

BARRE GAZETTE

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SB heard update on municipal complex

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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HUBBARDSTON – The Select Board heard an update from Kari Sacramone, the chair of the Municipal Complex Committee at their meeting last Tuesday.

The town is working to build a new hub for the police, fire and municipal government.

Sacramone said the committee currently has one schematic design ready for presentation, but they are aiming to present two at a town meeting in the fall. She said the schematic

design is based on space needs, and they are continuing to discuss office space for example, and whether they will be placed in the upstairs part of the complex.

Sacramone said the second schematic design could have a color coded aspect, showing aspects that are necessary for the design,

along with some things that could be taken out if needed.

The committee and Select Board noted the importance of presenting residents with timelines, construction costs and effects on residents' taxes.

Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald described the current conditions of the

police department as "unacceptable," and said that the proposed new complex will be one of the town's "most important generational investments."

TA Search Committee
Sacramone is also the chair of the Town Administrator Search Committee, and gave a brief

update about the progress being made in finding a new town administrator. She said there have been about 50 resumes received, and each member of the committee is going to pick their top five before first interviews are

See HUBBARDSTON
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ATM articles reviewed by Board

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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RUTLAND – The Select Board along with Town Administrator Heather Butler reviewed several articles on the annual town meeting warrant, which will be held next Saturday, May 9.

The first article reviewed had to do with the snow and ice budget, with Butler describing a \$229,360 deficit this year, which she said will require end of year transfers to cover it. She said there are multiple accounts that have funds available that can be used to offset that deficit, including \$90,000 in health insurance surplus, \$30,000 in highway overtime, and \$60,000 in highway wages.

She said this combined \$180,000 in available funds will leave the snow and ice deficit at \$49,360, which will be on the warrant as a request to transfer from free cash.

The second article reviewed by Butler had to do with the town pool, and how the town will pay for

the proposed borrowing. She said she had a meeting with the recreation director, and came to an agreement of a 50/50 split between paying from the recreation budget and the town budget.

Butler said the 10-year note yearly repayment was estimated to be between \$18,000 and \$23,000, and decided to use \$20,000 as a median estimate for yearly repayment. That would leave the recreation and town each paying \$10,000.

The Select Board said there would be \$8,000 a year in interest offset, so the taxpayer burden would only be \$2,000 a year.

Butler noted that depending on recreation funds, there is a possibility of the town contributing slightly more in certain years, but the recreation has committed to paying for engineering and procurement costs. Butler said a request has been submitted to state legislators for a potential earmark for engineering.

Members of the Select
See RUTLAND page 6



Tony Menegoni fixed bicycles at the repair fair sponsored by the Barre Historical Society as part of Barre's Earth Day celebrations on Saturday, April 25.

Historical Society hosts REPAIR FAIR



Submitted photos
Chris Higgins, right, fixes this young boy's matchbox.



Brian Tanguay had a watch repair and evaluation station set up inside the Barre Historical Society building.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Candidates Orsi and Kennan answered questions at forum

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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NORTH BROOKFIELD – A Meet the Candidates night was held last Friday night to allow those running for town offices to answer questions and speak to voters directly about their experience and plans for what they wish to achieve in their positions.

Two candidates on the May 4 ballot attended, including Richard Kennan, who is running for Water Commissioner and Peter Orsi, who is vying for a seat on the Board of Selectmen.

Kennan introduced himself, saying he is a long-time resident of the town, and has been involved in local organizations throughout his life, such as the Knights of Columbus, Lions Club, and coaching little league. He said he had previously worked in the North Brookfield water plant, first serving as an operator, before transitioning to Water Superintendent.

He said he is now

retired, so has the time to devote to the position, and has a lot of experience with the plant, such as working infrastructure, supervising operations, maintaining budgets and attending monthly meetings.

Orsi said he is also a long-time resident of the town, and has also been involved in a lot of organizations in town, like coaching little league, soccer and working with the Boy Scouts. He said he was a firefighter in town for 11 years, and has worked with multiple town officials in town over the years.

Orsi said he sat on the building committee for the highway and fire complex. He said he has the time to devote to the job of sitting on the Board of Selectmen, and has met a lot of the people he would be working with.

Key requirements

Both candidates were asked what they believe are the key requirements to be

See CANDIDATES
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Select Board heard pavement plan proposal

By Paula Ouimette
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NORTH BROOKFIELD – Roger Brooks came before the Board of Selectmen to discuss the condition of the roads in town.

At the April 21 meeting, he said he had some ideas about what the town can do to maintain paving and best utilize Chapter 90 funds.

Brooks said the town of Sterling had an independent company come in and evaluate the condition of its

roads. He said the evaluation was done in 10-foot increments on every road that received Chapter 90 funding.

"They categorize it and they have five categories... they have a list of every road – the dimensions, width-wise, lengthwise...and what kind of condition the drainage is on the side...all of which impact the roads in town," Brooks said.

Brooks said the data collected determines if the road falls into one of the cate-

gories of "minor," "minor patch and seal," "preventative treatment," "minor rehab" and "major reconstruction."

He said some of North Brookfield's roads will need major reconstruction, "from the ground up," but others could receive less costly pavement treatments such as "mill and pave."

"We may be able to do more roads due to the fact that their costs would be, let's say a third of the cost of full-deck reclamation," he

said.

Brooks said the evaluation would provide a more accurate inventory of the condition of the town's roads.

"I think we'll wind up having a more comprehensive and cost effective way of upgrading our roads," he said.

Brooks said the evaluation cost the town of Sterling just over \$40,000

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page 7

Hearing addressed protection of Muddy Brook

By Paula Ouimette
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HARDWICK – The Board of Health held a public hearing to review proposed regulations to protect the Muddy Brook aquifer and watershed.

Board of Health Chair Dr. John Mott said the public hearing was not a legal requirement in order to adopt the regulations, but the board felt it was important to get input from the public.

At the April 22 hearing

held at Hardwick Elementary School, Mott was joined by fellow board member Dr. Richard Romano to present the draft regulations and introduce a panel of experts to speak about the Muddy Brook area and its importance.

The need for protection

Romano said the Board of Health wanted to show residents "what the thinking was behind it...the science behind it" with the panel of speakers.

Romano said the Muddy Brook aquifer is high-medium yield and is seven miles in length and 200 feet deep.

"It's deeper than Quabbin," Romano said. "It's as very significant geological formation."

Romano said the aquifer provides drinking water to private wells around Muddy Brook, including at Hardwick Pond, as well as public drinking water to the Barnes Street wells for the town of Ware.

"This aquifer is very rare,

and it's very vulnerable," he said.

Romano referred to a map that outlined the gravel corridor formed around the aquifer, and explained how the gravel travels all the way to the Barnes Street wells.

"If you protect the gravel;

See MUDDY BROOK
page 13



News of the Towns



ROUND TOWN
by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Library hosts 'Clothes Encounters'
Clothes Encounters, a step into the past with historian Sally Cragin, takes place on Tuesday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant St., Barre. She presents an interactive program on the history of fashion. This engaging program examines how clothing reflected social class, gender roles and cultural expectations from the mid-19th century through the Jazz Age and beyond. Attendees will have the rare opportunity to see authentic historical garments and accessories from her extensive collection. Participants will be able to closely examine a variety of items, including shoes, wool and cotton undergarments and uniforms worn by shop girls, waitresses and housewives. The collection also features eye-catching flapper outfits and men's hats and apparel from the early 20th century. Select pieces will even be available for audience members to try on, offering a hands-on way to connect with the past and experience how clothing shaped everyday life. In addition to garments, Cragin's collection includes a stunning assortment of antique handbags, each reflecting the craftsmanship and style of its era. This lively and educational program offers a unique opportunity to experience history through the clothing people wore and the stories those garments tell. For more information, people may call the library at 978-355-2533, extension 102.

Designer pancake breakfast
Cradle Rock Chapter Order of Eastern Star will hold a designer pancake breakfast on Saturday, May 9 from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at Mt. Zion Lodge, 71 Pleasant St., Barre. Cost is \$9 per adult and \$6 for children six and under. It features a complete breakfast including select your own designed pancake using chips, nuts and fruits, waffles, sausage gravy and biscuits, bacon, sausage, juice and coffee. Everyone is welcome. Celebrate Mother's Day by treating mom to this breakfast.

Hike at Jacob Riis farm site
Historian Lucy Allen and Department of Conservation and Recreation program coordinator Nancy Huntington will present a joint program on Sunday, May 3 on site where at the farm property of the former home of social reformer Jacob Riis and to the Heath located directly across the street. Due to

limited parking in the area of the hike, this group will meet at 11 a.m. at the Barre Historical Society and Museum located at 18 Common St. for carpooling options. Jacob Riis was one of the most influential journalists and social reformers of the early 20th century. He was an immigrant whose photographs changed the way America looked at the human cost of poverty; he was friends with President Theodore Roosevelt, and spent the last few years of his life in Barre. Drawn to Barre due to its rural beauty and the hope of a simple life, Riis referred to his home near the Burnshirt River as "Our Happy Valley." City people most of their lives, Jacob and his wife Mary faced the challenges of becoming farmers on the rundown farm with humor. Riis is buried at nearby Riverside Cemetery. Participants will visit his former home site on the grounds of the DCR Ware River Watershed, then they will cross the street to the Barre Heath, Riis' front yard where an ongoing restoration project is recovering this critical biodiversity habitat. The tour will involve walking on hilly and potentially rough terrain. People may call 978-355-4978 and leave a message; their call will be returned.

Circle of Song concert
The Circle of Song Concert completes the vocal groups 25th anniversary season on Saturday, May 16 at the Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange St. at 7 p.m. On the docket this concert are the following songs: "Down By the Riverside," a traditional African-American spiritual; "No One is Alone" from "Into the Woods;" "The Promise of Living" from "The Tender Land;" "Les Miserables" medley from the musical of the same name; "Make Our Garden Grow" from "Candide;" "Brightly Dawns Our Wedding Day" from

See ROUND TOWN page 3

Quabbin Regional School District is both Regional and Rural, what does that mean?

From the desk of Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent Colleen Mucha

BARRE —There are many ways that public school districts are configured and here at Quabbin, they are a PK- Post Grad Regional School District that has five member towns: Barre, Hardwick, Hubbardston, New Braintree, and Oakham.

Being regionalized allows for cost saving measures such as sharing staff across the district. For example, the district provides "special" classes to elementary students like Science Technology Engineering Math, art, physical education and music. The specialists are shared between two and sometimes three schools. Regionalization also helps share the cost of centralized functions, like administrative support, plant and facilities and often cost savings are generated through bulk purchasing of supplies, materials, heating oil and more.

The largest cost saving benefit to being regionalized is that the district receive Regional School Transportation reimbursement. Under Mass General Law, this mandate was designed as an incentive for districts to regionalize and it promised 100% state reimbursement for transporting students, who live more than 2.0 miles from school.

However we are required to transport all students to and from school that are 1.5 miles or further from school. Regional transportation reimburse-

ment does not reimburse for any students less than 2.0 miles from school.

With the costs of fuel, transportation is a very large expense and the reimbursement is a critical need. Each year, the funding is subject to annual state appropriation. The reimbursement rates fluctuate and have been as low as 71% and as high as 96%. In the past few years, legislators have worked to keep reimbursement rates in the mid to high 80 percent range. This aid is vital for regional school districts and the district is grateful for this effort.

Quabbin Regional School District is also designated as a Rural School District based on low student density (35 or fewer students) per square mile and lower per capita income. Due to rural challenges of the QRSD, delivering quality education to these students costs significantly more than in non-rural school districts.

The state funding formula does not account for these higher per student expenses. In 2018, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education published studies on rurality and for the first time ever, Rural School Aid was included in the state budget and a special commission was established.

In 2023-2024 a Rural Schools bill was introduced. The special commission reported that it would require \$60 mil-

lion to fully fund Rural Aid for rural districts across Massachusetts. Unfortunately for QRSD, the state has not yet met that goal. While Rural Aid has increased over the years, it is still well beneath what is needed and necessary and in the past three years there has been a decrease.

Rural School Aid to Quabbin was \$1,042,091.82 for Fiscal Year 2024, \$1,010,308.33 for FY 25 and \$678,803.86 for FY 26.

Massachusetts education funding is failing to keep pace with rising costs, and students, families, and communities are feeling that effect. Here at Quabbin they have been forced to make difficult decisions that impact educational opportunities available to their students. These losses have accumulated over time and lessened the educational experiences and opportunities for our students compared to those in more financially advantaged communities.

In our next article, the school district will discuss the FY 27 QRSD budget and steps they have taken to maintain programs and opportunities, and where they have had to reduce. As always, people may reach out with any questions or suggestions for future articles by emailing cmucha@qrsd.org. The school district is thankful to the communities and families for their ongoing support and trust.



OAKHAM
by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Senior picnic set for June 6

There is a sign up sheet at the Oakham Senior Center to attend the annual Sheriff's Senior picnic at SAC Park in Shrewsbury on Saturday, June 6 at 11 a.m. It will be a "drive through" event, starting at 11 am on June 6. Deadline to sign up is Wednesday, May 20. People may call the Oakham Senior Center at 508-882-4073 to sign up if they cannot sign up in person.

COA events

The monthly Council on Aging meeting will be held Friday, May 8 at noon in the voting room at the Oakham Town Hall. Lunch Bunch will meet Friday May 15 at Funky Murphy's in Tatnuck Square in Worcester at 12:30 p.m. Podiatry Clinic will be held Monday, May 18 from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; an appointment is required. Blood pressure and glucose screening will be held Tuesday, May 26 from 11a.m.-1 p.m.; no appointment is needed. Ongoing activities include 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.

Legislators staff office hour

State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume and Chief of Staff, Donna and Senator Peter Durant's offices invite constituents and town officials to meet them to express any concerns, ideas or issues that they may need assistance with. On Wednesday, May 20 office visit will be at the Oakham Town Hall, 2 Coldbrook Road, from 12:15-1 p.m. People may call Donna at 774-402-4742 if they would like a private meeting.

Church news

The congregation of the Oakham Congregational Church will ordain Pastor Clarissa Rodriguez on Saturday, May 16 at 1 p.m. in the church sanctuary. A collation will follow the ordination.

Circle of Song holds spring concert May 16

BARRE — Circle of Song completes its 25th anniversary season with an eclectic concert on Saturday, May 16 at the Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchange St. at 7 p.m.

On the docket this concert are the following songs: "Down By the Riverside," a traditional African-American spiritual; "No One is Alone" from "Into the Woods;" "The Promise of Living" from "The Tender Land;" "Les Miserables" medley from the musical of the same name; "Make Our Garden Grow" from "Candide;" "Brightly Dawns Our Wedding Day" from the Mikado; "Solitude" by Duke Ellington; "Waltzing Matilda," traditional Australian; "Total Praise" by Richard Smallwood and "Till There Was You" from "The Music Man."

This is a free concert and refreshments will be served. For more information, people may email Julie Rawson at julie@mhof.net or call 978-257-1192.

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 or call 413-283-8393. Corrections may also be requested in writing at Barre Gazette, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

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 May 4. 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 — Shepherd's pie, carrots, peas, vanilla yogurt, marble rye bread

TUESDAY — Cinco De Mayo — Chicken fajitas, Spanish rice, black beans and corn, pineapple, pita bread, sour cream

WEDNESDAY — Braised beef,

Gemelli pasta, broccoli, baked apples, pumpernickel bread

THURSDAY — Mother's Day Meal — Chicken royale with gravy, mashed sweet potatoes, green beans, double chocolate cake, diet = cheesecake mousse, Italian bread

FRIDAY — Vegetable cheese bake, O'Brien potatoes, Tuscan vegetables, fresh fruit, whole wheat bread

*Higher sodium entree Meal includes milk and margarine. Menus are subject to change. All meals are served at about 11:45 a.m. each weekday. Reservations should be made the day before by calling 978-355-5027 before 10:30 a.m. The donation of \$3.00 per meal helps keep the program running.

Barre/Hardwick Senior Center holds art show

BARRE — The Barre/Hardwick Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, announces its upcoming Art Show on Saturday, May 16 from 1-3 p.m.

The show will celebrate the creativity and talent of local artists aged 55 and older. This year's theme, "Spirit of America," highlights Americana-inspired works, and organizers are especially encouraging submissions that reflect this theme.

However, artists should know that it is not too late to enter and all forms and styles of art are welcome, regardless of theme.

Artists are also welcome to enter more than one piece, making this a wonderful opportunity to showcase a range of work. Whether their art reflects patriotic imagery, landscapes, personal expression or abstract design, the show aims to highlight the full range of artistic voices in the community.

The Art Show will feature a variety of mediums and promises to be a vibrant and engaging event for attendees. In addition to the artwork on display, light food fare will be available, creating a welcoming and social atmosphere for both

artists and guests.

Entry forms are available at the Senior Center or visiting townoffbarre.com/coa. For more information or assistance, people may call the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center at 978-355-5031.

The Barre/Hardwick Senior Center extends its sincere appreciation to the Mass Cultural Councils of Hardwick and New Braintree for their generous support in making this culturally enriching program possible. Their commitment helps bring meaningful arts programming to the community.

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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

Select Board – May 4 at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – May 5 at 6 p.m.
 Felton Field Commission – May 5 at 6:30 p.m.
 Planning Board – May 5 and May 19 at 7 p.m.
 Council of Aging – May 6 at 12:20 p.m.
 Board of Health – May 11 at 5 p.m.
 Water Commission – May 11 at 5:30 p.m.
 DPW Commission – May 11 at 6 p.m.
 Library Trustees – May 13 at 6:30 p.m.
 Barre Common Oversight Committee – May 13 at 7 p.m.
 Barre Housing Authority – May 14 at 1 p.m.
 Zoning Board of Appeals – May 14 at 7 p.m. and June 18 at 6 p.m.
 Cemetery Commission – May 28 at 11 a.m.
 Cable Advisory Committee – June 9 at 7 p.m.

HARDWICK

Finance Committee – April 30 at 6 p.m.
 Select Board – April 30 at 6 p.m.
 Paige Library Trustees – April 30 at 6:30 p.m. and May 7 at 7 p.m.
 Recycling Commission – May 5 at 6:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – May 6 at 12:30 p.m.
 Planning Board – May 12 at 6:30 p.m.
 Gilbertville Public Library – May 13 at 3 p.m.
 Master Plan Steering Committee – May 14 at 6:30 p.m.
 Capital Planning Committee – May 18 at 3 p.m.
 Gilbertville Water District – May 19 at 5:30 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – May 20 at 6:30 p.m.
 Wheelwright Water District – May 20 at 7 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Planning Board – April 30 at 7 p.m., May 6 and May 21 at 6:30 p.m.
 Opening Space Committee – April 30 at 7 p.m.
 Agricultural Commission – May 3 at 4:30 p.m.
 Town Administrator Search Committee – May 4 at 6 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – May 5 at 7 p.m.
 Board of Library Trustees – May 7 at 7 p.m.
 Board of Health – May 12 and May 26 at 7 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – May 20 at 6 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Town Election – May 4 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.
 Parks and Recreation – May 7 at 6 p.m.
 Rep. Berthiaume Office Hour – May 11 from 12:30-1:30 p.m.
 Planning Board – May 20 all day

OAKHAM

Tree Warden Public Hearing – May 1 at 10 a.m.
 Rep. Berthiaume and Sen. Durant Staff Office Hour – May 20 from 12:15-1 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Select Board – April 30 at 5:30 p.m., May 5 at 8:30 a.m., May 7 at 5:30 p.m., May 12 at 8:30 a.m., May 14 at 5:30 p.m., May 19 at 8:30 a.m., May 21 at 5:30 p.m., May 26 at 8:30 a.m., May 28 at 5:30 p.m. and June 11 and June 18 at 5:30 p.m.
 Advisory Finance Committee – April 30 at 7 p.m. and May 7 at 5:30 p.m. and May 14, May 21, May 28 and June 1, all at 6 p.m.
 Open Space and Recreation Committee – May 5 at 6 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – May 5 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – May 11 at 10:30 a.m.
 Cemetery Commission – May 12 at 11 a.m.
 Petersham Historic District – May 21 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – May 22 at 9 a.m.

RUTLAND

Finance Committee – April 30 at 6 p.m.
 Town Charter Committee – April 30 at 6:30 p.m.
 Planning Board Public Hearing – May 12 at 6:30 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.

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the Mikado; “Solitude” by Duke Ellington; “Waltzing Matilda,” traditional Australian; “Total Praise” by Richard Smallwood and “Till There Was You” from “The Music Man.” This is a free concert and refreshments will be served. For more information, people may email Julie Rawson at julie@mhof.net or call 978-257-1192.



Submitted photo

Tom Saupe, president of the Oakham Historical Association, talks about one of the collections guns as seven grade students from Valley View School listen.

Students learn about early American artifacts

OAKHAM – The Oakham Historical Association hosted a group of seventh grade student from Valley View School in North Brookfield at the Oakham Historical Museum, Old Turnpike Road.

The students came to look at artifacts of the Revolutionary War and Civil War. The artifacts were presented by Oakham Historical Association president, Tom Saupe along with Museum curator, Linda Housman and Vice President Lee Dougan. Artifact shown

were augmented by objects from a local private collection. They included a rare copy of the Declaration of Independence, many military items from both wars including muskets and swords from the two collections.

One special item was an 1861 Springfield musket, which was carried during the war by August Ockert of Pennsylvania. The gun had seen action at Chancellorsville, Chambersburg and Gettysburg. There was a good deal of discussion and

interaction with the students regarding the wars, the soldier’s lives and their accoutrements. Tom Saupe remarked that in the eyes of many historians, the two wars were the most important in American history, as they created what we are today.

Finally, the students were allowed to shoot two reproduction muskets. One a Brown Bess flintlock from the Revolution and an 1861 Springfield from the Civil War. They fired blank rounds, but were excited by the noise and smoke.

Memorial Day festivities become clearer

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
 Staff Writer
 zachf@turley.com

HUBBARDSTON – The Memorial Day Committee held two more meetings this past month, where the participants and festivities that will be happening at the May 25 parade have become clearer, with more people and organizations becoming locked in.

Members of the committee described the need for a trumpeter, particularly to play Taps.

They said they have found one who lives about an hour from town, and would be willing to come out for the parade. They plan on paying him a \$100 stipend to cover the travel.

Committee Chair Stevie

LaBelle said conversations with Toni Brown from the music department at Quabbin Regional Middle High School lead her to believe a second trumpeter, a student at the school, may be available as well, to play in the back.

She said conversations with the band from Gardner, McGann’s resulted in a no for their participation, as they are not available. The Lions Club also decided not to run a food truck for the event.

There were multiple updates on participants, including Peter Walker, who serves on the Select Board, agreeing to serve as the master of ceremonies, and John Nason as grand marshal. Organizations like the Hubbardston

Militia and Monty Tech’s color guard, and a motorcycle group have also been locked in by the committee.

There are still a few unknowns, including which students will be doing the readings of In Flander’s Field and the Gettysburg Address. Committee member Taylor Wilkinson sent out an email to parents at the elementary school alerting them of the opportunity, and a date for tryouts.

Other updates from the meetings include the flag on the common being retired, and a new one has been ordered, the bell on the meetinghouse looks fine and able to be rung, and the time of the step off is still not concrete, it could be anywhere from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

St. Thomas A Becket Church celebrates St. Francis

SOUTH BARRE – St. Thomas A Becket Church, 380 Vernon Avenue, will celebrate St. Francis Lives, celebrating the special Franciscan Jubilee Year on Monday, May 18 at 6:30 p.m. with a reflection on life of St. Francis by Corinne Lorenet, a member of the Secular Franciscan Order.

The jubilee year will emphasize peace, conversion, and the “transitus” (passing) of the saint.

The Franciscan Family is marking this year as “The Easter of St. Francis,” remembering his death and, as importantly, celebrating his life.

Lorennet serves the Secular Franciscan Order of the US as a national councilor and as a spiritual assistant to several local fraternities.

From Feb. 22 to March 22, the mortal remains of St. Francis of Assisi were on public display in the Lower Church of the

Basilica of Saint Francis in Assisi, Italy, marking a rare 800th-anniversary commemoration. Lorenet was one of the hundreds of thousands of Pilgrims, who viewed the glass-enclosed, 13th-century skeleton in the crypt.

She will explore the spiritual legacy that St. Francis has left us, in particular of his profound, intense devotion to the Eucharist, care for the poor and marginalize caring for all of God’s creation, humility and being bearers of peace.

Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a Special



Corinne Lorenet

Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi, running from Jan. 10, 2026 to Jan. 10, 2027 to mark the 800th year anniversary of the saint’s death.

As part of this Jubilee Year, the Pope invites all of the faithful to make pious pilgrimages to Franciscan churches. The parish of St. Francis of Assisi right here in Barre/South Barre has been designated a Pilgrimage Site for the Worcester Diocese.

HUBBARDSTON

by Ellenor Downer
 edowner@turley.com

Wellness walk takes place May 17

The East Quabbin Land Trust in collaboration with Hubbardston Open Space Committee will hold a wellness walk, birding and spring ephemerals on Sunday, May 17 at 7:30 a.m. at Henry’s Grove, Lombard Road. The walk includes birding with Steve Lofgren, a grandson of the Henry in Henry’s Grove and spring ephemerals with Mike Stoll, steward of Henry’s Grove and Hidden Meadow Preserves. The walk will last one to one and a half hours. There is parking along one side of Lombard Road. People should RSVP by emailing atrevvett@eqlt.org.

Meeting House plant sale

The First Meeting House, 2 Main St., will hold a plant sale on Saturday, May 9 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Perennials from early spring flowering to late fall flowering and seasonal long. Edible plants some annuals like geraniums and some woody plants. Most plants grew in local gardens. 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 historic Meeting House needs help in preserving its history. Donation may be dropped of on Saturday, May 9 at 8 a.m. People should label names of plants.

Legislators staff office hour

State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume and Chief of Staff, Donna and Senator Peter Durant’s offices invite constituents and town officials to meet them to express any concerns, ideas or issues that they may need assistance with. On Monday, May 11 office visit times are: Hubbardston Senior Center from 9-10 a.m. People may call Donna at 774-402-4742 if they would like a private meeting.

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. Yam-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.

Storyteller Todd Goodwin presents ‘Growing up Grubby’

NEW BRAINTREE – “Growing up ‘Grubby’” with presenter Todd Goodwin will take place on Saturday, May 16 at 7 p.m. at the New Braintree Town Hall, 20 Memorial Drive. This free event is for adults looking for an evening of nostalgia and sponsored by the New Braintree Library and the Friends of the New Braintree Library.

Beloved New England storyteller Todd Goodwin offers a humorous set of stories of his childhood growing up with his three colorful, some might say kooky, brothers in the 1950s and 1960s.

From weekly baths that explain their nickname, to the “covered wagon” that ended up in the backyard, to road trips, holidays and the dumb things all do as children and laugh at now.

There will even be a few classic songs from those days. People may plan to attend and see if any of the stories bring back their childhood. 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.



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Editorial deadline reminder

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

Opinion

Letters to Editor

Quabbin Girls Golf deserves equal press

To the Editor

Cheryl Adams started the program in 1999. The team first played at Petersham Country Club.

When the course closed they moved to Dunroamin. When Dunroamin closed they moved to Quail Hollow in Oakham, which is now their home course.

During these 27 years at three different courses, The Barre Gazette always did an excellent

job of covering the team. Reporters came to the courses and took photos of the team and wrote in depth articles.

The past two seasons that all changed. The photographers stopped coming and the articles

ended. Whatever press the team received came from outside sources.

The team is a Division I varsity sport. They should receive the same coverage that other varsity sports receive. No more and certainly no less closer than Petersham and Gilbertville.

The team is the only Girls Varsity Golf Team in the entire readership of Turley's numerous newspapers.

Several of these players went on to play col-

legiate golf some at the Division 1 level. The team has a big following from the members and staff at Quail Hollow, not to mention family and friends, who enjoy reading their Instagram page.

If the team record was based on strength of schedule like all the other varsity sports at Quabbin,

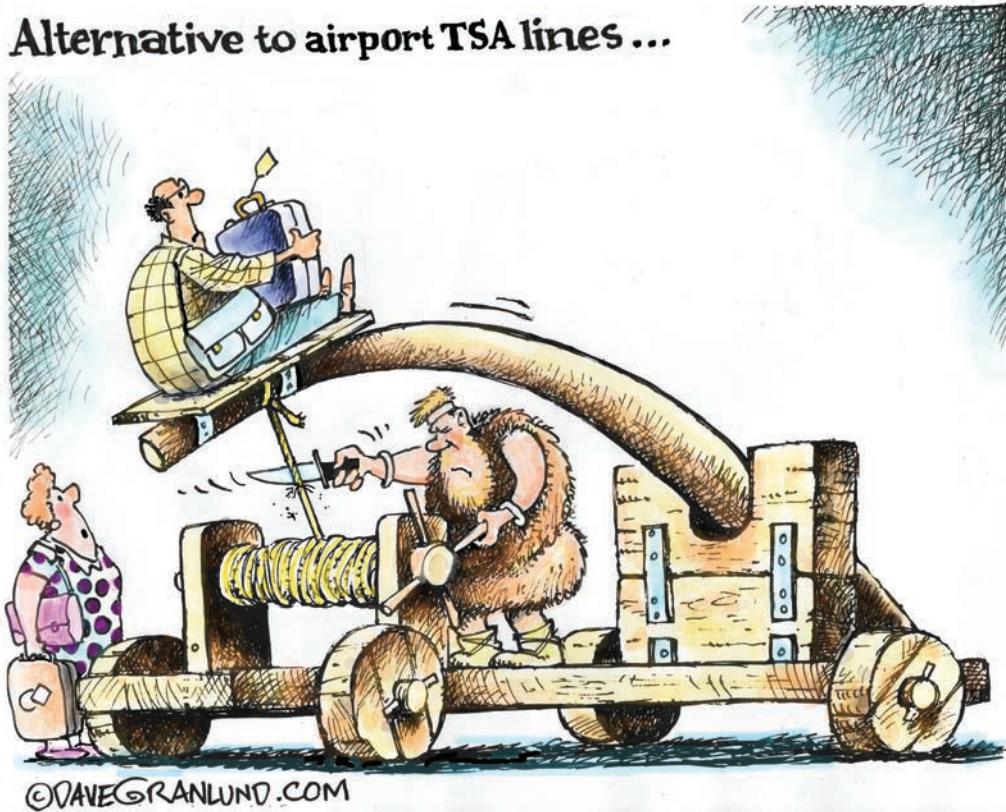
They would probably make the playoffs every year. But for golf they have to win 50% of their matches. This is no easy task when you look at who they play.

Wachusett Regional just won back-to-back State Championships. Notre Dame won three the State Championships in the past eleven years. They also play Hopkinton, Nashoba and Westborough, who co-ops with Algonquin.

The Gardner News comes to Quail Hollow every season to take pictures and interview the team. The Lady Panthers are also the only Girls Golf team in the entire readership of the Gardner News. It would be nice to see the Barre Gazette to get back on board.

Rick Lindsten
Hubbardston

Alternative to airport TSA lines ...



In Past Pages

Look Back – Memorial Day – May 1995



File photo

Representing the police department in Barre's parade were Michael Simeone, center and Police Chief James Thompson. Behind them are the Reeds, Stewart and Jean and their son, Craig.

5 years (May 6, 2021)

The Barre Board of Selectmen held a lengthy discussion about creating a bylaw, which would require certain boards and committees to record their meetings on public access and tape for later views by the public. Selectman chair Gregory O'Sullivan said the bylaw, which he and former selectman Matthew Urban proposed, would require selectmen, DPW Commission, Planning Board and Conservation Commission to record their meetings for the purpose of "transparency." He said selectmen already recorded its meetings. The board in the past offered the use of its meeting room located in the Henry Woods Building, 40 West St., to other boards and committees for the purpose of live cable viewing and taping for future viewing. O'Sullivan said several committees and boards did not record or use Zoom. Selectman Maureen Marshall said there should be more than one town facility where recording would take place as some meeting times might conflict. Selectman Dylan Clark agreed with Marshall the town should set up an

alternate site.

Barre Selectmen met with Richard Stevens, chair of the 250th Anniversary Committee. Stevens said the committee hoped to receive \$50,000 from the town for the celebration and raise another \$50,000 to fund the celebration in 2024. Chair O'Sullivan said he hoped to fund part of the town's portion with free cash at the Annual Town Meeting and would discuss with finance. Selectman Marshall said the appropriation from free cash could wait until a Special Town Meeting, after certification of free cash. Stevens said \$2,198 was left from the 225th anniversary in 1999. He asked for an article on the Annual Town Meeting to create a 250th anniversary celebration and place the balance from the previous anniversary into the account. O'Sullivan offered the use of the selectmen's meeting room for the 250th Anniversary Committee. Stevens said they planned to meet Wednesday nights.

Hardwick Planning Board Chair Harry Comerford said the town

has three Community Host Agreements being reviewed at this time. Kemp said she is waiting to hear back from Adroit Manufacturing LLC after town counsel sent them a revised CHA.

Comerford said the impact fees the town could receive, which go up to 3%, from each proposed business may change in the future, as there is a current dispute in another municipality over the fairness of the fees. Kemp said town counsel did notify her that impact fees could possibly be reduced when the dispute is settled. Comerford said even if the impact fee were reduced in the future, the property tax benefit for a business such as Hardwick Greenery would still be significant to the town.

Kemp said both Budding Botanicals LLC and Hardwick Greenery are both looking to be added to the agenda for next week.

10 years (May 5, 2016)

Barre Selectmen received seven applicants to serve on the police chief search committee. They decided to have

See PAST PAGES page 10

Tariffs are gone, but raised prices have not

To the Editor

Since the Supreme Court ruled the Trump tariffs were unconstitutional, many companies are racing to obtain refunds of the tariffs they paid on the goods they imported.

Fair enough, but many of those same companies raised prices on those goods to compensate for the extra cost of the tariff. Ultimately, millions of American consumers paid for these tariffs by the increased selling prices charged by these companies. Those prices haven't decreased.

Neither these companies nor the government has or is doing anything to relieve the American consumers burden from Trump's illegal tariffs. This is a whopper of a windfall for these companies.

They get a refund of the tariff they paid plus they keep the extra money they charged for the tariffed goods. The Justice Department should investigate the propriety of this situation because there is definitely something here that is "rotten in Denmark."

Paul Gallo
Barre

Picking up roadside trash helps

To the Editor

Earth Day has come and gone for another year. My sister and I took my grandsons down my street and the next to pickup litter that disgraces our neighborhood.

You have to have noticed, the trees budding and the weeds growing, and the trash. The sides of our roadways are covered with trash. Who does that?

In the mile and a half, we picked up six tall kitchen bags of trash. Who does

that? Beer cans, soft drink containers, nip bottles, coffee cups and snack wrappers to name the majority. We also picked up a shirt and a glove. No shoes but I have seen them on my way to Ware.

Maybe you could pick-up your street or in front of your home to make a difference.

Please, make a change, take your trash with you!

Susan Bowles
Hardwick

Should I collect Social Security now or wait two years until age 70?

Dear Rusty:

I am 67 and 9 months old, collecting a modest SS survivor benefit with plans to collect my own much larger benefit at age 70.

I was confident this plan was a good one, but recent turbulent events make me nervous that cuts could come to Social Security at any time without warning. Would it be prudent to file for my own Social Security as soon as possible so that my benefit might be "grandfathered" in before any sudden and drastic cuts occur? I do not generally panic, but these are unprecedented times. I would be quite comfortable with the benefit listed on my 2024 statement for my current age; I was just

hoping to maximize the benefit by waiting.

When I go to the Social Security website to view my 2025 annual statement to see the personalized monthly retirement benefit estimates for ages 68, 69 and 70 that section no longer shows. This omission makes me uncomfortable. Can I find out what my current benefit estimate would be for ages 68, 69 and 70? Or should I just rely on the 2024 statement?

Signed:
Nervous in Portland

Dear Nervous:

Please do not be nervous that recent "turbulent events" pose a threat to your future Social Security benefits.



Those events do not, in any way, jeopardize your future Social Security benefits, because Social Security is completely separate from all other federal political issues and finances. The primary problem with Social Security became an issue long before the current administration took office.

The Trustees of Social Security have been warning Congress for decades that Social Security's finances

require Congressional attention. The fact is that Social Security revenue (as predicted decades ago) became insufficient to pay all benefit obligations in about 2021. Since that time, money from Social Security's reserved funds (Trust Funds) has been used to pay full benefits to all.

In 2020, there was nearly \$3 trillion in SS reserved funds, but that has now dwindled to about \$2.5 trillion as reserves are used to sup-

plement SS payments. And that problem continues. The Trustees of SS now predict that the reserves will be fully depleted in about 2032, at which time, lacking program reform by Congress, Social Security will be forced to pay out only what it receives in revenue. And that would mean an estimated cut of about 23% to everyone's monthly SS benefit. In the unlikely event that happens, wouldn't a 23% reduction to your larger age 70 benefit be better than a 23% cut to your lower age 68 benefit?

No one wants those cuts to happen least of all politicians

See SOCIAL SECURITY page 5

BARRE GAZETTE

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Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

Next time I will be writing, it will be in May.

It is hard to believe how fast the months go by except the winter months. Most of my spare time is spent in the gardens and raking leaves that were not taken up in the fall. Each day a new perennial appears.

During a windy day, the wind did a lot of pruning of the crab apple tree in the front lawn. I filled a wheelbarrow full of twigs.

The hostas are starting to show their points and will be out fully in another week. I saw some Lily of the Valley doing the same thing. The yellow draba is very pretty in the cement containers we made at the Nonesuch Garden Club. Sedums are also good in these containers.

I have been trying to rake out the wild flower garden as some of those plants come early. The blood root is doing well and spreading nicely.

I made pork boneless ribs

in the crock pot with white onions, tomato sauce and cooked it all day. I served it on noodles. It was a good meal that took very little effort.

I received my new wireless printer and went into the computer for the installment directions. I am not sure I am able to do it. It is more complicated than I thought. I may have to hire a technician.

I plan to make this recipe, but I halved it as there are only two of us.

SCALLOPED CORN

1 can of whole kernel corn, drained

1 oz. unsalted butter

2 oz. flour

1/4 cup of 2% milk

4 oz. bread or cracker crumbs

Pepper to taste.

Sometimes I use the crumbs left from a bag of potato chips instead of bread or cracker crumbs

Preheat oven 350 degrees.

Spray a small casserole dish. Set aside. In a sauce pan melt butter and add flour. Cook for 2 minutes. Cool and add milk, corn and pepper. Stir. Place a layer of corn in the bottom of the casserole, a layer of crumbs and repeat. Bake for 25 minutes.

This and That

I have been digging up and dividing perennials as I find they bunched up. I am putting small pots of them in a tub so I can share with friends. I am sure some of the hostas will need to be divided also, but they are hard to divide.

I had a nice visit from my friend Carol. She and I love to talk gardening and water-coloring.

Have a nice week and hopefully the sun will shine and the bugs will stay away for a while longer. It is very nice to be outdoors in the country now.

Worcester County Climate Summit- 4.11.2026.

Chief Hoffer concluded her talk with an aspiration for a regenerative plan. In agriculture that means farming methods that improve the soil health, increase biodiversity and sequester carbon, such as no-till farming or planned grazing.

The afternoon program consisted of breakout groups, where participants were asked to identify strengths and weaknesses of the county's current climate change activity and to make recommendations. The top recommendations were:

The establishment of a "county-wide climate coordination body to align municipalities, nonprofits, educators, and residents around shared priorities, standards, data and implementation pathways – shifting from fragmented efforts to collective execution."

Other suggestions were linking services, shared funding and faster deployment, youth climate education and climate leadership development. A Worcester County Climate Corps, Community resilience hubs that combine climate resources, food access, housing support, energy assistance, and organizing space to reduce isolation and strengthen local capacity for action and much more were suggested.

ple to become familiar with online websites that are designed to help communities address climate change. For instance: Resilient Mass [resilient.mass.gov] is a site to help communities improve their ability to handle extreme weather like flooding, heatwaves and drought. Much information and many links are available here. The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program provides framework and grants to plan for climate change. MA Decarbonization Roadmap provides detailed decarbonization plans.

Hoffer also recommended becoming familiar with MA Chapter 90 that provides funding for improvements on local public ways (potholes!). You can watch the Summit talks here: by searching for



Worcester County Climate Summit held mid-April

By Sue Coles

In mid-April four members of Community Resilience Barre attended the Worcester County Climate Summit held in Gardner MA. The keynote speakers were Congressman Jim McGovern and MA Climate Chief Melissa Hoffer.

Congressman McGovern expressed concern about the current state of affairs regarding climate awareness and action to address the changes that are happening right now and anticipated in the future.

Chief Hoffer reminded us of the positive things that are happening such as the transition to clean energy. Over the last year, 80% of New England's energy has come from clean energy, not fossil fuels.

She encouraged peo-

SOCIAL SECURITY from page 4

because it would amount to political suicide (seniors are, after all, a very large voting bloc). Thus, we believe that Congress will act to reform Social Security to prevent any general benefit cuts from happening. It will, however, require Congressional bipartisanship because the reforms needed for Social Security are likely unsavory to some.

Those reforms may include SS tax increases and changes to the basic structure of the SS program to align it with today's demographic reality. The program needs reform, which Congress has, unfortunately, neglected to provide for many years.

And this neglect will likely also continue, at least through the forthcoming mid-term elections. It seems the nature of Congress is to wait until the last possible moment to offer corrective legislation.

Here's what to keep in mind: Congress already knows how to reform Social Security to avoid any future benefit cuts; they just lack the bipartisanship to accomplish that reform. For our part, the Association of Mature American Citizens has offered to Congress a commonsense reform plan via its "Social Security Guarantee." AMAC's proposal has received a positive reception

in Congressional circles and we are optimistic that the proposal will provide financial stability to the program for generations. AMAC continues to advocate for SS reform in Washington, D.C. on a regular basis, even more intensely as the depletion of the SS Trust Funds grows closer.

We do not suggest changing your strategy for claiming Social Security benefits based upon fear the program will cut benefits. That's because it's unlikely that all benefits will be cut because we believe Congress will eventually enact reform. And even in the unlikely event that Congress neglects to reform the program by 2032, the percentage of reduction to a higher monthly SS benefit amount would be better than a similar reduction to a lower benefit amount. In other words, your original plan is still a prudent one.

Regarding your question about your estimated bene-

fits, I expect your most recent SS statement didn't include future benefits because you are already collecting SS survivor benefits. You can contact SSA at 1-800-772-1213 to obtain the future SS retirement estimates you seek.

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



By Ellenor Downer

These yellow-rumped warblers, also known as Myrtle warblers, flitted around the edges of Lake Wallace in Belchertown, on April 22.

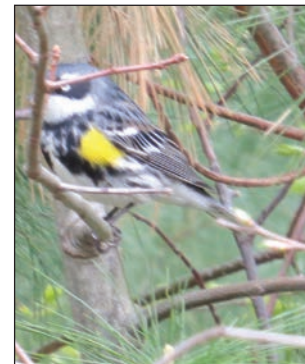
A Belchertown resident sent an email reporting he saw two yellow-rumped. He attached the above photos. The second photo a rear view of the warbler clearly shows the yellow rump of this aptly named warbler.

These warblers are about the size of black-capped chickadee and have a long bill and narrow tail

They are gray with yellow on their sides, a small patch on the head and of course, the large patch on the rump. They have white on wings, throat and underneath. They have black and white streaking on the breast. Males have a large black patch around the eye. The female is duller.

In summer, yellow-rumped warblers inhabit open coniferous forests and edges and not as often deciduous forests. They primarily feed on insects in the summer. On migration and winter they eat fruit and berries particularly bayberry and wax myrtle. Their song is a series of high-pitched notes often described as "chewy" or "chip-chip."

When males court females, they fluff their feathers, raise their wings and the feathers of the crown and hop from perch to perch, chipping. They may also make display flights in which they glide back and forth or fly slowly with exaggerated wingbeats. The yellow-rumped Warbler's flight is agile and swift and the birds often call



photos by Doug Moore

This photo shows a side view of a yellow-rumped warbler.



This is a back view of a yellow-rumped warbler recently seen in Belchertown.

as they change direction.

The female builds the nest and sometimes uses material the male brings to her. The nest is a cup of twigs, pine needles, grasses and rootlets. The female also may use moss, horse and deer hair, moss and lichens. The nest takes about ten days to complete. She lays a clutch of one to six eggs speckled with brown or reddish gray.

Bluebirds

A Rutland couple say two bluebirds in their yard on April 25. They hope they will nest in the yard.

Great blue heron

I finally saw a great blue heron perched in a tree at the beaver pond, which abuts my hayfield. Every year, one or two are frequent visitors and even nested there.

Purple martins

A purple martin watcher spotted the first purple martins in Massachusetts for 2026 in Rehoboth on April 4. The largest species of swallow in North America, they wintered in Brazil and flew 7,000 miles to the United States and Canada.

Hummingbirds

Soon the ruby-throated hummingbirds will be back. It is time to get out the nectar feeders. Instead of purchasing prepared nectar in powder or liquid form, avoid the harmful dyes and boil a one to four ration of sugar to water. I preferred to mix small batches, 1/4 cup white sugar to 1 cup water on a more frequent basis to avoid spoilage. It can be stored in the refrigerator for about one week if making large amounts.

Tom turkeys

In my travelers, I spotted in three different locations Tom turkeys displaying their tail feathers for one or more hen turkeys. I noticed one Tom with two hens strutting about as the females kept on eating near him.

Bird fact

Annually, over 50 million Americans purchased more than one billion pounds of bird seed and suet.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or 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.

Rutland Historical Society offers scholarship

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

The scholarship is offered to one Rutland high school senior planning to enter college, who has resided in the town of Rutland for at least two years. The \$1000 award is based on scholarship with an emphasis given to

involvement and contributions in the areas of both school and community.

Applicants can obtain scholarship forms by emailing Sheila Judkins at sljwheeler@gmail.com.

Forms should be submitted with an official transcript, SAT or ACT scores and a letter of recommendation by Friday, June 5.

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HUBBARDSTON from page 1

conducted. Sacramone and the board agreed to try to set up first round interviews for May 5-8, with second round interviews the week of May 11.

Fire truck surplus

Fire Chief Robert Hayes recommended the Select Board approve the surplus (selling) of a 2001 tanker, which was replaced last fall, and the price of purchase has been delayed by the company looking to buy it.

He said that he found an online resale site that would put a price on the truck, and upload a picture of it to the site, while it stays on Hubbardston property until it is sold. He said the site appraised the truck at anywhere between \$45,000 to \$115,000, and the site own-

ers would take about 10% of the cut.

Hayes said he thinks this route brings the most potential for return on investment. He said it is a rare truck, and believes it will sell quickly. Fitzgerald said the town just has to make sure they are being consistent with chapter 30B, which is procurement.

Pole hearings

The board approved the placement of one joint owned pole each on Root Road and New Templeton Road. Matt McDonald from National Grid said both poles are due to customer requests. A customer was in attendance, noting that the pole on Root Road is near his house and deteriorating.

Lions Club event

A representative from the Hubbardston Lions Club sought approval of the Lions

using Main Street for a toll booth event for donations, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. on June 14, with a rain date of June 28.

She said they have met with the police and submitted applications, insurance information, and safety plans. The board approved the request.

Pavilion renting process

Jessie Alexander, the chair of the Board of Parks Commissioners, requested the board adopt a policy about renting the pavilion at the recreational field, and potentially charging a fee for it. She said residents have been requesting a way to get exclusive use.

Questions arose among the board as to whether they are allowed to charge money for renting since the town has historically received state aid for the park. Fitzgerald said other

towns in the region get state aid and charge regardless. Alexander said they can charge money since it is a municipal property, and that money goes into the park's revolving account.

Select Board Vice-Chair Katie Young asked how they would keep the peace in the case that one group is already using the space and another group who paid for it confronts them, saying she does not want this to escalate to a police problem. Fitzgerald said that can be avoided by clear signage notifying residents the pavilion can be reserved.

There were also concerns among the board about insurance, such as how big of a gathering requires insurance. Fitzgerald also suggested a fee range where it would be enough to make people think about using it, making sure it is not too low.

The board said they would table this discussion until the next meeting, since there are many questions still unanswered, when a sample policy will be presented by the Parks Commission.

Finance update

Fitzgerald said the financial team is continuing to reconcile the books for fiscal year 2026, and is thinking about reaching out to accounting firms to help with future budgets. He said they do not have year to date actuals yet for FY 26, and they are working on revenue projections as well.

Fitzgerald said the audit for FY 26 is about to start. He said the new growth projections are slightly higher than originally projected, but that could be used up quickly by school or health insurance costs, for example.

The board opened the annual town meeting warrant effective April 21. The annual town meeting will be held on June 1.

Consent agenda

The board approved the consent agenda in one motion, which included the appointment of Bill Shea to the Town Administrator Search Committee, the appointment of Kenneth Canfield to the Parks Commissioners, and the approval of the April 6 meeting minutes.

TA report

Fitzgerald said the truck exclusion route for Brigham Street was approved by the state, and is now enforceable. He said Brigham Street paving is coming in late spring to early summer.

The board is scheduled to meet next on May 4.

RUTLAND from page 1

Board noted that the town is contributing to the cost of the pool repairs since it is a town asset, utilized by people from in and out of town. Member Leah Whiteman said it is also important to note that people utilizing the pool also bring additional customers and revenue to local businesses.

Other articles discussed were article 21, which dealt with the Rutland Development and Industrial Commission, whose members suggested no movement and action on that article, so it will be passed over.

Butler said article 22 was originally to establish an Americans with Disabilities Act Commission, but found through research that one was established in 1992. The amended article will be to amend it to allow more members to sit on the commission.

Finally, article 24 was originally to adopt a town charter, but Butler said the charter committee would not be ready to present it at the May 9 town meeting, so it will be passed over until another town meeting.

Farmer's market proposal

Randy Jordan, a member of the Agricultural Commission proposed hosting a weekly farmer's market on the town common on Wednesday afternoons from 4-7 p.m. Select Board Chair Jen Leger brought up some

concerns with the proposal, including parking, timing, and inconsistencies in the times proposed, bringing up the proposal has it scheduled from 4-7 p.m., but social media posts have it advertised from 3-7 p.m. She also said that farmer's markets are involved, and questioned if this could be another type of event.

Jordan said he plans it to be an actual farmer's market, as residents have been asking the commission about one, similar to the one in Holden. He said the proposed number of vendors would be about a dozen, and there would not be two people selling the same thing.

He said Rutland residents would have priority.

As for the permitting process, he said he is going to need permission from the Police Department and Highway Department, and has put in a permit for lower common use. Jordan said he had received a letter of support from the library.

He said there would be no expense to the town, and the town will not have any liability for this event.

Leger brought up some concerns about parking, and whether there would be enough room if the library is also open, and brought up concerns of policing that area to make sure everyone has a spot, since there is no parking allowed on Main Street.

Select Board member Paul Mattson suggested the Department of Public Works

could put up cones and signs, designating separate parking for the library and the market. Jordan said he does not expect a high volume of people parking there.

Talking about liability, Jordan said it is no different than the concerts on Friday nights.

Butler explained that the town does not have an official permitting process for the usage of town property, unlike several other towns in the region, but the town still holds some liability since they are the overseers and owners of the municipal property. She said many towns require a certificate of insurance for common use, and Jordan agreed to send one in.

Butler said there is a history of organizations using the property without permission because of the lack of a process, so it is important to not single out the proposed farmer's market, and suggested this be a discussion point moving forward.

The board ultimately voted to support the farmer's market pending future discussions.

Wood House RFPs

The board said they had sent out requests for proposals for the leasing of the Wood house at 232 Main St. The board said the only applicant was the Rutland Historical Society, who had a prior agreement for the property.

Butler said she made a

draft lease agreement based on the previous one, and the Historical Society approved of the provisions. The board approved that the property go to the Rutland Historical Society.

Open Space Plan

Leger said the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission reviewed the Open Space and Recreation Plan, and they need a letter of support from the Select Board and Planning Board. The board voted to sign the letter of support.

Town counsel draft policy

The board approved the release of a policy provided by town counsel, which implements a policy for releasing information publicly regarding communications between boards and counsel.

New options for town counsel

The board had a discussion about possibly utilizing another firm for town counsel. They currently use KP Law.

Board member Harry Sechman said it is important to look at the options out there to make sure the town does their due diligence. Butler said she would draft a request for proposal for the board to review, noting that they do not necessarily have to send it out.

The board will meet next on May 9 at 5:30 p.m., ahead of the annual town meeting.

CANDIDATES from page 1

successful on their chosen board or committee.

Orsi started by saying he thinks it is important to be able to work with people, listen to them and work together to come up with good ideas. He said he had worked as a project manager in the past, so understands working with people who have different sets of knowledge to come up with solutions.

Orsi said he is able to talk to anyone, and learn from them.

Kennan said he understands the position from his time sitting in on monthly meetings. He said the process is to listen, vote your own way, but work together for the best solution for the residents.

He said nothing in the facility will get past him because of his experience, and he knows how to work with the Department of Environmental Protection, saying he has sat in on multiple sanitary surveys.

"I know the facility in and out," he said.

Town's top issue

Orsi was asked what he believes is the number one issue facing the town.

"I'd be foolish if I didn't say roads," Orsi said.

He said many residents have concerns about the roads and how they are maintained. He described this as a "microscopic" view of issues though, saying the bigger issue is maintaining the roads along with equipment, and employees.

He said it is important to give employees support so they can be the best asset they can be, and work to retain them.

For finances, Orsi said he believes in long term planning, and proactive spending rather than reactive. He said grants take a while to kick in, and there are a lot of people involved.

He used the example of the police cruiser which was approved for purchase at the last town meeting, and that it will likely need to be replaced in 10 years. He said if there is long term planning built into the master plan, even when the board members change, and town office employees change, the living document will still have a concrete plan in place for spending.

Election information

The election will be held on Monday, May 4, with polls open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Senior Center, 29 Forest St.

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N BROOKFIELD from page 1

to complete in 2024. He said the cost can be paid for using Chapter 90 funds.

The board voted to create a request for proposal in order to hire a paving consultant, which would be paid for through Chapter 90.

Mad Brook Road bridge

The Board of Selectmen received correspondence from the Department of Transportation regarding the replacement of the Mad Brook Road bridge.

The letter stated that design and funding are now in place and construction is expected to start this summer.

A recent inspection has shown that the bridge continues to deteriorate and is no longer safe to remain open. MassDOT recommended the town close the bridge immediately and put a detour in place.

MassDOT will provide detour signage for the town to install.

Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair Jamie Gilman said after looking at the condition of the trusses under the bridge, he "understands their concern."

Highway Superintendent Randy Morgan said he already received the detour signs from MassDOT and at the time of the meeting, he was just waiting to hear back about posts.

The board voted in favor of closing the bridge, as recommended by MassDOT.

Solar discussion

Gilman said the board received a proposal for a solar project on top of the transfer station from ECA Mass Holding, LLC from Waltham.

He said the company was looking to receive full rights to either install solar panels, and/or a battery energy storage system at the location.

"That was a bit of a sore point for it sounds like all of us," Gilman said. "That made the proposal that much less interesting."

Gilman said after receiving feedback from the town, the company removed this part of the request from the first section, but it still appears further on in the proposal.

"That is still a bit of an issue with me," he said. "I am all for putting the solar panels on, but I'm not up for a battery energy storage system in that location. I think it brings a lot of concerns...of the town of North Brookfield really not being equipped to handle any potential incident."

Gilman said he has been made aware that most solar fields have some battery storage on site, but his concern is with the lack of description defining what a "battery energy storage system" is in the proposal.

He said they have done

research on the proposal, and the town would likely need to put it out to bid.

Selectmen Clerk Ralph Kay said he agreed with Gilman about the proposal's language needing to be clarified, especially related to battery energy storage systems. Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis said the board can send its concerns back to ECA Mass Holding, LLC.

The board approved a motion to open a request for proposal for a solar project at the transfer station.

Spending requests

The board approved two spending requests from the Highway Department, one for \$438 to pay for lumber for a platform at the Highway barn and the other for \$4,000 for new springs for the 2005 truck.

The board also approved two spending requests for the Police Department, \$295.11 for light bulbs and \$1,166 for ammunition needed for annual training requirements.

The board approved the Treasurer's spending request in the amount of \$1,809.65 for pre-stamped, printed envelope for payable checks Town Administrator job posting

Petraitis said the board reviewed the "unsuccessful external recruitment attempts" to hire a town administrator, and moved to post the position internally instead.

"We have people who are qualified to do the job so I think we should try and post it internally and see what happens," he said.

The Selectmen voted in favor of this motion.

Pole hearings

The board held pole hearings for Green Road and Ward Street with a representative from National Grid.

The representative said the utility company is looking to install three new joint-owned poles on Green Road to provide electrical service to a newly constructed house.

One pole will be installed on Ward Street to provide service to a backyard accessory dwelling unit.

The board approved all pole locations.

Police Department report

The Police Department responded to over 480 calls for service during the month of March. Police Chief Ryan Daley said at this time, station/lobby visits and telephone are not being tracked.

Daley said officers are completing their annual in-service training requirements online during downtime on their shifts between calls. This is an effort to reduce overtime costs.

Daley said several members of the department have taken part in professional development training as well.

"We remain committed

to maintaining high professional standards and ensuring our officers receive the training necessary to serve the community effectively," he stated in his report.

Transfer of vehicle

Daley submitted a request to the board to transfer ownership of the Police Department's 2017 Ford Explorer to the Fire Department to use for emergency response.

The board approved the transfer.

Donations

The board accepted an anonymous donation of \$1,000 to go toward the July 4th celebration expenses, and an anonymous donation of a picnic table and approximately 20 bags of mulch for the Parks & Recreation Committee.

The board also accepted

the donation of two-dozen American flag kits to replace worn flags in the downtown area.

Recognition

Gilman recognized Petraitis for his service to the town in his role as Selectmen.

"It's not an easy job," he said.

This meeting was Petraitis' last for his term, as he chose not to seek re-election to the board.

"It has been a long road, but I have enjoyed it," Petraitis said. "It's been a pleasure serving in this capacity."

Annual town election

The annual town election will be held on Monday, May 4 at the North Brookfield Senior Center, 29 Forest St., with polling hours from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

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Calendar of Events

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

ARTIST EXHIBITION takes place now through Sunday, May 10 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 Cottage Collaboration: Elisabeth and Darrell Hyder's Paste Paper and Letterpress Lives." 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.

FRIDAY, MAY 1

SPRING SHOW by Princeton Art Society celebrates 35 years of promoting the arts in the communities today from 6-8 p.m. and Saturday, May 2 and Sunday, May 3 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Princeton Community Center, 206 Worcester Road, Princeton. All work is by the society's members, many of whom are award winning artists widely recognized in their fields. The show includes works in oils, acrylics, watercolors, pastels, photography, and more, including three-dimensional works, with subject matter as varied as the artists.

GRANGE GARDENING WORKSHOP takes place today at the Ware Grange, 297 Belchertown Road, Ware at 7 p.m. Participants will learn about easy to grow summer annuals and get to try their hand at seed starting. Such favorites as Marigolds, Zinnias, Cosmos and Bachelor's Buttons will be covered. The presenter will be Roberta McQuaid, author of the "In the Garden" column for Turley Publications.

SATURDAY, MAY 2

THEATRE GUILD OF NORTH BROOKFIELD presents "Bonnie and Clyde The Musical" today and Saturday, May 9 at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays, May 3 and 10 at 2 p.m. in the auditorium at the North Brookfield Elementary School, 10 New School Drive. Tickets are available by visiting their website at <https://theatreguildofnorthbrookfield.com/> or at the door. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors and students 12 and under.

PIANIST MACKENZIE MELEMED RECITAL takes place today at 2 p.m. in the Stone Church, 283 Main St., Gilbertville. Tickets are \$35. All concerts at the Stone Church are free to those under age 18. Holders of the Massachusetts Card to Culture may request up to two free tickets by emailing FriendsOfTheStoneChurch.org to make a reservation or at the box office for any ticketed concert on the concert day.



Where is this?
This week's mystery photo is from Hardwick. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com with their answer by noon on Monday, May 4. Bill Bowles and James Laramee correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was the substation and high tension lines on South Barre Road, Barre.

Turley Publications photo by Ellenor Downer

SUNDAY, MAY 3

JACOB RIIS FARM PROPERTY TOUR AND PROGRAM with historian Lucy Allen and DCR program coordinator Nancy Huntington today meeting at 11 a.m. in the Barre Historical Society and Museum, 18 Common St. Jacob Riis was one of the most influential journalists and social reformers of the early 20th century. He was an immigrant whose photographs changed the way America looked at the human cost of poverty; he was friends with President Theodore Roosevelt. He spent the last few years of his life in Barre. Riis referred to his home near the Burnshirt River as "Our Happy Valley." City people most of their lives, Jacob and his wife Mary faced the challenges of becoming farmers on the rundown farm with humor. Riis is buried at nearby Riverside Cemetery. Participants will visit his former home site. The tour will involve walking on hilly and potentially rough terrain.

For more information, people may call 978-355-4978 and leave a message to have their call returned.

TUESDAY, MAY 5

PAYMENT DUE FOR OLD DEERFIELD VILLAGE TRIP is today. The first Paxton-area senior bus trip is a historic tour of Old Deerfield Village, in Deerfield. The tour includes: guided tour of Old Deerfield Village Historic District, lunch at Champney Restaurant and Tavern and travel aboard Wilson Bus motor coach. Cost is \$126 and are due Tuesday, May 5 for the trip, which takes place Tuesday, May 26. For reservations, people should call Deb Brensavitch at 508-245-4952 or email grensavitchd@aol.com. Payments are non-refundable unless ticket can be re-sold. Payments should be made out to: FOCOA and send payments to Deb Brensavitch, 88 Laurel St., Paxton, MA 01612-1234. The bus departs on May 26 at 8:30 p.m. and returns back to Paxton Council on Aging at 3:45 p.m. Meal choice is herb crusted haddock or slice roast beef.

SATURDAY, MAY 9

EQLT BIRDIN WELLNESS WALK will be held today at 7:30 a.m. in the Prince River

Preserve, Flaherty Road, Barre. All ages and abilities are welcome. People may email atrevett@eqlt.org to register.

DESIGNER PANCAKE BREAKFAST sponsored by Cradle RockChapter Order of Eastern Star will take place today from 7:30-10:30 a.m. in Masonic Hall, 71 Pleasant St., Barre. Cost is \$9 per adult and \$5 for children age six and under. Complete breakfast includes own designed pancake using chips, nuts and fruits, waffles, sausage gravy and biscuits, bacon, sausage, juice and coffee. Everyone is welcome.

SPRING PLANT SALE will be held today from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at The First Meeting House, 2 Main St., Hubbardston. Perennials from early spring flowering to late fall flowering and seasonal long. Edible plants some annuals like geraniums and some woody plants. Most plants grew in local gardens. 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 historic Meeting House needs help in preserving its history. Donation may be dropped off on Saturday, May 9 at 8 a.m. People should label names of plants.

TUESDAY, MAY 12

CLOTHES ENCOUNTERS, a step into the past with historian Sally Cragin, takes place today at 6:30 p.m. in the Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant St., Barre She presents an interactive program on the history of fashion. This engaging program examines how clothing reflected social class, gender roles and cultural expectations from the mid-19th century through the Jazz Age and beyond. Attendees will have the rare opportunity to see authentic historical garments and accessories from her extensive collection. Participants will be able to closely examine a variety of items, including shoes, wool and cotton undergarments and uniforms worn by shop girls, waitresses and housewives. The collection also features eye-catching flapper outfits and men's hats and apparel from the early 20th century. Select pieces will even be available for audience members to try on, offering a hands-on way to connect with the past and experience how clothing shaped everyday life. In addition to garments, Cragin's collection includes a stunning assortment of antique handbags, each reflecting the craftsmanship and style of its era. This lively and educational program offers a unique opportunity to experience history through the clothing people wore and the stories those garments tell. For more information, people may call the library at 978-355-2533, extension 102.

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Sustainable investing means investing with purpose

When you think about investing, you probably want your money to grow. But maybe you also want it to make a positive difference in the world while you continue pursuing your financial goals. That's the foundation of sustainable investing — an approach that considers environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors alongside traditional financial analysis.

Sustainable investing allows you to support better business practices through your investment choices. It looks at how companies address issues ranging from climate change to worker well-being to corporate ethics. At its core, it's about aligning investments with personal values while still focusing on long-term financial outcomes.

Here are the three main areas of sustainable investing:

- **Environmental considerations** include how companies respond to climate change, use natural resources and manage pollution.
- **Social factors** address workforce well-being, product safety and efforts to reduce social inequities.
- **Governance** focuses on corporate behavior, ethics policies and financial transparency.

You may wonder whether investing sustainably means sacrificing returns. Research suggests it doesn't. New York University's Stern Center for Sustainable Business reviewed more than 1,000 studies from 2015-20 and found that incorporating ESG factors does not inherently diminish returns, and in many cases is associated with improved financial performance. As with any investment approach, it's important to focus on high-quality investments that help support more consistent long-term returns.

Sustainable investing can take several forms:

- **ESG intentional strategies** spread out your investments and have clear goals for choosing companies that follow strong environmental, social and governance practices.
- **Sustainable thematic strategies** focus on specific issues, such as clean energy or water conservation.
- **Impact investments** go a step further, targeting measurable environmental or social outcomes. Because they prioritize more narrow, specific objectives, they may carry higher volatility and potentially lower returns.

One concern you may hear about is "greenwashing," which happens when companies or funds exaggerate their environmental efforts. To help prevent this, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission created a rule in 2023 that requires any fund with "ESG" in its name to keep at least 80% of its assets in ESG-aligned investments.

Another challenge is data consistency. Today, 99% of S&P 500 companies report ESG metrics, according to the Center for Audit Quality, but different rating providers still use different methods. Looking at relative rankings can help you compare companies and mutual funds in a more consistent way.

Deciding whether to include sustainable investments in your portfolio really depends on your values and financial goals. You can build a well-diversified portfolio with or without them. A qualified financial advisor can help you understand whether adding sustainable investments fits your overall strategy and makes sense for your situation.

As more companies disclose ESG data and more funds offer sustainable options, investors have increasing opportunities to align their portfolios with their values — without sacrificing their financial objectives.



Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

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Baseball returns

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional High School baseball team enjoyed almost a full week off, but did return to action during the vacation week, traveling to Bromfield High School last Friday afternoon. The Panthers defeated the hosts 4-0 to improve to 3-3 on the regular season. It

will be full steam ahead for the Panthers going forward with many more games to play in the next few weeks. Coming up, the Panthers travel to Tahanto High School for a 4 p.m. start. The Panthers are back home on Monday, May 4 at 3:30 p.m. against Narragansett.



Aiden Lapointe throws in a shot to deep left field.



Andrew Warfield reaches for the bag as he dives into third base.

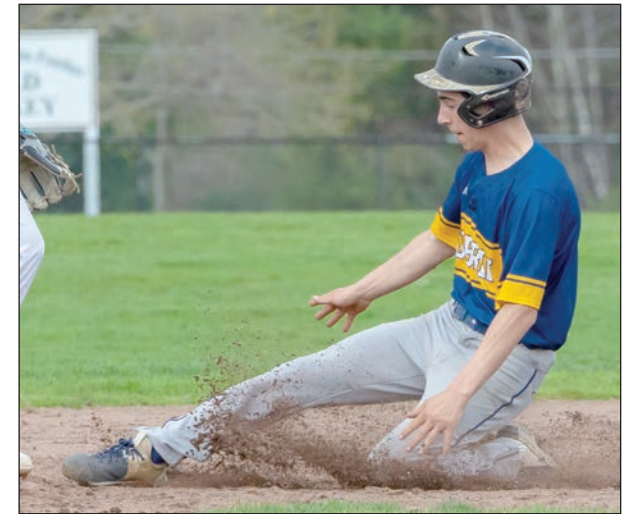


Above, J.R. Falconi stretches out as he leaps for a catch with Aiden Lapointe providing backup as a Bernardian slides into second base.

Turley photos by Jeffrey Haynes



Abe Brown connects for a hit.



Chase Talbot slides into second base.



Adam Adams fires a pitch against St. Bernard's.



Emerson Boronski delivers a pitch.

Pathfinder falls to SICS

PALMER – Last Thursday on a sunny, but breezy afternoon, Pathfinder baseball was defeated 14-4 by SICS at Legion Field in Palmer. While Pathfinder was able to get on the scoreboard, SICS was able to score some early runs to get ahead, and the Pioneers could not match the offense. Pathfinder fell to 0-8 on the regular season.



Anthony Elliott sends a long throw to third.

Panthers stay perfect at 8-0

BARRE – On Monday, Apr. 27, Quabbin Regional High School girls tennis picked up their eighth win of the season, defeating North Middlesex 4-1 and have yet to lose a match-up this season. Farrah Wojcik and Kalina Dyer led the way in singles action with straight set wins. Both doubles teams were also victorious. The teams of Madelyn Stauder and Elizabeth Matheson won two straight 6-3 decisions and Addison Suprenant and Maria Hamm won two straight 6-1 sets.

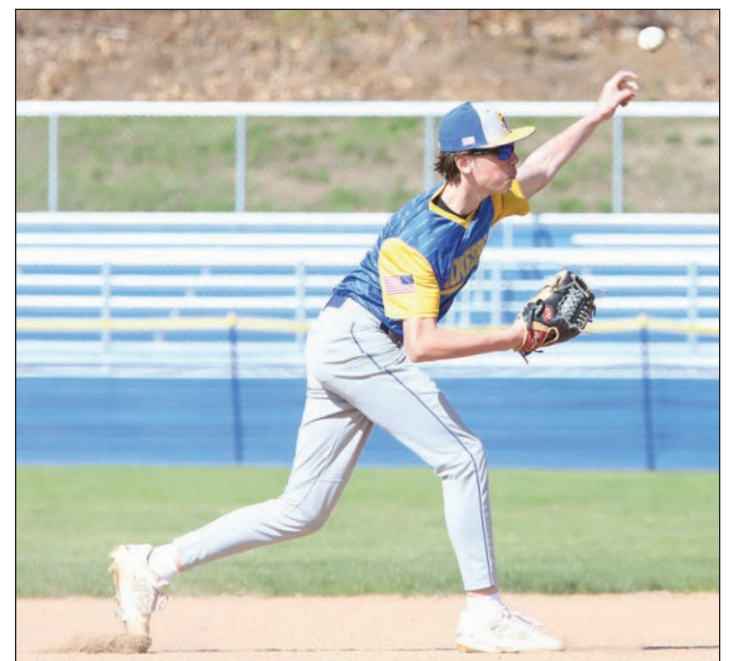
The Panthers hope to keep the momentum going against Tynngsborough on Friday, May 1 at 4 p.m.



Above, Brody Wetnicka winds up for a throw across the diamond. Right, Zachary Latourelle sends a throw to first.



Dayne Shanley takes the pickoff at first.



Zachary Smith tries to make throw to first for an out.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Sports

Mustangs suffer setback against Mt. Greylock

MONSON – Last Tuesday afternoon, Mt. Greylock boys lacrosse invaded Monson, which co-ops with Pathfinder in boys lacrosse. The

Mounties were too much for the hosts, taking home a 15-3 win. Luckily, Monson would rebound in its next matchup, defeating Smith Vocational

High School to improve to 5-3 for the regular season. The Mustangs are back in action on Saturday, May 2 hosting McCann Tech at 2 p.m.



Landon Couture tries to dig out the faceoff.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Kyle Beaudry advances up the field.



Noah Latulippe tries to bring in a pass.



Wyatt Breault gets ready to send the ball up the field.



Goalie Riley Hurst emerges from the goal area looking to pass.



Brennan Peterson winds up to shoot.

PAST PAGES from page 4

a five-member committee. At the suggestion of Town Administrator, Heather Lemieux, they amended the original motion to include two alternates. Selectmen Lief Ericson made a motion to appoint Steve Boudreau, Greg Devine, Kathy Howard, Lester Paquin and Richard Whippee as regular members and Dennis Fleming and James T. Higgins as the two alternates. Selectmen Charles Chase seconded the motion. Ericson and Chase voted in favor with selectman Richard Jankauskas abstaining.

There are two contests on the ballot, selectman and planning board for the Hubbardston June 14 town election. Richard J. Haddad, 88 Lombard Road and Randy J. Mizereck, 102 New Templeton Road, both seek a one-year term to the board of selectmen. Kendall B. Daly, 7 Ed Clark Road and

Scott Joseph LeBlanc, 92 Williamsville Road, are on the ballot for one position for a one-year term to the planning board. Daniel S. Galante, 28 New Westminster Road and Michael S. Stauder, 22 Natty Pond Road, are both candidates for re-election for two three-year terms to board of selectmen.

The town of Oakham will hold its annual town election Monday, May 16. Polls will be open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Matthew Broderick seeks another three-year term to the Board of selectmen and Diane Peterson, a three-year term on the board of assessors. Both Lisa Huntington and L. Brynee Stark are candidates for the one position for a three-year term as library trustee. Lucy Tessnau is on the ballot for a three-year term to the cemetery commission. Voters elect six constables for three-year terms. Candidates include: Marcia

Casault, Edna Holloway, Glenn Mardirosian, Lucy Tessnau and Bernice Stone. Peter Clifford is a candidate for re-election to a five-year term on the planning board. No one returned nomination papers for a three-year term on the board of health.

25 years (May 3, 2001)

A special election to fill the state representative seat vacated by David Tuttle likely won't happen until sometime this fall. That is at least the initial word coming from the office of the House Speaker Thomas Finneran (D-Boston), who is charged with calling a special election. There are currently two other seats open and needing special elections to find replacements. Tuttle resigned in March to take a regional post with the Bush administration as state director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Assistance Program. He was just re-elected to a fourth

term in November running unopposed.

The Oakham Board of Selectmen signed the warrant for a Special Town Meeting to be held on May 14 at 7:45 p.m. at the Oakham Center School. The Annual Town Meeting will reconvene first and be postponed to Monday, June 18 at 7:30 p.m. as the state budget has not been approved and the cherry sheet figures are not available. There are four articles on the Special Town Meeting warrant.

The Hardwick Planning Board is considering a request from Midwest Tower Leasing to build a communication tower on privately owned land on Petersham Road. Planners held a hearing April 24 on the proposal. John Banner, representing Midwest Tower, presented the board with both schematics of the site as well as aerial photos taken during a

balloon ride over the area. "This property located on Petersham Road, which is owned by Gordon Stred, is an ideal location because the visibility to adjacent property owners is minuscule," Banner said.

38 years (May 5, 1988)

The Barre Common Advisory Committee met for the first time on Monday evening in the Selectmen's room at the Henry Woods Building to discuss the development of the proposed Barre Common Revision. Present were Sally Dyer, Ian Morgan, James Higgins, William R. Robinson, Lois Mortell, Selectman Chairman James Sullivan, Selectman Charles Chase and Pollyanne Mellon and Ray Short of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management.

The Board of Directors and the member of the Barre Emergency and Rescue Squad thank you, the res-

idents of Barre for their generous donations during their recent fund drive. The amount donated was \$15,722. It was gratifying to know how much the towns people appreciate their Rescue Squad. This is the second drive in 15 years.

The eighth Barre 5 Mile Road Race will take place on June 11 at 5 p.m. This year, the race will begin and end in front of the Neylon Real Estate office on the Common. The rest of the course will remain the same as in past years. Approximately 100-200 runners are expected and 100 t-shirts will be given to the first 100 entrants. Entry forms may be picked up at the Neylon Real Estate office. Race organizers Margo Walleigh and Jane Brink are hoping that area businesses will donate prizes for a random drawing that will be held.

Parents, Grandparents & Friends **SPECIAL!**
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 We are offering a great deal for you to **CELEBRATE YOUR GRADUATE** in your community graduation issue. Submit a photo and a brief message.
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2x3 Black & White Grad Ad
 Congratulations Karly Smith!
 We are so very proud of you and your accomplishments. Good luck at Springfield College!
 Love, Mom & Dad

Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

Hear No Evil

“See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil,” a maxim popularized in 17th Century Japan, teaches us to avoid all manner of evil influences, fostering discretion in the pursuit of piety.

Though these words, and the associated image of three monkeys, cannot be found in Scripture, the truths that such touch on certainly can. This week, let’s explore the call to “hear no evil.”

1) Significance

The phrase “hear no evil” calls us to be wary regarding what we fixate on with our physical and spiritual ears; to consider those things that arrest our attention, for what we long-entertain may well induce us unto evil. We do well to protect our moral focus, guarding against temptations that seem to center upon matters of hearing. What does the Word teach herein?

2) Selections

Psalm 1:1 (ESV)

1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

Psalm 1:1b is often understood to include avoiding the input and influence of the ungodly. We must practice caution concerning the counsel of the wicked, for bad company corrupts good character (1 Cor. 15:33). We take on the nature of those we give ear to, so consider those whose voices that you regularly heed or take in! Who are the people you listen to? Sadly, a great many heed all the wrong voices. Let us note what the author of the Book of Proverbs notes in this selection:

Proverbs 17:4 (NIV)

4 A wicked person listens to deceitful lips; a liar pays attention to a destructive tongue.

We face a crisis in our generation of attending to the wrong voices. These words, penned by Paul, provide ample warning:

2 Timothy 4:3-4 (Emphasis Mine)

1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: 2 Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage with great patience and careful instruction.

3 For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to

myths. 5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

Could this be why Christ shared the following?

Mark 4:24a

24 “Consider carefully what you hear”

Dear reader, do you not realize that the Christ is calling out to you? Have you entertained His voice and responded in kind?

Revelation 3:20 [Jesus Speaking]

20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

3) Illustration

Genesis 3:1-6 (italics mine)

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman [Eve], “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

2 The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

4 “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. 5 “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her and he ate it.

Whose voice was Eve attuned to herein? Was she fixated upon the voice of God or captivated by whisperings of a snake? Whose promise(s) did she ultimately believe? How dearly she paid for her failure to heed the simple call: “hear no evil.”

Yet how often we follow in her footsteps amid living. Next time you have a choice between hearkening to the call of God or the serpent (i.e., Satan), choose wisely. And before you dismiss the reality of Satan as nonsensical, who told you such?

Thank you for taking the time to read this publication. We will continue in the next edition with the call to “speak no evil.” 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 or visit us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

We hope to see you soon.

Pastor James Foley

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

Fourth Sunday of Easter

“The Shepherd Knows our Names!”

Scripture Reading: Acts 2 v 42 – 47 and John 10 v 1-10

I. Introduction

It is meaningful when people in our lives give us names they cherish.

I personally have quite a few nicknames given to me by my family, friends and colleagues and I love them all. But it is even more special to think that Jesus Christ, our Shepherd and Saviour know all our names. He knows the names of all who believe and follow Him. Let’s have a look what we mean to Christ, and how we can be renewed as a community of faith, following the example of the Early Church.

II. The Shepherd knows our names

After reading these two passages I am left with a clear impression of a strong sense of community and togetherness among the community of faith and the protection of the flock / community of sheep by the Shepherd.

After the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, and the speech Peter gave to the crowd about Jesus, His teachings and all the miracles He performed, the crowd inquired what to do next. He urged them to repent and be baptized, and about three thousand joined the faith that day. One can only imagine their jubilation, the work of the Holy Spirit among them and the deep sense of connection with God and with each other.

Luke described beautifully how the believers, as a result of the events on the Day of Pentecost, came together, devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles about the life and ministry of Jesus, His death and resurrection and God’s gift of salvation to them. They gathered in fellowship, a term derived from the Greek word *Koinonia*, which signifies a community united through shared experiences of the Holy Spirit, as noted by Eckard J. Schnabel in his commentary on Acts.

They maintained a harmonious community, strengthening their sense of unity by sharing meals and consistently participating in communal prayers, which constituted a central element of their spiritual practice. A renewed sense of community care inspired them to sell their belongings and give the

proceeds to the poor.

The members of this faith community were clearly moved by the Holy Spirit, feeling a deep inner joy that also showed outwardly as they praised God. Others were inspired by what they saw, and we see in verse 47 how the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. This passage offers insight into how the Holy Spirit operated in the Early Church, highlighting both God’s powerful actions and the apostles as they began their ministry of healing many people.

In John Chapter 10, Jesus uses the Shepherd and sheep metaphor to illustrate his caring, protective relationship with his followers. The Shepherd knows the name of every sheep, and the sheep recognizes the voice of their Shepherd. They will not follow the thief who comes to steal but will follow the Shepherd who has the authority to open the door to the sheep pen, and they follow Him as He leads them out. Jesus explains to the disciples that He is the Good Shepherd, taking care of the community of believers, but that He is also the door for many to come in and out safely and find pasture, the peace they need.

He gave His life for His sheep, so they can feel safe with Him. He knows the name of every believer, and He invited everyone to be part of this new life with Him.

III. Conclusion

What an honor to be part of the church of Christ, the place where believers in Christ come together to worship God, and to listen to the word of God through the prophets and the apostles of old. It is place of joy and exuberance, and it is a place of prayer and a place of care for the needy. It is a place where the fellowship is special, because the source of this fellowship is Christ who reminds us that we are blessed when we are transformed according to the values of Christ.

It is a place where we are reminded that Christ knows each of our names and our lives. We are encouraged this morning by the life of the early church and the role of Christ as the Good Shepherd in our lives. We are encouraged to be open for the work of the Holy Spirit within us, transforming us, healing us and binding us together in a close fellowship.

May God bless us and fulfil in us the desires of God’s heart, so we will go forth and spread this light within us to those around us.

Amen.

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

Legals

BARRE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Barre Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Henry Woods Municipal Selectmen Meeting Room, 1st Floor, 40 West Street, Barre, MA requested by Phoebe Siter for a variance from zoning setback requirements at property located at 69 Hubbardston Road, Assessors Map EA, Parcel 422 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds Book 72390, Page 247.

Anyone wishing to comment on this matter should attend the hearing or submit comments in writing prior to the hearing to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Henry Woods Building, 40 West Street – Suite 5, Barre, MA, barreboards@townofbare.com or contact the Boards’ Office at 978-355-2504 ext. 8.

Joshua Smith, Chairman
4/30, 05/07/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 Docket No. WO26D0506DR Melissa Bergeron vs. Jason Bergeron DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING

To the Defendant: The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown.

The Complaint is on file at the Court. An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.**

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon: **Hannah M White, Esq. CALLAHAN, INMAN and BONZAGNI, P.C. 1700 West Park Drive Suite 200 Westborough, MA 01581**

your answer, if any, on or before **07/22/2026**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court

WITNESS, **Hon. Kathryn M. Bailey**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: April 23, 2026

Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate

04/30/2026

Town of Barre Board of Health

The Town of Barre Board of Health will hold a public hearing on **Monday, May 11, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.** in the Henry Woods Municipal Building, Selectmen’s Meeting Room, 1st Floor, 40 West Street, Barre, MA 01005 to see if the Town will vote on proposed fee schedule changes.

Anyone wishing to comment on this matter should attend the hearing or mail written comments to the Board of Health prior to the hearing.

The proposed fee schedule can be viewed in the Board of Health office during regular hours. 04/23, 04/30/2026

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:

2010 Infiniti EX35
VIN JN1AJ0HR2AM754082
2017 Ford Taurus VIN 1FAH-P2E8XHG105341
2011 Volkswagen Jetta VIN 3VWVZ7A9J9BM374160
2013 Honda CR-V VIN 2HKRM4H72DH615582
2014 Subaru Legacy VIN 4S3BMBL68E3018633
2009 Lincoln Navigator VIN 5LMFL28529EJ02048
2015 Audi Q7 VIN WA1LGAFA4FD006798
2004 Subaru Impreza VIN JF1GD67594H503868
2000 Toyota Corolla VIN 1NXBR12E3Y2355533
2007 Hyundai SANTA FE VIN 5NMSH73E17H026571
2011 Mazda 6 VIN 1YVHZ8CH2B5M17094
2013 Nissan NV VIN 1N6AF0LY7DN108416
2007 Hyundai ELANTRA VIN KMHDU46D57U120947
2007 Hyundai SANTA FE VIN 5NMSG73D67H107012
2017 Nissan Murano VIN 5N1AZ2MH3HN165864
2004 Honda Pilot VIN 2HKYF18554H503474
2022 Hyundai TUCSON VIN KM8JFCAE2NU103513
THE SALE WILL BE HELD AT **EARLY’S ON PARK AVE. 536 PARK AVE., WORCESTER, MA 01603** 04/16, 04/23, 04/30/2026

Town of New Braintree Notice of Public Hearing

In accordance with MGL, Chapter 87, Section 3, a public hearing will be held at **9:00 am on Thursday, May 07, 2026**, in the Select Board’s meeting room at the Town Hall, 20 Memorial Drive, New Braintree, to consider the removal of trees on Bridge Road and Harrington Road. The trees to be removed have been clearly marked. Reason for removal: dead, diseased and/or will hinder road construction. All interested parties are invited to attend.

This meeting is open to the public.

04/23, 04/30/2026



Miles Funeral Home to hold Sharing Hope Seminar

HOLDEN – Miles Funeral Homes will hold a Sharing Hope Seminar on Saturday, May 16 from 1-3 p.m.

This seminar is free and

open to the public. A light lunch will be served and each guest will receive a complimentary copy of Joanne Cacciatore’s best selling

book, “Grief Is Loving.” People may call Pamela Reidy at 508-829-4434 or email pam@milesfuneral-home.com.



1158 Main Street Holden
508.829.4434

100 Worcester Road Sterling
978.422.0100

800-983-4434

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Barre Gazette

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

Public Safety

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, March 29
 12:33 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Wachusett Street, Prisoner Bailed
 10:31 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, East Hill Road, Transported to Hospital
 10:35 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Clealand Circle, Officer/Chief Advised
 11:37 a.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), Maple Avenue, Entry Gained
 12:55 p.m. Burglary/Breaking and Entering, East County Road, Investigated
 4:22 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Charnock Hill Road, Negative Contact
 5:51 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Horizon Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 10:26 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Maple Avenue, Transported to Hospital
 11:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Monday, March 30
 1:15 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ten Rod Road, Prisoner Bailed
 Arrest Dixon, Kali Robin Lee, 22, Holden
 Charges Operating Under Influence, Liquor OR .08%, Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle, Stop/Yield, Fail To
 3:41 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
 5:47 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures, South Barre Road, No Transport Required
 6:47 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, New Templeton Road, Transported to Hospital
 9:43 a.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Juniper Lane, Information Taken
 11:10 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Pommogussett Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 11:33 a.m. Safety Concern, Blueberry Lane, Officer/Chief Advised
 12:01 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Nancy Drive, Transported to Hospital
 2:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Citation Issued
 2:50 p.m. Tree Incidents (No

Wires), North Brookfield Road, Removed From Scene
 3:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 3:43 p.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Main Street, Report Filed
 3:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
 4:20 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Trauma, Whitehall Road, Transported to Hospital
 4:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Wachusett Street, Written Warning
 4:26 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Old Turnpike Road, Transported to Hospital
 5:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 5:48 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic), Campbell Street, Transported to Hospital
 5:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning
 6:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Prisoner Bailed
 Arrest Bible, Justin, 27, North Try, Vermont
 Charges Firearm, Carry Without License, Ammunition Without FID Card, Possess
 11:16 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Maple Avenue, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, March 31
 12:07 a.m. Missing Person, Adams Road, Report Filed
 7:28 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Adams Road, Transported to Hospital
 8:35 a.m. Animal – Wildlife, Charnock Hill Road, Referred to Other Agency
 10:10 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 11:49 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Peters Avenue, Call Transferred
 12:25 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Grizzly Drive, Officer/Chief Advised
 3:12 p.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, Oak Way, Investigated
 3:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 3:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint

Summons Mancini, Stephen A. Jr., 36, Rutland
 Charges Number Plate Violation to Conceal ID, Unregistered Motor Vehicle
 4:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 5:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Hall, Robert D., 46, Wheelwright
 Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With
 5:41 p.m. Erratic Operator, East County Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 5:52 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Old Turnpike Road, Investigated

Wednesday, April 1
 2:46 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Bethany Drive, Transported to Hospital
 9:19 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 9:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Bauereis, Brian Joseph, 46, Rutland
 Charges Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle, Inspection/Sticker, O
 9:39 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 9:47 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Maple Avenue, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 9:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 10:08 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 10:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 10:56 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 11:03 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 11:16 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Scott Road, Transported to Hospital
 11:24 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 11:59 a.m. Motor Vehicle

Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 12:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 12:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 12:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 1:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 1:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Vehicle Towed
 Summons Molina, Jonathan, 25, Dallas, Texas
 Charges Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Unregistered Motor Vehicle, License Not In Possession
 1:43 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Old Turnpike Road, Vehicle Towed
 2:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 2:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Brigham, Effie J., 43, North Brookfield
 Charges Unregistered Motor Vehicle, Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With
 3:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 3:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 3:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 3:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 4:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Prescott Street, Prisoner Bailed
 Arrest Biloiseau, Michael, 53, West Bolyston
 Charges License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With, Subsequent Offense, Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With, Uninsured Motor Vehicle
 6:03 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Soucy Drive, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Thursday, April 2
 8:11 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Forest Hill Drive, Transported to Hospital
 8:41 a.m. Complaint, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 10:47 a.m. Motor Vehicle

Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 11:29 a.m. ACO Lost and Found/Wildlife, Wachusett Street, Information Taken
 12:03 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Lowry Lane, Negative Contact
 3:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 3:10 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Turkey Hill Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 3:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 3:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 3:27 p.m. Complaint, Edson Avenue, Officer Spoke to Party
 3:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 4:25 p.m. Be On the Look Out Notification, Cross Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 5:39 p.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Main Street, Returned
 6:49 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures, Irish Lane, Report Filed
 8:12 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Glenwood Road, Transported to Hospital

Friday, April 3
 1:57 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Soucy Drive, Public Assist
 2:26 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Main Street, Investigated
 8:50 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Urinary Track Infection, Pommogussett Road, Transported to Hospital
 9:23 a.m. Serve Warrant, Finn Park Road, Removed to Court/Lockup
 P/C Chenevert, Vincent E., 57, Rutland
 Charges Warrant
 12:20 p.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Maple Avenue, Report Filed
 1:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Miles Road, Citation Issued
 1:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Berthiaume, Kyle M., 39, Barre
 Charges Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With, Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Inspection/Sticker, No
 4:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop,

Edson Avenue, Written Warning
 4:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 4:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Smith, Ryan David, 40, North Brookfield
 Charges License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With, Registration Not in Possession, Registration Sticker Missing
 4:29 p.m. Complaint, Intervale Road, Negative Contact
 5:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 5:07 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Animal Bites, Marjorie Lane, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 5:30 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Oak Drive, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 5:48 p.m. Complaint, Intervale Road, Canceled
 6:25 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Allergic Reaction, Glenwood Road, Transported to Hospital
 8:54 p.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Main Street, Removed from Scene
 10:41 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Barre Paxton Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 11:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Citation Issued

Saturday, April 4
 1:01 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Woodside Avenue, Written Warning
 12:59 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Whitehall Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 1:58 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 2 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic), Bechan Road, Transported to Hospital
 2:16 p.m. Erratic Operator, Barre Paxton Road, Negative Contact
 3:21 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Main Street, Report Filed
 4:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Citation Issued
 8:41 p.m. Vandalism, Grizzly Drive, Report Filed
 11:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Citation Issued

Barre Police Log

Sunday, March 29
 8:33 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Fruitland Road, Transported to Hospital
 10:30 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Wauwinet Road, Transported to Hospital
 7:52 p.m. ACO Lost and Found, Old Hardwick Road, Returned
 8:38 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic), West Street, Transported to Hospital
 9:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Citation Issued

Monday, March 30
 5:47 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures, South Barre Road, No Transport Required
 9:45 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures, South Street, Transported to Hospital
 2:59 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Hubbardston Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 4:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Tuesday, March 31
 12:38 a.m. Erratic Operator, West Street, Information Given
 10:10 a.m. Emergency Medical Service, Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 11:24 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Marsh Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 5:52 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Old Turnpike Road, Investigated
 8:15 p.m. Erratic Operator, High North Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 10:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Hubbardston Road,

Negative Contact
 11:36 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Wauwinet Road, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, April 1
 12:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Citation Issued
 12:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Citation Issued
 12:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Citation Issued
 1:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, School North Street, Citation Issued
 2:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Wheelwright Road, Citation Issued
 2:22 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Old Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital
 2:27 p.m. Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Negative Contact
 5:53 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 10:29 p.m. Gunshots, Exchange Street, Officer Spoke to Party

Thursday, April 2
 10:37 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Winter Street, Officer/Chief Advised
 11:18 a.m. Court Duty, South Street, No Action Required
 12:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Citation Issued
 1:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Citation Issued

3:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Citation Issued
 6:07 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Butterworth Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 8:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident – No Fire Department/EMS Response, Elm South Street, Prisoner Bailed
 Arrest Skaife, Joseph R., 29, South Barre Road
 Charges Operating Under Influence – Drugs, Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle

Friday, April 3
 9:07 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident – No Fire Department/EMS Response, Worcester Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 11:19 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Weakness, Root Road, Transported to Hospital
 11:40 a.m. Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 1:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Citation Issued
 1:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Citation Issued
 8:55 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Worcester Road, Negative Contact

Saturday, April 4
 12:53 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, South Street, Report Filed
 3:17 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, West Street, Officer/Chief Advised
 4:27 p.m. Assault and Battery, Valley Road, Report Filed
 6:16 p.m. Erratic Operator, Nichols Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Hardwick Police Log

During the weeks of April 13-27, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 133 building/property checks, 79 directed/area patrols, 43 radar assignments, two traffic controls, 20 emergency 911 calls, six citizen assists, two complaints, one parking complaint, three safety hazards, one brush fire, one fire/illegal burn, three investigations, two motor vehicle investigations, one vandalism, one scam, two motor vehicle accidents, one missing person, one burglary, two property damages, five animal calls and 38 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, April 13
 5:17 p.m. Scam, Patril Hollow Road, Officer Handled
 7:24 p.m. Welfare Check, Delargy Road, Spoken To
 11:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Tuesday, April 14
 10 a.m. 911 Fire/Brush, Lower Road, Extinguished
 11:39 a.m. Medical Emergency, Petersham Road, Spoken To
 2:49 p.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Church Lane, Services Rendered
 3:50 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Prospect Street, Officer Handled
 5:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, North Street, Officer Handled
 5:31 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Main Street, Unfounded

Wednesday, April 15
 6:27 a.m. Complaint, Greenwich Road, Officer Handled
 11:11 a.m. Disturbance, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital
 12:02 p.m. Property Damage, Upper Church Street, Officer Handled
 1:48 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Greenwich Road, Services Rendered
 5:18 p.m. Vandalism, Upper Church Street, Officer Handled
 7:50 p.m. 911 Fire/Other, Highland Terrace, Extinguished
 8:02 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, School Street,

Patient Refusal

Thursday, April 16
 2:15 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Old Furnace Landing, Officer Handled
 5:43 a.m. Medical Emergency, School Street, Transported to Hospital
 10:19 a.m. Suspicious Activity, Lower Road, Officer Handled
 12:16 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Lower Road, Officer Handled
 1:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Goddard Road, Citation Issued

Friday, April 17
 11:14 a.m. Parking Complaint, River Run, Officer Handled
 12:35 p.m. Investigation, Telephone, Officer Handled
 3:05 p.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Road, Spoken To
 3:21 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled
 3:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 4:07 p.m. Assist Citizen, High Street, Report Taken
 8:51 p.m. 911 Gunshots, Upper Church Street, Spoken To
 11:45 p.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, Upper Church Street, Officer Handled

Saturday, April 18
 6:29 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Written Warning

Sunday, April 19
 3:01 p.m. 911 Neighbor Dispute, Petersham Road, Report Taken

Monday, April 20
 10:36 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, High Street, Officer Handled

Tuesday, April 21
 3:48 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Mechanic Street, Transported to Hospital
 5:19 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, North Road, Transported to Hospital
 6:51 p.m. Investigation, Main Street, Criminal Complaint

Wednesday, April 22
 2:19 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 11:52 a.m. 911 Medical

Emergency, School Street, Transported to Hospital
 1:29 p.m. Assist Citizen, Covered Bridge, Officer Handled
 1:31 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
 2:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Upper Church Street, Officer Handled
 2:31 p.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Road, Services Rendered
 3:01 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Shore Road, Patient Refusal
 3:42 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Church Lane, Spoken To
 4:33 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Grove Street, Spoken To
 6:54 p.m. Disturbance, Main Street, Officer Handled
 8:30 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
 9:40 p.m. Property Damage, School House Drive, Report Taken

Thursday, April 23
 4:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lucas Road, Written Warning

Friday, April 24
 6:26 a.m. Complaint, Barre Road, Officer Handled
 7:33 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Citation Issued
 3:50 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Main Street, Officer Handled
 9:04 p.m. 911 Burglary/Breaking and Entering, Joslyn Road, Transported to Hospital
 9:10 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Main Street, Merge

Saturday, April 25
 12:43 a.m. Missing Person, Main Street, Officer Handled
 10:15 a.m. Investigation, Main Street, Officer Handled

Sunday, April 26
 2:37 p.m. Assault, Hardwick Road, Investigated
 8:02 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Prospect Street, Transported to Hospital
 8:40 p.m. Fire/Illegal Burn, North Street, Investigated

Monday, April 27
 5:05 a.m. Safety Hazard, Hardwick Pond Road, Referred to Other Agency
 6:22 a.m. Safety Hazard, Hardwick Pond Road, Dispatch Handled



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Public Safety

Oakham Police Log

Sunday, March 29
8:09 a.m. Harassment, Barre Road, Officer Spoke to Party
10:31 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, 581 East Hill Road, Transported to Hospital
5:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Citation Issued
7:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Citation Issued

Monday, March 30
2:50 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), North Brookfield Road, Removed from Scene
4:26 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Old Turnpike, Transported to Hospital
6:23 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Deacon Allen

Drive, Prisoner Bailed

Tuesday, March 31
12:07 a.m. Missing Person, Adams Road, Report Filed
7:28 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick unknown, Transported to Hospital
5:52 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Old Turnpike Road, Investigated

Wednesday, April 1
11:16 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Scott Road, Transported to Hospital
1:43 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Old Turnpike Road, Vehicle Towed
5:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle

– Disabled, Worcester Road, Officer/Chief Advised

Thursday, April 2
1:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, South Road, Negative Contact

Friday, April 3
5:30 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Oak Drive, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Saturday, April 4
2 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic) Bechan Road, Transported to Hospital
2:16 p.m. Erratic Operator, Barre Paxton Road, Negative Contact

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, March 29, 2026
7:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Gardner Road, Officer/Chief Advised
11:48 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Williamsville Cutoff Road, Negative Contact

Monday, March 30
6:47 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, New Templeton Road
6:11 p.m. Trespasser or Prowler, Pitcherville Road, Negative Contact

Tuesday, March 31
11:55 a.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Lombard Road, Old Princeton Cutoff Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
5:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road Cutoff Road, Written Warning
5:41 p.m. Erratic Operator, East County Road, Officer Spoke to Party
5:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written Warning
6:18 p.m. Unwanted Party, Gardner Road, Report Filed
6:53 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Ragged Hill Road, No Transport Required

Wednesday, April 1
11:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written

Warning
11:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written Warning

11:51 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written Warning
12:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning

12:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Burnshirt Road, Written Warning
12:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Burnshirt Road, Written Warning

1:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Criminal Complaint
Summons Fisher, Linwood Peter, 40, Fitchburg
Charges License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With, Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With
11:22 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Dogwood North Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

Thursday, April 2
11:56 a.m. Assist Other Agency/Non-Police, Hubbardston Police Department, Call Transferred
12:57 p.m. Fraud or Forgery, Hale Road, Call Transferred
1:37 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Gardner Road,

Officer/Chief Advised
4:13 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Gardner Cutoff Road, Peace Restored
4:25 p.m. Be On The Look Out Notification, Cross Road, Officer Spoke to Party
5:59 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Pitcherville Road, Investigated

Friday, April 3
5:58 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Williamsville Road, Mutual Aid Transport
6:31 a.m. Assist Other Agency/Non-Police, Morgan Road, Public Assist
12:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Burnshirt Road, Written Warning
1:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Citation Issued
10:20 p.m. Unwanted Party, Gardner, Officer Spoke to Party

Saturday, April 4
10:21 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Hale Road, Transported to Hospital
5:21 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Princeton, Officer/Chief Advised
8:11 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Underwood Road, Transported to Hospital

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of April 7-13, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 17 building/property checks, 28 directed/area patrols, 13 radar assignments, seven emergency 911 calls, two citizen assists, one assist other agency, one safety hazard, two brush fires and six motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Tuesday, April 7
11:26 a.m. Assist Citizen, Bernard Whitney Road, Voice Message Left
2:21 p.m. Assist Citizen, Gilbertville Road, Spoken To

Wednesday, April 8
7:16 a.m. Medical Emergency, West Brookfield

Road, Patient Refusal
7:56 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital
9:55 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Road, Services Rendered
9 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Patient Refusal

Thursday, April 9
2:36 a.m. Suspicious Activity, Hardwick Road, Negative Contact
4:21 a.m. Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital
7:58 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Bernard Whitney Road, Officer Handled
11:18 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Scott Road,

Transported to Hospital
6:35 p.m. Fire/Brush, Utley Road, Unfounded

Friday, April 10
8:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Turnpike Road, Written Warning
2:13 p.m. 911 Fire/Brush, Hardwick Road, Extinguished

Saturday, April 11
6:08 p.m. 911 Fire/Alarm, Old Common Road, Services Rendered

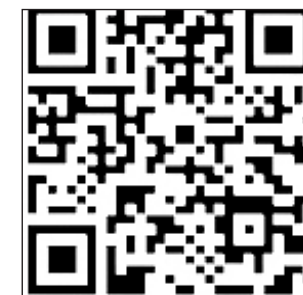
Sunday, April 12
3:21 p.m. Larceny/Theft/Shoplifting, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled

Suicide awareness walk returns to Grenville Park on May 2

Hope Walks Here

WARE – During Mental Health Awareness Month, community members and students from Ware Public Schools, will gather at Grenville Park for the third annual Out of the Darkness Campus Walk to benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

The 5K walk will be held at Grenville Park, 73 Church St., on Saturday, May 2, with check-in start-



ing at 9 a.m. and the walk at 10 a.m. People can register at afsp.org/ware or scan the QR code.

This event was established in 2024 by School

Resource Officer Jeannine Bonnayer and Ware Public Schools Food Service Manager Kristen Murphy, to help to bring awareness to and start a conversation about suicide. In March of 2023, Murphy's son Ethan Donnelly died by suicide at the age of 24.

Murphy died in February of 2025, after a brief but fierce battle with a rare and aggressive cancer. This walk fundraiser was a cause very close to her heart, and a way she could honor her son's memory.

DCR lists upcoming Quabbin hikes

BELCHERTOWN –The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center launched a new season of guided hikes across the Quabbin watershed beginning in May, offering participants a unique opportunity to experience the region's natural beauty and rich history alongside DCR staff.

Advance registration is required for all hikes, with space limited and dogs are

not permitted on Quabbin lands. Participants should come prepared for outdoor conditions, including appropriate clothing, water, snacks and tick awareness. Full details and registration are available by visiting www.friendsofquabbin.org/dcr-programs/.

Events included:
Thursday, May 7 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Gate 37 for a 1.5 mile easy forest walk to a wetland; Saturday, May 16 from 11a.m.-noon

1.7 mile moderate hike via the Visitor Center Loop Trail; Saturday May 23 from 11a.m.-1 p.m. 2.5 relatively flat terrain on hidden history Webster Road Trail; Thursday, June 4 from 10 a.m.-noon 3 miles moderate hike Tower Trail habitat; Sunday June 16 from 11a.m.-2 p.m. 3.6 mile moderate hike to Dana Common and Saturday, June 20 from 11a.m.-1:30 p.m. 5 mile intermediate hike via gate 35.

Muddy Brook from page 1

you protect the water. That's what this is about," he said.

Romano said the Board of Health members first began looking into creating regulations to project Muddy Brook, after they received a letter from the Ware Board of Health, asking them to consider protecting the aquifer.

The board also received a letter from the Hardwick Pond Preservation Association, asking for the same. Those that live around Hardwick Pond get their drinking from the aquifer.

"The Board of Health decided to embark on this journey to figure out what to do," Romano said.

Romano said a recent Department of Environmental Protection report of ground monitoring wells at the Hardwick Landfill located near Muddy Brook, showed there was contamination in the ground water at all levels. The board hired a Licensed Site Professional to interpret the information in the report.

"Sure enough there was reason for concern," Romano said. "We decided to pursue the path of regulation...people's health is at stake."

Romano said the draft regulations were created using the DEP model provided to boards of health, as well as the town of Ware's existing bylaws that protect the aquifer in that town.

Romano said the board is "very cognizant" of property rights, and he said the proposed resource protection zone would not impact regular use of properties.

He said the process to draft the regulations and map out the resource protection area has been transparent with a lot of input from various experts.

"We're trying to do the right thing for the right reasons, in the right way," Romano said.

Expert testimony

Dr. Philip Landrigan, a medical doctor who worked as an epidemiologist and pediatrician, shared information about pollution and its impact on public health.

"Around the world, water pollution is a big problem," he said.

Landrigan said there are three classes of contaminants that pollute water including biological, chemical and micro- and nanoplastics.

He said chemical pollution is "growing quite rapidly" and there are about 325,000 chemicals in commerce.

"Unfortunately, we are not doing a good job of being stewards of this chemical production," Landrigan said.

Landrigan said people are exposed to chemicals all the time and 200-300 chemicals are routinely detected in people's bodies. Low-income and minority populations have higher exposure rates.

"Most of these chemicals have not been vetted for toxicity or safety," he said.

He said only about a half of a dozen of chemicals have been removed from the market since an act was passed to monitor safety.

He said manufactured chemicals are linked to multiple diseases and health concerns, including various cancers, birth defects, altered

lipid profile, obesity, stroke, diabetes and more. It can also contribute to IQ loss, ADHD and autism.

"These were discovered after the chemicals were already on the market and exposed people," Landrigan said.

He said infants in the womb and young children are especially susceptible to health impacts caused by chemical exposure.

"These effects can last lifelong," he said.

Landrigan said chemicals such as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances have not been tested for safety.

"They're called 'forever chemicals' because they're persistent in the environment," he said.

Landrigan said micro- and nanoplastics have formed through the breakdown of plastic products into tiny particles. These particles are found in food, water and air.

"There's no question the particles are in us," he said. "They are like a Trojan horse."

Landrigan said it's essential to protect the drinking water at its source.

Dr. Scott Horsley, a hydrologist with over 30 years of experience in the field, spoke about the Muddy Brook aquifer and watershed.

He said the hillsides are comprised of glacial till and water flows down into the valley.

Horsley said the DEP has three zones of protection, and that the Barnes Street wells in Ware are in zone 2.

He said the water flows through the aquifer at a rate of 1.9 feet a day, and that over the course of 180 days, the water travels 343 feet.

"This determined the resource protection zone map," he said.

The resource protection area has a 343-foot buffer area to prevent the contamination by pollutants.

Public input

Conservation Commission members William Zinni and Rebecca Bottomley spoke about the importance of wetlands, and buffer zones to protect vital resources.

"There are over 140 acres of wetland habitats in the valley bottom," Zinni said of Muddy Brook.

Bottomley said there are over 20 rare or endangered plant and animal species in the area. She said Hardwick Pond was named one of the five priority landscapes in town by residents.

"Water protection is critical to Hardwick and Ware," she said.

Ware Town Manager Stuart Beckley said the town is "greatly appreciative" for the Board of Health's efforts to protect Ware's drinking water.

Beckley suggested the board work with its Planning Board in partnership with the town of Ware, to adopt an overlay district for the resource protection area.

Muddy Brook abutter Tracy Markham, who also works as an Environmental Compliance Manager for Casella, said protecting the groundwater is important, but that it needs to be done correctly.

"What we're forgetting is that regulations live forever," she said.

Because of this, the regulations need to be clear and concise, and not open

to interpretation by future board members. She offered her help to the board to continue drafting the regulations.

"Intention can't be regulated," Markham said.

Dennis Jones of the Hardwick Pond Preservation Association spoke about the work the pond's residents have completed to remove invasive plants and improve water quality.

"It's been quite an effort," he said.

Jones said the association "fully supports" the Board of Health's regulations to protect Muddy Brook.

Farmer Kate Stillman said water is an asset for her farm and she has invested heavily to protect it. She said PFAS contamination has had a devastating impact on the farming community and she commended the board for taking action.

Resident and retired nurse Judy Kohn said "water is most important outside of air" for public health.

Dr. Neil Halin of the Physicians Advisory Panel said there is an increasing amount of cancer in young people and "we don't know why."

"One of the thoughts is micro insults from the environment," Halin said.

Dr. Lisa Nash said public health is the most important thing to focus on.

"We can't live without water...water is gold. It's so much easier to prevent problems – let's take action," she said.

Romano said the draft regulations are still a work in progress, and they are available on the town's website, www.hardwick-ma.org under "Board of Health" and at the Board of Health's office at the Myron E. Richardson Municipal Building, 307 Main St., Gilbertville during regular hours.

Written comments about the regulations can be submitted to the board or emailed to boh@hardwick-ma.gov until May 10.

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‘Bonnie & Clyde’ musical opens this weekend

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Theatre Guild of North Brookfield brings a new and exciting musical production to life that follows a notorious couple.

This is a production of “Bonnie & Clyde: The Musical”, a story based off the true story of Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow as they became famous during the Great Depression in the 1930s.

Sharing the origin story of how this production came to the area was Missy King-McDonald.

The production is directed by Jay Valencourt and Derek Ingalls with King-McDonald working on costumes and being a part of the creative team for the play. When it came time to schedule shows in 2026, the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield tossed a lot of ideas around and wanted something that hadn’t been done before.

“Give something that people haven’t seen,” King-McDonald said.

Then members of the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield came across “Bonnie & Clyde”, but a musical version of the story. This will be the first time this musical has come to the area and will be performed on a local level through community theatre.

Both Bonnie and Clyde grow up poor in this time period and seek a better life. Clyde wants a different life and Bonnie seeks fame. The musical will feature both leading characters singing about the Depression and leading them to steal and get a better life they intend to seek.

They fall in love, come together and the rest is history.

King-McDonald, who has been a member of the Theatre Guild for over 20 years, shared that she had a lot of fun creating costumes to fit the period of the 1930s. Other unique elements will take the stage, including a car. Gordon King is the Master Scenic/Set Designer for the show and has done an excellent job setting the stage for this Depression-era story.

The casting for the show went well and over 20 cast members will take the stage for “Bonnie & Clyde: The Musical”. Jay Valencourt, in addition to co-directing the show, will be playing Clyde Barrow.

Valencourt has performed in over 30 shows with the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield. To Valencourt’s understanding this show has never been put on in this area.

Since the early stages of putting the show together Valencourt describes this show as “a great community theater show.”

Valencourt’s son Joe was originally cast as Clyde but soon found an opportunity to move to New York City and had to back out. Valencourt thought he could step in and execute the role of Clyde Barrow.

Valencourt shared that he had heard about this musical years ago and said it had a short run on Broadway. After going over the story, Valencourt fell in love with the music and the story.

When the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield decid-

ed on doing this musical, Jay focused on digging further into research to better understand who “Bonnie & Clyde” are. What he found unique was how ambitious Clyde was into becoming well known.

Clyde is someone who strives for attention and wants to pursue a better life. What Valencourt found challenging during his studying of the role was learning about Clyde’s attitude. He is the kind of person who acts differently around different people, such as his family, Bonnie, and obviously how he acts during his criminal activity.

Valencourt describes Clyde as being someone with a split personality. The music and songs in the show help tell the story. The Depression in the 1930s is the overriding theme in “Bonnie & Clyde”, and this criminal couple is trying to get their way out of it.

One of the great qualities about the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield that Valencourt shared is that they’re very inclusive. Valencourt said there are four

families working together as part of the show. Three generations of the same family are involved in the same community theater.

Valencourt looks forward to being Clyde Barrow in “Bonnie & Clyde: The Musical”. Bringing the world of the 1930s to the stage retelling the story of a notorious criminal couple.

Sarah Priestley will be playing Bonnie Parker. This will be Priestley’s fifth show with the Theatre Guild of North Brookfield. Bonnie was a role Priestley auditioned for and was intrigued by the historical persona, while mixing history with music.

Like her fellow castmate Valencourt, Priestley also did a lot of research on Bonnie Parker. What she found unique about Bonnie is that she was well-educated, a good writer and had a passion for acting.

While getting into the character, Priestley worked on getting into the young adulthood mindset. Bonnie was someone who wanted to become a notable. At the time of the Depression,

“Bonnie & Clyde” at one point probably felt invincible.

The musical element according to the cast. Priestley says the mood of the songs shifts a lot as both characters endure a lot of ups and downs. Bonnie’s love of writing is something Priestley connected to as she studied the role because she also enjoys literature, reading and writing.

Priestley looks forward to recreating the vintage look of the 1930s with “Bonnie & Clyde” telling their story.

“A very cool role,” Priestley said.

Valencourt said Priestley really “embraces her role” as Bonnie.

The show will take place at North Brookfield Elementary School on Saturday, May 2 at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, May 3 at 2 p.m.; Saturday, May 9 at 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, May 10 at 2 p.m. For tickets and information, visit theatreguildofnorthbrookfield.com and select “Buy Tickets Now” under “Bonnie and Clyde: The Musical Tickets”.

Hardwick libraries list May events

HARDWICK – It’s goodbye April, hello, May at the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road.

Star Wars Day “May the 4th be with you” will be held on Saturday, May 2 at 10 a.m. Dress as your favorite Jedi, Trooper, or other character and have fun with Star Wars themed activities and books. Bring a friend or come Solo.

A Mother’s Day Tea will be held on Saturday, May 9 at 11 a.m. Enjoy tea, lemonade and a craft with your favorite motherly person.

Mindful Mandalas will be held on Tuesday, May 12 at 6 p.m. and Saturday, May 16 at 11 a.m. Experience

the Zen creativity can bring. Relax and get centered in a rhythm of pattern and color.

Drop in the library on the Quabbin Regional School District Early Release Day on Wednesday, May 20 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. to make polymer clay beads.

“Doctor Rosie Helps the Animals” will be held on Saturday, May 30 at 10:30 a.m., an Interactive Stuffie Vet Clinic with a mini vet kit to take home sponsored by the Friends of the Paige Memorial Library. This event will be held at the Gilbertville Public Library, 259 Main St., Gilbertville.

Story Time is held every Wednesday at the Paige

Memorial Library from 10:30 a.m.-noon, with interactive activities to support language development, encourage a love for reading and books and foster social skills.

Other ongoing library activities include the Paige Book Club, the Cookbook Club, Celebrate Hardwick, the Ongoing Book Sale, the Paige Writers, Paige’s Page to Screen book to movie discussion group, and the Movie Festival Committee.

Come join a group or suggest a new one. More events are coming! Check out the library’s Facebook page and our website <https://www.facebook.com/paigelibrary/>

Baystate Health and Trinity Health signed agreement

SPRINGFIELD – Baystate Health and Trinity Health Of New England have signed a Definitive Agreement to transition Mercy Medical Center, its joint venture affiliates and medical group entities in Massachusetts to Baystate Health, pending regulatory approvals.

According to a press release, Trinity Health Of New England will continue to own and operate Brightside for Families and Children and will continue to own and provide continuing care services in Western Massachusetts, including Mercy LIFE, Mary’s Meadow At Providence Place, Beaven Kelly Home and Saint Luke’s Home.

Baystate Health will preserve Mercy’s nonprofit mission, community commitment and legacy of high-quality care. Both organizations are committed to ensuring a smooth and collaborative process for colleagues, patients and partners.

Until the transition is complete and receives all regulatory approvals, Mercy Medical Center and Baystate Health will continue to operate independently.

“Mercy and the Sisters of Providence have been a fixture in our community since 1874,” said Peter D. Banko, President & CEO, Baystate Health. “This is an investment in both the past and the future of health care and economic development in western Massachusetts. Today, access forces too many patients to leave the region to seek care, and we need to ensure that care is compassionate, high quality, affordable, and local. We have been and will continue to be a pillar of our community – rooted here, serving here, and helping generations thrive here.”

To aim to preserve local access to high-quality care, Mercy Medical Center explored potential strategic partnerships and collaborations with other providers and determined Baystate

Health shared its vision for the long-term sustainability of health care services in the community.

Like many other health care providers, Mercy has faced significant challenges and financial pressures that threatened its long-term viability. Despite substantial efforts to improve its financial position, sustainability remained at risk due to inadequate reimbursement for care, industry-wide shifts such as declining payment rates, changing consumer preferences toward outpatient services, and persistent staffing shortages.

By transitioning to Baystate Health, both Mercy and Baystate will be better positioned to meet the continued health care needs of the region.

“Mercy Medical Center has long been a trusted source of compassionate care for the people of Western Massachusetts,” said Montez Carter, FACHE, President & CEO of Trinity Health Of New England. “Our decision to transition Mercy to Baystate Health reflects our shared aim to ensuring that patients continue to have access to high-quality care. We are confident that Baystate Health will honor Mercy’s legacy and strengthen its ability to meet the evolving needs of the community.”

This agreement reflects extensive planning, collaboration and a shared vision for the future of health care in Western Massachusetts and it will help address regional access challenges with the aim to ensure patients can continue to receive high-quality care locally.

To keep the community informed, website pages on BaystateHealth.org and TrinityHealthOfNE.org have been developed that includes information and updates about the transition: www.baystatehealth.org/mercy and trinityhealthofne.org/baystate. These sites will be updated as new information becomes available.

Senior Center lists upcoming events in May

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The North Brookfield Senior Center, located at 29 Forest St., will offer the following events and activities during the month of May.

Activities include: Free Drawing Class, Thursdays, May 7 and 21 at 11 a.m.;

Free Art Class, Thursdays, May 13 and 28 at 11 a.m.; Medicare Help with Ed Spater, Thursdays, May 7 and 28 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. by appointment; Coffee and Games, Monday, May 11 at 11 a.m.; Lunch and learn with Christy Mylott: Senior

Options and Solutions on Tuesday, May 12 at 11 a.m. (catered lunch); Music Bingo on Monday, May 18 at 10 a.m.; and a Free Hearing Clinic on Tuesday, May 19, from 10 a.m.-noon by appointment

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► Assistant Treasurer/Collector

Assistant Treasurer/Collector. Duties and responsibilities include but are not limited to a variety of accounting and administrative functions to assist the Treasurer/Collector in all financial operations of the office. The Assistant provides skilled accounting and computer banking support, including billing and collection activities, account reconciliation, cash management, reporting, and research, as well as other municipal procedures and functions as required. Full-time, benefited, union position, \$25.53-\$26.29 per hour, 35 hours per week

► Equipment Operator/Truck Driver

Equipment Operator/Truck Driver in the Department of Public Works. Duties and responsibilities include but are not limited to Operating various types of motorized vehicles, trucks, dump trucks, sweepers, excavators, snow and ice removal equipment and other miscellaneous equipment, such as loaders, mowers, and chippers; Participating in emergency operations including but not limited to snowplowing, road sanding, snow and ice removal, hazardous materials mitigation, and natural disasters; Assisting with preparation of trucks and other equipment for different seasonal jobs including repairing and maintaining sanders and snow plows; Repairing roadways, sidewalks, pavements, and other surface areas and drainage structures, including excavating trenches, and chain saw operation. Full-time, 40 hours per week average, union position, \$23.32-\$25.26. Applicants are required to have a Class B CDL License with Air Brake endorsement endorsements.

For full job descriptions visit- <https://www.townofware.com/> Interested applicants please send resume to: Human Resources Department, Town of Ware, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082 or e-mail resumes@townofware.com. AA/EOE

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