

# BARRE GAZETTE

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## Schools districts met with legislators about funding

By Paula Ouimette  
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BARRE – The Quabbin Regional School District hosted a “Conversation with our Legislators” this past Monday, with representation from across the district’s five towns, as well as from neighboring school districts and communities.

State Sen. Peter Durant, along with State Reps. Todd Smola, Donnie Berthiaume and John Marsi attended the meeting to hear concerns about Rural School Aid funding, Chapter 70 funding, declining enrollment and more.

Also attending were Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools President Paul Haughey, who is also the superintendent of the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District; North Brookfield Public Schools Superintendent Tim McCormick; Quabog



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

**State Reps. Todd Smola and Donnie Berthiaume met with school administrators and town officials during a “Conversation with our Legislators” meeting hosted by the Quabbin Regional School District.**

Regional School District Superintendent Stephen Duff; and Tantasqua Regional School District Superintendent Deborah Boyd.

Quabbin Regional School

District Superintendent Colleen Mucha said this was an opportunity to speak directly to the area’s legislators, and share their concerns.

“The goal of today is we

really wanted to have a united front,” she said. “We are trying to work together.”

Haughey spoke on behalf of the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools, and said there are

a “lot of common threads” between all of the schools districts, including the rising costs of being a people-driven field.

“We’re human resources heavy and as a result, there’s a lot of expense in that,” he said.

Haughey said the per pupil funding in Minimum Aid needs to be increased to at least \$150, but that a more accurate number would be much higher.

“It’s still not enough,” he said. “We need \$200-250 to make this run right.”

Haughey said the cost of transportation for both general education and special education is “quite concerning.” He said many school districts only receive one or two quotes for transportation to choose from when they go out to bid, which backs them in a corner financially.

Transportation costs

**See RURAL SCHOOLS, page 6**

## Board discussed town pool article

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis  
Staff Writer  
zachf@turley.com

RUTLAND – The Select Board signed the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting to be held on May 9, after discussing article 18, which pertains to the improvement of the town pool, including the resurfacing and retiling of the pool.

Town Administrator Heather Butler said the director of the recreation department does not believe they have enough money to support the project, of which they are set to pay about \$88,000 over 10 years, out of the about \$135,000 the project will cost in total.

According to Butler, the recreational department would need to gain \$30,000-\$40,000 a year in surplus money to be able to afford it, but they currently only get about \$15,000 a year, and even then the amount fluctuates. Butler said keeping the article on the warrant gives town meeting voters the chance to discuss and vote for it, but the Select Board has the authority to remove it completely.

The board voted to keep the article on the warrant, with amendments. The board also signed the election warrant for May 11.

**Streetlight requests**

The board received two streetlight requests, one to be

**See RUTLAND, page 8**

## Planning Board hears gas station plan

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis  
Staff Writer  
zachf@turley.com

BARRE – The Planning Board held a public hearing last Tuesday, where Bruce McDonald and Pine Hill Leasing, the organization applying for the building, presented a plan for a gas station, convenient store, and car wash to be placed where the current RJ McDonald Inc. building is located.

According to the agenda, the property is located in the assessor’s map H, lots 218

and 219, and recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds book 72349 page 62.

McDonald said the gas station would be a “great asset” to the town, and he said it is needed because there is only one gas station in the town. He said the plan for this building would allow it to be more expansive.

He said residents have been wanting a car wash as well, and the plan would be to build the car wash simulta-

**See PLANNING BOARD, page 10**

## Oakham Senior Center hosts program on scam prevention

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

OAKHAM – Seniors gathered at the Oakham Senior Center this past week for a presentation on scam prevention by the office of District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr. of the Worcester County District Attorney’s Office

Kevin Donohue, a member of the D.A. Community Outreach team gave the presentation to keep adults and older

adults informed on the various current scams.

Donohue first addressed phone scams, which were still a popular tool for scammers. A way to avoid any phone scams was to not answer a caller they did not recognize and let it go to voicemail. At that point, folks could make an educated decision after hearing a voicemail to answer the call if it appeared legitimate.

If a number was left on the voicemail should look up the number to verify,

who was trying to contact them. Many scams claimed to be a bank and other sources. “Call the number you know to be true,” Donohue said.

When it comes to scammers, Donohue explained that “a scammer wants to be believable.” Scammers pretended to pass as another person to collect information of a person they’re trying to scam.

As a result, scams resulted in data breach-

**See OAKHAM, page 8**

## Public records requests cost town employee time and money

By Ellenor Downer  
Editor  
edowner@turley.com

BARRE – Town Administrator Melanie Jackson said she received public record requests from Cory Bombredi.

She said the requests take up a lot of her time and the executive assistant’s and cost the taxpayer’s money for the legal fees. Bombredi’s requested executive session minutes for March 18, 2025; March 24, 2025 and Jan. 9, 2026. Since all of these meetings involved personnel issues and needed to be redacted by legal counsel. The Select Board approved the release of the redacted executive session minutes and were sent to Bombredi.

Town Administrator Jackson said, “That same day, Mr. Bombredi sent an appeal to the state with complaints of the names of the employees and their individual personnel issues being redacted.” She said rather than “unnecessarily waste more of the taxpayer’s money” for legal fees, she would wait to see what

for the Supervisor of Public Records response.

Bombredi also filed an open meeting law complaint against the town on March 21 regarding executive session minutes of June 3, 2024 that he requested. The Select Board again voted to expend taxpayer funds to allow Town Counsel to answer his complaint.

**Veterans Service Officer**

Veteran’s Service Officer Garrett Skinner passed his Veterans Service Officer state exam and was now certified. He also held regular coffee hours at the Senior Center.

**Letter of Opposition**

The Select Board voted to send a letter of opposition to state bill S 2411. Treasurer/Collector Shelby LaMothe said the State wanted eliminate the motor vehicle excise enforcement mechanism through a bill before the legislature S 2874. This would result in a loss of revenue to the town by eliminating the mechanism, which assisted the town in collecting over due excise taxes by prohibiting those not paying to renew their registration for their vehicle.

Select Board Member Richard Stevens said in Fiscal Year 2026 5,663 excise tax bills were issued for

a total for about \$697,000. Of those bills, 1,476 are in demand status. Town Administrator said demand notices would be sent.

**Town Accountant**

Due to the resignation of Town Accountant Jean Joel, Town Administrator Jackson said CBIZ Accounting Service was filling those duties until a replacement could be found.

**Citizens for Right of First Refusal**

The newly formed committee members met with the Select Board at their Monday, April 6 meeting. The committee said for the town to exercise the right of first refusal to purchase land in Chapter 61 A or B, an appraisal of the property must be done. They said the wait time to schedule an appraisal date was long as appraisers were “hard to come by.” They suggested the town contact and line up an appraiser before the need would arise. It took one to two months for an appraisal. The town had 120 days to act. Once the appraisal was completed, the owner would no longer be able to withdraw.

**See BARRE, page 10**



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

**Community Heart & Soul Coach Catherine Ingraham-White spoke about the positive impacts of the resident-driven process.**

## Community Heart & Soul

A resident-driven process to engage the community

By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – More than a dozen people gathered at the Haston Free Public Library to learn about a resident-driven process that can help to encourage community activism and involvement.

This past Saturday, Community Heart & Soul Coach Catherine Ingraham-

White explained how the nonprofit organization got started, and how it can help communities such as North Brookfield.

Founded by Lyman Orton (the proprietor of The Vermont Country Store), its mission is to establish a community development process that “engages all voices within a community in determining what matters most to the people who live there, and using their ideas and aspirations as the blueprint for future decision-making.”

Over 130 small cities and towns across the nation

have become Heart & Soul communities, including three towns in the commonwealth – Leicester, Winchendon and Pepperell. North Brookfield has been awarded grant funding to become the fourth through the Greater Worcester Community Foundation.

“This is an opportunity for North Brookfield,” Ingraham-White said. “It takes planning from a grassroots approach.”

Ingraham-White has been a Community Heart

**See HEART & SOUL, page 10**



# News of the Towns



## ROUND TOWN

by Ellenor Downer  
edowner@turley.com

### Auxiliary hosts veterans coffee hour

The Barre American Legion Auxiliary invites veterans of all ages to join the seniors on Friday, April 17 from 1:30-11:30 a.m. in the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road. This is being held on a Friday this month.

### Clothing swap

A clothing swap sponsored by Barre Community Resilience as part of a Barre Earth Day event will take place Saturday, April 25 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Commonplace Market, 56 Common St., Barre. From April 1 to April 23 people may bring their clean, unstained and unwanted clothes and accessories to The Commonplace Market, left side of the old Barre Bank Building during business hours Wednesday to Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Items dropped off ahead of time will be organized into bins by size/type. Items brought on April 25 will be placed into a miscellaneous bin for people to rummage through.

### Annual repair fair

The Barre Historical Society, 18-20 Common St., will hold their second annual free repair fair on Saturday, April 25 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Rain date is Sunday, April 26. This event is run in conjunction with Earth Day events being held on Barre Common for the purpose of sharing knowledge and reducing waste while fostering a sense of community. Repair stations include: Steve Clark and Dave Flick-wiring(lamps/plugs), small furniture touch-up/light repairs; Jayne Day coffee making queen-stop by for a free cup; Chris Higgins-knife and tool sharpening (limit of two items per person); Alice Lambert ceramics repair; bring a chipped or cracked vase, plate, bowl for fixing; Tracy LaRosa check in table/information center director to assist all guests with guidance on which tables to attend for their needs; Tony Menegoni bicycle spring tune up/repair; Kellee Murphy jewelry cleaning/minor repair; Barbara Potterand Sarah Rosa sewing repair, clothes, stuffed animals, blankets, etc.; Colton Prentiss welding/small engine/small tractor repair; Joanne Vierra houseplant Service and Rescue with demonstrations on the half-hour and watch repair.

### Lions Club scholarship

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

## First Meeting House holds plant sale

HUBBARDSTON – The annual spring plant sale will be held Saturday, May 9 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the First Meeting House, 2 Main St.

Perennials from early spring flowering to late fall flowering and all season long will be available for purchase. There will also be edible plants, some annuals like geraniums and some woody plants. Most are grown in local gardens so purchasers know they grow in the area.

This is a great way to add to an existing garden or start a new one. Plants make wonderful Mother's Day gifts. Donations of extra garden plants are gratefully accepted. This plant sale helps preserve the historic Meeting House. Donations may be dropped off on Saturday, May 8 at 8 a.m. People should label names of the plants.



An attentive audience listens to Dr. Joseph Goldstein talk about "Buddhism Comes to Barre."

## BHS hosts program on Buddhism

BARRE– The Barre Historical Society hosted Dr. Joseph Goldstein, co-founder of Insight Meditation Center and the Barre Center for Buddhist Studies, on Thursday,

April 9 from 6-8 p.m. in the Woods Memorial Library.

People learned about this world renown founder and the meditation center as he presents "Buddhism

Comes to Barre."

Located in the old mansion on Pleasant Street when it opened on Feb. 14, 1976, just over 50 years ago, this iconic facility has been operating ever since.

## Nym Cooke to speak at Historical Society on early American music

PETERSHAM – The Petersham Historical Society welcomes early American music historian Nym Cooke as guest speaker for their annual meeting on Friday, April 24 in the Petersham Town Hall, 1 South Main St.

A brief annual meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. and the program will begin at 7 p.m. Cooke's talk, "Harmony and Discord: Musical Conflicts in New England Meeting Houses" will tell tales of musical disagreements and agreements during the Nation's early years. Everyone is invited to come join in for an exploration of musical intrigue, conflict, and community.

Nym Cooke, a Petersham resident, is a scholar, teacher, choral conductor and musical historian, who is an international expert in the early sacred choral music of America. He became intrigued with the early music history of New England while studying for his undergraduate and PhD degrees at Harvard College and University of Michigan.

"Every time I wrote a musical composition,"

he says, "it sounded like 'early New England music', so I began studying and researching and finding stunning melodies from early composers, like Timothy Swan (of Northfield) and Justin Morgan (of Vermont). It was wonderful! I abandoned musical composition and that was the beginning of my career as an American music historian."

During his research times, Cooke observed how old conventions and then innovations caused conflict and reconciliation for cherished choral traditions of the past. Cooke brought this interest to Petersham and explored old town and church records for glimpses into its musical history.

"I didn't go looking for harmony and discord in the history of New England's early music, but as I investigated the subject, one controversy after another relating to the music in the meetinghouse came to

light," he says. "And it was clear that all these subjects evoked extremely strong feelings. One deacon, 'deeply mortified at the triumph of musical reformation,'



Nym Cooke

seized his hat and left the services in tears. That did not happen in Petersham, but for the first time, this town's historical records have been thoroughly plumbed for clues about Petersham's sacred music, and interesting details and patterns have come to light."

Cooke's talk will survey conflicts and congruence throughout New England and Petersham. To demonstrate early music, a chorus of a capella singers is also promised, to fill the town hall with sweet harmony and maybe a little discord.

The program is free and open to everyone. This program is supported in part through a generous grant from the Petersham Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

## 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 20. 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 – Patriot's Day No meals served.

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

WEDNESDAY – Roast turkey and

gravy, mashed sweet potatoes, roasted Brussels sprouts, fruited ambrosia, marble rye bread

THURSDAY – Breaded mac and cheese, stewed tomatoes, green beans, birthday cake, diet = small piece, Italian bread

FRIDAY – Teriyaki beef, steamed rice, broccoli, pineapple, whole wheat bread, fortune cookie

\*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.



## OAKHAM

by Ellenor Downer  
edowner@turley.com

### Church to hold pasta supper

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, on Saturday, April 25 from 5-6:30 p.m. will hold a pasta, meatball supper with salad and garlic bread. Dessert will be ice cream. The supper is open to all. A free will donation either check or cash will benefit the church furnace fund. Checks should be made out to Oakham Congregational Church and write furnace fund in memo section of check.

### Oakham trip invitation

A bus trip to Ogunquit playhouse, and lunch at Jonathan's in Ogunquit, Maine is scheduled for Thursday, June 11 sponsored by the Hubbardston Council on Aging. The Oakham COA received an invitation to Oakham seniors to attend the trip. A bus will depart Curtis Recreation Field in Hubbardston at 9 a.m. to arrive at Jonathan's for 11:30 a.m. lunch. The group will depart Jonathan's at 1 p.m. for the 2 p.m. show of "Ain't Too Proud." The bus will depart for home at 4:45 p.m. There are two choices for lunch – chicken piccata and seafarer's cache (baked shrimp, salmon and white fish in white wine and lemon. Both meal choices include salad and dessert. People should indicate their choice when signing up. Total cost is \$204 and includes luncheon, show, transportation and driver's gratuity. Deposit of \$50 is due now and balance due Sunday, May 3. Trip needs 40 people minimum. People should call Claudia Provencal to sign up at 978-928-1400, extension 221. They should leave their name and phone number.

### BSER shavings sale

Bay State Equine Rescue will hold their annual bagged shavings sale with a pickup date of Tuesday, April 28 from 8:30-11 a.m. at Camp Marshall, 92 McCormick Road, Spencer. A minimum order of ten bags is required. Cost is \$6.50 per bag up to 149 bags and \$6.25 per bag for 150 or more bags. Bags are 3.25 cubic feet compressed or 7.5 cubic feet loose. Orders will be filled directly from the supplier's trailer. People will need to have their own people to load the shavings onto the truck or trailer they are using to transport the shavings. Payment is by cash or check made payable to Bay State Equine Rescue at time of pickup. People may order shavings by calling Sharon at 508-221-8474 or emailing sah@baystaterescue.org. For those, who don't need shavings, they may make a donation. The rescue can use all the support they can get given these difficult times. Thank you from all of us at Bay State Equine Rescue and the horses we strive to give a better life to. People may donate online by visiting www.baystateequinerescue.com/donate or by mailing to BSER, 415 Hunt Road, Oakham MA 01068.

### April COA news

Podiatry clinic will be held Monday, April 20 from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in the Oakham Senior Center; an appointment is required. Lunch Bunch will meet on Friday, April 17 at Table Twelve, 175 West Boylston St. in West Boylston at 12:30 p.m. Glucose/blood pressure screening will be held Tuesday, April 28 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Also, Friday, May 1, the COA will be hosting a May Day lunch gathering at the Senior Center at 12:30 p.m. Lasagna will be served, as well as sides and desserts. Seniors should sign up at the Senior Center to attend. These events are in addition to the ongoing activities such as puzzling Monday through Thursday at 9 a.m., regularly scheduled yoga Tuesdays at 1 p.m., Zumba Gold in New Braintree Town Hall Wednesdays at 8:45 a.m. \$3 per class and Functional fitness class Fridays in New Braintree Town Hall at 10:30 a.m., \$3 per class. Walking groups and weigh in on Thursdays at noon.

### Congregate hot meals

Congregate hot meals are held Monday through Thursday at 11:15 a.m. Reservations are needed at least two days in advance and can be made through the Congregate Meal Coordinator from 9 a.m.-12.15 p.m. by calling 508-882-4072.

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# News of the Towns

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

### BARRE

Master Plan Steering Committee – April 16 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Quabbin Regional School District Budget Subcommittee – April 16 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Quabbin Regional School District Committee – April 16 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Select Board – April 21 at 5 p.m.  
 Board of Assessors – April 21 at 6 p.m.  
 Planning Board – April 21 and May 5 at 7 p.m.  
 Cemetery Commission – April 23 at 11 a.m.  
 Zoning Board of Appeals – April 23 at 6 p.m. and May 14 at 7 p.m.  
 Felton Field Commission – May 5 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Council of Aging – May 6 at 12:20 p.m.  
 Library Trustees – May 13 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Barre Housing Authority – May 14 at 1 p.m.

### HARDWICK

Town Hall Advisory Committee – April 16 at 4:30 p.m.  
 Gilbertville Water District – April 21 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Board of Health – April 22 at 6:50 p.m.  
 Paige Library Trustees – April 23 at 6 p.m. and May 7 at 7 p.m.  
 Master Plan Steering Committee – April 23 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – May 6 at 12:30 p.m.  
 Paige Library Trustees – May 7 at 7 p.m.  
 Gilbertville Public Library – May 13 at 3 p.m.  
 Capital Planning Committee – May 18 at 3 p.m.

### HUBBARDSTON

Council on Aging – April 22 at 4 p.m.  
 Select Board Public Hearing – April 21 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Agricultural Commission – Aug. 22 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Board of Health – April 28, May 12 and May 26 at 7 p.m.  
 Planning Board – April 30, May 6 and May 21 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Conservation Commission – May 5 at 7 p.m.  
 Board of Library Trustees – May 7 at 7 p.m.  
 Board of Assessors – May 20 at 6 p.m.

### NORTH BROOKFIELD

Special Town Meeting – April 17 at 6 p.m.  
 Town Election – May 4 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.  
 Planning Board – May 13 at 6 p.m.

### OAKHAM

Board of Selectmen – April 28 at 7 p.m.  
 Library Trustees – April 29 at 4:30 p.m.

### PETERSHAM

Select Board – April 16 at 5:30 p.m., April 21 at 3 p.m., April 23 and April 30 and May 7, May 14, May 21, May 28 and June 11 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Petersham Historic District – April 16 at 6 p.m.  
 Advisory Finance Committee – April 23 and April 30 at 7 p.m. and May 7, May 14, May 21, May 28 and June 1 at 6 p.m.  
 Zoning Board of Appeals – April 28 at 7 p.m.  
 Open Space and Recreation Committee – May 5 at 6 p.m.  
 Conservation Commission – May 5 at 7 p.m.  
 Board of Assessors – May 22 at 9 a.m.

### RUTLAND

Finance Committee – April 16 at 6 p.m.  
 Town Charter Committee – April 16 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Historical Commission – April 28 at 5 p.m.



Submitted photo

Rhode Island Blood Center staff and donor Allison Forte of Petersham, in the chair.

## Petersham Lions Club holds blood drive

PETERSHAM – The Petersham Lions Club recently sponsored a blood drive with the Rhode Island Blood Center, which has recently been granted licensure in Massachusetts, with a facility in Swansea and more importantly mobile blood drives.

On Saturday, April 11 in the Lower Petersham Town Hall, the RIBC crew under the direction of Erica, the onsite manager, the team was just the happiest and friendliest of professionals. This is the first time in several decades that an onsite blood drive has been done in town and it was met with huge success and everyone asking when it will be done again.

Currently the Petersham Lions Clubs is looking at hosting a drive again in September 2026 and possible one in the summer as well as it is peak need season. There were 32 donors including six walk-in donors. A few folks were deferred, but all in all, there were 28 successful donations garnishing 29 units of blood with one person being a “Double Red” donor.

A “Double Red” donor has two units of red blood cells collected, but the person’s plasma and platelets are returned to them. The end result is a double amount of red blood cells collected. The minimum weight & height criteria that is a little higher than regular donations.

The process takes about 40 minutes as opposed to 20 minutes for a regular donation. “Double Red” is available to all O-, O+, A+, A-,

B+, B-.

Due to ongoing research and methods of blood collection, processing and usage, many people who may not have been able to donate in the past can now donate. Even those who take blood thinner medication may donate. The center just does not use the platelets in the donor’s blood, but this allows so many more people the ability to donate. The RIBC has a donor information page on the website at <https://www.rIBC.org/donate-blood/donor-eligibility>.

The whole donation process beginning with sign in takes about 30 minutes and donors are asked to stay for about 15 minutes and enjoy the drinks and snacks, to allow their bodies to adjust to the change in their blood volume. If they thought they were not eligible to donate, they should check the new guidelines as they may now qualify.

Blood cannot be manufactured or created. Only a person can donate blood. One pint can serve up to three adults and even more children and babies. Blood is needed for those with medical conditions needing regular transfusions, surgery patients and trauma victims.

It could go to a newborn just fighting to stay alive, a young child battling leukemia, a teen in a car accident, a young woman with anemia, a middle-aged man with a bleeding ulcer, or an elderly woman having a heart operation.

According to facts from

the Rhode Island Blood Center, about a pint of blood is taken and adults have between nine and 12 pints. Their body will begin replacing the blood components within 24 hours. They need only wait eight weeks between donations, so they can give often, up to six times a year. Less than 3% of the population donates, yet 80% will need a transfusion of one or more units in their lifetime.

The RIBC offers information on how to increase and maintain your iron stores, which is required for red blood cell production in your body. They have a two minute video, on the website but the information on the website says that while eating a well-balanced diet is important for all donors, simply eating iron-rich foods may not replace all the iron lost from blood donation. Taking multivitamins with iron or iron supplements, either prescribed or over-the-counter (from a drugstore), may help replace lost iron. Iron supplements vary in name and proportion of iron within the tablet/caplet.

RIBC recommends snacks with Vitamin A beta-carotene which helps iron absorption, iron storage and hemoglobin levels. As always a well balanced meal is always the best but meat, fish and eggs, peanut butter, nuts and seeds as well as tofu are all great to increase iron levels and allow the body to maintain a healthy level of red blood cells also known as hemoglobin or Hgb for short.

## Historical Society holds annual repair fair

BARRE –The Barre Historical Society, 18-20 Common St., will hold their second annual repair fair on Saturday, April 25 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

If this day is a complete rain washout, like last spring, they will host the event on Sunday, April 26 instead. People may recall from last year that this is a free community event, focused on repairing items where volunteers with certain areas of expertise will fix or advise on how-to, for various household items.

This event is run in conjunction with Earth Day

events being held on Barre Common for the purpose of sharing knowledge and reducing waste while fostering a sense of community.

Repair stations include: Steve Clark and Dave Flick-wiring(lamps/plugs), small furniture touch-up/light repairs; Jayne Day coffee making queen-stop by for a free cup; Chris Higgins-knife and tool sharpening (limit of two items per person); Alice Lambert ceramics repair; bring a chipped or cracked vase, plate, bowl for fixing; Tracy LaRosa check in table/information center director to assist all guests with

guidance on which tables to attend for their needs; Tony Menegoni bicycle spring tune up/repair;

Kellee Murphy jewelry cleaning/minor repair; Barbara Potter and Sarah Rosa sewing repair, clothes, stuffed animals, blankets, etc.; Colton Prentiss welding/small engine/small tractor repair; Joanne Vierra houseplant Service and Rescue with demonstrations on the half-hour and watch repair.

## HUBBARDSTON

by Ellenor Downer  
 edowner@turley.com

### Girl Scouts hold bottle and can drive

The Hubbardston Girl Scouts will hold a bottle and can drive on Saturday, April 18 from 8 a.m.-noon at Curtis Recreation Field, Route 68. They accept returnable bottles and cans only.

### Scrap metal fundraiser

A scrap metal fundraiser sponsored by the First Meetinghouse Preservation Committee will be held on Saturday, April 18 from 8 a.m.-noon with drop off at Curtis Rec Field, Route 68, Hubbardston. This benefits the preservation of the First Meetinghouse on Hubbardston Common. Car and truck batteries are accepted with a \$10 fee per battery. Fees are \$1 per item or \$10 per truck load. They will not accept tires, liquids, gases, plastics, monitors or lithium batteries.

### Country Hen scholarships

The Country Hen Scholarship Fund awards a total of \$1,000 in scholarships to one or more graduating high school students from Hubbardston. Applicants must be a Hubbardston resident for at least three years, be a graduating high school senior planning to attend an accredited college or university and have demonstrated community involvement during their high school years. Applications are available online by visiting the town website at [www.hubbardstonma.gov](http://www.hubbardstonma.gov) and are due by Sunday, April 26. For questions, they should email [admin@hubbardstonma.gov](mailto:admin@hubbardstonma.gov).

### Town Administrator Search Committee

The nine member Town Administrator Search Committee needs one more town resident to server on the committee. People should visit <https://www.hubbardstonma.gov/488/Town-Administrator-Search-Committee> for more information. To apply, they should visit <https://hubbardstonma-hubconnect.app.transform.civicplus.com/forms/hubbardston-appointments?parentTile=Hub-BRESIDENTS>.

### Senior Center events

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

## Asparagus chowder at First Congregational Church

WEST BROOKFIELD – On Saturday, May 16 during the town of West Brookfield’s Asparagus, Heritage and Flower Festival on the town common, (10 a.m.-3 p.m.), the First Congregational Church, UCC, 36 North Main St., will offer their famous asparagus chowder from their Chowder Tent located on the church lawn.

Hot chowder by the cup, cold chowder by the quart to take home, yummy brownies and cold drinks will be available from 10 a.m. until it runs out. Inside and outside dining is available. Call the church for more information at 508-867-7078.

### Editorial deadline reminder

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

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

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# Opinion

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Voting for the future of our rural towns

In rural Central Massachusetts, elections should not be about who we know. They should be about whether our communities can continue to function and move forward.

Towns like Oakham, Barre, Hardwick, and New Braintree, along with others across our region, are under real pressure. Costs are rising. Even level funding means cutting services. At the same time, state support for education and local services has not kept pace with what small rural towns actually need.

Funding for rural communities is not equal. It is less than what larger, non-rural communities receive. Payments in lieu of taxes for state-owned land are also far below those seen in other parts of the Commonwealth.

We are being asked to do more with less.

We also face growing influence from outside our communities. State mandates, regional decisions, and large-scale projects can weaken local bylaws and reduce local con-

trol. Decisions that shape our towns are often made by people who do not live here.

And yet, the burden continues to fall on the local taxpayer.

This is why local elections matter.

Too often, we vote based on history or personal relationships. That is understandable, but it does not solve the challenges ahead.

We need to focus on the future.

Who understands the financial realities facing our towns?

Who is willing to make difficult decisions?

Who will advocate for fair funding and stand up for local control?

Doing things the way we always have is no longer sustainable.

Elections should not be about the past.

They should be about the future, and who is prepared to lead us there.

**Aaron Langlois**

*Oakham, former Board of Health member and Board of Selectmen*

### Tony Staiti was a friend and genuine human being

Most men pass through this life seeking only to live in peace and fend for themselves and their families.

Occasionally, it has been my very good fortune to know some who chose to reach a bit beyond the roles life intended for them. Tony Staiti was such a man and one who will be dearly missed by all who were lucky enough to have known and loved him. For his lovely wife Pat and his children, Tony, Jr. and Christine and their families who helped build the foundation of a life filled with purpose and meaning; a loss of unmeasurable extent.

But in the same breath, one filled with a rich treasure trove of happy and joyful memories. Every life has its moments of pure joy and pure heartache. It is both the price we pay and the reward we seek for living life to the fullest. I think that no one who knew him would ever say less of Tony.

A local businessman for more than fifty years, a devoted husband, father and grandfather for his family and a friend to all who

had the privilege and pleasure of his acquaintance. His golf course, Dunroamin Country Club was, for more than half a century, a cherished meeting place for golfers of all ages. He welcomed everyone with only the requirement that you respect the course and enjoy the game itself.

Today, Dunroamin has been reborn as Hardwick Crossing and, under new ownership, stands as a memorial to Tony's foresight and the hard work that he and his family devoted their lives to. To me, he was a trusted friend and confidant, first as a customer of mine and then my family as customers of his.

His unrivaled sense of humor and his limitless basket of funny stories made him among the most engaging people to spend time with I've ever known. I wish him only Godspeed on his journey and to his loving family, my deepest sympathies and best wishes.

**A.B. Splaine**

*Oakham*



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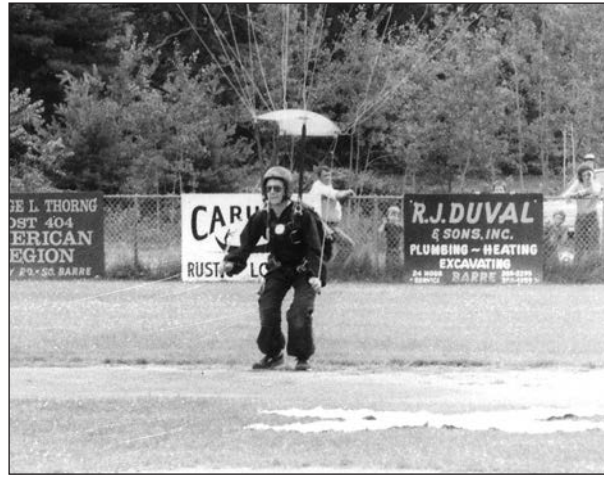
## In Past Pages

### 5 years (April 22, 2021)

Hubbardston Acting town administrator David Nixon went through the draft warrant for the ATM set for Tuesday, June 1. He said the warrant included standard articles, which appear every year. A new article this year, asked the voters to suspend the wiring inspector's revolving fund as the town was now covered by a regional wiring inspector and no longer needed the revolving account. Nixon said the Community Preservation Act Committee requested articles on the warrant, which totaled \$250,000 from CPA funds. The CPA articles included \$20,000 submitted by Habitat for Humanity for an affordable housing unit, the debt service for the Hubbardston Public Library roof, an amount toward the purchase of an Agricultural Protection Restriction on acreage located off Lombard Road. The town funds 10% and the state 90% of the purchase of development rights on the property. There were also articles for \$4,000 for administrative costs of the CPA Committee such as legal review, postage, attendance at CPA meeting, etc.; \$33,000 for interior work on the library and \$20,000 for exterior brick re-pointing and landscape of the library. The warrant also included a sign bylaw presented by the planning board.

Hardwick Board of Selectmen vice-chair Julie Quink said she met with various representatives and fire chiefs regarding proposed emergency medical services coverage during the board's April 15 meeting. Quink said the Ware Fire Department is not interested in covering all

### Look Back Barre Fair – 1986



File photo

**A picture perfect landing was made by one of the skydivers to the delight of the onlookers at the Barre Fair.**

of Hardwick, just part of it. The Barre Fire Department could also provide partial coverage at a combined assessment of \$99,500. Quink said West Brookfield Rescue Squad is the only one interested in covering the entire town. However, WBRS feels covering West Hardwick could be challenging with long response times. WBRS is only able to provide BLS services currently, not ALS. Quink said both Barre and Ware would continue to provide mutual aid.

The North Brookfield Board of Selectmen was introduced to the Police Department's newest candidate for hire, Mark Sawyer at their regular meeting last week. Sawyer, a resident of West Brookfield, was recommended by Police Chief Mark Smith for appointment to the position of full-time

police officer left vacant by Officer James Early earlier in the year. Sawyer has been a full-time police officer for three years. Smith said they had three candidates apply for the position and that Sawyer came highly recommended. Smith commended Lieutenant Ryan Daley for conducting a "very thorough" background check. "The board unanimously appointed Sawyer to the position of full-time police officer to start as soon as possible.

### 10 years (April 21, 2016)

The Museum of Science, Boston has selected 100 educators from 24 states, including one from North Brookfield Elementary School, to receive \$800 scholarships under a new program designed to bring

See PAST PAGES, page 5



## What I did last weekend

I was so looking forward to last Saturday, a day in which I did not have to drive anywhere. I could simply stay put and work on getting the yard in shape.

Boy, was it a long winter, and there was proof of that no matter where I turned.

Read on to learn which outdoor and indoor gardening activities kept me busy.

First I decided to tackle the perennial and shrub borders that I walk by the most often. Half of the reason we garden is because we like to stand back in admiration, so

I figured if I cleaned those up I'd have something to feel good about on my way to the car or the chicken coop.

I leave many perennials standing through the winter, especially those with seed heads the birds might like to dine on.

So, before I got out the rake, I went plant by plant with my hedge clippers, cutting the dead and brown stalks to about "fist" height from the ground. Hedge clippers make fast work of this task. After that came the rake, with which I careful-

ly cleaned the bed of matted leaves and the plant parts I just cut back. As I was working, I weeded out clover, and some perennial grasses that appeared within the bed, and although I am nowhere near ready to apply bark mulch, I got out the spade and did my best to put a crisp edge on the border with the lawn. Looking good.

While I was putting tools away I found (gasp) some hyacinth and daffodil bulbs that never got planted in the fall. I cannot even believe that there were green tips on these bulbs that sat in an empty pot in my unheated subarctic garden shed over the winter months.

I figured that after that torture they deserved to be planted. I sunk them twice their height deep and watered them in. Say a prayer.

My "Redbud garden" shares a stone wall with some thornless blackberry bushes. It may not have been smart on my account to have an ornamental garden opposite plants that like to suck-

er like crazy but such is life when you want to squeeze in as many plants as you can into the space you've got... Anyway, ten foot long canes jumped the wall into the bed where I have a few bulbs and biennials at the base of the Redbud.

I was able to give the canes a strong yank and lo and behold I have three new blackberry bushes free for the taking. I separated them from the mother plant, potted them up and will delight a friend with them, just as my friend Kelly's husband had done for me some years back.

These berries are so wonderful. Even with a small patch I am always able to freeze a couple of quarts for use in the off-season. Yum!

With stems cut back, leaves raked, weeds and suckers removed and the beds given a crisp edge, I felt good enough about leaving outlying gardens for another day. It was time to turn my attention to tomato seedlings that had long since outgrown

the seed packs the seeds were sown in the third week of March.

Typically we transplant when the first true leaves form. I am maybe a week late.

Carefully I lifted out the clumps of seedlings and gently pried the roots apart. Tomato seedlings can be sunk deeply, almost up to their leaves; new roots will form on the stems.

After a gentle watering they will go back under the grow lights they until they are big enough to be moved from the six packs to a four inch pot. Probably by May 1.

What is next on the agenda? Next weekend I have to assess my potato patch. I'll probably pull up old red raspberry canes nearby to expand the bed.

Blueberry bushes need some fertilizer. Asparagus could use lime and compost, probably some weeding as well.

There is never a dull

See GARDEN, page 5

## BARRE GAZETTE

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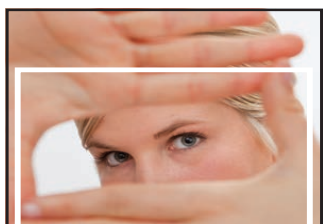


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# Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

I just came in from raking the wildflower garden.

The blood root is one of the earliest plants to come up so I wanted to get the leaves off of that area where they grow. Because I fell last week, I am carrying my cell phone in the garden apron for safety reasons. I am going to get an alert button.

Here is a good recipe for chicken breasts.

## SANDY'S CHICKEN DISH

- 2 lbs. chicken breasts, boneless and skinless
- 1/8 lbs. sliced ham
- 1/8 lb. Swiss cheese
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 12 oz. can cream of chicken soup
- Place one slice ham and

one slice Swiss cheese on one pounded chicken breast roll, place rolled end down in sprayed baking dish. Do all the same way. In a saucepan, combine until creamy, canned soup, sour cream and any remaining

Swiss Cheese. Pour over chicken. Bake at 350 degrees for about 30 minutes. Makes 2 servings.

## This and That

It is nice to have some warmer weather with the sun out. There are so many things that need to be done outside to get the gardens ready for summer. Each day I try to do a different project. Anxious to get the house plants outside but that won't be until the end of May.

Inside I have two beautiful amaryllis' in bloom from last year. I have made lots of coleus plants from cuttings so that will be enough to place in the big planter.

I picked some branches of forsythia to force inside like the A. Gardener suggested. Flowering quince is another bush that I can force to bloom inside.

I received word that a long time friend and former resident Sheila Poules Ellington of California passed away last April. Mary Prentiss Alger passed away November of 2025. Both were in the same grade in school.

Have a nice week and enjoy the warmer weather.

## PAST PAGES from page 4

high-quality professional development in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math to teachers at high-needs schools nationwide. The scholarship program will help teachers integrate engineering in their classrooms, using the award-winning Engineering is Elementary® curriculum developed at the Museum's National Center for Technological Literacy®. Jay Mooney, will receive a complete set of EiE curriculum materials plus tuition and travel support to attend a two-day, hands-on teacher PD workshop at the Museum in Boston this spring. The district plans on implementing the EiE program during the 2016-17 school year, with the hope of preparing its younger students for the Engineering Technology Program at North Brookfield High School.

Kelly G. Allen won the open selectmen's seat with 281 votes over Alan F. Joubert, who received 108 votes during Monday's Hardwick Town Election. With the decision of Selectman Harry T. Comerford not to run for re-election, Allen and Joubert, both of Ridge Road, competed to fill that seat. Both candidates identified budgetary issues as the town's biggest problems that need solving, although it will take time and hard work.

Much has been done in the past year due to the hard work and diligence of the members of the Demond Pond Watershed Association in the continued efforts to protect Demond Pond in Rutland. Through various fund raising events, donations and membership dues, the association was able to accrue enough money to finally treat the lake for the invasive milfoil weed that is threatening to overtake the lake. The treatment was done in the areas of the most infestation and led to a much more enjoyable summer for the residents and guests on the lake. The weeds were under control until the end of the summer and slowly made their way back in. This is a yearly treatment and very costly. The majority of the land surrounding the lake is owned by DCR as a watershed to Quabbin therefore the pond does not have a large resident population to collect funds from and have to rely on donations and or fund raising efforts.

## 25 years (April 19, 2001)

Friends and family members from around the coun-

try gathered on March 31 at the Barre Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, for a service of thanksgiving for the life of Gilbert L. Allen, who died March 12 at his home in Vero Beach Florida. Gilbert was the brother of the late Robert H. Allen of Barre, who died in 1990. Many Barre residents knew Gilbert as a frequent visitor to the Chas. G. Allen o., where he served as president from 1958 until 1996. The fire was founded by his grandfather, Charles G. Allen in 1874, to produce the Yankee hay rake and other farm implements. In 1903, the firm started producing the Allen drill, which became its major product. During World War II more than 700 employees were on the payroll and the Chas. G. Allen Co. earned the coveted Army-Navy Production Award.

The two members present at the Barre Board of Selectmen meeting voted June 11 for the Annual Town Meeting. Selectman Richard Stevens suggested moving the date of the Town Election from the first Monday of March to the first Monday of April. He cited the snow storm of this year's March 5 election that resulted in the need to stop the election and continue it to a later date. Town Administrator Lorraine Leno will research what steps need to be taken to change the town election date. She was not sure if the election date was a town by-law or under Massachusetts General Law.

A letter received from Superintendent Maureen Marshall to the Board of Selectmen stated that an estimated 37% increase is forecasted for the Fiscal 2022 school budget. The Quabbin Regional School Committee met on March 29, 2001 and adopted a budget of \$24,691,218. For Oakham, it would mean an increase of \$331,496 in taxes. The school committee believed that the assessment will be significantly reduced as more financial information is made to them. They were also willing to meet with the selectmen to discuss the matter further. In another letter, Marshall told the selectmen that they must approve or disapprove the school committee's action of Feb. 8, 2001 to incur debt for the purpose of constructing an Educational Support Services Facility on district property on South Street in Barre.

## 38 years (April 21, 1988)

The Barre Board of Selectmen awarded a cable

television license to United Cable vision of Rutland at their meeting Tuesday, April 19. The company will provide cable access to Barre residents. The award was the final step in the long process of bringing cable access to Barre. "I feel as if we have moved into a new era," said Selectman Chairman James Sullivan. Sullivan and the other member of the board, Charles Chase and Ruth Trifilo, praised the cable television study committee for their work over the past several months. Rick Paula, chairman of the study committee, noted that their main objective was to recommend to the selectmen the company, who would be able to bring to barre the best possible product. One of the highest priorities was placed on the number of households that would have access to cable. Approximately 97% of Barre residents will be able to hook into the cable lines.

One of the great unanticipated joys in life is to find something you thought you'd lost. It is especially significant when that "something" comes back to us better than ever, more alive, more meaningful - all we knew we were missing and more besides. Can you imagine the feeling of not only enjoying the return of a treasured moment or possession, but also having that concept or thing reinforced, right before your eyes? Add to the wonder of discovery the realization that there is more to this reunion than you had remembered or thought there could be. This, in the small measure, is the feeling the audience left with after having seen "Godspell," Barre Players spring production, presented last weekend in the auditorium at Quabbin Regional Jr. Sr. High School in Barre.

The New Life Assembly of God will have a guest preacher at their Sunday, April 24 service to be held in the Barre Town Hall. Rev. Miroslaw Suski, originally an evangelist from Poland, holds a Masters in Theology from Western Evangelical Seminary of Portland, Oregon and a Bachelor of Arts from Continental Bible College in Brussels, Belgium. He has a weekly radio program each Sunday on WRYN 840AM at 7:30 a.m., which covers central Connecticut and western Massachusetts. Polish scriptures and Christian literature are distributed to all new contacts. He also started the Polish Assembly in New Britain, Connecticut where there are over 40,000 Polish Americans living.

For the last 34 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

## GARDEN from page 4

moment this time of year, and I am not sure I'd want it any other way.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts.



## Red-breasted nuthatch

Last Wednesday, April 8 while waiting at the bus stop for my grandson, I saw two red-breasted nuthatches in a small grove of pine trees near the road.

They were going up and down several pine trees most likely in search of insects. The red-breasted nuthatch is about 4.3 to 4.7 inches long and exhibits the typical head-down nuthatch behavior of its larger cousin, the white-breasted nuthatch. Male and females are similar with a black eye stripe, white eyebrow and buff orange underparts. It has a blue-gray back.

They inhabit conifer forests and in winter may be found in other trees. They nest mostly in conifers such as spruce, fir, hemlock.

Both sexes excavate a nest cavity in a rotten stub or snag, usually five to 40 feet about the ground. Sticky pitch is smeared around the entrance of the nest hole possibly to prevent other creatures from

entering. Adults avoid getting stuck in the pitch by flying straight into the hole. Sometimes they are seen with pitch on their feathers.

The female lays five to six white, spotted eggs. The female incubates the eggs and the male brings food to her. Both parents feed the nestlings. Young nuthatches leave the nest about two to three weeks after hatching.

They have a soft, musical song used especially in courtship by the male. These nuthatches eat insects, spiders and seeds in summer. In winter they eat many seeds especially those of conifers.

## Nesting bluebirds

On Saturday, April 11 I received an email from a Hampden resident. She said, "Our bluebirds are back and have completed their nest. We are awaiting the first egg. I'm surprised they use mostly pine needles constructing the nest."

## Brimfield birds

A Brimfield resident said he saw a female brown-headed cowbird in his yard. He said it was unusual as he usually sees the male before the female.

He said, "On Sunday I did a tour of local ponds. There was a pair of ring-necked ducks on Sherman Pond in Brimfield and several on a pond in Warren. Also in Warren I saw an osprey

at the pond where they have nested for several years. I've been checking the pond since early March and this is the first sighting of an osprey this year. I hope its partner shows up soon."

He also said, in Warren, there was a bald eagle at a pond on New Reed Street. There has been one or two there frequently during March. A pair of eastern bluebirds was seen perched on two different trees with holes possibly suitable for a nest. I often see bluebirds using nesting boxes, but have never seen them using a natural cavity. I'll keep checking to see if they nest in either tree."

## Non-bird sighting

The Brimfield resident reported a non-bird sighting. He said "while driving out of the driveway yesterday I saw a small frog hopping off of the driveway. Probably a spring peeper. I'll have to check a nearby small pond in the woods nearby to see if there are peepers there. The frog could have been a pickerel frog, we see those every year in the yard. They come in three sizes; small, medium and large. I try to be careful when I mow or weed whack to avoid them."

## Raven

My granddaughter while walking her dogs on Saturday, April 11 heard the croaking sound of a raven. It startled both the dogs and her.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by emailing [mybackyard88@aol.com](mailto:mybackyard88@aol.com) or [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005. The Palmer office has a new phone system and I will be getting an extension where messages may be left. I will publish the number as soon as it is set up.

## Town wide yard sale benefits 4th of July events

RUTLAND - The annual town wide yard sale will take place Saturday, April 25 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

This is the 30th year and funds raised benefit the Town's 4th of July Celebration. There will be 200 plus participants selling from their homes or on the Town Common.

Free maps are available at town lines, on the Town Common (Routes 122A and

56) and on the Rutland 4th of July Facebook page starting on Saturday, April 25 at 7 a.m.

Rutland residents that wish to sell from their homes need to sign up before the end of day on Friday, April 17 to be listed on the map

The fee to have address listed on the map is \$25. Details to sign up are on the Town's website by visiting

<https://rutlandma.gov/825/Town-Wide-Yard-Sale>.

For those that desire to sell at the Town Common, the fee is \$30. One can sign up ahead of time or arrive the morning of. The spaces on the Town Common are first come first serve.

People should bring their own tables and remove their own trash at the end of the day. The yard sale is held rain or shine.

## Holden Grange hosts educational evening

HOLDEN - The Holden Grange will host a fun and educational evening on Monday, April 27 at 6 p.m. in the Holden Senior Center, 1130 Main St.

The event begins at 6 p.m. with a complimentary light dinner of assorted sandwiches, chips, pickles and drinks. Reservations are required. At 7 p.m., a program entitled "Victorian Secrets" will be presented by Emily Thomas, a public historian and curator of the Clara Barton Museum in North Oxford.

The dangers of fashion for women in the 19th century, including flammable dresses, dangerous cloth-

ing dyes and corsets will be highlighted. As a professor at Nichols College, Thomas has made it a practice to teach the unexpected. Her course list reads like a historian's cabinet of curiosities: From leeches to Listerine; 19th century medicine and disease; plagues, poxes and pandemics; myths, legends and superstitions, even history of ghosts.

In celebration of Grange month, Christine Hamp, President of the National Grange, will be visiting during this event. She and her husband Duane of Washington state travel across the country promot-

ing the National Grange theme, #GrangeStrong. One pillar of this theme is community-focused, where every local Grange strengthens its community through service, outreach, and programs that bring people together. Hamp leads by example and is delighted to engage in conversation with members and non-members alike.

All are invited to attend this free program which will conclude with complimentary dessert.

RSVP is required by Saturday, April 18 for dinner only by emailing [holdengrangerange78@gmail.com](mailto:holdengrangerange78@gmail.com) or calling 508-886-2341.



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**RURAL SCHOOLS**  
from page 1

should be fully reimbursed to regional school districts by the state, he said. As of right now, the reimbursement rate is projected to be between 80-90%.

He said a glitch in the Chapter 70 funding formula is hurting rural schools across the commonwealth.

"The rural factor is not built into 70 at this point and it's a major concern," he said.

Haughey said school administrators are all pushing to have Rural School Aid increased to \$60 million, and to create a "pothole" fund for school districts with declining enrollment, as well as an increase in charter school reimbursements and covering the expenses of new, state-mandated graduation requirements.

"We need to do better," Haughey said. "If graduation requirements are to change... there needs to be funding to support that as well."

Haughey said the work administrators and legislators have ahead of them is important and needs to be a

priority.

"These are our children," he said. "We need people working together to get this done."

Efforts at efficiency

Mucha invited the superintendents and town officials to share efforts they have taken to gain efficiencies when faced with the uncertainty of state funding.

She said the Quabbin Regional School District used COVID funding to purchase vans, which are used for student and athletic transportation.

"That has saved us a tremendous amount of funding," she said.

Boyd said the Tantasqua Regional School District purchased its own fleet of 45 vehicles to provide all transportation, include special education transportation, in house. While this has helped to regulate the increasing cost of transportation, the school district is still impacted by the labor force, and the cost of fuel.

Boyd said being designated "Hold Harmless" isn't enough for rural school dis-



Turley Photos by Paula Ouimette  
**North Brookfield Public Schools Superintendent Tim McCormick spoke about the need for consistent funding for rural schools.**

tricts anymore.

"That fact that so many of us are in Hold Harmless... means something's wrong with the formula," she said.

Boyd added that, "something feels broken on the state level, not just Chapter 70, but local aid."

"The pittance of money going to the towns is truly putting the burden on the towns," she said.

West Brookfield Town



**Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent Colleen Mucha spoke about having a unified voice to advocate for funding and aid**

Administrator Theresa Cofske said that health insurance is a major cost driver in the town's budget, and that they are in the process of enacting an "opt out" program.

"It's a process, but we're hoping it will be helpful," she said.

Mucha said the way that Rural School Aid is administered poses a challenge to school districts when they

are trying to build and present their budgets to towns. She said it is awarded like a grant, and school districts don't know when they'll receive it, and that this year the aid was late.

"It's really hard to plan on that aid," she said.

Retired Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent and Barre Select Board Chair, Dr. Maureen Marshall, said Rural School Aid should be awarded the same way that transportation reimbursements are – up front – so that school districts can plan more effectively.

"We're really concerned about something that's really a simple fix," she said.

Boyd agreed and said that Rural School Aid has become a "financial cliff" for school districts.

McCormick said rural school districts "really need a consistent number to plan with every year."

The uncertainty of Rural School Aid has had a negative impact on other services in towns, Marshall said, including police, fire and the

maintenance of infrastructure.

"The impact on the local communities is significant," she said.

Clare Hendra, an Oakham representative on the Quabbin Regional School Committee, said the school's budget makes up about two-thirds of her town's budget. She said this has put other departments in town at real risk.

"Some departments are barely functioning and near disaster," she said. "If they [schools] are in trouble, it filters right down."

**Response from legislators**

Berthiaume said the commonwealth's budget will be released this week, and legislators will have a brief opportunity to file amendments. He said that unfortunately, the process can't be completed any sooner than it is.

Smola said himself and the other legislators present at the meeting were all on board with the recommen-

See RURAL SCHOOLS, page 7



# Quaboag Hills

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**RURAL SCHOOLS**  
from page 6

dations put forward by the various town officials and administrators.

Smola said he has been pushing for the Chapter 70 formula to be fixed for some time.

“We should have been prepping for this two years ago,” he said. “We should already be here with a solution. We should already have a fix to the Chapter 70 formula.”

He said the formula needs to be wiped out and rebuilt, in order for it to be beneficial to the school districts and the towns.

Smola also raised concerns about the financial cliff created by the Student Opportunity Act, which is set to run out in fiscal year 2027. He also talked about the “unprecedented” number of communities seeking overrides.

“Education is the big one,” he said in terms of costs in the budget. “It

has the biggest impact on municipalities.”

Smola said school districts are facing declining enrollment across the commonwealth, and they are now fighting over the same people. He said many school districts are also holding on to brick and mortar infrastructure that should not be in service.

“That’s not pragmatic and it’s not practical,” he said. “We’ve got to look at this through a different set of eyes.”

Berthiaume said pressure from school administrators and town officials on State House leadership would have more of an impact than just from him and the other legislators.

Smola said they should ask legislators to take roll call votes before an amendment, and “get them on the record.”

“If you want this short-term fix, that would be my recommendation,” Smola said. “Your voice is going

to be important to this process.”

Marsi said it’s the words and actions of citizens that “turns the wheel” of change at the State House.

Durant said legislators face an uphill battle on Beacon Hill, and he also advocated for the need for roll call votes.

“Because that’s where people publicly announce their priorities,” he said.

**A unified voice**

Mucha passed around a letter for administrators and town officials to sign, showing their unified commitment to advocate for funding changes for rural schools.

Haughey said school districts cannot continue to meet state mandates without a change in funding.

“We can only work with what we’re given. We’re going backwards, not forward, with resources...the Band-Aids are done,” he said.

# Public Notices

**BARRE PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING**

The Barre Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, May 05, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Henry Woods Municipal Building, 40 West Street, 3rd Floor, Barre, MA, in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Section 5, upon the following article to appear on the Warrant for the May 19, 2026 Annual Town Meeting: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Barre Code, Chapter 140 Zoning, Section 140-4, Location of Districts, as follows, §140-4 Location of Districts, A. The location and boundaries of these districts shall be as shown on the Zoning Map of Barre dated March 27, 2026, being the most recent revision of prior Town of Barre Zoning Maps, which shall be on file in the office of the Town Clerk.

A copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk, the Planning Board and on the Town’s website at <https://www.townofbarre.com>.

Anyone wishing to comment on this matter should attend the hearing or submit comments in writing prior to the hearing to the Planning Board.

Floyd Kelley, Chairman  
04/16, 04/23/2026

**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF M.L.C. 225 SEC.39A THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD ON **MAY 2, 2026** AT A SALE TO SATISFY OUR GARAGE LIEN THEREON FOR TOWING & STORAGE CHARGES AND EXPENSES OF SALE AND NOTICE:

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2013 Honda CR-V VIN 2HKRM4H72DH615582  
2014 Subaru Legacy VIN 4S3BMBL68E3018633

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2015 Audi Q7 VIN WA1LGAFA4FD006798  
2004 Subaru Impreza VIN JF1GD67594H503868  
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2011 Mazda 6 VIN 1YVHZ8CH2B5M17094  
2013 Nissan NV VIN 1N6AFOLY7DN108416  
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# Calendar of Events

## THURSDAY, APRIL 16

**ARTIST EXHIBITION** takes place today from 4-6 p.m. at The Petersham Art Center, 8 North St., Petersham. The public is invited. This opens the 2026 season with a new exhibition, "Paper & Print / One Couple's CottageCollaboration: Elisabeth and Darrell Hyder's Paste Paper and Letterpress Lives." It runs through Sunday, May 10. Regular Art Center hours are Thursdays through Sundays, noon -4 p.m. For more information about the exhibition and the Center, people may call 978-724-3415.

**BARRE'S NARAMORE TRAGEDY** with Barre historian Lucy Allen will speak on one of Massachusetts most disturbing tragedies today at 7 p.m. in the Gardner Museum, 28 Pearl St., Gardner. There will be museum hosted reception at 6:30 p.m. Lizzie Naramore murdered her six young children amid crushing poverty. Lucy will explore the legal realities that left Lizzie powerless over her children's future and entirely dependent on a husband who failed to provide. She will reveal how the 1901 Naramore case was also a stark struggle for women's rights within marriage. Her presentation connects this tragedy to the 1902 change in Massachusetts law, offering new insight into how women's lack of legal rights shaped devastating outcomes. Reservation is required for every event via email [info@gardnermuseuminc.com](mailto:info@gardnermuseuminc.com).

## SATURDAY, APRIL 25

**EAST QUABBIN LAND TRUST GALA DINNER** will be held today at the Cultural Center at Eagle Hill, 242 Old Petersham Road, Hardwick. There will be a dinner and silent auction. Silent auctions items donated by local businesses include: Agronomy Farm Vineyard, Bemis Farm Nursery, Farmers Guild of Hardwick, Garrett Wade, Hannaford, Hardwick Sugar Shack, Klem's, Louise Garwood Landscapes, Many Hands Organic Farm, New England Botanic Garden, Ragged Hill Cider, Salvadore Chevrolet, Still Life Farm, Stillman's Quality Meats, The Center at Eagle Hill, The Kitchen Garden, Whortleberry Hill at Walker Farm and others to come.

## Where is this?



Turley Publications photo by Ellenor Downer

**This week's mystery photo is from Rutland. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) with their answer by noon on Monday, April 20. Bill Bowles, Peggy Civilik, Doreen Elliott and Jeremy Varnum correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was taken of the Highway Department and dog kennel on South Street, Petersham.**

**CLOTHING SWAP** sponsored by Barre Community Resilience as part of a Barre Earth Day event will take place today from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Commonplace Market, 56 Common St., Barre. From April 1 to April 23 people may bring their clean, unstained and unwanted clothes and accessories to The Commonplace Market, left side of the old Barre Bank Building during business hours Wednesday to Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Items dropped off ahead of time will be organized into bins by size/type. Items brought on April 25 will be placed into a miscellaneous bin for people to rummage through.

**SEWING AND CRAFT SUPPLIES SWAP** will take place today from 1-3 p.m. in

the downstairs of the Petersham Town Hall, 1 South Main St., Petersham. Sewers, quilters, knitters and other makers may drop of their clean, unused materials from 10:30 a.m.-noon. They may take home materials for their next project for free. They don't have to bring anything to take stuff home. People may visit to see the list of accepted items at <https://tinyurl.com/3hz388ye>.

**SECOND ANNUAL REPAIR FAIR** sponsored by the Barre Historical Society, 18-20 Common St., Barre takes place today from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Rain date is Sunday, April 26. People may recall from last year that this is a free community event, focused on repairing items where volunteers with certain areas of expertise will fix or advise on how-to, for var-

ious household items. This free event is run in conjunction with Earth Day events being held on Barre Common for the purpose of sharing knowledge and reducing waste while fostering a sense of community.

**TOWN WIDE YARD SALE** will take place today from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Funds raised benefit the Town's 4th of July Celebration. There will be 200 plus participants selling from their homes or on the Town Common. Free maps are available at town lines, on the Town Common (Routes 122A and 56) and on the Rutland 4th of July Facebook page starting on Saturday, April 25 at 7 a.m. Rutland residents that wish to sell from their homes need to sign up before the end of day on Friday, April 17 to be listed on the map. The fee to have address listed on the map is \$25. Details to sign up are on the Town's website by visiting <https://rutlandma.gov/825/Town-Wide-Yard-Sale>. For those that desire to sell at the Town Common, the fee is \$30. One can sign up ahead of time or arrive the morning of. The spaces on the Town Common are first come first serve. People should bring their own tables and remove their own trash at the end of the day. The yard sale is held rain or shine.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 26

**'HISTORY AT PLAY'** with presenter Judith Kalaora will be about Lucy Stone today at 2 p.m. in Fellowship Hall at the Bulfinch Meetinghouse, 725 Main St., Lancaster. This free event is open to the public and sponsored by the Lancaster Historical Society. Lucy Stone (1818-1893) was an ardent supporter of human rights. For more information, people may call 978-733-6907.

**TANGLEWOOD MARIONETTE SHOW**, the "Dragon King," will take place today at 3 p.m. in the New Braintree Town Hall, 20 Memorial Drive, New Braintree. This underwater fantasy based on Chinese folklore is hosted by the New Braintree Public Library. It's the tale of a grandmother's adventure to the bottom of the sea. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Hardwick/New Braintree Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

## OAKHAM from page 1

es that could access tons of information from a person's social security, health insurance, the list goes on and on. Donohue gave various scenarios of how scammers operate. One of them was if someone unknown called and began asking questions, they should "never answer questions from someone who is calling you."

Scammers skillfully used technology. With Artificial Intelligence on the rise, scammers capitalized on the use of AI to impersonate trusted individuals. There were AI generated voice calls

and videos where scammers can easily clone voices.

In one story, Donohue talked about how a grandparent reviewed a video and a child came in realized it was AI. Donohue pointed out that even children were currently growing up with this technology.

Regarding figuring out what what real or not, Donohue talked about courier scams. These scams occurred when scammers posed as police, bank staff, or other officials and claimed someone's accounts were compromised. The Federal Bureau of Investigation had a recent article out regarding

courier scams.

In New Hampshire, there were 15 incidents of courier scams. These scams were costly as the state of Maine, for example, lost around \$2.5 million to courier scams. In Massachusetts, there were 59 incidents of courier scams resulting in \$18,842,000 lost. Donohue shared that the unfortunate part about courier scams was "they are convincing." If people received notification that claim to be the police, Donohue suggested calling the actual police for confirmation.

Imposter scams had a long history and came in all forms. These fell into

categories such as bank accounts, businesses, tech support, grandparent scams, romance, and charity scams. For example, if a bank sent out reminders telling them to move funds, it might be a scam. In a real situation, a bank would not tell customers to "take your money out."

The grandparent scams involved random calls regarding grandchildren being in various situations, such as a car crash or was put in jail. One technique to combat these scams was the "what's the password," where grandparents assigned a password to their actual grandchildren to confirm it was them calling. If the caller doesn't know the password, then hang up the phone.

Romance scams peaked during Covid-19 and Donohue has spoken with people, who fell victim to romance scams. The profile pictures on dating apps could be devious; the profile might not be the person described. These resulted in scams for funds with fake accounts. One person Donohue spoke to lost a considerable amount of money to a romance scam.

Charity scams went on all year long and nobody should donate and look into the company someone claims to

represent.

"If you don't know enough, don't donate," as Donohue put it. "Verify its real, don't assume."

Social media was another area with a lot of misinformation. Users needed to be careful of what they looked up and shouldn't click any links if they didn't know who posted it. Older adults were falling for these scams more often. Scammers often download spyware onto someone's computers.

Even photographs being sent to people were potential scams. If anyone received downloadable pictures from a family member, they should contact the person to confirm that they were sending them the pictures.

Imposter scams were targeting areas such as tax forms, social security, Medicare and law enforcement. For Medicare or health insurance, folks should review their statements for confirmation to see if they were legitimate.

Scams posing as law enforcement happened on recently where people were getting notifications about missing court hearings, fines, threats of arrest. Donohue mentioned that some of these false messages were even telling people not to go to a

federal building to resolve these issues. These scams were occurring as of late, and nobody should be pressured by these.

Oakham Chief of Police, Fred Gehring attended this presentation and mentioned anyone should check with their local law enforcement before they engage with anybody who contacted them about this information.

As of 2026, AI was making things more believable, which can be used to take advantage of people. Donohue talked about the most recent Boston parking ticket scam that happened earlier this year.

There was also the option to be on the do not call list, which prevents businesses from contacting people. However, scammers still managed to contact people.

Chief Gehring shared a story about catching a scammer connected to a loader found off marketplace. This scam also happened in California and the Chief was able to tie the cases together and locate the scammer.

Donohue took questions from the public after the presentation. For more information on scams, folks can visit the Federal Trade Commission website, [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov).

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## RUTLAND from page 1

installed by National Grid on Main Street, and nine to be turned on in Rutland Heights, which are already installed but turned off. Select Board Chair Jen Leger said the cost for streetlights are \$12 a month, and the annual cost to run all 10 new lights would be \$1,440.

Butler noted that the level service budget funds streetlights, but if the override vote does not pass and they have to operate on a reduced budget, there would be lights shut off.

Select Board member Leah Whiteman said it would be a better idea to discuss this after the override vote, and that she would not support investing any money in

lights that would need to be turned off within a month. Select Board member Harry Szechman said he supported the turning on of the lights in Rutland Heights because everywhere else in the town has lights except that area.

The board ultimately voted to only move forward with the one light on Main Street, by a vote of 4-1 with Szechman voting no. Szechman made the motion to also move forward with the nine lights, but did not receive a second.

### Community Television policy

The board signed a policy about the editing of public meetings by Rutland Community Television. Butler said staff has been

questioning whether they need to edit out profanity, but the Federal Communication Commission's guidance advises against editing it out because it is protected speech, and there are legal definitions between profanity and obscenity.

Whiteman suggested those definitions be placed in the policy. The policy advises staff to report any questions to the town administrator, where it can then be reviewed by town counsel.

### Federal Project Management policy

The board voted to sign a Federal Project Management policy, which reflects the Department of Revenue's guidance on best practice.

# SPORTS

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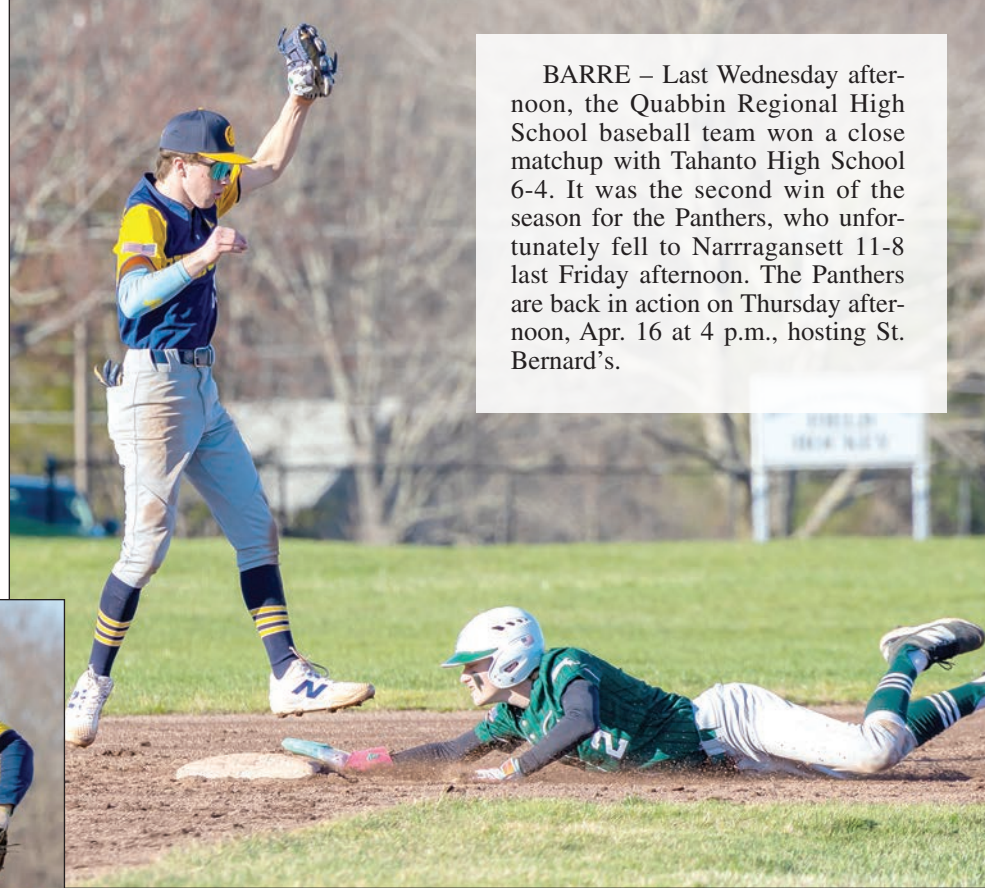
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## Quabbin baseball defeats Tahanto



Andy Warfield makes the catch on a shot to right field.



BARRE – Last Wednesday afternoon, the Quabbin Regional High School baseball team won a close matchup with Tahanto High School 6-4. It was the second win of the season for the Panthers, who unfortunately fell to Narragansett 11-8 last Friday afternoon. The Panthers are back in action on Thursday afternoon, Apr. 16 at 4 p.m., hosting St. Bernard's.

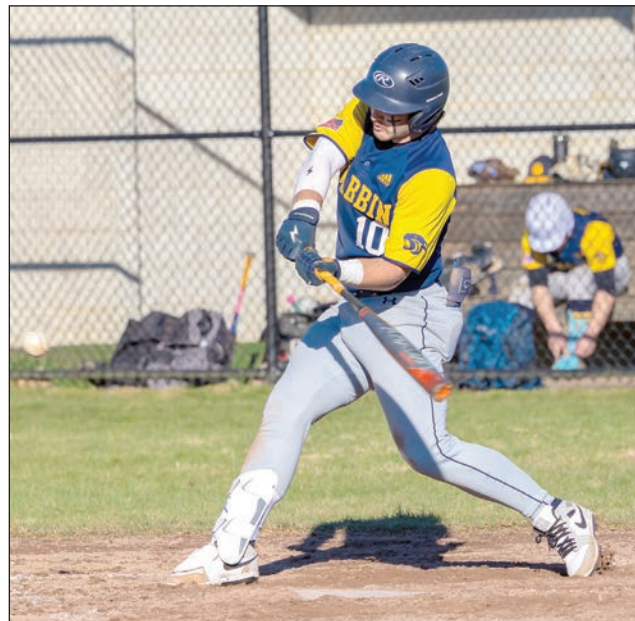
Abe Brown makes a leaping catch as Tahanto's Luke Stevens steals second base.



Finn Leander fires in a pitch



Ian Haupt beats Tahanto's Thomas Chamberlain to first base for the game-winning out.



Adam Adams connects for a hit.

## Pioneers score early, but fall to Comp



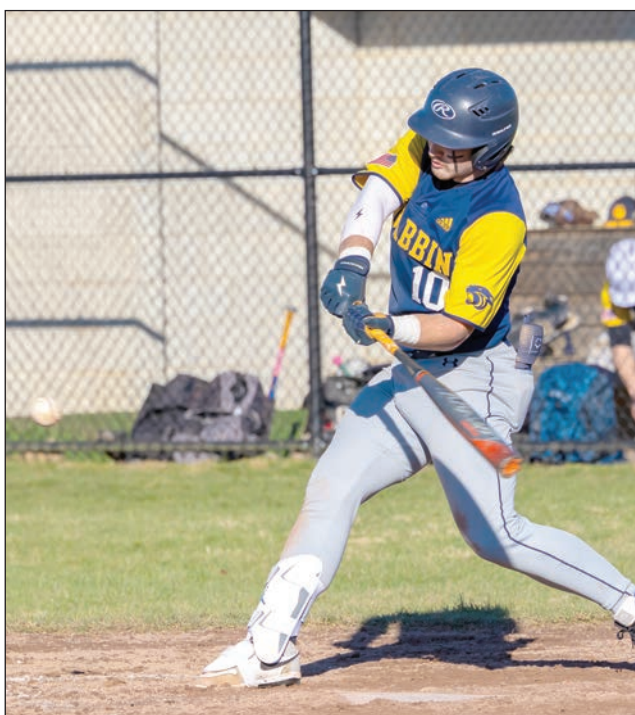
Carly Juda makes a throw across the diamond.

PALMER – Pathfinder softball was able to push across a couple of runs early, but Chicopee Comprehensive came roaring back and ended up turning the game around, defeating Pathfinder 25-9 last Thursday at Pathfinder Tech. The Pioneers fell to 0-4 on the season while Chicopee Comprehensive rose above .500 to 3-2.

Julieta Tweedell hustles home on a hit.



Addison Doktor swings and connects on a base hit.



Ellisyn Gelinas sends an easy throw to first.

## Quabbin girls golf evens record with win

BARRE – On Monday, the Quabbin Girls Golf Team improved to 2-2 on the season with a convincing win over Westborough 32-16. Makenzie Casey was the medalist shooting a 43 for 9 holes. Sam Vessair, Kaylan Cavanagh, Ava Brady, Sierra Lambert all won their matches. Last Thursday, The Quabbin Girls Golf Team picked up its first victory of the season. The Panthers defeated Worcester 24.5-11.5. Makenzie Casey was the Medalist shooting a 32 for 6 holes. The other match winners were Samantha Vessair, Maya Faucher, and Emma Akert.



Aubrey Pope fields a shot hit out to left field.



Kelsey Allen fields a shot from deep center field.

## Panthers even record at 2-2

BARRE – It was a tough week last week for Quabbin softball, suffering a pair of losses against Tahanto and Narragansett. But the Panthers did rebound on the road Monday with a win 17-2 against Murdock. The Panthers are now and even 2-2 on the season and next face Oakmont on Friday, Apr. 17 at 3:30 p.m.



Raegyn Wnek gets a hit in front of Tahanto catcher Anna Bidingger.



Kai Schuster gets a base hit.



Bree May fields a grounder heading down the third base line.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

# Sports

## Candlepin League News

By **Ryan Drago**  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

### Thursday Night Mixed at Bogey

EAST BROOKFIELD – The Thursday Night Mixed League at Bogey Lanes is nearing the end of the bowling season.

Holding onto first place is the four-person team (Team Four) of Kaelin Skye, Ryley Burdett, Nate Fontaine, and Aaron Fontaine with a record of 66-22. Team Four has six-point lead over the second-place team, Walking my Goldfish (60-28).

Team Four bowled against the Scorpion Bowlers during the first week in April. In game one, Team Four defeated Scorpion Bowlers by a score of 416-402. Ryley Burdett of Team Four bowled well with 119.

In game two, Team Four held onto the lead long enough to win 440-434. Aaron Fontaine of Team Four bowled well with 154 to clinch the second win for

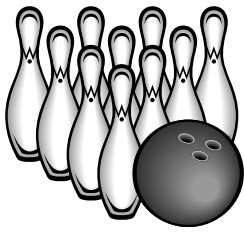
his team.

In game three, Team Four clinched the sweep over Scorpion Bowlers by winning the last game 447-385. Nate Fontaine led the team with 141 to finish. His brother finished with 116 and a series of 380 while Burdett finished with 114 and a series of 327. The final score was 1303-1221 in favor of Team Four.

Spare Bears bowled against The B Team at Bogey Lanes. In game one, Spare Bears and the B Team tied 385-385. In game two, the B Team won by a score of 408-369. Joe Mullen of B Team was over his average by scoring 102.

In game three, B Team won by a score of 395-361. Mullen broke the century mark again with 100 in the final game. Final score was 1188-1115 in favor of B Team.

Walking my Goldfish bowled against Music Man. In game one, Walking my Goldfish won by a score of 388-381. Game two was also won by Walking my Goldfish, 436-390. 124 was bowled by Aaron of Walking



my Goldfish. The team also won the last game, 425-398. Steve Burrirt of Music Man finished with 107.

Team Twelve bowled against the Bowling Hogs. In game one, Team Twelve won by a score of 410-383. John Miller of Team Twelve began the match with 111.

In game two, Bowling Hogs won by a score of 389-387. Game three was won by the Bowling Hogs, 409-405. The final score was 1202-1181 in favor of Team Twelve.

Slide or Die bowled against Glen Echo Rollers. In game one, Glen Echo Rollers defeated Slide or Die by a score of 407-377. In game two, Glen Echo Rollers won again by a score of 398-376.

In game three, Slide or Die won by a score of 407-392. The final score was 1197-1160 in favor of Glen Echo Rollers.

## Roster spots remain open in the QVBL

SOUTH HADLEY – While the new player draft has come and gone in the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, there are still several open roster spots for players age 28-and-up. The regular season is set to get underway in a little more than a week and the six teams in the are still looking to add more players.

Players can go to the league website and fill out the registration form so they can get placed on a team immediate in front of the season opener.

For the 2026 season, the cost will be \$215 and will include a 16th game added to the regular season schedule.

During the 2025 season,

the league experimented with playing on Mother's Day Saturday as well as a weeknight game to allow players an opportunity to play under the lights. While the night games were very successful, the Mother's Day Saturday games were rained out.

Those elements will return along with a 16th game with an opponent to be determine as the league's board explores possibilities for interleague matchups with another league in the region.

The season is currently slated to start on Sunday, April 19 and following the success of the six-team fall league last year, the league will also have a fall league

in September and October this season.

The registration is live at [www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org](http://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org). Players must register and then pay the league dues via Venmo or contact the league leadership if an alternate form of payment is needed.

Aside from the weeknight and Mother's Day games, other games take place Sundays at 10 a.m. outside of Mother's Day, Memorial Day and July 4 weekends. Playoffs will be in August.

This is the 30th season for the league and league officials are looking to celebrate the anniversary with a couple of events.

### PLANNING BOARD from page 1

neously with the station.

McDonald detailed how he plans to make the station look, saying he wants it to fit in with the agricultural community, and it would look like a barn from the outside, with a post and beam exterior. He said the plan is to have a food kitchen in the building, along with a drive-thru window, with hours of operation estimated to be 6 a.m.-11 p.m.

Dennis Rice is the architect for this building, and he gave more technical details about the space the building would take up. Rice said the property is 17 acres, and has 530 feet of frontage on Worcester Road, and about 200 feet of frontage on Coldbrook Road, and has a 40 foot setback from the road.

He said the property is in the wellhead protection zone 2, and there would be storage space for equipment and material, similar to what is already there.

For gas pumps, Rice said there would be four double-sided stations. McDonald

said it would be more than a year between the starting and finishing of construction, with the first focus being the installation of tanks and pumps.

As for the location of the station, McDonald said the speed limit is 35 mph, and the police often use the lot for patrols. He said the location is a good spot because it can be viewed from multiple angles.

Rice said deliveries of gas and other goods would utilize a route around the building, separate from the parking lot where customers would be.

Residents Richard and Jessica Power were in attendance, as they are abutters to Higgins Powersports and the Barre Family Health Center.

Richard said the corner is dangerous and an accident zone. He also said that the extra lighting would draw attention to their property.

Floyd Kelley, chairman of the Planning Board said the state along with Graves Engineering will review the proposal, and there will be future hearings to discuss. He also said the property

is in a business/commercial zone, as the zoning was changed at a previous meeting.

Jessica said that she spoke with the assessor, Jesse Warren, who she claims verbally assured her that their property value would not decrease as a result of the proposed gas station. Richard said that data shows that property values near gas stations do go down though.

Jessica also asked if the business would be selling alcohol and cigarettes, stating that they find litter on their property.

She also questioned why the gas station would be open until 11 p.m., as she said there is not much traffic in town after 7 p.m. She said Higgins and the health center close by 7:30 p.m. at the latest.

She also shared concerns that the project had already started prior to receiving approval, as there is a sign already being put up. She said that their presence at the meeting was "useless" because the project was "already done and starting."

At this point, the discussion was ended and the board scheduled for the public hearing to continue on May 5 at 7 p.m.

## Annual plant, bake, craft and tag sale to take place May 16-17

HARDWICK – The Tri-Parish Community Church is pleased to announce they will be holding their 20th Annual Plant, Bake Sale, Craft & Tag Sale on the Hardwick Common Saturday and Sunday, May 16 and 17 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. each day.

This popular East Quabbin area event will feature traditional, favorite, and connoisseur perennials, plus selected annuals, heirloom

vegetable plants, and herbs in time for spring planting.

There is a wonderful variety in plants offered through several local vendors including Stillman's Farm and Howe's Farm and Garden of New Braintree, Inishowen Farms of North Brookfield, and "home-grown lovelies" from private gardens. A delicious assortment of home-baked desserts and breads will also be sold.

The event is held rain or

shine. All are welcome.

The Church is also seeking vendors for their annual Tag and Craft sale to coincide with the Plant and Bake Sale.

Please reserve your space on the Hardwick Common early. Spaces will be offered for \$35 each.

Applications may be obtained by contacting Marguerite at: [mcrevier1.mc@gmail.com](mailto:mcrevier1.mc@gmail.com) or 413-477-6942.

### HEART & SOUL from page 1

& Soul coach for about 10 years, and first became involved when her hometown in Maine saw a positive change through it regarding the impact of a trash incinerator plant.

"They did Community Heart & Soul and started hearing from residents," she said.

After the two-year process, the town's council voted to buy and close the plant. This has improved the town's business community, which is now thriving.

"Main Street is now vibrant," Ingraham-White said of her hometown. "It's an incredibly different place from where I grew up."

Ingraham-White said there are three steps to the Community Heart & Soul process and that's "Involve Everyone," "Focus on What Matters Most" and "Play the Long Game."

Right now, North Brookfield is still in the "getting started" phase of the four-phrase process.

In phase one, Ingraham-White will work with the team to build leadership amongst volunteers, and an awareness of the process. The team will develop its core message and interact with the local government.

The second phase of the project will focus on story gathering from residents, and forming listening groups to summarize data from the stories and strengthen community relationships. This gives residents an opportunity to reflect on what they love about their town.

"We focus on stories rather than sending out surveys with generic questions," Ingraham-White said.

Phase three is all about planning and starting to draft a Community Action Plan, with help from municipal and community leaders, as well as other stakeholders.

"What you end up with is basically an action plan of ideas," she said.

In phase four, the Community Heart & Soul statement is officially adopted by the town, and promoted throughout the community. The Community Action Plan is also finalized and made available.

This is also the time to develop an implementation strategy for the plan.

Ingraham-White said the Community Heart & Soul team is typically not a town board or committee, but

rather a group of residents partnering with a local non-profit organization. North Brookfield's team, the Heart of North Brookfield, will work with the Coalition for a Healthy North Brookfield.

Ingraham-White spoke about the projects completed by other Community Heart & Soul towns, including the development of a transportation program funded through a \$500,000 Department of Transportation grant, the creation of a community forest and implementation of a moratorium on big box stores. Each of these towns identified a different need through the Community Heart & Soul process and took action to reach a desired outcome.

"The process is really intended to get people sitting around the same table," she said.

She said being involved in the process often motivates people to serve on a town board or committee, especially for younger residents.

"It's a good way to introduce civics," she said. "It's an easier and friendlier way to get involved."

Feedback from residents Ingraham-White had people in attendance introduce themselves, and share what it is they love about North Brookfield.

Several residents spoke about the support their families received from the community when they were facing medical issues, from helping with rides to and from doctor's appointments, to babysitting children, to putting on fundraiser dinners.

"The town stepped up," Tara Hayes said. "I want to get back to that."

Sue Lewandowski echoed Hayes' statement, and spoke about how her neighbors helped her family through a difficult time, and how it motivated her to get more involved with the town she lived in and serve on the parent teacher organization. Now, Lewandowski serves in many community organizations in North Brookfield and regionally.

Residents spoke about negativity on social media, and how many people are reluctant to serve on a board or committee out of fear of the backlash.

Ingraham-White said other towns have hosted "kindness nights" where people can share their stories, and learn about each other. She said while this process will bring out negativity from some people initially,

the positivity will always outweigh it.

Nancy Waldron said, "We definitely want to continue to show that face, and keep going forward with the positive message."

Residents spoke about existing outreach efforts in town that have been well received, including Hayes sending out welcome letters to new residents in her role as Town Clerk, which provides them with vital information about the town. Another positive effort has been the Artist of the Month spotlight hosted by the Friends of the North Brookfield Town House.

Residents spoke about the need to take action instead of just talking about issues that are important to them, from littering to the creation of mountain bike trails.

Jamie Gilman said his love for the outdoors and having access to open space spurred him to go before Board of Selectmen years ago.

"I just wanted to do something," he said.

It was there that he spoke with Brandon Avery, and soon became involved with the Town Forest and Parks & Recreation. He is now serving his first term on the Board of Selectmen.

"I got involved because I wanted trails," he said. "Through this process I realized, 'wow, this town I live in has some good people.'"

Trish Miller said she would also like to see more togetherness and action, especially amongst existing town organizations.

Lewandowski said this is just the beginning of a more positive and united town.

"Community Heart & Soul will be able to uplift more people in the community and we need it now," she said. "We can get things done."

### About Community Heart & Soul

Community Heart & Soul, a nonprofit organization, builds stronger, healthier, and more economically vibrant small cities and towns across the United States through the Community Heart & Soul model, a resident-driven process that engages the entire population of a town in identifying what they love most about their community, what future they want for it, and how to achieve it.

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

### BARRE from page 1

#### Pole hearing

The Select Board approved the relocation of a pole on Nichols Road. No abutters attended the hearing.

#### Executive

The Barre Select Board voted to enter into executive session citing MGL c.30A §21(A)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an

A National Grid spokesman was not at the hearing.

open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.

#### Next meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, April 21 at 5 p.m.

**Edward Jones**

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## Church News

# Local pastors offer sermons

### Easter Season Part 2

Last week we considered the question: "What if Christ did not rise from the grave?"

As was noted, the whole of the faith crumbles if you remove the Risen Christ from its foundation. However, in this edition let us wrestle with a related query: "What if Jesus did, in fact, rise from the grave?"

1) The Resurrection Authenticates the person of Jesus Christ

The Resurrection authenticates all that Christ claimed about Himself. Please note that Jesus made significant claims about His nature, purpose and work. For instance:

He declared Himself to be the Bread of Life (cf. John 6:35 - Source of Spiritual Nourishment and Life)

He declared Himself to be the Light of the World (cf. John 8:12 - The Sole and Ultimate Arbiter of Truth)

He declared Himself to be the Door or the Gate (cf. John 10:7 - The Only Access Point to Life Eternal)

He declared Himself to be the Good Shepherd (cf. John 10:11-14 - Sovereign Care of His Own)

He declared Himself to be the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25 - Master Over Death/Life)

He declared Himself to be the Way-Truth-Life (cf. John 14:6 - Gateway to Life and Truth)

He declared Himself to be the True Vine (cf. John 15:1, 5 - Source of Life and Vitality)

These are claims that no one in their right mind could make. If He was still dead, we might rightly label Jesus a liar or a lunatic (to draw upon the insights of C. S. Lewis). But what do we call Him if He truly rose from death? Lord.

2) The Resurrection Authenticates the message of Jesus Christ

Jesus was the consummate Teacher. His words are both timeless and timely, touching upon every facet of life and living. Feel free to consider the teachings of Christ at your convenience, as recorded in Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These will take a lifetime to study, digest and apply, but they are surely worth the investment!

Thus said, if Christ was dead, we would have every reason to dismiss and disregard His precepts. Yet if He is alive, we have every obligation to embrace and hearken to His words. After all, if Jesus conquered death, that is striking evidence that He and His message were from God. And if His message is from God, we are accountable for the manner in which we obey it!

3) The Resurrection Authenticates the promises of Christ

A promise is only as trustworthy as the person making

it. If an unreliable person makes me a promise, I hope for the best but prepare for the worst. If a reliable person makes a promise, I am much more inclined to place my hope in its fulfillment.

Thus said, Jesus promised on several occasions to rise from death. If He failed to keep His promise in this area, how can we trust Him in any area? Would this not destroy His credibility? Yet if He kept His word, conquering death, then all of His promises hold true! Enjoy the following sampling of the promises of Christ (cf. Matt. 7:7-8; Matt. 11:28-30; John 10:10; John 14:1-3; John 3:16).

In summary, apart from the happenings of Easter the whole of the Christian faith implodes. Yet if Jesus did rise from death, His Person, Message and Promises are affirmed. Ultimately, what do you believe and are you living according to that conviction? I close with these words of C. S. Lewis: "Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important."

Thank you for taking the time to read this publication. Should you have any comments or questions, feel free to contact me at your convenience using the information below. Also, feel free to check us out online at [www.NewLifeBarre.org](http://www.NewLifeBarre.org) or visit us each Sunday at 10:30am. We hope to see you soon!

**Pastor James Foley**  
New Life Assembly  
of God  
60 Main St. South Barre  
jamesfoley  
@newlifebarre.org  
978-355-6407

### Easter Sunday

*"I have seen the Lord.  
He is Risen."*

#### Scripture Reading:

I. Introduction  
Having genuine love and affection for someone you call a sister, brother or friend, and knowing they feel the same way, is a wonderful gift.

These relationships are precious and bring so much joy to those involved. They are also resilient in the face of various challenges due to the mutual support and care everyone experiences. We see Jesus showing us what it means to call His disciples brothers, even when they deserted Him during the most

difficult moments of His life. Let's have a look.

II. I have seen the Lord He is Risen

There is so much pain in Christ's journey to the cross, yet so much power and glory in the extraordinary events on the Day of Resurrection. We see how Christ during the ninth hour on the cross cried out, "My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?"

What sorrow, what isolation from most of His disciples who had followed Him. And then, when He gave His last breath in Matthew Chapter 27 v 51 - 53, we see the power of God at work through an earthquake that broke open the tombs and many bodies of those who had died, were raised to life. After Jesus' resurrection they all appeared in the holy city and appeared to many people.

We see Jesus in the worst of moments in His life, but God was present in the most powerful way to show those who executed Him, mocked Him, deserted Him, the frightened women who watched from a distance and John, the one disciple whom Jesus loved, that God was present through it all.

The extra security they put in place would not last, because of the power of God again at display here in our passage through the earthquake that would bring God's angel right to the entrance of the tomb, dazzling in white clothes and who would remove the heavy stone, sit on it and bring the powerful message of Jesus' resurrection to the women who were waiting there on that early Sunday morning.

They witnessed the brightness of God's powerful angel in all its glory breaking open the tomb, with the message that their Savior, Jesus Christ was not there. He is not here...He has risen, the angel said. The guards, Matthew described, were shaken and became like dead men.

Do not be afraid, the angel told the women. He is alive, so you must go and share this good news with the disciples and let them know they need to wait in Galilee, where Jesus will meet them. These women witnessed the remarkable event of His resurrection, experienced profound emotions, and found comfort through the presence of the angel, which brought them peace and genuine joy.

Go, he says, go tell the disciples about what you just

experienced! On their way they met up with Jesus, and they were filled with so much more joy and wonder as they fell to His feet, clasped them and worshipped them. I cannot imagine what those moments must have been like, other than to see how they were lifted up high from a dark and broken place to the light and healing power of the resurrection. Then came these words from Jesus, "Tell My brothers, the disciples to wait for Me in Galilee." In the Gospel of John, we read how Mary Magdalene told the disciples these powerful words, "I have seen the Lord."

III. Conclusion  
Christ's purpose and message during His earthly ministry remained the same on the Day of Resurrection... which is to love and to forgive. He called His disciples who deserted Him, denied Him, betrayed Him, and fled from the scene of the cross, My brothers...and that He will meet up with them, and we know that they became His apostles. His message of love, light, forgiveness, peace, and joy continues in our lifetime as well.

His resurrection therefore needs to be seen by all of us in all its fullness, the fullness to love and care for one another as He loved all those around Him, the fullness to love and accept our neighbors as ourselves, despite our differences, to forgive those who hurt us, and to receive the forgiveness that they offer us.

This Day of Resurrection calls all of us to receive this light from Christ, and turn to one another right here with love and compassion, and then to go out into our homes, our neighborhoods, our workplaces, our towns and as far as we spread our wings, to live the way He lived until the end of His life and beyond into the resurrection.

May God help us to do this, and to bring this Resurrection hope, light, peace, and joy into our world that needs it so much. May we all pass on this message of Mary Magdalene, "I have seen the Lord", because we have been reminded of the light of the Son of God on this Resurrection Day. Happy Easter everyone.  
Amen

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

## Public Safety

### Hardwick Police Log

During the week of April 6-13, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 65 building/property checks, 26 directed/area patrols, 16 radar assignments, one traffic control, 10 emergency 911 calls, eight citizen assists, two assist other agencies, three complaints, one safety hazard, two brush fires, one investigation, one larceny/theft, one vandalism, one scam, two animal calls and 16 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

11:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

**Wednesday, April 8**  
1:59 a.m. Safety Hazard, Upper Church Street, No Action Required  
12:35 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Officer Handled  
5:08 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Dispatch Handled

**Thursday, April 9**  
10:32 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Services Rendered  
11:45 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled  
2:16 p.m. Fire/Brush, North Road, Extinguished  
2:53 p.m. Assist Citizen, Church Lane, Officer Handled  
3:12 p.m. Assist Citizen, Brook Road, Services Rendered  
8:44 p.m. Complaint, Lower Road, Officer Handled  
10:29 p.m. Complaint, Lower Road, Services Rendered

**Friday, April 10**  
8:19 a.m. Fire/Brush, North Road, Extinguished  
5:40 p.m. 911 Assist Citizen, Brook Road, Officer Handled

**Saturday, April 11**  
6:58 a.m. 911 Misdial, Joslyn Road, Patient Refusal  
9:22 a.m. Vandalism, Maple Street, Investigated  
9:32 a.m. Medical Alarm, Church Lane, Services Rendered

**Sunday, April 12**  
4:16 p.m. 911 Complaint, Broad Street, Officer Handled

**Monday, April 6**  
10:27 a.m. Medical Emergency, Upper Church Street, Transported to Hospital  
3 p.m. Scam, Fleming Road, Officer Handled  
3:21 p.m. Assist Citizen, Petersham Road, Officer Handled  
3:46 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Off Ruggles Street, Transported to Hospital  
4:45 p.m. Investigation, Main Street, Spoken To  
7:10 p.m. Medical Alarm, Hardwick Pond Road, Transported to Hospital  
7:41 p.m. Assist Citizen, Telephone, Negative Contact

**Tuesday, April 7**  
8:54 a.m. 911 Lockout, Bridge Street, No Action Required  
10:58 a.m. Larceny/Theft/Shoplifting, Barre Road, Report Taken  
11:01 a.m. Assist Citizen, Greenwich Road, Services Rendered  
11:12 a.m. 911 Neighbor Dispute, Off Ruggles Street, Peace Restored  
5:47 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Officer Handled

### Oakham Police Log

**Sunday, March 15**  
1:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle - Disabled, Pine Road, Removed from scene

**Monday, March 16**  
3:57 p.m. Emergency Medical Service - Sick/Unknown, Scott Road, Transported to Hospital  
5:42 p.m. Fire - Power Lines/Wires, Scott Road, Investigated

**Tuesday, March 17**  
1:25 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Old Turnpike Road, Referred to Other Agency  
2:58 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Old Turnpike Road, Information Taken  
5:16 a.m. Fire - Power Lines/Wires, East Hill Road, Referred to Other Agency  
5:56 a.m. Fire - Brush and Wildland Fire, Rutland Road, Fire Extinguished  
12:28 a.m. Animal - Lost

and/or Found, New Braintree Road, Located/Found

**Wednesday, March 18**  
10:54 a.m. Fire - Power Lines/Wires, Edson Road, Referred to Other Agency

**Friday, March 20**  
5:44 p.m. Emergency Medical Service - Falls, Ware Corner Road, Transported to Hospital

**Saturday, March 21**  
8:10 a.m. Fire - Brush and Wildland Fires, Barre Road, Fire Extinguished  
2:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Citation Issued  
3:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning  
11:27 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Worcester Road, Officer Spoke to Party

See more police logs on page 12

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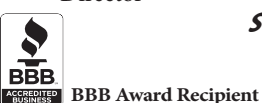


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8th Anniversary

July 1, 1930 - April 29, 2018



They were our strength, our guiding light,  
Standing beside us through every fight.  
With hearts so full of endless love,

They lift us still from up above.  
They taught us courage, showed us grace,  
Left warmth no time can erase.  
And though they're gone, they still remain  
in love, in strength, in all we gain.

*We love and miss you both so very much,*  
MaryAnn & Mark  
Blair & Andy,  
Morgan, Beckett and Delaney

# Public Safety

## Rutland Police Log

**Sunday, March 15**  
 12:59 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Report Filed  
 Summons Johnson, Erin Ann, 28, Worcester  
 Charges Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle, Inspection/Sticker, NO  
 12:01 p.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Birchwood Road, Report Filed  
 6:51 p.m. Erratic Operator, Wheeler Road, Negative Contact  
 8:38 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal

**Monday, March 16**  
 4:25 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Maple Avenue, Transported to Hospital  
 8:30 a.m. Complaint, Edson Avenue, Officer Spoke to Party  
 8:44 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Barre Paxton Road, Transported to Hospital  
 10:40 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Blair Drive, Transported to Hospital  
 11:04 a.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Wilson Way, No Action Required  
 11:27 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Main Street, Transported to Hospital  
 1:19 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, East County Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
 2:44 p.m. Property Damage, Maple Avenue, Report Filed  
 3:57 p.m. Emergency Medical Service, – Sick/Unknown, Scott Road, Transported to Hospital  
 4:02 p.m. Threats, Main Street, Report Filed  
 4:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning  
 5:19 p.m. Property Damage,

Maple Avenue, Investigated (On-Going)  
 5:53 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Main Street, Report Filed  
 7:28 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Soucy Drive, Mutual Aid Assist  
 9:23 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Prescott Street, Officer Spoke to Party

**Tuesday, March 17**  
 4:55 a.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, Brintal Drive, Referred to Other Agency  
 5:56 a.m. Fire – Brush and Wildland Fires, Rutland Road, Fire Extinguished  
 6:43 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Moulton Mill Road, Removed from Scene  
 12:26 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Glenwood Road, Mutual Aid Transport  
 12:28 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, New Braintree Road, Located/Found  
 12:50 p.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Intervale Road, Information Taken  
 1:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 1:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 1:47 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, East County Road, Transported to Hospital  
 3:14 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Glenwood Road, Officer/Chief Advised  
 3:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
 3:39 p.m. Safety Concern, Barre Paxton Road, Area Search Negative  
 4:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Citation Issued  
 4:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

5:04 p.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Maple Avenue, Officer Spoke to Party  
 5:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Officer Spoke to Party  
 Summon Brock, Emma E., 22, Gardner  
 Charges Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle, Unregistered Motor Vehicle, Speeding Rate of Speed Exceeding Posted Limit  
 5:44 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
 6:31 p.m. Property Damage, Prescott Street, Officer Spoke to Party  
 9:23 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Barre Paxton Road, Report Filed

**Wednesday, March 18**  
 12:05 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning  
 12:34 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning  
 12:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County road, Written Warning  
 5:59 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Barre Paxton Road, Transported to Hospital  
 7:47 a.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Birchwood Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
 9:27 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Maple Avenue, Transported to Hospital  
 10:26 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Davis Street, Negative Contact  
 11:09 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 12:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Prouty Lane, Citation Issued  
 2:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning  
 3:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 4:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Citation Issued  
 8:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint  
 Summons Singh, Parminder, 28, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
 Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Speeding Rate of Speed Exceeding Posted Limit

**Thursday, March 19**  
 2:18 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Glenwood Road, Information Given  
 2:38 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Autumn Wood Drive, Transported to Hospital  
 9:40 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Brooke Haven Drive, Ambulance Signed Refusal  
 10:52 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Forest Hill Drive, Transported to Hospital  
 11:07 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Maple Avenue, Transported to Hospital  
 1:30 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Victoria Avenue, Transported to Hospital  
 2:31 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Main Street, Report Filed  
 3:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 4 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Wachusett Street, Written Warning  
 5:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning  
 5:54 p.m. Complaint, Paddock Road, Officer/Chief advised  
 8:29 p.m. Juvenile Runaway,

Main Street, Returned  
 8:56 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Wachusett Street, Transported to Hospital

**Friday, March 20**  
 3:26 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle/Parking Issues, Rutland State Park Beach Area, Officer Spoke to Party  
 3:48 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Olivia Lane, Transported to Hospital  
 5:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning  
 8:14 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Johnson Way, Information Taken  
 8:15 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 9:35 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning  
 9:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued  
 Summons Brelsford, Jeffrey Robert, 41, Southbridge  
 Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With  
 1:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Arrest(s) Made  
 Arrest Zhuwao, Jessica Lee, 51, Westminster  
 Charges Warrant, Drug, Posses Class B  
 2:33 p.m. Prisoner Watch or Meal, Main Street, Prisoner Bailed  
 Arrest Zhuwao, Jessica Lee, 51, Westminster  
 Charges Warrant, Drug, Posses Class  
 5:07 p.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, Intervale Road, Referred to Other Agency  
 5:15 p.m. Animal ACO Call, Woodside Avenue, Officer/Chief Advised  
 5:44 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Ware Corner

Road, Transported to Hospital  
 6:47 p.m. Fire – Explosive Incidents, Lizzy Lane, Investigated  
 9:45 p.m. Fire – Explosive Incidents, Barre Paxton Road, Investigated  
 11:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning  
 11:24 p.m. Fire – Fire Investigation, Central Tree Road, Investigated

**Saturday, March 21**  
 12:15 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Criminal Complaint  
 Summons Heck, Crystalann Claire-Rose, 26, Southbridge  
 Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle C90 S34J, Unregistered Motor Vehicle, Inspection/Sticker, No  
 2:10 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Arrowhead Way, Transported to Hospital  
 8:10 a.m. Fire – Brush and Wildland Fires, Barre Road, Fire Extinguished  
 8:16 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Jamie Ann Drive, Report Filed  
 12:35 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Main Street, Transported to Hospital  
 3:39 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Barre Paxton Road, Information Given  
 3:36 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Prescott Street, Transported to Hospital  
 4:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 5:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning  
 7:30 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Memorial Drive, Negative Contact

## Barre Police Log

**Sunday, March 15**  
 7:07 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Old Stage Road, No Action Required  
 8:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Citation Issued

**Monday, March 16**  
 5:41 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive, Syncope, West Street, Report Filed  
 9:13 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Cut Off Road, Transported to Hospital  
 3:18 p.m. Threats, Chamberlain Hill Road, Officer Spoke to Party  
 5:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning  
 7:40 p.m. Property Damage, Summer Street, Information Given

**Tuesday, March 17**  
 6:28 a.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, Cutler Road, Investigated  
 6:51 a.m. Fire – Power Line/Wires, Grogan Road, Removed from Scene  
 7:20 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Trauma, South Street, Transported to Hospital  
 9:41 a.m. Emergency

Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Gauthier Road, Transported to Hospital  
 10:39 a.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, Granger Road, Referred to Other Agency  
 2:11 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires, Adams Street, Referred to Other Agency  
 4:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Written Warning  
 6:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

**Wednesday, March 18**  
 3:31 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Hubbardston Road, Referred to Other Agency  
 8:09 a.m. Fire Motor Vehicle Collision, North Brookfield Road, Report Filed  
 9:06 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Old Coldbrook Road, Report Filed  
 4:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Written Warning  
 5:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Summer Street, Criminal Complaint  
 Summons Whitehouse, Sarie Lynne, 37, Orange  
 Charges License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With

**Thursday, March 19**  
 9:37 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Wauwinet Road, No Transport Required  
 5:42 p.m. Erratic Operator, Summer Street, Negative Contact

**Friday, March 20**  
 4:04 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Worcester Road, Information Taken  
 6:47 a.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Spring Hill Road, Referred to Other Agency  
 3:45 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Wauwinet Road, Transported to Hospital

**Saturday, March 21**  
 7:47 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Butterworth Road, Officer/Chief Advised  
 8:10 a.m. Fire – Brush and Wildland Fires, Barre Road, Fire Extinguished  
 11:18 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Wauwinet Road, Officer/Chief Advised  
 1:37 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Common Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal

## Hubbardston Police Log

**Sunday, March 15**  
 2:50 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Old Princeton Road Cutoff, Transported to Hospital  
 2:06 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Gardner Road, Checked/Secured  
 8:54 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Williamsville Road, Report Filed

**Tuesday, March 17**  
 1:46 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), New Westminster Road, No Action Required  
 6:53 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Ragged Hill Road, Removed from Scene  
 9:13 a.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, Mile Road, Investigated  
 11:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brigham Street, Written Warning  
 11:54 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Madison Way, Transported to Hospital  
 12:16 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Main Street, Mutual Aid Transport  
 4:22 p.m. Fire – Power

Lines/Wires, Birches Road, Referred to Other Agency  
 6:07 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Main Street, Report Filed  
 6:35 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Moosehorn Hill Circle, Transported to Hospital  
 10:51 p.m. Emergency – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Old Princeton Road, Mutual Aid Transport

**Wednesday, March 18**  
 9:11 a.m. Road Condition Notification, Brigham Street, Officer/Chief Advised  
 11:31 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Old Princeton Cutoff Road, No Transport Required  
 5:31 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Old Turnpike Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal  
 6:22 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Prentiss Hill Road, Report Filed

**Thursday, March 19**  
 9 a.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, Mile Road, Investigated

**Friday, March 20**  
 7:53 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Gardner Road, Returned  
 11:18 a.m. Fire – Vehicle Fires, Old Boston Turnpike, Fire Extinguished  
 3:40 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Chicopee Drive, Call Transferred

**Saturday, March 21**  
 8:34 a.m. Erratic Operator, Gardner Road, Negative Contact  
 4:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Burnshirt Road, Written Warning  
 6:53 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Burnshirt Road, Written Warning  
 5:37 p.m. Erratic Operator, Gardner Road, Officer/Chief Advised

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The Town of New Braintree Highway Dept. is seeking qualified applicants for the immediate full-time position of Skilled Laborer / Truck Driver. Applicants must have a valid Massachusetts Driver's License, Class B (CDL) with DOT Medical Examination Certification and a Hoisting Engineer License Class 2B with DOT Medical Examination Certification. Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and an employment application to: Highway Department, 110 West Brookfield Road, New Braintree MA 01531.

### Highway Dept. Seasonal Laborer

The Town of New Braintree is seeking a qualified candidate to perform seasonal work in the maintenance of town commons, roadways, grounds and cemeteries. Applicants must have a valid Massachusetts Driver's License (Class D). This is a seasonal position for 20 hours per week with a flexible schedule, May through October. Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and employment application to: Highway Department, 110 West Brookfield Road, New Braintree MA 01531.

For further information, please contact **Richard Ayer, Highway Superintendent, at 508-867-2451, or via email at Highway@newbraintree.gov.**

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Interested candidates should email [holyokewilds@gmail.com](mailto:holyokewilds@gmail.com) with their contact information and brief work history.

Holyoke Wilds is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or veteran status.

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The Town of North Brookfield is looking for a **part-time Program Assistant** for the Council on Aging. Please submit a resume with a letter of interest to the **Selectmen's Office, 215 Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535;** or by email to [selectmen@northbrookfield.net](mailto:selectmen@northbrookfield.net).

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# World travelers program at Unitarian church

PETERSHAM – When residents of the Quabbin Region travel away from their towns, they eventually return to share stories of their travels.

These stories become the essence of the local community's history. To that end, on Sunday, April 16 at 10:30 a.m. the First Congregational Unitarian Church of Petersham, 3 West St., will offer a special program by two world travelers who will share their travels and the insights they gained.

The program, entitled "Global Travel: Windows to the World and Personal

Empowerment," features two world travelers, Brother Northstar, peace pilgrim and Dr. Larry Buell, both residents of Petersham.

Brother Northstar became a resident of Petersham after 25 years traveling around the world as a Peace Pilgrim under the banner of his project, "One People, One Earth." His travels to 69 countries included the (1998-1999) Interfaith Pilgrimage of the Middle Passage of the slave boats. Northstar's story is quite unique and included tales of walking through the United States, Japan, Okinawa,

Gutemala, Belize and Mexico.

Larry Buell on the other hand, traveled around the world in 1965 as an Ambassador of Sport for the United States with the Springfield College Basketball Team and, more recently, spent four months traveling through the former Soviet Union and Siberia. Both Northstar and Buell have remarkable stories that show evidence of how important travel is to one's personal and planetary communities. One important theme of the morning program will be the concept of

the "Telos of one's journey" when the traveler ends their journey and turns around to return home to tell the story to their people.

For NorthStar, who has been welcomed into the community Petersham he looks forward to sharing his inspirational and informative travels. NorthStar states, "I look forward to sharing the depth of some of the lessons I learned from my many years of travel."

The program is free and open to the public. For information, people may email Larry Buell at larry@uof-wild.org.



Submitted photo

The travels of Brother NorthStar, peace pilgrim, will be the focus of a Petersham program on Sunday, April 26 at 10:30 a.m.

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