on Oct. 7, which not only includes a ride on the scenic railroad in 1930s train cars, but also a hot, delicious turkey dinner catered

by Hart's Turkey Farm.

The Hampton Beach Seafood Festival on Sept. 9 allows travelers to sample the flavors of New England's seacoast, featuring food from 60 of the top restaurants. Dining options range from lobster and clams to barbecued ribs.

For entertainment, there will be sand sculpting by Master Greg Grady, along with two musical performances. Get a jumpstart on your holiday shopping by visiting the 80 craft and art vendors at the sidewalk sale.

Whether it's riding an elephant, sleeping in a camel-hair tent in Morocco or enjoying nearby shopping and dining, Adventure Tours can help travelers make memories that will last a lifetime.

"The travel experience is one that certain people just love," Decoteau said.

For more information about Adventure Tours or to book a trip, visit adventuretoursofwarren.com, call 413-436-5357 or email adventretours@att.net.

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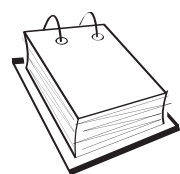
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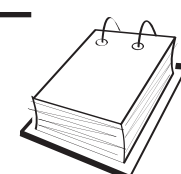
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# Calendar of Events



## THURSDAY, APRIL 6

**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](http://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.

**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 veter-

## Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

**This week's mystery photo is from Hardwick. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, April 10. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in next week's edition. Stephen Craven, Evelyn Luukko and Phil Warbasse correctly identified the photo. Last week's photo was the Lincoln Cemetery on Pleasant Street in Barre.**

## 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

ans 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.

provide the family caregiver with the skills they need to take care of themselves. They 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 email: [ddfoley@eswa.org](mailto: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](mailto:sterling-grange53@gmail.com). The local chapter in Sterling was established in 1874.

## TUESDAY, APRIL 18

**PROJECT MISHOON** sponsored by the Historical Society of Phillipston will take place today at 7 p.m. in the Phillipston Fire Department on Route 2A in Phillipston. This program is free and the public is welcome. In 2000, a recreational diver found a sunken dugout canoe or mishoon in Worcester's Lake Quinsigamond. Knowing that their Nipmuc ancestors used the dugout to navigate the lake, the Hassanamisco Nipmuc tribe secured a reconnaissance permit with the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archeological Resources in 2001. Subsequently, two additional mishoon were found, one dating to the 1640s. These unusual mishoon are unlike any others previously identified in New England. Cheryl Stedler, Nipmuc tribal member and director of Project Mishoon, will present information on the mishoon, including their history, scientific documentation and underwater imaging. Following the presentation we will visit the Society's museum, located next to the fire house, to view Phillipston's canoe that was found in Queen Lake in 1967. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Phillipston Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

**A REVOLUTION OF HER OWN** is the program from the Rutland Historical Society Annual Meeting today at 7 p.m. in the Rutland Library, Main Street, Rutland. This program is on Deborah Sampson, the first woman to fight in the American Military during the last years of the American Revolutionary War. The program is supported in part by a grant from the Rutland Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Light refreshments will be served following the program.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 21

**GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN SUPPORT GROUP** meets today from 9:30-11 a.m. at the Worcester Family Resource Center, 20 Cedar St., Worcester. The group meets the third Friday of every month. To register, people may call 508-796-1411 or email [yiwfrcyouinc@sevenhills.org](mailto:yiwfrcyouinc@sevenhills.org).

## SATURDAY, APRIL 29

**RUTLAND TOWN WIDE YARD SALE** will be held today from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

## 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](mailto:christmasinbarre@gmail.com).

## NEWS & FEATURES

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

For more information on news or community features for the Barre Gazette, please email [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com).



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Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Pitcher Zoe Cataldo fires to the plate for the Indians.

## Indians fall in opener

GRANBY – After multiple postponements, North Brookfield softball was finally able to open its season, though on the road. The Indians took on Granby High School, a Western Mass. team it played in independent action last season as well. The game was completed in five innings due to the mercy rule. North Brookfield got its only run in the fourth on a Sophie Dufresne single followed by a hit from Tresique Cawley scoring the run.



Tresique Cawley gets the play at short.



Becca Batchelor throws back to the pitcher.



Kale McPartland makes a throw to first.



Sophia Giangrande makes a clean play at third.

## Pioneers prep for opener

PALMER – Last Wednesday, Pathfinder baseball prepared for their regular season opener with a scrimmage against Monson. The Pioneers were scheduled to scrimmage Palmer as well before opening the season earlier this week.



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Tim Russell pitches in the scrimmage for the Pioneers.



Miguel Velasquez fields a grounder



Brayden Mega makes a throw to first.

## Winter tournaments not kind to western part of state

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

SPRINGFIELD – The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Conference released an analysis of the winter tournament season, which just concluded three weeks ago.

While it shows plenty of participation, it was not as kind to most Western Mass. teams not named Springfield International Charter School. Both their girls and boys basketball teams reached the state finals this year with the girls capturing the title. Pope Francis hockey, which has always played across the state with a Division I schedule also

won a state tournament. But most Western Mass. teams found themselves on the outside looking in for the state tournament.

Palmer girls basketball was one of the most successful programs in the playoffs, making it into the quarterfinals before finally falling.

South Hadley boys basketball would make it into the Round of 16 this year, as did Quaboag boys basketball.

Other qualifying basketball and hockey teams were defeated very early in the state tournament, either in a preliminary round game, or the Round of 32.

The MIAA reported a high participation rate in the state tournament

this year among hockey teams. In the four divisions in MIAA ice hockey, nearly 74% of teams made it into one of the four state tournaments.

In Western Mass., Ludlow, Belchertown, Agawam, and Minnechaug made the state tournament. None made it past the round of 32.

Numbers were bit lower for basketball. Out of 357 boys basketball teams, 227 qualified for one of five tournaments, a 63.6% qualifying rate. The numbers were not as good for the girls, which qualified just 58.7% of teams for the state tournament.

See TOURNAMENT, page 11

## Council seeks ‘growth’ for MIAA

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

FRANKLIN – For several months, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association has had a subcommittee analyzing the MIAA’s operations and have developed a “Plan for Growth and Improvement.”

MIAA Executive Director Robert Baldwin, who since taking the helm of the MIAA has been issuing director updates on the MIAA website, says the committee is trying to take a proactive approach to introduce reforms because the “status quo is not an option.”

In our attempt to move forward, one of the major objectives for growth and improvement is

a governance initiative. One of the key actions of this initiative is to develop an organizational structure of oversight and support that is legally sound and fiscally responsible,” Baldwin said. “The goal of this process is to provide greater clarity and consistency to the membership. The execution of this plan entails constitutional revisions of the MIAA and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Council (MIAC). The process for constitutional change at the MIAA is that the Board of Directors can recommend revision, and the Assembly is ultimately responsible for voting constitutional revisions. The MIAC was created in 1950. Its constitution is separate and independent of the MIAA constitution. As a

result, the MIAC would need to vote to approve its own constitutional revision.”

The MIAC did just that in late January, voting to replace its current constitution. An updated version can be accessed online.

Play at the MIAA level has undergone major changes after the decision was made prior to the COVID-19 pandemic to institute a new state tournament instead of holding sectional tournaments with the four sectional champions in the state facing off in a short state tournament.

The result of bringing forward the new tournament format set in motion a number of other reforms, including a very robust realignment of schools in the state in an effort to create an even playing

## Bonsignore takes fourth at Richmond

RICHMOND, VA – Justin Bonsignore scored his second consecutive top-five finish in the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour season on Saturday, April 1 at Richmond Raceway. Driving in the Virginia is for Racing Lovers 150, Bonsignore started from the outside of the front row after qualifying there on Friday, March 31. Following qualifying, rain fell at Richmond, and postponed the race to Saturday – following the conclusion of the NASCAR Xfinity Series 250.

Early in the 150-lap race, Bonsignore was running inside

the top few rows when crew chief Ryan Stone made the decision to head down pit road for a few fresh Hoosier tires. Bonsignore raced back up to 13th in the field prior to the next caution, then stayed out when many others pitted, and rocketed to the lead quickly for a few laps. After being passed for the lead, he fell to the bottom of the top-10 before the next caution, then made his charge back to the front at the end.

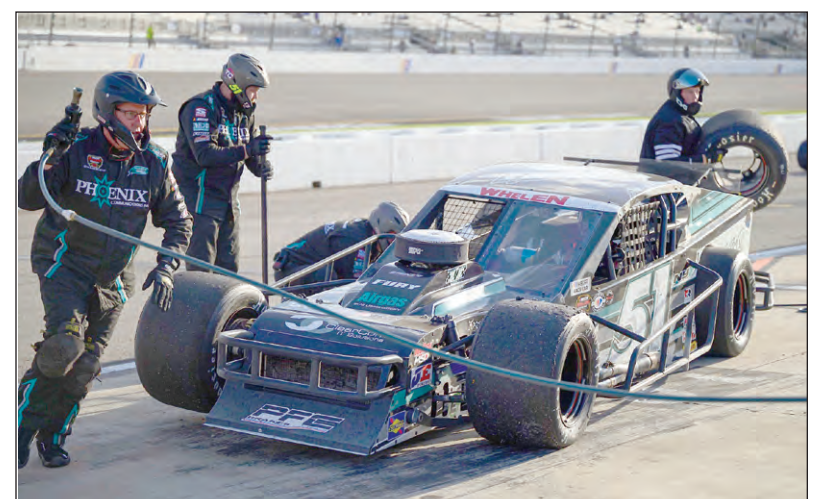
Bonsignore passed Doug Coby for second late – and crossed the line fourth at the finish – after a tough battle with J.B. Fortin and

Max McLaughlin over the final laps. The Holtsville, New York native and his Kenneth Massa Motorsports team had Coastal Fiber LLC on the car for the Richmond race.

“All in all, it was a good day,” Bonsignore said. “The guys you need to beat for the points, we feel like we beat today. Austin Beers (race winner) has been on point in the first few races as well. We came away with a good finish in a tough battle there in the last laps. The two guys we were racing were just a little bit better on the last lap. It was a lot of work for our team with two

days here in Richmond – but we’re going to go home and start working for the next one.”

Justin Bonsignore will return to the track on Saturday, May 6, for the third race of the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour season – the Duel at the Dog 200 – at Monadnock Speedway. Fans can find more information on that event at JDVProductions.com and more information on the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour at NASCAR.com. For more information on Justin and his team, visit JustinBonsignore.com and follow Justin’s Athlete page on Facebook.



Submitted photo

Justin Bonsignore places fourth in an early-season race on Saturday, April 1 in Richmond, VA.





# MassDOT launches billboard design contest for college students

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation launches a statewide billboard design contest to support the American Traffic Safety Services Association's National Work Zone Awareness Week.

The contest is open to all students who are currently enrolled in colleges and universities in Massachusetts. Applicants are asked to create and submit proposed billboard Public Service Announcements to encourage drivers to obey the rules of the road and exercise caution when traveling through work zones where crews are involved in active construction and maintenance projects.

“Work zone safety awareness is an important message for MassDOT. Every year work zone safety crashes lead to unnecessary deaths on our roadways as well as traffic and project delays,” said Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver. “We are excited to see the creative and informational PSA’s which will be submitted to help us communicate work zone safety on Massachusetts’ roadways”

National Work Zone Awareness Week is an annual event which brings attention to work zone safety and the theme for this year is, “You play a role in work zone safety. Work with us.” Entries from college students for the MassDOT billboard contest must be submitted on Friday, April 21 by 5 p.m. The winning designs will be selected based on creativity, impact and relevance to this year’s identified theme.

The top three designs will be displayed on a series of digital billboards along highways in Massachusetts throughout the 2023 construction season. The submission selected for first place will be displayed on billboards for approximately three months. The submission selected for second place will be displayed on billboards for approximately two months. The submission selected for third place will be displayed on billboards for approximately one month.

The winning entries will be selected by a panel comprised of MassDOT senior managers. Entries will be judged on their visual appeal, adherence to the theme, quality of design, and ease of reproduction. The winners will be notified via email and announced during the 2023 MassDOT Transportation Innovation Conference which is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, May 2 and on Wednesday, May 3. In addition, entries will be posted on the Mass.gov website and communicated through MassDOT social media accounts.

For information on MassDOT’s billboard design contest for National Work Zone Safety Week, including contest rules and requirements, eligibility, and submission guidelines, people may visit: [mass.gov/work-zone-billboard-contest-2023](http://mass.gov/work-zone-billboard-contest-2023)

# Gas prices increase two cents

WESTWOOD – The average gas price in Massachusetts is up two cents from last week (\$3.25), averaging \$3.27 per gallon. Today’s price is one cent lower than a month ago (\$3.28) and 92 cents lower than April 3, 2022 (\$4.19). Massachusetts’ average gas price is 23 cents lower than the national average.

The national average for a gallon of regular gasoline rose seven cents since last week to hit \$3.50. Robust demand for gasoline and rising oil prices are the driving factors for the recent uptick in pump prices.

“Oil prices finally crested and have now settled above the \$70 per barrel mark after weeks of hovering just below it,” said Mary Maguire, AAA Northeast Vice President of Public and Government Affairs, “Gas demand is very robust. These two factors will cause drivers to see prices increase for now. We will also be watching closely to see how much oil production cuts by OPEC nations will impact oil and gas prices,” she said.

AAA Northeast’s April 3 survey of fuel prices found

the current national average to be seven cents higher than last week (\$3.43), averaging \$3.50 a gallon. Today’s national average price is 11 cents higher than a month ago (\$3.39) and is 69 cents lower than this day last year (\$4.19).

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.

# Train schedule switches to nights until July

PALMER – The Massachusetts Central Railroad Corporation, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, is rehabilitating its main rail track.

This project has an estimated

time for completion to be somewhere around the first week of July.

The daily train schedule will operate Monday through Friday starting at 5 p.m. (up to a possible 12-hour period) to service rail customers from

Palmer to South Barre to then return to Palmer.

When this rail track rehabilitation project is completed, the train schedule will resume back to daytime service beginning at 7 a.m. (up to a possible 12-hour period).

3

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# GCM hosts 'Trees are Treasures' at Wells State Park April 22

STURBRIDGE – Grassroots Central Mass will continue its tradition of celebrating Earth Day with its third “Trees Are Treasures” event on Saturday, April 22 at Wells State Park from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

GCM, a local affiliate of Indivisible Mass Coalition, is co-sponsoring this year’s events with Brookfields Fight Fear. Both GCM and BFF are local groups dedicated to serving the communities we live in through finding and supporting solutions to issues in our communities, our state, and our nation.

The event includes a short, level walk along the Mill Pond Trail at Wells State Park, where interpreters are stationed to discuss forest logging, the importance of wetlands and how to “read” a forest’s history. This is a family friendly stroll.

This free event will also include children’s crafts under the pavilion, and a free tree seedling giveaway. Join GCM to celebrate and appreciate the beauty of our native forest.

For more information, visit [grassrootscentralmass.org](http://grassrootscentralmass.org).

# Quabbin Visitor Center lists free April events

BELCHERTOWN – The Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center will offer several free programs this April.

All ages are welcome. Email [QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov](mailto:QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov) with questions or to be added to the mailing list

Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks. Dogs are not allowed. Space is limited.

**Explore the North Side**  
Join DCR staff for a 4-mile out/back hike on Quabbin’s north side of the watershed via Gate 22 on Saturday, April 15 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Participants will be walking down to the water on a dirt road through the forest.

Walking to the water, the hike covers 2-miles and drops 180 feet in elevation. Participants will then backtrack and head back uphill the way they came.

The parking area for Gate 22 is located at the end of Shutesbury Road in the town of New Salem. Please do not block the gate. (<https://goo.gl/maps/SPq6Si9ixuCQt18>)

Register here [www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events?\\_page=1](http://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events?_page=1)

**Investigating Forest Health**  
Curious how active management of a forest can increase diversity and maintain forest health? Join DCR staff on Saturday, April 22 from 10 a.m.-noon to gain a better understanding of how active forest management leads to a healthier environment for our region.

How are various agents (invasive insects and plants, diseases etc.) impacting trees in the Quabbin and Ware River forests?

Meet at Quabbin Park East Entrance for this 1-mile moderate hike.

For more info: (<https://goo.gl/maps/sW1wiHe4Dn-RPjL9a7>)

Register here [www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events?\\_page=1](http://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events?_page=1)

### 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](mailto:edowner@turley.com).



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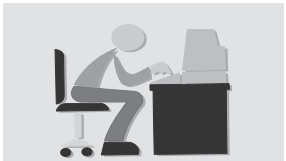
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# Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

**TOWN OF HARDWICK YOUTH CENTER JOB DESCRIPTION**

Hardwick Youth Center is looking for a reliable person 18 and over to provide support and be a role model to young people. We would need this person for about 5 hours per week and the program runs September to June.

**Job Responsibilities**  
Supervise children from ages 5-18. Modeling positive behavior and servicing as a mentor for young people Organize and facilitate recreational activities including games, art and crafts, steam, trips or just hanging out.

**Jobs Skills & Qualification**  
Attention to detail and ability to solve problems quickly and responsibly. Excellent communication skills. Must have a driver's license and pass a background check.

**Preferred Experience**  
Experience with large groups of kids. If you are interested please email hardwickyouthcenter@gmail.com or Angie @ 413-433-4007.

**TOWN OF HARDWICK HELP WANTED**

The town of Hardwick is seeking qualified candidates to perform high-level secretarial, clerical, and administrative work assisting the Town Administrator and Select Board.

This is a part-time 19 hours per week position. For full job description, go to [www.hardwick-ma.gov](http://www.hardwick-ma.gov).

Qualified applicants should send cover letter and resume to [admin@townofhardwick.com](mailto:admin@townofhardwick.com) or send to **PO Box 575 Gilbertville, MA 01031**.

**FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER**

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: QUABBIN & SUBURBAN - FRIDAY AT NOON  
or call: 413-283-8393 HILLTOWNS - MONDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card:  MasterCard  VISA  Discover  Cash  Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Buy the Quabbin Village Hills or the Suburban Residential ZONE for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50c for each additional word. Add \$10 for a second Zone or add \$15 to run in ALL THREE ZONES.

Quabbin Village Hills  
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns  
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First ZONE base price \_\_\_\_\_ Includes additional words  
Add a second ZONE **\$10.00**  
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Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_  
x Number of Weeks \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Run my ad in the following ZONE(s):  
 Quabbin  
 Suburban  
 Hilltowns



# Your BUYLINE CONNECTION

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**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

So that our Staff may enjoy the Holiday with their Families, we will be  
**Closed on Easter Sunday**  
 Wishing you a Safe and Happy Holiday!



**E.B. Flatts**  
 245 West Main  
 E. Brookfield  
 508-867-6643

**POST ROAD REALTY**  **BUYING OR SELLING... WE HAVE THE PERFECT FIT FOR YOU!**

**www.PostRoadRealty.com**


**NEW LISTING - \$389,900 - 11 HIGH ST., WEST BROOKFIELD**  
**OPEN HOUSE - SAT. 4/8/23 TIME: 12:00 TO 1:30PM**

2 Story Colonial Charm awaits you in downtown West Brookfield. Short distance to the center of town and the numerous activities on the common. This home features 3 bedrooms & 2 full baths. Ready to move right in. Beautifully renovated, fully insulated, new septic system, new central air heating system, upgraded electrical, new plumbing and new insulated windows. The kitchen has gray cabinets, fully applianced with s/s appliances, granite countertops and a beautifully stained butcher block top surrounding the farmhouse sink. A 3 season porch with numerous possibilities is there for your enjoyment, mudroom or as an in home business with a separate entrance. The first floor offers a laundry room and office space/ guest room. A bonus room on the second level leads to all the bedrooms. The dining room features a built in corner cabinet and beautiful light fixture. Refinished pine floors. Plenty of storage. Free up your time with minimal yard work. Don't wait on this one.



**Cassie Paolucci**  
**774-200-3523**  Follow us on Facebook 

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**EMERALD LEVEL INDIVIDUAL**  
**I AM A TOP PRODUCER!**  
**TOP .2% IN PRODUCTION**

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

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## SHOP LOCAL


**YARD and Garden**

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

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 TREES | FLOWERS | BUSHES | ACCENT PLANTS  
 SEASONAL DECOR | GRILLS | FIREPIETS  
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 CARPENTERS | INSECT CONTROL | POOLS  
 EFFICIENCY EXPERTS | PAINT | CURTAINS | BLINDS  
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 FOR ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS

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 ALL SIZES  
 White • Blush • Blue • Brown • Purple  
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**PICK-UP OR CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR DELIVERY TODAY!**

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 Route 31N, Spencer, MA  
**508-885-6100**  
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**www.bondsandandgravel.com** 

**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

**Crab Cakes & Seafood Specials**  
**Until April 8th**

*Check Out Our Specials On Facebook*

**JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH ON SUNDAY, MAY 14TH**

 **Closed Easter Sunday, April 9th** 

*Adventure tours of Warren*  
 Share the Adventure with us! 

**TREASURES OF EGYPT – Including Deluxe 4-Day Nile Cruise February 29-March 11, 2024**



**collette** 

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  
 Sept. 9.....Hampton Beach Seafood Fest... \$99

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



**Pre-order Easter Dinner**

Pre-order your ham dinner and pick up at the farm by Saturday, April 8. Meals include sliced ham, glazed carrots, sweet potato, and whipped potatoes.

 **Farmer Matt®**  
 FARM-FRESH + LOCAL

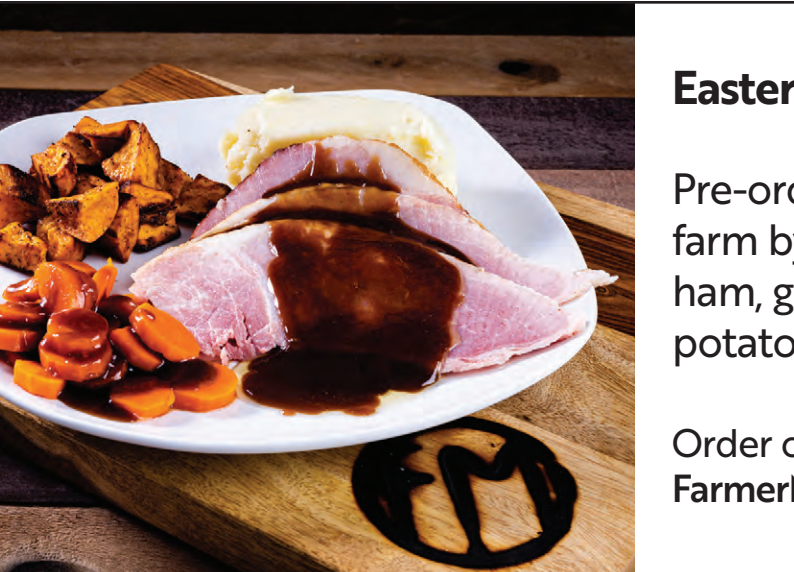
Order online or in-store  
**FarmerMatt.com or call (508) 980-7085**

 **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**



**Easter Dinner Available for Pre-Order**

Pre-order your ham dinner and pick up at the farm by Saturday, April 8. Meals include sliced ham, glazed carrots, sweet potato, and whipped potatoes.

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