

BARRE GAZETTE

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Conservation Commission holds hearings

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
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OAKHAM – Anticipating a large crowd, the Conservation Commission moved the location of the Notice of Intent hearings from the Town Hall to the Oakham Center School.

The first notice of intent hearing was to build a single family house on Robinson Road by Cara Peck of

Holden. The construction of the driveway to the home had to cross the Five Mile River. There is already a crossing over the river. The plan includes the installation of a box culvert over the river and within the buffer zone of wetlands.

All abutters received letters of notification of the hearing. None of them attended.

The Commission received signed permission from the

property owner to conduct a site visit and scheduled it for Monday, June 8 at 5 p.m.

Moraga Storage LLC hearing

Over 60 people came out Tuesday, June 2 for the second notice of intent hearing for Moraga Storage, LLC. Their Notice of Intent was for rebuilding of a road within the buffer zone of wetlands on the 43 acre property, located on 358 Coldbrook

Road.

The owner of the property, Ram Radar of Florida, did not attend, but he had legal representation at the hearing. Greg Hopkins and Brian Penito represented Moraga, the company that intended to build an 180 megawatt Battery Energy Storage System on the site of the former Amherst Oakham Auto Recycling.

Penito showed plans to upgrade an access road

located near the former Amherst Oakham Auto existing buildings. They planned to not touch the paved stretch of road from the entrance on Coldbrook Road onto the property.

Upgrades to the unpaved section included widening to 15 feet and consisted of a crowned gravel road over a layered compacted gravel.

In addition to extensive

See OAKHAM, page 6

Voters OK articles at STM/ATM

By Paula Ouimette
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NEW BRAINTREE – Voters took action on 13 articles at the special and annual town meetings held in Memorial Hall Monday evening.

All of the articles passed with unanimous votes, with the exception of article 12, which had one opposing vote.

Out of district transportation

Article 12 asked voters to approve the transfer of \$70,000 from Stabilization to cover the cost of out of district transportation for two students to Smith Vocational and Agricultural School in Northampton. This amount will be offset by any transportation reimbursements from the state.

The Board of Selectmen said in the past, the town has paid just over \$60,000 for transportation to the school, and that covering the cost is a mandatory expense.

The Quabbin Regional School District is in the process of creating an agricultural program, which could help to keep students seeking this type of education within the school district in the future.

This program would be housed in the New Braintree Grade School.

See NEW BRAINTREE, page 9

Town meeting approves budgets and passes over several articles

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
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HUBBARDSTON – Town meeting was held Monday at Hubbardston Center School where voters voted on the town budget, school budget and other items.

The town budget presented at town meeting was slightly different from the budget in the packet.

At the June 1 meeting, Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald said the modified budget for the town budget, which includes salaries and departments, was to raise and appropriate \$4,877,612 from the tax levy, and transfer \$46,471 from free cash.

The budget presented in article 11 of the town meeting warrant was \$4,843,757, which is about \$80,000 less than the amended budget presented at town meeting.

Susan Breagy, a resident, said some line items in the budget were cut, like the senior center. She said the building needs a new roof and they cut the line item for supplies. She also said the director works more than the 15 hours a week she is budgeted for, and asked the boards to reconsider.

Fitzgerald said there were about \$200,000 cut from department head requests to balance the budget.

Kristofer Munroe asked about high variance items, like debt service. Fitzgerald said there was a structural deficit of about \$300,000, which increased debt service for this year by 85%.

He said some of the other high variance items were a result of changing to a zero-base budget, which transferred many funds from one line to a new line. He said the new budget has over 500

lines, up from only about 120.

He said some of the transfers include centralized utilities and the development of a human resources department, along with money allocated in the select board budget to go to the town administrator's budget. When asked about the highway department being cut, Fitzgerald said a lot of it was from the centralizing of utilities.

Fitzgerald also said the town's share of the Quabbin Regional School District budget went up 4.01%, which is down from the originally proposed increase of over 7%, but the town is still absorbing that increase in the budget.

Some residents brought up concerns that there was not a paper copy of the budget

See HUBBARDSTON, page 7

Lady Slippers show their delicate pink blooms



Turley Publications photo by Ellenor Downer

Lady slippers are wild orchids, which grow in damp woodlands and wetland relying on highly specific soil fungi for their seeds to germinate.



Courtesy Photo by Chuck Coppolino

A hearty group of adventurers explored the former Jacob Riis home site on "Crow Hill" and the Barre Heath on the other side of Route 62.

Exploring Crow Hill and Barre Heath

By Lucy Allen

Sitting between the Burnshirt and Canesto Rivers, Crow Hill and the Barre Heath below form a unique environment that has served Native Americans and the descendants of European settlers for centuries.

As Barre Historical Society Historian, I led the group up the lower part of Crow Hill to the former site

of the farm once owned by Jacob Riis, the famed social reformer, journalist and photographer.

Only hulking sections of stone foundations remain now, as this is part of the Ware River Watershed. Nevertheless, the orchard on the hill above the home-site bravely showed its apple blossom while a strong, cold west wind swept down the hill to the shivering group of adventurers.

We reviewed how Jacob and his second wife, a much younger Mary Phillips Riis, purchased the property in 1911 and attempted to turn

the run-down place into a profitable farm. Jacob died in 1914 and is buried nearby in Riverside Cemetery. Mary ran the farm part-time for 22 more years, but developed a new life and career in New York City as a financial advisor to other women.

She became known as the "First Lady of Wall Street." She chose not to be buried in Barre. She died in 1967 at the age of 90.

Crossing Route 62, we then went onto the Barre Heath, which is being restored to its original inland sand plain heathland status by the

Department of Conservation and Recreation. DCR Program Coordinator Nancy Huntington explained the importance of this habitat, which is globally rare.

It is the home to many rare and endangered species. Its underlying sand rather than bedrock came courtesy of glacial activity.

We visited an interesting glacial erratic with cross-like veins of quartz. The rock was left there by the passing glacier and is an "alien" of sorts.

Nancy explained how

See HIKE, page 8

SB calls June 16 STM

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

RUTLAND – There will be another override vote in Rutland on June 16.

The Select Board called the meeting after two citizens' petitions gathered the signatures necessary to act on, as Select Board Chair Sheila Dibb said the board must call the meeting given the successful petitions.

At the May 27 meeting, it was revealed that one of the petitions was simply to call a special town meeting, and the other one was a petition for a \$1.125 million public safe-

ty and Department of Public Works override.

Town Clerk Anita Carlson said the numbers break down as \$458,726 for the Fire Department, \$449,496 for the Police Department and \$216,923 for the DPW.

The Select Board will also add another motion to accept the Wachusett Regional School District assessment for Rutland, which according to Town Administrator Heather Butler has been reduced by about \$135,000 for Rutland's share.

According to the board, if the override vote passes at

See RUTLAND, page 7

Hardwick's annual town meeting this Saturday

Staff Report

HARDWICK – The annual town meeting will be held on Saturday, June 6 at 9 a.m. at Hardwick Elementary School, 76 School House Drive, Gilbertville.

Article 1
To see if the town will vote to accept the reports of all officers and committees as printed in the 2025 Annual Report.

Article 2
To see if the town will vote to transfer a sum of money from available funds in the treasury to meet overdrawn and unprovided for

accounts in the prior fiscal years.

Article 3

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds in the treasury, borrow or any combination thereof, a sum of money to meet deficits or unforeseen costs for fiscal year 2026 snow and ice removal.

Article 4

To see if the town will allow the Board of Assessors to appoint one of its members to a full-time position.

See HARDWICK, page 8



News of the Towns



ROUND TOWN

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Diana Mackiewicz to speak June 8

On Monday, June 8 at 6:30 p.m. Diana Mackiewicz OFS and a member of St. Joseph's Franciscan Fraternity in Charlton will speak in the hall at St. Joseph's Church, 29 South St. People should enter using the side door. St. Francis of Assisi Parish is celebrating the special Franciscan Jubilee year.

She will reflect on St. Francis and Sultan Malik in 1219: An Invitation to Kinship. Mackiewicz is part of the larger Blessed Solanus Casey Region. She has worked and studied overseas in many countries including Israel, where she traveled to Akko-the Crusader City on the coast.

Her overall teaching philosophy is to understand how geography and politics have affected those who lived there and to walk in their footsteps. She was an educator for more than thirty-five years.

In her talk Diana will discuss the historical events of that time, who is Sultan Malik and why did St. Francis decide to sail to Egypt to "talk" with the Sultan. She will share the results of their three-week spiritual and social discussions.

American Legion Auxiliary

American Legion Auxiliary will hold their annual Meeting on Monday, June 8 at 6 p.m. in American Legion Post #2 quarters, 405 South Barre Road. Please note the change of time. It will be held at 6 p.m.

Legislators office hour

State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume's and Senator Peter Durant's office invites constituents and town officials to meet with their staff, Donna and Kim and Jard to express any concerns, ideas or issues that they may need assistance. On Tuesday, June 9 staff will be in the Barre Senior Center from 10:15-11:15 a.m. People may call Donna at 774-402-4742 if they would like a private meeting with Rep. Berthiaume or Sen. Durant.

Raising chickens and turkey workshop

Chicken and turkey workshop will take place Saturday, June 6 from 10 a.m.-noon at Many Hands Organic Farm, 411 Sheldon Road. The workshop is entitled "Organic Chickens and Turkeys from Brooder to Pasture." There will be a potluck lunch at noon. Pasturing poultry gives birds access to the extra nutrients only nature can supply best, not to mention health-giving sunshine. Yet they need protection from predators out on grass. The workshop offers plans for well-designed range-house "tractor," which offers security from hawks, owls and four-footed varmints and demonstrates their use on pasture. Brooding, chick and poul care and organic feed management will also be discussed and demonstrated. Advanced registration is required by visiting <https://mhof.net/events-workshops/>, calling 978-257-1192 or emailing farm@mhof.net.

Paige Memorial Library lists upcoming June events

HARDWICK -Due to the annual town meeting on Saturday, June 6 at 9 a.m., the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, will be opening from noon-4 p.m. instead of regular hours.

June events

Drawing Tesselations with Liz Buck will be held on Saturday, June 6, at 2 p.m. Create interlocking patterns inspired by M.C. Escher. Create your own piece using pencil and adding color and/or details.

Open to all.

This program will also be offered on Tuesday, June 9.

STEM Workshop: Build Your World will be held on Thursday, June 11, at 6 p.m.

The EcoTarium of Worcester is presenting a free program for grades K-six. Explore forces and motion in small groups by planning, testing, building, and improving a way to cross a model river with only simple materials.

June 13 will be Dad's Day at the Paige Memorial Library.

Bring your "Someone Special" to celebrate with a craft.

June 23 is the first day of Dig into Reading, the Paige Memorial Library's Summer Reading program. Dig into some great themes including plants and botany, history, dinosaurs, archeology and paleontology.

There will be challenges and prizes for children and adults.

Ongoing activities

Story Time with interactive activities is held every

Wednesday from 10:30 a.m.-noon.

Join the Paige Book Club, the Cookbook Club, Celebrate Hardwick, the Ongoing Book Sale, the Paige Writers, Paige's "Page to Screen" book to movie discussion group, and the Movie Festival Committee.

Check out the library's Facebook page and website at www.facebook.com/paigeliibrary/ and www.paigeliibrary.com/ People may also call 413-477-6704 or email paigeliibrary.hardwick@gmail.com.

Program on St. Francis and Sultan Malik set for June 8

BARRE - On Monday, June 8 at 6:30 p.m. Diana Mackiewicz OFS and a member of St. Joseph's Franciscan Fraternity in Charlton will speak in the hall at St. Joseph's Church, 29 South St.

People should enter using the side door. St. Francis of Assisi Parish is celebrating the special Franciscan Jubilee year.

She will reflect on St. Francis and Sultan Malik in 1219: An Invitation to Kinship. Mackiewicz is part of the larger Blessed Solanus Casey Region. She has worked and studied overseas in many countries including Israel, where she traveled to Akko-the Crusader City on the coast.

Her overall teaching philosophy is to understand how geography and politics have affected those who

lived there and to walk in their footsteps. She was an educator for more than thirty-five years.

In her talk Diana will discuss the historical events of that time, who is Sultan Malik and why did St. Francis decide to sail to Egypt to "talk" with the Sultan. She will share the results of their three-week spiritual and social discussions.

Then she'll bring us through to the present times, to Pope Francis and his encyclical, Fratelli Tutti released in Oct. 3, 2020. Its emphasis is on fraternity, social friendship, human dignity to build a compassionate and peaceful world

and a rejection of a throw-away culture.

Year of Saint Francis: Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a Special Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi, running from Jan. 10, 2026 to Jan. 10, 2027, to mark the 800th anniversary of the saint's death.

The jubilee year will emphasize peace, conversion, and the "transitus" (passing) of the saint. The Pope invites all to make pious pilgrimages to Franciscan churches and St. Francis Assisi Parish in Barre, is one of the Franciscan pilgrimage sites, here in the Worcester Diocese.

All are invited. Light refreshments will be served.



Diana Mackiewicz

Petersham Art Show June 5 to June 7

PETERSHAM - The Petersham Cultural Council invites the public to attend the 2026 Petersham Art Show, a celebration of creativity, community, and artistic expression Friday, June 5 from 7-9 p.m., Saturday, June 6 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, June 7 from noon-4 p.m. in the Petersham Town Hall, 1 South Main St.

This special exhibi-

tion will feature works by local and regional artists exploring the theme "Art in Bloom." Visitors are invited to experience a diverse collection of artwork that reflects personal stories, social issues and the power of art to connect us all.

This free, public event is open to art lovers of all ages.

On Friday, June 5 from 7-9 p.m. there will be an

opening reception with live music, The Evening

Standard with vocalist Annie Hupert.

This event supports local artists, connect with neighbors and enjoy a weekend of creativity in the heart of Petersham.

People may email the Petersham Cultural Council at petershamculturalcouncil@gmail.com for more information.

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 June 8. 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 - Macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, jardiniere vegetables, yogurt, marble rye bread

TUESDAY - Meatballs with onion gravy, bowtie pasta, Scandinavian vegetables, pineapple, pumpernickel bread

WEDNESDAY - Marinated pork

loin, cornbread stuffing, California blend vegetables, baked apples, whole wheat bread

THURSDAY - BBQ chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, chocolate pudding, diet = sugar free chocolate pudding, Italian bread

FRIDAY - Ham salad sandwich, pasta salad, tomato and onion salad, fresh fruit, pita 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.



OAKHAM

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Legislative staff hold office hour

State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume's and Senator Peter Durant's office invites constituents and town officials to meet with their staff, Donna and Kim and Jard to express any concerns, ideas or issues that they may need assistance. On Tuesday, June 9 staff will be in the Oakham Town Hall from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. People may call Donna at 774-402-4742 if they would like a private meeting with Rep. Berthiaume or Sen. Durant.

Summer band concerts

The summer band concert series begins on Thursday, June 25 from 6:30-8 p.m. on the Oakham. The Friends of the Oakham Bandstand sell popcorn, drinks and ice cream. Other

Thursday concert dates include: July 9 The Traveling Homebodies, July 23 The Long Run: Songs of the Eagles, Aug. 13 The Cropdusters and Aug. 20 The Otters.

COA events

The monthly Council on Aging meeting will take place Friday, June 12 at noon in the voting room at Town Hall. Podiatry clinic takes place Mondays, June 15 and June 22 from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. by appointment only. Bemis Butterfly Buffet workshop takes place on Tuesday, June 16 at 1 p.m. at the Fire Station. Cost is \$15, payable at the workshop. People may call the Senior Center 508-882-4073 to sign up by Friday, June 12.

Lunch Bunch will be meeting at Hardwick Crossing, 262 Lower Road, Gilbertville on Friday, June 19 at 12:30 p.m.. People should call the Senior Center to sign up so the group can make reservations. Glucose and blood pressure screening takes place Tuesday, June 30 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. No appointment is needed. Ongoing activities include puzzling Monday through Thursday at 9 a.m., regularly scheduled yoga Tuesdays at 1 p.m., Zumba Gold in New Braintree Town Hall Wednesdays at 8:45 a.m. \$3 per class and Functional fitness class Fridays in New Braintree Town Hall at 10:30 a.m., \$3 per class Walking groups and weigh in on Thursdays at noon.

Congregate hot meals

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

Church hosts annual chicken BBQ June 20

NORTH BROOKFIELD - Christ Memorial Episcopal Church, 133 North Main St., will host its annual chicken BBQ on Saturday, June 20 from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

The meal includes a 1/2 chicken, baked potato, cole slaw, roll, drink and fresh strawberry shortcake. Take-out or eat in.

Tickets are \$20 per person and will be sold at the door or they can be reserved by calling Sandi at 508-867-3272 or Mary at 508-662-8174.

Senior Center lists upcoming events in June

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

Activities include: SHINE Counselor, June 9 by appointment; Lunch and Movie, June 10 at noon; Music Bingo, June 15 at 10 a.m.; Art Class, June 18 at 11 a.m.; Drawing Class, June 25 at 11 a.m.; and Bingo and Pizza, June 26 from 6-8 p.m. Please call 508-867-0220 to sign up for Bingo and Pizza.

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

Woods Memorial Library Library Assistant \$18.77/hr., 8 hours per week

The Woods Memorial Library seeks a technology-savvy and customer service-oriented individual to join our team. Responsibilities include assisting patrons at the adult and children's circulation desks, processing and shelving library materials, providing basic technology help, and performing general library tasks. This is a great opportunity for someone who enjoys working with people, books, and technology.

Visit <https://www.barrelibrary.org/libraryassistant/> for the complete position description and application or request a paper copy at the main circulation desk.

Completed applications with a letter of interest and resume should be submitted to Joe Hood, Library Director, in-person, by email to jhood@barrelibrary.org, or by mail to Woods Memorial Library, P.O. Box 489, Barre, MA 01005. Applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Friday, June 5, 2026.

The Town of Barre is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

FOR RENT Quabbin Estates

41 Church Lane, Wheelwright, MA 01094

Accepting applications for wait list. The apartment features - w/w carpeting, kitchen appliances, maintenance coverage, laundry facilities. We specialize in Senior Housing and "Barrier Free" accessible units. Rent is \$810/mo. or 30% of income, whichever is lower. RD regulations. Handicap Accessible apartments when available.

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT 413-477-6496 TDD (800)439-2379



Editorial deadline reminder

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

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.

News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

Board of Health – June 8 at 5 p.m.
 Water Commission – June 8 at 5:30 p.m.
 DPW Commission – June 8 at 6 p.m.
 Cable Advisory Committee – June 9 at 7 p.m.
 Conservation Committee – June 9 at 7 p.m.
 Barre Housing Authority – June 11 at 1 p.m.
 Select Board – June 15 at 5 p.m.
 Barre Common Oversight Committee – June 18 at 5 p.m.
 Zoning Board of Appeals – June 18 at 6 p.m.
 Cemetery Commission – June 25 at 11 a.m.
 Planning Board – July 7 at 7 p.m.

HARDWICK

Paige Library Trustees – June 4 at 7 p.m.
 Finance Committee – June 6 at 8:30 a.m.
 Select Board – June 6 at 8:30 a.m.
 Town Meeting – June 6 at 9 a.m.
 Planning Board – June 9 at 6:30 p.m.
 Gilbertville Pubic Library – June 10 at 3 p.m.
 Hardwick New Braintree Cultural Council – June 10 at 6:30 p.m.
 Master Plan Steering Committee – June 11 at 6:30 p.m.
 Capital Planning Committee – June 15 at 3 p.m.
 Gilbertville Water District – June 16 at 5:30 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – June 17 at 6:30 p.m.
 Board of Health – June 23 and July 21 at 6 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Board of Library Trustees – June 4 and July 2 at 7 p.m.
 Annual Town Election – June 9 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.
 Board of Health – June 9, June 23, July 14 and July 28 at 7 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – June 9 and July 7 at 7 p.m.
 Local Emergency Management planning Committee – June 16 at 1 p.m.
 Council on Aging – June 17 at 4 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – June 17 and July 15 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – June 18 and July 16 at 6:30 p.m.
 Cemetery Commission – June 22 at 5 p.m.
 Community Preservation Committee – June 25 at 7 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Parks and Recreation – June 4 at 6 p.m.
 Council on Aging – June 8 at 1:30 p.m.
 Rep. Berthiaume and Sen. Durant office hour – June 9 1:30-2:14 p.m.
 Special Town Meeting – June 12 at 6:45 p.m.
 Annual Town Meeting – June 12 at 7 p.m.
 Planning Board – June 15 all day

OAKHAM

Finance Committee – June 4 at 7 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Petersham School Committee – June 8 at 10 a.m. and June 10 at 6 p.m.
 Cemetery Commission – June 9 at 11 a.m.
 Board of Health – June 9 at 6:30 p.m.
 Select Board – June 11, June 18 and June 25 at 5:30 p.m. and Sept.12 at 10 a.m.
 Petersham Historic District – June 18 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – June 26 at 9 a.m.
 Council on Aging – Aug. 10 at 10:30 a.m.

RUTLAND

Finance Committee – June 4 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – June 10 at 6 p.m.

University of the Wild offers programs

PETERSHAM – The University of the Wild is offering its 2026 programs and services.

The Earth-based educational organization was founded by Dr. Larry Buell, a local educator and historian of Petersham and provides programs and services to people of all ages, circumstances and persuasions to live, learn, and act in connection and harmony with the Earth and all life.

The vision has taken many names and incarnations over the years, initially as the Institute for Environmental Awareness, Inc., in 1973, then the Moccasin Brook Outdoor School and North Quabbin Farm in 1991, the Outdoor Leadership Program OLP at Greenfield Community College in 1980, then the Earthlands Community and Educational Center in 1993 and now the University of the Wild.

According to its founder, Dr. Buell, the program is not only focused on the rich and vibrant natural and cultural history of the region, but by the educational programs that have been offered in the Quabbin Bioregion for years by Harvard Forest, Trustees of Reservations, Mass Audubon, and the massive Quabbin Reservoir.

Starting as a modest local environmental program, its work now has an international outreach as its students, program participants and its network of Global Ecological Citizens start to see the importance of its programs.

When Buell received his 2025 national achievement award for voluntary service from former President Joseph Biden for his 5,000 hours of service, his work gained further international recognition. At a time of climate change, cultural fragmentation, and social

and environmental injustices the innovative and inspirational programs have a local, regional, national, and international following.

For the next six months the UofWild will offers a range of programs starting on Saturday, June 20 with the Earth Writers Retreat where local authors and readers come to share their work. On Saturday, July 18 there will be an introduction to Ancient Living Skills for building Earth-based shelter and forging food.

On the weekend of Aug. 21 through Aug. 23 there be an Earthlands/University of the Wild Reunion focused on stories of former participants, followed by the annual Earth Alive Retreat where a range of populations come together to share stories, learn new skills of living with the land, and offering activism for the well-being of the Earth and all life.

On Saturday, Sept. 19, there will be a co-sponsored program with the Petersham Historical Society for a day at Walden Pond and the Fruitlands Community as part of the initiative to learn more of the Transcendental Movement, which has a foundation of living lightly on the Earth.

The capstone project of 2026 will be the UofWild's 10 day intensive program. A sampler of programs where potential students, engaged activists, and an Earth change-makers come together to focus on the philosophy, content and methods of Earth-based initiatives. One primary goal of the nonprofit organization is it "Semester-on-Earth" program where students are involved in self-directed learning under the guidance of mentors who possess experience and wisdom of the land and

the culture.

The season's opening free program on Thursday, June 18 at 7 p.m. will be a podcast offered by the former President of Hampshire College, Dr. Greg Prince, who will discuss his innovative program, the ALLIANCE for Self-directed Learning, which is a new program under the umbrella of the UofWild. According to one of its program staff members, Brother NorthStar, a former pilgrim traveler has joined a team to "To educate people, steward the land, and to offer new and ancient ways to live in concert with the Earth and all life".

In addition to offering programs, the nonprofit organization has secured a long-term lease on the local 228 acre Global Roots Farm Cooperative that will provide good quality food for local residents and guests, offer credits for learning how to steward land and be a model farm and community that can be replicated around the world through its innovative, WECHI program, Wild Earth Communities and Households International.

Its primary local initiative of "Sustainable Petersham" is sharing local programs and its "People's History of Petersham" Project to inspire and motivate local residents and guests ways to live lightly on the Planet and participate in a resilient community. Local funding for the UofWild comes through proposals, foundation grants, and the Friends of the University memberships.

For registration and information, people may visit www.uofwild.org. For Information, they may call Dr. Larry Buell Executive Director at 978-855-1424 or email larry@uofwild.org.

Orange Historical Society opens for season

By Ann Reed

ORANGE – The Orange Historical Society's 18-room mansion, located at 41 North Main St., opens for this year's summer season on Sunday, June 7.

The society offers guided tours Sunday afternoons, 2-4 p.m., through September with the exception of two Sundays which instead feature free live "Music on the Porch."

Welcoming freewill donations directly benefit the Historical Society. That concert series will open June 28, presenting the "Terry, Matt and Ann Trio with Vivian."

On Tuesday, May 5, members gathered as usual, inside Witty's Funeral Home to conduct annual elections. The 15 members present also voted to reelect Denise Andrews, Anne Colo, William Johnson, Maureen

Riendeau, Frank Schiappa and George Willard to the board. Additional directors currently serving include Lurene Hall, Walter Pollard, Ann Reed, Terry Reed and Ginette Richard, while five-year officerships are held by President Kathryn Schiappa, Vice President Ingrid Pollard, Secretary Sandi Eklund, Treasurer Jeff Cole (owner of Witty's), Assistant Secretary Linda Knechtel, Assistant Treasurer Tom Smith, and Auditors Jeri Deyo and Gregory Metevier.

Sandra Fawn Weinstein to its Board of Directors to fulfill the remaining year of a three-year term departed last December when Society faithful Irene Ballou passed away at age 92. Ballou had served the society since 1955, including as president for a cumulative total of 36 years in that role.

The business meeting heard reports from officers and committee representatives and discussed several event plans for the coming season. The Orange society is an avid participant in the annual North Quabbin History Tours.

Following adjournment of Tuesday's meeting, members enjoyed their customary socializing over refreshments, which included George Willard's famous chili and Ginette Richard's homemade brownies.

Annual membership dues costs five dollars, \$50 for a lifetime membership, and \$75 per household for lifetime membership. Interested persons may phone President Kathryn Schiappa at 978 544-6814 or visit during summer Sunday touring hours.

HUBBARDSTON

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Library 5K set for Sept. 12

The 29th Annual Hubbardston Library 5K run/walk takes place Saturday Sept. 12 at 9 a.m. sharp, rain or shine. This annual event represents more than a quarter century of community support for the library, approaching \$95,000 raised for ongoing operations. The race is an out and back course starting and finishing at the Hubbardston Center School. 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 Sunday, Aug. 2. Long sleeve cotton race shirts will be provided to the first 100 registered runners. Awards to overall 1st place Male/Female Runners and Walkers as well as medals/prizes to age group winners will be provided. Prizes 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 2025 Race/Walk raised over \$4,100 for support of the library's activities and Scholarship Fund.

DCR boat launch closure

Beginning on Tuesday, May 26 and continuing through Tuesday, June 30, the Department of Conservation will close the boat launch parking lot at Asnacomet Pond in the town of Hubbardston to accommodate paving work. The pond's beach area will remain accessible during this time.

Town election

Annual Town Election will be held Tuesday, June 9 from 7 a.m.-8: pm. at the Hubbardston Center School gym, 8 Elm Street. Polling entrance is at 7 Main St., the back door for the gym. More information can be found by visiting hubbardstonma.gov/275/ElectionTown-Meeting-Information, including a specimen ballot.

Legislators office hour

State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume's and Senator Peter Durant's office invites constituents and town officials to meet with their staff, Donna and Kim and Jard to express any concerns, ideas or issues that they may need assistance. On Tuesday, June 9 staff will be in the Hubbardston Senior Center from 9-10 a.m. People may call Donna at 774-402-4742 if they would like a private meeting with Rep. Berthiaume or Sen. Durant.

Senior Center events

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

Quabbin ride on June 27

NEW BRAINTREE – Hills of East Quabbin Ride takes place Saturday, June 27.

The 24.2 miles and the 47.5 miles start and finish at Farmer Matt's, 860 West Brookfield Road. People may visit BikeReg.com/hills-of-east-quabbin-ride to register or for more information.

Messages
Edit

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Opinion



A question and an answer?

Carole, who faithfully reads the column in the Wilbraham-Hampden Times each week, wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady:

"I am hoping you can provide me with some advice as to how to rid my garden of an incredibly invasive plant. It is called *Houttuynia cordata* or chameleon plant. I bought a single variegated plant about 25 years ago and now I literally have hundreds of them in my gardens and lawn. The plant is no longer variegated but reverted to green with red around the edges. For at least three or four years, I have been trying to dig them out one by one which has been extremely difficult due to the long roots – some can be over a foot long – which become intertwined with other plants, choking them. I have not been very successful, despite spending hours at a time. And I painstakingly try to get every piece of root out. I am not sure if they are spreading solely through the roots or also from the flower pod seeds.

I notice they also spread under my brick walkway even though they get no sun there. It's been very frustrating. For that reason, I am considering using a herbicide, but am concerned that it might poison nearby plants or may not be effective due to the long roots. Yet, at this point, I am open to the idea. I look forward to any suggestions you may have.

Incidentally, I just learned from the internet that it is considered to be a medicinal herb, which I find quite shocking, given how much I have come to dislike them! Thank you very much for your time and assistance."

Happy to help, Carole! It's funny you mention that this plant is a medicinal herb.

Some years back I was taking extract of Japanese Knotweed, another invasive plant, in my quest to cure late stage Lyme Disease. I guess most plants have some merit although some times it's hard to want to admit it, especially in the situation you are in.

While I have never grown *Houttuynia cordata*, I have dealt with similar invasive plants. Not always have I been successful, but here are a few tactics you

can try.

If there is a way to smother, go for it. Try black plastic, a thick tarp or cardboard covered in mulch.

Eventually, if the plant can't photosynthesize, it will die.

You are smart to try and remove every little bit of root when hand digging it out; it's kind of amazing how a tiny piece will start a whole new plant. For that reason, never take the rototiller to a patch of any invasive plant, especially those that spread by rhizomes. The roots will be dispersed throughout the garden.

I also read about cutting the stems of the plants and then "painting" the open cuts with herbicide. To me that sounds like a smart plan to get the chemical right to the roots. Time consuming, but targeted.

I'll be curious to know how you make out trying to rid your landscape of this plant.

Diane, who gardens in West Chesterfield, had a possible solution for my hyacinths getting cut off at the soil line.

"We had a great disappointment this spring when something chopped off most of our cultivated blackberries. When I was trying to prune what was left and save something I found the stalks laying on the ground but the tops were eaten. It looked like someone took a clean angle sweep with a hatchet to cut down the stalks. Then one evening at dusk we saw the culprit. It was about a 60 pound porcupine! He was chomping on our wild white rose bushes. He would bite the stalks off but since the rest of the bush wouldn't let the branch fall, he couldn't eat the top. What a mess. When I read your article I was thinking this might be the answer to the mystery."

Hmm, I will have to keep on the look out for a porcupine; you never know.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 34 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



In Past Pages

5 years (June 10, 2021)

The Hardwick Board of Selectmen met on Monday evening via Zoom. They invited the Barre Board of Selectmen, Barre Town Administrator Jessica Sizer and Barre Fire Chief Robert Rogowski to review the emergency medical services draft agreement between towns. Barre proposed covering the Wheelwright area and parts of Hardwick, which border their town for an assessment of \$25,000. Hardwick BOS Vice Chair Julie Quink said they are still discussing partial coverage with the town of Ware. She asked the Barre representatives if they would be prepared to start July 1 if the agreement was approved. Sizer said yes, they are ready. Barre BOS member Maureen Marshall said they should have each town's counsels review the agreement before anyone signed. Both boards agreed to forward the agreement to their respective town counsels.

Ninety-four Hubbardston residents acted on a 24 article Annual Town Meeting warrant in two hours Tuesday, June 1. Moderator René Lafayette said at the beginning of the Annual Town Meeting, "What a difference a year makes. Last year, in my remarks, in the midst of a pandemic and widespread civil unrest plaguing our Nation, I mentioned '...that democracy must, that democracy will prevail,' before we embarked on that quintessential New England contribution to government, the Annual Town Meeting. Today, the pandemic and the restrictions that came with it are retreating. We, in Hubbardston continue to take pride in our public safety personnel who serve as police officers, fire fight-

Look Back Quabbin High School Graduation – 2004



File photo
Senior Class President Andrea Rochette and Vice President Daniel Riggs led their classmates onto Alumni Field for the graduation ceremony.

ers and EMTs. Thank you for your service above self."

About 7.36% of voters or 254 of the 3,451 registered voters went to the polls for the Hubbardston Annual Town Election June 8. Town clerk Laurie Reed announced unofficial election results. Three candidates ran for two three-year terms on the select board. Voters elected Heather Marie Munroe and Jeffrey Williams to the two positions. Top vote getter was Munroe with 175 votes. Incumbent Williams received 161 votes. Peter J. Walker got 74 votes. The select board positions and a five-year planning board position were the only contests on the ballot. Kristofer Munroe won the five-year term to planning board with 159 votes. Peter Jeffs got 62 votes and John A. DeMalia Jr. with 31 votes.

10 years (June 9, 2016)

The two members remain-

ing on the Barre Board of Selectmen voted to appoint Robert Rogowski as Barre Fire Chief effective July 1 of this year. Selectman Lief Ericson made the motion and selectman Charles Chase seconded it. Ericson said that the terms of the contract would be made known at the board's next meeting, Monday, June 13. Labor counsel, Fernand Dupere, said that he would have the contract ready for that meeting. Selectmen met in executive session citing Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, Section 21, Paragraph 2 to discuss the fire chief contract prior to the board's announcement of the fire chief appointment.

Baltazar Contractors, Inc. will be lowering structures on South and Pleasant Streets in Barre. All States Asphalt will be in town June 9 and 10 reclaiming Phase 4

See PAST PAGES, page 5

I'm being released from Incarceration. What are my Social Security options?

Dear Rusty:

In a previous column, you wrote about people who filed for Social Security late in life.

I am currently incarcerated and will be filing for Social Security in the fall of 2029. I will be 74 years old in the first week of January 2029. Unless I read it wrong, could I be eligible to collect the previous six months?

If this is so, how would that work? Would I get that all at once or incrementally? According to the chart we once got in the mail, I should be collecting the maximum amount. I've worked all of my life and never collected Social Security before. Also, my ex-wife remarried and has since passed away. Do I qualify for part of her Social Security?

Signed, "D" in Danbury

Dear "D" in Danbury:

I'm afraid you cannot receive Social Security benefits while you are incarcerated, even if you are eligible for them prior to your release.

Thus, you cannot get retroactive Social Security benefits for any period you were still incarcerated. For clarity, although most who apply at a later age (e.g., in their 70s) do have the option to claim retroactive benefits, you cannot get any SS benefits for any month you were still incarcerated. Further, you will not get credit for delaying your application for SS benefits while you are incarcerated (you won't earn Delayed Retirement Credits during your incarceration).



Assuming (from what you shared) that you expect to be released from incarceration in the fall of 2029, you can apply for your SS benefits to start upon your release. Be aware, however, that it usually takes several months for your application for SS benefits to be processed and you can specify the month you wish your benefits start.

Your benefit amount will be based upon your average monthly earnings for the 35 highest earning years over your lifetime. But you cannot get retroactive SS bene-

fits for time prior to your release from incarceration. Since Social Security does not pay benefits for partial months, you can file for your SS benefits to start effective with the month following the month in which your incarceration ends. Be sure you have your official prison release documentation (parole or discharge papers) in hand when you apply for your Social Security benefits.

FYI, some correctional facilities have a "Prerelease Agreement" with Social Security, which may enable you to file for your SS benefits three to four months prior to your release from incarceration. Be sure to check with your facility to see if they

have such an agreement with Social Security and, if so, use it to apply for your benefits in advance of your release. This will facilitate your SS benefits starting more quickly upon your release.

You did not ask about healthcare coverage, but since you will be eligible for Social Security, you will also be eligible for Medicare upon your release. When you apply for your Social Security benefits, you can also apply for Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient medical services), the premium for which will be deducted from your Social Security payment. FYI, Medicare Part A (coverage for inpatient hospitalization services) is

See SOCIAL SECURITY, page 5

BARRE GAZETTE

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Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

Weather has been very unsettling lately, but we did not get a frost thank goodness.

I have all the plants outside now.

I spread a couple bags of cow manure on all the gardens so this rain should help things grow. The dogwood tree is in bloom and some blossoms on the hydrangea. Lots of ajuga and bluets on the lawn. The lawn should be mowed this week.

Here is a recipe from my sister in law Susan that she entered into a family recipe book.

BANANA NUT BREAD

- 3 bananas
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg

- 1 1/2 cups flour
 - 1 teaspoon baking soda
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla
 - 1/2 cup salad oil
 - 1/2 cup chopped walnuts
- Set oven at 350 and bake for 45 to 50 minutes.

Mash the bananas. Mix all other ingredients with a pastry cutter. Pour into a greased and floured bread loaf pan.

May serve with melted butter or whipped cream cheese.

This and That

I finally was able to get my printer to print from the computer. It took many trials and errors.

I have an eye appointment this week and hope all goes well. My eye sight is declining and I have to use

a magnifying glass for small print.

I have been doing a lot of watercolor flowers and need to get more watercolor paper. It is very relaxing when I need to rest.

I put away the flags for Memorial day and have the peonies and gladioli flowers in their place. Of course they are artificial as they are not out in the gardens yet.

I like to change my pictures on the walls also. I have a wreath on the den door with gardening things on it.

The tomatoes and peppers are growing well in the planters on the decks. I also planted a planter with herbs.

Hope you all have a nice week.

Rep. Berthiaume maintains perfect voting record

BOSTON – State Representative Donald “Donnie” Berthiaume, (R-Spencer) maintained a perfect voting record in 2025;

He participated in all 116 roll call votes recorded in the House of Representatives between Feb. 6, 2022 and Nov. 19, 2025.

Rep. Berthiaume compiled a 100% attendance record this year by casting votes on several major policy initiatives during the first half of the 2025-2026 legislative session, including legislation that would require human trafficking awareness training for hospitality workers, provide \$234 million in one-time financial support for fiscally strained hospitals and community health cen-

ters and implement a formal licensing process for home care agencies operating in Massachusetts to help protect vulnerable clients receiving services

Rep. Berthiaume also supported a proposal filed during the Fiscal Year 2026 House budget debate to repeal the 2023 no cost calls law, which provides unlimited phone calls for inmates at county and state correctional facilities, and redirect the \$10 million in funding set aside for this program in the House budget to support unrestricted local aid for cities and towns. The amendment, which was rejected on a roll call vote of 26-128, also would have established a commission to study the fiscal challenges

posed by this program and its impact on prisoner participation in state funded re-entry programs.

Rep. Berthiaume also supported an amendment filed during the Fiscal Year 2026 House budget debate that would have placed further restrictions on the state’s right to shelter law by limiting participation in the Commonwealth’s emergency housing assistance program to U.S. citizens, who have resided in Massachusetts for at least six months. This change would have helped to restore the original intent of the law by ensuring that Massachusetts residents in need have access to emergency shelter, but the amendment was rejected on a vote of 27-129.

PAST PAGES from page 4

that includes upper Pleasant and West Street, Summer and James Street and South Street. There is always a chance for a detour for a short time.

It took a few extra minutes for the town of Petersham to reach a quorum to proceed with its special town meeting that was immediately followed by the annual town meeting. Moderator Bart Wendell explained that Petersham had one of the highest quorum number, 10 percent of registered voters. Voters quickly acted upon the three articles on the special town meeting before going to the business of the annual town meeting.

25 years (June 7, 2001)

On May 20, Robert P. Rogowski was awarded the Boy Scouts highest rank of Eagle Scout. Only 2 % of all Boy Scouts earn this award. The ceremony was well attended by Robert’s family, friends and distinguished guests including State Sen. Stephen Brewer and the entire Barre Board of Selectmen, Daniel Trifilo, Charles Chase and Richard Stevens. Robert is a member of Boy Scout Troop 26.

Sara Campbell, a hydro-logic engineer, presented her report regarding water drainage problems in the Ruggles Lane and Broad

Street area at the Monday Barre Selectmen’s meeting. In the preliminary analysis she looked at the land and in what direction the water drains, contour map, the soil type and the slope of the land. She divided the locations into three areas. The drainage starts at Allen Hill. About half of the water drains into fields and is an area of about 150 acres. The other areas is Glancy Road through Pleasant Street. The third area is about 62 acres on the east side of Ruggles Lane School. She said the drainage at Ruggles Lane could take a ten-year storm. A ten year storm is about 4.5 inches of rain in a 24 hour period.

The students at the Central Massachusetts School of Ballet under the direction of Margaret Dymon, will present their annual performances in dance technique at the Studio on Valley Road on June 16 and 17. Each program will show some of the training the students receive within their respective levels. Their accomplishments will be featured in ballet, pointe work, modern/jazz and variations from the classical ballet repertoire.

38 years (June 11, 1988)

Though concern for resident’s lack of interest in town affairs were addressed by a defeated request for funds to construct three signs

advertising future meetings, over 200 residents attended the June 8 meeting. With minimal issue, residents approved a 1999 budget of \$5,030,654. This is about \$200,000 in excess of the approved 1998 budget.

Barre Common is one of eight commons in Central Massachusetts highlighted in the brochure “Town Commons Along the Johnny Appleseed Trail.” Others, selected include Groton, Harvard, Lancaster, Petersham, Sterling, Templeton and Townsend. The brochures, along with information about four Barre businesses that have joined the association, are available at the new Johnny Appleseed Visitor Center on the west-bound side of Route 2 in Lancaster.

About 25 of the town’s 2,200 registered voters attended a pre-town meeting Monday night to learn about the town’s difficult financial situation. Selectman Dennis O’Donnell found himself “preaching to the choir” once more as many of the attendees were department heads or town employees already well aware of the town’s financial woes, who were there to answer questions from the voters they had hoped would attend. O’Donnell gave his sparse audience a brief overview of the town’s financial straits and told how they had come about.

Security Association To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

deceased ex-wife’s amount, whichever is higher.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social

SOCIAL SECURITY from page 4

free and automatic because you are also eligible for Social Security.

Finally, regarding survivor benefits from your ex-wife, you can only get a surviving ex-spouse benefit if you were married for more than 10 years and your own SS retirement amount is less than your ex-wife was receiving at her death. In other words, you can only get one SS benefit either your own or your



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago
Author Jennifer Welborn, right, read her story “Dr. Rosie Helps the Animals” at the Gilbertville Public Library. Abby, left, held pictures up during story time.

Jennifer Welborn reads ‘Dr. Rosie Helps the Animals’

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

HARDWICK – The Gilbertville Public Library welcomed author Jennifer Welborn to read her book, “Dr. Rosie Helps the Animals” this past weekend.

This program was made possible thanks to the collaboration between the Gilbertville Public Library and the Paige Memorial Library. Melborn has been doing this program for the last three years and proceeds go to a veterinary scholarship fund.

The story follows Rosie, a young girl who travels the world to help animals. This adorable picture book, with illustrations by Rozillia MH, teaches kids about empathy, and animals who have common afflictions that children experience.

Rosie goes on an adventure to help a variety of animals and wants to become a veterinarian like her mother. Welborn was joined by many interested young guests who were ready to learn about the importance

of taking care of animals.

Welborn was joined by the Italian Water Dog, Bari.

This friendly dog is also a trained therapy dog and has been one for the last five years. He was named after a town in Italy.

Bari is a well-trained therapy dog and loves attending school programs and library programs.

Bari especially enjoyed meeting the kids at the Gilbertville Public Library and enjoyed playing with the animal puppets. He sat alongside the children while Welborn shared a little bit about herself and began reading her book.

Welborn was a wildlife major and shared pictures of her meeting many animals. Welborn studied wildlife biology and had pictures of her meeting all kinds of animals, including a box turtle, a moose, and many others.

This inspiring picture book helps kids learn about conservation, science, and wildlife and maybe someday they want to learn about what it takes to become a veterinarian. The book featured the main character,

Rosie, meeting all kinds of animals such as elephants, giraffes, crocodiles, octopus, whales, polar bears and many more.

During story time, Welborn asked the kids questions about what they know about different kinds of animals.

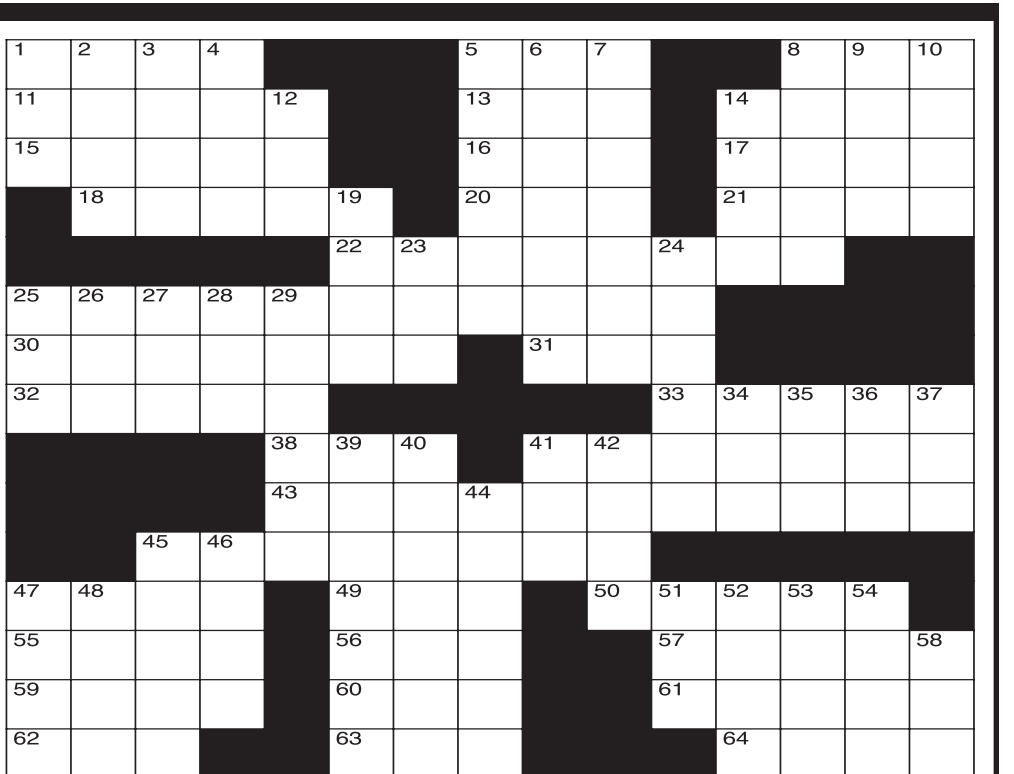
She said, “both paws up” when kids raised their hands.

One of the teens, Abby, was holding up another book to show pictures to the kids while Welborn read the story.

After story time, kids got to do a couple of fun activities. One was exploring these mini-veterinarian kits that kids can take home. At the library, some kids stuck around and tested their kits on some stuffed animals.

The other activity was crafting your own stethoscope, which kids tried out on Bari to check his vitals. Welborn joined in on the fun and made her own stethoscope as well.

More about “Dr. Rosie Helps the Animals” can be found at drosiehelpstheanimals.org.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Egyptian bull-god
5. A young canine
8. Cologne
11. Fictional British P.I.
13. Midway between northeast and east
14. A place to shop
15. Minneapolis suburb
16. Single lens reflex
17. NY Mets great Tommie
18. Informal loan clubs
20. Habitual twitching
21. Holm oak
22. Willing to consent or submit
25. In an early way
30. Made possible
31. Language in Ghana
32. Relating to one’s birth
33. Deep-bodied fishes
38. Defunct European

41. Small American songbird
43. One from L.A.
45. After tenth
47. Hillside
49. Red deer
50. Partner to “oohed”
55. Indian musical pattern
56. Israeli city ___ Aviv
57. Golden peas plant
59. Breezed through
60. Midway between east and southeast
61. Frameworks
62. Danish krone
63. Fall back
64. Influential Korean leader

CLUES DOWN

1. Bridge building degree

2. Expression of sorrow or pity
3. Large, stocky lizard
4. Turkish leader title
5. Nag
6. Blank
7. Closely woven cotton fabric
8. A nice shot in golf
9. Away from wind
10. Evergreen shrub genus
12. Large African antelope
14. Something you receive
19. Satisfy
23. Wet dirt
24. No longer here
25. Writing utensil
26. Ribonucleic acid
27. Consume food
28. Licensed for Wall Street

29. Alternative forms of a gene
34. Buddy
35. We all do it
36. Chicken
37. No seats available
39. Yearned to possess
40. Ineffectual
41. Explosive
42. Turkish title
44. Worn near the foot
45. Impatient
46. Set an example for others
47. Actor Pitt
48. Instrument of torture
51. Swiss river
52. Grayish white
53. A way to print
54. Storied college hoops program
58. Midway between south and southeast



Legal Notices

TOWN OF NEW BRAINTREE OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR OF TAXES NOTICE OF 2025 REAL ESTATE TAX TAKING

May 29, 2026

You are receiving this notice because:

1. You own property in Massachusetts.
2. You still owe some local taxes on your property.
3. You've received a letter asking you to pay these past due taxes (a demand), but you haven't done so yet.
4. The city or town's tax collector plans to take your property on the date, time, and place noted below.
5. They won't take your property if you pay what you owe before that date.

TO THE OWNERS OF THE DESCRIBED PROPERTY BELOW, AND TO ALL OTHERS CONCERNED, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ON **Monday, June 22, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.** at the NEW BRAINTREE TOWN HALL, 20 Memorial Drive, New Braintree, MA 01531, pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 60, Section 53, and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Collector of Taxes, IT IS MY INTENTION TO TAKE FOR the TOWN OF NEW BRAINTREE the following parcels of land for non-payment of the taxes due, with interest and all incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking, unless the same is paid before that date.

Janet A. Pierce, CMMC
Collector of Taxes
Town of New Braintree

Property Location: 1141 WORCESTER ROAD
Assessed Owners: PERKINS, DARYL & PAMELA
Bill Number: 491
FISCAL YEAR 2025 REAL ESTATE TAXES ASSESSED: \$2,334.50
FISCAL YEAR 2025 REAL ESTATE TAXES UNPAID PRINCIPAL BALANCE: \$596.19

Description: A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing about 5.700 acres described as parcel 406.0 0000 0015.0 in the office of the Assessors of the Town of TOWN OF NEW BRAINTREE identified in book and page 44838 369, WORCESTER Registry of Deeds.

Property Location: 0 RAVINE ROAD
Assessed Owners: TRUM-SEARAH, KATHLEEN & RAYMOND
Subsequent Owner: TRUM-SEARAH RAYMOND TRUSTEE OF THE TRUM-SEARAH FARM TRUST
Bill Number: 631
FISCAL YEAR 2025 REAL ESTATE TAXES ASSESSED: \$2,142.80
FISCAL YEAR 2025 REAL ESTATE TAXES UNPAID PRINCIPAL BALANCE: \$2,142.80

Description: A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing about 79.00 acres described as parcel 402.0 0000 0012.0 in the office of the Assessors of the Town of TOWN OF NEW BRAINTREE identified in book and page 68011 74, WORCESTER Registry of Deeds.

Property Location: 500 RAVINE ROAD
Assessed Owners: TRUM-SEARAH, KATHLEEN & RAYMOND

Subsequent Owner: TRUM-SEARAH RAYMOND TRUSTEE OF THE TRUM-SEARAH FARM TRUST
Bill Number: 632
FISCAL YEAR 2025 REAL ESTATE TAXES ASSESSED: \$3,688.24
FISCAL YEAR 2025 REAL ESTATE TAXES UNPAID PRINCIPAL BALANCE: \$2,927.33

Description: A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing about 89.00 acres described as parcel 402.0 0000 0011.0 in the office of the Assessors of the Town of TOWN OF NEW BRAINTREE identified in book and page 68011 74, WORCESTER Registry of Deeds.

Property Location: 1241 WEST ROAD
Assessed Owners: WAUGH, RAYMOND
Bill Number: 653
FISCAL YEAR 2025 REAL ESTATE TAXES ASSESSED: \$6,449.24
FISCAL YEAR 2025 REAL ESTATE TAXES UNPAID PRINCIPAL BALANCE: \$4,324.03

Description: A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing about 53.00 acres described as parcel 403.0 0000 0022.0 in the office of the Assessors of the Town of TOWN OF NEW BRAINTREE identified in book and page 54902 11, WORCESTER Registry of Deeds.

Property Location: 63 WEST BROOKFIELD ROAD
Assessed Owners: WAUGH, RAYMOND & HEIDI
Bill Number: 654
FISCAL YEAR 2025 REAL ESTATE TAXES ASSESSED: \$463.62
FISCAL YEAR 2025 REAL ESTATE TAXES UNPAID PRINCIPAL BALANCE: \$463.62

Description: A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing about 3.54 acres described as parcel 407.0 0000 0095.0 in the office of the Assessors of the Town of TOWN OF NEW BRAINTREE identified in book and page 45275 274, WORCESTER Registry of Deeds.

Property Location: 0 WEST ROAD
Assessed Owners: WAUGH, RAYMOND
Bill Number: 655
FISCAL YEAR 2025 REAL ESTATE TAXES ASSESSED: \$408.64
FISCAL YEAR 2025 REAL ESTATE TAXES UNPAID PRINCIPAL BALANCE: \$408.64

Description: A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing about 101.00 acres described as parcel 403.0 0000 0038.0 in the office of the Assessors of the Town of TOWN OF NEW BRAINTREE identified in book and page 57375 183, WORCESTER Registry of Deeds.

Property Location: 0 WEST BROOKFIELD ROAD
Assessed Owners: WAUGH, RAYMOND & HEIDI
Bill Number: 656
FISCAL YEAR 2025 REAL ESTATE TAX ASSESSED: \$164.94
FISCAL YEAR 2025 REAL ESTATE TAXES UNPAID PRINCIPAL BALANCE: \$164.94

Description: A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, containing about 40.70 acres described as parcel 407.0 0000 0096.0 in the office of the Assessors of the Town of TOWN OF NEW BRAINTREE identified in book and page 45275 274, WORCESTER Registry of Deeds..
06/04/2026

NEW BRAINTREE from page 1

Regional agreement

Article 11 asked voters to approve the revised Quabbin Regional School District Regional Agreement, which was approved by the School Committee and submitted to each member town's select board.

The revised agreement will need to be approved by all five Quabbin Regional School District towns before being submitted to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for final approval.

The revised agreement has updates to language, and adjustments to weighted votes based on town population.

Selectmen Joe Chenevert said the revised agreement includes that the town has the right to vote on the closing of a school.

The revised agreement also includes language required by DESE, which states if a member town seeks to withdraw from the school district's regional agreement, then the town must submit a "long range plan" and have clear timelines. The plan would also need to be approved by the Commissioner.

The current regional agreement from 2014 will remain in effect until the new agreement is voted on and final approval is received.

FY 27 budget

Voters unanimously approved articles 4 and

5, accepting a fiscal year 2027 budget of \$3,367,614. This budget is just over \$240,000 less than the FY 26 approved budget.

School assessments

The town's education assessments were outlined in article 4.

The assessment for Quabbin Regional School District decreased by approximately 2.8%, which was partly driven by a reduction in enrollment by nine students. The total assessment for the town for FY 27 (including debt and interest and out of district tuition costs) is \$1,729,130.

The assessment for the Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School increased by 3.9% from \$181,735 in fiscal year 2026 to \$253,855 in FY 27 due to an increase in enrollment (three students) and the state's increased and required minimum contribution.

Town Hall project

Article 10 asked voters to rescind \$241,000 of the \$532,000 previously approved at town meeting in 2022 for repairs to the Town Hall. The final expenses for the project were less than anticipated and the project is now complete.

STM articles

Article 1 asked voters to transfer \$66,026.66 to meet overdrawn and unprovided for accounts in the current FY 26 budget. The three remaining articles on the special town meeting warrant were passed over.

Public comments

Conservation Commission Chairman Steven Gutulis then opened the hearing to public comment. Susan Shea asked why the company limited the site visit to only one area that of the road construction. She said, "We are 'well driven' and this property abuts the Ware River Watershed. She said, [it] feels sooty, underhanded and greasy."

Planning Board member Philip Warbasse said the Planning Board never permitted a "junkyard;" it happened years ago. The Planning Board did grant permits for an intact internet auction sale of vehicles.

Matthew Broderick asked the representatives when they walked the property did they find evidence of the solid waste on the site and on DCR land. He suggested they visit the site following the hearing. The representative refused to answer his question.

Another resident asked about the presence of species such as the spotted salamander. The representative said none were noted on the National Endangered Species list.

Scott Corey, an abutter, said residents spent thousands on legal fees and thanked the Advocates for Conservation of Rural Oakham's Nature and Safety group, also known as ACORNS, for helping them.

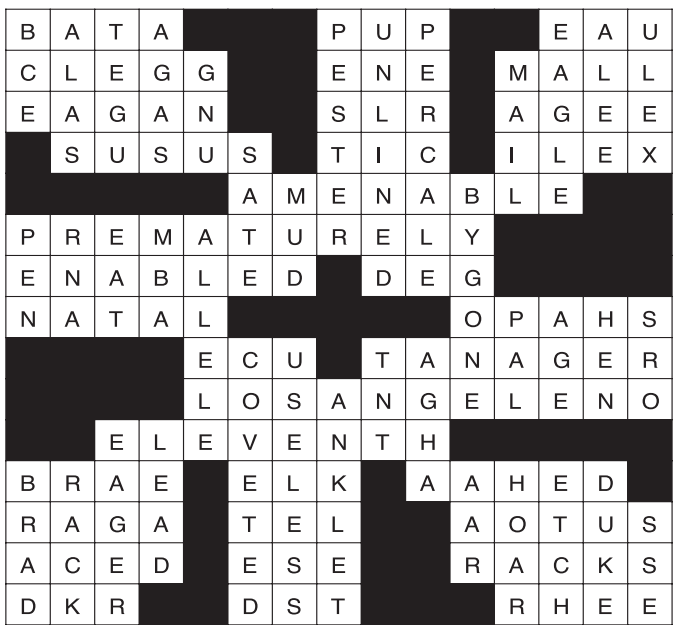
Hearing continuance

The Conservation Commission voted to continue the hearing. The hearing lasted an hour and a half, starting at 6:20 p.m. and adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

CHECK OUT ALL THE

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OAKHAM from page 1

wetlands, the site contains a certified vernal pool and the western Zone 1 was located in a public access watershed known as the Ware River Watershed.

The company representatives said they follow the Best Management Practices that include installing compost filler tubes, includes a pollution protection plan, storm water protection plan and routine inspections.

They also said there would be no need to pile snow in the wetlands areas as it was a large property with plenty of other location.

Site visit

The Commission requested a site visit with two Conservation Commission members and their expert. The applicant agreed to a limited site visit to just the area of the road improvement. When Conservation Commission member, Zach

Mann, requested the visit include the entire property, the representatives said they would get back to them.

Mann said they wanted to inspect for additional wetlands. If more wetlands were found, the Commission had the right to "protect them." Conservation member, Carl Lindley, Jr., said if the company wanted additional time, the Commission would grant that.

Solid waste cleanup

Mann also said state Department of Environmental Protection Andrea Briggs requested a solid waste cleanup of the site, which also included cleanup on some of the Department of Conservation and Recreation land, which abuts the property.

Legal counsel representing the Conservation Commission said a full Notice of Intent needed to be filed to clean up the site. He said the town's position was

they needed a full NOI for the clean up.

Application change

Hopkins said there was an error on the application. They checked no to the box regarding "outstanding resource water" and the yes box should be checked. They will submit a correction. They also were asked to clarify their address – one form listed a New York address and another a Delaware address.

Driveway information

Lindley requested more information on the driveway such as number of vehicles and types of vehicles that would be using the access driveway. A representative said users included construction equipment, graders, dozers, excavators, utility vans and vehicles by the workers.

He said the construction traffic was less than the traffic approved for the auto recycling operation.

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RUTLAND from page 1

the special town meeting, the town's budget will be temporarily level funded by free cash for the months of July and August, before another override ballot question will be voted on in September. Butler said after that free cash is expended, the town will be left with only \$165,635 in that account.

Butler clarified that the original override of \$3 million included the school assessment, which this proposed override does not, and would have removed a structural deficit, but using free cash for this override will still leave that deficit, and she said next year's budget could be "daunting."

July 4th discussion

The town also canceled part of its Independence Day celebrations, according to a social media post on the Town of Rutland Facebook page. Dibb said part of this

temporary two month funding could possibly bring a piece of the celebrations back, but the maintaining of services is the main motivation.

Some residents commented on this idea, including Michele Van Reet, who said the town has already failed an override twice, and fully funding for two months seems like it is meant for the party. Another resident said he attended the meeting of the 4th of July Committee, and heard they canceled fireworks contracts, and canceled all events related to the holiday.

Police Chief Nick Monaco also commented, asking if the town was trying to save the celebration or the departments, as he said there are multiple members of the Police Department who are expecting to be unemployed by July 1. He said two people have already accepted other positions.

Monaco also said the town never brings in outside

help for the July 4th celebrations, just the Sheriff's Office to run the command center, and he said the union would file a grievance for unfair labor practices if the town were to lay off officers but send in outside help.

Dibb said the canceling of the July 4th events has affected town employees, as they have been receiving inappropriate phone calls about it.

Public comment

Resident Lou Cornacchioli said the cleaning of the Civil War monument was taken care of privately for a low cost. He also said he would fundraise money to get the bandstand electrified, hopefully before the summer ends.

He also donated a solar light to the town to use on a flag pole, and said he plans on getting more lights for the other flag poles.

Another resident said he had concerns that the town could not put a plan in place

for the July 4th celebration with months in advance, and said the town has an emergency management director for situations like this. Resident Darren Ross said he wanted the post about the cancellations taken down.

Another resident said he was disappointed in the lack of respect for the American Flag on town property, but thanked the police chief for fixing one of them.

Appointments and resignations

The board received a letter of interest from Christine Drolet to serve on the Events Committee, and the board appointed her unanimously. The board also appointed Tim Nahrwold to the Planning Board bylaw subcommittee.

The board accepted the resignation of Caroline Bishop from the 4th of July committee.

Girl Scout Gold Award

The board voted to sign

a letter of congratulations to Emily Ryan for receiving the Gold Award.

Home Rule petition

The board said they are petitioning for one additional alcohol license for the Rutland Marketplace. Butler said it could possibly be voted on at a special town meeting this year.

Pole hearings

The board held three pole hearings, and accepted each of them unanimously. One was for three joint-owned poles on Pommogussett Road, the second for one JO pole on Ware Road and the last one for three JO poles on Main Street.

Administrative items

Butler said there will be some interdepartmental transfers for legal and snow and ice. The board also approved the minutes of May 9 and May 12, and signed treasury warrants.

Church hosts annual Strawberry Festival

NEW BRAINTREE – The New Braintree Congregational Church is hosting its annual Strawberry Festival on Saturday, June 13 at 5:30 p.m. at the New Braintree Town Hall, Memorial Drive.

Come enjoy this family-style meal of baked ham, baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, rolls and beverages followed by strawberry shortcake for dessert.

Tickets are \$20 for adults; \$12 for children ages 5-10, children 4 and under are free. There will be one sitting. Make your reservations by calling 508-410-7424 or 413-477-6653.

HUBBARDSTON from page 1

presented at town meeting. Resident Debra Chamberlain asked how the voters could make an informed decision without it.

A member of town counsel was present, and said the budget information was posted online within the statutory timeframe, and if the budget was voted down, they would need a special town meeting before July 1.

The article passed with 15 voters opposed.

QRSD budget

Article 13 was the town's share of the QRSD budget, at \$6,895,048. Superintendent Colleen Mucha said the budget increased despite the cutting of 21 positions, and prices of insurance, oil and transportation have gone up.

The article passed by majority.

Zoning bylaw

Article 22 was a change in

the zoning bylaws. Munroe, who is also the chair of the Planning Board, said this changes the pyramidal section 4, and makes it easier to read. He said there were four meetings of the Planning Board and a public hearing about the changes.

A motion was made on the floor to amend one section of the bylaw, which would allow "salesrooms and yards for the sale of farm equipment" in districts zoned as residential/agricultural and town center, to change both of those to no. Munroe said that falls under protected use if it is an accessory dwelling unit, and the board was trying to avoid issues with the District Attorney's office.

The article was approved by town meeting as amended.

Another motion was made to not allow "large scale solar photovoltaic installations" in residential/agricultural or town center districts, but town counsel said that would be a substantive change and not able to be voted on.

Tax title bylaw

Article 21 was a general bylaw change to allow the treasurer to enter into payment agreements with "persons entitled to redeem parcels in tax title," and the article was passed by majority.

Indefinitely postponed articles

Several articles were indefinitely postponed at town meeting, and Finance Committee Chair Seth Knipe said this was in an attempt to save free cash until the fall. The postponed articles included article 4, which would have transferred \$20,000 in free cash for an end of employment/salary reserve stabilization fund.

Article 5 was passed over, which would have transferred \$20,000 from free cash to create a facility and utility capital stabilization fund. Article 15 was postponed, which would have appropriated \$20,000 from free cash for grant services.

Article 17 was also passed over, which would have appropriated \$230,000 for capital purchases. The breakdown was \$130,000 for annual road improvement, \$20,000 for annual technology and infrastructure support and \$80,000 for a police cruiser.

CPA articles

Article 18 was to appropriate and transfer \$9,900 from the Community Preservation Act Open Space/Recreation Reserve account to fund an application submitted for the installation of a permanent story walk. Article 19 was to appropriate or reserve revenue from the community preservation account for expenses.

Article 21 was to appropriate \$6,320 from available funds for projects outlined in the Open Space Committee plan. The projects are at Gates Hill Bridge for \$3,510, Mill Pond Bridge for \$2,660 and Mount Jefferson Gates

Farmhouse Foundation Fencing Posts for \$150.

Consent agendas

Articles 1-3 and 6-8 were voted as one in a consent agenda vote. These articles were to choose officers, hear reports, a plug article in case the town needed to use free cash to fund the budget, an authorization for the select board to enter into agreements with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, to authorize the town to accept educational grants and to authorize the continuation of the Holden Hospital account.

Other articles

Article 9 fixed the revolving account budgets for town boards and committees, and article 10 approved the transfer of \$2,298.19 from free cash to pay unpaid bills from prior fiscal years. Article 12 approved the appropriation of \$450,000 for the Montachusett Regional

Vocational Technical School District assessment.

Article 14 approved the raising and appropriating of \$52,959 for QRSD debt. Article 16 approved the transfer of \$30,000 for the Cable Advisory Committee.

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Four estate planning myths that could cost your family

Consider this scenario: A teacher of 30 years and mother of three passes away at age 58. She leaves behind a modest home, a retirement account and cherished family heirlooms – but no estate plan. Her children, still grieving, find themselves navigating a confusing probate process, disagreeing about when to sell the house and considering who gets their grandmother's ring.

This mom wasn't wealthy by most measures, but her lack of planning created confusion, conflict and uncertainty at a time when her family needed clarity. Her story reminds us of an important truth: estate planning is about easing conflict and making sure what you have goes where you want it to go.

As you think about your own legacy, consider these myths that can lead to costly mistakes and unintended outcomes.

Myth 1: Estate planning is only for wealthy people. The desire to make things easier for loved ones has nothing to do with net worth. Formally documenting your wishes reduces the burden on family members and gives you control. Without a plan, your state's laws will decide how your estate is handled, and you may not like what those laws say.

Myth 2: Having a will is all you need. While a will is important, it only takes effect after death. That means it offers no protection if you become incapacitated and cannot make decisions for yourself. It does, however, allow you to name legal guardians for dependent children.

The foundation of most estate plans includes a will (which directs asset distribution), a financial power of attorney (for financial decisions), a health care power of attorney (for medical decisions), and a medical directive (to share your end of life wishes). While not everyone needs a trust, there are several that allow you to make special provisions, such as for minor children, a special needs family member or even a cherished pet. Consulting with a financial advisor and an estate planning attorney can help determine the right combination based on your situation.

Myth 3: Equal distribution is always fair. It's likely that the individuals in your estate plan, especially if they are adult children, have different family and financial situations. You may have one child who's extremely successful financially while another is struggling. Or you may have assets, such as a house or ownership of a family business, that are more suitable for one beneficiary than another. It's important to consider any unique circumstances as you develop your estate plan.

Myth 4: I can set it and forget it. You'll want to review your estate plan every few years or when a major life event occurs. Life is full of changes, such as marriages, divorces, new children and relocations, and they will likely impact your goals. Reviewing your plan helps keep everything aligned with your wishes and serves as a reminder to keep your beneficiaries on all your assets up to date.

Ultimately, estate planning is about helping ensure your voice is heard and your loved ones cared for, no matter what the future holds.



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Calendar of Events

FRIDAY, JUNE 5

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR takes place today from 2-5 p.m. at the South Cafe at the Mount Wachusett Community College, 444 Green St., Gardner. The event is designed to connect community members with healthcare resources, wellness organizations, and nursing students in an interactive and supportive environment focused on improving community health and expanding access to care.

PETERSHAM ART SHOW takes place today from 5-7 p.m.; Saturday, June 6 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, June 7 from noon-4 p.m. at the Petersham Town Hall, 1 South Main St., Petersham. This is a free event sponsored by the Petersham Cultural Council. There will be an opening reception and live music with The Evening Standard with Annie Huppert, vocalist tonight.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

CHICKEN AND TURKEY RAISING WORKSHOP will take place today from 10 a.m.-noon at Many Hands Organic Farm, 411 Sheldon Road, Barre. The workshop is entitled "Organic Chickens and Turkeys from Brooder to Pasture." There will be a potluck lunch at noon. Pasturing poultry gives birds access to the extra nutrients only nature can supply best, not to mention health-giving sunshine. Yet they need protection from predators out on grass. The workshop offers plans for well-designed range-house "tractor," which offers security from hawks, owls and four-footed varmints and demonstrates their use on pasture. Brooding, chick and poul care and organic feed management will also be discussed and demonstrated. Advanced registration is required by visiting <https://mhof.net/events-workshops/>, calling 978-257-1192 or emailing farm@mhof.net.

MONDAY, JUNE 8

CFCE MOC COORDINATED SCIENCE PLAYGROUP takes place today at 10:30 a.m. in the New Braintree Public Library, 45 Memorial Drive, New Braintree. The target age group is 6 and under, all are welcome. They will have also have a Story Hour on Monday June 22 at 11:30 a.m. at the library. Children enjoy a story, craft and independent playtime. All are welcome and parental



Turley Publications photo by Ellenor Downer

This week's mystery photo is from Petersham. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com with their answer by noon on Monday, June 8. Bill Bowles, Peggy Civilik and James Laramie correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was Town Pound on Coldbrook Road in Oakham.

supervision is required.

DIANA MACKIEWIEZ OFS and a member of St. Joseph's Franciscan Fraternity in Charlton will speak today at 6:30 p.m. in the hall at St. Joseph's Church, 29 South St., Barre. People should enter using the side door. St. Francis of Assisi Parish is celebrating the special Franciscan Jubilee year. She will reflect on St. Francis and Sultan Malik in 1219: An Invitation to Kinship. Mackiewicz is part of the larger Blessed Solanus Casey Region.

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL hosted by the New Braintree Congregational

Church takes place today at 5:30 p.m. in the New Braintree Town Hall, Memorial Drive, New Braintree. This family-style meal includes baked ham, baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, rolls and beverages followed by strawberry shortcake for dessert. Tickets are \$20 for adults; \$12 for children ages 5 to 10 and free for children 4 and under. There will be one sitting. People should make their reservations by calling 508-410-7424 or 413-477-6653.

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

RUTLAND LIBRARY 25TH ANNIVERSARY of the building happens today from 1-4 p.m. at the library building

located at 280 Main St., Rutland. The public is invited and numerous activities are planned.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

SOLSTICE SING FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE takes place today at 7 p.m. in The First Congregational Church of W. Brookfield, UCC, 36 N. Main St. W. Brookfield. A social hour takes place from 6-7 p.m. Solstice Sing for Peace and Justice - Songs to Cultivate Community, Compassion, and Commitment features local singing group, A Chorus for These Times, directed by Nym Cook with instrumentalists and guest artist Leslie Sweetnam. All are welcome. Snacks will be served. There is no admission charge. but donations will be accepted to support Abby's House, Worcester's For more information, people may call the church at 508-867-7078, email Karen Murphy at kmurphy718@charter.net or Nym Cooke at nymcooke@gmail.com.

FINNISH AMERICAN COMEDIAN MISKA KAJANUS will perform today at 6 p.m. This family fun evening will have food available from 4-6 p.m. before his performance. Following the performance, there will be a dance. Kajanus is recognized as the 2024 Performer of the Year by the Finlandia Foundation National. Admission is \$5 per person: for advanced ticket sales, people should call 508-365-4062.

FILL A TRUCK WITH FOOD to benefit The Westborough Food Pantry takes place today from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Roche Bros. at Bay State Commons, located at 1100 Union St., Westborough. Mark's Moving and Storage, also based in Westborough, organizer and sponsor of the event, are also donating and providing a tractor trailer truck for the event. The public is encouraged to bring donations or purchase extra items at Roche Bros. The food drive wish list includes: brownie mix, cake mix and frosting, mayonnaise, ketchup, mustard, pancake mix, pancake syrup, jams and jelly, salad dressing, dry beans (all kinds), tomato paste, Ramen, Rice a Roni, Dinty Moore beef stew, Hamburg Helper and cookies.

HARDWICK from page 1

Article 5

To see if the town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Sale of Lots Fund Account to the Cemetery Commission Expense Account for the care, improvement and embellishment or enlargement of Town cemeteries, including all costs incidental and related thereto.

Article 7

To see if the town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Sale of Lots Fund Account to the Perpetual Care Account.

Article 8

To see if the town will vote to rescind the unused borrowing authorities voted under previous Town Meeting articles.

Article 9

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate from sewer revenues, a sum of money to the Water Pollution Control Facilities Enterprise Fund for the operation of the Gilbertville and Wheelwright Water Pollution Control Facilities and all supporting apparatus, including all costs incidental and related thereto.

Article 10

To see if the town will vote to transfer and appropriate a sum of money from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings to the Sewer Enterprise Fund for the purpose purchasing and equipping 2026 Ford F250, including all costs incidental and related thereto.

Article 11

To see if the town will

vote to transfer from the Capital Stabilization Fund, a sum of money to pay for one-year's lease payments for the Highway Department truck.

Article 12

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds in the treasury, borrow or any combination thereof, a sum of money to pay the necessary town charges for the Fiscal Year 2027 beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027.

Article 13

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds in the treasury, borrow or any combination thereof, a sum of money for the Stabilization Fund.

Article 14

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds in the treasury, borrow or any combination thereof, a sum of money for the Capital Stabilization Fund.

Article 15

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise fund a sum of money to the Reserve Fund.

Article 16

To see if the town will vote to transfer from available funds in prior years' warrant articles a sum of money for the Capital Stabilization Fund.

Article 17

To see if the town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53F34, which establishes a special revenue fund known as the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund, to

reserve cable franchise fees and other cable-related revenues for appropriation to support PEG access services and oversight and renewal of the cable franchise agreement, said fund to begin operations for fiscal year 2027, beginning July 1, 2026.

Article 18

To see if the town will vote to accept the second paragraph of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 60, section 2, which allows the tax collector to abate any unpaid tax which the collector determines was assessed on a valuation insufficient to meet the charges or expenses of collection, or if any other committed tax is unpaid and is less than \$25.

Article 19

To see if the town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59, section 57A, which provides that a notice of preliminary tax or actual tax bill for real estate or personal property taxes, in an amount not in excess of \$100, shall be due and payable in one installment and if unpaid after the day the first installment of the notice of preliminary tax or actual tax bill for the year is due, shall be subject to interest at the same rate and from the same date as any delinquent preliminary or actual tax first installment.

Article 20

To see if the town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, section 54(b) to allow town trust funds to be established in accordance with General Law Chapter 203C, the so-called "Prudent

Investment Rule."

Article 21

To see if the town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Law Chapter 64G, Section 3A to impose a local excise tax upon the transfer of occupancy of any room or rooms in a bed and breakfast establishment, hotel, lodging house, short-term rental or motel located within the Town at the rate of 6%.

Article 22

To see if the town will amend the General Bylaws under "ARTICLE #V - Board of Selectmen - Section 6 - DEPARTMENTAL REVOLVING FUND BY-LAW" by amending the Cemetery Commission Fund RESTRICTIONS OR CONDITIONS ON EXPENSES PAYABLE FROM FUND, from "Not to exceed \$5000.00" to "Not to exceed \$11,500.00."

Article 23

To see if the town will amend the General Bylaws under "ARTICLE #V - Board of Selectmen - Section 6 - DEPARTMENTAL REVOLVING FUND BY-LAW" by amending the Planning Board Fund RESTRICTIONS OR CONDITIONS ON EXPENSES PAYABLE FROM FUND, from "Not to exceed \$3,000.00" to "Not to exceed \$5,000.00."

Article 24

To see if the town will vote to appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, an amount of money to be expended under the direction of the Quabbin Regional School District for the roof project at Hardwick Elementary School's feasibility

study, 531 Lower Road, Gilbertville, MA 01031, including all costs incidental and related thereto, for which feasibility study the Town may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority. This requires a two-thirds majority vote.

Article 25

To see if the town will authorize the Select Board to acquire, on behalf of the town, by gift, for library purposes, the parcel of land with the building thereon known as the Gilbertville Public Library, located at 259 Main St., described in a deed recorded with the Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book 1766, Page 347 and shown on Assessors' Map 59, Lot 8.

Article 26

To see if the town will vote to adopt the following resolution:

"WHEREAS eighty-eight years ago, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts disincorporated and flooded four towns (Dana, Prescott, Greenwich, and Enfield) in the Swift River Valley so that eastern Massachusetts could grow, aided by sufficient pristine drinking water, and

WHEREAS creation of the Quabbin Reservoir demanded the dismantling of more than 1,100 structures, including upwards of 650 homes; the exhumation of more than 7,600 graves across 34 cemeteries; the stoppage of robust north-south rail service; the scuttling of west-east rail planning; and the shuttering of businesses and industry, and

WHEREAS families who had lived in the Swift River

Valley for generations were forced to give up their homes and properties, and

WHEREAS today the 119,940-acre Quabbin Reservoir watershed is both publicly and privately held and the Hardwick and other watershed towns help to steward an invaluable 412-billion-gallon resource, and

WHEREAS Hardwick and other watershed towns work to ensure compliance with state and federal water protection regulations through volunteer and municipally funded positions, and

WHEREAS Hardwick and other watershed towns routinely forgo economic development opportunities to protect the water quality, even when those opportunities could catalyze our strangled economy,

BE IT RESOLVED that Hardwick and other watershed towns are united in our request for more just recompense for the region's historic sacrifice and our current service we join together seeking:

1. Increased regional representation on the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority Board of Directors and Board of Advisors;

2. Establishment of a Quabbin community trust fund for the purposes of meeting municipal needs such as potable water access and public safety services; and

3. Reconfiguration of the payment in lieu of taxes structure to much better recognize the value of New Salem and other watershed towns stewardship of the pristine and world-class Quabbin Reservoir."

HIKE from page 1

many plant species here, like the pitch pine, are helped by frequent fire activity. The Barre Heath is home to imperiled species and by restoring the formerly forested parcel

of 45 acres, DCR is providing these species a home. The tall white pines were

removed to allow the naturally occurring plants, like the pitch pine and scrub oak, to flourish.

Prescribed burns are planned every few years to maintain the heath. The prescribed burns also provide training opportunities for DCR and local municipal firefighters. A goal of DCR is to restore Heath Habitats that

are in close proximity.

We watched several Turkey Vultures wheeling across the gray and threatening skies.

Behind a screen of trees, we could hear the soothing sounds of the Canesto River. In August 1912, Mary Phillips Riis lit smudge fires one night to save the potato crop that was planted

in the "frost pockets" here from freezing. Now we can understand why the crop was threatened by frost.

With wind chills more appropriate for March than May, we were somewhat chillier than we had anticipated. Nevertheless, the land lured us, just as it attracted Jacob and Mary Riis and so many before them.

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Quabbin tennis takes state playoff opener

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

GARDNER — The Quabbin girls' tennis team has compiled an impressive 47-7 overall record since the start of the 2024 regular season.

During that span, the Lady Panthers have won two state tournament matches. Both of those victories were decided by the doubles team of Elizabeth Matheson and Madelyn Stauder, who are seniors.

Last Tuesday's Division 3 state preliminary round match was tied before Matheson and Stauder pulled out a win at first doubles, which sealed the 30th-seeded Lady Panthers, 3-2, victory over the 35th-seeded Whitinsville Christian School Crusaders at Gardner High School.

"We were in the exact same position in the state tournament two years ago," Matheson said. "We won that match and the experience gave us a lot of confidence in today's match."

As sophomores, Matheson and Stauder managed to win the deciding match in the Division 4 round of 32



Maria Hamm reaches for a backhand return in women's doubles.

match, as the Lady Panthers defeated Randolph High School, 3-2, at Gardner High School.

Quabbin competed in the Division 3 state tournament for the first time this spring.

The Lady Panthers play their regular season home matches at Felton Field in Barre, which only has three courts. The MIAA requires a school to have at least four courts to host a state tournament match. Quabbin has played its home state tournament matches at Gardner High School, which has four courts.



Audrey Larson hits a backhand from the baseline in women's singles.

In this year's preliminary round match, Matheson and



Farrah Wojcik tracks the ball as she hits a return in women's singles.

Stauder posted a 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 win over Whitinsville Christian freshman Arielle Zdanis and junior Alexi Gilchrist.

"There was a lot of pressure on us in today's match

because our season would've been over had we lost," Stauder said. "It just felt great after we won the final point."

See TENNIS, page 10

Unified track program continues success

BARRE — For the past several years, Quabbin Regional High School has hosted multiple meets and fielded an excellent Unified track and field team. This year has been no different as the program has continued its success last month. Highlights from more action will be in next week's edition.



Chris Dallair launches himself in the long jump.



From left, Ella Reeves, Honour Michael and Arianna Fargnoli take off in the 800-meter race.



Bailey Burke sends the javelin flying.



Hemily Halaby heaves the shot put.



Arianna Fargnoli takes flight in the long jump.



Emma Thompson stretches out as she hurls the shot put.

Mutiny battles Hartford to scoreless draw

LUDLOW — On Friday, May 22, the New England Mutiny battled the Hartford Athletic to a scoreless tie. The Mutiny is now 1-1-1 on the season. They previously defeated the Worcester Wanderers and had a defeat against the Hudson Valley Crusaders. More on the Mutiny and their new challenges in next week's edition.



Kayleigh Lukasik sends a pass away.



Kendall Bodak sends a free kick away



Se-Hanna Mars fights for the ball



Kurstin Shade looks to shoot in traffic.



Sam Breton clears the ball away.

Sports

WMass Pioneers fall to NEFC

LUDLOW – On a very rainy evening, the turf was not kind to the Western Mass. Pioneers as they fell at home against NEFC 4-2. The Pioneers, which have a lot of new players on the roster this season, fell to a disappointing 1-2 on the short regular season. The Pioneers had another home game scheduled during the weekend, and were in action on the road against Black Rock FC. The Pioneers are on a lengthy road trip and are not playing at home until Friday, June 19.



Ben Alexander gets ready to clear the ball.



Jaiden Williams makes his way up the field.



Dylan Hunston looks to clear the ball.



Michael Gouvin sends a pass away.



Pearse O'Brien seeks to settle the ball.

Magical runs ends for T-Birds in Wilkes-Barre

WILKES-BARRE, PA – The Springfield Thunderbirds saw their remarkable Calder Cup Playoff journey come to a bitter ending in an 8-1 loss to the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins on Saturday night inside Mohegan Arena at Casey Plaza in a deciding Game 5 of the best-of-five series.

After getting shut out by Georgii Romanov and the T-Birds in Game 4 in Springfield two nights earlier, the Penguins came out with renewed purpose, and Tristan Broz's second goal of the series just 3:56 into Game 5 put Wilkes-Barre/Scranton in front, 1-0.

Harrison Brunicke would follow with a goal of his own on a 2-on-1 at 7:43 to make it 2-0. Broz added his third

point of the period with a power play goal at 16:17, and Rafael Harvey-Pinard completed the Penguins' prolific first period with a rebound finish with 2:03 left in the frame to make it 4-0 at intermission.

The T-Birds swapped goalies heading into the second as Vadim Zherenko took over, but the Penguins still managed to find offense when Atley Calvert swatted a

loose puck through Zherenko at 17:21.

As the third period began, the Penguins power play found a second connection when Ville Koivunen finished off a passing play at 2:52 to extend the lead to six.

Akil Thomas finally got one back for Springfield at 4:30, but it would prove to only delay the Penguins' continued attack, as Harvey-Pinard and Koivunen each would add another tally to their night's work to finish off the victory and the series.

The T-Birds' storybook season may have come to an end, but the excitement is only building as Springfield prepares to celebrate 100 years of hockey in the city.





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In the Classroom

Julianna Lindsten earns prestigious Seal of Biliteracy

From the desk of Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent Colleen Mucha

BARRE – As high school seniors across the district prepare to don their caps and gowns this week, one graduating student has achieved an academic milestone that will resonate far beyond the graduation stage.

Julianna Lindsten, a graduating senior from Quabbin Regional High School, has officially been awarded the prestigious Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish. This distinct honor recognizes high-level proficiency in speaking, reading, writing and understanding two or more languages by high school graduation.

The Seal of Biliteracy is far more than a certificate; it is a statement of capability and global readiness. Administered by the state and verified through rigorous testing, the seal recognizes students who have maintained academic excellence in English while demonstrating a profound mastery of a second language. In an increasingly interconnected global economy, this accomplishment places Julianna at the cutting edge of 21st-century citizenship.

As the Superintendent of Schools, my role allows me to view education through a wide-angle lens. From our youngest learners stepping into our preschool classrooms to the experienced educators we support through our staff mentoring

programs, our overarching goal is to build long-term pathways to excellence. Seeing a student reach the apex of their high school career with bilingual credentials is the ultimate realization of that educational promise.

Earning this distinction requires a unique blend of discipline, cognitive adaptability and cultural empathy. Mastering a language goes deeper than memorizing grammar and vocabulary lists; it demands a willingness to engage with different perspectives and step comfortably into another culture's worldview. By achieving this, Julianna Lindsten has amplified her voice across two languages, giving her the rare power to bridge communities and foster understanding wherever her path leads.

This bilingual capability serves as an invaluable asset as Julianna transitions to her post-graduate plans. Whether her next steps lead to higher education, the fast-paced modern workforce, or community leadership, entering the world with documented biliteracy provides a profound advantage.

Furthermore, achievements like this serve as a powerful beacon for our



Julianna Lindsten

entire school district. When our district applies for state and federal grants to fund advanced learning tools or expands early childhood education initiatives, we are looking directly at outcomes like Lindsten's.

She models the standard of excellence we want our preschool students to aspire to and her success validates the hard work of the peer mentors and teachers who guide our students every day.

The success of an individual student ultimately reflects the strength of an entire community. It is a testament to the dedication of our language teachers, the robust design of our district's curriculum, and the unwavering support of families who champion education at home.

Our district extends its warmest congratulations to Julianna Lindsten and the entire Class of 2026. We are immensely proud of your academic triumphs, and we look forward to watching how your bilingual gifts and unique perspectives shape a brighter, more connected world. Your community stands behind you, celebrating your success today and wishing you boundless fulfillment in all your tomorrow's endeavors.

TENNIS from page 9

It was a very successful regular season for the Lady Panthers (15-2), who captured the Mid-Wach (C) title with a perfect 12-0 record. Their only setback during the regular season came at Groton-Dunstable by the final score 3-2 on May 8.

The other four Quabbin seniors are Farrah Wojcik (first singles), Kalina Dyer (second singles), Alyssa Ebert, and Addy Harmon.

"I'm very happy for the seniors because this is their last run in the state tournament," said Quabbin head coach Garth Wideman. "Today's match was very close, and it went right down to the wire."

The Lady Panthers duo of freshman Addison Surprenant and eighth grader Maria Hamm celebrated their first state tournament victory by dispatching eighth grader Hadley DeFrancisco and senior Hadasyah Mestres, 6-3, 6-2.

"This is my first year playing for the tennis team and it's really cool to win a state tournament match," Hamm said. "Addison and I have built a very good bond on the court. We also play field hockey together. It has been a fun season and everyone on the tennis team are friends."

Last fall, Hamm led the Lady Panthers varsity field hockey team with 22 goals and 10 assists.

"The transition from field hockey to tennis was pretty easy for me," Hamm added. "I wanted to play a spring sport, so I decided to play tennis this year."

Surprenant, who was a



Addison Surprenant stretches out at the net in women's doubles.

member of the junior varsity field hockey team last fall, is also a first-year member of the tennis team.

"Because Maria and I already knew each other, it has helped us communicate on the court better," Surprenant said. "Communication is very important in double matches. We played very well in today's match."

According to Surprenant, winning the first set was very important.

"Winning the first set is always very important," she said. "We've won all our matches this season in two sets."

Wojcik, who also played field hockey, lost 6-2, 6-3, to Whitinsville Christian junior Charlotte DeFrancisco at first singles, which evened the overall match at 1-1.

"We've been a very successful team during the past couple of years," said Wojcik, who has started at first singles the past two seasons. "I've known the other seniors my entire life and we really enjoy playing tennis

together. It has been a lot of fun being a member of the tennis team."

Wojcik, who joined the Lady Panthers tennis team as an eighth grader, will be attending Springfield College in the fall.

"I'm hoping to play tennis in college," Wojcik said. "I've spoken with the Springfield College tennis coach, but nothing is definite yet."

The other two singles matches were decided in three sets.

In the third singles match, Quabbin junior Audrey Laursen won the first set 6-4, but Whitinsville Christian senior Genevieve Tatulli managed to win the next two sets 6-1, 6-1 giving her team a 2-1 advantage.

Dyer lost the opening set, 6-4, in the second singles match before battling back to win her match, 6-4, 6-1, which kept the Lady Panthers hopes alive.

"Coach Wideman gave me a couple of pointers, which helped me win the final two sets. I knew that I needed to win my match," said Dyer, who like Wojcik have been a member of the tennis team since the eighth grade. "We've been a very successful team during the past couple of years and it's sad to see my high school career coming to an end."

Then Matheson and Stauder won their doubles match and Lady Panthers players were able to celebrate a state tournament victory for the second time in the past three years.



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Church News

Local pastor offers sermon

Trinity Sunday

“Live in Community with the Trinity”

Scripture Readings: Matthew 28 v 16 -20 and II Corinthians 13 v 11 – 13

I. Introduction

There is a reason why we end our services with the benediction, which blesses us with the grace of God, the love of Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

We may also begin our services with this same benediction, asking the Triune God to bless us. Therefore, it is important to greet one another in peace, so that we may bless one another and go forth with goodwill. In our passages, we see how important this greeting was for Jesus, Paul, the disciples and the Early Church.

II. Live in Community with the Trinity

In their encounter with the Risen Christ, the disciples, along with the church in Corinth, received one of the most powerful messages from Jesus and Paul.

Jesus in the Matthew passage is commissioning the disciples to carry forth His mission while He was on earth. They were instructed by the women, who returned from the empty tomb to go back to Galilee where they will meet Him after His resurrection.

Their first meeting with Jesus took place in Galilee where they and He grew up in, then after they started following Him, their journey took them down to Jerusalem where He preached to the crowds, but where He also experienced the resistance by the author-

ities, was crucified, died and rose again.

Now they are back in Galilee where it all started. This is where Jesus wanted to meet with them and give them instructions for their ministry to make disciples of all the nations, baptize them and teach them everything He taught them.

Jesus has equipped them already through His ministry and His teachings, the miracles He performed and the love He showed them. Now they must go and make disciples of all nations. They are now becoming teachers and miracle workers and will become the core leaders of the Early Church which was born on the Day of Pentecost.

Jesus is now speaking to them with all authority in heaven and on earth, He said. He then instructs them to do all of that in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. By doing this, He declares to them the unity between Him, God and the Holy Spirit.

There is a whole lot of power in that statement, which indicates that they will not go in their own power, but will receive the power of the Trinity, through the Risen Christ, who will be with them always until the end of time. We then see later how the Early Church and the church in history, became the Body of Christ, with Christ as the Head.

When Paul writes to the Corinthians, he reminds them of their calling as Christ's church and addresses his concern over reports of quarreling, jealousy, gos-

sip, anger, factions, arrogance and disorder among them (Chapter 12 v 20). He reminds them of their calling, to follow Christ and to carry forth His ministry.

And so, in his final greeting he encourages them to be of one mind, to live in peace and to strive for perfection. He wants them to be in a peaceful fellowship with one another.

Then he blesses them with the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. In that blessing, they will be assured of the presence of God, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who will deepen their unity.

III. Conclusion

What we are learning from Christ and Paul is to live in fellowship with one another and in community with the Trinity.

It is a call to do so in a way that honors Christ's sacrifice on the Cross and celebrates His resurrection, as well as the power and presence of God with us as a church.

We are blessed to be reminded today that God is with us through the Son and the Holy Spirit, so we need not feel alone, for God is with us in the fullness of the Trinity. May this promise strengthen us today as we go from here, live our daily lives, and share God's love with everyone we meet.

Amen

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

Obituaries

Gloria A. Castriotta, 93

BARRE- Gloria A. Castriotta, 93, of Barre, passed away on May 25, 2026, at Cedarbrook Village in Ware.



Gloria Ann Bouley was born in Worcester, on April 3, 1933, the only child of Clarence and Cora (Porter) Bouley of Oxford. She spent her childhood in a quiet section of the town called North Oxford.

Here she attended the local elementary school down the street, played outdoors and rode her bike on the back roads up to the old Clara Barton Homestead.

Young Gloria enjoyed visiting and spending time with her grandparents, many aunts and uncles, and her cousins, Richard and Bruce.

After graduating Oxford High School in 1951, Gloria attended Clark University in Worcester where she majored in history. As fate would have it, on a St. Patrick's Day blind-date during her senior year, Gloria met Ray, the love of her life and her future husband of sixty-five years.

Upon graduating Clark in 1955, Gloria, and a friend from Oxford, moved to New York City. She was employed by White & Company, a textile company in the city's bustling garment district, and worked as a buyer of clothing fabric.

While living in the "Big Apple," a far cry from her sleepy home town, Gloria enjoyed getting last minute "cheap tickets" for Broadway shows, sitting at busy street corner restaurants, or just wandering through Central Park.

After a year of city life, and upon her engagement with Ray, Gloria returned to North Oxford and took up employment for Catholic Charities. Here, as a case-worker, she would pay visits to local families in need. Gloria would then help determine what course of action was needed to help these struggling families.

On June 30, 1957, Gloria married Raymond J. Castriotta at St. Anne's Catholic Church in North Oxford. In 1962, Gloria and her husband decided to make the wonderful town of Barre their home.

In her sixty plus years as a resident of Barre, Gloria's contributions and activism in the community were numerous.

During the 1960s and 1970s, while her children were still young, she was a leader in both the Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts. Gloria served as president of the Quabbin Pro Musica. In recent years, an award in her name was created and is given to a dedicated volunteer whose service has supported Quabbin's music program.

For most of Gloria's years in Barre, she belonged to St. Joseph's parish, serving as a lector for twenty years and working alongside the kind and genuine late Rev. Thomas Hultquist (Fr. Tom).

Gloria was also a former president of the Barre Friday Club as well as a former secretary for the Barre Historical Society. After most of Gloria's children grew up and left home, she became a social worker and director of the Senior Nutrition Center in Barre.

In 1985 she began working full-time at the Age Center of Worcester where she created and became Director of Senior Social Day Care (a daycare for seniors with dementia). After her retirement in 1996, she served on the Board of Directors at Elder Services in Worcester and the Central Mass Agency on Aging.

For decades, and up until recent years, Gloria was an active member of the Barre Woman's Club where she served several terms as president. The Woods Memorial Library in Barre was also very important to Gloria. Here, she became a Barre Library Trustee as well as a member of the Barre Library Association. Gloria was a chairperson for the building committee and was actively involved with the planning, design and fundraising for the large addition to the Woods Memorial Library.

Gloria served on the Barre Council of Aging for thirty-seven years, chairing it for three terms. She created the Silver Spirit, a senior newsletter, and edited it for more than ten years.

She was also instrumental in getting the town of Barre a much-needed Barre Senior Center. Her determination and countless hours of dedication brought the dream to fruition. She continued to help the senior members of our community as vice president of the Council of Directors of Volunteer Services.

Due to her commitment to the town of Barre and her belief in community service, in 2007, she was nominated for and received the "Unsung Heroine" award from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Gloria continued her volunteerism spirit well into her eighties, where she could still be seen working at the Barre polls as an election helper, often times serving as the warden (presiding officer).

As a kind person with a deep knowledge of history and government, her beliefs about the "true" meaning of democracy permeated to her inner core.

Outside of work and volunteerism, Gloria had many interests. She was very artistic and often traveled with a sketch book in her pocket-book. She enjoyed furniture refinishing, reading, history, nature, sewing, knitting and making comfort dolls for children in need.

Gloria had a deep affection for animals, often taking in stray animals. During her last few years, she dearly loved the company of her cat, Ellie. Gloria always had a desire for travel and adventure, enjoying trips to Quebec, Ireland, France and Italy. She loved spending time with her family on trips to Cape Cod and to the coast of Maine.

There was nothing in this world that meant more to Gloria than her family. She had had an emptiness in her heart since her husband's passing three years ago.

Married a month shy of sixty-six years, the loving couple could often be seen walking hand in hand. Her husband, Ray, often introduced her as, "My girlfriend, Gloria." A friend of the family affectionately referred to

DEATH NOTICE

Castriotta, Gloria A. (Bouley)
Died May 25, 2026
Calling hours
June 11 from 5-7 p.m.
in Pillsbury Funeral Home, 96 South Barre Road, Barre
Funeral Mass June 12 at 11 a.m. St. Mary's Catholic Church, 59 South St., Ware

the inseparable couple as, "Ray-Glo."

Gloria's love and unselfishness for her children knew no boundaries. Herself an only child, she always dreamed of having a large family, and she delivered.

Gloria had seven children: Marianne, Michael, Maureen, Marilyn, Matthew, Mark and Marty (the "7M's"); all of whom she had unconditional love. And as if seven wasn't enough, many friends of Gloria's children often referred to Mrs. Castriotta as their second mom.

Gloria was beloved by her large family. She is survived by her daughter, Marianne Sinopoli and her husband John; her son, Michael; her daughter Maureen Buonpane and her husband Paul; her daughter, Marilyn; her son, Matthew and his wife Wendy; her son, Mark and his wife Janet and her son, Marty, and his wife Ellen.

She was a beloved grandmother, "Grams," to Niki (and her husband Corey), Gianna, Maegan (and her fiancé Ryan), Kaitlyn, Paul (and his wife Cyndi), Josh (and his fiancée Erica), Amy (and her husband Jamie), Caroline (and her fiancé Jake), Ryan, Shea, Abbie (and her fiancé Ben), Kourtney, Danny, and Jules. She is also survived by two sweetheart great-granddaughters, Nora and Violet, as well as her dear cousin, Richard Hedin of Auburn.

Family and friends are invited to attend calling hours on Thursday, June 11, 2026 from 5-7 p.m. in Pillsbury Funeral Home, 96 South Barre Road, in Barre. A funeral Mass will be held on Friday, June 12, 2026 at 11 a.m. in St. Mary's Catholic Church, 59 South Street, in Ware.

The Castriotta family would like to thank the entire staff of Cedarbrook Village for the wonderful care they gave our mother during the last two years of her life. We would also like to thank Beacon Hospice Care for their love and support during the past eighteen months Gloria was in Hospice care.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Gloria's name to one of the following organizations that were close to her heart: The Barre Library Association, P.O. Box 731, Barre, MA 01005; The Barre Senior Center, 40 West St., Suite 433, Barre, MA 01005; Quabbin Pro Musica, c/o Maria Tucker, P.O. Box 103, North Brookfield, MA 01535.

For an online tribute please visit: WWW.Pillsburyfuneralhome.com.

Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Sunday, May 3

3:34 a.m. Noise Complaint, Ruggles Lane, Officer Spoke to Party

5:30 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Wheelwright Road, Transported to Hospital

8:32 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital

5:52 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Austin Street, Transported to Hospital

Monday, May 4

7:10 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, South Street, Officer/Chief Advised

7:47 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Citation Issued

8:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Citation Issued

9:36 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Citation Issued

5:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Citation Issued

7:26 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, South Street, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, May 5

10:03 a.m. Motor Vehicle

Stop, South Street, Vehicle Towed

3:52 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Nichols Road, Removed from Scene

4:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning

4:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Written Warning

4:36 p.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, James Street, Referred to Other Agency

4:39 p.m. Fire – Brush and Wildland Fires, Sunrise Avenue, Fire Extinguished

Wednesday, May 6

4:27 a.m. Harassment, South Street, No Action Required

11:10 a.m. Harassment, Barre Police Headquarters, Officer Spoke to Party

6:40 p.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, Walnut Hill Road, Referred to Other Agency

6:58 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Cutler Road, Transported to Hospital

10:20 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Ruggles Lane, Public Assist

Thursday, May 7

3:21 p.m. Harassment, Barre Police Headquarters, Officer Spoke to Party

4:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle

Stop, Vernon Avenue, Written Warning

Friday, May 8

Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Chapman Road, Report Filed

12:23 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Pine Tree Terrace, Report Filed

3:34 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Wauwinet Road, Transported to Hospital

4:28 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Ruggles Lane, Transported to Hospital

5:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Vernon Avenue, Citation Issued

6:36 p.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Barre Police Headquarters, Information Given

Saturday, May 9

10:47 a.m. Assist Other Agency/Non-Police, Water Department, Report Filed

10:56 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Overdose/Poisoning, Valley Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal

1:36 p.m. Erratic Operator, School North Street, Officer/Chief Advised

Warning

8:33 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Skyline Drive, Report Filed

Tuesday, May 5

3:18 p.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, South Road, Referred to Other Agency

4:24 p.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, East Hill Road, Unfounded

4:39 p.m. Fire – Brush and Wildland Fires, Sunrise Avenue, Fire Extinguished

5:41 p.m. Trespasser or Prowler, Skyline Drive, Officer Spoke to Party

Wednesday, May 6

9:12 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Old Turnpike Road, Officer/Chief Advised

4:35 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, New Braintree Road, Officer/Chief Advised

5:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning

Thursday, May 7

8:23 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), East Hill Road, Referred to Other Agency

9:22 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Skyline Drive, Officer Spoke to Party

Friday, May 8

7:32 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Old Turnpike Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Saturday, May 9

8:43 p.m. Noise Complaint, Ware Corner Road, Negative Contact

More police logs on page 12

Oakham Police Log

Monday, May 4

3:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning

4:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning

4:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning

5:15 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Old Turnpike Road, Negative Contact

5:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning

6:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning

7:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning

7:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written

Barre Gazette

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

Public Safety

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, May 3
 2 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Citation Issued
 7:32 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Wildbrook Drive, Officer/Chief Advised
 10:41 a.m. Erratic Operator, Maple Avenue, Citation Issued
 12:49 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Ridge Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 1:05 p.m. Fire – Propane Incident, Fairview Avenue, Investigated
 3:32 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 4:54 p.m. Complaint, Prescott Street, Gone on Arrival
 5:26 p.m. Erratic Operator, East County Road, Prisoner Bailed
 Arrest Peck, Jerry D., 69, Rutland
 Charges Operating Under Influence – Liquor OR .08%, Second Offense
 Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle, Marked Lanes Violation
 6:17 p.m. Harassment, Main Street, Report Filed
 10:38 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Locke Road, Transported to Hospital

Monday, May 4
 8:13 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 8:25 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Animal Bites, Cameron Drive, Information Given
 10:25 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 12:30 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Crestview Drive, Transported to Hospital
 3:34 p.m. Property Damage, Prospect Street, Report Filed
 3:52 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Brintnal Drive, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 4:12 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Lowry Lane, Officer/Chief Advised
 4:20 p.m. Complaint,

Paddock Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 4:46 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Central Tree Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 6:24 p.m. Identity Theft, River Road, Report Filed
 11:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning

Tuesday, May 5
 12:15 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle/Parking Issues, Pommogussett Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 12:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Citation Issued
 12:26 p.m. Property Damage, Barre Paxton Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 12:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 12:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 12:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning

1:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 1:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 1:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 2:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 2:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 2:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 3 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 3:38 p.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 3:46 p.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Breezy Lane, Gone on Arrival
 3:50 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Maple Avenue, Officer/Chief Advised
 4:10 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Campbell Court, Removed From Scene

4:39 p.m. Fire – Brush and Wildland Fires, Sunrise Avenue, Fire Extinguished
 5:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 5:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Wachusett Street, Written Warning
 9:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning
 10:06 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Edith Lane, Mutual Aid Transport
 10:07 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Main Street, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, May 6
 2:32 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Worcester, Information Given
 9:46 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Mark Circle, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 10:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Fairview Avenue, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Boyle, Jon Christopher, 60, Holden
 Charges Licenses Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With, Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With

10:30 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Delva, Kendy, 41, Charges License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle with,
 10:51 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Araujo Dos Santos, Adnaldo, 45, Framingham
 Charges Unregistered Motor Vehicle, Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle with
 11:43 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 11:54 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 12:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle

Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 12:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 12:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 12:41 p.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, Pommogussett Road, Information Given
 1:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 1:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 1:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 1:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Written Warning
 3:12 p.m. Property Dispute or Exchange, Rutland Police Department, Returned
 3:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 3:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Citation Issued
 3:41 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Animal Bites, Bigelow Road, Report Filed
 8:11 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Wachusett Street, Officer Spoke to Party

Thursday, May 7
 8:09 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 8:17 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Citation Issued
 9:22 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Main Street, Public Assist
 11:19 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 12:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 12:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 1:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 1:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written

Warning
 1:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 1:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Hanson, Paul Mark, 68, Holden
 Charges Number Plate Violation to Conceal ID, Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Unregistered Motor Vehicle
 1:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Written Warning
 1:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
 2:19 p.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, Lewis Street, Referred to Other Agency
 2:59 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 4:09 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 6:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident – No Fire Department/EMS Response, Barre Paxton Road, Report Filed
 6:06 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Written Warning
 6:21 p.m. Safety Concern, Welch Avenue, Officer Spoke to Party
 6:24 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Highland Park Road, Call Transferred
 10:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Disabled, Main Street, Vehicle Towed

Friday, May 8
 7:43 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Old Princeton Cutoff Road, Transported to Hospital
 8:46 a.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), Miles Road, Entry Gained
 10:58 a.m. Assault and Battery, Maple Avenue, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Boutiette, Monisa, 52, Rutland
 Charges Assault and Battery on +60/Disabled
 11:20 a.m. Suspicious

Person/Vehicle Activity, Brooke Haven Drive, Officer Spoke to Party
 11:57 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Glenwood Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 12:48 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Birchwood Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 4:13 p.m. Complaint, East County Road, Officer/Chief Advised
 6:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Pursuit, Gardner Road, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Morel Perez, Luis A., 26, Gardner
 Charges Speeding Rate of Speed Greater Than Was Reasonable and Proper c90 §17, Passing Violation, Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle, Marked Lanes Violation, Stop for Police, Fail
 11:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Prisoner Bailed
 Arrest Bennett, Kayla Morgan, 26, Winchendon
 Charges Operating Under Influence – Liquor OR .08%, Second Offense, Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle, Marked Lanes Violation

Saturday, May 9
 12:57 a.m. Prisoner Watch or Meal, Rutland Police Department, Prisoner Bailed
 Arrest Bennett, Kayla Morgan, 26, Winchendon
 Charges Operating Under Influence – Liquor OR .08%, Second Offense, Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle, Marked Lanes Violation
 3:13 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Juniper Lane, Officer Spoke to Party
 8:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Maple Avenue, Officer/Chief Advised
 10:41 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle/Parking Issues, Barre Paxton Road, Negative Contact

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, May 3
 6:57 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Madison Way, Transported to Hospital
 2:25 p.m. Larceny or Theft, Pond View Way, Officer Spoke to Party
 2:59 p.m. Erratic Operator, Old Boston Turnpike, Report Filed

Monday, May 4
 12:50 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Williamsville Road, Transported to Hospital
 5:32 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Verbal Warning
 9:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Gardner Road, Officer/Chief Advised

Tuesday, May 5
 12:28 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Gardner Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 7:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brigham Street, Written Warning
 8:54 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written Warning
 9:35 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written Warning

10:02 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written Warning
 1:42 p.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, Twin Hill Road, Investigated
 3:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written Warning
 3:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Williamsville Road, Written Warning
 3:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning
 4:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written Warning
 4:39 p.m. Fire – Brush and Wildland Fires, Sunrise Avenue, Fire Extinguished
 6:30 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Ragged Hill Road, Animal Relocated

Wednesday, May 6
 9:09 a.m. Fire – Water/Ice Rescues, Old Boston Turnpike, Investigated
 1:56 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Williamsville Road, Unfounded
 10:20 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Ruggles Lane, Public Assist

Thursday, May 7
 2:42 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Williamsville Road, Transported to Hospital
 6:36 p.m. Assist Other Agency/Non-Police, Hale Road, Mutual Aid Assist

Friday, May 8
 7:43 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Old Princeton Cutoff Road, Transported to Hospital
 6:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Pursuit, Gardner Road, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Morel Perez, Luis A., 26, Gardner
 Charges Speeding Rate of Speed Greater Than Was Reasonable and Proper c90 §17, Passing Violation, Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle, Marked Lanes Violation, Stop for Police, Fail
 7:13 p.m. Harassment, Barre Road, Information Given

Saturday, May 9
 8:55 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures, Williamsville Road, Transported to Hospital

During the week of April 27-May 4, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 61 building/property checks, 37 directed/area patrols, 15 radar assignments, five traffic controls, seven emergency 911 calls, seven citizen assists, five assist other agencies, one brush fire, one fire/illegal burn, three investigations, two scams, one threat and eight motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, April 27
 8:50 a.m. Investigation, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled
 9:08 a.m. Investigation, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled
 11:06 a.m. Investigation, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled
 11:25 a.m. Assist Citizen, Petersham Road, Officer Handled
 11:57 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Officer Handled
 8:42 p.m. 911 Neighbor Dispute, Main Street, Negative Contact

Tuesday, April 28
 11:16 a.m. Threat, Prospect Street, Report Taken
 12:56 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
 1:38 p.m. Assist Citizen, Broad Street, Officer Handled
 1:45 p.m. Assist Citizen, High Street, Officer Handled
 2 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Report Taken
 6 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, School Street, Patient Refusal

Wednesday, April 29
 12:59 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Officer Handled
 9:17 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, School Street, Death/Unattended
 9:29 p.m. Scam, Main Street, Officer Handled

Thursday, April 30
 5:23 a.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Old Petersham Road, Officer Handled
 7:34 a.m. Scam, Broad Street, Services Rendered
 3:45 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled

Friday, May 1
 12:06 a.m. Medical Emergency, Old Petersham Road, Report Taken
 2:36 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Upper Church Street, Officer Handled
 2:48 p.m. Assist Other

Agency, Main Street, Services Rendered
 3:47 p.m. Alarm, Church Street, Merge
 6:09 p.m. Fire/Brush, Barre Road, Extinguished
 7:55 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, No Action Required

Saturday, May 2
 2:37 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
 11:07 p.m. 911 Gunshots, Barre Road, Negative Contact
 11:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning

Sunday, May 3
 4:29 p.m. 911 Fire/Illegal Burn, Barre Road, Services Rendered
 During the week of May 4-11, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 60 building/property checks, 32 directed/area patrols, 14 radar assignments, four traffic controls, 11 emergency 911 calls, five citizen assists, three assist other agencies, one brush fire, one structure fire, one investigation, two vandalism, three missing persons, two safety hazards, one threat, one larceny/theft/shoplifting, two threats, three motor vehicle accidents, one animal call and eight motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, May 4
 10:58 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Spoken To
 1:04 p.m. Vandalism, School House Drive, Report Taken
 2:29 p.m. Fire/Brush, Lower Road, Extinguished
 5:14 p.m. Investigation, Main Street, Officer Handled
 6:27 p.m. Missing Person, Main Street, No Action Required
 7:38 p.m. Medical Alarm, Delargy Road, Spoken To

Tuesday, May 5
 12:45 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Old Petersham Road, Transported to Hospital
 3:29 a.m. Medical Emergency, Collins Road, Patient Refusal
 4:40 a.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Petersham Road, Transported to Hospital
 10:47 a.m. Assist Citizen, Church Lane, Services Rendered
 11:52 a.m. 911 Elevator Call, Common Street, Services Rendered
 12:09 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Main Street,

Investigated
 12:46 p.m. Missing Person, Main Street, Officer Handled
 1:17 p.m. Assist Citizen, Clapp Road, Officer Handled
 3 p.m. Fire/Alarm, Greenwich Road, Services Rendered
 3:32 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Lower Road, Spoken To

Wednesday, May 6
 5:09 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Citation Issued
 1:37 p.m. 911 Fire/Structure, Hardwick Road, Services Rendered
 9:41 p.m. Assist Citizen, Mill Street, Officer Handled

Thursday, May 7
 5:42 p.m. Safety Hazard, Thresher Road, Officer handled
 7:29 p.m. 911 Missing Person, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 8:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Lower Road, No Action Required

Friday, May 8
 10:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Lower Road, Officer handled
 11:44 a.m. 911 Elevator Call, Old Petersham Road, No Action Required
 1:37 p.m. Assist Citizen, North Road, Dispatch Handled
 3:50 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Officer Handled
 6:28 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Officer Handled
 7:09 p.m. Vandalism, Barre Road, Officer Handled

Saturday, May 9
 3:54 p.m. Threat, Barre Road, Officer Handled
 11:06 p.m. Complaint, Barre Road, Spoken To

Sunday, May 10
 12:32 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Services Rendered
 1:20 a.m. Complaint, Lower Road, Negative Contact
 3:52 p.m. Larceny/Theft/Shoplifting, Grove Street, Report Taken

Monday, May 11
 5:11 a.m. Trespass, Hardwick Road, Spoken To
 6:28 a.m. Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 7:14 a.m. Threat, Hardwick Road, Report Taken

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of May 18-25, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 15 building/property checks, 38 directed/area patrols, six radar assignments, five emergency 911 calls, two citizen assists, one assist other agency, one investigation, one safety hazard, one trespass, one property damage, one motor vehicle accident, four animal calls and one motor vehicle stop in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, May 18
 1:20 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Ravine Road, Services Rendered
 9:41 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Patient Refusal

Tuesday, May 19
 7:23 a.m. Investigation, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
 1:03 p.m. 911 Trespass, McEvoy Road, Officer Handled
 6:11 p.m. Safety Hazard, Gilbertville road, Referred to Other Agency
 6:27 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Services Rendered

Wednesday, May 20
 5:32 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital
 9:40 a.m. Property Damage, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
 11:20 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Thursday, May 21
 7:31 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Patient Refusal

Sunday, May 24
 11:30 a.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Gilbertville Road, Services Rendered

During the week of May 25-June 1, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 23 building/property checks, 34 directed/area patrols, 12 radar assignments, two emergency 911 calls, five citizen assists, three assist other agencies, two investigations, three safety hazards, one complaint, one motor vehicle accident, five animal calls and seven motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Tuesday, May 26
 3:22 a.m. Suspicious Activity, West Brookfield Road, Officer Handled
 9:53 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning
 10:18 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Voice Message Left
 10:20 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
 3:05 p.m. Neighbor Dispute, Memorial Drive, Report Taken

Wednesday, May 27
 1:22 p.m. Investigation, Old

Wine Road, Officer Handled
 2:48 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
 6:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Citation issued
 6:02 p.m. Lost/Stolen Plate, Memorial Drive, Services Rendered

Friday, May 29
 7:51 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
 10 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled
 5:18 p.m. Investigation, Gilbertville Road, Officer Handled

Saturday, May 30
 8:46 a.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, No Action Required
 9:17 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Prouty Road, Services Rendered
 9:27 a.m. Safety Hazard, Rutherford Road, Referred to Other Agency
 3 p.m. Complaint, Prouty Road, Services Rendered
 9:11 p.m. Safety Hazard, Worcester Road, Officer Handled

Sunday, May 31
 5:04 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Sibley Road, Transported to Hospital
 5:42 p.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Road, Voice Message Left
 9:13 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

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A decade of faith, learning and community

Catholic school celebrates 10 year anniversary

By Paula Ouimette
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HARDWICK – It's been 10 years since St. Aloysius Catholic School opened its doors, and the "little school that could," continues to grow and offer a learning experience that is enhanced with community activism and faith.

Back in the spring of 2016, parents from St. Mary's School in Ware searched for a space to start a new Catholic school, following the announcement that St. Mary's School will be closing.

They soon settled on the vacant St. Aloysius School at 52 Church St. in Gilbertville.

St. Aloysius School provided an education to area children from around 1900 to 1970, before closing. Since that time, it sat mostly unused in the shadow of St. Aloysius Catholic Church, just overlooking the Ware River.

St. Aloysius Catholic School Finance Manager/ Enrollment Coordinator Roberta McQuaid and other parents visited the school and knew it would be the right fit for their vision. Being vacant for so long, there was plenty of work to be done in order to open in time for the start of school at then end of that

summer. When St. Aloysius Catholic School first opened, there were only three classrooms and 38 students. There was a preschool class, and combined kindergarten through third grade and fourth through sixth classes.

Today, the school serves students in preschool through eighth grade.

"Now every inch of the building is full," McQuaid said. "We're projected at 90 [students] for next year...this will probably be our biggest kindergarten class so far."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Catholic schools were able to fully reopen, instead of having remote and hybrid learning. This was a big draw for families in the area, McQuaid said.

"Since the COVID years we've been hovering around 82-85 students," she said. "This year we've seen an uptick...people are just looking for something different."

Not only has the school grown in numbers, but it has also grown in its Catholic faith.

"We have a motto: stop, drop and pray," McQuaid said.

McQuaid said there is a whole-school assembly each morning to pray. As well, students say the Pledge of Allegiance and sing a patriotic song. They also use this time to celebrate birthdays.

Students of all faiths attend the school.

The students also attend and assist with Mass each week at St. Aloysius Catholic Church, which is adjacent to the school. They also perform a Nativity pageant each year at the church before Christmas.

"Our Head of School Dawn Rudnansky joined us in year two, and really brought a love of the rosary and the saints," McQuaid said.

The preschool program is run by teacher Jennifer McNally, who joined St. Aloysius Catholic School after working at St. Mary's School for nearly eight years before it closed. McNally utilizes themed teaching, and incorporates all of the learning standards required by the Archdiocese of Hartford into the curriculum.

"The faith is woven in throughout the day," McQuaid said of McNally's program.

McQuaid said the academics at St. Aloysius Catholic School are rigorous, and the small class sizes allow for students to have a more personalized learning experience.

The students have a traditional foundation in math and English Language Art, which includes learning cursive and having written assignments. There is also science, music, art and gym.

The school has technology available to every student, giving them the best of both

worlds. "We're old-fashioned but we're up to date," she said.

All students receive French lessons, giving them an early start to learning a foreign language.

Students enjoy field trips, and hands-on learning experiences such as Nature's Classroom.

The school has a full-time nurse, and an afterschool program.

Students come from all of the Quabbin-area towns, as well as the Brookfields, Petersham, Spencer and Ware.

McQuaid said the school's graduates have gone on to earn high scores on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System test, which gave them free tuition to any state colleges and universities, and others have gone on to be named salutatorian of their high school graduating class.

The school also offers two whole-school recess periods on its recently completed playground, dedicated to the memory of Joe Knight, a founding member of the school.

This playground was the result of years of fundraising by the school and its dedicated Parent Teacher Organization, as well as donations.

"We have an incredible playground," McQuaid said. "It's a credit to them [PTO] that the kids are able to

enjoy it." Commitment to the community is also important for students at St. Aloysius Catholic School, including organizing food drives for area food pantries. "Children are taught to think beyond themselves," she said.

St. Aloysius Catholic School faith and academics are our top priority."

McQuaid credited St. Mary's Church and the Knights of Columbus for being "wonderful and supportive" of the school's mission.

Enrollment information

St. Aloysius Catholic School is still accepting applications for its preschool program, which is open to children who are potty-trained and age 3 by Aug. 31.

The kindergarten is open to children who are age 5 by Aug. 31.

Tuition payments are spread out over 10 months and an annual fund drive from mid-December through March, can reduce tuition by as much as \$300 per student, thanks to the generosity of a benefactor that offers a full match to money raised during the drive (up to \$40,000).

Financial aid is also available through the Worcester Diocese, and students do not need to be part of a church to apply. St. Mary's, All Saints and other local parishes also offer financial assistance for students within their respective parishes.

For more information about the school, visit their website, staloyuscs.com or Facebook page, or call 413-477-1268 Monday through Friday from 7:20 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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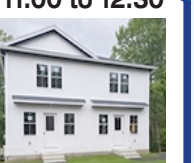
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