

# BARRE GAZETTE

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## All articles at special town meeting

By Paula Ouimette  
pouimette@turley.com

**NORTH BROOKFIELD** – The newly elected Moderator Sheila Orsi presided over the special town meeting, held in the auditorium of the North Brookfield Elementary School on May 9.

Orsi replaced longtime Moderator James Caldwell, who served in that position for 12 years.

“It’s been an honor and a privilege to do it,” Caldwell said as he handed the gavel to Orsi. “It’s been a great adventure and experience.”

### Library article

Article 1 asked voters to transfer \$9,863 from the Library Salary account to the Purchase of Service account.

Haston Free Public Library Trustee David Maher read a letter written by Peg Bodine, former chair of the Library Trustees.

“The library has a one-time surplus in the salary account for fiscal year 2025 and we hope to transfer this money to purchase of services. This will allow us to pay outstanding bills,” Bodine stated in her letter.

This surplus is due to the library not having Library Director for six months from July 2024 to January 2025 or a custodian for four months from June 2024 to September 2024.

Bodine said during this time, the library had one employee in the building who fulfilled all of these duties. She said these vacancies have now been filled and this situation will not occur again.

This article passed by a simple majority vote.

### Capital purchases

Article 4 passed by a two-thirds majority vote, transferring \$18,165.20 from the Capital Stabilization account to the Highway Department Radio Purchase account in order to purchase high-band radios for communication.

With article 5, voters approved the transfer of \$15,600 by a two-thirds vote from the Capital Stabilization account to the Fire Department for the purchase of a “jaws of life” tool. **Sewer Department articles**  
Sewer Superintendent Eric Cardenas said the department does not currently have a Sewer Assistant on staff, and the allocated salary for that position is being used to cover additional expenses through several articles.

Article 6 asked voters to approve the transfer of \$900 from Sewer Assistant Salary to Sewer Clerk Salary, which passed favorably.

Voters also approved the transfer of \$6,500 from Sewer Assistant Salary to Sewer Superintendent Salary with article 7. Article 8 transferred \$12,000 from the Sewer Assistant Salary to Sewer Electricity and

See N BROOKFIELD, page 7



Turley photo by Ellenor Downer

Shown from left, are Dennis Bergin, candidate for Select Board; Phillip Warbasse, candidate for Planning Board; Barbara Piucci, candidate for Planning Board and Aaron Langlois, candidate for Select Board.

## Questions abound at candidate night

By Ellenor Downer  
Editor  
edowner@turley.com

**OAKHAM** – Over 60 residents came out for candidate night last Wednesday, May 7 to hear what candidates in the contested races had to say.

Fire Chief Timothy Howe moderated the event, sponsored by the Fobes Memorial Library. Residents submitted questions ahead of the event for Board of Selectmen and

Planning Board candidates. The evening began with each candidate, Dennis Bergin and Aaron Langlois running for a three year term on the Select Board and Barbara Piucci and Phillip Warbasse, running for a five-year term to Planning Board.

Langlois said Oakham needs experienced leadership. He served on the Board of Heath, as Tree Warden and Select Board for a one-year term. He said the town faces the chal-

lenge of aging infrastructure and a budget needing \$130,000 in cuts to balance. There was talk of a 2 ½ override. He concluded his statement, [Oakham] needs selectmen, who plan ahead.

Bergin served two terms on the Select Board. He said [he] would bring unity back in Oakham. He said their were ridiculous accusations of town officials on social media. He said the big issues were the town budget, talk of a 2 ½ override and the Battery Energy

Storage System. He concluded honesty, fairness and financial responsibility were his motto.

Piucci said Massachusetts laws require a Master Plan that requires the Planning Board seek residents’ input. She said the Planning Board could have offered alternatives to the Battery Storage facility and kept Oakham rural.

Warbasse has been on

See CANDIDATE NIGHT, page 6

## Selectmen discuss town debts, projects, override

By Paula Ouimette  
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**NORTH BROOKFIELD** – In addressing the topic of an override to bridge the town’s fiscal year 2026 budget gap, Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis said the town has a lot of debt exclusions and several ongoing projects that have unknown final costs, including the Sewer plant upgrade.

“We just found out recently that there are more upgrades that weren’t included in that upgrade that we’re trying to get grants for,” he said at the May 6 meeting.

Petraitis they don’t know what the cost to replace the clarifiers at the wastewater treatment plant will be, or what the sewer user fees will be. He said they also don’t know the final costs of the Fire/Highway buildings project.

“With the upcoming budget, we’re not sure where we’re going to be doing any cuts or whatever else in order to balance,” he said.

Petraitis said this is a big reason why he is not in support of an override for the town.

New Board of Selectmen member Jamie Gilman, who has also been serving on

the Fire/Highway Buildings Committee, said the contingency funds for that project are getting “extremely, dangerously low.”

“The project consisted of three different buildings where there was a lot of unknowns with each of the buildings, and that created a string of changes orders to the contract,” he said.

Gilman said the contingency amount was “grossly underfunded” and there were large expenses at the start that took up a lot of those funds.

He said another potential cost has to do with the apparatus bays meeting building

code. He said there was no consideration or plan to deal with floor drains in the bays of the former Huck’s building.

“That caught us by surprise,” Gilman said. “It was one of those things that needed to be done before we got an occupancy permit.”

Gilman said they discovered there were existing floor drains in the building that were tied into a tank buried on the property, which was beneficial to the project and allowed the contractor to complete the

See SELECTMEN, page 8

## Select Board has joint meeting with FinCom

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
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**HARDWICK** – The Select Board had a joint meeting with the Finance Committee to discuss the fiscal year 2026 budget.

Members of the Finance Committee joined the Select Board on May 12 to discuss what to incorporate in the budget. According to the Finance Committee, if the budget stands as it is, there could be a significant gap that could appear in the following year, 2027.

There are funds that could help, including the Capital Stabilization account and how critical it is to have for the town. Other contributions to having a gap in the budget is the maintenance for equipment and operating bills within the town.

According to both Finance Committee members and the Select Board, state funding could go up or down. The Finance Committee believes the future years could be much worse.

Town Administrator Justine Caggiano reminded the Select Board that they have made a commitment to find ways to bring in revenue for the town. The Town Administrator is also working on a five-year plan but wants the town to get through this year’s budget.

The board is looking to get their numbers reconciled and be able to have the town live within their means.

“The cost of everything is growing and we’re not,” Caggiano said.

Having capital funds is good to reserve, but the Finance Committee isn’t sure on how much free cash they’ll have for next year.

The board did bring up some cost savings ideas, including the town waiting to hire full-time staff until Jan. 1. One of those positions is the position of Town Clerk, Ryan J. Witkos, looking to be full-time.

See HARDWICK, page 6



Submitted photo

## Barre monument dedication to take place May 26

The Never Forget 9/11 monument located on Barre Common – Veteran Park, Barre, will be dedicated on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26 at noon. All Veterans and the public are invited to attend.



## Ware River reaches high water levels

**HARDWICK** – This photo shows the bridge over the Ware River between at the Hardwick New Braintree line.

The Ware River was just one of many rivers, streams and ponds overflowing after the heavy rains received last week in the area.

Turley photo by Ellenor Downer

The Ware River overflows its banks after all the rain received last week.



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# News of the Towns



## ROUND TOWN

by Ellenor Downer  
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### Congregational church to hold dinner

BARRE – The Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St., will hold a driver thru chicken barbecue dinner on Saturday, May 31 with pick up from 5-5:30 p.m. The menu includes chicken, Cole slaw, corn, baked potato and dessert. Cost is \$15 per adult and \$5 per child under age 12. For reservations, people may call Lisa Holloway at 979-355-0140 or the church office at 978-355-4041.

### Circle of Song concert

Circle of Song will be celebrating the arrival of spring at their concert on Saturday, May 17 at 7 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall at 2 Exchange St. The chorus has always been of modest size, but of late numbers have swelled to the low 20s, which necessitated the purchase of a set of risers and sadly, a move away from the signature semi-circle performance style. As usual, there will be a potpourri of music with the spiritual “Go Down Moses,” show tunes like “June Is Bustin’ Out All Over” and “Ol’ Man River” and “I Won’t Say I’m in Love.” There will be a Pentatonix favorite, Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah,” Ticheli’s “Earth Song,” Rutter’s “For the Beauty of the Earth” along with the madrigal “Fair Phyllis,” “The Lion Sleeps Tonight” and a gorgeous contemporary song, “Sing Gently” by Eric Whitacre. Finally, Bobby McFerrin takes a different approach to the “23rd Psalm.” They will also perform the all-time favorite, “Oh, Shenandoah.” The concert is free and refreshments will be served. Donations graciously accepted. For those interested in joining, they may email Julie Rawson at julie@mhof.net or call 978-257-1192.

### Quabbin Community Band rehearsals

Quabbin Community Band rehearsals will be held Mondays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. They are every Monday except Memorial Day through Aug. 4, at the Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchanges St. The band has nine concerts on Sunday evenings starting on Sunday, June 15 and ending on Sunday, Aug. 10. Concerts are at 6 p.m. and start in South Barre at Nornay Park. Concerts in July move to the center of town and are played on the bandstands on the Common. Membership is free. It being a summer band, it is fine not to come to every rehearsal or every concert. Margaret Reidy, a lifelong musician and music educator, is the conductor.

### Farmers Market

The Barre’s Farmers Market is open Saturdays from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on the Barre Common. The market is held rain or shine. The market runs May to October and has a wide variety of local farmers along with home made items.

### Historical Society

On Saturdays, volunteers will host open morning hours during the Farmer’s Market on Barre Common this summer. The Barre Historical Society Museum, Common Street, opens at 10:30 a.m.

The museum has a conserved 1859 12-person stagecoach that led Barre’s 250th Parade last year, numerous items pertaining to Allen’s Foundry, a White Valley mural and a replica room of Senator Brewer’s Boston Office. The Historical Society continues to be open Thursday mornings from 10 a.m.-noon or by appointment.

## Lions Club receives awards from District 33Ak



Submitted photos

Shown from left are, Laura McCarthy, Ken McCarthy, Brenda Wisnewski, John Wisnewski, Nancy Billings, Past President Jean Alman, Zone Chair Barry Alman and Past President Tim Mara.

BARRE – The motto of the Barre Lions Club is “We Serve.”

The club currently has 19 members, who work to serve the local community. The Lions of Central Massachusetts are referred to as Massachusetts District 33A and held its annual awards ceremony on Wednesday, April 30 at the Leicester Senior Center.

The BLC received three major awards at the ceremony. They received awards for being the Best Medium-sized Club in District 33A; for producing the Best Scrapbook documenting their activities and Lion Barry Alman was awarded a medal for “Outstanding Service” as a Zone Chair.

Past President Jean Alman and her successor President Robin Cheney led the BLC to a very successful year. In the fall of 2024, the town of Barre celebrated its 250th Anniversary and the Barre Lions Club actively participated. One of its two floats was awarded a trophy for “Preserving our Past” from the 250th Anniversary Committee.

The Barre Lions Club provided aid to students in the Quabbin School District. They provided elementary students with needed clothes, snacks, and school supplies and provided the middle and high schools with needed backpacks, food and toiletries for their Community Closet. Club members also dropped off more supplies, which were graciously accepted by school



Submitted photos

Past President Jean Alman, middle pins incoming President Robin Cheney, right, after being sworn in by Guiding Lion Jim McIntosh, left.

representatives.

In 2025, the Barre Lions Club will be giving a scholarship to a Quabbin senior in memory of Shirley Lewis, who embraced community service throughout her life. Funds for the scholarship were raised by raffling off one of her “famous” quilts along with donated items from local artisans.

The BLC has fostered a strong relationship with the Nornay Park Committee in South Barre. Lions helped with spring clean-up; supported the free concert series during the summer; ran a food stand and gave away prizes to foster a positive relationship with the community. The Club also helped Nornay Park decorate for Christmas and did whatever was needed to help maintain this beautiful community asset.

The Barre Lions Club is well known for its Annual

Car Show in September; its Christmas Tree Sale on the Common and its support of the annual “Christmas In Barre” celebration. The Barre Lions Club participated in the town wide yard sale, sponsored youth softball and soccer teams and donated to the Christmas in Barre Festival of Trees event. Members also served on the Christmas in Barre Committee and helped the Barre Food Pantry and the Meals on Wheels Programs.

The Barre Lions Club has a long history of serving the community. The BLC knows that there is always more to be done. The Barre Lions Club meets on the third Wednesday of the month at the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St. at 6:30 p.m., use side door. For more information, people may call Jean at 978-355-2720 or Melinda at 978-355-2846.

## HUBBARDSTON

by Ellenor Downer  
edowner@turley.com

### Memorial Day takes place May 26

The Hubbardston Memorial Day parade will take place Monday, May 26 with the parade starting at 11 a.m. from Curtis Field and proceeds to Hubbardston Common. There will be public parking at Go Green Pallet Company. Complimentary ice cream social will be held after the parade and ceremony sponsored by the Hubbardston Council on Aging.

### Metal recycling day

The Hubbardston Board of Health is sponsoring a recycling day on Saturday, May 17 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Department of Public Works, 68 Worcester Road. This free metal recycling is open to residents only. All types of metal will be accepted including grills, metal appliances, metal chairs, pipe, lawnmowers, bicycles, etc. Items can’t contain liquids, gases freon etc. No batteries are accepted. People may email inspect@hubbardstonmagov or call 978-928-1400, extension 215 with any questions.

### Comet Pond cottages program

Pam Mitchell, Comet Pond historian, put together an extensive slide show entitled “Comet Pond Cottages and More, from 1916 to 2023” depicting most of the original cottages that were located on Comet Pond and the current cottages on the pond along with several stories and observations. This will take place on Thursday May 29 at 7 p.m. at the Williamsville Chapel, 4 Burnshirt Road. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

### Senior Center

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

## 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 19. Lunches are back at the senior center, but require a pre-sign up. Volunteers are needed at the Barre dining site. Volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels (mileage reimbursement) and in the kitchen. People should contact 978-355-5027.

MONDAY – Beef stew, rice, corn niblets, pineapple, Italian bread

TUESDAY – Buttermilk chicken, roasted potatoes, mixed vegetables, butterscotch pudding, diet = sugar free vanilla pudding, pumpernickel bread

WEDNESDAY – Roast turkey with gravy, mashed sweet potatoes, Jardiniere vegetables, fresh fruit, whole wheat bread

THURSDAY – Holiday Meal, hot dog, baked beans, coleslaw, baked apples, hot dog bun, mustard

FRIDAY – Shepherd’s pie, carrots, peas, chocolate mousse, marble rye bread

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

## Editorial deadline reminder

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

## Corrections policy

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

## SUBMISSIONS WELCOME

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## First ice cream of season



Submitted photo

Mark and Linda Robertson, joined by daughters Casey and Jamie, serve up the first ice cream of the 45th season of Four Corners to long time patron, Tim Mara.

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# News of the Towns

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

### BARRE

Select Board – May 19 at 6 p.m.  
 Sewer Commission – May 19 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Board of Assessors – May 20 at 6 p.m.  
 Finance Committee – May 20 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Planning Board – May 20 and June 3 at 7 p.m.  
 250th Anniversary Committee – May 21 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Cemetery Commission – May 22 at 11 a.m.  
 Felton Field Commission – June 3 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – June 4 at 12:30 p.m.  
 Board of Health – June 9 at 5 p.m.  
 Water Commission – June 9 at 6:30 p.m.  
 DPW Commission – June 9 at 7 p.m.  
 Cable Advisory Committee – June 10 at 7 p.m.  
 Barre Housing Authority – June 12 at 1 p.m.

### HARDWICK

Capital Planning Committee – May 19 at 3 p.m.  
 Gilbertville Water District – May 20 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Conservation Commission – May 21 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Master Plan Steering Committee – May 22 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – June 4 at 12:30 p.m.  
 Board of Health – June 5 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Paige Library Trustees – June 5 at 7 p.m.

### HUBBARDSTON

Emergency Management Planning Committee – May 20 at 3 p.m.  
 Council on Aging – May 21 at 6:30 p.m.  
 Board of Parks Commissioners – June 11 at 5:30 p.m.

### NORTH BROOKFIELD.

Board of Selectmen – May 20, June 3 and June 17 at 6 p.m.  
 Planning Board – May 22 and June 18 at 6 p.m.

### OAKHAM

Board of Selectmen – May 27 at 6 p.m.

### PETERSHAM

Select Board – May 15, May 22, May 29 and June 5 at 5:30 p.m.  
 Advisory Finance Committee – May 15 at 6 p.m.  
 Petersham Historic District – May 15 at 6 p.m.  
 Planning Board – May 15 at 7 p.m.  
 Board of Health – May 22 at 7:30 p.m.  
 Open Space & Recreation Committee – June 3 at 6 p.m.  
 Conservation Commission – June 3 at 7 p.m.  
 Board of Assessors – June 6 at 9 a.m.  
 Council on Aging – Aug. 11 at 10 a.m.

### RUTLAND

Economic Development Commission – May 21 at 6 p.m.  
 Zoning Board of Appeals Hearing – May 21 at 6 p.m.

## Barre/Hardwick Senior Center events

BARRE – The Barre/Hardwick Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, announces the fourth “theme” of the 2025 year long Stronger Together Initiative for the month of June- Movement.

Movement is a big part of our lives, whether taking a walk, going up a flight of stairs, stretching or doing some sort of physical exercise. It also can mean moving as in relocating, changing the environment and more.

The introductory workshops for the month of June will take place on Monday, June 9 at 9 a.m. and Wednesday, June 11 at 6 p.m. at the Senior Center. In this opening presentation, seniors will learn about different types of movement, how movement connects to the overall Initiative and to our activities and programs at the Senior Center, and in life.

Reminding everyone again, one of the overarching messages every day at the Senior Center is “Join Us, and As Always, Bring a Friend!” We invite the “aging population, those 60 and over” from the towns and villages of Barre and Hardwick to come by the Senior Center and say hello. Stop by for a morning cup of coffee or join us for lunch, pick up a Silver Spirit newsletter and a calendar of events.

Calendar Events for June and the Silver Spirit Newsletter: (These are in addition to the regularly

scheduled very full calendar of activities) can be found at [www.townofbarre.com/coa](http://www.townofbarre.com/coa) or [mycommunityonline.com](http://mycommunityonline.com).

Monday, June 9 at 9 a.m. there will be an Introduction Workshop for the Month – Introducing and exploring the theme of Movement at the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center. Monday, June 9 at 9 a.m. the Senior Center will be welcoming Rhonda Hamer from Prime Movement. She will be teaching customized exercise classes. The cost is \$5/class.

Wednesday, June 11 at 6 p.m. Introduction Workshop for the Month – Introducing and exploring the theme of Movement at the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center.

Thursday, June 12 at 11:30 a.m. there will be a free UMASS CHAN Cooking Class. They will focus on quick and healthy choices. Sign-up at the Senior Center front desk.

Monday, June 16 there will be a Labyrinth Walk at Nornay Park 9 a.m. They invite anyone who wishes to join us at Nornay Park to walk a labyrinth with Laura. Laura will give a brief history of the labyrinth and they will take home a finger labyrinth. This is free. People should sign-up at Senior Center front desk.

Monday, June 23 at 9 a.m. Deborah Stoodley of Fidelity Bank will present on scams, frauds and elder-targeted banking scams. Tuesday, June

24 at 9 a.m. there will be an easy walk on the Rail Trail Rutland State Park with Gary Brigham, Council on Aging Board Member from Barre. 9-10 a.m. This is free. People may sign-up at Senior Center front desk.

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at 12:30 p.m. there will be a Honoring Choices MA Health Care Agent and Health Care Proxy presentation at the Senior Center. People are empowered to make their own decisions and/or to designate someone to make decisions on their behalf, and acting in accordance with those decisions. Resources will be provided to take home. This is free. Sign-up at the Senior Center Front Desk.

Friday, June 27 at 12:30 p.m. Walter Sulewski will offer a Self Defense for Seniors Hands-On Demonstration with supervised instruction. This is free. Seniors may sign-up at the Barre Senior Center front desk.

If anyone knows someone who has knowledge and skills that they could bring to a presentation or program, the COA would love to hear about it. They may call Betty-Jo O'Brien, COA/Senior Center Director at 978-355-5004 or email [coa@townofbarre.com](mailto:coa@townofbarre.com).

People may call the Senior Center at 978-355-5004 with any questions or to register for these events.



## OAKHAM

by Ellenor Downer  
[edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com)

### Senior pen pals receive ice cream social invite

Oakham Senior Pen Pals received an invitation to the ice cream social on Tuesday, June 3. Senior pen pals may pick up their invitation in the cooler outside the Fobes Memorial Library at the rear entrance. They should RSVP to Mary at the Oakham Center School by calling 508-882-3392 as soon as possible. Oakham Podiatry clinics

People should call the Senior Center at 508-882-4073 for a podiatry appointment. They should leave a message and a volunteer will return their call. Upcoming clinics are Mondays, May 19, June 16 and June 23.

### Dismas wish list

The Oakham Congregational Church, 4 Coldbrook Road, is collecting items for Dismas Farm in Oakham during the month of May. Items on the list include: new twin sized sheets and blankets, new pillows and bath towels, new men's sweatshirts, sweatpants and t-shirts sizes large through XXXL, laundry detergent, toilet paper and other cleaning supplies and fuel gift cards to help with transportation costs. People may drop these items off at the church on Sunday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to noon or leave them in the side hall in a bag marked for Dismas Farm. The outer side door is always open.

### Senior Center activities

Here is the May schedule of activities for the Oakham Senior Center, located in the lower level of the Town Hall. Activities include Tuesday, May 20 and May 27 Yoga at 1 p.m. \$5 for walk-ins; Monday, May 19 podiatry (third Monday of month) from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., reservations required; Tuesday, May 27 Blood Pressure/Glucose Testing from 11 a.m.-noon and Tuesday, May 27 SNAP benefits information from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. All are welcome; there are no age restrictions for SNAP.

Other activities include Monday through Thursday 9 a.m.-noon puzzling; Mondays through Thursdays 9 a.m. Walking Group meet at Senior Center; and Tuesdays through Thursdays 11 a.m. Walking Group, meet at Senior Center.

To participate in the walking groups, people should all the senior center at 508-882-4073 and ask to be added to the MSG group and leaving their cell phone number.

Wednesdays at 9 a.m. Zumba Gold is held in the Rutland Senior Center; \$3 donation per class.

Thursdays at noon weigh in at the Senior Center with support weight loss group.

Fridays at 10:30 a.m. Functional Fitness is held at the New Braintree Town Hall; \$3 donation per class.

Hot lunches are offered at the Senior Center dining area Monday through Thursday at 11:30 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. at 508-882-4072.

Lunch Brunch meets the third Friday. This month they meet Friday, May 16 at Val's Restaurant, Holden. There is a sign up sheet at the Senior Center Main Room.

On June 10 at 1 pm. Bemis Farms Nursery will be coming to the Fire Station. They will make “The Flying Flower Café,” the pot that attracts butterflies and hummingbirds. Cost is \$15.00 per pot. Sign up in person, e-mail [COA@Oakham-MA.gov](mailto:COA@Oakham-MA.gov) or call the Senior Center at 508-882-4073.

Blood Pressure Clinics are held on the second Thursday of each month between 11 and 11:15 a.m. Pressures will be taken by Oakham nurse Chris Letendre, who has volunteered her services to the town. There is no need for an appointment. Clinics will operate on a first come basis.

## Barre Food Pantry to hold distributions

BARRE – On Thursday evening, May 15 from 5:30-7 p.m. there will be a food distribution at the Barre Food Pantry.

The Barre Food Pantry volunteers strive to continue to fulfill their mission to get food to hungry and food insecure clients. The pantry must also continue to protect clients, volunteers and the larger community from the renewed spread of COVID-19 and other viruses.

Many clients and volunteers are classified as high-risk due to their age and/or underlying health conditions. The Barre Food Pantry Board of Directors considered changing how the pantry currently operates, but with the continued prevalence of ultra-contagious variants of

the virus the Board decided that the most responsible path forward is to continue to operate as we have since March of 2020.

In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and client, May 15 will again be “drive-through” style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church, 30 Park St. They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers at multiple stations.

## Rep. Berthiaume announces office hours

State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume's Chief of Staff, Donna, invites constituents and town officials to meet her to express any concerns, ideas or issues that they may need assistance with.

Tuesday, June 10 dates include town of Ware at the Town Hall from 9-9:45 a.m., town of West Brookfield at the Senior Center from 10-10:45 a.m. and town of Brookfield at

the Town Hall from 11-11:45 a.m.

Wednesday, June 11 include town of Leicester at the Senior Center from 9-9:45 a.m., town of Spencer at Howe Village from 10-11 a.m. and town of East Brookfield at the Senior Center from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Tuesday, June 24 dates include town of New Braintree at the town hall

from 9-9:45 a.m., town of North Brookfield at the Senior Center from 10-10:45 a.m. and town of Oakam at the Town Hall from 11 a.m.-noon.

Wednesday, June 25 dates are town of Hubbardston at Senior Center from 9-10 a.m. and town of Barre at the Senior Center from 10:14-11:15 a.m. People may call Donna at 774-402-4742 for a private meeting.

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# Opinion

## in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid

### A little of this and a little of that

I went outside yesterday to assess the damage after nearly five inches of rain fell from last Thursday night through Saturday mid day.

To say that I was mortified was an understatement. My pea seedlings were underwater, there was a river flowing into the trenches that my newly planted potatoes were in, and the floor of my greenhouse literally had an empty bucket floating in it.

Although the water table has fallen in the last 24 hours, I still wonder when, if ever, I will be able to plant the parts of my garden still covered in winter rye, as tilling it in might not happen until July, and that's if we don't get anymore rain. I was mad about it all day, because this was the year I was going to have the best garden ever.

My transplants look fantastic, and I have all sorts of seedlings going in succession, so that, for example, my broccoli and cauliflower don't ripen all at once. How will I ever plant them, I thought?

The day ended and a new day came, and with it joy in the morning. The standing water was gone, at least, and so was my desire to pack it all up and move to a condominium. Maybe there is hope.

I spent Mother's Day gardening after all, in higher parts of the yard, and it was a good day.

While I was working among the plants I made note that the lily leaf beetle has arrived. Handpicking and destroying the bright red insects over the last couple of years has thankfully inspired a resurgence in my patch of tiger lilies. It can in yours too!

Search out adults early in the season, beginning in mid April, when they are hanging around looking for a mate or in the process of mating. Pick them up and drop them into soapy water.

Well seasoned and especially fed-up gardeners can simply squish the bug. That's me.

Chances are you won't be able to get every adult before some eggs are laid. Find them on the undersides of the leaves; they are brownish-red in color, and are easily "done in" by

running your thumb along the vein of the leaf.

If you miss some eggs, dealing with the larva is your final option before real damage ensues. Squishing the slug-like, poop-covered larvae deserves a "bravest gardener of the year" award-hard to do even by this "well-seasoned and especially fed-up" gardener's standards!

If you just can't bring yourself to handle the bug-gers, try an insecticide made from neem extract. Although neem is a botanical, it is not to be sprayed when bees are out. Using it in the evening is a good option.

My peony plants have put on some nice buds. All but one of my plants had already been staked, and the one that wasn't is on the small side, perfect to be put in one of those circular tomato cages.

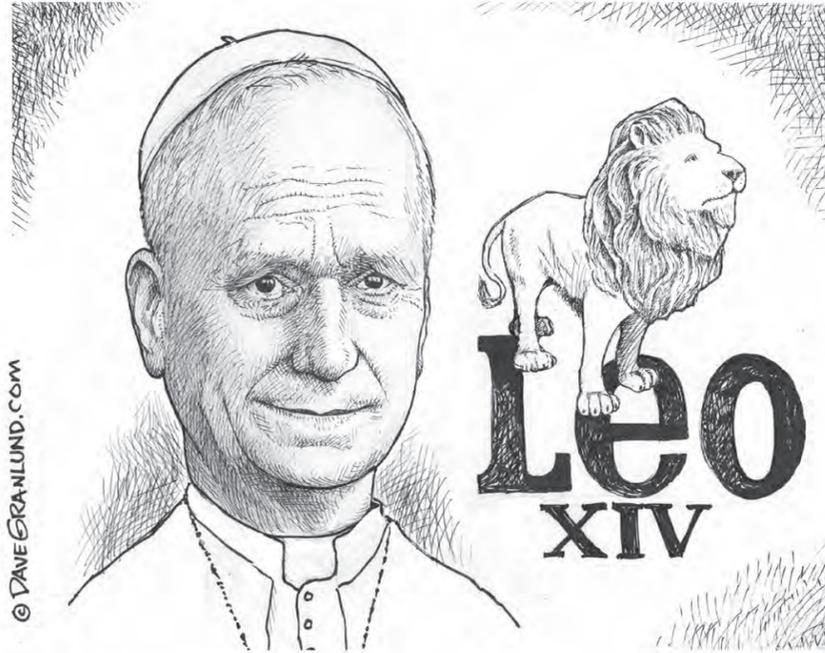
I was sprinkling fertilizers as I weeded and groomed, but I left the fertilizer out when I came to these old-timers. Too much nitrogen for peonies can be a no-no; instead of making more flowers, it can actually cause them to abort, or just develop lots of leaves at the expense of flowers.

I just got word from a friend that there is a frost warning for tonight. Although I didn't see frost in my area, I did see that temperatures may fall to around 37 degrees.

Alas, peppers and tomato transplants will revolt in an unheated greenhouse at those temperatures. Out I go, trucking them in to the kitchen, tray by tray. At least I am not up to my ankles in water tonight.

I guess it is all part of the wonderful ups and downs of gardening in New England, or anywhere else for that matter!

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*



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## In Past Pages

### 5 years (May 21, 2020)

Barre Interim Town Administrator Heather Munroe recommended the town file paperwork with the Division of Local Services in case the town meeting didn't happen before June 30. The tentative date or the Annual Town Meeting is Tuesday, June 16. She said the Division of Local Services recommended that towns get approval ahead of time if the event the Town Meeting did not occur before the end of the Fiscal Year. Munroe said the town would need to file paperwork for the sewer and water enterprise accounts as well. She said she would communicate with all department heads to make sure she has the correct budget information, get Finance Committee approval and would present to the Select Board at its first meeting in June for their approval.

Hubbardston Town Administrator Ryan McLane discussed the re-opening of town buildings with the Select Board at the May 4 meeting. He said, "[It's] a slow process, probably slower than people think." He said the opening of town offices and town property would be in three phases. He said people still can walk at the Town Recreation Field and open space land. McLane said the first possible date for phase 1 would be June 1 when some businesses not allowed to open now might be open then. Public access to town buildings would be by appointment only if someone needed to go in person. There would be a rotation of staff in the building to maintain social distances.

Ninety-one or just under 15% of the 1,354 registered Oakham votes went to the poll to vote in the Annual Town Election Monday, May

### Look Back Barre Riding and Driving Club – 1957



File photo

Harry Rice, Jennie Blaisdell and Helen Connington paint the new horse barn at Felton Field on June 13, 1957.

18. The polls were open noon-4 p.m. rather than the usual 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Due to COVID-19, the state allowed towns to change election dates and/or reduce polling hours. Voting hours had to be a minimum of four hours and begin by noon or before. On the recommendation of Town Clerk Chris Mardirosian, the Board of Selectmen decided to adjust the hours to noon-4 p.m. To ensure social distancing only two voters were in the voting room at one time. Voters received a number when they pulled into the parking lot at the Oakham Town Hall. They entered to vote when Police Chief Fred Gehring displayed their number. There were no contests on the ballot and several positions were blank.

### 10 years (May 21, 2015)

Barre Selectmen met with members of the Public Safety Building Committee at their Monday night meeting. Police

Chief Erik Demetropoulos discussed two plans with the Board. Chief Demetropoulos said in March the committee had the architect go over space needs with department heads. He came up with a 24,000 square foot building that was way over the \$3 million the town received for construction of a public safety building. Estimated cost for that size building was \$7.1 million. In April the committee suggested a smaller building of 11,000 square feet. This plan would house police, EMS and Fire Station 2 equipment. Fire Station 1 would remain open. The cost estimate or the downsized structure was \$3.7 million.

About 18% of the registered voters went to the polls on Monday, May 18 for the Annual Town Election. There were no contests on the ballot, but Laura Pease of 901

See PAST PAGES, page 5

bird common in eastern North America as a migratory breeding bird. It received its name from the resemblance of the male's colors to those on the coat-of-arms of 17th-century Lord Baltimore. The female weaves a hanging basket nest. As a child, orioles nested in an elm tree in our yard and my family and I enjoyed watching the orioles from our porch.

Young male orioles don't molt into the bright orange of the adult until the fall of their second year. Until that time they resemble the drab, female plumage. However, females become deeper orange with every molt and some older females are almost as bright orange as males.

Orioles have a long pointed beak with a thick base. The male has a black head with black wings and tail. The wings also have white marks.

The Oakham couple also had a Bald Eagle in their yard. The eagle was eating a fish while perched on a tree limb.

### Worthington birds

I received an email from a Worthington resident. He said, "For years the red breasted grosbeak has returned to my feeder in the first week of May. I was thinking he was late this year, but yesterday afternoon (on May 7) one arrived."

He also said, "About a week ago I heard a wood thrush, but not since. I am nervous about bird populations. I know scholars say they are declining, and this year I am seeing very few robins, making for a silent spring." He also commented he hoped there were plenty of robins my way. Yes, there are.

The Worthington resident also saw a bear. He said, "A bear reached up 7.5 feet and

got the bottom of my feeder. I saw him in the dim light of a motion light, full height as he was doing it. A real monster that my 40 lb dog chased off."

### Brimfield birds

A Brimfield resident said, "Last week in the yard the first ruby-throated hummingbird (male), phoebe and a house wren were seen."

He said, "In Warren it looks like the ospreys are incubating eggs." He also said, "I have several black swallow-tailed butterfly chrysalises in my garage that I need to get into the daylight now that the weather seems to be more spring like. Last year, he and his wife overwintered three and they all emerged and flew away."

### Peregrine falcon cameras

Peregrine falcons are the fastest birds on Earth. They

BACKYARD, page 6

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## in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer



Photo by Sean Blood  
Baltimore oriole

An Oakham couple saw their first Baltimore oriole at their feeder on Monday, May 5.

I saw the first Baltimore oriole for this year on Tuesday, May 13. I heard it singing on two occasions, but I could not locate it. The male oriole's whistling song is often heard while the bright orange and black bird is perched in a tree top. They prefer tall trees in open areas.

The Baltimore oriole is a medium sized icterid black-

## Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

It was another rainy week, but plants are growing well.

The best part is you don't have to water anything outside and the bugs don't come out. I am anxious to get and label things as they come up. Because my memory is not as good as it used to be I have to label the plants. I take the labels off in the fall as it is hard to rake leaves with the labels on. I try to keep the variety names of the hostas as they are all hybrids.

This week I was given a gift of two big bags of walnuts and a package of fresh dates so I made this Date Nut Bread. One package of walnuts I put in the freezer for later.

### DATE NUT BREAD

Take 1 1/2 cups of cut up dates and soak them in 1 1/2 cups boiling water. Set a while and then let them cool in the water.

2 1/2 cups flour  
1/2 cup granulated sugar  
1/2 cup brown sugar  
3 1/2 teaspoon baking powder  
1 teaspoon salt  
3 tablespoon vegetable oil  
1 egg  
1 cup chopped nuts, I used walnuts

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour the bottom of a large loaf pan. Mix all ingredients and the dates and water. Pour into the loaf pan and bake for 55 to 60 min-

utes or when a wooden pick comes out clean. Delicious sliced and spread with cream cheese or butter, which my handyman prefers. Let the bread cool before taking out of the pan.

### This and That

I have taken out the various bug eliminating to see which works best. We have bug zappers that hang from the trees branches or some you put on the deck that run by battery. I have to wear a head neck now when gardening. I also have a full body net that I wear when the weather gets hot and I can wear shorts.

The weather has been very variable lately. You have to dress in layers as you never know what the temperature will be.

I took out all my summer tee shirts and had to press them. Even though I roll them up when I put them away in the fall they still need to be pressed. I guess I need to get a clothes steamer.

I was gifted a lovely hanger of yellow pansies for Mother's Day and I hung that by the front entry. Some of the other hangers have hostas in them. I will put out the house plants about May 25. I wintered over four geranium plants and a lot of coleus that will be put in big pots outside. The clivia is in bloom and

hopefully the other four plants of clivia will bloom outside this summer.

I just about got the leaves all picked up and things are all up from the ground that plant to be. We ate one batch of fiddlehead ferns, but they have all gone into ferns and not edible now. They were delicious cooked like asparagus. You have to change the boiling water at least four times.

I need to dig some dandelion greens for Ken. I prefer spinach.

We decided to stay home for Mother's day and our daughter is bringing our meal. When you read this, it has all ready happened. She has a greenhouse full of plants and hopefully she brings me some pepper plants. I have my planter boxes full of potting soil and fertilizer ready to go.

I heard from a classmate from Maryland, who plans to come for a visit in June. He comes with his two sons each year, but this year his daughter is also coming. We have a good time talking about days at Center School and Gardner High School. We do not have too many of our classmates left.

The tree leaves are all out now and the woods are very dense. it is very serene on Serenity Hill right now. I hope you all have a nice spring.

### PAST PAGES from page 4

North Brookfield Road ran a write-in campaign for Selectmen. Incumbent Eliot G. Starbard of 600 New Braintree Road won another three year term as Selectmen with 131 votes to 99 for Pease. Incumbent Christine A. Mardirosian, 1420 North Brookfield Road, received 208 votes for another term as Town Clerk. Voters also reelected Peter C. Joyce of 83 Parmenter Road to a three year term as Assessor with 203 votes and Gregory L. Spinney, 756 Barre Road, to a three year term as Cemetery Commissioner with 210 votes.

Preparations for the Quabbin region's funkiest, trashiest event are in full swing. The fourth annual Petersham Trashion/Re-Fashion Ball gives the cool, the artsy, the fashion forward and the vintage vamps a chance to express their creativity and get in the groove. To dance the night away, people first have to spin their trash with fashion gold. This year it is a little different. Make your outfit at home and come dressed ready to sun the masses.

25 years (May 18, 2000)

Quabbin Regional District School Committee member Thomas Tashjian of Oakham addressed the committee about his concerns about Quabbin's Scholastic Aptitude Test scores. Tashjian said he realizes this is the third year in row he has brought this subject up, but the student body's overall scores are below average and did not appear to be improving. He would like the committee to review the tests in relation to the school's cur-

riculum to see if the problem is in the content of their education.

After two well received appearances in Petersham and Hubbardston, the Band of Voices will present the final performance of its spring season, "Hail, Smiling Morn," on Sunday, May 21 at 3 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall, under the sponsorship of the Barre Council on Aging. The program, free and open to the public, seniors and youngsters particularly welcome, is subtitled "Songs Celebrating Spring, Summer, Place, Salvation, Sea and Sky." It includes gospel tunes, African music, drinking songs form England and Russia, brand new compositions and arrangements.

Local representatives in the House were among the handful to vote against a massive Big Dig bailout plan to satisfy a federal threat to cut off funding for the project. Both state Reps. David Tuttle, R-Barre and Reed V. Hillman, R-Sturbridge, voted against the plan passed overwhelmingly on Beacon Hill May 16. Governor A. Paul Cellucci was expected to sign the bill before the May 19 federal deadline.

38 years (May 21, 1987)

A state of emergency was declared at the Barre Reservoir Dam last May 8 by the Department of Environmental Management for the Commonwealth and was discussed by the Barre Board of Selectmen at their regular meeting Monday, May 18. The declaration was the result of a visual inspection by DEM engineers and a

review of studies provided by O'Brien and Gere Engineers and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. According to the letter from the DEM, "extensive soil failure was observed along the downstream slope of the dam." According to Selectmen Chair Earl Sample, the dam was dewatered pending repairs over two months ago. However, a letter at the May 11 Selectmen's meeting from Charles G. Allen Corporation, brought to the attention of the selectmen that the gates had been closed and the pond filled. Selectmen did not know who closed the gates and why anyone would do so.

Barre votes approved a Fiscal Year 1988 budget as well as purchase of a new fire truck, police cruiser and dump truck at the Annual Town Meeting at Ruggles Lane Auditorium on Saturday, May 16. A total of 85 residents attended the meeting; a quorum of 50 was needed. The total budget for the coming year is \$2,192,442, a \$182,779 increase, 9% over the \$2,009,663 spent last year.

Memorial Day activities will be held on Monday, May 25, starting at 8:30 a.m. when the children will meet at the Oakham Town Hall for visits to town cemeteries for the placing of flags on the graves of veterans. Parents willing to provide transportation are welcomed and encouraged to attend. At 10:45 a.m. sharp, the parade will start at the Oakham Center School, proceed up Barre Road to Maple Street, down Maple Street to the Warm Memorial on the Common adjacent to the Congregational Church.

## Guest Column Is Community College the answer?

By Eric Goodhart

The cost of private four-year colleges and universities has steadily increased far beyond the means of all but a small percent of American households.

Now, in May 2025, a bill is moving through Congress to cap PLUS loans for parents at \$12,500 per year and eliminate the interest-free benefit of Stafford loans for students beginning with the Class of 2026. Colleges that did not adopt the principles and strategies as Grove City and Hillsdale College did in the 1980s will need to become independent or die. Below is the history that has led to this.

The Higher Education Act of 1965 marked the beginning with no end. President Lyndon Johnson signed the Higher Education Act on Nov. 8, 1965. The act aimed to strengthen the educational resources of our non-profit colleges and universities in the U.S. and provide financial assistance to students in postsecondary and higher education. What first appeared to be a positive thing has become something entirely different.

There are three primary reasons for that. In 1971, President Richard Nixon broke the 1944 Bretton Woods Agreement and removed the dollar from the gold standard. During the 1960s, the Federal Reserve was printing dollars at an unprecedented rate, a period now known as the "Guns and Butter" decade. Nixon's move was the catalyst for inflation as the dollar lost value.

A year later, Nixon signed Title IX of the Civil Rights Act into law. Many of the most expensive private colleges were beginning to admit women. Title IX prohibits gender-based discrimination in any college or other educational program that receives federal funding, also known as American taxpayer dollars.

In the fall of 1979, President Carter raised the Department of Education to a cabinet-level position. All colleges agreed with the principles of Title IX. However, a few questioned the long-term impact the law would have on academic freedom and the cost of college.

One of those was a highly regarded college in Pennsylvania, Grove City College. It did not agree to sign the Title IX agreement because it had already followed the ideals of Title IX since the co-ed colleges' founding in 1876. Upon close examination, the college's Board of Directors



Submitted photo

**Grove City College has strong academics at a lower cost than public universities.**

decided Title IX would increase families' college costs. Hillsdale College followed their lead.

Grove City College was 100% correct, but they had to go all the way to the Supreme Court to maintain their independence. Watch the video on their website at www.GCC.edu (Type 'Supreme Court' in the search box.) That is proof enough to show how Title IX has been the key factor in why college is so expensive today.

The entire Cost of Attendance for a good four-year private college in 1962 averaged \$2,300 to \$3,000 per year. In 2025, those same colleges will cost \$77,000 to \$88,300 per year. State universities now cost up to \$40,000 per year.

Financial aid has not made the colleges affordable. In fact, in most cases, it has made them more expensive and put more students and their parents into debt. The formulas used to determine "need" penalize families that save for college. The Asset Protection Allowance in 1990 has been steadily reduced to Zero in 2024. Read what follows carefully.

The Higher Education Act of 1965 included Stafford loans to students at an increased annual amount over five years. However, by 1980, colleges began to increase their yearly costs as the DOE expanded the grant and loan amounts to students with need. All kinds of adjustments to benefit colleges more than students began to appear to astute observers. None of which could be forgiven in bankruptcy.

As families became alarmed by higher costs, the effective lobbyists that colleges paid influenced lawmakers in Congress by making adjustments to "help" families afford college. The DOE made it even less affordable. In 1980, the Parent Loan to Undergraduate Students (PLUS) was introduced as a "generous" funding

source for parents. Only one parent needed to sign, and no serious credit check was required. The borrowing limit was \$4000 per year. However, as colleges increased their costs, their lobbyists went to work.

In 1993, the \$4,000 annual cap was removed, allowing parents to borrow up to the full cost of attendance, less any other financial aid received by the student. That soon put parents in debt more than the students with their Stafford loans. That should never have been done.

It gets worse. Now, Congress does not even believe that a family of four, for example, with the oldest parent at 48, needs an emergency fund of about \$49,000. Such budget planning was once sacrosanct and basic to sound family financial planning. It does not say much about either Congress or non-profit tax-exempt colleges' understanding of basic economics. Now, three to six months of household expenses are considered an asset to pay for college.

Additionally, Congress continued to yield to the pressure of paid college lobbyists not to increase the financial need when a family has more than one student in college. In other words, if the Student Aid Index, formerly known as the Expected Family Contribution, were \$40,000 with one student in college, it would remain the same if two students were in college, rather than \$20,000 per student.

The Trump administration's proposed changes, as outlined at the top of this article, will affect the high school class of 2026 and younger. Therefore, parents should be aware of what is coming for planning purposes. If a family with more than one child is not debt-free by the time the first child applies to college, the family income is less than \$400,000, and the family is living below its means, significant challenges will lie ahead.

## Rotary Club prepares to mark 70 years of service

On June 2, the Rotary Club of the Brookfields will be celebrating its 70th anniversary of service.

The Rotary Club keeps very busy from April to December with many community service projects, public image, events, social

events, regular meetings and partnering with Planet Aid and the schools on projects and just having fun with our neighboring Rotary clubs. The club serves seven towns and sometimes extend its projects when needed to other neighboring towns to

help. Rotary members are ordinary people who accomplish extraordinary things and they are always looking for new members so if you need more information about joining, you can email rotaryclubofthbrookfields@gmail.com.

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## Pam Mitchell offers slide show May 29



Photo courtesy of Metropolitan District Commission

This picture shows the original dam housing on Comet Pond from October 1930.

HUBBARDSTON – Pam Mitchell, Comet Pond historian, put together an extensive slide show entitled “Comet Pond Cottages and More, from 1916 to 2023”

depicting most of the original cottages that were located on Comet Pond and the current cottages on the pond along with several stories and observations.

This will take place on Thursday May 29 at 7 p.m. at the Williamsville Chapel, 4 Burnshirt Road. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

## Camp Putnam to participate in Summer Food Service Program

Camp Putnam, Inc. is participating in the Summer Food Service Program.

Meals will be provided to all eligible children free of charge. To be eligible to receive free meals at a residential or non-residential camp, children must meet the income guidelines for reduced-price meals in the National School Lunch Program. The income guidelines for reduced-price meals by family size are listed in below in a chart. Children who are part of households that receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly foods stamps benefits or benefits under the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families are automatically eligible to receive free meals.

Acceptance and participation requirements for the Program and all activities are the same for all regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service. Meals will be provided at the sites and times as follows at Camp Putnam:

8 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices and employees, and insti-

tutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

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Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit their completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: 202-690-7442 or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

These are the income scales used by the United States Department of Agriculture to determine eligibility for reimbursement in the Summer Food Service Program

### Chart Income Eligibility

# of Household Members	Annual	Monthly	Weekly
1	23,107	1,926	445
2	31,284	2,607	602
3	39,461	3,289	759
4	47,638	3,970	917
5	55,815	4,652	1,074
6	63,992	5,333	1,231
7	72,169	6,015	1,388
8	80,346	6,696	1,546
For Each Additional Person			
ADD	+8,177	+682	+158

### CANDIDATE NIGHT from page 1

the Planning Board since 1989. He said planning for rural Oakham is what the Planning Board has been doing. He is currently the Chairman of the Planning Board.

Susan Turnbull announced with the moderator's permission that she was a write-in candidate for the one year vacant Board of Assessors position on the ballot.

The question period began with the Select Board candidates and there were over many questions submitted.

The program began at 7 p.m. and went on for over two hours. Many of those in attendance left before the evening candidate night concluded.

The first question asked for the candidate's top three things in order of importance. Bergin answered first with get budget under control, battery park and getting the town back on an even footing and working together. Langlois responded with shared vision of public accountability, have a five year plan and have a capital plan.

In what way would you advocate for residents? Langlois went first this time

and the candidates alternated between first and last. Langlois said he has seen in the past Selectmen push there weight around, the Board needs two members to be a voice. Residents need public access, transparency and easy access to minutes of meetings.

Bergin said the voice takes two on a Board of three to do anything. He said he would be open with residents and if he didn't have an answer, he would get back to them.

What will bring in revenue and keep taxes low? Langlois said the town needed a five year plan. He said budget

## Keeping Ware beautiful and healthy



Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette

Quabog Hills Substance Use Alliance and Healthy Quabog joined Keep Ware Beautiful for a community walk and cleanup recently.

Community members band together for walk and cleanup

WARE – The Quabog Hills Substance Use Alliance, Healthy Quabog and Keep Ware Beautiful teamed up for a community event that began with

a walk through Grenville Park, followed by a town-wide cleanup started at the United Church of Ware.

Community members joined in on the walk and enjoyed the warm weather before meeting at the church where they could collect supplies including gloves, trash bags and grabbers to pick up road-

side litter across town. These volunteers could be seen around town filling countless bags with the trash found along roadways.

Kevin Brooke of McNamara Waste Services volunteered his time and truck to collect all of the bags collected after the cleanup.

### HARDWICK from page 1

The Highway Department is also looking to fill a full-time position. William Tinker, who is now Vice-Chair of the Select Board, believes the board should wait to appoint those full-time positions until Jan. 1 and the board would have six months of planning to find other avenues to help set the budget.

The board does view their Town Clerk as an asset to the town, but also wants to be fiscally responsible.

“We have to be fiscally responsible,” Tinker said.

The Finance Committee is recommending cuts in the amount of \$98,355. With these cuts, the Finance Committee would be adding back approximately \$40,000 going into next year.

“Cutting expenses could include firing somebody,” said Select Board Chair Eric Vollheim.

The board did mention the possibility of the town having a “spending problem,” but the Finance Committee reworded the issue as the town inheriting years of decisions that have led to

the point they're at now. It's not only spending, but there could as be income issues as well.

“It's just the cost to operate,” Caggiano stated when mentioning what are contributing factors to having an unsteady budget.

The cost of operating the town is expensive and is getting more expensive, year to year. The board believes the town has a fixed amount of revenue.

According to Caggiano, the town may get unpaid bills from prior years and could come across another bad winter, leading to unforeseen emergencies. Free cash is a source to helping with paying for prior year bills and a snow and ice deficit.

The board will continue to work well with the Finance Committee and will continue to run an analysis on savings. The board mentioned streetlights that are not on all the time. If the town is paying for them, then maybe they could save money and see what areas where the lights are necessary and see which ones are not on all the time.

The Select Board and Finance Committee agreed to have \$42,000 put into the

Capital Stabilization account and \$20,000 can stay in free cash. The board would approve the FY 26 budget changes, including the full-time positions to be moved to Jan. 1.

Both the Select Board and Finance Committee agreed on the approval during their joint meeting.

**Select Board goals**  
The Select Board had new business on their agenda regarding a discussion about Select Board goals. Caggiano brought up this discussion to let the board know that they can discuss what they want to see in 2026 while going into the next fiscal year.

One of the discussions the board will want to have is to discuss ideas to seek more revenue for the town. The Select Board is dedicated to working together and finding paths that will benefit Hardwick.

“Work as a board for the greater good of Hardwick,” Tinker said.

The Select Board will talk about their goals more after finalizing the budget and after the annual town meeting.

planning should be to look at last year budget and add 3 to 5% instead of looking at what need and build from that.

Bergin agreed with the need for planning, but he said things happen and can not plan five years out and the state gives less money. He said businesses bring money and tax revenue to town, but what kinds do residents want.

Both agreed for the need to get people to participate on town boards and committees. Bergin said people say things on social media that they would not say to someone in person. Langlois said social media had him wanting to be major of Oakham and to put in a large chain department store. He said he has a list of trolls on his website.

Bergin said a clip posted by Langlois on social media accused him of lining his pockets and ethics violation.

They also talked about shared service and regionalization with other towns. Langlois said to have services, the town must use shared services. Bergin said sometimes regionalization costs more. He said a regional Animal Control Officer cost more than what the town pays its own ACO.

There were only a few questions for the Planning Board. The first question asked how Accessory Dwelling Units would affect Oakham. Warbasse said the Planning Board was working with Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Committee

on an ADU bylaw. Pucci said these dwellings could be very helpful for families in Oakham, for seniors.

What have you done to fight the battery park? Pucci opted to not answer the question. Warbasse said there are signs all over town against the battery park. He also said on May 12, the Select Board and Planning Board would be meeting with two City Councillors from Westfield, who had a BESS company withdraw their application due to the opposition.

The final question was for all four candidates and asked if they were for or against the BESS on Coldbrook Road. All the candidates said they were opposed.

### BACKYARD from page 4

live throughout the world, including right here in Massachusetts! Several web cameras allow the public to witness falcons during breeding season.

Some site in Massachusetts with web cameras: Clock Tower of the Custom House, Boston nesting for over 20 years <https://marriott.ozolio.com/mwcpulse-boston/>

Fox Hall Dorm UMass Lowell nesting since 2007 <https://www.uml.edu/falcons/>

DuBois Library UMass Amherst since 2003 years <https://www.library.umass.edu/falcons/>

### Bird experience

The Brimfield resident sent the following email. “I had an interesting experience earlier today, May 12. We have a love seat that is tucked under a which hazel shrub and behind a winterberry holly. There are other small trees and shrubs nearby and there is a feeding station about 15' away. While sitting very still I began to hear bird's wings flapping close by, then I could feel the air moving near my head.”

He continued, “Then the bird landed briefly on the top of my head. Of course I couldn't see the bird. As soon as it

left my head I turned my head slowly but couldn't see any birds behind me. I have a very healthy hear of hair for an old coot and I think the bird might have been looking for nesting material.

I suspect it was a titmouse because several had been back and forth to the feeder before this happened.”

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing [mybackyard88@aol.com](mailto:mybackyard88@aol.com) or [turley.com](mailto:turley.com) or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

# EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of Memorial Day,

## PUBLIC NOTICES

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Place your public notice  
no later than NOON

# Thursday, May 22

– Thank you!

# Rod & Gun Club hosts annual kids fishing derby



Sophia Sanborn, left, and Tuesday Sampson were busy reeling in some more fish. Tuesday said she caught 14 fish.

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

**HARDWICK** – The South Barre Rod & Gun Club hosted their annual Kids Fishing Derby recently.

Despite the rain happening, over 90 kids and their families arrived early Saturday morning to set up their tents and chairs and had their fishing rods ready for a whole day of fishing. Running the kids fishing derby for the second year in a row is Board of Directors member Jeff Gerulaitis.

Gerulaitis said the South Barre Rod & Gun Club has hosted their annual fishing derby for kids for over 60 years. In recent years, the turnout for the fishing derby has featured well over 100 kids.



Fishing trophies along with various fishing related prizes were waiting to be collected by the kids who participated in the fishing derby.

Despite the weather, Gerulaitis was excited to see a great turnout for this year's fishing derby.

"Considering the weather, a wonderful turnout," Gerulaitis said.

The annual fishing derby is a free event for the public

youth and is one of many free events for the kids. The kids were fishing for trout, bass, pickerel and other types of fish. Kids were also fishing for some fun prizes

**See FISHING DERBY, page 9**

## N BROOKFIELD from page 1

article 9 transferred \$9,000 from Sewer Assistant Salary to Sewer Repairs and Maintenance.

Article 10 transferred \$1,500 from Sewer Assistant Salary to Sewer Repairs and Vehicles and article 11 transferred \$9,000 from Sewer Assistant Salary to Sewer Testing and Research.

Article 12 authorized the payment of prior year bills from 2022 and 2023 in the

amount of \$294.50 from Sewer Office Supplies.

### Water Department articles

Voters approved the transfer of funds from the Water Retained Earnings account with the following articles: article 14, \$30,000 to Water System Improvement; article 15, \$20,000 to Water Building and Equipment Maintenance; article 16, \$20,000 to Water Electricity; and article 17, \$3,000 to Water Heating Fuel.

### Police Department articles

The Police Department

requested several transfers to the Police Overtime account.

Article 18 approved the transfer of \$620 from the Police Shift Differential account; article 19 approved the transfer of \$2,155.92 from the Career Incentive account; article 20 approved the transfer of \$8,445.88 from the Police Salary account; and article 21 approved the transfer of \$3,000 from the Police Training account.

### Selectmen's expenses

Article 22 transferred \$182.84 from Selectmen

Dues and Memberships to Selectmen Advertising and article 23 approved the transfer of \$8 from Selectmen Dues and Memberships to Selectmen Postage.

Article 24 approved the transfer of \$540 from Selectmen Dues and Memberships to Selectmen Town Counsel; article 25 approved the transfer of \$54 from Selectmen Dues and Memberships to Selectmen Town House Purchase of Services; and article 26 approved the transfer of

\$336.37 from Selectmen Dues and Memberships to Selectmen Code Red Expense.

### Bylaw votes

Articles 27 and 28 both addressed bylaw amendments in order to comply with new state laws regarding accessory dwelling units.

Planning Board Chair Bill King said the town can no longer require a special permit for ADUs, which are now permissible by right.

Both articles passed by two-thirds majority votes.

### Other articles

With article 2, voters approved the transfer of \$5,649.50 from the Council on Aging Janitor Salary account to the Council on Aging Purchase of Service account.

Article 3 approved the transfer of \$68.03 from the Accountant Other Expense account to the Accountant Software/Maintenance account and article 13 approved the transfer of \$4,000 from Fire Training Salary to Fire Salary.

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# Calendar of Events

## FRIDAY, MAY 16

**ROBERT E. BARRETT FISHWAY TRIP** will take place today. This is a rain or shine event and people will meet at East Quabbin Land Trust's Office, 120 Ridge Road, Hardwick at 9 a.m. to carpool to Holyoke. The fishway is located indoors. People may watch American Shad, sea lamprey and other anadromous fish make their way upstream on the Connecticut River to spawn in the rivers where they were born.

## SATURDAY, MAY 17

**BARRE FARMERS MARKET** is open Saturdays from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on the Barre Common, Barre. The market is held rain or shine. The market runs May to October and has a wide variety of local farmers along with home made items.

**PADDLE OM THE WARE RIVER** sponsored by the Chicopee Rivers Watershed Council will take place today beginning at 9 a.m. Participants should meet at the boat launch at Grenville Park, Church Street, Ware. The group will paddle upstream and then have a relaxed float back down the river. People should bring their own boat and life jacket. The group will finish before noon. People may call Jim at 413-386-3623 or email jemerson9479@yahoo.com.

**WEST BROOKFIELD ASPARAGUS FESTIVAL** takes place today on the West Brookfield Common, Route 9, West Brookfield. The First Congregational Church, 36 North Main St., will offer their famous Asparagus Chowder from the church lawn. Hot chowder by the cup, cold chowder to take home, heat and eat by the quart, cookies and cold drinks will be available from 10 a.m. until it runs out. Inside and outside dining is available. People may call the church for more information at 508-867-7078. The festival will take place today from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on the West Brookfield Common, West Brookfield. There will be local artisans and farms, the Asparagus Alley Food Court, kid's activities, live music with Sweet Petunia and Big League Collective and over 100 vendors. Admission is free and free parking/shuttle available at the end of Central Street.

**CIRCLE OF SONG SPRING CONCERT** will take place today at 7 p.m. in the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street, Barre. Circle of Song is finishing up its 24th year with an eclectic and quite fun line up of songs from



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer  
**This week's mystery photo is from Rutland. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, May 19. Bill Bowles, Peggy Civilik, Stephen Craven, Doreen Elliot and Evelyn Luukko correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was of the spillway at Connor's Pond, Rte 122, in Petersham,**

many genres, mostly of American music. The protagonist is played by Emma Dooley and other dancers besides Grace are Michele Tranes and Siobhan Moynihan. People are invited to come and celebrate mid-spring with Circle of Song. The concert is free and refreshments will be served. Donations are graciously accepted. People interested in joining should email Julie Rawson at julie@mhof.net or call 978-257-1192.

**EXPLORING NORTH SIDE OF QUABBIN WATERSHED** will take place today from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Quabbin Reservoir Gate 29, Rte. 202, New Salem. This is a 2.4 mile out/back hike on Quabbin's north side of the watershed. Participants will be walking through the forest on a dirt road and ending at the shoreline of the reservoir. Walking to the water, the hike covers 1.2-miles and relatively little change in elevation. They will then backtrack and head out the way they came in. People should dress appro-

priately for the weather and bring water and snacks. Dogs are not allowed.

To register, people should visit Exploring the North Side of the Quabbin Watershed via Gate 29.

## MONDAY, MAY 19

**ABOUT YOUR HEARING**, an informational free program entitled will be held today at 7 p.m. in the Holden Senior Center, 1130 Main St., Holden. Holden Grange welcomes guest speaker Dr. Matthew Moreno, owner of Holden Hearing Aid Center. Dr. Moreno has been an audiologist since 1999, earning degrees from SUNY Geneseo, the University of Buffal, and Doctor of Audiology from the University of Florida. He is licensed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in audiology and is a member of several related associations. Since beginning his career at a large non-profit speech and hearing clinic in

Rochester, NY, Dr. Moreno has worked at an Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic in Raleigh, NC, and a private practice in Boston before establishing his clinic in Holden. Being raised in a home with his great-grandparents and volunteering at a summer camp for deaf children during his high school and college years, Dr. Moreno developed a compassion for those with hearing impairment. Refreshments will be served. For more information, people may email holdengrange78@gmail.com or call 508-886-2341.

**QUABBIN COMMUNITY BAND REHEARSALS** are held every Monday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. except Memorial Day through Aug. 4, at the Barre Town Hall, 2 Exchanges St., Barre. They have concerts on nine Sunday evenings starting on Sunday, June 15, and ending on Sunday, Aug. 10 at 6 p.m. with June concerts in South Barre at Nornay Park and July concert in the center of Barre. Membership is free. It being a summer band, it is fine not to come to every rehearsal or every concert. Margaret Reidy, a lifelong musician and music educator, is the conductor.

## THURSDAY, MAY 22

**STURBRIDGE BICENTENNIAL PROGRAM** sponsored by Sturbridge Historical Society explores the 1938 Bicentennial today at 7 p.m. at the Publick House, 277 Main St., Sturbridge at 7 p.m. Wally Hersee, will present the program. On June 18, 1838, the Town celebrated the 200th anniversary of its founding. This presentation is about the planning and actual production of the Bicentennial Parade and Pageant.

## SATURDAY, MAY 24

**MASS. SHEEP AND WOOLCRAFT FAIR** will be held today from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, May 25 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Cummington Fairgrounds, 97 Fairgrounds Road, Cummington. The event also includes numerous vendors with plenty of fiber products to sell during the event. Featured competitions include a sheep show, fleece show, walk and spin competition, handspun contest, youth educational woolcraft exhibit contest, woolcraft contest and more. Parking is \$10 per car or \$15 for a two-day pass. There may not be an ATM available so plan accordingly. For additional updates people may visit their website at <https://masheepwool.org>.

## SELECTMEN from page 1

building upgrade. Gilman said one building needs to be done before the contractor could move on to another.

Gilman said the former Highway building has not been maintained over the years and the apparatus bay needs a proper MDC tank that is tied into the sewer system. He said the committee has been trying to work with what is there with the limited funds available.

"We have been able to salvage the existing floor drains pretty cost effectively," Gilman said. "The architects and the engineers have been

working on specing a proper MDC tank."

He said they are about halfway through that building, and there is about \$200,000 remaining in the contingency funds.

"It seems pretty clear that the money is going to run out," Gilman said. "Unfortunately, this is one of those situations where we are contractually obligated to pay the contractor any monies, any profits, that they would have made off of the rest of the scoped work of the project...if we pull out of any of the work being done on the final Fire Department...we will essentially be taking taxpayer money and giving it away for no value."

Gilman said the situation is "dire."

### Reorganization

Petraitis welcomed the two newest members of the Board of Selectmen, Gilman and Ralph Kay. The board members reorganized, with Petraitis remaining as chair, Gilman being named as vice-chair and Kay as clerk.

### Spending requests

The board approved a spending request from the Cemetery Commission in the amount of \$800 to hire a company to locate water leaks. Petraitis said the commission and the Water Department have been unable to find the leaks.

"The system is currently leaking 14 gallons an hour,

which is causing large water bills," Petraitis said.

The board also approved a request from the Parks & Recreation Committee in the amount of \$2,600 to install fencing at both ends of the children's play area on the common.

Parks & Recreation Committee Chair Brandon Avery said this fencing is part of the common's Master Plan and has also been requested by parents.

"Hopefully we'll be able to do more fencing in the future to enclose that area," Avery said.

Transfer of appropriations The board received a request from the Board of Assessors for the transfer of

appropriations in the amount of \$4,000, with restrictions.

Petraitis said this amount will be transferred from the Revaluation Salary Conversion account to the Revaluation Other Expenses account. He said the reason for this is that it should have been listed as an expense account instead of a salary account.

Petraitis said this request will also be reviewed by the Finance Committee.

### Reserve Fund request

The board received and approved a Reserve Fund request in the amount of \$6,100 to be transferred to the Police Officer Expense account, as well as pay utility invoices and groundskeeping

costs.

He said the Police Officer Expense account is currently in the negative (-\$1,371.99) and the utility costs have "had a major increase."

### Access for EPA

The board received a request to access town property at 29 Forest St. and 50 Grove St. by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Avery said this is part of a continuous assessment by the EPA of areas of the former Aztec Industries asbestos company that have not been remediated. He said assessments began last fall.

### Pole hearing

A National Grid representative said the utility company is looking to install a utility pole on Green Road across from pole 61 in order to properly guide the secondary wire onto a resident's property. The board approved the placement of the utility pole.

### Public comment

Andy Wiewel of the Parks & Recreation Committee and the Conservation Commission spoke about a recent Earth Day cleanup that was held townwide. He said volunteers spent hours picking up trash along roadways in the rain.

Wiewel encouraged people to stop littering the roadways and throwing trash out of their vehicles. He said despite volunteers efforts, many of the roadways they cleaned have already accumulated more litter.

"It makes it easier for all of us and makes the town a better place," he said, when trash is disposed of properly.

### Water main flushing

The Water Department will be flushing water mains throughout town until Friday, May 30. Flushing is performed from 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and the daily schedule is posted on the department's Facebook page.

Flushing may result in temporary discoloration of water. For more information, people may call the Water Department at 508-867-0207.

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## Middle school baseball in action



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

The middle school baseball team faces Narragansett on May 8

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional Middle School baseball team faced Narragansett Regional on Thursday, May 8. The Panthers were next scheduled to be back in action on Thursday, May 15 at Murdock High School, followed by a home matchup on Monday, May 19 against Tahanto at 3:45 p.m.



Quabbin Middle School home games are located at the middle school diamond adjacent to the varsity softball field.



The Panthers were getting plenty of baserunners in the matchup.



The Panthers are still a growing team with some young talent.



Quabbin Middle School baseball is on the road at Murdock May 15.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Heavy rain throughout the week forced the cancellation of dozens of games in Western and Central Massachusetts this past week.

## Rain hampers schedule

Leads to extension of cutoff date for playoffs

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

Rainouts are a part of every spring, especially for baseball and softball. But some seasons are more excessive than others.

As it stands, the spring season is the shortest regular season during the school year, starting in the first week of April and only last until the third or fourth week of May. The new state playoff system implemented in 2021 further shortened the spring season, as the sectional playoffs now take place a week earlier.

While there has already

been a lot of rain this spring, this past week has been the worst of it, with some areas of Western and Central Mass. getting between four and six inches of rain combined throughout the week.

While sports like lacrosse, which is played on artificial turf in many places, and boys volleyball which is played indoors, have been largely unaffected, other sports have not been so lucky. Baseball, softball, tennis, and track have taken big hits, with lots of games, meets, and matches needing to be rescheduled. And time is running out.

Andy Rogers, who has the tall task of scheduling umpires for high school baseball in Hampden,

See RAIN, page 10

## Quabbin golf hold home finale

BARRE – The Quabbin Regional High School girls golf team had its home finale on Monday, May 12 against Hopkinton. The Panthers were defeated 33.5-14.5 in the matchup. The Panthers are 3-3-2 on the season and have three more matches remaining and are hoping to qualify for league meet scheduled for May 28.



Ava Brady works during a match on Monday.



Submitted photos

The 2025 Quabbin Regional High School girls golf team.



Makenzie Casey takes a swing during a match.

## Pioneers test team in 'Friendly' game, look forward to season opener

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Even though there are a bunch of first-year players listed on the Western Mass. Pioneers roster, the main objective remains the same.

The Pioneers will be looking to qualify for the USL League Two playoffs for the sixth time since 2019.

"We do have a lot of new players this year," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari following his team's 8-0 victory in a friendly against Southwest FC at Lusitano Stadium last Saturday night. "We're going to try our best to compete during the regular season and we're hoping to make the playoffs again. Six or seven more players will be arriving next week."

Molinari, who has been coaching the Pioneers since 2012, will be coaching the New England Mutiny once again this year. He's also the Director of Coaching for the Western United Pioneers.

"Federico is one of the best soccer coaches that I've been around," said Pioneers General Manager Joe Ferrara. "He does an outstanding job of making adjustments during each match. He also communicates very well with the players."

The Pioneers, who were founded in 1998, finished in second place in the Northeast Division a year ago with an 11-1-2 regular season record. After defeating FC Motown



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Mamadi Jiana, of Chicopee, will be a Pioneers again this season.

STA, 3-1, in extra time in an Eastern Conference qualifying round match, they lost to Lionsbridge FC, 2-1, in the conference quarterfinals.

"We've made the playoffs during the past six years, but we haven't won the championship title yet," Ferrara said. "We do have one of the toughest schedules in our conference this year."

The Pioneers are scheduled to open the 2025 campaign with a pair of road matches against Boston City and the Albany Rush before hosting league rival the Seacoast United Phantoms in the home opener at 7:30 p.m. on May 23. The Phantoms are the defending USL-Two champions. They defeated Peoria City, 3-2, in extra time in the championship

match. "Vermont and Seacoast always have very good players," Molinari said. "I also think NEFC, who's a new team in our division, has signed some very good players."

Two of the players who didn't return this season are Alec Hughes and Scott Testori, who combined for a total of 28 goals last summer.

Hughes, who scored a team-leading 17 goals, was selected by LAFC with the 22<sup>nd</sup> overall pick in the 2025 MLS Super Draft.

Testori (11 goals) also had a try-out with a West Coast MLS team. He was the leading goal scorer on the 2023 UConn men's soccer team.

Oskar Kaufmann, who's a newcomer from Sweden,



scored the first two goals

Aiden Kelly was among those who played in the Friendly game last Saturday.

of the second half in last Saturday's match. He's expected to be one of the Pioneers leading goal scorers this season.

Last fall, Kaufmann scored 12 goals for Coker University, which is a Division 2 school in South Carolina. He'll be transferring to South Carolina Upstate, which is a Division 1 school.

The Pioneers other goal scorers in the Friendly were Luke Hanchar, Austin Bush, Matt Cence, Robbie Lyons, Aidan Kelly, and Austin Murawski.

Kelly, who's a defender from UMass-Amherst,

See PIONEERS, page 10

# Sports

## Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago  
Staff Writer  
rdrago@turley.com

### Bogey Doubles

**EAST BROOKFIELD** – The bi-weekly Bogey Doubles League on Monday nights concluded as of May 5.

The final round was successfully won by the team of Tom Clauson & Gary Santora, who also were the victors of round one earlier in the season. The team had a total of 44 wins in the final round. Finishing in second place was the team of Lonny Murphy & Trevor Kenneson with 42 victories.

During the last set of matches of the season, Clauson & Santora bowled against Sandman & Marvin. In game one, Clauson & Santora won by a score of 285-278. Gary Santora bowled 131 to begin the match. Travis Sandman bowled a 117 in a losing effort.

In game two, Sandman & Marvin bounced back and won the game 284-253. Luke Marvin bowled a 132 to help his team take the

lead. In game three, Clauson & Santora won the last game by a score of 279-253.

Santora had a series of 354 to finish the season. The final score was 817-815 in favor of Clauson & Santora.

Renaud & Ward bowled against Gauthier & Clough in the final match of the season. Gauthier & Clough were the victors of game one by a score of 284-276. Tina Ward bowled 122 and Phil Clough bowled 119.

In game two, Renaud & Ward won by a score of 275-269. Steve Renaud Sr. bowled 119 to go with his teammate's 110.

In game three, Renaud & Ward won by a score of 268-260. Ward finished with 128 and a series of 360. The final score was 819-813 in favor of Renaud & Ward.

The team of Murphy & Kenneson bowled against Talamini & Gravel. Games one and two were won by Murphy & Kenneson, who scored 279 and 281. Kenneson had scores of 126 and 110.

Talamini & Gravel won the last game by a score of 272-260. The final score was 820-791 in favor of

Murphy & Kenneson. The team finished in second place this season during two separate rounds, including the last one.

Mondor & Brayton bowled against Halbedel & Fontaine. In game one, Halbedel & Fontaine were the victors by a score of 289-253. Aaron Fontaine started off strong with a 141 game. Halbedel started the match with 114.

In game two, Halbedel & Fontaine won again by a score of 291-265. Fontaine continued with a strong bowling performance with a 135. Halbedel bested his first game score with a 122.

In game three, Mondor & Brayton won the last game by a score of 294-281. Tim Brayton finished the match with a 124. Fontaine finished with a 122 and a series of 398. Halbedel finished with a 125 and a series of 361.

The final score was 861-812 in favor of Fontaine & Halbedel. Aaron Fontaine bowled the highest series of the season with a 432. The high single game of the season was bowled by Luke Marvin which was 183.



Kids and their families enjoying a day of fishing at the South Barre Rod & Gun Club.

### FISHING DERBY from page 7

that Bwere waiting for them inside the building of the Rod & Gun Club.

There were numerous fishing trophies, fishing poles and tackle boxes the kids were fishing for, but were having a blast casting away and catching as many

prizes and gift certificates to support the club's annual kids fishing derby. A total of 20 prizes were donated and members of the club expressed their appreciation for these generous donations.

One of the cooks said they prepared breakfast sandwiches in the morning as the kids and their families

put up for the kids to stay dry while reeling in their catch of the day. Tuesday Sampson was having a busy day on the pond and caught a total of 14 fish.

Alongside Sampson was Sophia Sanborn having fun by the pond and caught two fish during the event. Many family members had fun watching the youth enjoy the outdoors and fish. Many parents and family members were giving the young fisherman some helpful tips, including how to cast.

11-year-old Hudson Stecker was enjoying his first ever fishing derby and was casting like a professional. His father Dan was standing by watching and was enjoying to see how much fun he was having. The rain didn't stop Hudson from trying to catch as many fish as he could.

It was a fun day at the pond as the Annual Fishing Derby at the South Barre Rod & Gun Club had another spectacular turnout. The fishing derby happens every year in the spring and is open to the public youth.

Having fun fishing was truly the catch of the day.

The South Barre Rod & Gun Club is located at 2626 Barre Road in Hardwick. Call 413-477-6879 for more information on events or visit southbarrerodandgunclub.org.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Hudson Stecker is shown fishing during his first fishing derby. Hudson, age 11, was casting like a professional.

fish as they can.

The South Barre Rod & Gun Club was hosting a raffle inside the club with proceeds being raised to support the fishing derby. Many local businesses donated

arrived. Many guests said the sandwiches were delicious.

Outside on the edge of the pond, numerous cars were parked, and tents were

## Library 5K fundraiser takes place Sept. 6

**HUBBARDSTON** – The 28th Annual Hubbardston Library 5K Run/Walk is scheduled for Saturday Sept. 6.

This annual event represents more than a quarter century of community support for the library, approaching \$90,000 raised for ongoing operations. The race is an out and back course starting and finishing at the Hubbardston Center School. The race will begin

at 9 a.m. sharp-rain or shine.

Applications for the event will be available online at the Hubbardston Library website. The registration fee for the fundraising event is \$25 and \$30 for those who register after Saturday, Aug. 2. Long sleeve cotton race shirts will be provided to the first 100 registered runners.

Awards to overall first place Male/Female Runners and Walkers as well as age

group winners will be provided. Prizes provided are possible due to the generous donations of local businesses and individuals.

For additional information on this event, interested runners/walkers or donors may call Mark Wigler, Race Director at 978-928-5120 or email MTWigler@gmail.com. The 2024 Race/Walk raised over \$4,000 for support of the library's activities and Scholarship Fund.

## Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature sam-

ples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11

of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

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### CLUES ACROSS

- Two-person German submarine
- 60-minute intervals (abbr.)
- Database management system
- Vertical position
- American jazz singer Irene
- Ancient Greek City
- Former Senate Majority Leader Harry
- Japanese seaport
- Self-immolation by fire ritual
- Assigns tasks
- Beloved type of cigar
- Discounts
- Cambodian communist leader Pot
- Important football position
- Kilometers per hour
- Lentil
- Extremely angry
- Yellow-flowered

### CLUES DOWN

- European plant
- American state
- Some are made by rabbits
- Express with a head movement
- Affair
- Cured
- Youth organization
- 18-year astronomical period
- Automobile
- Focus a shot
- The NFL's big game (abbr.)
- Mouth
- Infections
- Curved pieces of a horse collar
- Shameless
- Assist in escaping
- Capuchin monkey genus
- Cold wind
- Retired Brazilian NBAer
- Tropical Old World tree
- Bulgarian city

### CLUES DOWN

- Not soft
- Sharp-pointed dueling sword
- Line a roof
- Greek god of the underworld
- Software
- Large-headed elongated fishes
- Shag rugs
- Type of whale
- Lacking a plan
- Spill the beans
- Some is "heavy"
- One who has been canonized
- Indicate times
- Greeting
- Broadway actor Josh
- Seashore
- Indicates before

- Electrical power unit
- Destitute
- Drags forcibly
- Impropriety
- Word forms
- Equal to 10 meters
- Neither
- Computer language
- Practice of aging film or TV characters (abbr.)
- A woolen cap of Scottish origin
- A promise
- Challenges
- Official
- People living in Myanmar
- Notable tower
- Type of sword
- Vaccine developer
- Listing
- Summertime insects
- Concluding passage
- Guitarist Clapton
- Damp and musty
- Central nervous system
- Against

### RAIN from page 9

Hampshire, and Franklin counties, said while he has a lot of games to get rescheduled, experience matters, and he is ready to through the task of getting umpires to all the needed games.

"There are a lot of moving pieces with umpires. One of the big challenges is I have over 10 college umpires on staff, and they are in their playoffs now," Rogers said. "They get their games the day before for college, and come off of high school games and they are working very competitive games for me. Youth leagues are also fully going, so when I take an umpire to work a high school game, the youth assignors then struggle to cover their games. It's

all connected. Same with the adult leagues that are out there. With the rain, I just continue to adjust and do the best I can. I want to credit our umpire staff for staying on top of so many changes. With the geography that I cover (Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin), I have to look at how far I send umpires, how many times they see the same teams, etc."

The state tournament has had a minimal impact on Rogers' ability to schedule, but said there have had to be some adjustments.

"The state tournament really hasn't impacted me that much," Rogers said. "What is tough is the Western Mass tournament week, you have a lot of games scheduled the day before that I have to

cover including the non-play-off matchups which can still be important for teams trying to get into the state playoffs. Two years ago, I had a Palmer/Smith Academy game with 3-16 Palmer Playing 9-10 Smith Academy and Smith needed that game to get into the states. It was the same day as the high school semifinals. Knowing the matchups is very important during those times."

One help for the tournament is that the cutoff date for baseball and softball has been moved from May 15 to May 19, which will give teams more time to make up games. Several teams were preparing to play 4-5 games this week and next in order to catch up with their schedule.

## PIONEERS from page 9

replaced Nicholas Oberrauch as the team captain.

"Aidan is a second-year player for us," Molinari said. "He was one of the leaders on last year's team."

A couple of other returning players are Austin Roche, Jared Smith, Augustine Boadi, Ali Taleb, Kwame Adu-Gyamfi, and Mamadi Jiana

The Pioneers starting goalie was Cam Hall, who's another newcomer from Bentley University.

Thomas Wadas, who's a senior at Ludlow High School, saw some playing time in the second half. He will be practicing with the Pioneers and will be playing for the Academy team.

Dennis Gomes and Jay Willis are returning as the Pioneers assistant coaches.

The tickets prices for all the Pioneers regular season



Kawame Adu-Gyamfi is among the returning players for the Pioneers this season

home matches are \$10.

Children 6 years old and younger are free.

It should be another excit-

ing season at the 107-year-old soccer stadium located on Winsor Street in Ludlow.

# Church News

## Local pastors offer sermons

### On Loving Others

I reflect often upon the following excerpt in the course of life and ministry.

May it speak to your heart as it speaks to mine

"Years ago, anthropologist Margaret Mead was asked by a student what she considered to be the first sign of civilization in a culture. The student expected Mead to talk about fishhooks or clay pots or grinding stones. But no. Mead said that the first sign of civilization in an ancient culture was a femur (thigh-bone) that had been broken and then healed.

Mead explained that in the animal kingdom, if you break your leg, you die. You cannot run from danger, get to the river for a drink or hunt for food. You are meat for prowling beasts. No animal survives a broken leg long enough for the bone to heal. A broken femur that has healed is evidence that someone has taken time to stay with the one who fell, has bound up the wound, has carried the person to safety and has tended the person through recovery. Mead noted that helping someone else through difficulty is where civilization starts."

This account is impacting and vividly affirms this teaching of Christ (often referred to as the Parable of the Good Samaritan):

**Luke 10:25-37 (NIV)**

25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

26 "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

27 He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

28 "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii [a denarius was the usual daily wage of a laborer] and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' 36 Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Helping someone else through difficulty may be where civilization begins. However, it is also the highest duty and moral obligation of man, as well as the greatest evidence of one's commitment to Christ (cf. John 13:35). Moreover, note that Jesus' command to "go and do likewise" personalizes the mandate of sacrificial love for each of us. We all have the responsibility to do as the Good Samaritan has done. Is this easy? By no means.

Is it worth it? Heaven deems so, and so should we. As we close, consider:

Who can you serve today?

Who can you assist in this season?

What have you to offer to those in need?

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

**Pastor James Foley**

New Life Assembly of God  
60 Main St. South Barre  
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978-355-6407

### Fourth Sunday of Easter and Mother's Day

"My Sheep Hear My Voice."

**Scripture Reading:**  
**Acts 10 v 20 - 30**

#### I. Introduction

Today, more than ever, we are called to come together as disciples of Christ, as families, and neighbors, as people from different backgrounds, beliefs, and persuasions.

We are called to put aside our differences and be Easter children, children of the cross and the resurrection, people who remember why Christ died and the power and purpose of His resurrection, which is to give life to everyone.

Why is this so important today? Let us have a look at Jesus' proclamation about His relationship with His sheep and how they listen to His voice.

#### II. My Sheep hear My Voice

In the previous passage, John 10 v 1 - 19, Jesus provides a comparison between the Good Shepherd, and the thieves and robbers. The Good Shepherd opens the gate, recognizes each sheep by name and acts with good intentions.

He cares for them, and he calls their names; they listen to His voice, and they follow Him. They trust the Good Shepherd, because they feel safe and they find pasture / rest with Him. If they stray off, He will go and find them, in the desert, the heat, the cold and the dangerous terrain.

In contrast with the Good Shepherd, there are the thieves and robbers, who pretend to take care of the sheep. They deceived the sheep, who neither knew nor followed them.

The sheep fled from the thief and the robber, as they instinctively recognized him as an unfamiliar and potentially dangerous individual. It was sensible for them to remove themselves from the situation.

This figure of speech is Jesus' way of illustrating the realities of what the disciples, the crowds were facing in their search for love and compassion, for healing and food, for safety and security. The crowd needed help; many were hungry, sick and feared rejection from passersby, including religious leaders. In Jesus, they found someone who listens to them, helps them and cares for them.

The Jewish leaders found this discourse difficult to accept. Verses 20 and 21 highlight the division among them regarding Jesus' words and actions. Why listen to Him, some said? He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Others countered this by saying, these are not the words of a demon-possessed man. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind? They could

not come to an agreement about what Jesus just told them.

And now, here in our passage, these Jewish leaders surrounded Him and accused Him of not telling them explicitly that He was the Christ. But, instead of giving in to their wishes He told them point blank that they did not acknowledge Him as the Christ, and therefore did not believe Him and that they did not believe in Him.

Because of their unbelief, Jesus tells them that they are not His sheep, because His sheep listen to Him, they follow Him, and they feel safe with Him. His sheep do not contradict Him and make it hard for Him to convey the message of God's love and forgiveness. They belong to Him, and He knows each one of them and gives them eternal life. This message from Jesus must have been difficult for them to process and understand.

#### III. Conclusion

Today, the message of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, continues to emphasize love, care, and compassion for the poor, the outcasts, and the strangers in our society. His message is universal and applies to our time today. It is about God's love in action, which is to provide safety and security and peace for all.

It involves rest for those who are tired and supplying them with necessary resources to maintain their dignity. He also speaks against those who pretend to take care of the poor and the needy, who create chaos, and insecurity, robbing the dignity and resources of those in need.

As the Son of God, He stands firm in this world of ours and continues to make clear God's will to His followers and those who question His identity and His purpose. As the church of Christ, we must follow where He leads, showing God's love to all people, taking care of the poor, the outcast, the stranger, the homeless, the sick, the ones who suffer from addiction.

We are called to speak and act, because that is how He recognizes us, when we follow where He leads. But most of all, we are called right here, to come together and be together, working out our differences in our homes, with our neighbors, at work, and here at church.

May God help each one of us to respond to this call to hear His voice, and take His hand, so we can feel strong, and confident to do what we as Christ's followers are called to do. To hear His voice is to hear His message of love, compassion and His understanding of what it takes love and be there for every human being on earth.

Amen.

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

# Obituaries

## Rose M. Clough, 86

BARRE – Rose M. Clough, 86, of Barre, passed away on Jan. 29, 2025 at Athol Memorial Hospital with her loving family by her side.

She is predeceased by her husband of 38 years, Robert A. Clough in 2018, as well as her only daughter, Nancy J. Schweikart.

Rose had a career of many years in the bank business. She was an amazing seamstress and crafter of many talents. She loved reading novels and doing crossword puzzles, in

between dotting on her little dog Kiki, of course.

She leaves behind her two sons, Bill Taylor of California and Danny Taylor of Oklahoma; her sister Ginger Martin of California; her beloved niece Lilly Cinqmars and her husband Mike of Tennessee and several grandchildren, great-grand-



children, nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held on Friday, June 20 at 10 a.m. in Caldwell Cemetery, Fruitland Road in Barre. Family and friends are kindly invited to attend.

Assisting with arrangements is Miles Funeral Home, 1158 Main Street in Holden.

To view Rose's online tribute please visit [www.milesfuneralhome.com](http://www.milesfuneralhome.com).

## Richard D. "Dick" Crowley, 81

Richard D. Crowley "Dick" passed away on April 3, 2025, after a brief battle with a very aggressive cancer. He was born Oct. 12, 1943, in Holden. He was raised in Barre by his parents, Leo and Mary Crowley and enjoyed his younger years with his family and friends.

Dick graduated from Barre High School and attended Assumption College. He worked at the Crowley Electric and Furniture Store for many years. He married Judy Bullard and had three beautiful children, Douglas, Christopher and Darleen. Dick began his career in the salvage industry working for Building 19. Mid 1980s,

Dick moved to New Jersey and became a partner with R&R salvage. He met and married Eileen Mulligan. He opened his own company, RD Crowley and associates, after leaving R&R.

Dick was a valued member of the Raritan River Boat Club in Edison, New Jersey and remained a member until his passing. He was a passionate fisherman, boater, an accomplished Master of Ceremonies and event planner (remember the Lobstober fests?).

Dick and Eileen moved to Florida in 2020 where he lived the last five years of his life. He is survived by his loving wife Eileen, his three children, his brother George and wife Patricia,

their children, seven grandchildren, two great grandchildren, lots of cousins and many wonderful friends from RRBC and beyond. Dick made cherished memories with his friends and families that will last forever. You are missed Daddy.

### DEATH NOTICES

**Clough, Rose M.**  
Died Jan. 29, 2025  
Graveside service June 20 at 10 a.m. in Caldwell Cemetery, Fruitland Road, Barre.

**Richard D. "Dick" Crowley**  
Died April 3, 2025

## Tri Parish holds plant, bake and tag sale

HARDWICK – The Tri Parish Community Church welcomes the public to their 19th annual plant, bake, craft and tag sale May 17th and 18th from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on the beautiful Hardwick common.

The sale will feature traditional, favorite, and connoisseur perennials, plus selected annuals, heirloom vegetable plants, and herbs. There is a wonderful variety in plants offered through Inishowen Farms of North Brookfield, Stillman's Farm and Howe's Farm and Garden both of New Braintree, Tracie's Greenhouse of Ware, the Hardwick Farmers Cooperative Exchange of Hardwick and "homegrown lovelies" from private gardens.

A delicious assortment of home-baked desserts and breads will also be sold. The church will be holding a drawing featuring the "best" of the plant sale. No purchase is necessary to win.

Live music will be provided on Saturday though a grant from the Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the MA Cultural Council, a state agency. Several activities will be available for children as well.

A number of craft vendors have rented space on the common for the event. They will be offering a selection of hand-crafted wood items, home crafted goods and quilted items, bird houses and feeders, scented soaps and other toiletries, stained glass, windchimes, jewelry, house plants and trees.

The Tri Parish Community Church's Pastor, Nathan Pederson, will lead a brief prayer service Sunday morning on the common in lieu of the Sunday 10 a.m. worship service.

The proceeds from the plant and bake sale support the operational expenses of the church. Come spend the day enjoying all that

Hardwick has to offer while supporting the fund-raising efforts of the church.

Browse the plants and vendor booths, connect with old friends, visit the Hardwick Historical Society, open from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. both days and the 1906 Paige Memorial library, which will be open Saturday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday. Both buildings are located near the common, a short walk from the plant sale venue.

People may also bring their bicycle and tour some of the great riding routes in the east-Quabbin area and scenic vistas preserved through the East Quabbin Land Trust such as the Mandell Hill property located just one mile east of the Hardwick common (we will hold your plants for you), and top it all off with a bite to eat at Mimi's Coffee House overlooking the common. All are welcome. This is a rain or shine event.

## Tag sale at Christ Memorial Episcopal May 17

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Christ Memorial Episcopal Church, 133 North Main St., will hold its "name your own price" tag sale on Saturday, May 17 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

This event was rescheduled due to last weekend's weather.

There will be plants, puzzles, books, clothes, kitchen/household/kids items, treasures and mor

## 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 and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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



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# Public Safety

## New Braintree Police Log

During the week of May 5-12, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 10 building/property checks, 18 directed/area patrols, two radar assignments, two traffic controls, two emergency 911 calls, two citizen assists, one assist other agency, eight safety hazards, one complaint, one investigation, two animal calls and one motor vehicle stop in the town of New Braintree.

**Tuesday, May 6**  
1:19 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Gilbertville Road, Officer Handled

**Wednesday, May 7**  
5:14 p.m. Investigation,

Gilbertville Road, Services Rendered

**Thursday, May 8**  
6:31 a.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

10:44 a.m. Safety Hazard, Thompson Road, Removed Hazard

5:42 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

**Friday, May 9**  
8:37 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Removed Hazard

10:37 a.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

2:13 p.m. Safety Hazard,

West Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

2:14 p.m. Safety Hazard, Barre Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

2:57 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

**Saturday, May 10**  
8:24 a.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville Road, Services Rendered

10:05 p.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, Scott Road, Report Taken

**Sunday, May 11**  
3:47 p.m. Safety Hazard, Worcester Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

## Hardwick Police Log

During the week of May 5-12, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 42 building/property checks, 39 directed/area patrols, five radar assignments, seven traffic controls, 17 emergency 911 calls, one citizen assist, three investigations, one fire, one illegal dumping, one larceny/theft/shoplifting, nine safety hazards, one motor vehicle accident, two animal calls and three motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

**Monday, May 5**  
9:17 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Old Petersham Road, No Action Required

**Tuesday, May 6**  
4:16 p.m. Investigation, Jackson Road, Unknown Outcome

**Wednesday, May 7**  
1:46 p.m. 911 Lockout, Church Lane, Services Rendered  
7:10 p.m. Investigation, No Location Given, Dispatch Handled  
8:17 p.m. Disturbance, Lower Road, Officer Handled  
11:43 p.m. Safety Hazard, Main Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

**Thursday, May 8**

10:23 a.m. Safety Hazard, Gate 43-44, Services Rendered

10:46 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Transported to Hospital

11:18 a.m. Medical Alarm, Main Street, Call Canceled

12:38 p.m. Medical Emergency, Railroad Lane, Services Rendered

6:28 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Shore Road, Transported to Hospital

10:22 p.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Main Street, Vehicle Towed

10:56 p.m. 911 Suspicious Activity, North Street, Investigated

10:56 p.m. Safety Hazard, Out of Town, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

**Friday, May 9**  
8:08 a.m. 911 Fire/Other, Main Street, Extinguished  
2:43 p.m. Safety Hazard, Lower Road, Officer Handled  
9:04 p.m. Investigation, None Given, Officer Handled

**Saturday, May 10**  
4:59 a.m. Medical Emergency, Railroad Lane, Transported to Hospital

6:03 a.m. Safety Hazard, Upper Church Street, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

9:52 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hillside View, Transported to Hospital

9:59 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Petersham Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

10:49 a.m. Safety Hazard, Center of Town, Services Rendered

1:05 p.m. Larceny/Theft/Shoplifting, Barre Road, Report Taken

1:27 p.m. Safety Hazard, Ridge Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

2:25 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Old Greenwich Plains Road, Arrest(s) Made

7:44 p.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Ridge Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

**Sunday, May 11**  
4:09 p.m. 911 Illegal Dumping, Greenwich Road, Negative Contact  
6:04 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Railroad Lane, Spoken To

**Monday, May 12**  
12:13 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Main Street, Transferred Call to C7  
7:57 a.m. 911 Assist Citizen, Hardwick Road, No Action Required

# Weir River Jazz and Concert Bands hold concerts

GILBERTVILLE – Two well-respected community music organizations will present free concerts on Sundays at 2 p.m.

Jazz for Summer Daze by Weir River Jazz Ensemble is on Sunday June 1 and Celebrating Twenty Years of Making Music by The Weir River Concert Band is on Sunday June 8. Both events are planned on the lawn, under tents on the lawn, at the Stone Church Cultural Center, 283 Main St. (Route 32).

Weir River Jazz is a sixteen-member classic “Big Band” jazz ensemble. Directed and led by U.S. Air Force veteran and music educator John P. Sacco on lead alto saxophone, the group’s experienced brass and woodwind players, percussionists and vocalist enjoy improvisation. Their energetic, professional-level concerts include challenging repertoire of many origins, always with a “swing.”

A traditional concert band, Weir River Concert

Band comprises brass, woodwind and rhythm section players. Originally created when music was cut from the Ware public schools, and Sacco, a U.S. Air Force veteran and Ware School music teacher, thought it was very important to offer the students, who no longer had a music program as well as community members opportunities to play and perform.

The concert band opened to members of the surrounding communities welcoming players from ages 12 to 90 and continues to do so today. At this concert, in honor of the band’s 20th year of making music together, John Sacco, Joanne Meegan, and Mike Spencer will take turns conducting. This will be Sacco’s last appearance as a conductor with the group. Their program contains sweeping movie themes by John Williams; majestic music from “The Planets” by Gustav Holst; American themes, starting with “The

Star-Spangled Banner” and challenging pieces composed for orchestra and arranged for concert band.

Since the height of the COVID pandemic, both music groups rehearse weekly at the Stone Church Cultural Center in Gilbertville. Their concerts are free with donations encouraged for the cultural center’s preservation and service to the community to the non-profit Friends of the Stone Church (www.FriendsoftheStoneChurch.org)

These free Concerts on the Lawn are generously sponsored by Country Bank. Partial support has been

from a grant from the Mass Cultural Council. Additional support has been provided by the Cultural Councils of Barre, Hardwick-New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham and Petersham. Cultural councils in the towns are local agencies supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

# Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Worcester Division**  
**Docket No. WO25P1453EA**  
**Estate of: Stella Hantzes**  
**Date of Death: 02/24/2025**  
**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Elizabeth Sansoucy of Oakham, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate. **Elizabeth Sansoucy of Oakham, MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition

and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 05/15/2025

**BARRE PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING**

The Barre Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Henry Woods Building, 40 West Street, Boards’ Office, floor 3, requested by Caruso Construction Corp to vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws and Zoning Map of the Town of Barre as follows: Chapter 140, Town of Barre Zoning Bylaws and Zoning Map incorporated therein by reference, by changing the Zoning District of 14.408 acres, more or less, of land on the east side of South Barre Road, consisting of portions of land owned by Caruso Construction Corp. as recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 57471, Page 272; Book 57730, Page 289; Book 59014, Page 340; Book 61556, Page 226; Book 65312, Page 392; and Book 68117, Page 277; and being shown on Assessors Maps H-120K, H-120P, and H-120Q from what is currently designated as “R-80 Rural Residence District” to “R-20 Open Residence District”.

A copy of which is on file with the Planning Board Office. Anyone wishing to comment on this matter should attend the hearing or submit comments in writing prior to the hearing to the Planning Board. Floyd Kelley, Chairman 5/15, 05/22/2025

**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 24, 2025** AT A SALE TO SATISFY OUR GARAGE LIEN THEREON FOR TOWING & STORAGE CHARGES AND EXPENSES OF SALE AND NOTICE:

- 2014 Subaru Forester VIN JF2SJAEC6EH437672
  - 2012 Mazda Mazda 5 VIN JM1CW2DL3C0125882
  - 2001 Toyota Corolla VIN 2T1BR18E71C392115
  - 2010 Nissan Altima VIN 1N4AL2AP8AN437208
  - 2014 Volkswagen Passat VIN 1VWAT7A30EC071182
  - 2014 GMC Terrain VIN 2GKFLWEK2E6300785
  - 2005 Subaru Outback VIN 4S4BP85C354336355
  - 2008 Ford Edge VIN 2FMDK36C68BB17683
  - 1998 Nissan Pathfinder VIN JN8AR05Y8WW254736
  - 2015 Jeep Patriot VIN 1C4NJPBA7FD156247
  - 2008 Mercedes-Benz S-Class VIN WDDNG86X38A158235
- The Sale will be held at **Early’s on Park Avenue 536 Park Ave. Worcester, MA 01603** 05/08, 05/15, 05/22/2025

# Job Connection

## HELPING YOU FIND HELP

### Town of Warren Full-Time Police Officer Vacancy

The Warren Police Department is seeking a qualified candidate to fill the vacant position of FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER. The Warren Police Department is a non-civil service department that is seeking individuals who are motivated, proactive and community oriented. All candidates must be at least 21 years of age, be a U.S. Citizen, have a minimum of a high school diploma, possess a valid driver’s license, and currently have, or have the ability to obtain a Class A license to carry firearms in the state of Massachusetts. Candidates must have successfully completed a Massachusetts full-time police academy or the equivalent to be considered for the position.

All applicants who move forward in the hiring process will be subject to a background investigation as well as a medical, physical, and psychological examination. All candidates will also be required to meet all requirements set forth by the Peace Officer and Standards Commission (POST). It is preferred that applicants currently hold an unrestricted certification from POST at the time of applying.

The Town of Warren currently offers full-time employees of the Police Department with an education-based incentive. Officers with the Warren Police Department will be required to work a schedule consisting of four (4) consecutive days on followed by two (2) days off and will be assigned to a shift based on departmental needs. All Officers will also be eligible for vacation time, personal time and holiday pay as outlined in the union contract.

All interested applicants are asked to please submit a cover letter and resume to: Lieutenant Kyle P. Whitcomb, 1 Milton O. Fountain Way, P.O. Box 606, Warren, MA 01083 or E-mail to Whitcomb@warren-ma.gov

The deadline for applications is **Friday, May 30, 2025**. Therefore, it is required that the Warren Police Department be in receipt of the candidates resume and cover letter no later than this date to be considered. The Town of Warren is an equal opportunity employer (EOE).

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**LARGE INDOOR TAG SALE.** Apple Storage, 1207 So. Main St., Palmer. **Saturday, May 17 & Sunday, May 18; 8 a.m.-3 p.m.** Vintage furniture, antiques, decorations, home goods! All proceeds donated.

**MOVING SALE: May 25 & 26, 9am-3pm.** Everything must go. Dishes, furniture, small appliances. **134 Rutland Road, Oakham.**

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37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

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## 'Trees are Treasures' celebration on May 17

STURBRIDGE – Grassroots Central Mass will continue its tradition of celebrating nature with its fourth "Trees Are Treasures" tree giveaway and nature events on Sunday, May 18 at Wells State Park in Sturbridge from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

GCM, a local affiliate of Indivisible Mass Coalition is again co-sponsoring

this year's events with Brookfields Fight Fear. Both GCM and BFF are local groups dedicated to serving the communities we live in through finding and supporting solutions to issues in our communities, our state, and our nation.

This event includes a short, level walk along the Mill Pond Trail at Wells

State Park, where costumed interpreters are stationed to discuss the importance of wetlands, stone wall history and forest ecosystems, at both child and adult levels. This is a family friendly stroll.

This free event will also include children's crafts under the pavilion, storytelling, and a free tree seed-

ling giveaway. Join GCM to celebrate and appreciate the beauty of our native forest.

For more information about this event, please contact Nancy Tame, by emailing [info@grassrootscentral-mass.org](mailto:info@grassrootscentral-mass.org) or calling 508-335-8742. For more information about GCM, please visit <https://grassrootscentral-mass.org/>

## Haston Library phone does not work

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Haston Free Public Library, 161 North Main St., has been experiencing issues with their phone lines since last Wednesday, May 7 and are unable to receive calls.

If people need to reach the library, they should send an email at [hastonfreepublicli-](mailto:hastonfreepublicli-brary@gmail.com)

brary@gmail.com. If people have already called and left a phone message, library staff have not been able to check their messages. If the message is time-sensitive or people are calling to reserve a place in one of the programs, they should send a follow up email.

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