

BARRE GAZETTE

USPS 044560

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

July 9, 2026 | Vol. 191, No. 15 | \$1.00

www.barregazette.turley.com



U.S. AIR FORCE BAND *performs for town's 275th*

By Paula Ouimette
Editor
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NEW BRAINTREE – The Historical Commission and the 275th Anniversary Committee hosted the renowned U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Band for a special 4th of July

performance of “American Ascent: 250 years of Nation and Sky” this past Sunday.

The 1st Hardwick Independent Battery fired its cannons during several of the musical selections, including the “1812 Overture”.

The green between Memorial Drive and the common was filled with hun-

dreds of spectators, while the band performed the inaugural concert under the newly built pavilion. This pavilion was built by volunteers to commemorate the town’s 275th anniversary.

Master of Ceremonies

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page 6

Turley Photo by Paula Ouimette
Staff Sergeant Daniel Gelman, Staff Sergeant Jarrett Kocan and Technical Sergeant Brian Bean were soloists for the song, “Bugler’s Holiday” during the U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Band’s performance for New Braintree’s 275th anniversary celebration held on July 5.

Select Board honors late Fire Chief Black

By Paula Ouimette
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NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Board of Selectmen held a moment of silence to recognize the passing of retired Fire Chief James Black.

Black dedicated 50 years of service to the department before retiring in 2010. He began with the department as a firefighter, making his way up the ranks to chief in 1984.

“Throughout his long and distinguished career, Chief Black earned the respect of his fellow firefighters, our community, which he faithfully served,” Selectmen Peter Orsi read from a statement at the May 19 meeting.

Orsi said 50 years is “unheard of” in the fire service.

“A lot of people had a lot of respect for him,” he said.

Financial items

The board approved a transfer request in the amount of \$60,000 from the Highway Department from the Salaries line item to the Vehicle Supplies. This money will be used to bring all fleet vehicles up to mechanical safety and meet inspection codes.

Board of Selectmen Chair Jamie Gilman said there was additional money in the Salaries line item due to vacancies on the department.

The board also approved

the transfer of \$10,000 from the Salaries line item to the Road Materials line item to purchase processed gravel for work on Boynton, Downey and Murphy roads.

The board also approved a request from the Board of Health to transfer \$800 from Recycling Center Monitor Salaries to Electricity due to the rising cost of utilities. There was additional money in the salaries line item due to vacancies.

The board approved the Sewer Department’s request to transfer \$.25 from DSL Line to Debt to cover the difference of a miscalculation for new sewer debt.

The Finance Committee previously recommended the transfer requests.

Reserve Fund requests

The board approved the following Reserve Fund requests: Zoning Board of Appeals, \$290.52 to cover additional costs of special permit hearings; and the Fire Department, \$8,564.04 for vehicle repairs.

The board also approved a request to rescind a previously approved Reserve Fund transfer to the Police Department for computer purchases in the amount of \$1,336.63.

Spending requests

The board approved spending requests from the Council on Aging in the amount of \$375 from the gift account for a workshop for seniors with Bemis Nursery on June 23; and the

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page 7

McCormick presents test scores, ideas for future

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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NORTH BROOKFIELD – The School Committee held a regular meeting last Monday where Timothy McCormick, the superintendent of North Brookfield Public Schools gave a presentation on test scores and ideas from the school community on the future of the district.

At the June 15 meeting, McCormick presented results from a Measures of Academic Progress test that was administered at all levels, but the results for the high school were not yet

available. McCormick said the MAP test is designed to examine student growth and achievements, and look at progress regardless of grade level.

He said the academic team designed a four step process for the review of scores including describing, reflecting, interpreting and prioritizing. Some of the strengths based on the results were grade four math, which scored in the 81st percentile, grade five math, which scored in the 68th percentile and grade five reading, which scored in the 65th percentile, according to McCormick’s presentation.

There were also two

examples of students in cohorts A and B that improved significantly, the student in cohort A gaining 43 percentile points over three years, and the student in cohort B gaining 53 points in that same time.

There were also some areas to focus on highlighted in the presentation, including grade six reading, which averaged in the 43rd percentile, grade six math which averaged between the 41st and 43rd percentile, grade eight reading which averaged in the 28th percentile and grade eight math which averaged between the 39th and 42nd percentile.

McCormick said the inter-

pretation from this data is there is strength in the elementary school and a gap in the middle grades, meaning there is a need to fine-tune instruction in those grades. Some next steps include targeting middle school reading, expanding student teacher conferences and aligning the MAP tests with MCAS.

School Committee member Nancy Waldron asked what could be driving the lower results in the middle school, and McCormick said they have implemented a new program called high quality instructional material, and

See SUPERINTENDENT,
page 7

A star-spangled CELEBRATION

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Parks and Recreation Committee and friends hosted a well-attended 4th of July celebration on the common this past Saturday, complete with music, games, activities, food and a bonfire.

This event celebrated the nation’s 250th anniversary of independence.

The Otters and DJ Tabby LeBlanc provided the musical entertainment, and festivalgoers were able to keep cool in the dunk tank and chill zone.

Various businesses and town organizations set up booths, and a food and ice cream trucks were also on hand. There were free crafts, temporary tattoos, face painting, an egg hunt and more.



Turley Photo by Camren Robertson

Sue Lewandowski and Sheila Orsi ran the Community Heart & Soul tent at North Brookfield’s 4th of July celebration held this past Saturday on the common.

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PHOTOS PAGE 7.**



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News of the Towns



ROUND TOWN

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Legion holds meat raffle

On Sunday, July 19 at 2 p.m., American Legion Post #2, 450 South Barre Road, will hold a meat raffle.. The doors open at 1 p.m. The bar will be open. There will be a 50/50 Raffle and five tables of meat being raffled off. This is a great way to stock up on meat for summer barbecues as well as grilling items.

Purple Heart Day

A Purple Heart Day Ceremony takes place Friday, Aug. 7 at 9 a.m. at South Barre Common, Prisoner of War Corners, South Barre. Purple Heart Day is observed on Aug. 7 each year and is a time for Americans to pause to remember and honor the brave men and women who were either wounded on the battlefield or paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives. Purple Heart Day is also known as National Purple Heart Day, Purple Heart Recognition Day and Purple Heart Appreciation Day. Purple Heart Towns across Massachusetts typically hold official ceremonies and flag-raising on or around Aug. 7 to recognize the date in 1782 when General George Washington created the Badge of Military Merit. Barre is officially designated as a Purple Heart Town, a title recognizing local combat-wounded veterans and honoring their sacrifices.

Bruins mascot

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 3 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 Jeremy Swayman will also be available. Note: The incorrect time was in last week’s edition.

Library programs

As part of its Summer Reading Program, Woods Memorial Library, 19 Pleasant St., invites community members to attend two free educational programs celebrating the natural world and the importance of environmental stewardship. Both events are free and open to all. On Saturday, July 18 at 11 a.m., Master Gardener Gretel Anspach will present “New England Native Flora.” The following Saturday, July 25 at 11 a.m., the library will host “Seeding the Future: Why Local Farms Matter” with Dave Reed, Executive Director of Central Mass Grown. This informative discussion examines the vital role local farms play in supporting healthy communities, protecting the environment and strengthening the local economy.

Special Town Election

The Town Clerk’s office will be open on Friday, July 17 from 9 a.m-5 p.m. for the last day and time to register to vote and for in person absentee voting for this election fo those who qualify. The Special Election takes place Tuesday, July 28 from noon-6 p.m. The sole election question on the ballot seeks to allow exemption from the provisions of Proposition 2 ½ the amounts to pay for the bond issued to purchase a 10-wheeled dump truck including all other incidental costs for the Department of Public Works. Vote by mail applications are also available. The Town Clerk’s office will be open from 9 a.m-5 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21 for voters to submit applications. The Town Clerk announces Special Town Election deadlines. Friday, July 17 at 5 p.m. is the

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Family shows America’s 250TH ANNIVERSARY SPIRIT



Photo by Lesley Rogowski

The Rogowski family, Whitney, Ivy, Callen, baby Vivian and Dublin, the black Lab stand by an American Flag painted on their lawn to wish our nation a Happy 250th Birthday Anniversary.

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 July 13. 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 – Chicken Tiki Masala, couscous, Roman blend vegetables, chocolate pudding, diet = sugar free chocolate pudding, pumpernickel bread

TUESDAY – Meatloaf with gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, summer blend vegetables, mixed fruit, dinner roll

WEDNESDAY – Roast turkey and gravy, mashed sweet potatoes, Brussels sprouts, apple crisp, diet = applesauce, marble rye bread

THURSDAY – Macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, green beans, fresh fruit, Italian bread

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

*Higher sodium entree Meal includes milk and margarine. Menus are subject to change. All meals are served at about 11:45 a.m. each week-day. 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.



Submitted photo

Shown are Barre Lions Club President Robin Cheney, from left, Elizabeth Matheson and Lions Club 1st Vice President Laura McCarthy. Matheson of Hubbardston received a scholarship from the Lions Club.

Barre Lions Club presents scholarship

BARRE – The Barre Lions Club, with great pleasure, presented Elizabeth Matheson of Hubbardston, with its second annual \$1,000 scholarship. Elizabeth is

the valedictorian of the Quabbin Regional High School class of 2026. She will be attending the John Martinson Honors Program at Northeastern University and plans

to study Pediatric Occupational Therapy. The Barre Lions Club wishes Elizabeth much success in her future endeavors.

Editorial deadline reminder

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



OAKHAM

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Traveling Homebodies perform Thursday

The next summer band concert series is Thursday, July 9 from 6:30-8 p.m. on the Oakham Common, corner of Maple Street and Coldbrook Road. The band is the Traveling Homebodies. The Friends of the Oakham Bandstand sell popcorn, drinks and ice cream. Other Thursday concert dates include: July 23 The Long Run: Songs of the Eagles, Aug. 13 The Cropdusters and Aug. 20 The Otters.

Library events

Terrific Tuesday takes place on Tuesdays, July 14 stamped clay decorations, July 21 nature wands and July 28 wind chimes from 11 a.m.-noon with DIY at the Fobes Memorial Library, 4 Maple St. All materials are provided. No registration is required. Terrific Tuesdays Program is made possible by the fundraising efforts of the Friends of the Fobes Memorial Library, Inc.

Senior Center events

The Council on Aging meeting takes place on Friday July 10 at noon in the voting room at Oakham Town Hall, 2 Coldbrook Road. Lunch Bunch will be meeting at 308 Lakeside, Route 9, East Brookfield on Friday July 17 at 12:30 p.m. People should sign up in the Senior Center or call 508-882-4073 so they can make the appropriate reservation. Podiatry clinic will be held Monday, July 20 from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., by appointment only. Blood pressure/glucose screening will be held Tuesday, July 28 from 11a.m-1 p.m., no appointment 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.

Barre Food Pantry holds distributions

BARRE – The Barre Food Pantry distribution will occur on Thursday, July 16 from 5:30-7 p.m.

The Barre Food Pantry volunteers strive to continue to fulfill their mission to get food to hungry and food insecure clients. Many clients and volunteers are classified as high-risk due to their age and/or underlying health conditions.

The Barre Food Pantry Board of Directors has considered changing how the pantry currently operates, but has decided that the most responsible path forward is to continue to operate as they have since March of 2020.

In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients July 16 will again be “drive-through” style distributions.

Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church.

They will remain in their cars. They’ll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or wayback of their vehicle by volunteers at multiple stations.

Based on the success of distributions so far, the Food Pantry volunteers believe this “drive-through” style is the safest possible way to get food to clients and to help keep everyone well.

They should not arrive to volunteer on July16 without first calling either Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921 or Chuck Radlo at 978-355-6463.

Because conditions have been changing rapidly, please continue to check for updates on the Barre Food Pantry website: http://www.barrefoodbank.org/index.htm and the Barre Food Pantry Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/Barre-Food-Pantry-100156068300314/.



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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

Board of Health – July 13 at 5 p.m.
Conservation Committee – July 14 at 7 p.m.
Select Board – July 15 and July 20 at 5 p.m.
Finance Committee – July 15 at 6 p.m.
Water Commission – July 20 at 5 p.m.
DPW Commission – July 20 at 6 p.m.
Planning Board – July 21 at 7 p.m.
Cemetery Commission – July 23 at 11 a.m.
Special Town Election – July 28 from noon-6 p.m.
Council of Aging – Aug. 5 at 12:30 p.m.
Cable Advisory Committee – Aug. 11 at 7 p.m.

HARDWICK

Planning Board – July 14 at 6:30 p.m.
Gilbertville Public Library – July 15 at 3 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.
Council on Aging – Aug. 5 at 12:30 p.m.
Paige Library Trustees – Aug. 6 at 7 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Board of Parks Commissioners – July 14 at 6 p.m.
Board of Health – July 14 at 7 p.m.
Council on Aging – July 15 at 4 p.m.
Board of Assessors – July 15 at 6 p.m.
Planning Board – July 16 at 6:30 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Conservation Commission – July 14 at 7 p.m.
Planning Board – Aug. 19 all day

PETERSHAM

Select Board – July 16 at 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., July 23 at 5:30 p.m. and Sept. 12 at 9 a.m.
Cemetery Commission – July 14 at 11 a.m.
Board of Health – July 14 at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Assessors – July 24 at 9 a.m.
Council on Aging – Aug. 10 at 10:30 a.m.

RUTLAND

Planning Board – July 14 at 6 p.m.



Submitted photo

A recent “History Under the Tent” which will be offered on Sunday, July 12 at 5:30 p.m. on the Petersham Common.

‘History Under the Tent’ takes place July 12

PETERSHAM – The Annual Petersham “History Under the Tent” will be offered on Sunday, July 12 at 5:30 p.m. on the Common.

This year’s special program under the 32 foot blue community tent will include a Tribute to the Petersham Fire Department with a special showing of the 19th-century hand-pulled fire wagon.

The program will also offer unique stories, artifacts, and participants from a range of reenactors, who will share snippets of long-lost historical facts and interesting stories.

According to local historian, Larry Buell, the program has been offered for over 25 years. It represents a special time for residents and visitors of Petersham to come together and learn

more about the town’s deep and inspiring history.

One important aspect of this year’s program will be an update on the new series of historical writings called a “The People’s History of Petersham: Written and Told by those who Lived It.”

The program is free and open to the public. For information, people may call Dr. Larry Buell at 978-855-1420.

Hubbardston, Rutland receive grants

BOSTON – The Healey-Driscoll Administration announces \$1,108,700 in grant awards to 25 communities across Massachusetts to help cities and towns plan, design and compete for federal infrastructure funding across Massachusetts.

The funding, distributed through the Municipal and Tribal Technical Assistance program, is administered by the Federal Funds and Infrastructure Office and awarded grants to communities spanning from Western Massachusetts to Cape Cod in this round.

The Municipal and Tribal Technical Assistance program was enabled by legislation filed by

Governor Healey, Chapter 214 of the Acts of 2024 (“An Act to Provide for Competitiveness and Infrastructure Investment in Massachusetts”) to support infrastructure projects in cities and towns across Massachusetts.

This round of Municipal and Tribal Technical Assistance Awards include: town of Hubbardston \$35,000 for the town to update its Hazard Mitigation Plan, which expires in 2027 and town of Rutland

\$25,000 for the town to update its Hazard Mitigation Plan, which expires in 2027.

This is the second round of Municipal

and Tribal Technical Assistance awards made by the Federal Funds and Infrastructure Office (FFIO). In total FFIO has awarded \$2,048,950 in MTTA grants to communities across Massachusetts.

Rutland Deputy Fire Chief Ryan Quinn said, “The Town of Rutland is grateful to the Commonwealth for this investment in our community’s future. Updating our Hazard Mitigation Plan is a critical step in ensuring we are prepared for the evolving risks we face, and this funding will allow us to take a thoughtful, proactive approach to protecting our residents, infrastructure, and emergency services.”

Library hosts summer reading program

NEW BRAINTREE – The New Braintree Library sponsor a summer reading program kickoff event on Monday, July 13 at 1 p.m. with a Reptile Show of New England in the New Braintree Town Hall, 20 Memorial Drive.

Making Opportunities Count will share activities at the library after the performance and library staff will be available to sign children up for the summer reading program, which runs from Monday, July 13 through Thursday, July 30.

Programs will include arts and crafts on Mondays from 1-3 p.m. and science activities on Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. at the New Braintree Library, 45 Memorial Drive.

Reptile Shows of New England is organized by the Friends of the New Braintree Library and supported in part by a grant from the Hardwick/New Braintree Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Local minister preaches at Orthodox Congregational Church

PETERSHAM – On Sunday, July 19 at 10 a.m., the Rev. John Pastor will preach at the Orthodox Congregational Church, 21 North St.

Rev. Pastor is a well-known local minister, who currently serves as supply minister for three area churches. His sermon message is titled “Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes.” Rev. John will share his Midrash of the Scripture passage. All are welcome. For more information, people may call 978-724-8808.

HUBBARDSTON

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Farmer’s coupons available

MOC Farmer’s coupons will be available Thursday, July 9 at 9 a.m. at the Hubbardston Senior Cneter. There are only 20 coupons available. They are available on a first come first serve basis and are for seniors only. Seniors must come in person to get a coupon.

Dinghy Dash

The ninth annual Dinghy Dash takes place on Saturday, Aug. 22 on Brigham Pond at 10 a.m. This year, there are three categories to choose from: single occupant adult, single occupant youth and group vessel. People may visit the town website at www.hubbardston-ma.gov for official entry forms and rules. The entry deadline is Monday, Aug. 17.

Library K run/walk

The 29th Annual Hubbardston Library 5K run/walk takes place Saturday Sept. 12 at 9 a.m. sharp, rain or shine. This annual event represents more than a quarter century of community support for the library, approaching \$95,000 raised for ongoing operations. The race is an out and back course starting and finishing at the Hubbardston Center School. Applications for the event will be available online at the Hubbardston Library website. The registration fee for the fund-raising event is \$25 and \$30 for those who register after Sunday, Aug. 2. Long sleeve cotton race shirts will be provided to the first 100 registered runners. Awards to overall 1st place Male/Female Runners and Walkers as well as medals/prizes to age group winners will be provided. Prizes are possible due to the generous donations of local businesses and individuals. For additional information on this event, interested runners/walkers or donors may call Mark Wigler, Race Director at 978-928-5120 or email MTWigler@gmail.com. The 2025 Race/Walk raised over \$4,100 for support of the library’s activities and Scholarship Fund.

Senior Center events

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



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ROUND TOWN from page 2

last day to register to vote. Mail in registrations must also be post marked no later than this day. Tuesday, July 21 at 5 p.m. is the last day to apply for a Mail In Ballot. Monday, July 27 at noon is the last day to vote in person absentee for those who qualify.

Tuesday, July 28 polls are open from noon-6 p.m. for in person voting. Applications are available from the Town Clerk’s Office or online at www.townofbarre.com and need to be filled out completely, signed and received by the Town Clerk’s Office by the deadline. All voted ballots must be returned to Town Clerk Office by July 28 from 6 p.m. Ballots can not be mailed after the deadline.

For more information, people may visit the town website at www.townofbarre.com, email the Town Clerk at clerk@townofbarre.com or call 978-355-2504, extension 5.



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Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters By Russell Gloor

Why doesn't my Social Security record show all my military earnings?

Dear Rusty:

When I look at my earnings on my Social Security account, I see that in 1955 and 1956 have no earnings. I was in the U.S. Navy as a first officer and have my DD-214 paperwork, which shows my military service from Oct. 1954-Oct. 1958.

My Social Security earnings record shows that I had earnings in 1954, 1957 and 1958 but doesn't show that I was paid in 1955 or 1956. Shouldn't I have received Social Security credit for all my service years?

Signed: An Older Veteran

Dear Older Veteran:

First, I want to thank you for your military service.

Whether your earnings while in the military would provide you with any additional Social Security benefit depends on your career earnings after leaving military service. Here's why:

Your monthly Social Security benefit is based upon the highest earning 35 years over your lifetime with earlier years adjusted for inflation.

From those highest earning 35 years, SS develops your Average Indexed Monthly Earnings, your lifetime "AIME," which is the basis of the SS benefit you get if you claim for benefits to start at your Full Retirement Age So, if - after you completed your military service - you had at least 35 years of other employment where you earned more money than you did while serving, then your military pay won't affect your Social Security benefit.

FYI, Social Security payroll tax has been withheld from military pay since 1957, which is why your SS earnings record shows your military pay only for 1957 and 1958. Your SS record wouldn't show military pay prior to 1957 because you didn't contribute to SS from your military pay during those years.

The earnings you see in your SS earnings record for 1954 are likely from non-military employment prior to starting active duty in October 1954.

SS does provide older veterans with "special extra credits for military service,"

but those credits are only a supplemental earnings amount added to your military pay record during the years you served.

It is not a bonus amount added to your monthly Social Security payment; rather it is only an amount added to your military pay record used when calculating your Social Security benefit. For those who served prior to 1957, Social Security would have no record of your military earnings during those early service years.

But when you claimed Social Security later in life, they would have asked if you served in the military and given you "special extra credit" in the form of presumed earnings for your service years. They likely asked for a copy of your DD-214 and would have added \$160 to your military earnings record for each active-duty month from October 1954 through December 1956 and additional earnings credits for 1957 and 1958.

But that doesn't mean you get a special Social Security bonus for your military service. If you have at least 35 years of civilian employment after serving in the Navy, your service years would only affect your SS benefit if those military service years were among the highest paying 35 years over your entire lifetime. And, again, please accept our appreciation for your service to our country.

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



In Past Pages

5 years (July 15, 2021)

As per policy of the regional school agreement, the two remaining Quabbin Regional School Committee members from Hubbardston met with the Hubbardston Select Board to two fill vacancies on the school committee until the next annual town election, June 2022. The town failed to elect the two school committee members when no one took out nomination papers for either position. Two teachers, both working in school districts other than the Quabbin Regional School District, expressed interest in serving. The five select board members and remaining school committee members, Debra Chamberlain and Mark Wigler, appointed Rachelle Castel and Joanne Cormier until the town election. If either/or both of them wished to continue on the school committee, they would need to run for the two positions in the June 2022 election. A letter will be sent to Castel and Cormier notifying them of their appointments and they will need to be sworn in by the town clerk and take the state ethics commission online test.

The North Brookfield School Committee met on Thursday, July 8. Director of Student Services Superintendent Richard Lind said they had nine applications for the position of Director of Student Services, left open by longtime staff Mark Minucci, who accepted another position out of district. Of the nine applicants, a committee comprised of School Committee Secretary Christie Omasta, Librarian/

Look Back- Barre Fair –1992



Debbie Cherella of Hardwick is shown at the Barre Fair on July 26, 1992 with her Hereford.

Media Specialist Richard Rigney, High School Special Education Teacher Shelly Lacaire and a parent, interviewed eight and narrowed the choice down to three finalists. The committee selected William Cauley of Rhode Island as their recommended candidate for the position. Cauley received his bachelor's degree from Boston University and his master's degree from the University of Texas. He has had over 28 years of experience as a public educator, including filling the position of principal at DCYF for the state of Rhode Island.

The North Brookfield Safety Committee recommendation from Police Chief Mark Smith in regard to speeding complaints on Walker Road was to keep the road open and have traffic remain traveling in both directions. Smith said making it a dead end or one-way causes difficulty for emergency response vehicles. He

said the Highway Department will re-post speed limit signs on the road and "children playing" signs. Smith asked Walker Road residents to notify the department when the speeding occurrences happen so they can patrol. A resident of Walker Road said they are also willing to put up a gate that can be removed for emergency vehicles.

10 years (July 14, 2016)

Many parents in the Quabbin school district attended the Quabbin Regional School District Budget Subcommittee meeting to voice concern to keep specials in the elementary school and the International Baccalaureate program. The Quabbin Regional School District Committee at its June meeting charged the superintendent to come up with a \$1 million cut in the budget since the member towns

See PAST PAGES, page 5

Bad news and good news in this week's garden

My annual flower gardens were just starting to come into their own when I noticed some damage on the leaves.

They looked chomped on from the outer edge going in. Some leaves also had a watery brown residue on them.

Going by date, I knew the culprit already, even before digging around the base of the plant. The Asiatic Garden beetle is hard at work wrecking my plants.

Read on to learn more about this pest.

I've also got some good news. Blueberries and peas are ready for harvest. Yippee!

The Asiatic Garden beetle is a bit smaller than the Japanese beetle and is chestnut brown in color. It feeds during the night, so look for chewed foliage in gardens or planter boxes under lamp-

posts, street lights or other outside lights.

Cultivate directly underneath the affected plant during the day and you will likely see the culprits scurry back into the soil. Usually they snuggle up very close to the stems an inch or so below the soil surface.

Sometimes watering at the base of the plant will bring them to the top of the soil where they can be easily collected or squished. This is one pest you don't want to have around – send them swimming in a soapy bath or you may not have any plants left!

In my experience, two plants they particularly love are coleus and calibrachoa. This year they are decimating my blue salvia.

It's pretty amazing that I've found dozens a day in an 18-inch planter. If digging around in the soil isn't your style, go out near dusk with a headlamp or flashlight and pick them right off the plant.



Hand picking can significantly cut down on the damage.

One note of good news is that my blueberries are bearing great this year, really it's the first year that I've had a significant harvest

since the bushes were given to me over a decade ago. I am pretty certain I owe it all to Organic Grower Supply through Fedco Seeds, (fedcoseeds.com), where I purchased "Blueberry Booster."

I ordered the fertilizer last year and applied 3 pounds per bush in the springtime. Lo and behold it worked.

I have enough to do it again this fall since I missed the opportunity this past spring. A blend of Granite Meal, sulfur, Tennessee brown rock phosphate, compost, and Azomite, the mix reduces the soil pH and provides the nutrients necessary for healthy blueberry plants and good fruit.

Fourth of July weekends over the last several years have been spent picking,

shucking and freezing peas, and this year is no exception. It's technically a tradition around my house.

Now you may be thinking that I really know how to have fun, but to me, this is what summer is made of! I plant my peas the end of April, so typically they ripen almost on cue each year!

I plant three seeds deep a couple of inches apart up against the interior of my garden fence where they naturally climb up with their tendrils attaching to one another and the fence. I loosen up the soil prior to planting, but I never add any fertilizer – maybe just a sprinkling of compost if I am feeling generous.

Since peas are legumes, they "fix" their own nitrogen from the air.

See GARDEN, page 5

BARRE GAZETTE

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The Barre Gazette (USPS 044560) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069.

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Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

I am so happy the heat wave has gone.

It was almost impossible to even get meals. I ran fans in all the rooms as the air conditioner gives off too much water and I had to empty the pan every hour.

I am not sure if the plug should be removed so the moisture can go out the window. I guess I will have to consult an expert. When we first installed it we did not have the plug off and a pan to catch the water.

I spent several days working in the garage as it was cool out there. I had stacks of paper articles and photographs that needed to be filed in their proper notebooks or files.

It was interesting on what I found. I found some of those sticky waxy things that you pull out of a carton to hang to catch flies.

I put one in the front yard hanging from a lilac bush and one in the back yard hanging on a hook. It was amazing how many creatures I have collected.

It has not been very bad with mosquitoes because of the lack of rain, but that did the trick. I remember as a youngster we lived next to a farm that had chickens and we used to get a lot of house

flies.

My mother would put those sticky things up to catch them. She also used to pay us kids five cents for every ten flies we used the fly swatter to kill. We would put them in the toilet and she would count them.

Sunday, when it was a little cooler, I took a tour of the flower gardens. The bee balm is in bloom, but the deer have eaten all the hostas in the backyard. The ones in the front yard have been left to thrive.

Another chore I did this week was to pick over my recipe books and relocated them.

Here is one of the recipes from those books I plan to make when the weather is cooler.

PEANUT BUTTER FUDGE

1/2 cup milk
2 ½ cups confectioners sugar
2 heaping tablespoons of peanut butter
Dash of salt

Combine all ingredients in a saucepan and boil for about 7 minutes constantly stirring, until it loses its gloss. Pour into a greased pan. If you wish, add nuts or marshmallow fluff before pouring it

into the pan.

This and That

My new helper is very good. She gets my groceries on one of the days she is here and the other day she cleans, changes the beds or gives showers.

Because we have trouble with nurses and helpers finding out driveway, my daughter gave me a wooden sunflower with a stake and we put the house number on the center of the sunflower and put it side of the driveway.

New people have been going to the wrong driveway as our mailbox says 75, but is opposite the driveway.

The Worcester County Sheriff's office was suppose to be making house numbers for us but where are they?

Fourth of July was very quiet and I was going to enjoy the Boston concert but that also failed to happen.

I am glad I was not in that crowd. I went to bed as I did not enjoy the music they had on television to take the place of the concert.

I guess I am too much of an old duddy. This jazz music is not for me. I like to hear music I can understand.

Have a good week and hope it will be cooler.



Submitted Photo

The North Brookfield Town House is decorated in patriotic window panels, banners and bunting.

Town House puts nation's history on display

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Patriotic window panels have joined the banners and bunting already adorning the National Register building.

This completes the plans of the Town House decorating committee members who were looking to use the windows facing Main Street as a canvas for proudly celebrating the country's 250th anniversary. The panels were designed by Sheila Orsi and donated by Anne Ramsey.

During her first year as Town Moderator, Orsi began reading Temple's History of North Brookfield. She has learned that, even though North Brookfield was not

yet a separate town in 1776, the residents who lived here at that time were passionate about their freedom and independence.

Orsi wanted to pay homage in some way to those people who heatedly debated and fought with their lives to create this United States. After speaking to fellow members of the Friends decorating committee about her ideas, Orsi got to work creating the informational panels for the front of the building.

Thankful that we live in such a beautiful, diverse and friendly community, Orsi also was motivated to bring attention to what she calls

“our silent, lovely Town House waiting patiently to be restored to her former glory and host the community again, hoping to hear her filled with the sound of people and music!”

It is Orsi's wish that decorating the Town House with the patriotic panels “will help to inspire someone's passion in town to bring the restoration to fruition!”

Stop by the Town House in the center of North Brookfield, read the patriotic panels, and enjoy the work of the Friends of the Town House decorating committee. Happy 250th anniversary everyone.

PAST PAGES from page 1

rejected its budget at town meetings. One of the proposed cuts would reduce elementary school specials that include two days of physical education, one day of music, one of art and one of media/technology instruction per week to half a year instead of a full year. For half of the year, when the students did not have specials, there would be a later start to accommodate the required preparation period in the teacher's contract. Parents and students in the IB program also attended the meeting to support the program. The superintendent did not include the IB program in the proposed cuts.

The Petersham Historical Society presents a “History Under the Tent” program on Petersham Common at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, July 17, featuring, “Nipmuk Native American History and Re-enactment with Ken Hamilton.” Hamilton will present traditions and stories of the Nipmuks and other Native Americans with a focus on colonial times. Hamilton is an historian of 17th-18th century woodland Indian culture and an expert on the Algonquian-speaking cultures of the northeast. As a living history interpreter, artist, and lecturer, he shares his wealth of knowledge about colonial era Native America. Along with offering programs at venues across New England, Hamilton has provided the material culture for museum presentations including at the Wapanoag Village at Plimoth Plantation and the

William Johnson House in upstate New York.

Health Care For All, a nonprofit organization based in Boston that is focused on making healthcare more centered on patients, will hold a listening session on Tuesday, July 19, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Old Stone Church at 283 Main St., Gilbertville. The nonprofit has been around for about 30 years, and has worked on issues like health care reform in 2006 here in Massachusetts as well as global payment reform in 2010, according to Francisco Ramos, HCFA's outreach and organizing manager. The group travels the state and listens to the stories about consumer experiences with health care providers and their access to health care. At such a listening session held in Northampton in May, Hardwick resident Judith Kohn invited the group to hold a session that would be central for residents of the Quabbin and Quaboag areas, so they could more easily share their stories.

25 years (July 12, 2001)
Not available

38 years (July 16, 1988)

It's as simple as sorting laundry. But contrasted with the additional steps involved in cleaning clothes, recycling requires little time. Once a person lowers a sorted load into the respective containers, the “folding and pressing” is handled by the recycling facility at no extra charge. In support of the obvious benefits to the environment, the Barre Board of Health passed an ordinance mandating recycling. The facility on 99 Depot Road has designated

categories and containers for recyclables. The proper category includes white and colored paper, brown bags, junk mail without plastic windows, boxboard such as cereal and cracker boxes, magazines, catalogs and paperback and phone books. The contains include glass bottles, aluminum foil, tin cans and plastics.

The Barre Planning Board will decide next week whether to allow the Harding Allen Estate to build an enclosed addition to the mansion located on Allen Drive. At the Planning Board hearing held in the Henry Woods Municipal Building last Thursday, architect Wayne Salo of Dixon Salo Architects Inc. showed colored drawings of the proposed 2,390 square foot pavilion, which he said would close in the area where the tent is now. The capacity is for about 200 guests. The building would attach to the existing building.

Oakham Fire Chief Richard Howe and 14 firefighters and EMTs attended the July 13 Oakham Selectmen's meeting to address concerns brought up at the June 29 meeting by two officers and a firefighter. In response to a previous comment that training isn't scheduled, Howe gave selectmen copies of the fire departments training schedule. To the remark that training has dropped off Howe showed the board the Massachusetts Fire Academy training course drills. Howe said a professional instructor is now teaching Level II firefighting course.

An American scene, flag and tractor



Turley photo by Bill Bowles

This antique John Deere tractor hitched to a wagon with an American flag is across from the store in Old Furnace.

GARDEN from page 4

I do soak the seeds in an inoculant prior to planting them, however, to make the fixation happen easily and to reportedly increase yield.

If you are going to try your hand at freezing your “shell” peas, as opposed to sugar snap or snow peas, be sure to pick, shuck and freeze in the same sitting, since peas begin to lose their sweetness within hours of being off the plant.

Like anything else, we take the good with the bad.

As long as there is enough good, we won't throw in the trowel just yet.

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.



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	69							70						

CLUES ACROSS

- Mended
- Hymns
- Commercial transport of goods
- Poked holes in the ground
- They precede C
- Branch of knowledge concerned with wealth
- Larry and Curly's pal
- Injured
- Popular type of dance
- Moon crater
- American state
- Places to lock valuables
- Stalk that supports the capsule
- Keyboard key
- ' _ death do us part
- A type of cage
- A place to sleep
- Annual music awards show
- Made over

- Hard, stony substance
- Incantations
- Long-legged, wading bird
- Breathe noisily
- Congressman
- Rip off
- Golf score
- Popular pickup truck
- Where infants sleep
- Music term
- Small opening in a surface
- Musical term meaning “very”
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Treats with powder
- Email subject line feature
- A British lawyer
- Expression of laughter
- Farmer's calendar
- Seeds used as food
- Eurasian shrubs
- Periods of inactivity

CLUES DOWN

- Hard things to kick
- Collective of countries
- Letter of Hebrew alphabet
- One-time Alabama running back
- Eddie
- One's sense of self-esteem
- Of the teeth
- Treat with care
- Type of whale
- Curved structure
- Emits coherent radiation
- One of the Gospels (abbr.)
- Smallest interval in western music
- Netherlands seat of government
- Gives to charitably
- Lout
- Pastas
- Release from restrictions

- Female sibling
- Title of respect
- Silver coins
- Region in India
- Partner to cheese
- Dark or dusky
- Pacific Northwest tree
- Exaggerate
- Toddler
- Touch lightly
- Fundamentals
- Jeopardies
- Curved structures
- Isolated, flat-topped hills
- Forming the bottom layer
- Reciprocal of sine
- Genus of Old World birds
- New York college
- Cloak
- Kawhi Leonard's team (abbr.)
- Vietnamese offensive
- “The Great Lakes State”
- “ _ , myself and I”



The U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Band performed over a dozen patriotic songs.



U.S. Air Force Major Christina Muncy directed the Heritage of America Band.

AIR FORCE BAND from page 1

for the concert was Rory Fitzgerald, who shared a detailed history of the town that once boasted “more cows than people.”

The town got its start as part of Braintree Farms, on land once home to the Nipmuck people. In 1751, the town was incorporated as New Braintree.

The town has long been

known for its contribution to the dairy industry and farming, and was producing over 200,000 pounds of cheese each year by the 19th century.

Town population has now exceeded that of cows, with 1,009 people and there is one working dairy farm remaining.

Fitzgerald spoke about the town’s involvement in the pursuit of freedom and independence, from Wheeler’s Surprise through

the Revolution, and onward to modern day.

He said Captain John Granger of New Braintree fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill, and he is buried in the cemetery of the New Braintree Congregational Church.

New Braintree even saw battle on its own grounds, with the Battle of New Braintree in 1787 during a rebellion led by Daniel Shay. Twenty-three outnumbered farmers joined together to

fight the state militia in the field behind the pavilion; and four of them lost their lives.

“They marked the first casualties of the rebellion,” Fitzgerald said.

Fitzgerald said the townspeople have always been quick to respond and defend themselves, even off the battlefield. He spoke about the formation of C.O.S.T. (Conserve Our Small Town) in the 1980s, which successfully blocked the state’s attempt to open a prison at

the location that is now the State Police Academy.

“This town didn’t just appear,” Fitzgerald said. “It took service, sacrifice and support.”

Student Charley Chauvin read the Preamble to the Constitution and student essayists Olivia Monahan and Liam Letendre both spoke about their hometown, and what life is like there.

“It’s a beautiful place with wonderful people,” Letendre said. “It’s the greatest town

in the commonwealth.”

The town’s 275th anniversary celebration will continue with an Olde Home Day on Saturday, Oct. 3 from 1-8 p.m. This event will include a parade, farmer’s market, kids’ games, live music, bonfire, beer and wine tent and local food.

The celebration year will conclude with a New Year’s Eve Gala on Thursday, Dec. 31 in Town Hall.



Master of Ceremonies for the concert was Rory Fitzgerald.



Airman First Class Johnny Barker performed on percussion.



Charley Chauvin read the Preamble to the Constitution.



Staff Sergeant Patrick Lenz was the narrator for the U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Band’s program



Liam Letendre prepared to read his essay about New Braintree.



Quabbin NJROTC’s Color Guard presented the American Flag for the Pledge of Allegiance. Cadets included Quinlan Fauteux, Eleanor Carroll, Lucas Proctor and Wyatt Clark.

HARDWICK from page 1

in order to give CMGeeks some notice, but the board voted to table signing the agreement until it was reviewed by town counsel.

Meeting minutes

There were several meeting minutes up for review, but

Tinker had amendments to make on some of them.

For the Oct. 14, 2025 meeting, Tinker said there was missing information regarding Historical Commission appointments, and an open meeting law response. These minutes were approved as amended.

For the Nov. 10, 2025

minutes, Tinker said there was conflicting information regarding a vote that was taken by the board, missing information regarding a presentation by Judi Korzec, requests from board members and the public to be put on the record were not on there, missing information about Historical Commission seed

money and missing information regarding a meeting with Barre ambulance. The board tabled the pending amendments for this meeting.

For the April 13, 2026 meeting, Tinker said there was only one sentence regarding audit findings, when there should have been information about illegal financial practices, cash variance, administration errors and stale checks. He also said there was missing information about the risk of the aging infrastructure at the Hardwick Elementary School, the Hardwick Mill Greenery and the Barre Council on Aging. Caggiano said the audit findings were not discussed in the April meeting, but a prior one, and Select Board Chair Jeff Schaaf said since it was not talked about in the meeting, it does not belong in the minutes. Spencer said that information should be available for residents to see on the website.

For the April 27, 2026

meeting, Tinker said there was missing information about the former chair, Eric Vollheim, keeping personal complaints in a folder. He said there was missing information on the RFP for 179 Main St. and its unreasonable timelines, firetruck financing, and things said by state Sen. Peter Durant at the meeting.

The board tabled these minutes.

Hardwick Elementary lease agreement

The board revisited the Hardwick Elementary School lease agreement, and again voted to table signing it because there were unclear comments from town counsel on it, so the board wanted to seek clarification on what they meant before signing.

Appointment

The board voted to appoint John Horgan as a recycling center laborer. Caggiano said he was recommended by the Recycling Commission and passed his

background check.

Year end transfers

The board signed a number of year end transfers as presented by the Accountant, Holly Mann.

STM

The board said there has not been a response from town counsel on the Planning Board bylaw change recommendations, so they tabled setting a date for the special town meeting.

Public comment

Dylan Sherwood, a resident, said he has purchased the Whistle Stop Restaurant, and it should be opening in a month. Sherwood said he was a former employee of the restaurant.

He said he plans on getting a liquor license, and the plans are to continue serving breakfast and lunch.

“I really look forward to being here,” he said.



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Face painting was available during the event.



The Otters performed during the 4th of July celebration.



This child enjoyed a rubber duck game.

A star-spangled CELEBRATION



Children played in the bounce house on the common.



Kathleen McClintock and Brianna Lamb offered free crafts and temporary tattoos.



Many enjoyed music from The Otters and DJ Tabby LeBlanc.

SUPERINTENDENT from page 1

staff are still learning how to use it appropriately.

Reimagining North Brookfield

McCormick said there were multiple sessions with the school community, including listening sessions with students, staff and parents where they gave input on what they want to see moving forward in North Brookfield Public Schools.

McCormick said some of the priorities that came out of these meetings include career readiness, student choice (electives and clubs), community connections and wellness and belonging initia-

tives. He said other priorities included expanding student opportunities, creating an advisory board and bringing back a study hall block.

McCormick said students want more Advanced Placement and dual enrollment classes for college credit, wellness days, and a focus on arts and innovative career pathways. He said some ideas to meet these needs include phasing in AP classes, having a social emotional learning block, inviting guest speakers for career days, and bringing more structure into the school day. McCormick said there were students asking for Spanish classes, so the board voted to move for-

ward with posting a position for a full-time Spanish teacher.

Student representative

Student representative Noah Gillette said the high school held class elections on June 10, and the rising sixth graders will hold their elections in the fall. He said there was a class day and field day on June 5, and an overnight lock in for Student Council members on June 18, where they participate in team building activities.

Financial report

McCormick said as of the June 15 meeting, there was about \$730,000 remaining in the general fund, which

would be expended by the end of the fiscal year. He said they would carry over \$500,000 between Circuit Breaker and school choice funds, and those figures are aside from \$1.3 million in fiscal year 2027 offsets.

McCormick also said an application has been submitted to the Attorney General's office for a grant related to a new cell phone policy that will roll out in the fall. He

said the \$10,000 grant will cover Yonder pouches, which restricts access to cell phones during school hours.

Recognitions and donations

McCormick recognized the class advisors and counselors for the work they have done for the end of year events, and also recognized the elementary school staff and parents for their help at field day.

Chairman Matt Grant recognized softball coach Shiela Leblanc on her retirement after over 30 years.

The senior class donated a tree and a plaque in remembrance of late teacher, Damian Sarrette; the Parent Teacher Organization donated \$273 to the music department, Michael Kittredge donated \$120 and a resident donated flags for the school.

N BROOKFIELD from page 1

Highway Department, \$700 for batteries for two vehicles, \$1,600 for garage tools, \$3,000 for front-end repairs for a vehicle, \$3,500 for front-end repairs and alignment for a vehicle, \$700 for three air chambers/wire/box for the 2006 sander and \$650 for repairs to a flat tire on the loader.

CodeRed contract

Gilman said the town has a contract with Code Red to alert residents of emergencies and other alerts.

He said the town was given short notice of emergency paving that was to occur on a section of North Main Street being completed by the Department of Transportation. Gilman said CodeRed was utilized, but only two residents received the call to notify them.

He expressed concerns

about the effectiveness of the phone alert system.

The school's alert system was able to successfully notify all parents of students.

Bridge inspection

The Highway Department received a bridge inspection report for the West Brookfield Road bridge over Coys Brook.

"There are concerns regarding the bridge conditions," Highway Superintendent Randy Morgan stated in his report.

Morgan and staff will meet with the Department of Transportation to discuss the next steps.

Resignations

The board announced the resignations of William O'Toole from the Highway Department; Anne Adams, Fire Department; Ralph Kay, Sewer Commission; and Brian Hayes, Peter Orsi, Joe Trentacosta and Tom Bessette, Fire/Highway

Building Committee

Committee dissolution

Gilman announced the Fire/Highway Building Committee will be dissolved with the completion of the project. The board voted to dissolve the committee.

The board also voted to dissolve the Downtown Development Committee.

ATM/STM

The special and annual town meetings was held on Friday, June 12 at North Brookfield Elementary School.

Dog licenses

The Town Clerk announced that late fees will be imposed on all unlicensed dogs beginning on June 1. Licenses expire annually on March 31.

To date, 567 dog licenses have been issued. Reminder notices have been sent to 270 dog owners.

SEPTEMBER 2026

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Post 241 walks off against Aldenville

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

THORNDIKE — Had Monson Post 241 short-stop Matt Santos come up with the game-winning hit against Aldenville (Chicopee) Post 337 at historic Legion Field, it probably wouldn't have meant as much to him as doing it a couple miles away at St. Joe's Ballpark in Thorndike.

The second meeting of the regular season between the two Senior Legion teams was still scoreless, entering the bottom of the seventh. With two outs and the bases loaded, Santos turned on a fastball and ripped it past the third baseman into left field, giving Monson a thrilling 1-0 walk-off victory last Wednesday night.

"The pitcher threw me a fastball. I knew I needed to get a base hit and win the game," Santos said. "It's just a great feeling. This is also the first time that I've ever won a game on this field."

Santos, who recently received his high school diploma, was an outstanding three-sport athlete at Palmer High School. He was the 2026 recipient of the



Kyle Kaczuwka takes a swing at an outside pitch.

Karl Oliveira Memorial Tri-County Baseball Scholarship Award.

Oliveira, who passed away in 2021, spent many summers playing baseball at St. Joe's Ballpark for the St. Joseph's Saints in the prestigious Tri-

County Baseball League. "Matt is a great kid and he's the perfect candidate to receive this year's scholarship award," said Monson manager Steve Tripp. "Karl and I were teammates on the varsity baseball team at Palmer

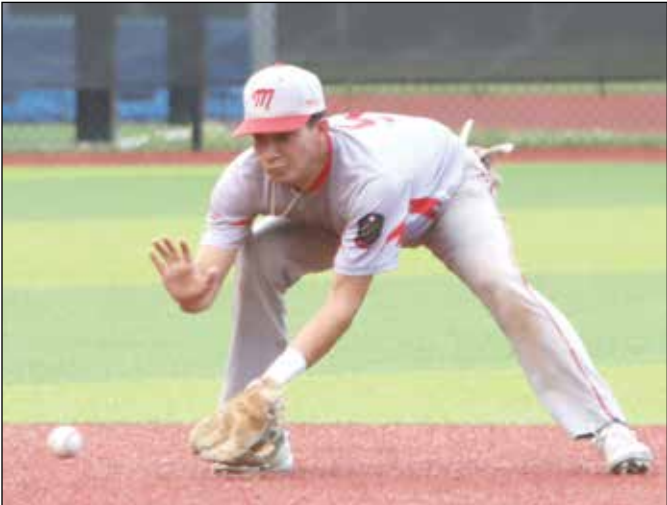
High School. This field was his shrine. Karl probably played 1,000 games here and this is a very memorable night."

The Monson Legion baseball team normally plays their

See POST 241, page 10



Brayden Mega signals to the batter as he leads off second base.



Matthew Santos fields a clean grounder.



Jackson Gould hustles up the field.

Pioneers, Black Rock battle to 1-1 draw

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Just when it appeared that the Western Mass. Pioneers were set to close out a 1-0 shutout victory against Black Rock FC, a late lapse gave the visitors from Nashua, New Hampshire an opportunity to score the tying goal.

Black Rock FC converted a corner kick goal during the seventh minute of stoppage time and last Friday night's

USL League 2 match-up held at Lusitano Stadium ended in a 1-1 draw.

The result all but ended the Pioneers' postseason hopes, eliminating them from the USL League Two play-offs for the first time since joining the league in 2019.

"I really don't know what happened at the end of tonight's game," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "Almost everything has gone wrong for us this season."

It was the third consecutive tie between the two teams, who played a scoreless tie in the first meeting of the season on June 3. The two squads also played a 1-1 draw at Lusitano Stadium a year ago.

The Pioneers entered the final week of the 2026 regular season sitting in third place in the Northeast Division table with a 7-2-3 (24 points) overall record.

The Western Mass. squad were scheduled to play at AC Connecticut on Tuesday night before hosting the first place and undefeated Vermont Green FC, who have already clinched a playoff berth, in the regular season finale on Friday night.

NEFC (10-2-0), who joined the league a year ago, is sitting in second place with 30 points. They only need a tie against either last place Boston City FC or the Albany Rush to officially lock up a playoff spot for the first time. NEFC defeated the Pioneers, 4-2, at Lusitano Stadium on May 23.

Black Rock FC (5-3-3, 18 points) has the chance to tie for third place if they can win their final three matches and the Pioneers lose a match.

Each soccer team earns three points for a victory and one point for a draw.

See PIONEERS, page 10



Santiago Blasco Gomez tries to keep the ball from going out.

Bankers in control following Fourth of July holiday

HOLYOKE — PeoplesBank is in control of the Tri-County Baseball League once again, as the longtime playoff champions and multi-time regular season champions stand at an impressive 11-1-1 so far this season. The Bankers have 23 points for the league lead with their main rivals, St. Joseph's, tugging behind with 22 points. Teddy Bear Pools holds third place at 17 points, while Turners Falls, the Spartans, and BankESB round out the standings, all with less than 10 points. Last Monday, PeoplesBank played to their only tie of the season as they battled to a 2-2 draw with the Spartans. The game was called due to darkness at South Hadley High School. Action resumed earlier this week with games scheduled on Wednesday, July 8.



Jackson LaValley winds and fires for PeoplesBank.



Cam Rivest, of Agawam, swings and connects.



Brian Hungerford tries to keep a throw from getting to the outfield.

Sports



Former players of the Western Mass. Relics softball league Don Holcumb and Ralph Becker.

Relics host tournament to honor John DaSilva



Members of the Relics pose with Debbie DaSilva, wife of John DaSilva.

POST 241 from page 9

home games at Legion Field, but they were forced to move last Wednesday game to St. Joe's Park due to a scheduling conflict.

The walk-off victory snapped Monson's five game losing streak. Four of those losses were by one run. They entered this week's action with a 3-7 overall record.

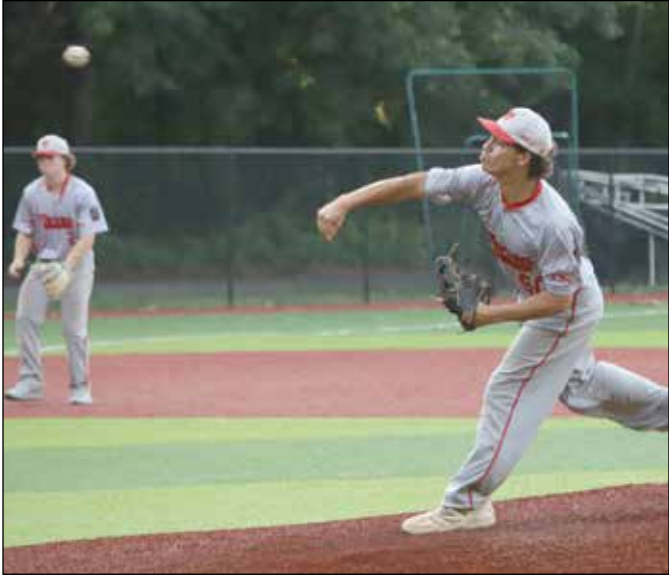
"We've been in almost every game that we've played so far this season," Tripp said. "We played very well in tonight's game."

A week earlier, Aldenville (2-8-1) squeaked out a 1-0 victory against Post 241 at Legion Field.

"I think if we faced Monson 100 times, we probably would win 50 games and they would win 50 games," said Aldenville manager Nate Carillon. "We match up very well against each other. We had several scoring chances, but timely hitting wasn't on our side tonight."

The timely hit was delivered by Santos.

Liam McGrath, who was Monson's starting pitcher before taking over at first base in the seventh inning. He lined a line-drive single into center field against Aldenville righthander Matt Butler leading off the bottom half of the seventh. McGrath was replaced at first base by pinch runner Hunter Sherman. A sacrifice bunt by Josiel Ortiz, who was a defensive replacement at second base, moved Sherman into scoring position. After the next batter grounded out to the second baseman, the Aldenville manager decided to intentionally walk both DH Sebastian Mayberry and Kyle Kaczuk, who started the game at second base, which loaded the bases with two



Theo Haley makes a throw to first.

outs.

"I decided to walk those two batters to get a forceout at any base and make it a little bit easier on the defense," Carillon said. "Their hitter just hit the ball very hard into left field for the game winning hit."

Not only did Santos collect the game-winning base hit, but he was also the winning pitcher. He replaced McGrath on the mound before the start of the seventh inning. Santos did hit a batter with one-out before recording back-to-back strikeouts.

McGrath, who was a junior on the Quaboag Regional High School varsity baseball team this past spring, pitched very well during the first six innings. The righthander didn't allow any runs on just four base hits, which were all singles. He struck out 12 and issued four walks.

Two of Aldeville's base hits were by third baseman Cam Carpenter.

McGrath escaped a jam in the top of the first inning.

Centerfielder Justin Rivera hit a leadoff single

into rightfield before stealing second base. Then short-stop Charlie Maxwell drew a walk. Both runners moved into scoring position with two outs following a double steal. McGrath ended the threat with a strikeout.

Maxwell singled to center leading off the third inning before stealing second base. McGrath retired the next three batters on a pop-up and two strikeouts.

Aldenville stranded five runners in scoring position during the first four innings.

Monson had a golden opportunity to take the lead in the bottom of the fourth inning.

With one-out, Santos walked. After the next batter hit a long flyball caught by Rivera, right fielder Emerson Boronski hit a flair single to left and first baseman Dayne Shanley followed with a walk loading the bases. Butler struck out the next hitter keeping the contest scoreless for a little bit longer.

Butler, who went the distance, also pitched very well. He allowed one run on seven hits with four K's.

In the Classroom

Quabbin Regional Middle School lists fourth quarter honor roll

BARRE – Quabbin Regional Middle School announce the fourth quarter honor roll.

Sixth grade high honors

Sixth graders making high honors are: Lia Aiesi, Moriah Baxter, Elias Bellemer, Audrey Breault, Troy Corbett, Clayton Cranston, Nolan Cronk, Kayla Despres, Ralph DiBenedetto, Joshua Doherty, Derek Ferreira, Andrew Gingras, David Groner, Kylee Lomastro, Evelyn Lord, Thendara Magario, Richard May, Jonah Melad, Penny Ouimette, Avery Phelps, Sadie Russell, Deklan Sampson, Sophia Serrano, Jorja Thorpe, Andrei Timofeev and Richard Valcourt.

Sixth grade honor roll

Sixth graders making honor roll are: Caiden Ahearn, Bella Arriola, Leona Barre, Violet Berthiaume, Starlee Bisceglia, Danica Bjorklund, Makayla Boos, Ella Bourgeois, Casey Coates, Emilia Conway, Autumn Dahn, Charlotte Daniels, Isla Farnoli, Elise Flores de Oliveira, Mckinley Ford, Riley Greene, Michael Hicks, Annabelle Ickler, Aria Jackson, Fred Jean-Francois, Laine Jenkins, Abigail Kajjala, Mason Kazanovicz, Hunter Kukas, Alix Lindsay, Mia Longtin, Dylan Mace, Scarlett McDonald, Liam McKenzie, Logan McManaman, Chase McQueston, Olivia Meller, Aria Missildine, Julia Montague, Valkyrie Moore, Sage Morin, Tyler Nadeau, Owen Nally, Harris Paakkonen, Bridgette Parker, Dylan Potter, Nathaniel Putelis, Aubree Roseberry, Lola Sanderson, Penelope Silver, Vincent Stark, Jaide Stillman,

Katara Tran, Emma Tyler, Jaylyn Vega, Irelyn Venne, Benjamin Wickstrom, Samantha Woodward, Rhys Wynneand Luna Yules.

Seventh grade high honors

Seventh graders making high honors are: Ayla Clark, John Cook, Anna Coomey, Davin Goodwin, Lincoln Graves, Colby Hill, Brady Malin, Theodore Minton, Nolan O'Connor, Ximena Palomera-Espinoza, Liam Shaw, Weston Stukuls Barrieau, Brayden Surprenant, Ty'v Vaughn and Joseph Youngstrom.

Seventh grade honor roll

Seventh graders making honor roll are: Remington Abram, Nevaeh Andrews, Asher Baker, Julianna Bienvenu, Talasyn Boissoneau, Harper Brooks, Cameron Charpentier, Charley Chauvin, Ryan Colgate, Ella Critelli, Hannah Cutler, Joey DeMalia, Ethan Donaldson, Hannah Dube, Pipsissewa DuBois, Matthew Flamand, Maia Flint, Andrew Fuller, Addyson Garceau, Madilyn Houle, James Jackson IV, Carter Jackson, Jack Johnson, Levi Kniskern, Kaydence Landry, Elizabeth Laramee, Ryan LaRange, Maishao Lee, Ilyanna Lynch, Carter Majoy, Adalyn McHugh, Kayla McHugh, Adelaide Moeller, Annaleigh Moncoeur, Aviendha O'Neill, Terra Paradis, Bryce Pariseau, Waverly Rivard, Cooper Sampson, Hazel Serra, Landon Swindlehurst, Kenzie Thorpe, Hana Mae Tousignant, Easton Vayo, Alonzo White and Brady White.

Eighth grade high honors

Eighth graders making high honors are:

Saylor Bissonnette, Julia Blanchard, Winter Boyea, Amelia Breault, Eliza Brown, Emily DeMalia, Brody Despres, Addison Ford, Colbie Gallagher, Maria Hamm, Aimee Ickler, Evelyn Johnson, Pele Johnson, Caiden Lance, Mathieu LeBlanc, Jack Leclair, Ava Maxim, Cameron McDonald, Madeline Omasta, Sebastian Palomera-Espinoza, Owen Pears, Isabella Pena, Evelyn Priestley, Madeleine Proulx, Lily Ryan, Andrew Scott, Avery Seguin, Hannah Shotwell, Bella Spring, Fiona Stevens, Baelin Sullivan, Kailyn Traynham, Katy Twarog, Maggie Ward, Elizabeth Welch, Lila Wilson and Raegyn Wnek.

Eighth grade honors

Eighth graders making honors are: Albert Afonso, Brady Aiesi, Nicholas Baldwin, Addyson Barringer, Caleb Brouillet, Henry Corbett, Christopher Dallair, Enzo Farnoli, Lane Farnoli, Carrick Fitz, Eden Fortier, Lucas Gaspar, Jaidev Guimentaro, Nolan Herrick, Emily Johnson, Noah Kelter, Amy Landrin, Theodore Langer, Grace Lantiegne, Maggie Leander, Pa Huam Lee, Aiden Leger, Mackenzie Levesque, Alessandra Lewis, Kyliegh Los, Chiara Manna, Bree May, Valerie Metterville, Rose Michael, Giella Montalvo, Brayden Nadeau, Calleb Oliveira, Coleton Pina, Autumn Rector, Kira Roden, Maci Roseberry, Fordyce Ruggles, Thomas Schoonmaker, Madalyn Simons, Bentley St. George, Emma Stauder, Daisy Stevens, Dominic Strickland, Brandon Strom, Arina Timofeev, Olivia Vanoudenhove, William Wentworth, Charlie White and Skylar Wisniewski.

PIONEERS from page 9

Just like in their first meeting of the regular season meeting a month earlier, neither Black Rock FC nor the Pioneers scored a goal during the first 45 minutes of last Friday's contest.

Geronnimo Gomes had two of the shot attempts for the home side during the opening half.

At the beginning of the contest, Jackson Gould lined a shot from outside the top of the box that sailed wide of the net.

The Pioneers, who had four corner kicks in the first half, best scoring chance came during the 36th minute. That's when a shot taken by Vasco Teixeira clanged off the post keeping the match scoreless a little bit longer.

Down at the other end of the field, Western Mass. goalie Ben Alexander didn't have to make any saves during the first half.

The Pioneers finally ended the scoreless drought

with a free kick goal in the 65th minute.

The duo of Ronan O'Brien and Shun Murasawa, who stepped onto the pitch together during the 60th minute, produced the Pioneers goal.

O'Brien sent the ball into the box from the right side where Murasawa headed into the right corner for his first goal of the season.

"I just focused on the ball, and I managed to score my first goal as a member of this team," Murasawa said. It was a great feeling, but we lost our focus on the last play.

Murasawa was born in Kawasaki, Japan before moving to Franklin, Tennessee with his family as a sophomore in high school. He'll be a sophomore member of the UMass Amherst men's soccer team in the fall. He was recruited by UMass volunteer assistant coach Takehiko Nakamura.

Murasawa's roommate at

UMass as a freshman was Thomas Wadas, who's also a member of the UMass soccer team. Wadas also plays for the Pioneers and was an outstanding soccer player at Ludlow High School.

"Thomas was my college roommate and teammate last year," Murasawa said. "He told me about the Pioneers, and I wound up playing here. It's been a lot of fun and it's a great atmosphere here."

The score remained 1-0 until stoppage time.

With ten Black Rock players standing inside the box on a corner kick, Juan O'Neill booted the ball from the right corner and goalie Christian Herluf Braae-Anderson put a shot into the net, which spoiled the Pioneers night.

The Pioneers supporters are hoping to celebrate a victory in the regular season finale on Friday night against the undefeated Vermont Green FC.

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Church News

Family fun at St. Aloysius Parish BBQ on Aug. 2

HARDWICK – St. Aloysius Parish invites families from across the area to its Summer BBQ on Sunday, Aug. 2 with dinner served noon-1 p.m. at the South Barre Rod and Gun Club, 2626 Barre Road.

The afternoon is planned with every age in mind, from grandparents to grandchildren.

The meal is a half chicken dinner served with baked potato, corn on the cob, salad and watermelon.

Children and adults alike can join in the games, and raffles and prizes will run throughout the afternoon.

Tickets are \$20 each and are available by calling the rectory at 413-477-6493. This is a fundraiser to benefit the Parish Renovation Funds.

All are welcome to join in the fun.

About St. Aloysius Parish

St. Aloysius Parish serves the village

es of Gilbertville and Wheelwright, from two worship sites, St. Aloysius Church (64 Church St., Gilbertville) and St. Augustine Mission (98 Church Lane, Wheelwright).

A parish of the Diocese of Worcester, it is home to St. Aloysius Catholic School and is served in collaboration with St. Francis of Assisi Parish in South Barre. Learn more at staloy-siusstaugustine.com.



Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Ravenwood String Band performed recently on North Brookfield Common. Shown from left is Don Calsyn on the fiddle, Chet Fairchild on bass, John Alphin on mandolin, Sarah Miller on vocals and Barry Searle on guitar.

Ravenwood performed on North Brookfield Common

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrag@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – June’s weekend’s Concerts on the Common recently featured Ravenwood, a string band featuring the fiddle, mandolin, bass, guitar, and vocals.

The band has been performing since 2017 and features talented artists from all over Massachusetts.

This string band provides a performance consisting of original songs and covers. Ravenwood focuses on old time tunes, old standards, acoustic jazz and bluegrass.

Representing the band is five talented members behind the string instruments and vocals. John Alphin plays mandolin, Don Calsyn on the fiddle, Barry Searle on acoustic guitar, Chet Fairchild on bass and Sarah Miller on vocals and percussion.

The origins of Ravenwood began with Alphin and Searle, and they

crossed paths with Calsyn, Fairchild, and Miller.

One day, the band found themselves rehearsing in Springfield. The rehearsal had taken place on Ravenwood Street, which quickly became the inspiration for the group’s name.

Ravenwood performed covers from Bob Dylan to Fleetwood Mac but also had some original songs to share.

Alphin wrote the song “The Whole Day Through”. Calsyn the fiddler wrote “April Rain” and Barry Searle wrote a song called “Apple Valley”.

The strings tied well together as guests brought their lawn chairs to relax on the Common for some music and good times. Ravenwood came to North Brookfield last year and was excited to return again for

another concert.

“We’re glad to be here tonight,” Calsyn said.

This series is made possible by the North Brookfield Parks & Recreation Department. Concerts on the Common are also supported by the North Brookfield Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

The next Concert on the Common will be on Saturday, July 25 from 6-8 p.m., and will feature Sue Lyons. Lyons is a singer and acoustic guitar player.

Aug. 15 will feature Stan Matthews, from 6-8 p.m. and Aug. 29 at 3 p.m. will feature Superchargers.

North Brookfield will have a 4th of July Celebration on the Common on Saturday, July 4, starting at 1 p.m.

Visit us on the web
www.turley.com

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts’ public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Obituaries

Gregory J. Donlin, 77



Gregory J. Donlin, 77, formerly of Barre, passed away peacefully at the Rose Monaghan Hospice on June 26, 2026.

Gregory was born in Worcester and attended Blessed Sacrament, Saint Peters, Valdosta University and Suffolk University.

Gregory was a Vietnam Veteran serving the U.S. Army in the 101st Airborne Infantry. He served his country with pride and distinction and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for bravery and meritorious service on the combat field.

For many years, Gregory was an avid sports enthusiast and loved watching the games of the Celtics, Boston Red Sox and Holy Cross

College. He was a dedicated researcher of Irish heritage, spending many days at the Barre Library followed by long walks in nature.

He found great peace in those walks. In his younger years, he excelled at speech and drama and later enjoyed his community theatre.

Gregory loved to sing and would often participate in “open mic nights” for a song or two at the Cafe on the Common in Barre. Gregory was formerly involved in launching Colonel Isaac Barres Restaurant and Vermont Pub and Brewery.

In 2010, Gregory was awarded the Red Cross Hero Award for his action of rescuing a woman from a burning vehicle while out on his daily coffee run. The Celtics



DEATH NOTICE

Donlin, Gregory J.
Died June 26, 2026
Burial will be private at a later date.

honored him on center court for his bravery in this deed, which meant so much to him.

Gregory truly loved his country, his community, his family and friends. He will forever be remembered as a kind and gentle soul.

Gregory is survived by his brother Garrett Donlin and wife Deborah, his brother Matthew Donlin and wife Sandra and his sister Marla Pyle and husband Richard.

He was predeceased by his parents Thomas and Gloria Donlin, his sister Suzanne Kelly and his brother Geoffrey Donlin.

There are no calling hours. He will be buried privately at a later date by his family.

Public Notices

Town of Oakham Zoning Board of Appeals

The Oakham Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a regular business meeting on **Thursday, July 16, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Oakham Town Hall. There will be a public hearing for the following item:

VARIANCE: Owner/Applicant: Michael Russ
Location: 154 East Hill Rd., Oakham, MA. The applicant is requesting a Variance from Chapter 14 section 5.3 of the Oakham Zoning Bylaw. The applicant is seeking to extend the kitchen in the place of a deck and is seeking variance from the set back requirements from the abutting property line. The applicants may bring all pertinent information and plans with them and may bring a consultant/attorney to answer questions and to represent them at the hearing.

Anyone wishing to comment on this matter should attend the public hearing or submit comments in writing prior to the meeting to the Zoning Board of Appeals, 2 Coldbrook Rd., Oakham, MA 01068. Interested parties may review the application by calling the Town Hall (508)882-5549 and making an appointment to view the application at the Town Hall.

Carl W. Lindley Jr., Chairman
Zoning Board of Appeals
07/02, 07/09/2026

BARRE PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

The Barre Planning Board will hold public hearing on **Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Henry Woods Municipal Building, 40 West Street, Boards’ Office, 3rd Floor, requested by Diane & Robert Miller for a special permit pertaining to Zoning 140-7B(11), Antiques/Gifts, for property located at 2298 West Street, Assessors Map B, Lot 170 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds Book 71519, Page 0004.

All persons who wish 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
07/09, 07/16/2026

TOWN OF BARRE ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDDERS

The Town of Barre is accepting bid for its Department of Public Works’ materials under MGL C30B §5. Sealed bids will be received at the Office of the Town Administrator, 40 West St., Barre, MA 01005 and endorsed “FY27-02 Department of Public Works Materials” until **11:00AM on July 27, 2026**, at which time said bids will be publicly opened and read aloud in the Town Administrator’s office.

Specifications for “FY27-02 Department of Public Works Materials” may be obtained by emailed request to townadmin@townofbarre.com. The Town of Barre reserves the right to waive any minor informality and to reject any and all bids.
07/09/2026

Town of Barre ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDDERS

The Town of Barre is accepting bids for vehicle fuel, under MGL C30B, §5. Sealed bids will be received at the Office of the Town Administrator, 40 West St., Barre, MA 01005 and endorsed “FY27-04 Vehicle Fuel” until **10:00AM on July 27, 2026**, at which time said bids will be publicly opened and read aloud in the Town Administrator’s office. Specifications for “FY27-04 Vehicle Fuel” may be obtained by emailed request to townadmin@townofbarre.com. The Town of Barre reserves the right to waive any minor informality and to reject any and all bids.
07/09/2026



NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

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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Public Safety

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, June 7 12:46 a.m. Noise Complaint, Old Turnpike Road, Officer Spoke to Party 1:01 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Wachusett Street, Officer Spoke to Party 5:12 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Sycamore Drive, Transported to Hospital 7:25 a.m. Noise Complaint, Inwood Road, Officer Spoke to Party 7:34 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Diabetic, Pleasantdale Road, Transported to Hospital 8:38 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Brintnal Drive, Mutual Aid Transport 11:09 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Pleasantdale Road, Unfounded 12:06 p.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Rutland Police Department, Officer Spoke to Party 2:17 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Dog Kennel, Information Given 3:13 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Christmas Tree Lane, Information Given 3:58 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Maple Avenue, Ambulance Signed Refusal 4:10 p.m. Lockout (Home or Vehicle), Barre Paxton Road, Rescued 6:53 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Wachusett Street, Transported to Hospital 8:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Removed from Scene Summons Ahawo, Grace			
Monday, June 8 6:35 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Pommogussett Road, Unfounded 8:22 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident – No Fire Department/EMS Response, Main Street, Report Filed 8:48 a.m. Safety Concern, Glenwood Road, Report Filed 11:46 a.m. Safety Concern, Crawford Road, Report Filed 12:58 p.m. Safety Concern, Juniper Lane, Officer Spoke to Party 1:48 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Bernard Road, Unfounded 3:08 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital 8:53 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Sunnyside Avenue, Officer Spoke to Party			
Tuesday, June 9 12:11 a.m. Abandoned Vehicle – Parking Issues, Woodside Avenue, Officer Spoke to Party 1:36 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning 6:32 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Memorial Drive, Information Taken 8:34 a.m. Serve Warrant, Rutland Police Department, Arrest(s) Made Arrest Huard, Travis, 43,			
Wednesday, June 10 8:51 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Valley View Circle, Officer/Chief Advised 8:58 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, East County Road, Transported to Hospital			
Thursday, June 11 1:22 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Arrest(s) Made Arrest Maneus, Malik Larentz, 26, Worcester Charges Resist Arrest 8:17 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Walnut Street, Information Taken 10:23 a.m. Fire – Public Service Call, Pleasantdale Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal 10:27 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Main Street, Information Taken 10:28 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Maple Avenue, Information Taken 12:07 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Choking, Main Street, Ambulance Signed			
Friday, June 12 12:46 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Main Street, Negative Contact 1:41 a.m. Burglary/Breaking and Entering, Welch Avenue, Investigated 5:42 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Maple Avenue, Transported to Hospital 8:15 a.m. Animal – Wildlife, Turkey Hill Road, Officer/Chief Advised 8:49 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Village Way, Ambulance Signed Refusal 9:56 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Worcester Road, No Transport Required 11:36 a.m. Threats, Valley View Circle, Call Transferred 12:47 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Pleasantdale Road, Officer/Chief Advised 1:53 p.m. Juvenile Runaway, Miles Road, Returned 3:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident – No Fire Department/EMS Response, Overlook Road, Report Filed 3:48 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty,			
Saturday, June 13 8:07 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Written Warning 10:16 a.m. Larceny or Theft, Nichols Way, Referred to Other Agency 1:08 p.m. Safety Concern, Pommogussett Road, Negative Contact 2:04 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Wachusett Street, Gone on Arrival 4:23 p.m. Safety Concern, Main Street, Referred to Other Agency 8:04 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Maple Avenue, No Transport Required 8:27 p.m. Noise Complaint, Crestview Drive, Officer Spoke to Party 9:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Pommogussett Road, Officer/Chief Advised 10:46 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Lane Road, Referred to Other Agency			

Barre Police Log

Sunday, June 7 12:45 a.m. Noise Complaint, Old Turnpike Road, Officer Spoke to Party 6:59 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, South Barre Road, NO Transport Required 9:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Written Warning	
Monday, June 8 9:15 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Summer Street, Report Filed	
Tuesday, June 9 3:04 a.m. Noise Complaint, Hardwick Road, Negative Contact 8:51 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Ruggles Lane, No Transport Required 9:37 a.m. Fire – Smoke investigation, Center of Town, Fire Extinguished 2 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Worcester Road, Officer Spoke to Party 3:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Citation Issued 5:26 p.m. Juvenile Runaway, South Street, Returned 8:48 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Old Dana Road, No Action Required	
Wednesday, June 10 12:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Street, Citation Issued 1:13 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Old Petersham Road, Information Taken 1:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Citation Issued 3:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Written Warning 5:26 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Barre, Area Search Negative 6:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Barre Road, Citation Issued 7:13 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Harty Road, Transported to Hospital	
Thursday, June 11 12 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Mechanic Street, Citation Issued Summons Rivera, Angel David, 39, Fitchburg Charges Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle, Lights Violation, Motor Vehicle 12:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Citation Issued 12:54 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Cat	
Friday, June 12 5:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Criminal Complaint Summons Parrilla Cruz, Jeimer, 27, Springfield Charges Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle 6 p.m. Unwanted Party, Bechan Road, Peace Restored 7:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Woods Road, Officer Spoke to Party	
Saturday, June 13 4:46 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, South Barre Road, Officer Spoke to Party 8:35 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Old Dana Road, Report Filed 10:46 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Lane Road, Referred to Other Agency	

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, June 7 7:51 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Gardner Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal 8:03 a.m. Property Damage, Gardner Road, Report Filed 8:10 a.m. Keep the Peace, Main Street, Officer/Chief Advised 10:39 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Gardner Road, Investigated 1:51 p.m. Erratic Operator, Old Boston Turnpike, Unfounded 3:03 p.m. Property – Lost/Found/Surrender, Main Street, Returned	
Monday, June 8 8:08 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brigham Street, Written Warning 8:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, New Westminster Road, Vehicle Towed Summons McLaughlin, Francis C., 41, Hubbardston Charges License Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With 9:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, New Westminster Road, Written Warning 9:39 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brigham Street, Written Warning 10:09 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brigham Street, Written Warning 10:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning 10:36 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Town Hill Road, Written Warning 10:47 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Elm Street, Written Warning 1:09 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brigham Street, Written Warning 1:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, New Westminster Road, Written Warning 1:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brigham Street, Written Warning 1:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brigham Street, Written Warning 1:44 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Cross Road, Officer Spoke to Party 2:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brigham Street, Written Warning 2:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brigham Street, Written Warning 3 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written Warning 3:27 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written Warning 3:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Citation Issued 4:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning	
Tuesday, June 9 12:20 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Old Westminster Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal 4:07 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Williamsville Road, Transported to Hospital 9:37 a.m. Fire – Smoke Investigation, Center of Town, Fire Extinguished 12:26 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Root Road, Officer Spoke to Party 3:42 p.m. Gunshots, Gardner Road, Area Patrolled 6:25 p.m. Erratic Operator, Gardner Road, Unfounded 6:27 p.m. Identity Theft, Geordie Lane, Report Filed	
Wednesday, June 10 8:27 a.m. Fire – Power Lines/Wire, Pitcherville Road, Canceled 10:54 a.m. Emergency – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Birches Road, Transported to Hospital 2:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brigham Road, Written Warning 2:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brigham Street, Written Warning 2:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, New Westminster Road, Written Warning 2:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brigham Road, Written Warning 3:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brigham Street, Written Warning 4:17 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Worcester Road, Report Filed 9:44 p.m. Safety Concern, Gardner Road, Officer Spoke to Party 10:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident – No Fire Department/EMS Response, Mt. Jefferson Road, Report Filed	
Thursday, June 11 1:22 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Arrest(s)	
Friday, June 12 4:12 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, Old Princeton Cutoff Road, Transported to Hospital 5:47 p.m. Erratic Operator, Lowell Road, Old Princeton Cutoff Road, Officer/Chief Advised 6:07 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Simond Hill Road, Officer/Chief Advised 8:16 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party	
Saturday, June 13 Arrest Maneus, Malik Larentz, 26, Worcester Charges Resist Arrest 8:09 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brigham Street, Written Warning 8:59 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brigham Street, Written Warning 9:27 a.m. Fire – Smoke Investigation, Hale Road, Fire Extinguished 9:29 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brigham Road, Written Warning 9:56 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brigham Road, Written Warning 10:29 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brigham Road, Written Warning 10:47 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Brigham Street, Written Warning 3:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Written Warning 3:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Burnshirt Road, Citation Issued 3:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Burnshirt Road, Written Warning 3:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Burnshirt Road, Written Warning 4:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Burnshirt Road, Citation Issued 4:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Burnshirt Road, Citation Issued 5:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Elm Street, Citation Issued 6:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning 9:36 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Diabetic, Madison Way, Ambulance Signed Refusal	

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of June 29-July 6, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 46 building/property checks, 33 directed/area patrols, 13 radar assignments, three traffic controls, 13 emergency 911 calls, six citizen assists, one assist other agency, six investigations, six complaints, one safety hazard, one scam, one vandalism, one trespass, one threat, one larceny/theft/shoplifting, one missing person, one motor vehicle accident, five animal calls and three motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.	
Monday, June 29 9:11 a.m. Fire/Alarm, Church Street, Services Rendered 9:53 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, School Street, Transported to Hospital 1:46 p.m. 911 Elevator Calls/Alarms, Old Petersham Road, Officer Handled 3:46 p.m. Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Patient Refusal 5:17 p.m. Welfare Check, Lower Road, Transported to Hospital	
Tuesday, June 30 10:03 a.m. Assist Citizen, Upper Church Street, Spoken To 10:54 a.m. Safety Hazard, Czesky Road, Officer Handled 12:41 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Spoken To 3:05 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Spoken To	
Wednesday, July 1 9:25 a.m. Medical Emergency, Upper Church Street, Transported to Hospital 1:55 p.m. Vandalism, Off Prospect Street, Report Taken 3:05 p.m. Trespass, Barre Road, Officer Handled 3:41 p.m. Investigation, Out of Town, Negative Contact 3:41 p.m. 911 Threat, Barre Road, Peace Restored 4:53 p.m. 911 Scam, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled 5:37 p.m. Investigation, Main Street, Officer Handled 9:17 p.m. Investigation, Off Prospect Street, Officer Handled	
Thursday, July 2 9:15 a.m. Assist Citizen, Hardwick Road, Spoken To 11:07 a.m. 911 Misdial, Main Street, No Action Required 2:49 p.m. Assist Citizen, Maple Street, Spoken To 2:58 p.m. Larceny/Theft/Shoplifting, Hardwick Road, Officer Handled 3:24 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital 8:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Crash, Upper Church Street, Officer Handled 8:47 p.m. Disturbance, Prouty Road, Arrest(s) Made	
Friday, July 3 7:49 a.m. Assist Citizen, Grove Street, Services Rendered 8:43 a.m. Complaint, Patrill Hollow Road, Officer Handled 9:22 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital 2:53 p.m. Parking Complaint, Main Street, Officer Handled 3:54 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Prospect Street, Services Rendered 10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning	
Saturday, July 4 7:59 a.m. Assist Citizen, Police Department, Spoken To 5:55 p.m. Parking Complaint, Hardwick Pond Road, Officer Handled 8:02 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital 8:25 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Greenwich Road, Unfounded 10:20 p.m. Complaint, Old Greenwich Plains Road, Negative Contact 10:45 p.m. 911 Missing Person, Joslyn Road, Officer Handled	
Sunday, July 5 7:31 a.m. Complaint, Clapp Road, No Action Required 5:15 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital 9:10 p.m. Complaint, Turkey Street, Officer Handled	

Sunday, June 7 12:46 a.m. Noise Complaint, Old Turnpike Road, Officer Spoke to Party	
Monday, June 8 3:08 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital	
Tuesday, June 9 9:37 a.m. Fire – Smoke Investigation, Center of Town, Fire Extinguished 1:49 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Dennis Whitney Road, Area Search Negative 2:59 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Lincoln Road, Canceled	
Wednesday, June 10 8:54 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Tomlinson Road, Information Taken 7:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning 7:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning	
Friday, June 12 3:48 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Rutherford Road, Transported to Hospital 4:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning	
Saturday, June 13 10:46 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Lane Road, Referred to Other Agency	

Oakham Police Log

Sunday, June 7 12:46 a.m. Noise Complaint, Old Turnpike Road, Officer Spoke to Party	
Monday, June 8 3:08 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital	
Tuesday, June 9 9:37 a.m. Fire – Smoke Investigation, Center of Town, Fire Extinguished 1:49 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Dennis Whitney Road, Area Search Negative 2:59 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Lincoln Road, Canceled	
Wednesday, June 10 8:54 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Tomlinson Road, Information Taken 7:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning 7:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning	
Friday, June 12 3:48 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Rutherford Road, Transported to Hospital 4:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning	
Saturday, June 13 10:46 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Lane Road, Referred to Other Agency	

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HELP WANTED

Town Administrator Town of Russell, MA

The Town of Russell seeks a **Town Administrator** with strong communication and collaborative skills to oversee and manage day-to-day operations for our Town. Russell is a small rural community (pop. 1643) in the Southern Hilltown's of the Pioneer Valley region in Hampden County. Led by a three-member Select Board, and Open Town Meeting form of government, the Town relies on the Town Administrator to be responsible for the oversight and management of daily operations of the Town.

Responsibilities include scheduling, developing and implementing town projects, assisting with the preparation of budgets, coordinating with various town boards and committees, supervising and coordinating overall operations of Town government and managing day-to-day affairs under the general direction of the Select Board. The Town Administrator will support the Select Board, ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, interface with government agencies and the public and manage municipal operations for the Town. Attendance at certain evening meetings is required.

Candidates should have knowledge and competence in municipal finance and budgeting, project management, human resource/personnel administration, Massachusetts municipal law, and intergovernmental and community relations.

The successful candidate should possess five (5) years of municipal management and leadership experience, or similar responsibilities in a public or government agency. A degree in public administration or a related field is preferred. An equivalent combination of education, training and experience which demonstrates possession of the required knowledge, skills and abilities may also be considered.

This is a full-time position with benefits. Starting salary range of \$70,000 – \$85,000 commensurate with qualifications and experience.

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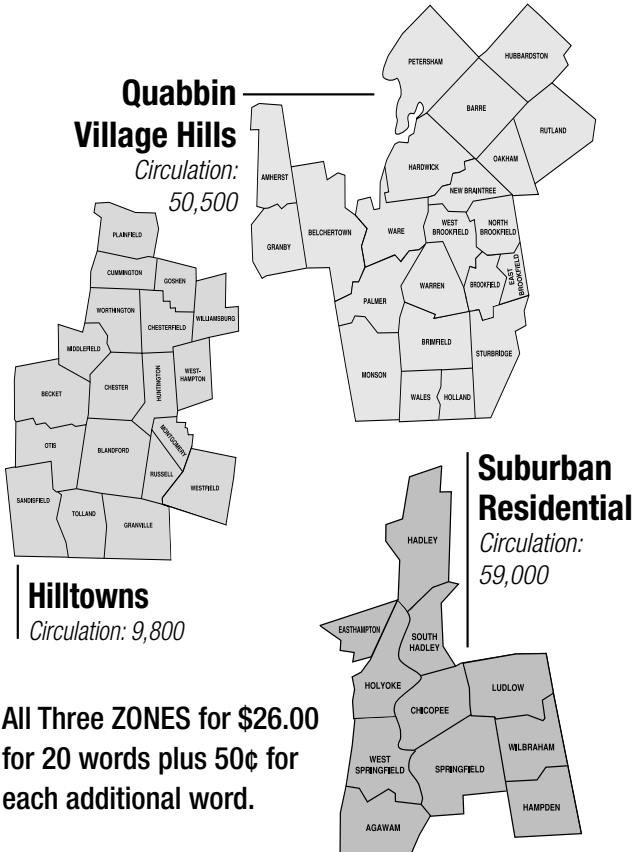
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23	Base Price \$27.00	24	Base Price \$27.50
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00
27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
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BOS holds gravel pit licensing hearing

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
zachf@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – The Board of Selectmen held a hearing regarding new regulations on gravel pit operations in the town at their meeting last Tuesday.

Chair Jamie Gilman said this bylaw was recommended by the Planning Board to ensure activities on gravel pits were consistent with the regulations. He said the original bylaw was approved unanimously at the annual town meeting of 2023, but it had not been enforced until 2026.

Building Inspector John Couture and Police Chief Ryan Daley each inspected the properties with gravel pits, and recommended all of them be re-licensed, so the board voted to approve the licenses of several residents in attendance who operate gravel pits.

Executive assistant Mary-Beth Kularski said the annual license fee is \$100, but she sent out a letter charging \$50 since the regulations were acted on halfway through the year.

John Kaminski, a resident who has a gravel pit, said his property has been grandfathered in, and the property has had a pit for 70 years without issue. Kaminski said he did not want to sign a new contract because the board

could change the regulations in the following year.

Gilman said that is not true, because once a property is grandfathered in, it is permanent.

Gilman said the reason this bylaw was recommended was there were some gravel pits whose operations did not align with the specifications, and this bylaw allows the town to keep an eye on changes of use. He said the bylaw is the only way to have control over the pits, because without a regulation, there are no violations.

Kaminski said this is a “99%” rule, where most people are following the regulations, but have to make up for one person disobeying them.

Gilman said the intent was not to interrupt any businesses, but this bylaw allows for consistency and fairness.

Gilman said Kaminski would have to pay the \$100 fee, but a resident who was with him said that would not happen because they pay property taxes.

The resident asked if the people who voted on the bylaw had gravel pits. Gilman said it was an annual town meeting of less than 100 people who voted on it.

Spending requests

The board approved several spending requests from the Highway Department. The department requested to

spend \$291.84 for a piston for a leaking plow, \$4,385.49 for shop supplies, \$650 for a trimmer, \$5,358.24 for 12 tires, including for a Mack and a sander, along with \$1,423.01 for ball joint replacements for a Ford F450.

Reserve fund requests

The board approved several reserve fund requests, including \$1,620.45 to library heat for excess fiscal year 2026 expenses, \$903.40 to the fire maintenance account for pest control and \$900.83 to the fire equipment account for turnout gear.

Fire/Highway costs

The board approved a quote for dirt for the Fire/Highway project from Bond Sand Gravel and Asphalt totaling \$2,396, including 20 tons of dirt at \$29.95 per ton and four loads of material at \$599 per load.

Gilman said Bond is donating the trucking for a savings of \$520. The board also approved the fire and highway spend up to \$500 for grass seed and hay for the project from Klem’s.

Fuel bids

The board passed over signing contracts with Petersen Oil for diesel fuel and Frantacelli Oil for #2 heating oil because of some confusion regarding wording in the contracts.

215 Main St

The board signed a three-year lease for the town offices at 215 Main St. from June 30, 2026 to June 30, 2029, at an annual rent of \$38,239.44 for approximately 4,460 square feet of office space.

Donations

The board accepted a \$100 donation to Parks and Recreation, along with a separate donation of four bundt cakes from Marsha Ort.

Public comment

A resident was concerned about operations at 45 Hines Bridge Road, where there is a gravel pit. They said after a change of ownership, the new owner has not honored hours of operation, and there have been more trucks and activity, including weekends and holidays.

The resident also said they have faced intimidating behavior from the new owners. Kularski said the Building Inspector said the property was clean, and had no issues.

Another resident said he wanted an update on road reconstruction on Mount Pleasant Street. He said he cannot get through the road, and has heard multiple different answers on when the project will be completed.

Kularski said it is a federal project, and the town has no control over it.

Zona named President of Cornerstone Bank

WORCESTER – Cornerstone Bank announces with the completion of the merger with Athol Savings Bank, that Daniel J. Zona will be assuming the role of President of Cornerstone Bank.

Zona will succeed Randal D. Webber, who is retiring. He brings extensive experience in community banking, leadership and operational management. As president and CEO of Athol Savings Bank, he successfully led the institution while maintaining a strong focus on community engagement, customer service and innovation. He will now guide Cornerstone Bank into its next chapter, overseeing an expanded footprint and a growing team.

“I’m honored to lead Cornerstone Bank into this next chapter,” said Zona. “Both banks share a commitment to our community, employees and customers. Together, we can achieve strategic growth while maintaining a community-first approach rooted in mutual values. The people matter most.”

Zona emphasized his priorities in the role will include integrating the Cornerstone and Athol teams, getting to know employees, preserving the legacy and community connections of Athol Savings Bank and leveraging Cornerstone’s digital banking capabilities to enhance customer experiences.

Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank, commented, “Dan’s leadership and deep understanding of community banking make him the perfect person to guide Cornerstone Bank as we expand into north central Massachusetts. His values, vision and dedication to employees and customers align seamlessly with our mission.”

The merger between ASB and Cornerstone Bank will allow existing and new customers to access a broader suite of products and services, including enhanced digital banking options, while maintaining local branch relationships and community involvement. ASB will operate as a division of Cornerstone Bank, retaining its name and all current locations.

Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Cornerstone, which is a subsidiary of PeoplesBankCorp, MHC, operating independently under its own name and brand, provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts.

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