

# BARRE GAZETTE

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## Old highway barn's roof needs replacing

By Paula Ouimette  
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HARDWICK – Capital Planning Committee Chair Mark Zorzec updated the Select Board on the results from a recent inventory of town-owned buildings and land.

At the April 8 meeting, he said there are 41 parcels of land, 22 structures and 178 acres.

"I've now been to most of those structures," Zorzec said. "So, what we're doing here is making a recommendation from the Capital Planning about the old Highway Department building."

The building is located behind the Town House and Historical Society Museum. He said it is utilized by the Highway and Fire departments, Hardwick Fair Committee and the Historical Society.

"The roof is in real bad shape," Zorzec said, including a large hole in the roof.

Zorzec said he has been working with Highway Superintendent Marty Gryszowka on bids to replace the roof. The project is estimated to cost less than \$40,000.

Zorzec said they have three options to address the roof: they can take temporary measures and cover the roof with a tarp, make repairs to the southside of the building, or replace the entire roof. He said the Capital Planning Committee recommends the third option, and going with a metal roof.

"We recommend do the whole thing," he said. Zorzec said the Finance Committee made the same recommendation.

Zorzec said the town could take out a multi-year loan and make payments from the Capital reserve account.

The board approved a motion to move forward with repairs to the roof.

### Town Administrator's report

Town Administrator Nicole Parker updated the board about progress being made at the Gilbertville mill located at 94 Main St. She met with owner George Lang on March 26, and he told her that they are finishing installation and stairs now.

Parker said Lang will contact the Building Inspector to seek a permit, and he is also requesting a license from the Cannabis Control Commission.

"They're working with National Grid as they need two transformers for all of their power," she said. "It's very much moving along."

Parker said the National Heritage & Endangered Species Program has not collected the clam shrimp, which has impeded the developer from leaving equipment on the site.

Parker said on April 3 there was an emergency closure of the Creamery Road bridge by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. She said the bridge was slated for replacement by MassDOT in 2026.

"We're working diligently with them now," Parker said of MassDOT, adding that the East Quabbin Land Trust is donating permanent and temporary easements.

She is hoping to be able to go out to bid this summer.

Parker said updates on the U.S. Department of Agriculture-funded wastewater treatment project are posted on hardwick-ma.gov under the Wastewater Treatment Plant page.

See HARDWICK, page 6

## Scott Maloney has a resume that

# stands apart



Shown at the Rutland Public Library are from left, Scott Maloney, Peg Sullivan, Liz Sweeney, Wendy Moran and Kerry Remington, library director.

By Eric Goodhart  
Correspondent

RUTLAND – "What do you want to do after you graduate from high school?"

Many teachers have asked their students that question. A teenager in 1998 by the name of Scott Maloney may have answered that question like this. "I want to do something in law enforcement, study Criminology maybe. I want to develop my leadership skills that my track coach says I have. Maybe I can help others and make a positive difference in their lives."

Some have also said that

"everything happens for a reason." Though it will be very difficult to see any truth in that philosophy at first blush, a retrospective look-back in midlife, the truth in that can be understood, for better or worse.

In Scott's case...a horrific injury in September, 2004 brought about by a drunk induced decision he made at the beginning of his senior year in college that "reason" turned out to be for the better. In fact, the audience that came to hear him speak at the Rutland Public Library last Sunday, left knowing that he has probably helped thousands of more people as a motivational

speaker than he would ever have if he was an officer of the law.

At the time of the accident, nothing of the sort could ever have been imagined. He was 21-years-old when after one too many drinks at an off-campus party, he came back to his locked dorm around 2 a.m.. He did not have his keys. Not wanting to wake anyone up and with a false sense of courage, he made a terrible decision.

He climbed the side of the building and shimmed along a ledge in an attempt to reach the window to his single room. He suddenly felt himself sliding off the ledge. Screaming, he fell

three stories hitting his head on the pavement below. Fortunately, his cries while falling were heard. After being rushed to the hospital, he was examined by the physician on duty.

Maloney was unconscious and barely showing any sign of life. The physician on duty went through a series of tests, the most significant one was neurological testing called "Glasgow Coma Scale" or GCS. It gives a physician a reliable way to record the conscious state of a person for assessment for recovery. Scott's reading on the GCS scale was 3.

See MAHONEY, page 7

## Board votes down zoning changes

By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

HARDWICK – On Tuesday evening, about 300 residents from Hardwick and surrounding towns attended a public hearing hosted by the Planning Board to discuss proposed zoning amendments.

These amendments were submitted by Casella Waste Systems for the purpose of reopening and expanding the solid waste landfill on Patrill Hollow Road.

Casella's Vice-President Brian Oliver said his company was approached by Hardwick brothers Dan Roach and Darryl Roach about reopening the landfill and combining it with their adjacent gravel pit.

"We feel there's significant need," Oliver said of reopening the landfill.

He said Casella would only move forward with the project if they had support from the community.

### Project proposal

Oliver said the Host Community Agreement drafted by Casella offers \$6 per ton tipped, or \$2.1 million a year. He said the HCA will remain in effect for the life of the landfill.

Previously, Casella had predicted about a 20 year lifespan, but due to the discovery of ledge, they believe it will be less than that. Oliver said Casella expects the landfill to be open for about 13 years.

Joining Oliver was Professional Engineer Steve Wright, who explained the need for zoning amendments in order for the project to move forward. This included re-zoning certain parcels of land on Patrill Hollow Road from Agricultural Residential (AR-60) to Industrial (I-40); adding lan-

See CASELLA, page 11



Elizabeth Thompson welcomed a group of aspiring writers to her first creative writing workshop at Woods Memorial Library.

## Creative Writing Workshop at Barre Library

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

BARRE - Woods Memorial Library welcomed Elizabeth Thompson who offered a creative writing workshop.

Thompson's first workshop was about mindfulness and meditation. At the end of March, Thompson would incorporate some of that mindfulness and meditation into her first ever creative writing workshop.

This workshop helps aspiring writers cultivate their creativity and look deep into their creative thinking. With movements to begin the workshop, Thompson feels constant movement helps writers find their ideas before incorporating them into their stories.

"The movement gets things flowing", Thompson said.

Thompson began the workshop by doing a movement exercise while doing introductions. Thompson went around the room to learn more about what each writer hopes to learn from her workshop and what each writer loves to write about.

The attendance at the workshop featured aspiring writers who love writing poetry, fiction, novels and short stories. The first exercise was about self-reflection and Thompson went around the room to learn what each writer would like to keep or let go of in their writing process.

Thompson is a writer who sees herself more as a facilitator and wants to help stimulate creativity. Thompson shared that she has recently started working on a short

story. She would also like to have a writing group to be a part of and share challenges with other writers.

Thompson was a professor of English for 13 years at Ohio University. Currently, she works at Suffolk University for teaching and scholarly excellence. Thompson focuses on courses such as literary analysis, early American literature and representations of indigenous people.

The creative writing workshop began with writing warm ups such as spending five minutes describing a certain situation. Following this was a longer exercise where writers spend fifteen minutes finishing a paragraph that begins in a certain way. One of the examples

See CREATIVE WRITING, page 7

## Rep. Saunders speaks about need for Quabbin bill

By Nick Boonstra  
Staff Writer  
nboonstra@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – State Rep. Aaron Saunders (D-Belchertown) spoke at a meeting of the Friends of Quabbin on April 7, to promote a bill that aims to improve regional equity for the communities that host the Quabbin Reservoir.

House Bill 897, also known as An Act Relative to the Quabbin Watershed and Regional Equity, would create a trust fund to benefit Quabbin Reservoir Watershed Communities, which would be funded by a fee based on the amount of water used by supplied municipalities.

The fee proposed by the bill would be set at five cents per 1,000 gallons drawn, and would be expected to raise \$3.5 million for the fund, according to a summary document for the bill provided by Saunders. The bill also proposes to adjust how communities would be paid from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, basing payments on total state land acreage as opposed to acreage above the high water mark as is currently mandated.

Additionally, the bill would ensure that three members on the MWRA Board of Directors were residents of Connecticut River Basin communities. Currently, Monson Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz is the only one of the board's 11 members representing a community outside of

the I-495 corridor.

Saunders explained that this bill, the first of its kind to be introduced in the House, was one that he proposed with a focus on the future of the region, rather than its past. However, he made clear that it was the history of the region and its stewardship of the reservoir that made a bill like this necessary.

"When the Quabbin was built, when the four towns were taken from us, there were a number of communities that were also impacted forever," he said.

Saunders went on to detail how many of the towns that contain the reservoir are left to rely primarily on property taxes over commercial development for raising municipal revenues, leading to both buildings and services that were beginning to degrade as a result of those lower figures. He said that this state of affairs was directly a result of the fact that these communities host the reservoir for other parts of the state.

"The lands that we protect for the Quabbin have foreclosed the ability for these communities to do anything else that may generate the type of revenue that funds public safety, that funds basic services that we expect from our communities," he said.

Providing one example of suffering public facilities, Saunders said, "There is one usable room in the New Salem Town Hall; it's in the basement. The rest of the building is not fit for human consumption."

See QUABBIN BILL, page 11



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# News of the Towns

## Curling tournament benefits Lions Eye Research

**Round Town**  
Ellenor Downer  
edowner@turley.com

**Hubbardston**  
Ellenor Downer  
edowner@turley.com

**Democratic Town Committee reorganizing**  
On Saturday, April 13 at 10:30 a.m., Barre Democratic Town Committee meets to reorganize and vote for officer positions. People should email BarreDTC@gmail.com for location and details.

**Senior Center Director Meet and Greet**  
On Thursday, April 18 from 9-11 a.m., there will be a Meet and Greet for the new Barre/Hardwick Senior Center Director. The event will be at the Senior Center located at 557 South Barre Road. All are welcome to attend. Coffee hour and refreshments will be served.

**Looking to the Future**  
Looking to the Future will meet on Wednesday, April 24 at 5:30 p.m. at the Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant St., with Barre resident Courtney Schlosser, to become familiar with his book, "Existential Threats and Moral Prospects." Schlosser highlights threats that our society is now facing, among them the challenges arising from climate change, escalating conflicts that could lead to nuclear war and violence in society. Schlosser is Philosophy Professor Emeritus from Worcester State University. Newcomers are welcome.

**Ed the Wizard**  
Ed the Wizard and his sea life balloon animal twisting workshop will appear at the Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant St., Barre on Thursday, April 18 starting at 4:30 p.m. Patrons will learn the art of balloon twisting as they create their own Sea Turtle. No balloon twisting experience is required. This program is free and opened to the public, but may require pre-registration. People should call the library at 978-355-2533, extension 104 for more information and to register. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Barre Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



Shown is the winning Winchendon Team 2 at the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Bonspiel sponsored by the Petersham Lions Club.

PETERSHAM – The Petersham Lions Club recently held its 18th annual charity curling tournament, also known as a bonspiel and raffle fundraiser in March.

The event benefits Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund to help in finding a cure for blindness. This year's 16 teams were Athol Teams 1 and 2, Barre, Charlton, Grafton, Hubbardston Teams 1 and 2, Mendon Teams 1 and 2, Monson, Paxton Teams 1 and 2, Rutland, Winchendon Teams 1 and 2 and Worcester.

The final playoff was between Team 2 from the Winchendon Lions and Team 1 from the Mendon Lions. Winchendon took home this year's win. Winners have their Team name added to the tournament plaque along with the names of the teammates. The plaque goes home with the winning team to display for the year and returns for the next year's tournament.

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

to the Lions for the event and it is most appreciated.

This partnering support allows the Lions to have this event locally and supports the Curling Club as well. The Petersham Lions tournament is always an amateur level event, held annually in March. As they always have done, experienced Petersham Curling Club members were on hand to offer lessons and advice to those, who had never curled before.

Recognized as an Olympic sport, curling is a sport that requires good aim, balance and the proper amount of strength to send the 40-pound granite stone, which is the curling puck so to speak to the other end of the ice and score, with the help of team mates expertly sweeping the ice ahead of the stone to help it go farther.

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

Petersham Lion John Magnino kept all the teams in playing order and coordinated, who was playing against whom, a job he has masterfully done since the tournament began.

While the area had icy weather and slippery roads, the curlers all kept their balance on the ice inside. No sanders needed. The weather did not affect the large turnout of players and spectators, making this a very successful fundraiser.

The event offered coffee and light foods for breakfast, sweets and treats all day long and a delicious lunch of sandwiches, salads and various chilis. Everyone kept warm and satisfied throughout the day.

The raffle was well attended and the Club was able to offer 35 prizes due to the generosity of our area stores and crafters. The Petersham Lions will start planning the 19th tournament this fall after a short summer break. If people are interested in becoming a Petersham Lion, they may email Denis Legare, the Club Membership chairperson, at hilltopchief@gmail.com.

Petersham Lions Club's next big event is the Massachusetts General Hospital Bloodmobile that the Club is co-hosting with Monty Tech at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical High School in Fitchburg on Saturday, May 4. People may visit <https://www.massgeneral.org/blood-donor/blood-drives/> community-blood-drives.



The winning Winchendon Team 2 in the center is surrounded by the second place winners Mendon Team 1.

**Hubbardston Library presents poetry event**

April is poetry month, so come to the Hubbardston Public Library, 7 Main St., on Wednesday, April 24 at 6 p.m. to for an evening of poetry from Hubbardston native John Hodgen.

Hodgen is the Writer-in-Residence at Assumption University in Worcester and Advisory Editor for New Letters at the University of Missouri in Kansas City. Hodgen won the AWP Donald Hall Prize in Poetry for Grace (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2005). His fifth book, "The Lord of Everywhere," is out from Lynx House, which is also publishing his new book, "What We May Be," this spring. He has won the Grolier Prize for Poetry, an Arvon Foundation Award, the Yankee Magazine Award for Poetry, the Bluestem Award, the Balcones Prize, the Foley Prize, the Chad Walsh Prize from Beloit Poetry Journal, the Collins Prize from Birmingham Poetry Review and a Massachusetts Cultural Council Award in Poetry. His poem "Hamlet Texts Guildenstern About Playing Upon the Pipe," published in The Antioch Review, was chosen for inclusion in Scribner's Best American Poetry 2017.

**Rep. Berthiaume and Sen. Durant office hours**

On Wednesday, April 17 from 9:45-1:45 a.m. State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume's Chief of Staff, Donna and Senator Peter Durant's, Constituent services coordinator will hold office house in the Hubbardston Senior Center. Constituents and town officials are invited to meet with staff to express any concerns, ideas or issues that they may need assistance with. They may call Donna at 774-402-4742 if they would like a private meeting.

**Town Clerk lists election info**

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

**Hubbardston Citizen of the Year Award**

The Select Board announces the launch of the inaugural Hubbardston Citizen of the Year Award. This annual recognition is designed to celebrate the individuals, pairs of individuals, groups, community organizations or non-profits that have made significant contributions to enhancing the quality of life in town. Hubbardston is filled with unsung heroes, who go above and beyond to make the community a better place. Now is a chance to nominate them for this prestigious award. People may visit online Google Form at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLStj3BtK94cHU0v8TFgWJrJWnp3ek0u> to fill out a form. If they prefer, they can also pick up a paper nomination form at the Select Board's Office, 7 Main St. They should provide as much detail as possible about their nominee's contributions and impact on the community in the application. Nominations must be received by April 25 to be considered for this year's award. The winner will be recognized at the Hubbardston Annual Town Meeting, and their name will be added to a dedicated plaque at Town Hall. People may call the Select Board office by calling 978-928-1400 or emailing [admin@hubbardstonma.us](mailto:admin@hubbardstonma.us).

**Library community survey**

The Hubbardston Public Library is conducting a community survey to evaluate the library's programs, facilities and services to inform their strategic plan for the next five years. Whether people use the Hubbardston Library or not their participation in this survey will help create a plan that meets the needs of the community. The survey takes approx-

See HUBBARDSTON, page 7

**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 15. 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 – Patriots's Day No meal served.  
TUESDAY – Chicken pot pie, mashed potatoes, corn niblets, mixed fruit, biscuit  
WEDNESDAY – Salmon primavera, rice pilaf, peas and onions, brownie, diet = cookie, pumpernickel bread  
THURSDAY – Spaghetti and meatballs, Marinara sauce, green beans, apple crisp, diet = peaches, Italian bread  
FRIDAY – Garlic herbed chicken, cornbread stuffing, roasted Brussels sprouts, lemon pudding, diet = tapioca pudding, whole wheat bread  
\*Higher sodium entree Meal includes milk and margarine. Menus are subject to change. All meals are served at about 11:45 a.m. each weekday. Reservations should be made the day before by calling 978-355-5027 before 10:30 a.m. The donation of \$3.00 per meal helps keep the program running.

**Editorial deadline reminder**  
Deadline for e-mailed press releases is noon on Monday. Deadline for hard copy is noon on Friday.

**Celebrating 51 Years In Business**  
Pansies Are In  
Mulch • Loam • Compost  
Happy Fog & Ocean Forest  
Potting Soil • Perennials  
Open: Mon. - Sat. 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Sun. 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
**Noel's Nursery**  
77 Tully Road, Orange  
978-575-0570  
Quality Nursery Stock Landscaping Supplies

**J & J Family Restaurant**  
815 Worcester Rd., (Route 122), Barre  
978-355-2122  
**RE-OPENING**  
Sunday, April 14  
Back To Regular Hours  
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Friday & Saturday 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.; Sunday 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**GRAND OPENING**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 13TH**  
Open Wed.-Sun. 6am-2pm  
**BREAKFAST & LUNCH**  
Come Join Us For Our Grandson's 10th Birthday Party on April 13th!  
**FREE CAKE & ICE CREAM FOR EVERYONE 10AM-2PM**  
**PAPA'S**  
8 East Main Street, West Brookfield  
(508) 637-1240 • [papascafeinc@outlook.com](mailto:papascafeinc@outlook.com)

**REMINDER:**  
**APRIL 30TH IS THE DEADLINE TO REMOVE STUDED 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

**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.

**SUBMISSIONS ALWAYS WELCOME**  
Send your stories and photos to [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com)

# News of the Towns

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

### BARRE.

Barre Housing Authority – April 11 at 3 p.m.  
 Building, Grounds and Safety Subcommittee – April 11 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Quabbin Regional School District Committee – April 11 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Board of Assessors – April 16 at 6 p.m.  
 Select Board – April 16 at 6 p.m.  
 Planning Board – April 16 at 7 p.m.  
 Sewer Commission – April 18 at 7 p.m.  
 250th Anniversary Committee – April 24 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Cemetery Commission – April 25 at 11 a.m.  
 Council on Aging – May 1 at 12:30 p.m.  
 Felton Field Commission – May 7 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Board of Health – May 13 at 5 p.m.  
 Water Commission – May 13 at 6:30 p.m.  
 DPW Commission – May 13 at 7 p.m.

### HARDWICK

Town Hall Advisory Committee – April 11 at 7 p.m.  
 Gilbertville Water District – April 16 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Master Plan Steering Committee – April 16 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Conservation Commission – April 17 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Capital Planning Committee – April 22 at 3 p.m.  
 Finance Committee – April 22 and May 6 at 6 p.m.  
 Wheelwright Water District – April 22 at 7 p.m.  
 Board of Health – May 2 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Paige Library Trustees – May 2 at 7 p.m.  
 Recycling Commission – May 7 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Hardwick New Braintree Cultural Council – May 13, June 10, July 8 and August 12, Nov. 11 and Dec. 9 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Capital Planning Committee – May 20 at 3 p.m.

### HUBBARDSTON

Finance Committee – April 24 at 6 p.m.

### NORTH BROOKFIELD

Sewer Commission – April 15 at 5 p.m.  
 State Rep Berthiaume and Sen. Durant aides office hours – April 16 at 10 a.m.  
 Planning Board – April 17 and May 15 at 6 p.m.  
 Library Strategic Planning Committee – April 18 at 6 p.m.  
 Board of Selectmen – April 23 at 6 p.m.  
 Annual Town Election – May 6  
 Downtown Development Committee – May 6 at 6:30 p.m.

### OAKHAM.

Library Trustees – April 11 at 5 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – April 12 and May 10 at noon  
 Planning Board – April 16 and May 21 at 7 p.m.  
 Select Board – April 16, April 29, May 13 and May 28 at 6 p.m.  
 Town Elections – May 20 from 10 a.m.-8 p.m.  
 Board of Health – April 22 at 4:45 p.m.

### PETERSHAM

Select Board – April 11 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Board of Health – April 11 at 6 p.m.  
 Advisory Finance Committee – April 11 at 6 p.m.  
 Petersham Historic District – April 18 at 6 p.m.  
 Board of Assessors – April 23 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Open Space and Recreation Committee – May 7 at 6 p.m.  
 Conservation Commission – May 7 at 7 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – May 13 at 10 a.m.

### RUTLAND

Capital Improvement Planning Committee – April 11 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Finance Committee with Select Board – April 11 all day  
 Economic Development Commission – April 17 at 7 p.m.  
 Planning Board Public Hearing – April 23 at 6:30 p.m.

## Kimberly Toney to speak on ‘Indigenizing History of Nicheaug’

PETERSHAM – The Petersham Historical Society presents Kimberly Toney, member of the Hassanamisco Band of Nipmuc and the inaugural Coordinating Curator of Native American and Indigenous Studies at Brown University, as guest speaker at the Historical Society’s Annual Meeting on Friday, April 26 at 7 p.m. in Petersham Town Hall, 1 South Main St.

This program is free and open to all. Toney’s talk, “Beyond Petersham: An Indigenizing History of Nicheaug,” will explore Indigenous narratives about the place now called Petersham, which Indigenous people call Nicheaug. “This talk,” says Toney, “invites a reexamination of the complicated, violent histories of settler colonialism in Nicheaug from an Indigenous and indigenizing approach that can help change the ways we think about place, space, land and community.”

“The history of Nicheaug long predates European settlement, which began in the early 18th century. As a meeting place connected to multiple waterways and ecological and agricultural resources, Nicheaug remains a culturally significant site for Nipmuc people beyond and before interactions with European settlers



Kimberly Toney

there. However, the dominant narratives about Petersham and Nicheaug tell us little about Nipmuc or other Indigenous connections to that place.”

Toney notes she is deeply engaged with cultural revitalization, language reclamation and land back efforts in her Nipmuc community and in her professional work, strives to connect Indigenous knowledges and practices to all scholarly endeavors.

Prior to her position at Brown University, Toney was Head of Readers’ Services and Director of Indigenous Initiatives at the American Antiquarian Society in

Worcester. She holds a Master of Arts in Historic Preservation from the University of Delaware and serves as an advisor or consultant to cultural institutions and land trusts in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

Jennifer Albertine, Historical Society Board member and Petersham resident notes, “This event offers a chance to bring two communities, with a shared history on this land, together to increase cultural and historical understanding. By inviting Nipmuc citizens to educate our community about their history on their own terms, we can take an important step in making Nipmuc people feel welcomed and an important part of our community’s history.”

“Indigenous narratives must be heard so that relationships can grow,” says Barbara Hanno, Vice President of the Petersham Historical Society. “We hope this program will add to the understanding of the past, the present, and the future, because we must all learn from history in order not to repeat the past.”

All are welcome to a brief 2024 Annual Meeting of the Petersham Historical Society which precedes the guest speaker’s program at 6:30 p.m. This program is supported by funding from the Petersham Cultural Council, a local agency of the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

## Barre Food Pantry holds distribution April 18

BARRE – The next two Barre Food Pantry distributions will occur on Thursday, April 18 from 5:30-7 p.m.

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 disease viruses. 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 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 18 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.

Based on the success of distributions so far, the Food Pantry volunteers believe this “drive-through” style is the safest possible way to get food to clients and to help keep everyone well.

Please do not arrive to volunteer on April 18 without first calling Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921 or Chuck Radlo at 978-355-6463.

Because conditions have been changing rapidly, please continue to check for updates by visiting 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/>.

## Oakham

Ellenor Downer  
 edowner@turley.com



### Church to hold breakfast

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, will hold a breakfast on Saturday, April 20 from 8-9:30 a.m. The menu includes blueberry, chocolate chip and plain pancakes, sausages, scrambled eggs, strawberries, orange juice, coffee, tea and hot cocoa. People may make a donation, which helps support the church.

### Rep. Berthiaume and Sen. Durant office hours

On Tuesday, April 16 from 11 a.m.-noon State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume’s Chief of Staff, Donna and Senator Peter Durant’s, Constituent services coordinator, Jared Griggs will hold office hours in the Oakham Town Hall. Constituents and town officials are invited to meet with staff to express any concerns, ideas or issues that they may need assistance with. They may call Donna at 774-402-4742 if they would like a private meeting.

### Roadway Cleanup

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

### Recycling Day

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

### Golf Tournament

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

Registration is from 7:30-8:45 a.m. The tournament named in memory of Gretchen Nahkala, Art Gray, Bob Lajoie and Bob Tyck benefits local charities. Cost is \$100 per player and include 18 holes of golf, a cart and a barbecue buffet. Cost is \$360 per foursome if paid by July 26. There will be prizes, raffles and silent auction.

For more information, people may call Dawn Thistle at the Oakham Congregational Church at 508-882-5537 and leave a message if there is no answer.

### Senior center

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

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 Her novel, *The Desk From Hoboken*, uses traditional genealogy methods and DNA technology to solve the 180-year-old cold case of the death of Mary Rogers that inspired EA Poe to write Marie Roget.

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# Opinion

## Guest Column



### When should my wife claim her Social Security benefit?

Dear Rusty

I just saw an article which said that certain spousal options were going away, but there are still good options for when a spouse can claim. I am filing for my Social Security to start in October when I turn 70. My wife's Full Retirement Age is in December, and she now plans to file then for half of what my FRA benefit would have been (our original plan was for both to file in August). My wife's main reason for delaying until her FRA is to lock her into my maximum benefit if she has to someday change to Survivor's Benefit. Will this be gone for us? Neither of us was born before Jan. 1, 1954. Please advise. Signed: Planning for Both

Dear Planning

I expect that the article you refer to was speaking of the option to claim only a spousal benefit first and allow one's personal SS retirement benefit to grow. That option was available only to those who were born before 1954 and had reached full retirement age. As you now know that option is not available to you.

Assuming your wife's highest benefit entitlement will be as your spouse, your current strategy – you claim your maximum benefit to start in October at age 70 and your wife starts her benefit in December at her FRA – is a good one which will yield the maximum possible monthly benefit for both of you. But for clarity, your wife's survivor benefit as your widow has nothing to do with when she claims her spousal benefits now.

The only thing which will affect your wife's benefit as your surviving spouse is her age when she claims the survivor benefit. If she has already reached her FRA of 66 years and 8 months when you pass, she will get 100% of the amount you were receiving when you died, instead of the smaller spousal amount she was receiving while you were living. Her survivor benefit would only be less than 100% of yours if she claimed it before reaching her full retirement age (which, of course, we hope would not be the case).

Just so you have the complete picture, your wife could, if desired, claim her Social Security to start at the same time as you in October but, since that would be earlier than her FRA, the amount she would get would be less than 50% of your FRA entitlement. Her spouse benefit would be reduced by 0.694% for each month earlier than her FRA it starts.

For example, if your wife starts her spousal benefit in October when your benefit starts, she will get about 98.6% of the amount she would get if she waited until December to start her benefits. That's a permanent reduction, so if your wife's life expectancy is at least average about 87, it's likely still wisest for her to wait until her FRA to start benefits. But in any case, when your wife claims her spousal benefit now will have no effect on the survivor benefit she will get as your future widow.

*The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit [amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

### 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](mailto: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.

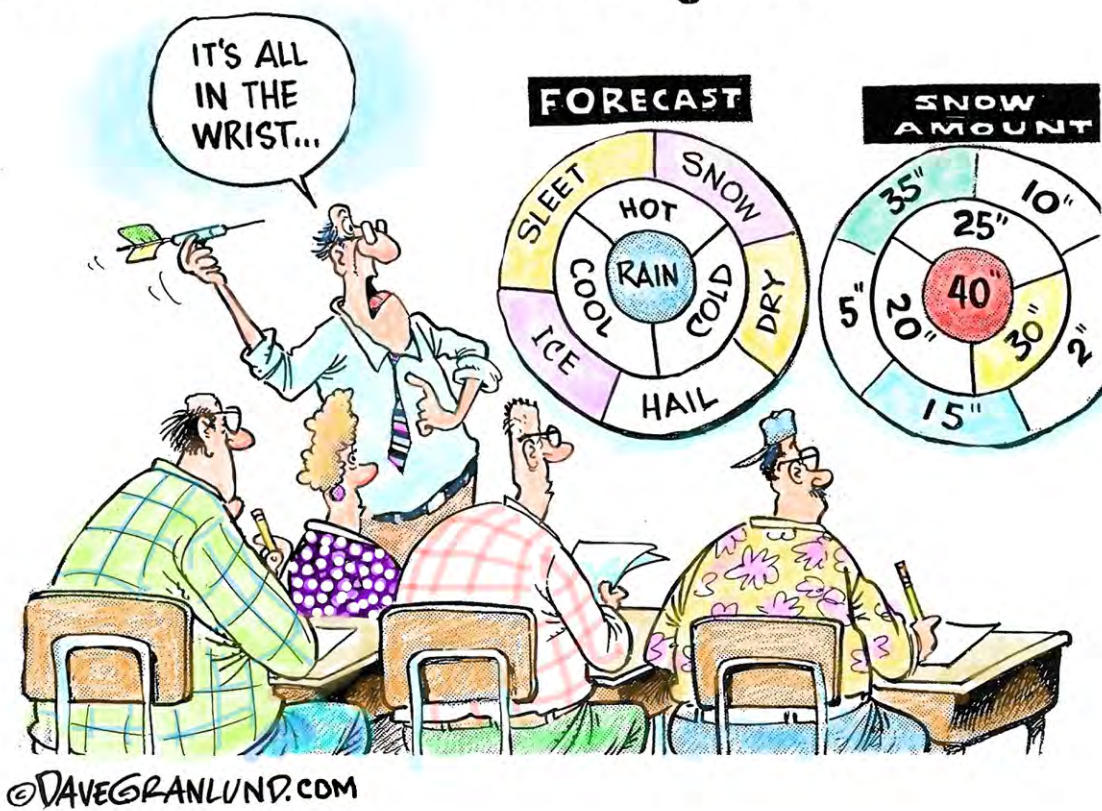
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### Refresher course for meteorologists...



## Guest Column



### Transplanting your homegrown seedlings

I bet there are a few garden enthusiasts out there with seedlings up and growing indoors.

My tomatoes are just poking through, but my peppers are ready for transplanting. Why transplant you ask? It's important that we give our young plants room to spread out!

If seeds were sown in rows, chances are that several seedlings have sprouted and are now growing within a close proximity to one another. They are competing for nutrients and moisture.

Even if two seeds were sown in a single cell of a six-pack and both germinated, they too are competing with one another in that tiny of a space. So, if we want garden center quality seedlings, we must transplant them to their own cell or small pot.

You know a seedling is ready for transplant when it has its "true leaves," not the cotyledon leaves that were first to sprout from the seed, but those that come right after. At this point in growth plant roots aren't tangled up and therefore transplant shock can be kept to a minimum.

Although the seedlings may be tiny and appear fragile, transplanting them is quite simple.

First, take a wooden plant label or dull butter knife and "cut" into the row of seedlings. Then, use your implement "spatula-style" to remove a small cluster of plants from the bottom up.

I always tell folks to "think brownies!" Be careful to get as many roots as you can.

Once you've done this it is time to separate them from one another. Gently pull on a leaf, not the stem, to pry them apart.

Think of it this way: the plant has two leaves but only one stem. If it should snap, that's it! Leaves on the other hand, can and will be replaced if accidentally torn off.

Individual seedlings can be planted in small containers or cell packs filled with soilless growing medium. We steer clear of garden soil because of the pathogens and weed seeds it may contain as well as its tendency not to drain very well.

Soilless mix is sterile, and has the ability to retain moisture yet drain freely-just what the young seedling needs as it grows additional roots and top growth.

Make a hole in the moistened growing medium with your finger, a pencil or wooden dibble. Insert the seedling to the correct depth then firm around it with your fingers.

Most are transplanted to the same depth they were growing in the pack.

One exception is tomatoes; they can be buried deeper than they started out. This is because tomatoes have the ability to make roots along the length of their stem.

Another exception are marigolds. More roots mean healthier shoots!

Water the transplants well with a gentle spray. They can now be put back under the artificial lights

See GARDEN, page 10

## In Past Pages

5 years (April 18, 2019)

Last Wednesday morning, Quabbin senior Delaney Gillis was celebrating her intent to play soccer at Sage College in Albany, New York and that afternoon, Gillis switched gears and contributed to an opening day tennis win for the Lady Panthers against the Hudson Hawks, 3-2. "Hudson has always been a big competitor or us and I'm very happy my team won against them," Gillis, who is also a tri-captain, said. A talented young woman across the boards, Gillis' main sport is soccer, as she was a captain on the Quabbin Varsity team. However, Gillis has also proved extremely valuable on the tennis courts and has been at the number one spot and a captain for three years in a row.

For the last four years, Quabbin Athletic Director Mark Miville has been impacting both athletes, coaches and just about anyone he comes in contact with throughout the Quabbin District. It was really no surprise when he was recently honored at the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Massachusetts Secondary Schools Athletic Directors Association Conference as the recipient of the Athletic Director of the Year Award for District E. "It's very nice to be honored by your peers," Miville said, explaining the award is voted on by other athletic directors throughout the 72 schools that make up District E.

Pitching and hitting were the factors at hand that earned the Quabbin Baseball team their first win of the season last Friday when they travelled to Littleton, defeating them 5-1. "It's always good to start the season of with a win," Panther coach Chris Robidoux said. "We struggled offensively early in the game, but the guys didn't lose confidence and kept their approaches at the plate and it paid off later in the game." The combination of Gavin Price and Croix Jenkins pulled off a remarkable no hitter on the mound, with Price striking out eight in five innings giving up no hits and Jenkins relieving him in the sixth, getting six outs on only 16 pitches.

10 years (April 10, 2014)

Very few voters went to the polls Monday in Barre. Only 177 voters or 5.11% of the 3,466 registered voters cast a ballot. Of the 177 voters, 102 were from precinct 1 and 75 from precinct 2. Precinct 1 has 1,775 registered voters and precinct 2, 1,691. The only contest on the ballot was for a three-year term to the Board of Health. Incumbent Margaret A. Frost, 590 Sunrise Avenue, won with 102 votes (68 precinct 1 and 34 precinct 2) over her challenger, Dennis Fleming of 140 Valley Road.

The Barre Board of Selectmen met with the Board of Health to discuss the closing of the landfill owned by Waste Management next year, probably in June. The Department of Environmental Protection extended the closing date,

### LOOK BACK Concord Coach - 2001



**In the past, Barre's Concord Coach was moved with a team of sturdy horses. But on the day of the dedication of the new coach house, horses were in short supply so it was up to some willing volunteers to move the coach into its new home.**

as it was not filled yet. Chair of the Board of Selectmen Kathryn Inman said that Tom Murray of Waste Management stated there was no truth to the rumors the landfill planned to expand. She said everyone needed to know what was going to happen in about a year.

People use a lot of electronic gadgets in their daily lives from TVs to cell phones to computers. But how can they get rid of them when they're broken or outdated? Hubbardston Cub Scouts Pack 12 has the answer, recycle them. The Scouts will be hosting an electronic waste recycling day of Saturday, April 12 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the parking lot of Hubbardston Center School, 8 Elm St. One hundred percent of the profits go directly to Hubbardston Cub Scouts.

25 years (April 15, 1999)

The Budget Subcommittee for the Quabbin Regional School District submitted its recommendation for the Fiscal Year 2000 budget to the full School Committee at its April 8 meeting. At \$19,578,979, the total amount represents a 7.25% increase from this year's budget. Vincent Ritchie of Hubbardston presented the figure to the committee, but warned it will no doubt be modified. The amount however, cannot be increased, only reduced, meaning this figure represents the budget's ceiling. Fran Gromelski of Barre noted this recommendation had already been reduced by \$1.3 million from its original figure.

Cheryl Wolfe, former Chairman of the Quabbin Regional School Committee, is back on the committee after Monday's election. She ran unopposed for the three-year seat after Edward Kelly decided not to seek re-election. Kelly served on the school committee for 12 years. Also elected to the School Committee was Pamela Hinckley. She was appointed when Rebecca Bottomley resigned her seat to take a teacher's job. Hinckley ran unopposed for the two-year unexpired term.

The April 8 Quabbin Regional School Committee was the last for long-time committee member Edward Kelley of Hardwick. His fellow committee members bid him a final farewell, recognizing him for his years of service to the Quabbin region. Fran Gromelski presented Kelly with a gift that had a touch of irony, a Quabbin Football tee shirt. Kelley had once presented resistance to the committee's time frame for the implementation of the football program. Yet, as Gromelski noted, "even when he loses a vote, he supports the committee's decision."

38 years (April 17, 1986)

The Barre Selectmen expressed concern regarding the copy of the town's assessment received from Quabbin Regional School District at their Monday evening meet-

See PAST PAGES, page 5

### Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

#### Campaign news

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

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

### 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](mailto:edowner@turley.com). The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

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# Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

I guess the ground hog was wrong. Winter has returned to Serenity Hill. It was pretty, but I was glad when the snow came off the trees. I was afraid we would lose our power like some parts of Hubbardston did.

Our neighbor plowed us out so I was able to get groceries on Sunday morning. My handyman was there when I got home and he very kindly brought in my groceries from the car and actually put most of them away. I did get to the bank and post office on Saturday morning and the handyman got salt for our water softener.

I hope this snow does not ruin the daffodils and other buds that are out on the bushes. I checked the dahlia bulbs I planted in the cellar and they are up about four inches. I hope I did not plant them too early. I don't plan on watching the eclipse except on television.

Because groceries are so high now I try to make meals that will go for two days. This week I took a pound package of hamburger and it served three meals.

## HAMBURGER STROGANOFF

- 1/2 lb. hamburger
- 1/2 onion chopped
- 1/4 cup of butter or oil
- 1 t. salt
- 1/3 teaspoon pepper
- 1 clover of garlic
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 small can of mushroom pieces
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- Cooked noodles or rice

First cook the hamburger and onions in the oil. Add the garlic, pepper and mushrooms. Stir and cook for five minutes. Stir in soup. Heat and stir for about 10 minutes. Stir in sour cream and heat through. Serve over the hot noodles or rice.

For the second day, I just heated the leftover noodles in water and heated the stroganoff with a little

water and served it. The third day I took the other half pound of hamburger and made hamburgers with cheese in a bun. I heated the buns in a toaster oven and cooked up some sliced onions for those who wanted onions. I used ketchup on my hamburger.

### This and That

This week I have been taking out my genealogy books on each of the family members and checking with Ancestry to see if there is any updates.

I also made a packet of pictures to send to my cousin, who brought me the disc of photos for my computer.

I have been trying to get rid of some of the paper piles I have in my computer room by filing what I want to save.

I am making a lot of totes and placemats with pieces of fabric that were given to me. Three of the totes I lined. I use them when shopping as they are easier to carry things than with the plastic bags. I ask the cashier not to make the bags very heavy. I am not as strong as I used to be.

I had a nice visit with our neighbor after he plowed our driveway. His twin daughters are in Washington D.C. on an eighth grade class trip.

I did not go on my high school class trip to Washington D.C. as I had been to visit an aunt in Washington D.C. when I graduated from grammar school in 1950. She worked as a secretary in the Department of Social Security and each day she left us instructions on what bus to take to see each of the attractions in the city.

I remember the cafeterias had just come into being so she had us eat at one. We visited Jeffersons' home, the Capitol and various places but the White House was being renovated at the time and we could not visit that.

I wonder if the cherry blossoms are in bloom yet?

Hats off to the highway department for the good job they did in the snowstorm.

### Pileated woodpecker holes

I received a photo from a Charlton resident showing a tree with numerous holes made by a pileated woodpecker. It was impressive.

I usually hear the pileated woodpecker more than I see them. Recently, I heard one and looked for it in the area of its hammering. I saw this one and it kept up its excavating as I watched it.

### More snowstorm bird

A Brimfield resident, who sends me frequent bird sightings, said, "During the snow storm last week in addition to the usual suspects we had a field sparrow, a Carolina wren and about 36 goldfinch visit the yard. Some of the male goldfinch were beginning to show some yellow plumage."

### Black vultures

The Brimfield resident said his wife saw two black vultures in the center of Brimfield feeding on a dead opossum. He said, "They are showing up in western Massachusetts more often recently."

### Turkey vultures

A favorite roost for turkey vultures is near the transfer station in Barre on Depot Road. I saw several vultures circling over the area, several perched on lamp posts and a shed at the transfer station. One on the lamp post had its wings spread out. It was quite a sight to see.

I saw a turkey vulture spreading its wings like that several years ago on one of the high tension line poles in Oakham. It almost looked like it flew into the post.

### Ospreys and herons

This Brimfield resident makes regular trips to several ponds. He said in his most recent email, "In Warren at the pond on South Street the osprey pair that have nested there the past three years have returned. Last year there were three great blue heron nests there that produced young. This year only one pair of herons has returned so far. At my last visit it looked like a heron was incubating eggs or maybe just sitting down?"

He also said, "At the great blue heron rookery at Conant Brook Dam in Monson there are four nest this year. On a visit last week the four nests had birds incubating eggs. There were six nest here last year but one of the trees with a nest looked like it was in danger of falling over, guess it did. And another nest has disappeared." He said there is an osprey pair at the playing fields in Wilbraham by the YMCA/Spec Pond. He saw one of osprey bring sticks to the nest and at another visit one was sitting on the nest.

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, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

## in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

### Northern Flicker



A Blandford resident saw a male northern flicker during the April 4 snowstorm among other birds at her snowbound feeding station.

I saw a male northern flicker before the snow storm last week near the Barre line. The day after the snow, I saw one by the edge of the road at the ball-field in the center of Oakham, the only bare spot.

The northern flicker is about 13 inches long. Distinguishing marks include a black band or necklace under its throat, black spots on its breast, gray head and long beak. The male has a black line at the base of its bill, which the female lacks. Both have a red patch on the neck and a white rump, clearly visible in flight.

The flicker is the only ground feeding woodpecker. Ants make up almost half of its diet. It also catches insects in the air and eats fruit, berries and seeds. It will come to feeders like the one in Blandford.

Flickers are cavity nesters and excavate a hole in a tree, fence post or cactus. They will use a nest box. The female lays seven to nine white eggs. They make a loud "kekekekeke" for territorial display and a "woi-kawoi-kawoi" during courtship. They also do muffled volleys of drumming.

### Flocks of robins

The Blandford resident also had a flock of about 25 robins in her yard. She said they departed before she could shovel clear strip of grass for them and put out mealworms. I saw many robins along the side of the after last Thursday's snowstorm and the day after as there was no other area clear of snow.

### PAST PAGES, continued from page 4

ing. Barre's assessment for FY 87 is \$737,244, which includes an additional sum for capital expenditures. Various issues regarding the school budget were raised along with the total proposed budget for the town. The upcoming Annual Town Meeting on May 17 will place these budgets before the voters.

The New Braintree Town Election will be held May 5. Polls will be open from noon-8 p.m. at the Town Hall. All New Braintree residents qualified to vote are encouraged to attend. Town official positions being voted on are: Tax Collector, Selectman, Assessor, Quabbin Regional School District (K-12) Member, Cemetery Commissioner, Board of Health Member and Constable,

all for three-year terms. A Planning Board Member will also be elected for a term of five-years. All positions are uncontested.

Heifer Project International, a charitable organization specializing in livestock projects for third world farmers, received dozens of calls this week from dairy farmers offering their cattle for export, a result of the federal dairy herd buyout program. Unfortunately, there are not enough funds for transport of the animals even though there are established projects where the animals could be of immediate benefit to hungry people. "We are appealing to the public to help us respond to this opportunity," said Rosalee Sinn, Director of the Heifer Project Regional office located in Rutland. "It costs \$750 to ship a cow."

# Senior Center hosts 'Meet and Greet' for new director



The Barre/Hardwick Senior Center will welcome the new director at a Meet and Greet on Thursday, April 18 from 9-11 a.m. at the Barre Senior Center located at 557 South Barre Road. All are welcome to attend. Coffee hour and refreshments will be served.

Submitted Photo

# Basketball players team with ASB for ALSI



BARRE – The Quabbin Regional High School Boys Basketball team is going to the Wally Seaver Tournament with the sponsorship of the Athol Savings Bank in Barre.

The Seaver Tournament is a fundraising event to help raise funds in the fight against Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. The team is partnering with the ASB to raise awareness of this disease also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Submitted Photo  
**Shown are Quinn Geary, Maria Bosse, Branch Manager Dana Harty, Bryce Venne and Kyle Clark.**

# Biologists speak on aquatic invasive species

By Nick Boonstra  
Staff Writer  
nboonstra@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – Aquatic biologists from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation gave a virtual presentation on March 10, educating the community on the dangers of aquatic invasive species in the Quabbin Reservoir and Ware River Watershed, and providing tips on how to prevent the introduction and spread of these unwanted plants and animals.

Shasten Sherwell and Taylor Gosselin shared on how an aquatic invasive species is defined, what species have been identified in the area's bodies of water, and how these plants impact the environment and the community. Fishers, boaters and other recreationists are advised to take care as the winter comes to an end and the warmer season starts ramping up.

Sherwell explained to attendees that an aquatic invasive species is not only one that is not native to the region, but also one that can out-compete native species and cause negative impacts to the environment.

Some of the negative impacts caused by invasive plants include reduction in water quality, dis-

ruption of natural food webs, and damage to human-built infrastructure. Sherwell also mentioned that the values of waterfront properties have been found to fall in areas affected by aquatic invasive species.

Invasive species that have been identified locally include milfoil, phragmites, purple loosestrife and fanwort. Two types of zooplankton, the spiny water flea and the fishhook water flea, as well as hydrilla have also been found around New England but have not been detected in local reservoirs or watersheds as of yet.

Sherwell said that human activity can contribute to the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species. Unknowingly, people can transmit invasive species through dumping ballast water and live bait, or by allowing straggling "hitchhikers" to remain on their boat or equipment.

Gosselin highlighted DCR's techniques for managing and preventing the growth of aquatic invasive species. She highlighted widespread education about these plants as critical to these efforts.

She explained that there was constant monitoring of local bodies of water to ensure any spread of invasive species is detected early. This included 14 annual sur-

veys of the Quabbin Reservoir and the use of GPS to track both native and invasive species.

If a suspected invasive species is found, Gosselin said that the response was in-depth. "We do have a lengthy process to make sure we're being thorough," she said, adding that each species was handled differently from others.

Harvesting areas of invasive species could be as simple as having DCR contractors pulling growths by hand, Gosselin said, but could involve the more aggressive use of suction hoses if conditions were appropriate.

The biologists closed by asking visitors to DCR sites to ensure that they are inspecting and cleaning their boats and equipment, draining any standing water away from waterways and, if possible, allowing everything to completely dry out for at least five days between visits. They also reminded boaters to only utilize designated boat launch areas, and to pay attention to all signage at these locations.

General information about the Quabbin Reservoir can be found online at <https://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir>. Information about the Ware River Watershed is available at <https://www.mass.gov/locations/ware-river-watershed>.

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# Fisher Museum Harvard Forest hosts open house on April 27

PETERSHAM – Fisher Museum Harvard Forest, 324 North Main St., welcomes the public for a free open house on Saturday, April 27 from 1-4 p.m.

This is an opportunity for the public to visit and get to know Harvard Forest. They will have an afternoon filled with games, guided tours and a tree planting in honor of Earth Day.

The afternoon will begin with a series of guessing games in the Fisher Museum followed by a welcome. The first tour will depart at 2 p.m. This will be an hour and half tour led by Greta Vanscoy, Education Coordinator and Field Technician and Jackie Hatala Matthes, PhD, senior scientist at Harvard Forest. The shorter (45 mins) tour will depart at 2:30 p.m. and will be led by Clarisse Hart, Director of Outreach and

Education at Harvard Forest. The tours will explore the forests and delve into research carried out at Harvard Forest.

The lawn will be filled with games and art projects throughout the afternoon. The day will end at 3:30 p.m. with a tree planting in celebration of Earth Day.

This event at the Harvard Forest is free and open to the public. No RSVPs are required. There is plenty of parking spaces available. Everyone of all ages is welcome.

The Harvard Forest welcomes individuals with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities.

If people require accommodations or have questions about the event, they may call 978-724-3302 or email hfvisit@fas.harvard.edu.

The Harvard Forest, founded in 1907 and located in Petersham,

Mass., is Harvard University's outdoor laboratory and classroom for ecology and conservation, and a Long-Term Ecological Research site funded by the National Science Foundation. Its 4,000-acre property, located on unceded Nipmuc land, is one of the oldest and most intensively studied research forests in the U.S. Open to the public year-round, the site includes educational and research facilities, the Fisher Museum and miles of recreational trails. Harvard Forest scientists and educators host educational programs for thousands of K12 and university students each year and work closely with the Nipmuc people to ensure that this land and its benefits are accessible and sustaining. People may learn more by visiting <http://harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu>.

# Local creatives show their talents in jazz and poetry

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

BARRE – The Woods Memorial Library celebrated National Poetry Month as well as Jazz Appreciation Month this April, and invited talented musicians and poets for the occasion.

"I write about everything," Susan Roney-O'Brien said as she began to read several of her favorite poems. These included titles such as "Eclipse", "Meadow", and "Dirt" to name just a few of her beautiful works.

The musicians shared their love of performing jazz, and began playing together about seven years ago.

"The music itself is the best," Jerry Wilfong said. "You hear some and you wanna play it; you play some and you wanna hear it."



Turley Photo by Emily-Rose Pappas  
Shown from left are David Thoreen, Susan Roney-O'Brien, Dick Hummel and Jerry Wilfong posing for a photo after a fun night of poetry and jazz music.

Wilfong and Dick Hummel shared many covers from famous jazz artists like Monty Alexander, Juan Tizol and John Coltrane.

"I listen to a lot of different kinds of music, and I like the idea of creating," Hummel said. "It's more of an adventure to me. It's not just the notes, but the

rhythm."

David Thoreen shared several of his own poems including "No Dice", "Maybe", and "How to Sweep a Garage Floor".

"I like finding images and bits of language to think about,"

he said.

In the spirit of enjoying some jazz and poetry this month, you haven't missed it all yet. The library will be hosting another Solo/Duo night of poetry and jazz on Tuesday, April 23 at 6 p.m.

## Recycling Center offers bulk waste day April 13

HARDWICK – The Hardwick Recycling Center, 2011 Barre Road, will hold a Bulk Waste Collection Event on Saturday, April 13 from 8 a.m.-noon.

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

Please note, there are fees per item charged to cover the cost of

hauling and processing.

Prices are as follows: mattress or box spring, any size, \$30; couch, \$30; futon or waterbed mattress, \$25; loveseat, \$25; upholstered chair, \$25; pool tables, \$25; wall unit cabinets, \$20; large entertainment center, \$20; sink, \$15; toilet, \$20; carpeting/foam carpet backing, \$15; kitchen/dining table, \$15; bookcase, bureau, \$15; trash

compactor, \$10; wooden chair, end table, coffee table, night stand, \$12; infant car seat, \$7; bulk Styrofoam (bagged), \$5; and suitcases, \$5.

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

For more information, people email [recycling@townofhardwick.com](mailto:recycling@townofhardwick.com).

## Paige Memorial Library lists events

HARDWICK – The Paige Library, 87 Petersham Road, on Saturday, April 13 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. will launch of the 2024 Seed Library, a bake and book sale, and a raffle.

The Friends of the Paige Memorial Library sponsor this event. People may select some seeds, buy some home cooked baked goods, buy some books and buy some raffle tickets.

The garden-themed raffle basket includes a \$50 gift certificate from Hardwick Farmers Co-Op Exchange and other valuable garden items. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. If people would like to donate to the bake sale or raffle or have any questions, they may 413-477-6704, email [director.paigelibrary@gmail.com](mailto:director.paigelibrary@gmail.com) or stop in at the library.

On April 27, Saturday, at 1:30 p.m. at the Town House, Gariné of Kalina Folk Arts will show how to create a "Scrunch-Paint" tie-dye style silk scarf. This workshop is for teens and adults. Each participant will leave with a beautiful silk scarf masterpiece. This program is supported by a grant from the Hardwick Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Registration is required. They may call the above number, email the library director or stop at the library.

The Paige Writing group meets on alternate Tuesdays at 3 p.m., the Paige Book Club meeting at 2 p.m. monthly and the Cookbook Club meeting at 5:30 p.m. monthly on the last Wednesday, April 24.

## EQLT offers community garden spaces

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Community Garden Spaces are now available for 2024 at East Quabbin Land Trust's Wendemuth Meadow, 25 Bates St.

The No-Till Gardening plots are 10' x 10' and cost \$30. Some of the areas have fencing good to trellis peas and beans. Plot locations determined on a first-come, first-served basis. Compost, mulch and organic fertilizer and plenty of gravity-fed water are provided.

Tomatoes, zucchini, beans, leafy greens, carrots and peppers grow wonderfully. Squash will be grown separately by East Quabbin Land Trust and shared with all garden members. To reserve a garden plot, people should email [chenshaw@eqlt.org](mailto:chenshaw@eqlt.org).

## Library holds Rainforest Reptile Show on April 21

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

Children of all ages will have a chance to come into direct contact

with live reptiles, artifacts and their incredible stories. This program is presented by the New Braintree Public Library and is sponsored in part by a grant from the Hardwick/New Braintree Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state

agency.

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

## HARDWICK, continued from page 1

### Pathfinder assessment

Parker said the Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical School's assessment increased by about \$44,000. She said the Finance Committee will look into the increase and will likely meet with Pathfinder's School Committee to review it.

"We just do the best we can to get them at a reasonable amount... that's manageable for the towns," she said.

Parker said Hardwick's enrollment in the Pathfinder school district increased by five students.

### Revolving account transfers

Parker said the Finance Committee and Select Board need to approve revolving account transfers for the Town House Committee and Recycling Commission. Both went over their budget limits, she said.

Anne Barnes, representing the Town House, cited the rising costs of heating oil and utilities. She said the money has gone to install an electric outlet, as well as cover the cost of a structural engineer to evaluate the roof.

"We were careful how we spent it," she said.

The board moved to transfer \$6,236 to the Recycling Commission from the revolving account; and \$700 to the Town House Committee from the revolving account.

### Town administrator position

Parker said she has been selected to be Town Administrator in Southwick, pending negotiations.

She thanked the Select Board for giving her the opportunity to work with the town.

"I love the town," Parker said. "I think we did a lot of good work here...I really want to thank you for really giving me the opportunity three years ago."

### Annual town election

The annual town election will be held on Saturday, May 4, with polls open from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. There are no contests on the ballot.

### Appointments

The board appointed Lucas Wright and Curtis Stillman to the Zoning Board of Appeals and Janet Skagerlind to the Conservation Commission to fill vacancies. These terms will run until June 30, 2024.

### Resignation

The board accepted a letter of

resignation from Zoning Board of Appeals member Glen Wojcik, effective March 25.

### Morss Scholarship application

Select Board members reviewed a draft application for the Elizabeth Morss Scholarship. The board voted to accept the draft application and distribute to area school districts.

The application will also be posted on the town's website, Facebook and Virtual Common.

### Town report dedication

The board approved a suggestion from Town Clerk Ryan J. Witkos to dedicate the 2023 town report to Lillian Holden.

### Approval

The board approved the Rimfire Rampage event at the Hardwick Rod and Gun Club the evening of Saturday, April 20, starting at 7 p.m.

### Correspondences

Parker said the town received notice from the Mass Central Railroad regarding vegetation control. Herbicide applications will occur May 17-June 28 and July 19-Aug. 16.

She said the Select Board was also included on a notice from MassDOT regarding parking on the state highway.

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Submitted photo

The 43rd Pops will be held Sunday April 21, at 2:00 in the Orange Town Hall. Notice the recently restored Minute Tapioca Minute man curtain in the background. This photo was of the 2023 Pops Concert.

## Orange Community Band to hold Pops Concert on April 21

ORANGE – The Orange Community Band will present its 43rd Pops Concert on Sunday, April 21 at 2 p.m. in the Orange Town Hall Ruth B. Smith Auditorium.

This year's concert will have chair seating, not at tables as in previous years. Maureen Riendeau is seeking patrons and advertisers for the Pops Program. Donations of any amount will be accepted to defray the cost of new

music, rental of the Town Hall, and scholarships. Notify any band member, or contact Riendeau directly to be listed in the program. Deadline for listing is Monday, April 15.

Stephanie Parker will conduct the band. She joined the band as an Elementary School student and has performed and directed ever since. She joined as one of several family groups in the band and even today the band has players,

who joined as youngsters.

Several band members have played with the band more than 50 years. Members range from middle school age to the 90s.

The band is rehearsing weekly until the concert, then will begin rehearsing again in June for the Friday evening summer concerts on the bandstand in Butterfield Park. Area musicians are invited to join in this tradition that goes back to the 1850s.

### MAHONEY, continued from page 1

The lowest on the scale. It means deep coma or death. His family was called and escorted by the trauma team into his room.

Following an explanation of the testing they had done, and in as a gentle manner the physician could muster, they were told that he was brain dead with no hope of recovery. It was just a few hours after his fall; not yet 4 a.m.

In a comatose state in the hospital that day in September, he did not know that a miracle was about to happen. Dr. Gerald McGillicuddy, MD, a Tuft's Medical School graduate and neurosurgeon was on call that night and affiliated with UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester. On that night Scott now says, "Dr. McGillicuddy's compas-

sion and expertise saved my life and kept my family whole." Scott says he owes his life to him.

But even Dr. McGillicuddy admitted to Scott after months of rehabilitation and with some cognitive improvement to understand, the doctor admitted to him that if it were not for his parents' pleas to operate, to try anything to save him, he might not have done so because the likelihood for any semblance of recovery was less than a 2% chance.

I laughed nervously to myself when I heard that. How often do we hear it said, when faced with a tough decision or problem, "heck it isn't brain surgery...what could go wrong?"

Well, this was brain surgery and as Scott always says "I got lucky" when giving his motivational talks to huge receptive audiences. It was not only luck; it was a miracle and the catalyst of that miracle was

in the action his parents took that night to ask the doctor and his team to try to do whatever they could, despite the slim chance for recovery.

What Maloney has done following months in a coma and all kinds of extensive physical and mental therapy is almost unbelievable. He has given talks to thousands of high school and college students, hospitals and trauma treatment centers throughout the country. He has turned his experience into a mission of helping others.

For those who wish to learn more, Scott and his mother, Linda have written a very inspiring book called "Lean on Me," A Story of Hope, Healing and Holding On. It can be found on his equally inspiring and informative website by visiting [www.ScottMaloney.com](http://www.ScottMaloney.com). The Rutland Cultural Council sponsored Sunday's talk at the Rutland Library.

### CREATIVE WRITING, continued from page 1

was "No one could blame her for trying. The ring was just sitting on the counter, begging to be stolen."

The workshop took place in a room full of glass cases featuring various objects. For an exercise, Thompson had the writers stroll around the room and look at the objects in the cases. Once an object was highlighted as the topic of the story, the writers would then choose two different writing exercises.

The first exercise was that the object was given as a gift. Figure out who was the sender and the recipient. What does the sender mean by sending such a gift? How long ago was the gift sent? Why was it sent? What did the recipient do with the gift? In other words, build a story behind this one object.

The other choice was to select five artifacts in the room and write a scene where all five must make an appearance in the story.

Thompson would then bring her



The creative writing workshop featured a series of writing exercises.

guests outside for an outdoor exercise. The writers would close their eyes and notice sounds, smells, temperature and wind. Using the senses such as sound, smell, touch and vision writers use what they experience outside and write them down afterwards.

Thompson's workshop offered many fun and inspirational writ-

ing exercises and hopes her guests leave with plenty of ideas to produce great stories.

Visit the Woods Memorial Library at 19 Pleasant Street in Barre. For more information and future events, visit [www.barrelibrary.org](http://www.barrelibrary.org) or reach the Woods Memorial Library at (978) 355-2533.

## Mackenzie Melemed performs at Stone Church

GILBERTVILLE – Friends of the Stone Church proudly present pianist Mackenzie Melemed in an exclusive return engagement at the Stone Church Cultural Center 283 Main St., on Saturday, April 20 at 7 p.m.

He will perform works of Sibelius, New England composer Amy Beach, Brahms, Jaakko Kuusisto and Beethoven, in "My Two Homes," a program inspired by his background as a native New Englander and his adopted home in Finland. A wine and cheese reception with the artist will follow the concert. Tickets are \$35 at the door or at [FriendsOfTheStoneChurch.org](http://FriendsOfTheStoneChurch.org). Students under 18 will be admitted at no charge.

Finnish composer Kuusisto died in 2022 but his music lives on. Melemed was honored to give the premiere performance of his Piano Concerto in Minnesota last summer. His piece for this concert is inspired by a small Finnish island, creating a beautiful soundscape.

Originally from Paxton Melemed studied piano with Olga Rogach and attended the Bancroft School in Worcester. He received the \$25,000 Avery Fisher career grant for emerging musicians of outstanding ability in 2022.

This 29-year-old Massachusetts native has been credited with 'pianistic maturity twice his age,' called 'a magician for romance and sweet lyricism,' and lauded as a consummate solo artist whose 'crystal-clear pianism' is 'nothing short of thrilling.' Among his many prizes are The Juilliard School's 2019 Leo B. Ruiz Carnegie Hall Recital Prize, the 2018 Arthur Rubenstein Prize, the Jade Medal at the 2019 China International Competition and the first prize and chamber music prize at Finland's 2017 Maj Lind International Piano Competition.

Melemed graduated with a dual Bachelor's and Master's degree and an Artist Diploma from The Juilliard School, where he studied with Robert McDonald



Submitted photo

Pianist Mackenzie Melemed will perform at the Stone Church Cultural Center on Saturday, April 20 at 7 p.m.

and Emanuel Ax. The New York Times praised him as "an excellent young pianist." He has performed as a soloist at the White House (2004-2008), Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Warsaw Philharmonic Hall, and with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Stamford Symphony, the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, and the KBS Symphony in Korea. His mentorship by Emanuel Ax led to his 2022 performance at Tanglewood, summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. In 2021, Melemed was a laureate of the American Pianists Award; he received a \$50,000 cash prize from the American Pianists Association for the distinction.

Melemed's 2023-24 season includes several debuts and numerous re-engagements with orchestras in the United States, Canada and Finland, including the Edmonton Symphony, Tampere Philharmonic and the Lohja City Orchestra in Finland. A creative collaborator, Melemed commissioned a new Piano Concerto from Israeli-American composer Avner Dorman.

Melemed's discography features world-premiere recordings of Dorman's "Three Etudes" on the Steinway and Sons label (2018) and Jaegwon Ryu's Piano Concerto with Ralf Gothóni and

Sinfonia Varsovia on the Warner Classics label (2019). Melemed is currently working on a solo album offering classics and works he has premiered, to be released in 2026.

This appearance is sponsored by the Salvadore Family of Auto Dealerships.

Partial support comes from the Mass Cultural Council and from Local Cultural Councils of Barre, Oakham and Petersham. Local Cultural Councils are local agencies which are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

EBT, Connector Care and WIC cardholders may claim two free admissions at the box office on the day of the concert, through the Mass Cultural Council's Card to Culture program.

Friends of the Stone Church, Inc. is a public charitable corporation and community group organized in 2015 and open to all. Our mission is to preserve and protect the Gilbertville Stone Church Cultural Center and to make it available as a place of community enrichment. We welcome donations toward our ongoing preservation project online at [www.FriendsofTheStoneChurch.org](http://www.FriendsofTheStoneChurch.org) or by mail to FOCC, P.O. Box 347, Gilbertville, MA 01031.

## OSV to allow free admission to children

STURBRIDGE – On Saturday, April 13 and Sunday, April 14, Old Sturbridge Village will honor Patriots' Day with a weekend of fifes and drums and the booming of musket fire as soldiers muster on the historic Common.

Visitors will participate in programs and activities throughout the day hearing stories of patriots, who helped lay the groundwork for the founding of our country during the American Revolution as well as military history from the 19th and 20th centuries. The weekend's highlight will be the visiting re-enactment groups representing different wars.

They include: 5th Connecticut Regiment (American Revolution), 25th Continental Regiment (American Revolution), Historic Marine Education (War of 1812), 15th

Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry (American Civil War), Be What Remains (American Civil War) and U.S. Naval Landing Party (American Civil War).

Families and friends are encouraged to connect with history at Old Sturbridge Village during the final month of the Kids Free Standard Daytime Admission promotion, running until Sunday, April 28. Throughout April, up to two children, aged 17 years or younger, will be admitted for free with each adult standard full-price daytime admission ticket.

Adult visitors are encouraged to purchase tickets online in advance to save even more. In addition to Kids Free, tickets purchased online include a \$3 savings compared to tickets purchased at the door. For full details, restrictions and to purchase tickets, people may visit

<https://www.osv.org/event/kids-free-march-april/>.

The Kids Free promotion for April applies only to standard full-price adult daytime admission. Please note that this promotion does not apply to field trips.

Old Sturbridge Village is open Wednesday–Sunday from 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m. For a full list of Patriots' Day Weekend details, people may visit: <https://www.osv.org/event/patriots-weekend/>.

Located just off the Massachusetts Turnpike and Routes I-84 and 20 in Sturbridge, Mass., Old Sturbridge Village is open year-round, but days and hours vary seasonally. Daily admission is: \$30 for adults, \$28 for seniors, \$15 for college students, \$15 for children ages 4-17 and children 3 and under are admitted free. For details, people may visit <https://www.osv.org/plan-your-visit/>.

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### HUBBARDSTON, continued from page 2

imately 10 minutes to complete online. To complete the survey, people should visit <http://tiny.cc/HubbardstonLibrarySurvey>.

#### Senior center events

The Hubbardston Senior Center, 7A Main St., events include: Bingo from 12:30-3 p.m. on Mondays; Knitting Group at 10 a.m. every Tuesday at 10 a.m. and Wii Bowling beginning at 8:30 a.m. every Monday and Wednesday beginning at 8:30 a.m. Eggs may be picked up on Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. in the Senior Center. Cribbage is played on Thursdays from 1:30-3 p.m. Pitch is played the first and third Friday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Art group meets every Friday at 9 a.m.

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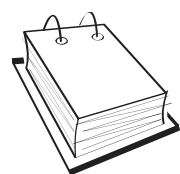
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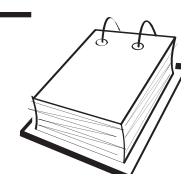
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**SUNDAY, APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup> - 12PM TO 4PM**



# Calendar of Events



## THURSDAY, APRIL 11

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

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

## FRIDAY, APRIL 12

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

## SATURDAY, APRIL 13

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

**REORGANIZATION MEETING** of the Barre Democratic Town Committee will take place today at 10:30 a.m. The committee will meet to reorganize and vote for officer positions. Registered Democrats should email [BarreDTC@gmail.com](mailto:BarreDTC@gmail.com) for location and details.

## Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

This week's mystery photo is from Petersham. 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 15. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in the following edition. Bill Bowles, Peggy Civilik, Stephen Craven, Elizabeth Laramée, Evelyn Luukko and Phillip Warbasse correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was the new Historic District sign on New Braintree Road in Oakham.

## TUESDAY, APRIL 16

**ENDANGERED SPECIES EDUCATIONAL PUPPET SHOW** for all ages will be held during school vacation week for this special program today at 7 p.m. at the Boylston Town House, 599 Main St., Boylston. Life-size puppets created by artist Amanda Gibson will delight the audience with information on the African Painted Dog, the Kakapo, the Vaquita, the Chimpanzee, and the Tiger, and their endangered status. A graduate of the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Gibson combines her love of storytelling and art to showcase the versatility of puppetry. This 'Night of Community Spirit' is sponsored by Worcester Central Pomona, a district Grange, and the local chapters of Central Community, Holden, North Orange, Petersham and Sterling. In addition to the entertainment, a donation of items, the result of a five-month community service foster care project, will be presented to a representative from the Worcester East office of the Department of Children and Families. Door prizes and refreshments will conclude the evening. All

are welcome to join us for this free educational and entertaining event. The program is funded through an Opportunity Grant awarded by the Massachusetts State Grange. For more information, people may email [jse-gur55@gmail.com](mailto:jse-gur55@gmail.com) or call 508-886-2341.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 18

**ED THE WIZARD** and his sea life balloon animal twisting workshop will appear at the Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant St., Barre today starting at 4:30 p.m. Patrons will learn the art of balloon twisting as they create their own Sea Turtle. No balloon twisting experience is required. This program is free and opened to the public, but may require pre-registration. People should call the library at 978-355-2533, extension 104 for more information and to register. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Barre Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

**BARRE FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION** will occur today from 5:30 -7 p.m. In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and

between volunteers and clients April 10 and April 18 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.

**SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR MEET AND GREET** will take place today from 9-11 a.m. at the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, Barre. All are welcome to attend. Coffee hour and refreshments will be served.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 19

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

## SATURDAY, APRIL 20

**LENNY SEARS MEMORIAL CABOT CHEESE RAFFLE** will take place today at 2 p.m. at the South Barre Rod & Gun club, 2626 Barre Road, Hardwick. The public is welcome.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 21

**BARRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTATION** will take place today at 1 p.m. with the group meeting at the Barre Falls Picnic Shelter. Historian Lucy Allen will present the fascinating past of Barre Falls and will lead a walk to old mill sites and other places of interest. The walking portion will be moderately difficult and on a slop. People should wear appropriate shoes or boots. This is an outdoor program so they should dress for the weather. Water and light snacks will be available. People may bring folding chairs for the talk portion on the former East Barre Falls Village and the Barre Falls Flood Control Dam at the picnic shelter. This program is part of Barre's 250th anniversary celebration.

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

**LOOKING TO THE FUTURE**, will meet on Wednesday, April 24 at 5:30 p.m. at the Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant St., Barre with Barre resident Courtney Schlosser, to become familiar with his book, "Existential Threats and Moral Prospects." Schlosser highlights threats that our society is now facing, among them the challenges arising from climate change, escalating conflicts that could lead to nuclear war and violence in society. Schlosser is Philosophy Professor Emeritus from Worcester State University. Newcomers are welcome.



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\*Must be at least 18 years old and possess a valid driver's license to qualify.

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# SPORTS

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## Quabbin softball loses wild one

BARRE – Last Tuesday afternoon in some rainy, raw conditions, Quabbin softball had its season opener. Though they were able to put eight runs on the board, Littleton put up a lot more as the Panthers lost 22-8. Quabbin fell to 0-1 on the season. Like baseball, a match-up with Narragansett was postponed on Monday.

The Panthers next face Clinton on Friday, April 12 at 4 p.m.

**Kherington Deschenes takes her lead off first base.**



Adam Adams delivers a pitch for the Panthers.



Sean LaPointe fires a throw back to the infield.

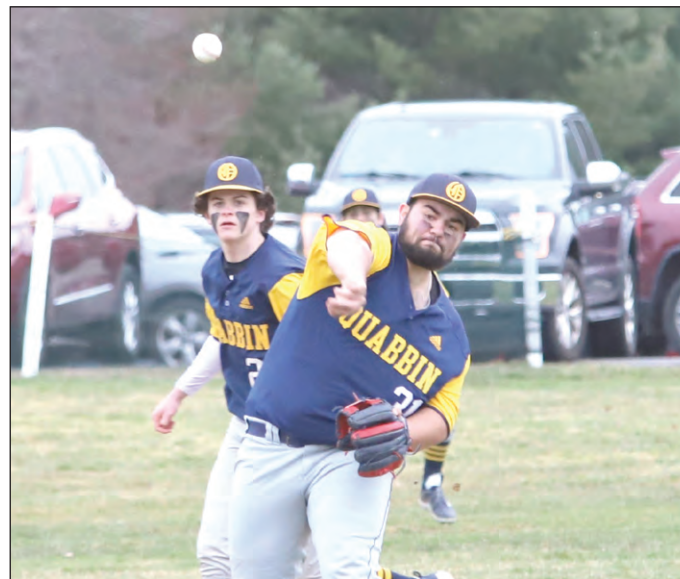
## Panthers defeated in season opener

BARRE – Last Tuesday afternoon, Quabbin Regional baseball suffered a defeat in their season opener against Littleton High School. The Panthers lost 10-0 and are 0-1 on the season. Quabbin had a game against Narragansett scheduled Monday, but it was postponed. The Panthers will host Clinton on Friday, April 12, weather-permitting.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



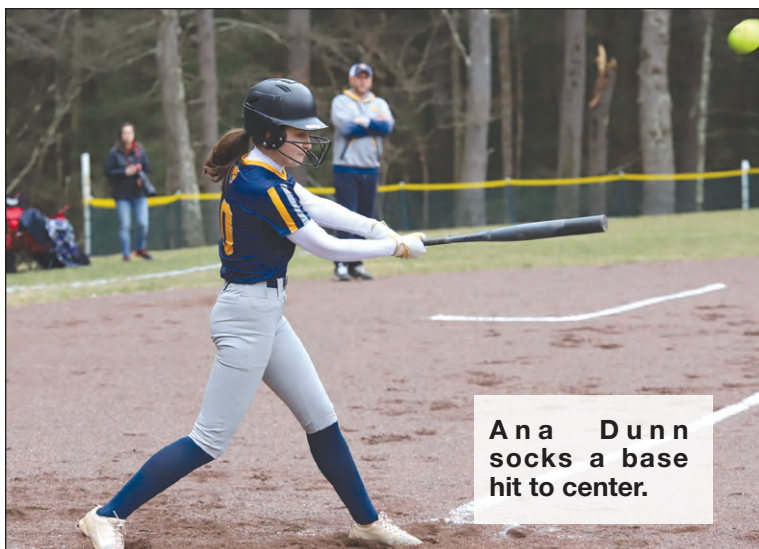
Mady Breault fires a pitch to the plate.



Aiden LaPointe comes up with the grounder and throws to first.



Alijah Flint makes a cutoff throw home.



Ana Dunn socks a base hit to center.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



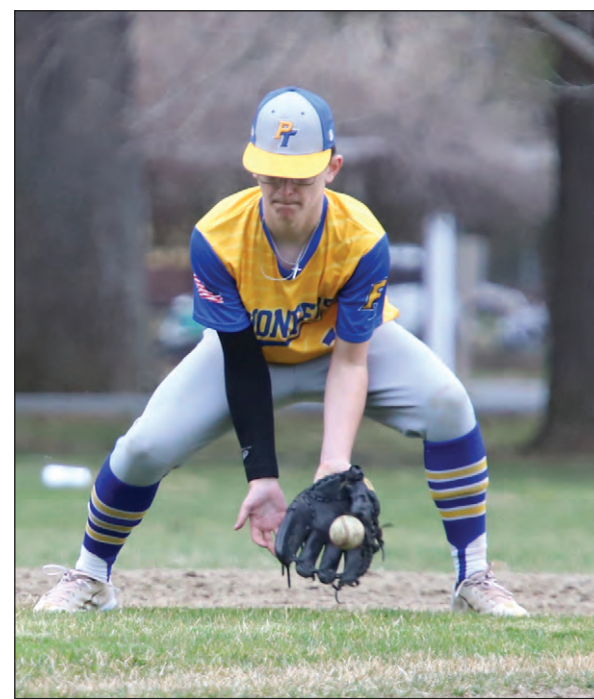
Meaghan Doyle makes the catch in center field.

## Pioneers look for another win

PALMER – Pathfinder Regional baseball got the win in their first matchup of the season against the High School of Science and Technology last Monday afternoon 10-9. But the action has been limited for the Pioneers since then thanks to poor weather.

The Pioneers have had one game postponed by rainy weather and poor field conditions, and despite warmer temperatures, the Pioneers game against SICS earlier this week was also in danger of being postponed.

The Pioneers are supposed to have their home opener against Commerce on Friday, April 12 at 2 p.m. at St. Joe's Field.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Brayden Mega cleanly fields a ground ball.



Zander Auffrey reaches up to make a catch.



Derek Castro Rivera makes a catch in left field.



Tim Russell makes his way down the first base line



Hunter Griswold comes in to score a run.

## Indians have yet to play in shortened season

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Thanks to poor weather and the eclipse earlier this week, North Brookfield softball has seen no game action so far this season. The Indians have a shorter schedule than normal, with only 11 games on their current schedule.

The first of which was against Murdock and was postponed on Monday. The Indians hope to get their regular season started on Thursday, Apr. 11 against Quaboag at 3:30 p.m. They then face Pathfinder Regional on the road at 11 a.m.

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

WOBURN – Registration for the 42nd annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2024 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from May 11 – July 27 at venues throughout eastern and central Massachusetts including Game On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point

Sports Complex in Weymouth, and North Star Ice Sports in Westborough. Bay State Games participants range in age from 5 to over age 75 and represent more than 300 Massachusetts communities as well as surrounding New England States in some sports. From grassroots participants to accomplished amateur athletes, the

Bay State Games provide opportunities for the athlete in all of us.

Seven high school showcase sports will take place for a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, soccer, softball, and volleyball. Athletes currently in grade 8-11 who live or go to school in Massachusetts are eligible to

attend regional tryouts during the month of June. These tryouts will determine teams representing the various regions of the Commonwealth that will compete against each other in July. Check each sport page for specific eligibility requirements.

The Summer Games include a wide variety of individual sports

including swimming, track & field, figure skating, pickleball, wrestling, weightlifting, badminton, and more. These sports are open to a wide range of ages and skill levels from youth participants to masters-aged athletes. Adaptive sport divisions in archery, swimming, and track & field are offered, as well. Bay State Games

also organizes tournaments for pre-existing teams in rugby, and 6v6 field hockey.

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

See BAY STATE GAMES, page 10









# Public Safety

## Hardwick Police Log

During the week of April 1-8, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 54 building/property checks, 45 directed/area patrols, five traffic controls, five radar assignments, eight emergency 911 calls, two assist other agencies, four citizen assists, one larceny/theft/shoplifting, 16 safety hazards, one motor vehicle investigation, one investigation, three animal calls and 12 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

### Monday, April 1

10:28 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
11:19 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
4:25 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Mechanic Street, Transported to Hospital  
8:26 p.m. Assist Citizen, Prouty Road, Officer Handled

### Tuesday, April 2

6:58 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning  
2:57 p.m. 911 Elevator Call/Alarms, Old Petersham Road, Dispatch Handled  
5:25 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Services Rendered  
9:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Summons Issued

### Wednesday, April 3

9:35 a.m. Assist Citizen, Unknown Location, Officer Handled  
2:31 p.m. Larceny/Theft/Shoplifting, Bridge Street, Report Taken  
5:35 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled  
8:18 p.m. Assist Citizen, Old Petersham Road, Negative Contact  
11:34 p.m. Safety Hazard, Muddy Brook Road, Removed Hazard

### Thursday, April 4

6:14 a.m. Safety Hazard, Jackson Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
6:15 a.m. Safety Hazard, Lyman Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
6:24 a.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
6:33 a.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
7:05 a.m. Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Services Rendered  
7:40 a.m. Safety Hazard, North Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
7:41 a.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
8:15 a.m. Safety Hazard, Ridge Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
8:34 a.m. Safety Hazard, Jackson Road, Dispatch Handled  
8:42 a.m. Safety Hazard, Muddy Brook Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
10:04 a.m. Safety Hazard, Barre

Road, Dispatch Handled  
10:28 a.m. Safety Hazard, Church Lane, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
10:29 a.m. Safety Hazard, Jackson Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
10:33 a.m. Safety Hazard, North Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
1:21 p.m. 911 Misdiagnosis, Hardwick Road, Dispatch Handled  
1:54 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Petersham Road, No Action Required  
9:38 p.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Services Rendered

### Friday, April 5

6:36 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Citation Issued  
7:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Unknown Location, Investigated  
10:01 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital  
1:35 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Collins Road, Services Rendered  
2:32 p.m. Investigation, Lower Road, Officer Handled  
4:58 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Collins Road, Services Rendered

### Saturday, April 6

8:07 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital  
1:16 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Collins Road, Transported to Hospital

## Baystate Wing partners with Palmer Police to provide Naloxone

PALMER – Baystate Wing Hospital and the Palmer Police Department have joined forces in an effort to prevent opioid-related deaths by installing NaloxBoxes in accessible locations on campus.

The installed boxes provide free public access to the overdose-reversing drug Naloxone. NaloxBox, similar to mounted Automated Electronic Defibrillators (AED), is a publicly available overdose response tool made accessible to the general public.

“The NaloxBoxes have been installed at Baystate Wing Hospital in Emergency Department waiting room bathrooms and Entrance 3 - the History Hallway. There is also a NaloxBox in the main lobby of the Griswold Center lobby,” said Danielle Olive, clinical program manager of Baystate Behavioral Health Griswold Center-Palmer. “Each box contains Narcan, the brand name of Naloxone, a medication that can reverse an opioid overdose. The boxes have been installed in accessible areas that are open to the public so that, if someone is overdosing, a person or a loved one can immediately access the medication and administer it.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drugs take nearly 300 lives every day.

Naloxone is a life-saving medication that can reverse an overdose from opioids, including heroin, fentanyl, and prescription opioid medications, when given

in time. Naloxone quickly reverses an overdose by blocking the effects of opioids.

It can restore normal breathing within 2-3 minutes in a person whose breath has slowed, or even stopped, as a result of opioid overdose. More than one dose of naloxone may be required when stronger opioids like fentanyl are involved.

Olive and Sergeant David Burns are collaborating with the Northampton Department of Health and Human Services Drug Addiction Recovery Team (DART) and the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance. They have been meeting and are planning to host events and forums in the future that will include community involvement.

They are in the beginning stages of developing an Opioid Task Force with Baystate Wing team members that will work to address addiction-related issues and reduce stigma about substance use.

“As a police officer, I have seen first-hand the devastation of opioid addiction,” said Burns. “I firmly believe that by working together, healthcare organizations, law enforcement, and community advocates can have a serious impact on substance use in our community. Our partnership is an effort to help to save lives and help with the adverse effects of those dealing with problematic substance use and substance use disorder by beginning a regional collaboration.”

“Opioid abuse affects every-

one,” said Karli Barrett, vice president, chief nursing officer, and chief administrative officer for Baystate Wing Hospital. “The NaloxBox placements give easy access to those in need and put the general public on notice that they too can save a life. We are proud to be a part of this collaborative effort to facilitate the delivery of this life-saving medication and to continue collaborating with local partners to address the needs of our community. We are grateful to work closely with the Palmer Police Department, for their donation of the NaloxBoxes and for their commitment to maintaining them.”

The Baystate Behavioral Health Griswold Center-Palmer has been providing outpatient mental health and addiction recovery services. The team of providers cares for the long-term needs of the psychiatric patient and provides services for all ages from young children through the end of life.

The multidisciplinary team is committed to supporting patients during both the evaluation period and throughout the stages of recovery. The Griswold Center also has providers who specialize in substance use disorders.

The team offers individual and group therapy, and individual counseling for adolescents, and provides medication for opioid use disorder, including buprenorphine (suboxone) and naltrexone (vivitrol).

For more information, please call 413-370-5285.

## New Braintree Police Log

### New Braintree Police Log

During the week of April 1-8, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 15 building/property checks, 44 directed/area patrols, six traffic controls, six radar assignments, three emergency 911 calls, one citizen assist, 15 safety hazards, one scam, one investigation, one motor vehicle investigation, two fires, three animal calls, two motor vehicle accidents and five motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

### Monday, April 1

1:53 p.m. Scam, Oakham Cut Off Road, Report Taken

### Tuesday, April 2

8:58 a.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Investigated  
1:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Citation Issued  
1:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning  
8:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, West Brookfield Road, Investigated

### Thursday, April 4

4:47 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
5:47 a.m. Safety Hazard, Utley Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
6:22 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Gilbertville Road, Report Taken  
6:50 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Brookfield Road, Officer Handled  
7 a.m. Safety Hazard, Padre Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
7:31 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Padre Road, Services Rendered  
7:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident, Mara Road, Report Taken  
7:42 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Road, Removed Hazard  
7:43 a.m. Safety Hazard, Padre Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
7:59 a.m. Safety Hazard, Barr Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
8:31 a.m. Safety Hazard, Utley Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
8:34 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Brookfield Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
10:08 a.m. Fire/Other, Havens Road, Services Rendered  
10:20 a.m. Safety Hazard, Dennis Whitney Road, Taken/Referred to Other

### Agency

10:34 a.m. Safety Hazard, Cushman Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
1:31 p.m. Assist Citizen, Unknown Location, Dispatch Handled  
1:42 p.m. Safety Hazard, West Brookfield Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency  
2:59 p.m. Fire/Other, Gilbertville Road, Investigated

### Friday, April 5

3:58 p.m. Safety Hazard, West Brookfield Road, Services Rendered  
5:04 p.m. Investigation, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

### Saturday, April 6

11:24 a.m. 911 Animal Call, West Brookfield Road, Services Rendered

### Sunday, April 7

4:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, West Brookfield Road, Citation Issued

### Monday, April 8

1:23 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Worcester Road, Transported to Hospital

## Senate acts to prevent abuse and exploitation online

BOSTON – State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) joined his colleagues in the Senate to pass bipartisan legislation aimed at preventing abuse and exploitation online by criminalizing the dissemination of sexually explicit images or videos without an individual’s consent.

The bill, S.2073, An Act to Prevent Abuse and Exploitation, takes a multifaceted approach to tackling online harassment and exploitation. It includes provisions for a comprehensive educational program designed to help adolescents understand the severe consequences of posting indecent visual depictions online.

Oliveira emphasized the significance of the bill’s approach in a press release, stating, “With this legislation, the Senate has made it clear that this form of bullying, harassment, and exploitation will not be tolerated. Survivors will receive the justice and support they deserve. And the educational

programs included in this bill will ensure that young people understand the damaging effects of this behavior.”

Oliveira thanked Senate leadership for their collaborative effort in developing this extensive bill.

“The final bipartisan bill, unanimously passed by the Senate on Thursday [March 21], was crafted with the guidance of Senate President Spilka, Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means Senator Michael J. Rodrigues, Senate Chair of the Judiciary Committee Senator Jamie Eldridge, and the bill’s primary sponsor Senator John F. Keenan. I want to recognize them for their efforts on this landmark bill.”

The key features of the bill include:

Comprehensive Educational Program: The bill mandates the development of a comprehensive educational diversion program by the Office of the Child Advocate.

This program will educate adolescents on the consequences of sexting and posting indecent visuals online. School districts will be required to promote media literacy skills and utilize content from the OCA’s

program.

**Definition of Coercive Control:** The legislation defines coercive control providing individuals with the ability to seek abuse prevention orders in threatening situations.

**Increased Fines and New Offenses:** The bill increases fines for criminal harassment and establishes new offenses for the unlawful distribution of explicit material.

**Creation of Commission:** An amendment was adopted to create a commission tasked with examining the impacts of technology and the internet on protecting individuals from harm, abuse, and exploitation.

Advocates across the state have voiced strong support for the bill. Deb Mann Schmill, Founder and President of the Becca Schmill Foundation, highlighted its importance in protecting individuals from online exploitation.

“The passing of this legislation by the Senate today is an important milestone for all victims of online image-based sexual exploitation in Massachusetts,” said Schmill.

This marks the second time the Senate has passed a version of this legislation. Following the House of Representatives previous passage of a similar bill, the two branches will now reconcile differences before sending it to the Governor for consideration.



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