

BARRE GAZETTE

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Voters approve all warrant articles

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
edowner@turley.com

OAKHAM – About 110 voters attended the Annual Town Meeting at the Oakham Center School.

They acted on a 17 article warrant on Monday, June 22 in a little over one and a half hours.

The first order of business was to elect Mark Turnbull temporary Moderator by voting to have the Select Board Chairman Michael Brunelle cast one vote.

Voters elected Turnbull as Moderator at the Annual Town Election. Since the Annual Town Election warrant was not posted, the town was still waiting for verification of the election from the state.

Voters unanimously approved articles 3 through 7 with a consent calendar.

Russell Killough-Miller requested article 2 be discussed separately. He wanted to discuss that article as he had a question about Selectmen's total salaries line item increase.

The Moderator said that would be discussed in article 8. Voters unanimously approved article 2 to fix the salaries and compensation of all elected officers.

Finance Committee Member Clare Hendra said the Fiscal Year 2027 was level funded and totaled \$5,162,451. Of the total, \$4,950,422 was by raise and appropriate and \$212,029 was a transfer from free cash.

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page 6



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

To celebrate its 105th anniversary, Barre Players performed William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" for the month of June. This scene features a fight involving Helena, Demetrius, Hermia and Lysander.

Barre Players perform 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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BARRE – As part of celebrating their 105th anniversary, Barre Players put on the classic play, William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Jessie Olson directed the production of this show and enjoyed revisiting "A Midsummer Night's Dream" this year. Olson was involved in this play back in 1996 for Barre Player's 75th anniversary production.

As part of the cast, Olson played Helena, and now she has returned to take on the responsibility of directing the show.

This year, Barre Players performed a total of eight shows of "A Midsummer



Peter Quince, left, played by Larry Johnson is surrounded by his cast for an upcoming play.

Night's Dream" during the month of June. The show was selected as the 105th celebration kickoff for the theater group, because it was first featured at Barre Players in 1921.

At the time, the play was performed outdoors. Olson directed many shows at Barre Players. The graduate from Quabbin High School started directing at the age of 18. She is proud to call Barre Players a home to come back to.

Barre Players can be described as "a learning theater" as Olson explains. The show consisted of Barre Player veterans and newcomers working as one to bring a classic play to life.

"A place to learn and

See BARRE PLAYERS,
page 7

SB signs COA agreement

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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HARDWICK – The Select Board met last Monday where they signed a three year agreement with the Barre Senior Center, so Hardwick residents can continue to utilize their services.

This comes after the signing was delayed at a May 26 meeting following concerns about the center from residents,

At the June 8 meeting, Select Board Chair Jeff Schaaf said residents came to him and expressed their approval of the senior center, and said they felt included and approved of the operations. Schaaf said the senior center seems to be enjoyed by Hardwick residents.

Barre Senior Center Director Betty-Jo O'Brien was also present, along with members of both the Barre and Hardwick Councils on Aging. O'Brien said she watched the last meeting, and saw the comments made about the senior center.

She said the senior center is seeing a growing number of Hardwick residents, and the center offers transportation, nutrition programs, wellness programs and educational programs. She said in 2024, there were seven new Hardwick residents attending, when she started a "stronger together" initiative, which brought in 34 new residents.

She said as of May 31 of this year, there are 11 new participants.

O'Brien said there are 56

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Special Town Meeting passes reduced school assessment

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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RUTLAND – A special town meeting was held last Tuesday, with a three article warrant including a vote on a reduced school assessment from the Wachusett Regional School District, a citizen's petition for an override and an additional alcohol license for the Rutland Marketplace.

Article 1 on the June 16 warrant asked voters to

approve the reduced WRSD assessment of \$524,161 to be raised by taxation.

The Finance Committee did not recommend favorable action on the article.

Finance Committee Chair Darren Ross said the committee could not vote favorably in "good conscience" since the town is set to be losing 19 employees as a result of the failed override.

According to the explanation printed in the warrant, this sum reflects the

difference between what was approved at the May 9 annual town meeting (\$17,723,546), and the final assessment voted on by the WRSD school committee (\$18,247,707).

The explanation states the overall district budget increased by 3.09%, but Rutland's share has increased by 4.3% as a result of student enrollment and the formula assessment. The proposed fiscal year 2027 budget for the district overall is

\$133,070,587, nearly a \$4 million increase from Fiscal Year 26.

According to another handout titled "Wachusett Regional School District FY27 Budget Narrative," the reasons for the assessment increase include state funding calculations "drastically" underestimating the cost of educating students, the district's "hold-harmless" status in chapter 70 and the state's foundation budget shifting greater responsibility to the

member towns of the district.

The narrative states the chapter 70 funding formula is "seriously flawed and disproportionately burdens our towns." It states that the formula is based on a "model school budget from 1992," and works better for urban and vocational districts, but does not reflect the cost of educating students in the WRSD.

The narrative states the FY 27 estimates from the state show they expect a

vocational school to cost 60% more to educate students than Wachusett.

The narrative also states the school is in hold-harmless for a third year in a row due to a 1.84% decline in enrollment in FY 26, and the estimated increase in chapter 70 aid for the district is about \$1.046 million for FY 27, which is about \$1.5 million less than the FY 23 increase,

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page 12

Select Board discuss future goals

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

RUTLAND – The Select Board met Monday, where they discussed future goals for the board, for town operations and for future projects.

Select Board Chairman Sheila Dibb said there were five over-arching goals including communication, finance, capital projects and debt, local activism and staff support. Members of the board discussed possi-

ble projects, which could fit under those topics.

Select Board member Leah Whiteman said for activism, forming a group of people representing the Wachusett Regional School District could be helpful and there is a committee being put in place regarding the state's school funding formula being put together by Governor Maura Healey.

She said getting someone from the Wachusett Regional School Committee on that board would be important.

Town Administrator Heather Butler said she could take items on the master plan and try to fit them into these over-arching goals as well,

with a focus on "manpower" items rather than items that come with a cost, given the budget situation.

Butler also said there is work that needs to be done at Glenwood Elementary School as a facilities study shows it is one of the worst in the district. She said the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association is cracking down on buildings that have risks, leading to higher insurance costs, so a goal would be to examine where the town is falling behind.

Dibb said there was an ad-hoc building committee at

See RUTLAND SB,
page 12

First Meetinghouse Preservation Committee votes to pursue grant

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

HUBBARDSTON – The First Meetinghouse Preservation Committee voted last Tuesday to pursue a grant through the Mass Historical Commission for repairs to be done at the meetinghouse.

At the June 16 meeting, committee member Susan Worth recommended the committee vote to apply for a \$150,000 matching grant called the Mass Preservation Project Fund, which would use

funds from the town's local Community Preservation Act to meet the matching requirements.

Worth said the grant process consists of five steps, including voting to pursue it as a committee, receiving support from local boards or committees, sending the application to the Community Preservation Committee, voting on the grant at a special town meeting and meeting the MHC deadline in March of 2027.

Worth said the CPA application deadline is July 15.

The committee discussed which items should be part of the scope of the project, with member Betty Ann Sharp suggesting addressing water infiltration as a top priority.

"Water is the enemy of the building," she said.

The committee also discussed addressing issues with the foundation, and if there was still money available after those projects, to start addressing above ground items.

Committee member and

See MEETINGHOUSE,
page 12



News of the Towns



ROUND TOWN

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Bruins mascot visits library

The Boston Bruins teamed up with libraries across the Commonwealth to encourage children and teens to keep reading over the summer. On Tuesday, July 21 at 6 p.m., Blades will join readers for a story, some game day fun and crafts. Participants can design and make their own Bruins fan button, take pictures at the ice rink photo station, and more. A special library poster featuring Bruins player Jeremey Swayman will also be available. Studies have shown that children who read just four books over the summer fare better in the fall on reading comprehension tests than their peers who read one or no books. The Boston Bruins have been teaming up with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners since 2009 for the annual Summer Library Program, When You Read, You Score! Since then, millions of kids, teens, and adults have participated in this statewide program.

The Statewide Summer Library Program is sponsored by your local library, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, the Massachusetts Library System and the Boston Bruins.

Quabbin Community Band

Nornay Park, Main Street, hosts the Quabbin Community Band on Sundays, June 28 and July 5. The concerts begin at 6 p.m. There are some benches available and even a picnic table. To ensure a seat, concert goers should bring lawn chairs. The band will present their annual Children’s Concert featuring a variety of music. Selections include melodies from the classic film, “Up,” the theme to “Captain Marvel,” an arrangement of Taylor Swift songs and the always popular, “Pink Panther” theme.

In addition to a fun evening of toe-tapping music there will be lawn games set up near the bandstand for children to enjoy. The concert will close with a sing-a-long to “Sweet Caroline” followed by the entertaining, “John Williams in Concert.” Quabbin Pro Musica will sell hotdogs and burgers, along with snacks and cold drinks during the Nornay Park concerts. For the remainder of the Quabbin Community Band concerts, the band moves up to Barre Center to the Harding Allen Bandstand located on Middle Common, Barre. Dates include: July 12, 19 and 26 and Aug. 2, 9 and 16, all concerts start at 6 p.m. Concerts move to the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street, when raining. Concerts are today Children’s concert South Barre; July 5 Happy 250th America South Barre; July 12 Classics on the Common Barre Common; July 19 Movie Night Barre Common; July 26 Band Stand Favorites Barre Common; Aug. 2 Hats off to Broadway Barre Common; Aug. 9 Barre on Parade Alumni Event Barre Common early time 5 p.m. and Aug. 16 Dixieland Night Barre Common. Except for the Aug. 9 concert, which is at 5 p.m., all others are at 6 p.m.

Nornay Saturday night concerts

In addition to hosting the Quabbin Community Band for three Sundays in June, Nornay Park holds Saturday night concerts as well. Concerts are Kidd Hurricane on June 27, Otters on July 11 and Cropdusters on July 25, all from 6-8 p.m. The August concerts are The Other Guys on Aug. 8 and Alive’n Kickin’ on Aug. 22; the time is earlier from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The Barre Lions Club run a concession stand at all the Saturday concerts.

Norway Park concerts

OAKHAM - The Norway Park Summer Concerts features Kidd Hurricane June 26 from 6-8 p.m. at Nornay Park, Main Street, South Barre. Other concerts are: Saturday, July 11 the Otters from 6-8 p.m.; Saturday, July 25 Cropdusters from 6-8 p.m.; Saturday,, Aug. 8 The Other Gusy from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 22 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The Barre Lions Club will run a concession stand for all Saturday concerts. The concerts are supported in part by the Barre Cultural Council and the Barre Recreation Committee.



Submitted photo

Bailey Forfa of Worcester is in his second season playing percussion with the Quabbin CommunityBand.

Quabbin Community Band to present Children’s Concert June 28

BARRE –This Sunday, June 28 at 6 p.m. in Nornay Park in South Barre, the Quabbin Community Band will present their annual Children’s Concert featuring a variety of music.

Selections include melodies from the classic film, “Up,” the theme to “Captain Marvel,” an arrangement of Taylor Swift songs and

the always popular, “Pink Panther” theme.

In addition to a fun evening of toe-tapping music there will be lawn games set up near the bandstand for children to enjoy.

The concert will close with a sing-a-long to “Sweet Caroline” followed by the entertaining, “John Williams in Concert.”

Quabbin Pro Musica

will be offering hotdogs, popcorn, snacks and drinks as a fundraiser for the high school music department’s trip to Disney next spring.

All summer concerts begin at 6 p.m. In case of rain on any Sunday evening, the concerts are moved indoors to the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street.

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 29. 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 – Bahn Mi pork with barbecue sauce, carrots, Coleslaw, baked cinnamon pears, sandwich roll, mayo

TUESDAY – Lentil stew with cheddar cheese, steamed white rice,

Jardiniere vegetables, fruited ambrosia, marble rye

WEDNESDAY – Beef stew, mashed potatoes, corn niblets, cold apple crisp, diet = applesauce, biscuit

THURSDAY – Hot dog, baked beans, Coleslaw, baked apple, hot dog bun, mustard

FRIDAY – Holiday observance no meal served.

*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.

Petersham holds Fourth of July parade

PETERSHAM – Once again, Petersham will hold its annual Fourth of July parade on Saturday morning, July 4 with parade starting at 10 a.m.

Grand Marshals Representative Aaron Saunders and former Senator and currently Director of Rural Affairs Ann Gobi will be the honored guests.

The parade will step off at 10 am, starting at the flagpole on The Common, follow the traditional route known as the “Old Maid Mile” and finish in front of Town Hall.

Anyone may participate in the parade, either by walking, riding (bicycle, motorcycle, horse or other

animal) or by driving car, truck or float.

Local Fire Departments will mark the end of the procession. Spectators can view the parade from many locations along the route: on The Common, in front of Town Hall or at Petersham Center School.

The “Petersham Firefighters’ Association Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser” will kick off the event at 8:30 a.m.

Parade participants are encouraged to arrive at least by 9:30 a.m.; participants with horses and other animals can park on the Nichewaug Meadow adjacent to the Petersham Memorial Library.

The Old Maid Mile route

is as follows from the flagpole, travel west on West Street, south on Hardwick Street east on East Street and turn north on Main Street to finish just beyond Town Hall.

Participants who are bringing animals, driving large vehicles or are bringing a float are encouraged to text the parade organizer, Sue Dougherty at 832-499-1670 or email SLDOUGH@gmail.com.

Walkers, bicyclists and regular-sized vehicles can simply show up on the day.

This year, all participants will receive a “250th Anniversary” lapel pin. In case of severe weather, the parade will be postponed to Sunday, July 5 at 1 p.m.



OAKHAM

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

OHA presents talk on Quabbin Cemetery

The Oakham Historical Association will sponsor another Quabbin talk on Sunday, June 28 at 1 p.m. at the Oakham Historical Museum- 1221 Old Turnpike Road. Justin Gonsor of the Division of Water Supply and Protection Quabbin/Ware River region presents this talk along with a Virtual Tour of the Quabbin Cemetery. Following the talk, the museum will have an open house until 4 p.m.

Senior cookout

The Oakham Council on Aging will hold and Independence Day cookout on Friday July 3 at 12:30 p.m. in the Senior Center. Seniors should e sign up so they have an accurate head count and indicate any side dishes they are bringing.

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.

Kids Fest

Kids Fest to kick off summer takes place at the Fobes Memorial Library, 4 Maple St., on Saturday, June 27 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. There will be a bounce house, do it yourself tie-dye, bubbles by Malay, petting Pea by Family Education Center, performances and demo by WildKat Hoops, face painting, snacks and beverages. This event is free and open to all.

COA events

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.

St. Aloysius Catholic School lists honor roll

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Catholic School, 52 Church St., Gilbertville, announced the students who achieved the honor roll for the third trimester.

Grade Four, Honors

Jakob McBride, Lachlan McMartin, Juliana Moryl and Anthony Prentiss

Grade Five, High Honors

Connor Shunaman

Grade Five, Honors

Malikai Grinkley

Grade Six, Honors

Nicholas Barkoskie, Lillian Soja and Grant Verham

Grade Seven, High Honors

Aidan Caulfield
Grade Seven, Honors
Gabriel Docimo and Nikolas McBride

Grade Eight, High Honors

Gavin Letendre

Grade Eight, Honors

Jackson Boudreau, Hailey Casiello and Noelle St. Jacques



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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

Council on Aging – July 1 at 12:30 p.m.
Board of Assessors – July 7 at 6 p.m.
Felton Field Commission – July 7 at 6:30 p.m.
Planning Board – July 7 at 7 p.m.
Library Trustees – July 8 at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Health – July 13 at 5 p.m.
Water Commission – July 13 at 5:30 p.m.
DPW Commission – July 13 at 6 p.m.
Select Board – July 15 at 5 p.m.
Special Town Election – July 28 from noon-6 p.m.
Cable Advisory Committee – Aug. 11 at 7 p.m.

HARDWICK

Council on Aging – July 1 at 12:30 p.m.
Paige Library Trustees – July 2 at 7 p.m.
Gilbertville Public Library – July 8 at 3 p.m.
Historical Commission – July 8 at 4:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – July 15 at 6:30 p.m.
Capital Planning Committee – July 20 at 3 p.m.
Gilbertville Water District – July 21 at 5:30 p.m.
Board of Health – July 21 at 6 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Planning Board – June 25, July 1 and July 16 at 6:30 p.m.
Community Preservation Committee – June 25 at 7 p.m.
Board of Library Trustees – July 2 and July 9 at 7 p.m.
Conservation Commission – July 7 at 7 p.m.
Board of Assessors – July 15 at 6 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Rep. Donnie Berthiaume office hour – July 8 at 1:30
Planning Board – July 15 all day

OAKHAM

Library Trustees – June 25 at 4:30 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Select Board – June 25 at 5:30 p.m., June 30 at 8:30 a.m., July 2 at 6 p.m. and Sept. 12 at 10 a.m.
Board of Assessors – June 26 at 9 a.m.
Open Space and Recreation Committee – July 7 at 6 p.m.
Conservation Commission – July 7 at 7 p.m.
Cemetery Commission – July 14 at 11 a.m.
Petersham Historic District – July 16 at 6 p.m.
Council on Aging – Aug. 10 at 10:30 a.m.

RUTLAND

Zoning Board of Appeals – June 25 at 6 p.m.
Library Board of Trustees – June 25 at 7 p.m.
Rutland Development and Industrial Commission – June 25 at 7 p.m.

Editorial deadline reminder

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

Corrections policy

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



Turley Publications photos by Ellenor Downer

Genevieve and Glenn Stillman stand outside the newly remodeled Stillman's Farm stand in New Braintree.

Stillman's Farm stand undergoes remodeling

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
edowner@turley.com

NEW BRAINTREE – Stillman's Farm recently underwent some remodeling of their farm stand, located on 1205 Barre Road, Route 67.

The newly renovated farm stand has a new entrance, side door entrance, leveled floor, new septic system and a newly constructed commercial kitchen. Farmer owners, Glenn and Genevieve Stillman, received a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, which made the upgrade possible.

Rob Belland of Barre was the general contractor. Genevieve said he stopped by one day for corn. When she saw his truck with his name on it, she asked him if he would like to “redo the barn.”

At first, he thought she was joking, but said yes when he realized she meant it.

The family run farm applied and got a grant for 80% with the owners contributing a 20% match.

In 1991, Glenn purchased the farm in New Braintree as the farm he had in Lunenburg “ran out of land.”

When they bought the 130 acre farm, the only out building at the time was a horse barn; the building they just remodeled.

They now have 300 acres including an orchard.

The couple got married in 1993. Genevieve put aside her plans in architectural landscaping to help fun the farm for two years. She never went back to her original career.

The couple raised their family on the farm



Tammy Gehring stands by the dehydrator in the new commercial kitchen at Stillman's Farms in New Braintree.

and now all four children are involved in farming. Daughter Kate owns and operates Stillman Quality Meats raising grass fed meats and eggs in Hardwick.

Son Curt and his wife Halley run Still Life Farm, also in Hardwick. Younger son, Reid, is part of the New Braintree farm operation. On Saturday, June 20, the day of their open house, he brought strawberries to sell in Jamaica Plains. Younger daughter, Faith is in her third year of premed. She handles the cut flowers.

The Stillman's have four grandsons ranging in age from 10 months to 18 years.

The Stillman's sell at farmer's markets in Boston and Westborough. This year, they also will be participating in the West Brookfield Farmer's Market.

They also offer Community Supported Agriculture farm shares. The grown children of orig-

inal CSA members now are CSA members.

Genevieve said they “do not want to waste food.” They donate food to local food pantries.

With vegetables and fruits left, over they dehydrate peppers, kale and fruits, make kimchi (Korean spicy fermented cabbage), pickles, jams and jellies.

The commercial kitchen will allow them to make more jams and jellies and dehydrate more food for a longer shelf life.

They send out their produce to make sauces and salsa and will continue to do that. The salsa and salsa are available at the farm stand along with honey from the farm.

This year, they planted corn in May under hoops so customrs will have corn earlier than usual.

The farm stand is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

by Ellenor Downer
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Concerts on the Common

NORTH BROOKFIELD – North Brookfield Parks and Recreation, in conjunction with North Brookfield Cultural Council, will be hosting Concerts on the Common this summer season.

A Mass Cultural Council grant is making these concerts possible for all residents to enjoy.

Dates and bands include June 20 from 6-8 p.m. – Ravenwood, an easy listening blue grass band; July 25 from 6-8 p.m. – Sue Lyons, an acoustical guitar player and vocalist; Aug. 15 from 6-8 p.m. – Stan Matthews, country music with some exceptional Johnny Cash tunes; and Aug. 29 from 3-5 p.m. – the Superchargers, a fun rock and roll band.

All concerts are free, they are held on Saturdays and start at 6 p.m. and end around 8 p.m. Food will be available for purchase but folks are welcome to bring their own. Feel free to bring chairs, blankets, bug spray and sunscreen – whatever makes you comfortable.

The playground is right on the common, located on Grove Street in town.

There will also be games for families to enjoy and some surprise craft tables during some concerts.



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Opinion



Kohlrabi - The first question of the summer

A reader of ‘In the Garden’ wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady: “Can you tell me why my kohlrabi did not make a bulb? I have grown them all my life and enjoyed them shredded like coleslaw or cooked with a white sauce. I also know I can use the leaves in stir fry. Thanks for any advice you might have.”



with kohlrabi in the past, I’m thinking either of these scenarios are likely not the case, unless you are gardening in a new locale with new materials or more limited space. The other two considerations are Mother Nature related.

While I am not highly experienced when it comes to kohlrabi culture, I applied a few basic gardening principles to come up with some ideas as to why you are having issues with bulb development, some within your control and others left up to Mother Nature.

Kohlrabi is a member of the cabbage family, a cruciferous vegetable. Think cabbage, broccoli, kale, Brussels’s sprouts, etc.

The swollen stem is considered the “bulb” but it does not grow below ground. Picture the heart of cabbage or the stem of broccoli swollen to look like a flying saucer of sorts.

As our reader mentioned, they are great in coleslaw and they keep a long time. Like other members of this family, they are considered highly nutritious.

Let’s start with fertility. For the biggest, bulbous stem, think less nitrogen and more potassium and phosphorus.

I’m curious if you fertilized with high nitrogen sources, such as composted manure, blood meal or fish emulsion? Or perhaps used a chemical fertilizer with a ratio such as 10-5-5?

The first number would indicate a higher amount of nitrogen than the other two numbers for phosphorus and potassium, respectively.

Another thought would be that kohlrabi can sometimes resist proper bulb formation if it is spaced too close together. Planting a minimum of eight inches apart gives the plant enough space to do it’s thing.

Since you’ve had luck

As I recall, we had a burst of hotter than normal weather in late May. Since Kohlrabi is a cool weather crop, thriving at temperatures less than 75 degrees, the heat stress could have signaled the crop to bolt without ever forming a bulb. Are your plants tall and spindly, or are they otherwise well developed? If you installed transplants, perhaps the trouble started even before the plants even made their way into your garden. Just another thought!

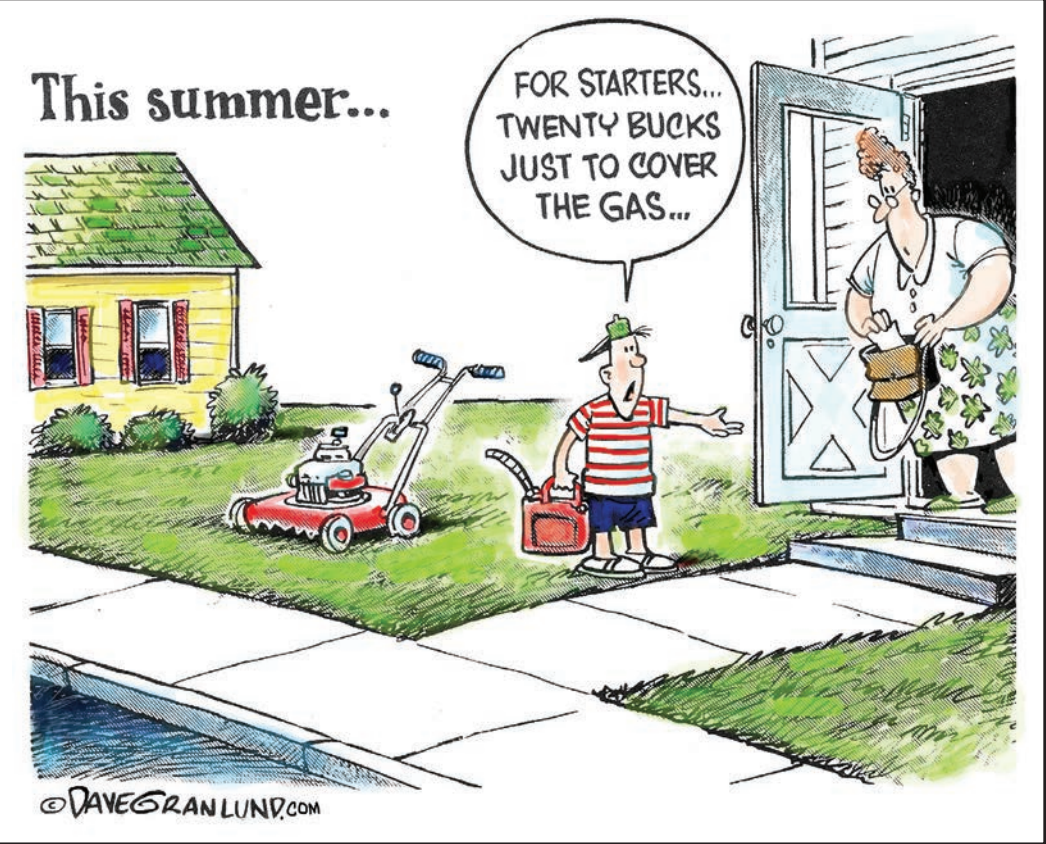
The second weather related issue is moisture. Mother Nature has not been generous in the rain department. Sometimes when droughty conditions are followed by bouts of deep soaking, the would-be bulbous stems can crack or get fibrous before actually bulbing up.

Since we have had less rain that what would be ideal, providing consistent moisture is key.

Although I am not 100% certain why you are having issues this year, I hope that you do give kohlrabi another try. Maybe it was just an off year.

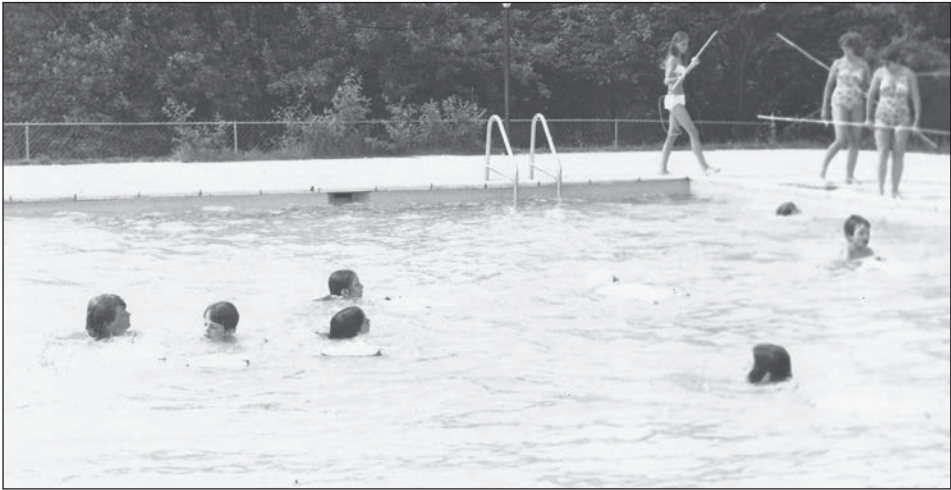
Typically we gardeners are an optimistic lot and our motto is “If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again.” That, I know we will.

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

Look Back - Swimming Lessons – 1970s



File photo
Oakham children participate in swimming lessons at Coldbrook Country Club pool in Barre. On deck are Debby Bullard, Martha Williams, Mrs. Cheryl Benoit and Shelly Bullard. In the water from left, are Charles Dean, Michael Spinney, Jacqueline Bullard, Martha Bechan, Sandra Wells, Ann Bechan, Edward Perroll and Matthew Neylon.

5 years (July 1, 2021)

The Hardwick Board of Selectmen held their meeting Monday, June 28 at 6:30 p.m., during which Chairman Kelly Kemp along with Clerk H. Robert Ruggles opened sealed bids for fiscal 2022 roadway materials. Bids were received from F.T. Smith Sand & Gravel Co., All States Construction, Sealcoating, Inc., R.J. McDonald. Inc., Palmer Paving and Mass Broken Stone. The bids were given to Highway Department Clerk Lori Hoffman and will be awarded on Thursday, July 1. The board approved a motion to offer Parker the position to start as soon as possible. Parker joined the meeting via Zoom and accepted their invitation to meet with them in executive session on Tuesday, June 29.

Reorganizing the

Hubbardston select board was the first order of business following the town election Monday, June 21. Dan Galante said he was chairman for a number of years, was willing to continue, but he would not mind if the board elected someone else. He said Jeff Williams, who was unable to attend the meeting, expressed an interest in continuing as vice-chair. The select board in separate motions elected Dan Galante chair and Jeff Williams vice-chair. They also elected Katie Young as clerk. The chair welcomed Heather Munroe to the select board.

10 years (June 30, 2016)

Robert Rogowski, son of retiring fire chief Joseph Rogowski, will begin duties this Friday. Barre Selectman Lief Ericson discussed things that need to get done. He

said that R. Rogowski would be an administrative officer of fire and ambulance. He explained that a lot of his time as fire chief would be devoted to integrating Emergency Medical Service and the fire department “under one roof.” Ericson said that currently Heather Lemieux, town administrator and Faye Zukowski, administrative assistant, take care of ambulance billing. He said that the new chief would need to hire a part-time person to take care of this task. In addition, the town approved \$100,000 to replace engine one at town meeting and Rogowski would be tasked with finding a truck within the price cap as well.

Quabbin Regional School District Superintendent Maureen Marshall pro-

See PAST PAGES, page 5

Why don’t they just create individual Social Security accounts?

Dear Rusty:

Regarding Social Security’s financial issues, three people contributing to Social Security for every one beneficiary sounds to me like a surplus.

If they had given workers their own accounts, similar to a 401k, where they could manage their own money, it would have worked out more favorably for retirees. President George W Bush suggested these changes, but it was shot down by Congress.

The average worker now pays a 6.2% Social Security tax. If the government had bumped it up to say 7%, I don’t believe that me or anyone else would have cried too hard.

There are ways of correcting this before the SS reserves are depleted and, hopefully, Congress will address Social Security’s financing soon.

Signed: Skeptical Senior



Dear Skeptical:

Believe it or not, putting SS contributions from payroll taxes into separate individual accounts is not really a good idea.

For information, most people get back all payroll taxes they contributed to Social Security within about five years of receiving SS benefits. Even with decent public market returns, some individual separate accounts would eventually run out of money, causing some to lose Social Security benefits before they die, meaning they would likely live in poverty.

People are now collecting benefits on average for decades and the current SS format means that even those who contribute only a small amount will collect benefits no matter how long they live. Remember, the primary purpose of the SS program is to reduce poverty in America.

FYI, President Bush’s plan had opposition in the 2005 Congress largely because of the cost to transition to that plan and the fear that investments in the public markets subjected individual retiree savings to unacceptable risk.

In any case, few have since advocated investing Social Security funds in the public financial markets because of the risks and the political backlash. And adding a small amount to the FICA/SECA payroll tax rate only somewhat mitigates the problem; it doesn’t completely solve it. I’m afraid that Social Security’s financial issues are more complex than that and can’t be fully solved by a small increase in SS payroll taxes.

You are right Congress can and, we are confident, will address this and hopefully soon. For its part, the Association of Mature American Citizens and the AMAC Foundation have been evaluating this issue for years and have developed a Social Security reform plan for Congress to consider.

And we are actively promoting our reform plan in Washington, D.C. Please

know that we share your concerns about the future of Social Security and will continue to work hard to ensure the program is here for many generations.

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

BARRE GAZETTE

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Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

The weather has been so changeable this week, but it was nice to have some rain and cooler days.

Nice things have happened this week. I finally was able to get the printer to work with my computer so that was good news.

I like to print off obits and other things for the Hubbardston Historical Society notebooks that I keep for them.

The other good news was that the handyman and his brother helped me with two very good chores. They moved the lawns and removed moss from the garage roof and cleaned all the rain gutters, which needed it badly. Things were growing in the gutters.

The bad news was I lost my lady helper, but I got a new one. I need someone to get groceries for us as I do not like to leave Ken alone.

This week my daughter is bringing me to have my annual physical and my son-in-law will stay with Ken.

I'm still collecting things to give to the seniors for their yard sale this weekend. I hope I can get to it as it is always a good one.

Mel Green, the town clerk, sent me the site so I could view the Memorial Day Parade in Hubbardston for 2025. It was so nice to see the parade and service on the Town Common.

My handyman did a great job as Master of Ceremonies. The speakers were very good and the Green family sang well. I was surprised at how long the parade was last year.

Things are growing well at Serenity Hill. The mountain laurel is beautiful right now and I noticed along Ragged Hill it was also.

I bet Route 68 toward Worcester is good also as it has been in the past.

I picked lettuce for a salad from my new planter. I used a mixture of ham, cheese, blueberries, cucumbers and lettuce and put dressing on top.

I'm still cleaning in the garage and finding unusual things I have packed away years ago. I keep scrapbooks on the families and have been going through them to see what needs to be updated.

I have ran out of watercolor paper and card stock so I have not been watercoloring. I will have to order some.

Our alert system went off by mistake the other day and the ambulance and the driver showed up at the door. They called me and told me to reset the alarm. I'm not sure why it went off.

The next holiday is Fourth of July. I will watch the concert on television.

Have a good week. Schools are out now.

PAST PAGES from page 4

posed a \$1 million cut in the school budget to try to bring assessments to what the towns can afford. She told the Quabbin Regional School District Committee that reducing the budget that amount would bring assessments for Barre and Hubbardston to within what they approved or near to it. Barre voted a 6.5% increase and Hubbardston 65. Even with the cut, the other member towns would still have high assessments. Hardwick would be at 11% and it voted a 6.5% increase. Oakham would be at 10% and it only voted a 2.5% increase. New Braintree would be at 9% and it like Oakham voted a 2.5% increase.

Baltazar Contractors, Inc. will be having All State Asphalt inject the previous reclaimed area with asphalt and allowed a few days for that to setup. Palmer Paving is scheduled to possibly be in Bar the June 29 to start paving Phase 4 so that the paving would be complete prior to the July 4th holiday, weather permitting.

38 years (July 2, 1988)

Kids on drugs – and a meeting divided over how to help them. It was the scenario played at the Quabbin Regional School District Committee meeting Tuesday night as its members struggled toward a new drug policy for the school district.



think OUTSIDE of the BIG BOX

SUPPORT COMMUNITY BUSINESSES

About the only thing that was agreed on over the two and a quarter hour session was a drug problem exists.

Three fire department members attended the June 29 Selectmen's meeting to discuss an alleged lack of communication between officers, firefighters and Fire Chief Richard Howe. Firefighter Don Apholt, Captain Tom McCaffrey and Lieutenant Tim Toomey presented Selectmen a list of issues that they would like corrected. They told Selectmen they would like to participate in the budgeting process and recommended that goals be set for the department. They would also like to be notified when the fire chief, assistant fire chief or deputy fire chief.

Their name is MX-Ray. They are the fastest single handed sailboats in the world, and they are made right here in Barre. Mark LeBlanc is owner of White Manufacturing, the company that fashions these fiberglass boats and markets them all over the world. The company has been in its location at the foot of Christian Hill in the 8,000 square foot building leased from Chas. G. Allen Co. for almost a year.



Photos by Mandy Pleshaw

Shown are the Directors of the Barre Savings Charitable Foundation and the Barre Historical Society and Museum Directors and Honorary Directors at the Dedication event in celebration of our Country's 250th Anniversary Year with the purchase and planting of a Liberty Elm. From left are Michael Perkins, Ann Meilus, Jim Van Wert, Steve Brewer, Brian Cirelli, Bob Bentley, Kay Potter Flick, Chris Higgins, Dave Flick and Lucy Allen.

Barre Historical Society held 250th dedication ceremony on June 17

BARRE – The Barre Historical Society had a terrific turnout for the two Liberty elm tree USA 250th Dedication Ceremony on Wednesday, June 17, Barre's Founding Day.

The Barre Historical Society and Museum hosted the event to recognize and celebrate the Country's 250th Anniversary by noting the tree planted last fall, thanks to the support of the Barre Savings Charitable Foundation and to the tree planted by the Barre Boy Scout Troop 26 in 2008.

An impressive size group gathered on the Common

for the tree dedications and an even larger group gathered on the back lawn of the Society for the Fifth Annual Summer Solstice Lawn Reception event.

The grounds were beautifully set with music played by The Evening Standard and a wine and cheese reception with Wholesome Farmer's Market donating the wine.

Thank you to all those that came together for this event. With the newly formed Arbor Committee of the Barre Historical Society and Museum organization, the historical society invites them to watch for updates

and join the volunteer effort with the ongoing beautification projects for all of Barre's Common areas as re-treeing project continues in partnership with the town of Barre Common Committee.



Signage installed at the new Liberty Elm; a similar plaque stands in front of the 2008 Liberty Elm honoring the Barre Boy Scouts Troop 26.



Shown are the leaders and members of the 2008 Barre Boy Scout Troop 26 involved in the planting of the Liberty Elm behind them, now standing strong after 18 years. Shown from left, are Rich Glidden, Ron Higgins, Gary Pearson, Jeff Degnan, Richie Stevens, Glenn Alt and Chris Higgins.

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Petersham Brass Band opens season on June 28

PETERSHAM – The Petersham Brass Band opens its summer concert season on Sunday, June 28 at 7 p.m. on the bandstand on Petersham Common, Route 32.

Sunday’s performance will mark the Band’s 864th concert since being formed in 1914. Joseph Gougen is the current director of the band.

He is a native of Gardner and a graduate of the University of Massachusetts. Gougen is currently the music Director in the

Northbridge Public Schools.

Since its inception, the Petersham Brass Band has presented a summer concert series for the past 112 years except during World War II and Covid. Gougen is only the sixth conductor in the band’s history.

Membership in the band is open to any musician from high school age on up that enjoys music. Over the years there have been several musicians that have been recognized for member-

ship in the band of 50 years or more. In addition to the summer concert series, the band has taken part in the Annual Memorial Day exercises, Town Anniversary Celebrations, Old Home Day activities and the former Agricultural Fairs.

The band will perform several new pieces of music throughout the summer that have been purchased with a grant received from the New Salem Academy. Annual support for the concert series is

also provided by the town of Petersham.

Gougen has announced the following program for Sunday’s Concert. Opening with our National Anthem, marches will include “Noble Men” by Sousa, “On the Mall” by Goldman, “King Cotton” by Sousa and “The Footlifter” by Fillmore. Musical Selections will include “The Magic of Harry Potter” arr. by Story, “La Mascarada” by Walters, “English Folk Song Suite”

by Williams, “Grease” arr. by Moss, “Toccata for Band” by Erickson, “Hooked on TV Reruns” arr. by Bullock, “Holiday in Naples” by Whitney, “We Don’t Talk about Bruno” arr. by Sweeney, “Smokey Joe’s Café” arr. by Vinson, “French Country Dance” by Strommen, “Who’s That Masked Man?” arr. by Bocook and “Elton John Classics” arr. by Ford.

Concerts will continue on the four Sundays in July

and end on Sunday Aug. 2. Concerts are held rain or shine. In the event of rain, the concerts move inside to the Town Hall.

Refreshments will be available at the band hot dog stand and the bake sale this week will also benefit the Band. Then Lions Club will also offer popcorn. Information about the band can be found on their Facebook page or by contacting the Band President Dana Robinson at 978-724-3571.

OAKHAM from page 1

She said revenues was not increasing, but costs were increasing. Revenue was up 4%, yet expenses increased by 8%.

For the last 10 to 12 years, the town level funded the budget. She said, “[We] are not going to make it without a 2 ½ override.”

She said the Finance Committee faced a \$400,000 deficit in the FY 27 budget. They used just over \$212,000 from free cash to fund the budget, a practice not recommended by the state.

They did not replace a full-time police officer, who left. They also reduced the Police Chief from full-time to part-time.

Fire Chief Tim Howe said he had “problems with this budget.” He said there was

no raise for firefighters when others town employees got raises.

There was discussion about the \$29,147 increase in Board of Selectmen total salaries, wages and stipends. The amount was \$58,218. for FY 26 and \$87,360 for FY 27.

Select Board Chairman Brunelle said the increase funded a promotion for the Administrative Assistant. He said she attended training sessions and was now Chief Procurement and Human Resources Officer.

He also she filled in when the Treasurer/Collector left, when the Town Accountant went on medical leave and when the Highway Superintendent resigned.

She also attended all Regional Dispatch meetings. Resident Bob Benoit said,

“she was worth every penny.”

Town Accountant Laurie Bartkus said the town did not have the money for this increase. She said according to state statute the position change regarded a town meeting vote.

Following discussion, voters approved the \$5,262,451 budget by hand vote with 87 yes and 20 no.

Voters approved the \$2,899,496.74 Quabbin Regional School Budget, article 9 and the Pathfinder Vocational Technical School assessment of \$256,454, article 10 as recommended by the Finance Committee.

An assessment of \$75,754 for one student to attend Norfolk County Agricultural School in Walpole also garnered discussion. The assessment included \$28,954 for tuition and \$46,800 for trans-

portation.

Under Chapter 74, a student can request to attend a school outside of the district and the town must cover the cost. Voters approved article 11 with a hand count of 62 yes, 46 no and 2 abstentions.

In other articles, voters approved the amendments to the Quabbin Regional School Agreement as approved by the Regional School District Committee and to pay a previous year bill of \$271.76 from the general stabilization fund.

They also approved the transfer of \$75,000 from general stabilization fund to fund Battery Energy Storage System legal counsel account.

Russell Killough-Miller requested an update on the proposal to build a BESS on land on Coldbrook Road.

Matthew Broderick, Chairman of the BESS Committee and the town’s legal liaison, referred to the project as a “hostile takeover.” The company proposed an industrial use when the town does not allow such use.

He said the state held a hearing and waited over six months before the agency involved recommended this project against “town’s wishes” two weeks ago

He said on Thursday, June 25 a group including many state agencies will meet. They can make a decision on that date or decide later.

He said the town has 20 days to appeal that decision in Superior Court. He said the next step would be an environmental study of the site.

He urged voters to support

this article. Michelle Betrand said to “give up now gives the company everything” and said “please vote yes.”

Broderick said he supported the appeal process. Voters unanimously approved article 14.

The final three articles all passed. They included a \$16,500 transfer from general stabilization fund, raising and appropriating \$5,353.12 to the Debt Exclusion Assessor’s Stabilization fund and raising the demand fees for the collection of late tax payments form \$20 to \$30.

Before the meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m., Moderator Turnbull announced his appointments to the Finance Committee of Clark Hendra and Don Haapakoski.

HARDWICK from page 1

Hardwick participants, which accounts for about 7% of the town’s senior population.

O’Brien also addressed concerns about the kitchen not being operational. She said the kitchen manager did not have certifications, so the center had to suspend meals until then, but they served over 17,000 meals, including over 3,800 for Hardwick. O’Brien said they also served about 1,900 congregate meals and 301 free

meals during a government shutdown.

O’Brien also said eight people utilize the transportation services, and there was a quilting square project made by residents of both Hardwick and Barre, which were featured in the Barre Gazette.

O’Brien also said the comments made last meeting were derogatory toward the Hardwick Council on Aging, who she said “pour their hearts” into the senior center. She said the newsletter for the center would “blow you

away.”

O’Brien said the Barre Senior Center is open from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and open from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. on Friday, and they offer meals five days a week. The board signed the agreement as presented.

IT services

Town Administrator Justine Caggiano said the town received five bids for IT services, with their current provider submitting the lowest bid.

The bid that was pre-

sented at the meeting was the second lowest received, as the town is having issues with the current provider.

Select Board Clerk Zack Spencer said the second lowest bidder, Anevry, is a local company, and they have a cart to wheel the camera where it needs to go, a wide view camera, and other boards could put their meetings online.

Caggiano said it seems like the company wants to work for the town, and they also help with public records requests and IT grant writ-

ing. She said the cost of the service would be \$38,400 for the first year, which is only \$400 more than their current provider.

The board will revisit this topic at the June 22 meeting.

Warrant review process

Spencer said the warrants should be put in front of all board members so they can see what the town is paying for, instead of it just being signed by the chair.

Schaaf said he has been the only one signing off on the warrants, and it makes him “uneasy.”

Select Board Vice-Chair William Tinker said the warrant review is one of the primary financial oversight responsibilities of the Select Board, and the board members should have all of the information available to review and ask questions. Tinker also said there should be a policy that any warrants signed in between meetings should come before the rest of the board at the next meeting. He also made a draft policy for the board to review.

Spencer said he would sign off on the warrants if everyone can see them, and said once they are approved, they could be put on the town website for transparency. He said the goal is to reduce overspending.

Tinker said nobody will be “rubber stamping” anything on the warrants.

Kohn also said the tree on the Hardwick common should be saved, as it is being slated to be cut down. She said she contacted a local arborist who said the tree is fine.

She said the common should be beautiful, and the tree represents a symbol. She said paying for a new tree to replace it might not be good compensation.

Caggiano said the insurance company and arborist said the tree, which was scarred by a fire, would not live.

Resident Liz Cyran presented two pages of complaints, and called for the firing of Caggiano, as Cyran accused her of fostering problems, and costing the town money. Caggiano said the board should shut it down “before someone gets sued for slander and libel.”

Town Administrator’s report

Caggiano said the bids for 179 Main St. and fuel are out. She said she held a financial meeting, a meeting with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, and submitted a \$250,000 application for the Community One Stop grant.

She said the town has positions available at the wastewater treatment plant, highway department, accountant and van driver, and they will be appointing someone to the recycling center at their next meeting. She said there will be a draft employee handbook presented at the next meeting.

She read a letter from the Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force to the police department. She also thanked Hardwick residents for messages after the town meeting.

Executive session

The board entered into executive session “to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against an employee not to reconvene in open session” per Mass General Law chapter 30A section 21 (a) (1). Tinker recused himself from the executive session as the matter involved an immediate family member.

Public comment

Resident Judy Kohn said the escalation of personal differences is not a police matter, and there have been “stringent or too stringent measures” regarding differences. She also said the board has failed their job descriptions.

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‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’



Lysander, left, played by Thomas Carnes, is having a confrontation with Demetrius, played by Leland Wheeler.

BARRE PLAYERS from page 1

grow as a creative person,” Olson said.

The show is a romantic comedy set in Athens with a few intertwined plots. One of them follows Hermia (played by Sammi Foti) and Lysander (played by Thomas Carnes), a couple in love, but Hermia’s father demands she marry Demetrius (played by Leland Wheeler).

The couple flees into the woods and pursued by an obsessed Demetrius and Helena (played by Kira Hakanson), who secretly loves Demetrius.

The play also features fairies with Ben Smith playing the Fairy King Oberon and Jennifer Webb playing the Fairy Queen Titania. The two fairies have an argument and Oberon commands his servant Puck to use a magic flower that makes Titania fall in love with the first creature she sees when she wakes up.

The mayhem of fairy magic continues with Oberon ordering Puck to use a love potion on one of the four Athenians involved in a love dilemma. Throughout the play, Oberon looks on as the story between the four love pursuers goes on.

The other storyline involves the mechanicals, a group rehearsing a play in the woods. While they rehearse, Puck, played by Rachael Hager, transforms one of the actors’ heads into that of a donkey.

Sean Gardell portrayed Nick Bottom and Pyramus, whose head was transformed into a donkey head.

The play brought a lot of laughter and the cast had a lot of fun on stage. Though this play was over 400 years old, the Barre Players used Shakespearean dialogue.

Olson said the theater got lucky with gaining a good cast consisting of Barre Player veterans and newcomers, who understand the stories written by Shakespeare. The costumes by Christie Brady had a more contemporary look.

The intent, according to Olson, was to create a contemporary wardrobe with some costumes matching the attire that was worn in the 1920s. A time when Barre Players put on the very first show of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” 105 years ago. For example, Oberon’s costume had the look of a 1920s mob boss.

This is the oldest play performed at Barre Players and the theater group loves doing throwbacks to other classic plays.

Olson says Barre Players look to continue performing Shakespeare plays. Another popular series of plays Barre Players love to work on throughout its history is Agatha Christie plays.

All the shows of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”

at Barre Players went well and the group has a lot more in store as part of their 105th anniversary season.

Coming soon to Barre Players is “Hadestown Teen Edition,” which is directed by Anthony Masciangioli. Performances will be from Aug. 7-17.

Agatha Christie’s “A Murder is Announced” will also be performed this year at Barre Players from Oct. 16-25. To get involved and learn more about Barre Players, email barreplayers@gmail.com.

More information can also be found by visiting www.barreplayerstheater.com. Operating and production support for this play are provided in part by the Barre Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



Sean Gardell played Nick Bottom, whose head gets transformed into a donkey. The donkey head was designed by Anthony Masciangioli.



Titania, played by Jennifer Webb, is the Queen of the Fairies having a discussion with her husband Oberon.



The fairies arrive on the stage during A Midsummer Night’s Dream.



Helena, center, is caught between Lysander and Demetrius.



Oberon, played by Ben Smith, is the manipulative mastermind who uses magic to control the fates of the characters in the play.



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Calendar of Events

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

OPENING RECEPTION takes place today from 4-6 p.m. in the at Petersham Art Center, 8 North St, Petersham. The works of painters Fabio and Sara Deponte celebrating the year of the horse will be on exhibit. The exhibition runs through July 26. Regular Art Center hours are Thursday through Sunday from noon -4 p.m.

PALMER HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF ‘76 REUNION takes place Friday, Aug. 28 with cocktails at 5 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m. at Salem Cross Inn, 260 West Main St., West Brookfield. It will be a summer option for those unavailable in the fall, when a separate Class of 1976 group is planning a reunion on Oct. 17. The event at Salem Cross offers a menu of cheese and crackers, garden salad, and entrees of rustic chicken, honey dijon salmon or vegetarian option. Tickets for the summer event will be \$50, which will include a tip. For the Aug. 28 registration link, which includes payment options online and by post, email Suzanne Strempek Shea at sess7@com-cast.net. RSVP and payment is due no later than Monday, Aug. 10.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

ORANGE COMMUNITY BAND begins the summer concert a bit early this year with the first concert today at 7 p.m. on the bandstand in Butterfield Park, Orange. Concerts will continue on Fridays through July 31.The band will rehearse Wednesday evenings at the Congregational Church from June 10 to July 29. The June 19 concert will be “Just an Old Fashioned Band Concert” and will feature band favorites and some new music from Broadway, Disney and classic repertoire. June 26 will be Beach Night, featuring music from Russian Sailors Dance to the Beach Boys to Tequila. July 3 will be the annual Patriotic concert. The theme is “A Nations’s story in Song” with music ranging from Mohawk Trail by Anne McGinty, to National Game to Apollo 13.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

KIDS FEST to kick off summer takes place at the Fobes Memorial Library, 4 Maple St., Oakham from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. There will be a bounce house, do it yourself tie-dye, bubbles by Malay, petting Pea by Family Education Center, performances and demo by WildKat Hoops, face painting, snacks and beverages. This event is free and open to all.

HILLS OF EAST QUABBIN RIDE takes place today. Bicyclist have a choice of a short loop, 24.2 miles or a long loop, 47.5 miles. Both start and finish at Farmer Matt’s, 860 West Brookfield Road, New Braintree. People may visit BikeReg.com/hills-of-east-quabbin-ride to register or for more information.

FARM TROT 5K FIELD RUN takes place today with registration at 8 a.m. and start at 9 a.m. at Mesa Farm, 67 Muschopauge Road, Rutland. All proceeds will be used to support horsemanship programs for underserved youth. Entrance fee is \$30 if registered before June 27 and \$35 on race day. People may run or stroll through the rolling hayfields and pastures next to woodland, stone walls and the lightly traveled Muschopauge Road. Participants should wear sneakers or farm boots, see the horses, pet a lamb, enjoy a family friendly experience and raise funds for disadvantaged youth to participate in horsemanship activities through the City to Saddle non-profit organization. There will be awards to top three male and female finishers in several age divisions. City to Saddle Farm Trot tee-shirts will be given to the first 60 registered runners. People may register by visiting www.Citytosaddle.org or calling 508-886-6898 for more information.

Where is this?



Turley Publications photo by Ellenor Downer

This week’s mystery photo is from Hardwick. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com with their answer by noon on Monday, June 29. Bill Bowles and Peggy Civilik correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was the Barre Players Theatre, Common Street, Barre.

NORNAY PARK SUMMER CONCERT features Kidd Hurricane from 6-8 p.m. at Nornay Park, Main Street, South Barre. Other concerts are: Saturday, July 11 the Otters from 6-8 p.m.; Saturday, July 25 Cropdusters from 6-8 p.m.; Saturday,, Aug. 8 The Other Gussy from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 22 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The Barre Lions Club will run a concession stand for all Saturday concerts. The concerts are supported in part by the Barre Cultural Council and the Barre Recreation Committee.

AMATEUR RADIO FIELD DAY takes place today from 2-6 p.m. and Sunday, June 28 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Sunday, June 28 on West Brookfield Town Common, Rte. 9, West Brookfield. The public is invited. Field Day is the largest on air amateur radio exercise in the United States, bringing together tens of thousands of licensed operators to demonstrate the reliability, resilience, and public service value of amateur radio.

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

LEMONADE SOCIAL AND OPEN HOUSE hosted by he Rutland Historical Society, 232 Main St., Rutland takes place today from 1-3 p.m. People may browse through the museum and discover the rich cultural history of Rutland’s Finnish American residents and Finnish Heritage Society Sovittaja, celebrating their 100th Anniversary. Memorabilia commemorating this milestone will be on display.

GREAT FOREST FAMILY REUNION takes place today at 1 p.m. at St. Thomas Church, 380 Vernon Avenue, South Barre on the grounds behind the church along the Ware River. This is part of celebrating the special Franciscan jubilee year. This is for families and children ages 4 to 14. Chris Jeffcoat OFS and Angela Richardson OFS, along with the St. Joseph Franciscan Fraternity of Charlton will lead participants to experience creation with curiosity and wonder and how to recognize creation as God’s family, while practicing noticing, questioning and listening. They will help them discover ways they can care for cre-

ation and community and leave with a personal commitment inspired by the question: There will also be a story circle under the trees and families will choose a creation care mission. Participants will reflect on sister water, who gives life to everything and create a parish-wide art installation.

VIRTUAL TOUR OF QUABBIN CEMETERY takes place today at 1 p.m. at the Oakham Historical Museum, 1221 Old Turnpike Road, Oakham. Justin Gonsor of the Division of Water Supply and Protection – Quabbin/Ware River regions will presents a talk and virtual tour of Quabbin Cemetery. Following the talk, the museum will have an open house until 4 p.m.

PETERSHAM BRASS BAND C ONCERT will be held today at 7 p.m. on the bandstand on Petersham Common, Route 32, Petersham. Sunday’s performance marks the band’s 864th concert since being formed in 1914. Joseph Gougen is the current director of the band. He is a native of Gardner and a graduate of the University of Massachusetts. Gougen is currently the music Director in the Northbridge Public Schools. Concerts will continue on the four Sundays in July and end Sunday, Aug. 2. Concerts are held rain or shine. In the event of rain, the concerts move inside to the Town Hall. Refreshments will be available at the band hot dog stand and the bake sale this week will also benefit the Band. Then Lions Club will also offer popcorn.

MONDAY, JUNE 29

FULL MOON WALK sponsored by the East Quabbin Land Trust takes place today at 8:30 p.m. at Mandell Hill Preserve, 660 Barre Road, Hardwick. The Loop Trail hike is 1.5 miles through grassy open fields and on an uneven, single-track footpath through the forest. This trail is easy-to-moderate in difficulty with half on flat terrain and half on moderately steep hills. A limited number of headlamps will be available to borrow. Participants should wear appropriate closed footwear, dress for the weather and bring bug spray. People should RSVP to attrevvett@eqtl.org. Snacks will be provided.

SATURDAY, JULY 4

FOURTH OF JULY PARADE takes place today starting at 10 a.m. in Petersham. Grand Marshals Representative Aaron Saunders and former Senator and currently Director of Rural Affairs Ann Gobi will be the honored guests. The parade will step off at 10 am, starting at the flagpole on The Common, follow the traditional route known as the “Old Maid Mile” and finish in front of Town Hall. Anyone may participate in the parade, either by walking, riding (bicycle, motorcycle, horse or other animal) or by driving car, truck or float. Local Fire Departments will mark the end of the procession. Spectators can view the parade from many locations along the route: on The Common, in front of Town Hall or at Petersham Center School. Parade participants are encouraged to arrive at least by 9:30 a.m.; participants with horses and other animals can park on the Nichewaug Meadow adjacent to the Petersham Memorial Library. The Old Maid Mile route is as follows from the flagpole, travel west on West Street, south on Hardwick Street east on East Street and turn north on Main Street and finishes just beyond the Town Hall. The “Petersham Firefighters’ Association Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser” will kick off the event at 8:30 a.m.

SUNDAY JULY 5

U.S. AIR FORCE HERITAGE CONCERT BAND performs today at 2:30 p.m. as New Braintree kicks off their 275th and the country’s 250th anniversary celebrations. This is a free, family-friendly event for all ages to enjoy. Attendees are invited to bring their lawn chairs or blankets to the green, lying between the New Braintree Historical Society/Post Office at 10 Utley Road and Town Hall at 20 Memorial Drive, New Braintree People may visit the town website at https://www.newbraintreema.us for more information. All are welcome.

SATURDAY, JULY 11

SUMMER FAIR will be held today from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on the front lawn and inside the Petersham Congregational Church, 21 North Main St., Rte. 32, Petersham. A variety of treasures will be available for sharp eyes to spy a deal. There are books, attic goodies, vintage items, furniture, clothing, household items, toys and much more. The church will also sponsor a snack bar, bake sale and the historically tasty and well loved strawberry shortcake. This is always a well attended event and it will be held rain or shine. Larger items will be on the front lawn and the remainder will be in the church and dining hall. Cash and checks will be accepted.

Calendar Policy

POLICY: Our calendar section is intended to promote “free” events or ones hat directly affect a volunteer-driven organization that benefits the community. Paid events that are not deemed fund-raisers or benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public to enter are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items in the mail, by fax, or emailed in Word document format is Monday at noon or sooner. We usually print one week in advance of an event, and the listings should be brief, with only time, date, location, brief activity explanation and contact information.

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Quabbin EP Wine advances to District 3 title game

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE – The final baseball game of the season played by the Quabbin EP Wine Little League team at Felton Field in Barre was a very enjoyable experience. Quabbin EP Wine advanced into the District 3 championship game following a 10-0 shutout victory over Athol/Orange last Tuesday night. The game was halted by the home plate umpire with two outs in the bottom of the fourth inning

due to the ten-run mercy rule. “We played very well defensively, were aggressive on the bases, and we also got the job done at the plate,” said Quabbin EP Wine manager Matt LaPointe, who’s squad posted its first shutout of the season. “It was an awesome performance tonight.” Quabbin EP Wine (8-5) also defeated Athol/Orange (5-7) three times during the regular season. Quabbin lefthanders Murphy LaPointe and Deklan Sampson com-

bined to hold Athol/Orange to just five base hits in last Tuesday’s game. LaPointe, who was the starting pitcher, didn’t allow any baserunners in the first inning before giving up back-to-back singles to begin the second inning. He was relieved by Sampson at that point. “Murphy could only throw 20 pitches to be eligible to start in tomorrow night’s championship game,” said manager LaPointe. “Deklan came in and pitched very well.”

Sampson, who slings the ball to the plate with his wrist, hadn’t been a pitcher prior to this spring. He allowed three hits, which all came in the fourth inning, along with recording five strikeouts and issuing two walks. “Deklan has a consistent delivery, which is perfect for little league,” manager LaPointe said. “We also gave him a lead to protect, which was very helpful.” Sampson managed to get out of the second inning jam with the help of two strike-

outs. The home team took a 2-0 lead in the bottom half of the second inning. Jake Pimental hit a leadoff double into left field before scoring the game’s first run on a wild pitch. Two batters later, Jack Bowen swung at a strike three pitch thrown by righthander Max Wilson. Bowen was safe at first base on a passed ball. He would cross the plated on another passed ball. Pimental and LaPointe had RBI singles in the third

inning, as Quabbin built a 6-0 lead. Lapointe scored following a throwing error by the catcher. Lukas Lance, who hit a flyball single to center, also scored on a wild pitch. Travis O’Connor began EP Wine’s fourth inning rally with a leadoff walk, and he scored on a wild pitch making the score 7-0. Everett Laviolette knocked home another run with an infield hit. LaPointe contributed

See LITTLE LEAGUE, page 10

Post 241 suffers loss to visiting Greenfield

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER – Entering the second week of the American Legion baseball season, Monson Post 241 had the opportunity to move into a first-place tie with Greenfield Post 81 in the Zone 3A standings. The Monson supporters didn’t have very much to cheer for in the first meeting between the two teams. Greenfield remained in sole possession of first place and improved to a perfect 3-0 following an 11-0 shutout victory on a gorgeous evening at Legion Field in Palmer, last Monday (June 15). The contest ended after five innings due to the 10-run mercy rule. “We made more errors than we had base hits in tonight’s game,” said Palmer manager Steve Tripp. “You always have to make the plays to beat a very good hitting team like Greenfield.” While Greenfield outscored their first three opponents, 39-2, Monson (1-2) only scored seven runs in their first three games,



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Kyle Kaczuwka makes a play on a bouncing ball to first base. which were all played at home. Four of the runs came in, a 4-2 win over Sheffield Post 340 on June 12. Tripp received some good news about Theo Haley, who suffered an injury at a preseason practice. Tripp was originally told that it was a season ending injury, but after seeing a doctor, Haley was cleared to return to action. He’s hoping to play his first game during the next couple of weeks. This past spring, Haley was one of the leading hitters on the Palmer varsity baseball team. Making his second

start of the Legion season, Brayden Mega, who graduated from Pathfinder Tech a year ago, set down the first three Greenfield hitters that he faced on a groundball out and two strikeouts. The righthander didn’t receive very much support after that. The Monson batters had a chance to take the lead against Greenfield righthander Matthew Burke in the bottom half of the opening frame. Third baseman Sebastian Mayberry beat out a groundball to the shortstop for an infield single leading off the inning. After the next batter struck out, first baseman Kyle Kaczuwka was also safe at first base following another infield hit. The threat ended quickly, as Burke retired the next two batters on a flyball and a strikeout. “We haven’t scored a first inning run during our first three games of the season,” Tripp said. “We’ve been struggling offensively.” Monson had at least one base runner during the next four innings, but none of

See POST 241, page 10



Hope Santaniello sends a long kick away.

Mutiny suffers loss to Crusaders

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Following three straight 2-1 road losses, the New England Mutiny were looking to celebrate a home victory versus the Hudson Valley Crusaders. The Mutiny managed to take a 1-0 lead before the Crusaders responded with four unanswered goals leading to a 4-2 victory in a USL W League match held at Lusitano Stadium, last Saturday night. “This is a very challenging league,” said Avery Klingensmith, who was an outstanding soccer player at Belchertown High School. “We’ve had several games this season where we had taken an early lead and wound up losing, which is a little bit frustrating. Protecting a lead is something that we need to work on. We really wanted to win tonight’s game.” The Mutiny (1-5-2) are first-year members of the USL W League. Their only victory came at home against

AC Connecticut, 5-0, on May 30. They lost two close road matches against Hudson Valley, 2-0, and 2-1. The Crusaders (5-2-2), along with Hartford Athletic and Vermont Green FC, are trying to finish the regular season in first place in the Northeast Division. Only the first place team earns a berth in the league playoffs. Klingensmith, who wrapped up her collegiate soccer career at American University in Washington D.C. last fall, is planning to join a professional soccer team in Greece at the end of the summer. “I’m really looking forward to starting my professional soccer career in a different country,” Klingensmith said. “Its going to be a different type of experience for me.” Hope Santiniello, who’s from Agawam, has been a member of the Mutiny since 2019. She played in her first home match of the 2026 season against the Crusaders. “The atmosphere at this stadium is always amazing,” said Santiniello, who was a starting defender for the first time in last Saturday’s match. “It’s always been a pleasure playing for this team.”

See MUTINY, page 10



Santiago Blasco fights to keep the ball.



Thomas Wadas clears the ball away.

Pioneers battle to draw with Boston Bolts

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – After 21 days away from historic Lusitano Stadium, the Western Mass. Pioneers returned home last Friday night for an intra-state showdown with the Boston Bolts. The Pioneers faithful supporters had plenty to celebrate early in the match, as the home side stormed out to a 2-0 advantage in the 24th minute. The Bolts responded with a goal late in the first half.

They struck again 15 minutes into the second half and the USL League Two match-up ended in a 2-2 draw in front of a large crowd. “We held a 2-1 halftime lead,” said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. “We didn’t play very well in the second half. This is a very disappointing result for us.” Both teams entered the match with a total of 14 goals. The Pioneers (5-1-2), who have allowed 10 goals, are currently sitting in third place in the Northeast

Division table behind NEC and Vermont Green FC. The top two finishers in the division will automatically qualify for the league playoffs. The Pioneers, who went 2-0-1 in their previous three matches on the road, have qualified for the league playoffs each year since joining USL League Two in 2019. The Western Mass. squad will most likely need to win their remaining five regular season matches and get a little bit of help along the way to keep the playoff streak

alive. “It’s very disappointing letting a two goal lead slip away, especially in front of our fans,” said Felipe De Andrade, who scored the Pioneers second goal. “We’re going to continue to improve and keep fighting the rest of the season.” De Andrade, who’s from Westborough, played for the Bolts, which only won three matches a year ago. “Western Mass has always been a very strong team,” he said. “I just want-

See PIONEERS, page 10



Kayleigh Lukasik heads up the field for the Mutiny.

In the Classroom

Colleges and universities list 2026 graduates

Clark University Worcester Kate Galvinhill of Rutland Master of Science in communication, member of the Alpha Epsilon Lambda honor society. Aman Johnson of Rutland Master of Arts in teaching. Ryan Kerr of Rutland Master of Business Administration (management concentration). Matt Wells of Rutland Master of Business Administration (management concentration).	nications media Caitlin Jane Loescher of Hubbardston, MS counseling Alivia M. Smith of Hubbardston, BS psychological science Peter W. Elliot of Petersham, BS English studies Nia Rose Manderson-Matheson of Petersham, BS communications media Alvin Atta Boachie of Rutland, MS computer science Peter Earl Joslyn of Rutland, BS exercise and sports science Noelle Tatiana Olivar of Rutland, BS Nursing LPN to BS Charles K. Stevenson of Rutland, BS computer science and mathematics	Katheryn Garland Grandbois of Petersham Amari Rae Dahrooge of Rutland Alyssa Marie Maldonado of Rutland Sophia Nicole Mason of Rutland
College of the Holy Cross Worcester Jenna Dupell of North Brookfield, cum laude Jorji LaViolette of Barre, cum laude	Holyoke Community College Holyoke Associates Degree Laura Marie Nimtz of Gilbertville Thomas James Flavell of Hardwick Lindsey Brown of Rutland	Stonehill College Easton Class of 2026 Kelly Daigle of North Brookfield Leah Baxter of Petersham
Emmanuel College Boston Bachelor of Arts Brigid Kirton of Rutland, Summa Cum Laude, liberal studies and elementary education major	Mount Wachusett Community College Gardner Associates Degree in nursing Amanda Leila Tadros of Hubbardston	University of Alabama Tuscaloosa, Alabama Bachelor of Science in aerospace engineering Jacqueline Richardson of Hubbardston
Fitchburg State University Fitchburg Jynessa M. Leary of Barre, B.S. biology Ashley Lynn Ressler of Barre, MED pedagogy and learning Audrey M. Forte of Hubbardston, BS commu-		Worcester Polytechnic Institute Worcester Frederick Smith of New Braintree, Bachelor's degree in civil engineering Giampaolo Maneri of Barre, Bachelor's degree in computer science Emmet Wright of Hardwick, Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering Jordan Gaspar of Oakham, Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering Thomas Reardon of Rutland, Bachelor's degree in robotics engineering

Colleges and universities announce President's and Dean's lists

President's list	Dean's list	University of New England
College of Charleston <i>Charleston, South Carolina</i> Zoe Fish of Hardwick	Hofstra University <i>Hempstead, New York</i> Jenna Oberg of North Brookfield	<i>Biddeford and Portland, Maine</i> Michelle Tremblay of Barre Carter Kapusta of Oakham
University of Alabama <i>Tuscaloosa, Alabama</i> Annika Gunnard of Rutland	University of Alabama <i>Tuscaloosa, Alabama</i> Jacqueline Richardson of Hubbardston	St. Anselm College <i>Manchester, New Hampshire</i> Jack Keefe of Rutland, business administration management concentration major
University of Hartford <i>Hartford, Connecticut</i> Sophia Molinari of Rutland	University of Hartford <i>Hartford, Connecticut</i> Sophia Molinari of Rutland Lilly Sprister of Rutland	

PCS craft fair seeking vendors

PETERSHAM – The Petersham Center School had a hugely successful first-time Craft Fair in October 2025.

There were 30 vendors, which packed the cafeteria and gymnasium areas and there was a waiting list. Building upon that success, the Second Annual Petersham Center School Craft Fair will take place on Saturday, Oct. 24 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the school, 31 Spring St.

Organizers are getting the word out early as they know our crafters and artists fill up their schedules very fast.

The Craft Fair raises funds to cover the cost of the fifth and sixth grade field trip held every spring. The next trip in 2027 will be to the Plimoth Patuxet Museum to learn about its rich history.

The cost of the trip is approximately \$ 3,500. This allows all students to participate without having to be concerned about cost.

The cost includes tickets, the bus, and the expense of a required nurse for the trip.

PCS is looking for craft vendors. Some new and exciting changes are in store for the 2026 Craft Fair. They will offer the vendors both indoor and outdoor spaces, of which there are 30 of each.

The space size is 10 feet by 10 feet and the space fee is \$ 30. There are no electrical capabilities.

The event will run rain or shine.

As an added advantage, indoor vendors are able to set up either Friday evening from 6-7:30 p.m.. or Saturday morning as early as 7:30 a.m. Petersham students will be available to help vendors unload and set up if needed.

This year, they are launching Vendor Bingo. Each shopper will be given a Bingo form.

Each vendor will have a specific stamp and a shopper can have their card stamped.

Cards with at least 75% of the vendor stamps will go into a free raffle. Vendors can participate in the Bingo game as well.

There will be two food trucks for the day.

The Rutland Cub Scouts' food truck will be offering traditional hamburgers and hot dogs along with chili and fried dough.

A new company will join them as well. Daily Provisions food truck will be on site early to provide coffee, tea, lattes, and the like, as well as breakfast sandwiches, small hot breakfasts, and baked goods. They will also provide vegetarian offerings, wraps and other light sandwiches for lunch.

Vendors can take advantage of the fifth and sixth grade students taking their orders with payment at their tables and delivering their lunches back to them to minimize time away from greeting and interacting with the shoppers.

Vendors must supply their own tables, but the school has chairs.

To receive an application, to find out more about the Craft Fair, and for any questions, people may contact Lynne Shaw at Lynneshaw@gmail.com.

Church News

Local pastor offers sermon

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Father's Day and New Member Service

"Here I am, Lord."
Scripture Readings:
Luke 15 v 11-32
and Matthew 9 v 35 -38

I. Introduction
If your father is still with you, you have a precious opportunity to cherish him and honor all he has given you over the years.

Those who have lost fathers or other caring men who helped shape their lives carry cherished memories of them. Others may not share those memories and may instead carry feelings of abandonment or other deep pain.

God is with you and wants you to know that you are loved and cherished by God. Yet many of us remember the men who were fathers, grandfathers, uncles, or guiding figures in our lives and today we pause to honor and celebrate them. We all have our memories and stories to tell of our fathers and those special men in our lives...

II. Here I am, Lord
In Luke 15 Jesus tells the parable of the prodigal son, who left his father's home with the demand that he receives his inheritance.

His father obliged and he left for a distant land, where he lived a wild life and squandered his money. He found himself not among people of his own heritage, but among those who were considered gentiles.

We see him lost, hungry,

with no money, living and working among the pigs, which were considered unclean animals. When he woke up one day, he realized he was in a dire situation and decided to return to his father's house.

When he returned, his father showed unconditional love and compassion, setting aside the hurt and shame his younger son had caused, embracing him, welcoming him home and preparing a great celebration for him and the wider community.

The father then faced another serious challenge: his older son, who had stayed with him, resented his brother's sudden return and the generous welcome he received.

He had to respond not only to the younger son, who was remorseful and seeking forgiveness, but also to the older son, who felt overlooked despite his loyalty and obedience.

Because he loved them both, the father forgave and welcomed his younger son so the family could be healed, reconciled and whole again. He also reassured his older son of his love for him and appreciation for his presence through the years.

Jesus tells this parable to reveal God's unconditional love for all people: those who faithfully serve God and those who drift away, fail to recognize God, or lose themselves on difficult and unruly paths. God's love is for everyone and it is forgiving and wants to heal and reconcile humanity with itself and with God.

III. Conclusion
As fathers here today, and grandfathers, uncles and men who have been there for children who need you, God sees you, and understands everything you face in your own lives and challenges you must deal with.

Sometimes these burdens involve your own children or loved ones, making them especially hard to carry. This parable reminds you that God's gift of love is yours to share with all your children and loved ones, wherever their journeys may lead.

It is also a parable for those of us who serve God here at church, to serve in love and forgiveness and gentleness and kindness, to serve with the knowledge that it is a privilege and a calling to serve God and our church.

The father in this parable is an example for all of us to forgive, receive and heal. And then the passage in Matthew reminds us that we are all called as workers in God's vineyard to go out, spread this love and bring back those who need to be in community with God and with us.

And for our new member, we receive you in love, and we appreciate the commitment you have shown to our church and to God, and we pray that you will find our church community a home where you can worship God and feel the love from all of us. May God bless all fathers and each of us, today and always.

Amen.

Hardwick libraries 'Dig' into Summer Reading

HARDWICK – Hardwick libraries invite you to "Dig In and Read" and sign up for the Summer Reading Program at the Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road. Beginning June 23 there will be activities and prizes for children through adult readers. Join the fun and explore history, science, and culture and dig into dinosaurs, paleontology, archaeology, American history, and plants, Nature and gardening.

This week focuses on dinosaur tracks and reptiles. Rainforest Reptiles will be held on Saturday, June 27 at 10 a.m. at the Town House. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Paige Memorial Library.

Animals rescued from law enforcement seizures, abuse or neglect cases, or surrendered by owners will be shown to help people connect with wildlife and learn about conservation. A

uniformed, trained herpetologist will present a red or yellow-footed tortoise, a monitor or tegu lizard, a six-10 foot boa or python, a three-four foot American Alligator, frogs, bugs, snakes, lizards and real animal artifacts.

You will have the chance to safely touch some of the animals and to volunteer to assist.

Vintage Base Ball will be played on Saturday, July 11 at Roach Field. Join the library's team, the Hardwick Haymakers, to defeat the Westfield Wheelman in a baseball game with Civil War rules or just come to watch the action and eat hot dogs and popcorn provided by the Parks and Recreation Committee to support their work.

Please call 413-477-6704 or email paigelibrary.hardwick@gmail.com for any questions or to secure your place at an event.

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.



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Town Meeting passes budget, changes FD structure

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Residents voted on the fiscal year 2027 budget and a change in the structure of the Fire Department at the annual town meeting held last Friday.

FY 27 budget
The third article of the warrant was for the budget, and it was split into four separate motions, which each passed by majority. The total of the four motions was \$15,383,318 including trans-

fers. The first motion funded the salaries and expenses of the own moderator, selectmen, finance committee, accountant, assessors, treasurer, collector, town clerk, conservation, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, planning board and the zoning board of appeals. The motion also transferred \$184,172 from free cash to group insurance. The total for the first motion was \$5,656,001. The second motion was for the funding of the salaries and expenses of the

police and fire departments, and the building, plumbing, gas and wiring inspectors. The motion also funded the tree warden and the North Brookfield Emergency Management Agency. The total for the second motion was \$1,153,952. The third motion was to fund the salaries and expenses to operate the school department. The total for the motion was \$7,358,698, with about \$6.833 million of that being for the North Brookfield Public Schools. The fourth motion of article three was for the salaries and expenses of the highway

department, board of health, cemetery, council on aging, veterans, library, playground and Town Forest Park. The total for the fourth motion was \$1,214,655. **Fire Department oversight** Article 15 of the warrant was to change the oversight of the Fire Department to be directed by the Board of Selectmen rather than a board of fire engineers, which would be terminated at the appointment of a fire chief by the selectmen. The new structure would allow the fire chief to supervise the day-to-day opera-

tions of the department. Selectman Peter Orsi said this was for updated leadership, and the article passed by majority. **Other financial articles** Articles 4 and 5 funded the salaries and expenses of the water and sewer departments respectively. The total for the water department was \$834,679. The total for the sewer department was \$1,384,509. Article 13 was for the North Brookfield Emergency Squad contract, and a separate cost for Advanced Life Support, for a total of

\$178,000. Article 14 approved the town’s apportionment of Chapter 90 funds at \$532,141. Article 12 set the revolving funds for various boards and departments. **All other articles** Every other article on the town meeting warrant passed. **STM** There was a one article special town meeting prior to the annual town meeting, which approved the transfer of \$3,555 from free cash to the general fund transfer to satisfy school lunch program interest from a prior fiscal year.

Quabbin Days plans are underway

BELCHERTOWN – The Friends of Quabbin encourage municipalities, historical societies, museums, libraries, conservation organizations, arts groups, farms, business and community organizations throughout the Quabbin Region to begin planning for Quabbin Days 2026 scheduled for Oct. 9-12. Quabbin Days is a regional initiative, coordinated by the Friends, to encourage residents and visitors to explore the twelve communities of the Quabbin Region through a variety of local events, programs, exhibits, tours, performances, outdoor activities, and community gatherings. “We know that many organizations begin planning their fall schedules months in advance,” said Ed Comeau of the Friends of Quabbin. “We want to give everyone enough

lead time to consider how they would like to participate and to explore opportunities to work together.” The inaugural Quabbin Days celebration in 2025 brought together organizations from across the region and demonstrated the value of a shared regional effort through historical programs, museum exhibits, art shows, living-history demonstrations, and much more. Participation can take many forms. Organizations may create new programs specifically for Quabbin Days or designate existing activities taking place during the October holiday weekend as part of the celebration. Event information will be added to the Quabbin Days website as plans are finalized, and events can be submitted for the calendar at www.QuabbinDays.org/contact.

A key component of the initiative is the Quabbin Trail, a self-guided route connecting the twelve watershed communities. By linking attractions, historic sites, museums, natural areas, farms, and local businesses, the trail encourages visitors to explore the region while supporting individual communities and organizations. The Friends of Quabbin (www.FriendsOfQuabbin.org) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the natural, cultural and historical significance of the Quabbin Region. Through advocacy, education, and community partnerships, the organization works to protect the watershed and share its stories with future generations.

RUTLAND STM rom page 1

and nearly \$2.5 million less than the FY 24 increase. The narrative states “the result is a major shift of the revenue burden from the State to our member towns.” The narrative states the budget approach for FY 27 was based on level-services, with some new staff to “resolve inequities between schools,” and “improving the experience of our high needs students.” The new positions include two interventionists and six special education teachers. Another handout provided titled “FY 27 Budget Fact Sheet - Rutland,” states the original budget was reduced by \$1.7 million due to a new health insurance funding structure. The fact sheet also states the budget reduces at least 12 positions. The sheet states the district has committed \$2.6 million from other revenue sources to attempt to decrease town assessments, including \$1 million from excess and deficiency. The sheet states the reason Rutland’s assessment is higher is due to the state raising the town’s minimum local contribution by 5.25%, which the district cannot control. The sheet states the total expenditures of WRSD are in

the bottom 11% percentile of 264 districts in the state.

Public comments
Resident Louis Cornacchioli said he was “perplexed” by the Finance Committee’s decision not to vote favorably. He said that the school was laying employees off, and their argument “holds no water.” Another resident said the district’s 0.4% increase in discretionary costs was responsible. A resident said the average salary of teachers was \$113,000 and the spending was “out of control,” but WRSD Superintendent James Riley said the salary number was not true, and if the school cut any more, it would “decimate” the system. Resident John Roticki said the highest salary in the school was \$108,000. Another resident said the town was violating the law by allowing this issue to be re-heard, and called for the boards to resign. The motion passed with 255 in favor and 146 opposed. A motion was made by resident Michele Van Reet to reconsider, but it failed with 99 in favor and 301 opposed. **Citizen’s petition** Article 3 was a citizen’s petition submitted by resident Justin Bassett, who said he received 300 signatures in a

weekend, seeking an override of \$1,125,145 to fund the Police Department, Fire Department and Department of Public Works. The article asked for \$458,726 for the Fire Department, \$449,496 for the Police Department and \$216,923 for the DPW. Since this was a citizen’s petition, any result would be non-binding. The Finance Committee recommended no action. One resident asked about why the library was not part of this motion. Another resident asked if they could amend the motion to add both the library and senior center, but since it was a citizen’s petition, it cannot be amended. Police Chief Nicholas Monaco said if this were to pass, the four officers slated to be laid off would be reinstated, but three of them have already gone to other communities due to the instability. The motion passed with 262 in favor and 115 opposed.

Alcohol license Article 2 asked voters to allow the Select Board to petition the general court for one additional alcohol license for the sale of alcohol to be consumed off the premises for Varshi Foods Inc., doing business as Rutland Market Place. The motion passed with 378 in favor and 16 opposed.

MEETING HOUSE from page 1

Select Board representative Katie Young said because this project involves government money, it is required to hire a consultant as part of the application. Worth said it could be possible to use money from a CPA administration fund to cover the cost of the consultant. Worth said she would bring this application up at the next CPC meeting on June 25. **Windows** The committee discussed what repairs need to be done to the windows on the meetinghouse. Committee member Gary Kangas said there are four windows on each side of

the building, so about eight total. Committee members discussed installing plastic film over the windows to help with drafts and temperature control in both the summer and winter. They said shutters could also help, but they would not be able to install them by this coming winter. Committee member Richard Green said the windows are one of the most important and expensive parts of the building. Young said there is a possibility of students from Montachusett Regional Technical High School coming to help, and Department of Public Works Director Travis Brown could help set that up.

RUTLAND SB rom page 1

one time and the town could consider forming a permanent one. Some other goals brought up by members of the board included budget books and warrant information sessions prior to town meetings as a part of communications improvements, along with the finance committee giving a report to voters at town meeting. Select Board member Harry Sechman said for capital projects and debt, it is important to look at the needs of the Department of Public Works, because they have been restrained. Whiteman said another capital goal is renovating the senior/recreation center with an accessible kitchen and restrooms, because the current center does not serve the seniors as it should. Dibb said the top floor of the community hall needs to be Americans with Disability Act accessible as well. Select Board member Paul Mattson said getting a town planner to look at usable property around town is another goal. Dibb said to support the staff, some goals are recognizing milestones and having more team building and professional development days.

Town communications The board reviewed a social media policy, with the largest impact being the removal of comments from official channels on Facebook, including the police and fire departments and appointed boards and committees. The elected boards and committees will have to make separate rules, according to Dibb. Whiteman said the policy makes sense because there is not as much monitoring capacity with the loss of staff and the comments can devolve. She also said there should not be exemptions for the police and fire channels, because the comment-

ers may move there instead. The board also reviewed the possibility of forming a communications advisory committee of five members to serve staggered three year terms. Dibb said the committee would be advisors to the select board, and would not make social media posts or make changes to the town website. Butler said the committee could work on town branding and messaging. Select Board member Alex Mowatt said this policy would create extra work and Sechman also said it was too involved. Dibb said the hope was for it to be less work by using volunteers instead of town employees. **Meeting spaces** The board discussed alternate meeting spaces since the library trustees are not allowing committees to use the building after hours, with the exception of the Select Board. Some places brought up as possibilities include the community center, old fire station, the DPW conference room and an annex. Butler said since some boards have scheduled public hearings into July, they are requesting a stay from the trustees to give them an extra month so those hearings can take place.

Interdepartmental transfers The board signed several interdepartmental transfers including \$90,000 from highway wages for snow and ice, \$76,145 from health insurance for snow and ice, a separate cost of \$13,855 for snow and ice, \$64,000 from the town planner line item to legal fees, \$1,000 from health insurance for postage, \$132 from select board expense for election wages and \$4.01 from health insurance for debt interest. **Proclamation** The board signed a proclamation celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Finn Park, read by Select Board member Mattson.

Budget The committee discussed the budget, which they do not have an exact number for. Young said there was \$25,000 in a town well when the committee started, but there was work done at the meetinghouse including plumbing, toilets, locks and alarms. Young said she is not sure where that money came from, or if it will be coming from that account in the future. Worth added up some of the projects that have been done since the committee started, and said it came out to roughly \$15,000, so they should still have \$10,000 left to work with. Committee member Carol Whitney said the Hubbardston Fair profited \$507 for the committee.

Appointments The board appointed various members for fiscal year 2027 board and committee appointments with the exception of the Earthworks Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and 4th of July Committee, who are not seeking re-appointment. The board also appointed John Wamback as an associate Planning Board member.

Other items The board signed a letter of support for the audit as requested by a resident. The board approved FY 27 water and sewer rates based on amounts voted at the annual town meeting. The board approved the borrowing of a ladder truck, and a bid from Greenfield Cooperative Bank, the borrowing is in the amount of \$1.8 million with a 3.25% interest rate for a term of one year. The board signed a release of deed for a property that was in tax title, taken by the town, and sold to another person. The property is 91 Central Tree Road. The board also ratified memorandums of agreement with the police and fire union, signed payroll warrants, and approved the minutes of the June 1 and June 8 meetings.

Public comment Dibb used public comment to congratulate the events committee on their first concert on the common, along with the library on their 25th birthday celebration. Sechman spoke as a resident during public comment, saying he was asked by other residents to convey that Dibb flying an American Flag on her home upside down was disrespectful to service people, who have lost their lives, and to think of her actions as the number one representative of the town. Dibb said it was a Betsy Ross flag and hopes nobody thinks what she does on her property affects her ability as chair.

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of July 4th, there will be an **EARLY AD, PUBLIC NOTICES & CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE**

To advertise, place your ad no later than **NOON Thursday, July 2**

– Thank you!

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Public Safety

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, May 24
12:27 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Natty Pond Drive, Mutual Aid Transport
12:47 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures, Plum Tree Lane, Mutual Aid Transport
11:44 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Old Princeton Cutoff Road, Transported to Hospital
5:15 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, High Street, No Transport Required
10:48 p.m. Threats, New Westminster Road, Report Filed

Monday, May 25
2:57 p.m. Complaint, Pitcherville Road, Officer/Chief Advised

Tuesday, May 26
12:29 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Mile Road, Transported to Hospital
2:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Williamsville Road, Written Warning
3:14 p.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Ragged Hill Road, Mutual Aid Assist
6 p.m. Complaint, Worcester Road, Officer Spoke to Party
11:04 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity,

Malone Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Wednesday, May 27
7:23 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Lombard Road, Removed from Scene
7:35 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Burnshirt Road, Transported to Hospital
1:11 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Seizures, Burnshirt Road, Transported to Hospital
1:51 p.m. Threats, Hubbardston Police Department, Officer Spoke to Party

Thursday, May 28
5:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written Warning
10:22 a.m. Animal – Wildlife, Gardner Road, Referred to Other Agency
4:32 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Brigham Street, Referred to Other Agency
6:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Elm Street, Written Warning
6:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written Warning

Friday, May 29
3:35 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Williamsville Road Ambulance Signed

Refusal
5 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning
5:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Citation Issued
7:36 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Evergreen Road, Negative Contact
7:41 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Madison Way, No Transport Required
8:53 p.m Assist Other Police Department, Templeton, Officer Spoke to Party

Saturday, May 30
1:12 a.m. Fire – Lost Person/Search and Rescue, Brigham Road, Report Filed
9:01 a.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wires, Halfrey Road, Removed from Scene
9:20 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Main Street, Information Taken
9:21 a.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Worcester Road, Information Taken
10:26 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Intervale Road, Information Given
11:07 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Old Westminster Road, Mutual Aid Transport

New BraintreePolice Log

During the week of June 15-22, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 13 building/property checks, 27 direct-ed/area patrols, six radar assignments, one traffic control, one emergency 911 call, three citizen assists, one assist other agency, one motor vehicle investigation, two safety hazards, one scam and two animal calls in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, June 15
10:27 a.m. Safety Hazard, Worcester Road, Services Rendered

Tuesday, June 16
8:48 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Wednesday, June 17
8:23 a.m. Safety Hazard, Uteley Road, Officer Handled

Thursday, June 18
10:41 a.m. Welfare Check, Bernard Whitney Road, Investigated
2:22 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Friday, June 19
5:07 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Unitas Road, Criminal Complaint
12:38 p.m. Scam, Gilbertville Road, Voice Message Left

Saturday, June 20
12:23 p.m. Assist Citizen, Barr Road, Negative Contact
1:21 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Monday, June 22
12:15 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Ravine Road, Transported to Hospital

Public Notices

Notice of Public Hearing New Braintree Zoning Board of Appeals

The New Braintree Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, July 16, 2026 at 6:30 pm** In the Town Hall 20 Memorial Drive New Braintree, MA on the Application of Jonathan Wawrzonek (D A Twines LLC) Applicant, seeking a Special Permit under the provision of MGL 40A and Chapter 9 Section C.14 of the Town of New Braintree Zoning Bylaw to construct a 4,000 square foot metal building for the proposed use of storage and mechanics. Proposed building site is 278 Hardwick Rd. Town Assessor’s Map 404, Lot 23

The application is on file in the Town Hall Clerk’s Office. All those interested must be present, or send a representative, or send communication in advance of the hearing date.
06/25, 07/02/2026

BARRE PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

The Barre Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, **July 7, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Henry Woods Municipal Building, Boards’ Office, Floor 3, requested by Central Massachusetts Regional Emergency Communication Center (CMRECC) for an emergency communications tower to be installed to improve first responder communication in the South Barre area located at 50 Main Street, South Barre, Assessors Map H, Lot 56 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds Book 5698, Page 0033.

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

Floyd Kelley, Chairman
06/18, 06/25/2026

PUBLIC AUCTION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF M.L.C. 225 SEC.39A THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD ON **July 6, 2026** AT A SALE TO SATISFY OUR GARAGE LIEN THEREON FOR TOWING & STORAGE CHARGES AND EXPENSES OF SALE AND NOTICE:
2012 Chrysler 200 Gray 1C3CCBBB0CN278729
2010 BMW X5 Black 5UXFE4C57AL278760
2013 Volkswagen Jetta 3VW1K7AJ0DM207115

2011 Honda Accord 1HGCP2F60BA087901
2009 Ford E-Series 1FTNE24L49DA70825
2011 BMW 7 Series WBAKC8C58BC433487
2008 Ford Focus 1FAHP35N68W276492
2016 Mazda Mazda6 JM1GJ1W50G1467203
2010 Nissan Murano JN8AZ1MW1AW132556
2011 Hyundai SONATA 5NPEB4AC0BH095343
2004 Jeep Grand Cherokee 1J4GW48S44C338347
2006 Honda CR-V JHLRD68516C024607
2006 GMC Savana 1GJHG39U061188214
2018 Dodge Grand Caravan 2C4RDGCGXJR216135
2006 Ford Explorer 1FMEU-74816ZA02780
2008 Ford Explorer 1FMEU73EX8UA15857
2008 Honda Accord 1HGCP26888A051609
2019 Toyota RAV4 JTMP1RFV6KJ002044
2007 Toyota Prius JTDKB20U577576508
2010 Hyundai ACCENT KMHCM3ACXAU174983
2009 Honda Civic 2HGFA16529H354404
2013 Subaru Impreza JF1GPA16XD2889969
2008 Honda CR-V JHLRE48588C069693

**The sale will be held at
Early’s on Park Ave.
at 536 Park Ave.,
Worcester, MA 01603**
06/18, 06/25, 07/02/2026

Town of New Braintree Request for Sealed Bids

The Town of New Braintree will accept sealed bids for materials to be used in road construction and general road maintenance of various town roads. The estimated value provided in this Invitation to bid is for FY2027.

All bids signed with the name and address of the bidder should be submitted in a sealed envelope that is plainly marked in the lower left-hand corner of the envelope **“Goods and Services FY2027”**.

All bidders are required to be in compliance with Mass. General Laws, Chapter 149, Prevailing wage rates, where applicable.

The Town of New Braintree reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any informalities in the bidding if they deem it in the best interest of the town to do so.

Bid specifications must be obtained from the Select Board

office, 20 Memorial Drive, New Braintree, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or can be emailed upon request by calling the Highway Department at (508) 867-2451.

Bidders must be prequalified by the Contract Engineer of Mass. D.O.T., before specifications can be handed out.

Bids will be received until **9:00 a.m., Monday July 06, 2026**, and will be opened and read at 9:05 a.m. in the office of the Select Board. The bid shall include a statement of non-collusion.
06/18, 06/25/2026

Town of Barre PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE New Farmer Distillery Pouring Permit License and Alteration of Licensed Premises

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Barre Select Board will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.** in the Select Board Meeting Room, Henry Woods Building, 40 West Street, Barre, Massachusetts, to consider the application of Stone Cow Brewery LLC d/b/a Stone Cow Distillery, located at 500 West Street, Barre, Massachusetts, to add, per MGL C.138, a Farmer Distillers Pouring Series License to the currently permitted Farmer Brewery Pouring Service License, for both on and off premise consumption of distilled liquor, and for the alteration of the existing area of the Farmer Brewery Pouring Series License to include an area for the new Farmer Distillery Pouring Series License.

Any person wishing to be heard on this matter may appear at the hearing and provide comments. Written comments may also be submitted to the Select Board prior to the hearing and will be considered as part of the public record.

For the Select Board:
Melanie Jackson
06/25/2026



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**.

Job Connection

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Police Officer

JOB POSTING Town of Warren FULL TIME OPENING

The Warren Police Department is accepting applications for the position of a full time Police Officer. Applicants are preferred to be academy trained and must be willing to work weekends, nights, and holidays.

Responsibilities include responding to emergency and non-emergency calls for Police, Fire and Ambulance services. It is preferred that applicants currently possess valid certification as a Police Officer. Candidates must have strong interpersonal, verbal, and written communication skills. Preferences include an associate degree or higher in criminal justice, serve in the US military, or experience as a Police Officer.

The Patrolmen’s contract provides an education incentive and a candidate with prior municipal policing experience may also be considered to start at a higher rate of pay.

Resumes and cover letters must be returned no later than Friday, July 3, 2026, to the attention of Lt. Kyle Whitcomb, WPD PO Box 606, Warren, MA 01083 or whitcomb@warren-ma.gov.

The Town of Warren is an equal opportunity employer.

North Brookfield receives risk management grant

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Town of North Brookfield was awarded a \$9,200 risk management grant from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association, the town’s property and casualty insurance provider, to support a lockout/tagout station, a winch tripod with harness for confined space work and a Safety Care trainer.

The town said the grant has enhanced the safety, preparedness, and effectiveness of its municipal workforce. The town said the lockout/tagout station has improved safe equipment servicing at the wastewater treatment plant, the confined space equipment has strengthened sewer department safety during high-risk operations, and the Safety Care trainer has helped equip school

staff with skills to prevent injuries and respond appropriately to challenging situations.

“We are extremely grateful to MIIA for providing this funding and helping us make meaningful investments in employee safety across multiple departments,” said Jamie Gilman, chair of the Board of Selectmen. “I would also like to recognize and thank our Administrative Assistant to the Board of Selectmen, Mary Beth Kularski, for her efforts in identifying and securing these grant opportunities that directly benefit our employees and residents. These funds will help keep our school staff, Sewer Department personnel, and other municipal employees safer while they perform the essential work that serves

our community every day.”

Now in its 24th year, MIIA’s fiscal year 2026 risk management grant program awarded a total of \$1 million to 146 members to support risk management practices and projects that help protect employees, buildings, infrastructure, and other public assets.

“This grant program is about helping members take practical steps to reduce risk and strengthen resilience,” said Stan Corcoran, Senior Executive and MIIA Executive Vice President. “Our focus this year was to empower members to effectively address the growing challenges of evolving weather patterns, employee health and safety, and emerging cybersecurity threats. We are pleased to support North Brookfield’s

efforts to strengthen employee preparedness, reduce workplace risk, and support safer municipal operations.”

MIIA is a membership service of the Massachusetts Municipal Association. As a mission-driven, member-led nonprofit, MIIA focuses on providing Massachusetts municipalities and other governmental entities with insurance coverage alternatives, quality risk management and wellness programs.

For over four decades, MIIA has proudly supported its members in their efforts to build stronger communities, foster safer work environments, and implement programs that promote the health and well-being of their employees. For more information, visit www.emiia.org and www.mmaa.org.

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue’s relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Barre Gazette, please email edowner@turley.com.

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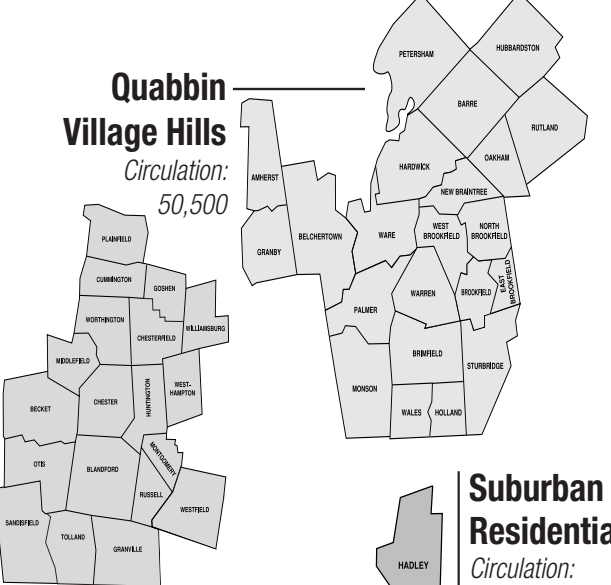
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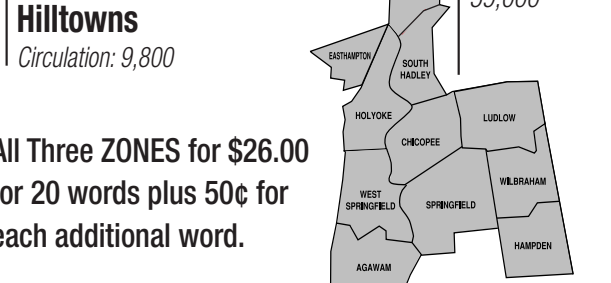
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FOSC appoints Mackenzie as Artistic Director

HARDWICK – Friends of the Stone Church is investing in its celebrated concert program with the appointment of Mary Mackenzie, soprano, educator and arts administrator, as Artistic Director.

Critically acclaimed as “a soprano of extraordinary agility and concentration” by the New York Times, Mackenzie has performed across the U.S. and is particularly known for her evocative chamber music performances. As a soloist she has collaborated with the Albany Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, American Symphony Orchestra and the Juilliard Percussion Ensemble, among others.

After over a decade of being a full-time freelance

musician based primarily in New York, she and her husband now live in Worcester, and she serves as the Director of Events & Operations for Infinity Events Co., an event planning company with a focus on producing events for corporate and non-profit businesses.

Mackenzie has a large network of colleagues in the northeast who are exceptional performers and educators in classical (and classical-adjacent) music and she is excited to bring her skills and contacts to FOSC and to work with the FOSC board to develop its concert programming.

“As a performer and producer whose training is rooted in the classical tradition,

but who has had a career built on a love of contemporary classical music, I believe very strongly in bridging the gap between old and new,” said Mackenzie. “I want audiences to have the opportunity to experience something familiar – and something surprising.”

Of the Stone Church Cultural Center, she said, “The Stone Church’s strength as a venue is its ability to be both a formal and informal space. The combination of wonderful acoustics, excellent instruments, and a warm, inviting and creative local community make



Mary Mackenzie

it a true gem of a place for musical artists to share their work and to have fun doing it!”

FOSC continues its dual mission of preserving the iconic 1874 Stone Church and welcoming the community in through its open doors. Since its founding 11 years ago, one of the primary ways FOSC has engaged the community is through the presentation of high-quality music.

To continue the tradition of Friends of the Gilbertville Organ, established by founding board member the late Don Boothman, and to devel-

op its own signature concert program, former FOSC director Mary Warbasse reached out to many talented musicians to create a distinctive concert series. Her success is reflected in the fact that musicians contact FOSC wanting to play at the Stone Church Cultural Center.

FOSC president, Judy Edington, and the entire board recognized that this was a program worth continuing and investing in. Warbasse is “delighted that the program will continue with professional leadership.”

Mackenzie begins her part time position with FOSC immediately and will help complete and fill out the upcoming 2026/2027 concert season. The fall concerts will

include Wild and Tended, a program of art songs from the 19th century to today, developed by and presented by Mackenzie and collaborator Matthew Jaskot from College of the Holy Cross.

Edington stated, “The board could not be more excited to begin this new relationship, and we look forward to watching how FOSC’s concert program will grow and evolve in the years ahead.”

FOSC is a charitable organization that relies on the generous support of time, talent and treasure of its community supporters. The Friends look forward to keeping the doors of the Stone Church Cultural Center wide open and welcoming in the community.

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