

BARRE GAZETTE

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Scouting America serves as parade *Grand Marshal*

RUTLAND – The Heart of New England Council, Scouting America proudly led this year's 77th Independence Day celebration in Rutland, serving as Grand Marshal for the town's annual Fourth of July Parade.

The honor recognizes the Council's deep-rooted commitment to youth leadership, community service, and civic values across Central Massachusetts.

Scouts, leaders, and volunteers from throughout the Council's territory marched at the head of the parade, waving flags, saluting veterans, and representing the enduring legacy of Scouting in America. The crowd cheered as the Scouts passed by, honoring both the nation's independence and the values that unite communities.

"This was an incredible honor for our Scouts and volunteers," said Jason Pigg, CEO of the Heart of New England Council in a press release. "Being chosen as Grand Marshal is a powerful recognition of the impact Scouting has had – and continues to have – on the lives of young people and their communities. We are proud



Submitted Photos
Jason Pigg, CEO/Scout Executive and Kelly Stickney, Program Director and Treasure Valley Camp Director, were Grand Marshals of the Rutland 4th of July Parade.

to celebrate this moment with the people of Rutland."

The Heart of New England Council serves thousands of youth in Central Massachusetts with programs that emphasize leadership, character development, and outdoor adventure.

Ben Barakian, coordinator

of Rutland's Fourth of July Parade, shared his enthusiasm for the Council's selection: "Our theme this year was 'It's Out of This World!' and celebrates exploration, imagination, and the extraordinary spirit that lives right here in our community. We chose Heart of New England

Council to be our Grand Marshal because Scouting America develops young leaders who embody the values of service, adventure, and leadership. Like space

See SCOUTING AMERICA, page 6

Sewer superintendent gives update on project funding

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Sewer Superintendent Eric Cardenas updated the Board of Selectmen regarding the replacement of the secondary clarifiers at the wastewater treatment plant.

At the July 1 meeting, he said the secondary clarifiers at the wastewater treatment plant are in "very poor condition" and need to be replaced. He said they have been in service for over 30 years, and they run continuously, every day of the year.

The secondary clarifiers are deep pools that reduce the velocity of the water through the treatment plant, allowing the bacteria to settle to the bottom and the clear liquid to flow over the top to the next downstream process.

"It's an essential piece to the treatment plant," Cardenas said. "Without those clarifiers you do not have treatment."

Cardenas said the existing secondary clarifiers are basically obsolete and there is no way to get parts to repair them. He said one of the clarifiers has an oil leak,

and needs to be refilled with oil each week.

"There's just no way of avoiding this repair," he said.

Cardenas said it is difficult to predict when the secondary clarifiers will fail, and he said the town needs both of them to address high flow times at the wastewater treatment plant.

Cardenas said the Sewer Department applied for a state earmark from the Senator's office in the amount of \$2.5 million to cover engineering services, materials and more. He said this was recently approved by the State Senate and will now go on to the U.S. Senate for final approval.

He said the engineers are "very hopeful" the funding will be approved, and the town won't have to pay for the secondary clarifiers. He said the engineers recommended the town apply for a State Revolving Fund loan in the meantime, in case the earmark does not come through.

"That's just a backup plan," Cardenas said of the

See N BROOKFIELD, page 7

Second half of ATM acts on zoning changes, citizen petitions

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
edowner@turley.com

Note: This is the second part of the Barre Annual Town Meeting as the meeting lasted just over four hours. The first half of the meeting appeared in the July 3 edition.

BARRE – During the last two hours of the Annual Town Meeting, voters acted on two articles that appeared on last year's warrant and failed, several zoning changes and citizens petitions.

Article 13 regarding local option meals tax once again failed to pass. The article asked voters to impose a sales tax on restaurant meals at .75% of gross receipts. Select Board Chairman Maureen Marshall said 60% of all cities and towns have this tax and Worcester made \$2.2 million last year with this tax.

Cheryl Southwick said she opposed the article. Taxes start out small then increase. Phil Stevens said it would impact small businesses, who are already struggling.

John Dixon said he was

not sure Article 12 originally listed in consent calendar was read out. Moderator Joshua Smith was not sure he read that article so to be on the safe side he presented to the voters. Voters approved the article to accept all highway assistance funds, Chapter 90, which is a yearly article on the warrant.

Voters also failed to pass Article 14, the Department of Public Works Special Act, sponsored by the Select Board with 71 yes and 109 no votes. It was a rewrite of a similar article, which was presented at last year's town

meeting. John Dixon, a former Select Board member, said the Department of Public Works director currently reports to the DPW Commissioners, consisting of Select Board, Sewer Commissioners and Water Commissioners, all elected officials. This special act would put the Select Board in charge of the personnel aspect of the DPW Director similar to the Fire and Police Chiefs. This article would change the appointment of the DPW Director in the hands of the Select Board. Matt Urban said this

was the wrong time for this article as the Select Board was over extended and are in the process of finding a new Town Administrator. Jason Pimental, former DPW Superintendent, said the town had 11 Town Administrators in the last 15 years.

Voters approved the rescinding of a previous ATM article of June 15, 2015 for a generator at Ruggles Lane School. The money returns to the General Fund. Voters approved \$28,200 for the Assessors recertification of property, a cyclical evaluation.

Voters also said yes to Articles 18, 19 and 20, all zoning changes. These articles required a 2/3 majority. Article 18 asked voters to change town owned land on the site of the former Roger Langley School from R15 to R80. The land holds gravel and this would allow the town to remove the gravel to maintain dirt roads and sand roads in winter. Gravel removal is only allowed on R80 property. Once the gravel was removed, the town

See BARRE ATM, page 6

Quabbin Community Band brings 'Movie Magic' to bandstand

BARRE – With concerts by the Quabbin Community Band resuming on the Harding Allen Bandstand in the center of town for the remainder of the summer, Sunday nights have come alive on the common.

Barre Pizza, a Platinum Sponsor of the band, stays open until 8 p.m. and the new Corner Coffee Co. is scooping ice cream until 9 p.m. The Barre Historical Society is open each Sunday with popcorn and beverages outdoors along with town memorabilia for concert goers to peruse.

This week the band presents "Movie Magic," which will include songs from, "Wicked," "Titanic," "La La Land," "The Wizard of Oz," "Beauty and the Beast" and more. The band is especially excited to present band member Eliza Brown in her debut as vocalist on the James Bond classic, "Skyfall." All summer concerts begin at 6 p.m. In case of rain on



Submitted photo

Karly Elizabeth Noel, seven month old daughter of band member Nicole Noel, wears her Quabbin Community Band shirt at the "Music and America" concert held Sunday, July 6 on the Barre Common.

any Sunday evening, the concerts are moved indoors to the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street.

Wingmasters with friends visits Hardwick

HARDWICK – A very special program was held on Saturday, June 28 at 1 pm at the Town House in Hardwick.

A program, Native American Artifacts and Birds of Prey, by Julie Collier of Wingmasters was sponsored by the Paige Memorial Library with funding from the Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council. Native Americans revered birds of prey for their majestic appearance as well as for their hunting prowess. To invoke the spirit of these powerful predators, Native peoples followed the ancient tradition of wearing or carrying bird of prey feathers. They also admired the subtle beauty of raptor feathers, from the black-and-white tail feathers of juvenile golden eagles to the wing feathers of hawks and falcons, patterned with arrowhead-shaped markings.

The strong connection between raptors and Native Americans suggested this program which combines five live birds of prey with artifacts and both explains



Submitted photos

Julie Collier of Wingmasters has a peregrine falcon on her arm.

and shows how different Native American cultures transformed natural materials into objects of beauty and drama. Crafts displayed at this program included a buf-

falo hide shield which could withstand bullets from a gun of that era, a rattle made from a turtle shell, clothing and headdresses.

While the birds and the



A barred owl is shown here being held by Julie Collier.

artifacts were the primary interests, the amazing Julie Collier interacted with her charges with love and respect which was obviously mutual. She was able to caress these mighty birds and to make contact with her nose

See WINGMASTERS, page 6



News of the Towns



ROUND TOWN

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Food Pantry holds distributions

The next Barre Food Pantry distributions will occur on Thursday, July 17 from 5:30-7 p.m. In order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients July 17 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.

Summer meals for children

Summer of YUM is by Summer Eats and the Quabbin Regional School District. This summer, all children and teens get free meals at Quabbin Regional Middle High School. No ID or registration required. It is open to all children 18 and under. Children and teens must be present to receive a meal and are required to eat on-site.

The summer feeding program at the Middle High School began Tuesday, July 8 and runs through Thursday, Aug. 7. Hours of operation are Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. If parents or guardians are looking for a way to entertain and feed their children nutritious meals all summer long, they don't need to look any further. Summer Eats sites can be nearby at libraries, parks, splashpads, farmers markets, schools and more. People can find additional Summer Eats sites near them using Project Bread's Summer Eats map by visiting projectbread.org/summereats.

Drinking water quality report

Copies of the Barre Water Department Annual Drinking Water Quality report for 2024 are available.

To obtain a copy, people may contact the Department of Public Works office at 978-355-5013, email dpw@townofbarre.com, visit the Town's website at www.townofbarre.com or stop into the office located at 441 Wheelwright Road, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Barre Dining Center

BARRE — Elder Services of Worcester Area Nutrition Program welcomes guests to dine at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road. The following meals will be served for the week of July 7. Lunches are back at the senior center, but require a pre-sign up. Volunteers are needed at the Barre dining site. Volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels (mileage reimbursement) and in the kitchen. People should contact 978-355-5027.

MONDAY — Macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, mixed vegetables, fresh fruit, pumpernickel bread

TUESDAY — Barbecue chicken, au gratin potatoes, Capri blend vegetables, Mandarin oranges, marble rye bread

WEDNESDAY — Teriyaki beef, steamed rice, broccoli, pineapple, fortune cookie, whole wheat bread

THURSDAY — Marinated pork loin, herbed stuffing, roasted Brussels sprouts, vanilla mousse, pumpernickel bread

FRIDAY — Chicken cranberry salad, three bean salad, coleslaw, chocolate pudding, diet = chocolate pudding, hot dog bun

*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.

Art Center hosts artists Joe Smith

PETERSHAM— The Petersham Art Center, 8 North St., presents the work of artist Joe Smith in his first solo exhibition at the Art Center.

The public is invited to join the artist for an opening reception on Sunday, July 13 from 4-6 p.m. at the Petersham Art Center located near Petersham Common. The exhibition, "Fifteen Years of Scratching: The Scratchboard Art of Joe Smith," will be on display from Thursday, July 10 to Sunday, Aug. 3.

Joe Smith is a Massachusetts based artist best known for his scratchboard works. His art connects his lifelong enjoyment of drawing with his career as a forester and conservationist. His forestry profession has brought him to places off the beaten path and his art has allowed him to preserve the beauty he has found there.

Smith draws and paints in a variety of mediums but has achieved his greatest success with scratchboard. Scratchboard is a form of direct engraving; some describe the process as drawing in reverse as the artist carefully removes ink from an inked surface. Smith's work has earned rave reviews and awards and he has been accepted as an artist member of the International Society of Scratchboard Artists, Copley Society of Art, Rockport Art Association and Museum and the North Shore Arts Association.

Smith's favorite subjects are trees and forests and his work is mostly drawn from the varied landscapes of his beloved New England home. His finely detailed work, in both black and white and color, captures the unique character and spirit of the wild places that exist around us.

The artist explains, "I have always loved to draw and I have always loved trying out different media. In 2010, I went into an art supply store and came out with a product that was new to me — a scratchboard panel. I took it home, started scratching, and I haven't stopped scratching ever since. The boards seem to satisfy some tactile need



Courtesy photos Art Center

Artist Joe Smith is shown working on one of his outdoor themed drawings. His work will be exhibited at the Petersham Art Center Thursday, July 10 through Sunday, Aug. 3.

deep inside me, and the results I have achieved are just as satisfying. While first focusing on trees and wooded landscapes, I have also ventured into human landscapes and seascapes. I have tried a variety of tools, experimented with different ways of adding color, and tried different scratching techniques. Scratchboard is uniquely suited for works with dramatic value contrasts, as it starts out with a deep black ink surface over a very bright white clay that is revealed as you scratch."

Exhibition coordinator Ken Levine notes, "Joe's work is masterful. His keen eye and skilled hand capture exquisite detail that seems to go beyond realism into something magical. I am amazed by what he can do with the

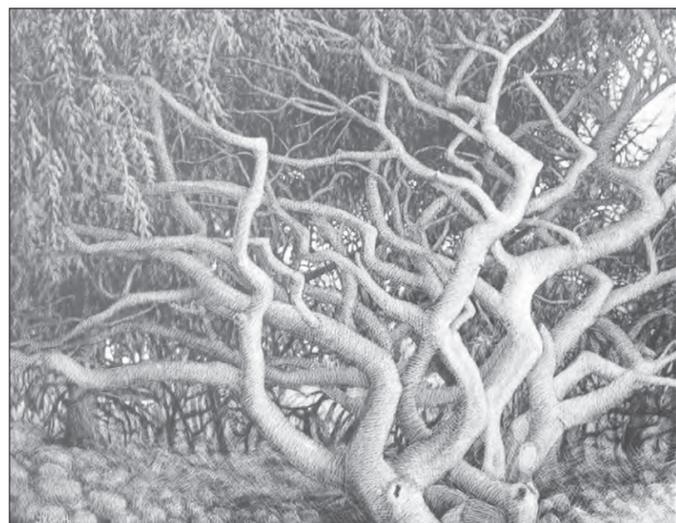


difficult medium of scratchboard. I think Joe's love of and portrayal of natural landscapes will be appreciated by many from the North Quabbin region."

Along with his art, Joe Smith worked for 44 years in forest management for which he holds a degree from UMass Amherst. His lengthy career includes serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Micronesia and on the Hoopa Valley Reservation in California, founder of Woodsman Inc. Forestry Consulting and as a director for the Trust to Conserve Northeast Forestlands, among other professional commitments.

The Petersham Art Center has been a home to regional fine art and craft since 1912 through its shop, gallery, classes, and special events. The public is invited to Joe Smith's July 13 reception for an afternoon of fine art and refreshments. Regular Art Center hours are Thursdays through Sundays, noon-4 p.m. For more information about the exhibition and the Center, people may call 978-724-3415.

Trees are one of Joe Smith's favorite things to paint.



OAKHAM

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Long Run to perform July 24

The Long Run, Songs off the Eagles, will be the featured band at the Oakham Town Common gazebo, located at 2 Coldbrook Road, on Thursday, July 24 at 6:30 p.m. The group covers the great rock, country and ballad songs from this top American band of the 1970s from their beginnings through their reunion in the mid-1990s. More about the band can be found at Facebook searching the group The Long Run Massachusetts.

Senior center news

On Thursday, July 10 seniors can have their blood pressure taken from 11 a.m.-noon at the Oakham Senior Center, located in lower level of Town Hall. On Thursday, July 17 someone from Sharing Health Insurance Needs of Elders will be at the Senior Center from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; reservations are required.

On Monday, July 21 the podiatry clinic is from 9 a.m.-2.30 p.m. Reservations are required

On Tuesday, July 22 there will be blood pressure/glucose testing from 11 a.m.-noon.

On Tuesday, July 22 there will be SNAP benefits information from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. All are welcome and there is no age restrictions.

Ongoing activities include puzzling Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-noon; walking group Monday through Thursday at 9 a.m.(meet at Senior Center);Tuesday through Thursday walking group at 11 a.m. (meet at Senior Center) and Thursdays at noon weigh in at the Senior Center for the support weight loss group. People may be added to the text message group by calling the Senior center at 508-882-4073 and leaving their cell phone number.

Wednesdays at 9 a.m.:Zumba Gold meets in the Rutland Senior Center. There is a \$3 donation per class. Fridays at 10.30 a.m. Functional Fitness at the New Braintree Town Hall takes place; \$3 donation per class.

Hot lunches are offered at the Senior Center dining area Monday through Thursday at 11.30 a.m. Reservations are needed at least two days in advance and can be made through the Congregate Meal Coordinator from 9 a.m.-12.15 p.m. by calling 508-882-4072.

Friday, July 10 the Oakham Council on Aging meets at noon. Lunch brunch meets the third Friday of the month. This Friday, July 18 the group will go to the new Clam Box. There is a sign up sheet at the Senior center main room. If people can't get to the Senior Center to make reservations or sign up, or for more information on offerings, they may call the Senior Center 508-882-4073 and leave a message or email COA@Oakham-MA.gov.

Concerts on the Common held monthly in North Brookfield

NORTH BROOKFIELD — Concerts on the Common will be held on select Saturdays on the town common from 6-8 p.m.

Upcoming dates and performers include July 26, Stan Matthews and the Rough Riders; and Aug. 30, Superchargers.

These concerts are free, but tips for the band and free will donations toward future events are appreciated. Food trucks will be available, or people are welcome to bring their own.

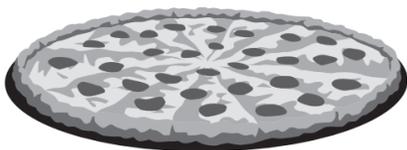
Chairs, blankets or something to sit on are encouraged, as well as insect, sun and weather protection.

The Concerts on the Common series is made possible by the North Brookfield Parks and Recreation and the North Brookfield Cultural Council.

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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

Master Plan Steering Committee – July 10 at 5:30 p.m.
 Board of Health – July 14 at 5 p.m.
 Water Commission – July 14 at 5:30 p.m.
 DPW Commission – July 14 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – July 15 at 6 p.m.
 Planning Board – July 15 and Aug. 5 at 7 p.m.
 Select Board – July 21 at 6 p.m.
 Conservation Committee – July 22 at 7 p.m.
 Cemetery Commission – July 24 at 11 a.m.
 Felton Field Commission – Aug. 5 at 6:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Aug. 6 at 12:30 p.m.
 Cable Advisory Committee – Aug. 12 at 7 p.m.
 911 Memorial Development Committee – Aug. 14 at 5 p.m.

HARDWICK

Gilbertville Water District – July 15 at 5:30 p.m.
 Master Plan Steering Committee – July 15 at 6:30 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – July 16 at 6:30 p.m.
 Capital Planning Committee – July 21 at 3 p.m.
 Board of Health – July 31 and Sept. 11 at 6:30 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Aug. 6 at 12:30 p.m.
 Paige Library Trustees – Aug. 7 at 7 p.m.
 Board of Health – Sept. 11 at 6:30 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Board of Parks Commissioners – July 16 at 5:30 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD.

Finance Committee – July 10 at 6 p.m.
 Council on Aging – July 14 at 2 p.m.
 Rep. Berthiaume Office Hour – July 15 at 11 a.m.
 Planning Board – July 16 and Aug. 20 at 6 p.m.
 Zoning Board of Appeals – July 21

OAKHAM

Library Trustees – July 10 at 5 p.m.
 Board of Selectmen – July 21, Aug. 4 and Aug. 18 at 6 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Select Board – July 17, July 31, Aug. 14, Aug. 28, Sept. 11, Sept. 18 and Sept. 25 at 5:30 p.m.
 Petersham Historic District – July 17 at 6 p.m.
 Board of Assessors – Aug. 1 at 9 a.m.
 Open Space and Recreation Committee – Aug. 5 at 6 p.m.
 Conservation Commission – Aug. 5 at 7 p.m.
 Council on Aging – Aug. 11 at 10 a.m.

RUTLAND

Town Charter Committee – July 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Editorial deadline reminder

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

Corrections policy

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



Submitted photos

Low brass section of Orange Community Band stands during Stars and Stripes Forever last week. Shown from left are Terry Parker, tuba; Vicki Dumont, trombone; Paul Maier, trombone and Dana Tandy, trombone and front row, Al Benjamin, Amy Tandy and Maeve Byrne.

Orange Community Band performs July 11

ORANGE – The Orange Community Band will perform its fourth of six Friday evening concerts on the bandstand on Friday, July 11 at 7 p.m.

Conductor Stephanie Parker has chosen the theme of “Prom Night” for this concert. Other themes this summer included “Welcome Summer” for the opener June 20, “From Sea to Shining Sea” on July 4 and “Let’s Go to the Movies” on June 27. Children’s Night July 18 will have the theme “Guys and Gals” and the final concert of the regular season on July 25 will be “Down Memory Lane.”

In addition to the traditional National Anthem opener, Friday’s program will include many of the following selections: “Elsa’s Procession to the Cathedral,” “3-Minute Nutcracker,” “Blue Skies,” “You Light Up My Life,” “Themes Like Old Times,” “Big Band Signatures,” “Waltzing Cat,” “Bright Lights,” “Moonlight Serenade,” “Somewhere Out There,” “Corktown



Trumpets stand for Stars and Stripes: Michael Ploof, Stave Babineau and Dick Tandy. Dave Cass in front.

Saturday Night,” “Schuler Polka,” “Despacito,” “Zoot Suit Riot,” “Earth Wind and Fire,” “Copacabana” and “Dance Monkey.” Other marches will also be included.

The Salvation Army food truck will provide refreshments, and all proceeds go to youth programs, including music lessons.

Summer season sponsors for the Orange Community Band include Witty’s Funeral Home, Orange

American Legion Post 172, Nursie Perkins Family, Lyman Family In memory of Gordon and Madena Kilhart, Dean’s Beans, Dotty V and Miffy S “Forebears and Traditions”, Susannah Whipps, John M Howe Family, Orange Lions Club, Trustees of New Salem Academy, Venture Community Services, and Honest Weight Brewery. The band will also perform a back to school concert on the bandstand Aug. 28.

Barre Food Pantry holds monthly distribution on July 17

BARRE – The next two Barre Food Pantry distributions will occur on Thursday, July 17 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. The pantry must also continue to protect clients, volunteers and the larger community from the spread of disease viruses.

Many clients and volunteers are classified as high-risk due to their age and/or underlying health conditions. The Barre Food Pantry Board of Directors 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 17 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.

If people can help pitch in for an hour on the July 17, they should call Sonja Blaney at 978-355-6921.

Please do not arrive to volunteer on July 17 without first calling 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 at <http://www.barre-foodbank.org/index.htm> and the Barre Food Pantry Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Barre-Food-Pantry-100156068300314/>.

HUBBARDSTON

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Rep. Berthiaume Chief of Staff holds office hour

State Rep. Donald Berthiaume’s Chief of Staff, Donna, will hold an office hour on Wednesday, July 16 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the Hubbardston Senior Center, Slade Building, 7 Main St. She invites constituents and town officials to meet her to express any concerns, ideas or issues that they may need assistance with. People may call Donna at 774-402-4742 if they would like a private meeting.

Dottie Rock Accessible Trail

Construction on the new accessible trail leading to the Dottie Rock overlook at the Malone Road Conservation Area will continue intermittently throughout the months of June and July. This will include limited excavation activities to remove small stumps and smooth out the clear tread width. Geofabric and layers of aggregate will be spread and compacted in place, thus creating an accessible surface on the proposed trail segments. This work is being funded through a combination of a Department of Conservation and Recreation MassTrails grant, town American Rescue Plan Act funds, town Community Preservation Act funds and volunteer labor. On days with trail construction activity, machinery will be moving up and down the Dottie Rock Trail and loading gravel from stockpiles at the Malone Road turnaround. Parking will be limited and all recreational users should stay clear of the active construction area.

Senior Center

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

Paige Memorial Library lists events

HARDWICK – Summer reading at Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, with special programs and activities, prizes, and lots of good books to borrow, continues to Saturday, Aug. 9.

Reading logs are checked each week for tickets for prizes. On Wednesdays from 3-4 p.m. participants may build a Lego creation to display in the library with a picture on Facebook. Story hour is at 11 a.m. for a reading, crafts, science and play.

On Thursday, July 10 at 3 p.m., they will make a checkerboard game to take home. Board Game Day with snacks is on Saturday, July 12 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Pokemon Day with Miss Brianna is on Tuesday, July 15 from 4-6 p.m. Participants will make a Tic-Tac-Toe game to take home on Thursday, July 24 at 3 p.m. They will play Bingo with prizes on Tuesday, July 29 from 3-5 p.m.

Calling adults to play ball or cheer on the Hardwick Haymakers on Saturday, July 19 at 1 p.m. at Goddard Field next to the Paige Library. The rain date is Sunday, July 20. On Thursday, July 24, at 6 p.m., Laura Dusha Nelson will help us plan for The Journey Before Us.

The Ukulele Workshop with David Maloof at the Town House Thursday, July 22 at 6 p.m. is for all ages.

People may register by calling 413-477-6704 or emailing Director.paigelibrary@gmail.com.

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

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

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

Please contact Pat James 413-726-8661.



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Opinion

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reader offended by lack of discussion on ATM article

Oakham's recent Annual Town Meeting moved quickly along until the last warrant article, a citizen-initiated petition requiring that agendas and minutes of town committees and boards be posted on the town website along with Zoom recordings of their meetings.

As secretary to Oakham's Council on Aging, this affected me. The Chairman of the Planning Board had bulk mailed a strongly worded message urging people to vote against it, but for reasons that had little to do with the merits of the proposal. The COA is concerned about folks with mobility issues, who can't talk meetings. So I wanted to talk about it.

But the discussion didn't happen. The Select Board moved that we pass over the article like it wasn't there. When asked why, the Board's lawyer explained that the Commonwealth doesn't require we do those things; since it would require extra work, we shouldn't do it.

One of the folks who proposed the new by-law stepped up to the microphone and asked if we could at least discuss why we were passing this over. He was told he could, but at that moment, a voice from the back, who didn't identify himself, moved to "call the question," meaning end debate and just vote.

The vote was immediately taken and the motion passed, ending discussion before it began. There were noises of congratulation from the back of the room, presumably from folks who opposed the new by-law proposal. And that was it. We went home at 7:45 p.m., earliest adjournment I ever remember.

It happened so fast, it didn't occur to me till later that you can't call the question before the discussion has even been opened. That's a "point of order." The Moderator erred badly in not making that point himself. He was also caught off-guard, I'm sure and maybe just missed it. But it's disappointing that no one on the podium raised an objection.

It looked, unfortunately, like the Select Board was out to kill this proposal without having to explain themselves. That there was a faction of town invested in not having this discussion made me wonder if there was another agenda at work, whether political or personal; clearly, those behind it didn't want to address the question directly. Why? I don't know.

But I was offended by the undemocratic tactics of those who killed the proposal without benefit of discussion — offended enough that I wrote this letter.

Rick Hendra
Oakham



In Past Pages

5 years (July 16, 2020)

Quilt for Kids is a 501(c) 3 charitable organization founded 20 years ago this August. The non-profits mission statement said "Quilts for Kids, Inc. transforms discontinued, unwanted and other fabrics into quilts that comfort children with life threatening illnesses as well as children of abuse." Linda Arye founded the organization with headquarters in Fairless, Pennsylvania. Local quilter, Edna Holloway of Oakham, decided to make quilts for children in Massachusetts after she received a large donation of fabric from Mary Ellen Derrick, who was moving. Edna contacted a group of fellow quilters and set a date to meet at the Oakham Congregational Church on July 2.

Tropical Storm Fay granted local paddlers a break on Saturday, July 11, when 16 kayaks and canoes explored Hardwick Pond and Muddy Brook with the East Quabbin Land Trust. The forecasted rain and thunderstorms passed by the area, creating safe, albeit windy conditions for the paddlers to embark upon the water. Hardwick Pond resident of over 20 years, Bill Zinni, led the group down the pond toward Muddy Brook. Paddlers of all levels of experience, from six-year of Cub Scouts working toward merit badges, to seasoned adults, followed Zinni onto the choppy water.

Barre Selectman Chairman Greg O'Sullivan said he would like the next regular meeting to be held in the meeting room at the Henry Woods Building. He said the room was large enough

Look Back – Youth Fair – 1966



File photo

These young girls participate in a pie eating contest at the Youth Fair held in September 1966.

that selectmen, Interim Town Administrator and Administrative Assistant could easily keep social distance. The meeting would not be open to the public. Selectman Matt Urban said his recommendation was to take easy steps. He said he started back to work and everyone wears a mask when in common space. Selectman Dylan Clark said he still didn't feel comfortable spending a long time in a room with other people. Selectman O'Sullivan said he could participate by phone if he preferred.

10 years (July 16, 2015)

Hubbardston Town Administrator Anita M. Scheipers presented copies of the Special Town Meeting warrant to the Board of Selectmen. She said that counsel approved it. She stated that she also sent a copy to bond counsel, but she had

not heard back from him. A citizen's petition asked the matter if a new senior center building be put before the voters again. The citizens consulted an architect that is familiar with senior centers and asked the architect's estimated cost of just over \$2.7 million be included in the debt question.

Vaction Bilbe School are a popular activity for children during summer vacation. Many area churches offer Bible schools that usually run Monday through Friday for about three hours. The Petersham Orthodox Congregational Church, 23 North Main St., Petersham hosts VBS with a "summer camp" theme July 20 to 24 from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The Pilgrim Baptist Church, 33 West Brookfield Road, North Brookfield kicks off their

See PAST PAGES, page 5

Op-Ed: Clean Energy Can't Come at the Cost of Clean Water or Local Control

By Aaron Langlois, RN, MBA

In recent guest commentaries and a televised interview, Joe Curtatone—President of the Alliance for Climate Transition (ACT) and a registered lobbyist—applauded Massachusetts' aggressive push for battery energy storage systems (BESS). He framed local opposition as a barrier to climate progress. But here in Oakham—a small rural town in Central Massachusetts—we're not standing in the way of clean energy. We're standing up for something just as vital: clean water, community safety, and the fundamental right of residents to shape decisions that impact their town.

The Clean Energy Bill passed by the Massachusetts Legislature last year gave developers the ability to bypass local zoning laws when siting large-scale BESS facilities. Under this law, even if a town has adopted local zoning rules—like

Oakham has—developers can now appeal directly to state agencies, whose leadership serves under the very administration driving the Clean Energy agenda. This is a classic David vs. Goliath scenario: small communities facing billion-dollar energy companies backed by government policy, powerful lobbying groups, and legal teams—while residents are left to defend their safety and water supplies with no paid staff and no budget.

Here in Oakham, we already passed a BESS zoning bylaw, approved by then-Attorney General Maura Healey, that lays out thoughtful local conditions for siting. These rules were enacted not to block clean energy, but to ensure safe, scientifically sound, and appropriately located development. Yet under the new state law, these local protections can be set aside—not by a court, but by administrative action. The same executive agencies promoting the BESS agenda are now chafing with ruling on

whether a local bylaw like ours can be ignored.

This is not democracy. It's a top-down override of community-based planning.

Right now, a company called Rhyndland Energy is proposing to install a massive lithium-ion battery facility on a former junkyard on Coldbrook Road. The site was never properly decommissioned. Rusting cars, tires, fuel containers, and batteries remain scattered across the landscape. It abuts protected DCR watershed land—part of the Ware River Watershed, which supplies drinking water to over 3 million Massachusetts residents.

No responsible clean energy advocate would suggest placing volatile, fire-prone lithium batteries on a contaminated site near sensitive wetlands and public water infrastructure—yet the law, as written, permits it.

Yes, battery storage plays a role in a sustainable ener-

See CLEAN ENERGY, page 6



A self-sown surprise

I was pleased to come home from vacation and see the changes in my work gardens over 10 days time. It was astounding to witness the growth that many of the plants put on!

One other thing I enjoyed seeing was a few "volunteers" that had popped up here and there. Celosia, portulaca and my favorite, the cleome, had germinated in bare spots in the garden.

While most of these plants did not fit in to the current year's design and had to be removed, the cleome, better known as "spider flower," popped up exactly where I would have wanted it. In a month or so I will have dome gorgeous flowers in the center of a bed, providing height right where I need it.

Spider flower goes by the scientific name *Cleome hasslerana*. Older cultivars such as "Helen Campbell" and the "Queen" series top off at an airy four or five feet tall, while the newer "Sparkler" hybrids are a bit shorter and bushier. Besides white, spider flower comes in pink, cherry and lavender.

It was given such a unique name because of the flower's long, slender stamens that remind one of spider legs protruding from the plant. The stamens hold the eventual seed pods a distance away giving them even more "popping power" once ripe.

As a child, I was drawn to the seed pods of this peculiar plant — if you waited until they were "just right" and gave them a squeeze, the seeds would fly everywhere. What fun!

This attribute gives the

plant tremendous "staying power" in the garden — in other words it pops up everywhere the following season! This can be a very good thing if you enjoy having the cleome around as much as I do.



Because cleomes are flower producing powerhouses they sometimes become exhausted by mid-summer; their lower leaves yellow and flowers start to fade. I always thought that if they were dead headed like other, more common annuals were, maybe they would last longer into the season.

So, as an experiment I clipped the seed-pods close to the plant as soon as they began to form. Unfortunately, the overall form of the plant was altered — not for the better and with little reward for my work. Then I began to search out what exactly cleomes need in order to thrive — perhaps if I met those requirements I'd have better luck.

I had always known that cleomes prefer full sun and well-drained soil. What I

See GARDEN, page 5

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Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

Most of the week has been pleasant weather and especially the Fourth of July weekend.

I did watch the Boston celebration on television Friday night; I am afraid I can not appreciate the music. I did enjoy the salute to the Arm Forces.

We had a special lunch of lobster and chicken salad rolls and watermelon and ice cream sundaes for dessert. It was nice not to have to make a meal.

I picked my first greens from the planter today and had them in a ham and cheese salad. There are no blossoms on the pepper plants, but small tomatoes forming on the Early Girl tomato plant. Ken did pick a few cultivated blueberries, but soon more will ripen.

My faithful penpal from Oakham sent me this recipe and I had to try it right away. It was the best corn chowder I have ever made.

EASY CHICKEN CORN CHOWDER

1 tablespoon butter
1 small onion, cubed

1 stick of celery, cubed
1 finely chopped small red or green pepper

1 can of cream style corn and 1 can of whole kernel corn

1 1/2 cups chopped cooked chicken

1 can evaporated milk.
1 teaspoon pepper

Note: I used corn off the cob for the whole kernel corn. I also used the water from cooking the chicken for the broth.

Melt the butter in a large kettle. Add the onions, peppers and celery. Cook until tender. Stir in corn, chicken, milk and broth. Stir occasional and top with cooked crumbled bacon. I served with crackers.

This and That

Things in the garden are growing nicely as are the hydrangeas, coreopsis, spirea, day lilies and black eyed Susans. The hostas are blooming and the bumblebees love them. There are some bee balm, which the hummingbirds like.

The handyman has cut some brush down near the

end of the driveway as it was hard to see when traffic came over the hill. I almost got hit a couple of times attempting to get the mail.

I have been working on some fall wool projects with pumpkins, crows and stars. It gives me a change to sit and relax. I am one, who does not like to only sit without something to do in my hands.

Ken and I have been married for 68 years on Monday. I think we will try to make it to 70 years. I have lived in Hubbardston for 86 years and there have been a lot of changes to the town in those years.

The disbanding of the First Parish Unitarian Church has been one of my disappointments. Many fine years were spent at that church, including Sunday School and a wedding. My children both attended the Sunday School also. I hope the town will make good use of the first meeting house building as they voted to accept it from the church membership.

Have a nice summer.

PAST PAGES from page 4

VBS that runs July 20 to 24 on Saturday, July 21 at 10 a.m. with its "Country Fair."

Starting within a week or town, a section of Route 122/32 through the center of town (South Common and Middle Common) will be detoured. The pavement will be removed, the roadbed dug up, manholes raised, new material laid and then repaved. Vehicles traveling on Route 122 through the center of Barre will be detoured onto Exchange Street to Broad Street to Park Street to Pleasant Street and back out Route 122, North, (West Street). All entrances will be blocked with type 3 plastic barricades. For vehicles traveling south on Rte. 122 (West Street) the detour will follow Newton Street to Grove Street to Common Street, to South Street to Moulton Street and back onto Rte. 122.

25 years (July 13, 2000)

SBA, Inc., of Lowell, denied permits to build cell towers o two sites in Barr, is likely to appeal the denials. The deadline for filing an appeal was July 11. Roy Dickover, the team leader who heads up the real estate projects for SBA, said Tuesday morning it was company policy not to say if an appeal would be filed until it was filed. He did say, however, SBA was "quite disturbed" buy the actions of the Planning Board took last month. The Boatd denied four permits to cell towers, two for SBA and two for American Tower Corp. Officials for American Tower could not be reached. The Planning Board denied the applications under existing zoning bylaws.

A newly formed group of volunteers interested in sup-

porting the activities of the Hubbardston Library is seeking new members to share its goals and objectives. Wanted are citizens, who value what the library birngs to the community, who are willing to help provide the additional energy, expertise and fundraising capabilities that will insure the continued strength of the library's resources and services. A Friends Group helps the local community achieve library goals not possible through the normal budget procedure, helping with funds, materials, equipment and services. Friends decide how to spend their money after conferring with the librarian and the Library Board of Trustees.

They came in expecting hard work and tough attitudes. They left with a news appreciation for being able to reach goals and work as part of a team. The Student Trooper Program at the Massachusetts State Police Academy in New Braintree for high school students ages 15-17 is not a summer camp. It is designed, according to its director Lt. Raymond Chapdelaine, to give sutdents interested in law enforcement career an idea what academy life is like. And its rough. "We're trying to fit a five month program into a week," Chapdelaine said. But now in its 13th year, Chapdelaine said the program, sponsored by the American Legion, accomplishes what it sets out to do.

38 years (July 16, 1987)

The Barre Sewer Commissioners signed Contract II last July 1 signaling the beginning of the \$3,197,747.85 project to bury all those pipes we've see by the sides of the roads lately. Contract II called Interceptor Lines, the main trunk for carrying effluent to the new

Sewage Treatment plant, will begin in approximately two weeks at Old Furnace Road. The contract was signed with Companare Construction Co. of Clinton, Connecticut. Head Sewer Commissioner Kathryn Inman stresses any problems with the construction should be referred to the Selectmen's office where prompt attention will be given.

The Barre Area Citizens Alliance sponsored NO-GWEN picnic last Sunday at Barre Falls Dam to gather more support in the growing opposition to the dam being chosen by the Air Force as a site for a Ground Wave Emergency Network Tower. According to Selectman James Sullivan, who was as the event, the picnic was very well organized and well behaved. He said that although one Metropolitan District Commission vehicle drove by, there was no demonstration or confrontation. The group, said Sullivan, just wanted to "get together and witness the fact that we like Barre the way it ist and do not want a 500-700 fottt tower, overarching the scene."

The 17th Annual Daily Vacation Bible School of the Pilgrim Baptist Church in North Brookfield will begin on Monday, July 27 and will continue through Friday, July 31 from 9 a.m.-noon. Young people ages four to eighteen are invited to attend. "Building Lives for God" is the theme of this summer's program, which includes Bible lessons, songs, missionary stories, handcraft projects, recreation and refreshments. There is no charge, but a free will offering will be taken each day and sent to a Mission Building Program in Togo, West Africa. Transportation will be provided for all who wish to attend.

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

GARDEN from page 4

didn't know was that they also like fertile soil and space away from one another. Regular doses of liquid feed are a must!

In the north, the cleome's habit of self-sowing doesn't become annoying, but in warmer areas it can become weedy. Clipping the seedpods as mentioned above would "nip this problem in

the bud." Seedlings that develop from volunteers will likely be a blend color-wise of the plants you grew last year because they are cross-pollinated by insects.

I will have to wait and see what color my self-sown cleome seedlings end up being, but lucky for me the rest of the flowers in the garden bed are in pink and lavender shades and will blend perfectly the volunteers.



By Ellenor Downer

Cooper's hawk



My neighbor has a Cooper's hawk in his yard. Cooper's hawks are common woodland hawks and skilled fliers.

They will fly at high speed through cluttered tree canopies in pursuit of other birds. They may be seen at the forest edge or a field taking a few wingbeats followed by a glide.

Males are smaller than the females. They build the nest and supply nearly all the food to females and young during the nesting period.

During migration, ridge tops in both the East and West are great places to spot Cooper's hawks in large numbers. Coopers hawks perch upright and have a long, rounded tail with dark banding. The band at the end of the tail is white. They have a small, hooked beak.

Adults have a gray back, reddish barred chest and red eyes. They also have a black cap.

Cooper's hawks are similar to sharp-shinned hawks, but are larger. They inhabit deep forest to backyards.

Grape jelly warning

I received a link about the dangers of feeding grape jelly to hummingbirds from a Granby resident. The link said, "Bird experts are raising the alarm that a common practice done to attract some birds is actually killing hummingbirds. Raptor Education Group, Inc. said just this week they had three adult ruby-throated hummingbirds brought in covered in grape jelly. One had already died. The others are alive, but struggling."

The central Wisconsin nonprofit shared photos to raise awareness that grape jelly is a sticky danger for the delicate birds. They said, "It has become common practice for people to put out jelly for orioles. However, when it is this warm, the jelly melts and sticks in other bird's feathers and feet." The group recommends buying bird-safer jelly from a specialty store or feeding orange halves.

Brimfield bird report

I received an email recently from a Brimfield resident. He said, "It's been a different spring/summer in the yard this year. I didn't see the first Baltimore oriole until June when a male showed up at the bird

bath and a few days later a female showed at the birdbath. In previous years we have had a couple of pairs in the yard. I offer jelly and oranges during migration and then just

oranges later in the year. I've only seen catbirds at the oranges, no orioles."

He saw a juvenile red-bellied woodpecker following an adult male around and begging for food recently. The catbirds are seen frequently and use the birdbath regularly. He has a couple pairs of rose-breasted grosbeaks as well. Several years ago, he saw 11 rose-breasted grosbeaks in the yard at the same time. He has not seen an indigo bunting this year. Although he saw great crested flycatchers and house wren earlier in the spring, they did not stay and use the nest boxes in his yard as they did last year.

Nesting osprey

He also said in his email, "In Warren last week I saw one osprey nestling in the nest on South

Street, but on a visit today there was no sighting of the chick, but an adult was perched on the nest."

Alarming statistic

He also said, "Unfortunately the reports that there are billions of fewer birds in the country now than there were in the 1970s is very evident to anyone who has watched birds since then. Very sad what we humans have done to the planet." He said, "On another depressing note, there are way fewer butterflies in the yard this year."

Phoebes

Every year Eastern phoebes return to nest in my yard. Recently, I saw a fledgling following an adult around begging for food.

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

Friends of library hosts an evening of song

NEW BRAINTREE – The Friends of the New Braintree Library present Isabella Gentleman and Terry Parker for an evening of song at the

New Braintree Town Hall, Memorial Drive, on Sunday, July 13 at 7 p.m.

This program is funded by the Hardwick/New Braintree Cultural Council,

a local agency which is sponsored by the Mass Cultural Council, a State agency.

This program is free and open to the public.

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Turley Publications will print your Autumn event FREE OF CHARGE in our Autumn Fest Supplement which will be published September 10, 2025. Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley. Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

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Troop 141's float was featured in the Rutland 4th of July Parade.

SCOUTING AMERICA
from page 1

explorers who boldly venture into the unknown, these Scouts demonstrate curiosity, courage, and a commitment to making the world around them better."

The parade is a centerpiece of Rutland's multi-day celebration of Independence Day (<https://www.rutland-ma-4thofjuly.org/>), which includes concerts, fireworks,

family-friendly events, and reflections on American history and values.

For more information about the Heart of New England Council, Scouting America, visit www.hnescouting.org.

About Heart of New England Council

Heart of New England Council is a 501(c)(3) organization that serves about 4,000 boys and girls in more than 60 communities in cen-

tral Massachusetts. It provides the nation's foremost program that teaches young people character, leadership, and citizenship through fun and exciting adventures for the entire family.

Heart of New England Council fosters a culture of diversity and inclusion that makes it enriching to participate, volunteer and work in the Scouting program.

Visit www.hnescouting.org for more information.



Scouts held a banner representing the Heart of New England Council of Scouting America.



Scouts prepared to lead the Rutland 4th of July Parade.

WINGMASTERS
from page 1

(her beak) to show affection. They also responded to her verbal commands. It was amazing!

Wingmasters is a partnership of Julie Anne Collier and Jim Parks both licensed wildlife raptor rehabilitators based in western Massachusetts dedicated to increasing public understanding and appreciation of North American birds of prey. Together they care for injured birds of prey

at their center in western Massachusetts. Most of the birds they rehabilitate can ultimately be released back into the wild, but in some cases the birds are left permanently handicapped. Julie and Jim are further licensed to provide a home for these nonreleasable raptors and to use them for educational programs. Since 1994 Wingmasters has presented over 10,000 programs at schools, libraries and museums throughout New England.

The obvious message

in Wingmasters is saving the birds, but Jim and Julie changed careers and followed their dream. For Julie it was also honoring her Native American Creek and Chickasaw heritage by showing audiences the strong connections between Native Americans and birds of prey. They both found teaching was their calling and they are firmly committed to giving educational programs of the highest quality, integrating their vast collection of raptor-related artifacts into the different

educational programs they offer. Wingmasters is the only traveling program to do so on this scale and with this degree of diversity and quality.

Wingmasters programs are noted for a calm atmosphere that promotes learning. There is always an interactive exchange of questions and answers during the program. However, for the birds' well-being and for the safety of the audience and the well-being of the raptors, the birds are never free-flown

and are never handled by anyone but Julie and Jim and are never flown for demonstration.

Wingmasters also offer a valuable educational resource through their web site, with hard-to-come-by research information and in-depth species profiles on raptors of the Northeast, accompanied by Julie's artwork and Jim's photographs and articles on birds of prey in history and art.

People may visit <https://www.wingmasters.net/>.

BARRE ATM
from page 1

could then sell the property as a house lot.

The next zoning change article from R80 to R20 involved a parcel on South Barre Road near the Barre Senior Center. Owned by James Caruso, it was a gravel operation and he plans to run build several duplexes on the land. In order to run sewer and water lines, the zoning must be R20. The land in front of this back land is already zoned R20.

Article 20 changed a parcel on Worcester Road next to the Barre Health Center, owned by R.J. McDonald, Inc. from R20 to business commercial. It passed unanimously.

Article 21, a citizen petition, to ban single use plastic bags in Barre, failed to pass. The article if approved outlined a fine schedule for retail operations failing to comply. Police Chief James Sabourin said he was not consulted on this article. His department could not enforce the fines at this time. He assumed it would be handled similar to parking violations through the Town Administrator. Lee Radlo said the Barre Food Pantry uses both plastic and paper bags in distributing food. She said some clients bring their own bags, but it would if the Food Pantry used the plastic bags. Robert Kane said he has seen plastic bags in lakes and streams and even woven into bird nests.

Ralph Gendron said technology was changing and in the future there will be biodegradable plastic bags to replace the ones currently in use.

Louisa Knowles, who proposed the article, said she did a lot of research on this. She said microplastics cause many health issues and affect children more than adults. Microplastics are part of the food chain.

Article 22 on the warrant, also a citizen petition proposed by Elizabeth Martin, was non-binding and asked voters to urge the Select Board to accept the Massachusetts Office of Dam Safety offer to remove the dam at the Old Reservoir off of Williamsville Road. Robert and Theresa Kane said removing the dam would eliminate a water storage system. They said the cost of inspections and maintenance was minimal and it costs twice as much to remove the dam as to repair it. Matt Urban said maintenance costs and would be minimal in the first years, but the impact would not be felt until ten to 15 years later.

Floyd Kelley made a motion to table the article. He said no one knows how much water it is holding back and preventing flooding downstream. His motion failed to pass. Following additional discussion, voters approved the non-binding article.

The final article was also a citizen petition that authorized payment for previously approved stipends. The stipends, \$2,500 each from Sewer and Water enterprise funds for a total of \$5,000, were for Shannon O'Connor for services performed as Administrative Assistant when the town did not have a DPW Superintendent vacancy. Treasurer/Collector Jake Voelker said Town Counsel determined the Sewer and Water Commissioners did not have authority to offer a stipend and it had to go to town meeting for appropriation in order to be paid. Voters approved the article.

The final two articles, 5 and 6 were moved to the end of the warrant per a citizen request by the Moderator. They involved transferring money from the Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds to help fund their budgets. Voters approved both articles.

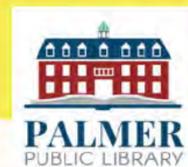
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Gathering

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Now we must decide how to best use the money to support our community, and we want to hear from YOU!

COME JOIN US TO DISCUSS THE NEXT STEPS IN THE PROCESS AS WE TALK ABOUT:

- Creating a Community Survey
- How to Support Those With Substance Use
- Preventative Measures
- After Care

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

- People with lived experience
- Individuals in recovery
- Family/friends of those with substance use disorder

To Join Our Group!

WHEN & WHERE

The Second Wednesday of Every Month

3:00pm-4:30pm

at The Palmer Public Library

For any questions reach out to:

(413)283-2606 or ngauthier@townofpalmer.com

***You will always be able to stay completely anonymous at Palmer for Tomorrow, we will never ask or share your name or your story.**

FREE
FOOD
WILL BE
PROVIDED!

N BROOKFIELD
from page 1

SRF loan. Cardenas said the SRF application is more of a request to see if the town's project qualifies for the loan, and it does not oblige the town to accept the loan. Applying for the SRF loan will not impact on the town's chances of receiving earmarked funds.

The board approved the application process for the SRF loan.

Change orders for Fire/Highway buildings

Finance Committee Chair Joe Trentacosta said there are four change orders for the Fire/Highway buildings project including the apparatus lighting in the amount of \$3,852.70.

"The original design did not have included the exit lighting and the exit sign," he said. "The town electrician came in and requested that we do so."

Other change orders include changing the electrical breakers to GFI breakers

in the amount of \$408.80; new vent pipes for the heating units in the amount of \$17,330.83; and other electrical upgrades in the amount of \$2,370.84.

Fire Chief Darin Anderson said the original plan did not include the replacement of the heating unit's vent pipes, but since the project started, the pipes have rotted and now need to be replaced.

Council on Aging programs

Board of Selectmen Chair Jason Petraitis said the board met with the Council on Aging Director and the Friends of the Council on Aging regarding planned youth programming scheduled on Wednesday afternoons that could interfere with current senior programming.

"There were some other questions that came up regarding liability and just general use," he said during that meeting.

He said there have been many comments on social media from people who did not attend the meeting or have all of the information.

Board of Selectmen Clerk Ralph Kay said he has been appointed as the liaison for the Senior Center, and he has initiated communication with both the Council on Aging and the Friends' group. He said he has learned what each group's responsibility is.

Kay said he is going to be actively involved with what is happening at the Senior Center to improve communication between them and the Selectmen.

He said they will keep "lines of communication open in a positive vein" between the groups at the Senior Center and the Board of Selectmen.

"I don't want to look back, I want to look forward," Kay said. "The Senior Center is an important part of this town."

Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair Jamie Gilman said there were two areas of liability regarding youth programming, and the board has located a form that was previously drafted for the board to review.

Gilman said he has been

involved with Scouting America, and he spoke about the need for youth protection guidelines and CORI checks.

Petraitis the board will be working with the groups to "bring everybody together."

Wood for residents

Petraitis said a lot of trees have been cut down due to utility work, and the Highway Department has been cleaning up the remaining wood, which is then disposed of in the town pit on Kittredge Road.

He said residents who live where the trees are being cut down are first asked if they want the wood before the Highway Department removes it.

He suggested the board consider adding a sign-up form to the town's website for all residents to request unclaimed wood to be dumped at their houses and make use of it. He said residents would need to sign a waiver and be present when the wood is delivered.

Petraitis said the wood would be delivered one truck length onto a resident's prop-

erty. He suggested the wood be delivered on a first come, first served basis.

"I just hate to see it all go to waste," he said.

The board will continue discussion on this proposal.

Moment of silence

Petraitis announced that Ed Decoteau, the town's oldest male resident and the last World War II veteran, passed away the end of June at the age of 101. He held a moment of silence to honor Decoteau's memory.

Transfer requests

The board approved the Town Collector's request to transfer \$100 from the Town Collector Clerk account to the Town Collector Postage Machine account. This transfer will cover the cost of late payments.

A request to transfer \$500 from the Recycling Monitor Salaries account to the Recycling Electricity account, was also approved by the board.

The board approved the following requests from the Board of Health: \$1,350 from the Board of Health

Clerk's Salary to the Board of Health Purchase of Services to balance accounts; and \$2,041 from the Food Inspector Salary to Purchase of Services Title V to balance accounts.

Free event for seniors

The North Brookfield Community Food Collaborative is partnering with the First Congregational Church to host a free hot dog lunch for seniors on Monday, July 14 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

DJ Brian will provide music, and Long Branch Hot Dog Stand will provide hot dogs. The meal will include potato salad, macaroni salad, drinks and ice cream.

Reservations are encouraged by calling Karen at 774-289-9832 by July 13.

Meeting with East Brookfield

Petraitis said the officials from the town of East Brookfield have requested to meet with the board regarding collaboration with the Transfer Station, the town beach and addressing beaver concerns.

CLEAN ENERGY
from page 4

gy grid. But BESS technology carries real risks: fires, explosions, and toxic chemical releases. These aren't hypothetical. Incidents have occurred in other states and countries, requiring specialized containment teams and prolonged response. Oakham, like many rural towns, lacks the infrastructure or emergency personnel to manage such a disaster. In a wooded region with drought conditions and limited access roads, one BESS fire could spark a catastrophe.

Joe Curtatone accuses residents of "fear and misinformation," invoking the

tired trope of NIMBYism. But this fight isn't about politics or paralysis. It's about governance, accountability, and science-based planning. We're not saying "not in our backyard." We're saying: not irresponsibly, not without remediation, and not without community input.

In response to a postcard received by a limited number of Oakham abutters on

March 21, our community came together to form a nonprofit—theACORNS.org (Advocates for Conservation of Oakham's Rural Nature & Safety). We are a grassroots coalition of Oakham residents and supporters from across Massachusetts, united in our commitment to transparency, responsible development, and local input. We accept no corporate or government fund-

ing, employ no lobbyists or paid staff, and are powered entirely by volunteers who care deeply about environmental protection and public health—not just for Oakham, but for the 3.1 million people who rely on the Quabbin Reservoir and its surrounding watersheds for clean drinking water.

Massachusetts can be a leader in clean energy, but that leadership must be just,

inclusive, and grounded in science and democracy. Rural towns like Oakham are not obstacles to progress—they are stewards of vital natural resources and deserve to be treated as partners, not pawns.

Let's not pit climate action against public health. Let's demand a transition that respects both the planet and the people who live on it.

Aaron Langlois, RN, MBA

Aaron Langlois is a registered nurse, nonprofit healthcare executive, and lifelong Oakham resident. He serves as co-chair of theACORNS.org, a nonprofit committed to protecting the rural environment, natural resources, and public safety of Oakham, Massachusetts. His commitment to civic service and environmental stewardship spans over four decades.

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- WARE RIVER NEWS



Calendar of Events

FRIDAY, JULY 11

ORANGE COMMUNITY BAND continues its summer concert season with the third concert, on the bandstand in Butterfield Park, Orange today at 7 p.m. Other dates are July 18 and July 25. The Band will also perform a Back to School Concert on Friday, Aug. 28, to kick off Labor Day Week. Steph Parker will conduct "Prom Night." The Salvation Army food truck will provide refreshments, with proceeds going to youth programs, including music lessons. The theme for the July 18 concert will be "Kids' Night" with a theme of "Guys and Gals." The final concert of the summer series, Down Memory Lane, is July 25.

SATURDAY, JULY 12

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

MONDAY, JULY 14

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

AUDITIONS FOR 'ANYTHING GOES' at Theatre at the Mount, Mount Wachusett Community College, 444 Green St., Gardner will take place today and Tuesday, July 15 at 7 p.m. in Room A110 at the college. Cast requirements area large adult cast ages 16 and up. All auditions are by appointment only by emailing to boxoffice@mwcc.mass.edu or calling 978-630-9388. Callbacks are on Wednesday, July 16, if needed. People should prepare a short vocal selection that best shows your abilities and range (bring sheet music if selection is not from the show). Wear comfortable clothing and footwear for dance audition. If auditions are a tapper, please bring tap shoes. Also expect cold-readings from the script for key roles. Performance Dates: Oct. 3, 4, 10, 11 at 7:30



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer
This week's mystery photo is from Rutland. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, July 14. Bill Bowles, Paul Carlson and Peggy Civilik correctly identified the photo. The photo last week was the bandstand on the Common in Petersham.

SUNDAY, JULY 20

DRAGONS AND DAMSELS TALK by naturalist Sheila Carroll will take place today at 3 p.m. at the East Quabbin Land Trust office, 120 Ridge Road, Hardwick. A walk at a local preserve will follow the talk. The Ware River Watershed in Central Massachusetts has a rich diversity of water habitats, so it's not surprising to find more than 95 different species of dragonflies and damselflies in this area. A potluck meal will follow the program for those that wish to bring a dish to share.

SUMMER CONCERTS take place on the Ware Green in front of the Ware Center Meetinghouse and Museum, 295 Belchertown Road, Route 9, Ware today and July 27 at 6 p.m. People should bring a lawn chair. Today Dixieland Stomp will perform and July 27 is with Lori Brooks.

MONDAY, JULY 21

BARRE'S BEST BITES hosted by the Barre/Hardwick Senior Center will take place today from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road, Barre. Local restaurants and food businesses will showcase nutritious, delicious offerings tailored for the aging adult community. Participants include Cafe on the Common, Country Gourmet, Hardwick Crossing, Hartman's Herb Farm, Mimi's Coffeehouse, Red Tomato Pizza and Wholesome Farmer's Market. Attendees may sample hors d'oeuvres, main entrees, desserts and beverages, each offered in tasting portions. People may sign up at the Senior Center front desk or by calling 978-355-5004.

p.m.; Oct. 12 at 2 p.m. Tentative Rehearsal Schedule: Sundays from 6-9 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-10 p.m., beginning Aug. 3.

TUESDAY, JULY 15

CHAT WITH A CURATOR PROGRAM will be held today from 5-6:30 p.m. at the American Antiquarian Society, 185 Salisbury St., Worcester. New collection of diaries reveals fresh insights into nineteenth-century rural life. The focus of this free, drop-in program will be a new AAS collection: hundreds of daily journals and record books that were kept by longtime Barre resident William Lewis (1819 - 1897) for fifty-nine of his seventy-eight years. Christie Higginbottom and Bruce Craven of Leicester discovered and purchased Lewis's

journals at the 2012 Tolland (Connecticut) Antiques Show, and later that year acquired his account books and records. In 2024, the couple published a book, "Finding William Lewis (1819-1897): The Every-day Life of this Singular Man" and last fall donated the full collection of Lewis's manuscripts to AAS.

FRIDAY, JULY 18

GRANDPARENTS AND KINSHIP CARE SUPPORT GROUP meets today from 9:30-11 a.m. at the Worcester Family Resource Center, 20 Cedar St., Worcester. The group meets in person for breakfast the third Friday of the month. For questions or to register, people may call Debbie at 508-796-6118 and leave their name and contact information.

Calendar Policy

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

Middle/High School offers Summer Eats food program

BARRE – This summer, all kids and teens get free meals at Quabbin Regional Middle High School through the Summer Eats program, no ID or registration required.

Summer Eats is open to all kids 18 and under. Kids and teens must be present to receive a meal and are required to eat on-site.

The summer feeding program at the Middle High School will be offered July 8-Aug. 7. Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday, from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

You can find additional Summer Eats sites near you using Project Bread's Summer Eats map at projectbread.org/summereats.

West Brookfield Farmers Market

WEST BROOKFIELD – The West Brookfield Farmers Market has returned on the beautiful West Brookfield Common for its 15th consecutive season.

The market is held on Wednesdays from 3-6 p.m., rain or shine, throughout the spring, summer and early fall.

The 2025 season the market will feature 17 vendors with a wide array of locally grown and made goods including three new vendors sure to please the palate.

The West Brookfield Farmers Market is held every Wednesday afternoon from 3-6 p.m. on the common through Oct. 8, rain or shine.

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Panthers return to action

AUBURN – Last Monday evening, the Quabbin Panthers, a high school summer basketball squad, got back on the court and scored a win over David Prouty in their first action since the Fourth of July holiday week. The Panthers did a great job on both sides of the ball to build an early lead.

The Panthers rode a balanced a lineup, able to move players in and out of the lineup. Quabbin's week continued with a game on Wednesday evening. The Panthers return to action next Monday and Wednesday.



Brady Patchen drives toward the hoop.



Jacoby Dilling goes for the layup.



Aiden Crane heads down the court to start a play on offense.



Aiden Crane goes for the breakaway after a steal.



Isaac Patchen circles around a blocker.



Matt Wade gets the put-back.

Post 241 clinging to playoff hopes as season nears end

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

PALMER – After a defeat earlier this week, the Monson Post 241 American Legion baseball team fell to 3-5 on the season, good for just six points. But with only five losses, Monson is holding onto eighth place for a potential spot in the district playoffs.

Monson has just a small number of games remaining in its regular season to try and improve its standing, including matchups with Westfield, North Adams, Longmeadow, Pittsfield, and West Springfield, which

includes players from Agawam.

During one of their most recent matchups, a 3-2 defeat over Pittsfield-2. The Mustangs got a complete game victory from Grayson Griswold, who attends Pathfinder Tech.

Post 241's squad includes players from five different schools, Palmer, Monson, Pathfinder, Ware, and Quabog.

Griswold would hold Pittsfield, a larger school compared to the five Post 241's players come from, to just three hits and one earned run. The Mustangs were able to overcome errors that led

to another run and five additional baserunners through walks by Griswold.

Ware's Nate Kaczuwka had two hits in the game and Hunter Griswold turned in a hit and an RBI in the matchup. Monson got all three of its runs in the top of the fourth inning.

Monson has a matchup on Friday, July 11 at 5:45 p.m. at home at Legion Field against Longmeadow. They will follow with a road matchup on Sunday afternoon against Northampton at Joe Wolfe Field. On Monday, Post 241 will host West Springfield at 6 p.m. in Palmer.

Mutiny closes out regular season

LUDLOW – The New England Mutiny, which gathers talent from all over the region to play its home matches at Ludlow's Lusitano Stadium, recently wrapped up its regular season, including an impromptu 12-0 win over the Worcester Fuel. The Mutiny's short season will lead them to the playoffs, which are likely to take place on the road this year. The Mutiny have hosted playoffs at Lusitano in the past.



Agawam's Hope Santaniello fights for possession of the ball.



Avery Klingensmith, of Belchertown, tries to get a pass away.



Mila Dillard, of Chicopee, heads down the field.



Bella Santaniello, gets in the action for the Worcester Fuel during a recent matchup with the Mutiny.

Pioneers punch playoff tickets with victory

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—After winning the USL D-3Pro League championship title in 1999, the Western Mass. Pioneers only qualified for the playoffs five times during the next 20 years.

Since joining USL League Two in 2019, the Pioneers have qualified for the playoffs each season.

The Pioneers clinched a berth in this year's playoffs following a 5-0 win over the Albany Rush before a large gathering at historic Lusitano Stadium, last Wednesday night.

"This is the sixth time in a row that we've made the playoffs," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari, who's been coaching the men's squad since 2012. "I think it's a very good accom-

plishment for the club. We need to win our last two regular season games to have a chance to finish in first place."

The Pioneers (9-1-2), who have finished in second place in the league standings during the past three years, are battling Vermont Green FC (9-0-2) for the top spot in the Northeast Division table.

"We accomplished one of our goals tonight by clinching a playoff berth," said Pioneers midfielder Augustine Boadi. "We're now trying to win the league title."

The Pioneers were scheduled to play a road match against the New England FC on Monday night before closing out the regular season by hosting the boys from Vermont on Friday night.

The Vermont Green won the first meeting of this sea-

son between the two squads, 2-0, which took place in front of 2,500 enthusiastic soccer fans at Virtue Field located on the University of Vermont campus on June 17.

When Vermont made the three-hour trip south on Rte. 91 to Lusitano Stadium a year ago, they clinched a playoff berth with a 3-1 win over the Pioneers in the regular season finale. It was the Pioneers, who had already locked up a playoff berth, only home loss of the 2024 campaign.

Entering last Wednesday's match, Albany (2-9-1) had never defeated the Pioneers since they joined USL League Two in 2022.

The Pioneers, who defeated the Rush, 6-0, on May 19, put the second meeting out

See PIONEERS, page 9

Sports

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Summer Edition

EAST BROOKFIELD – The Wednesday night summer league at Bogey Lanes has made it to July before Independence Day.

After nine weeks of league bowling, Sophia's Raiders are distancing themselves from the pack in first place with a record of 60-12. Gutter Dolls are in second place with a record of 46-26. Kristen's Squad is in third place with a record of 37-35. The Straight Shooters and No Shows are tied for fourth place with a record of 36-36.

Sophia's Raiders won two out of three games bowling against their average in week nine. Sophia Hearnlaye bowled her best game of the summer with a 127 in game two. Her teammate, Phil Clough, bowled a 133 in game two. The team won six points to advance their record to 60-12, which puts them in a commanding lead over the rest of the teams.

Straight Shooters bowled against the Gutter Fingers

in week nine. In game one, Straight Shooters won the first game by a score of 478-462. Alan Nason of Straight Shooters began the match with a 112.

In game two, Gutter Fingers won by a score of 509-496. Jean Pouliot of Gutter Fingers, who averages 87, bowled well with a 111. Nason did better than his first game by bowling a 129.

In game three, Straight Shooters were the winners by a score of 458-433. Nason finished with 104 and a series of 345. Total pinfall was in favor of the Straight Shooters by a score of 1432-1404.

The No Shows bowled against Gutter Dolls. In game one, No Shows won by a score of 458-431. Pete Swistak of No Shows had a good game to start the evening with a 125.

In game two, Gutter Dolls defeated No Shows by a score of 483-471. Swistak bowled a 128 in a losing effort as Emily Darcy of Gutter Dolls bowled a 115.

In game three, the Gutter Dolls won the last game by a score of 458-428. After win-

ning big in game three, the Gutter Dolls won total pinfall by a final score of 1372-1357.

The Gutter Snipes bowled against Kristen's Squad. In game one, Kristen's Squad won by a score of 460-398. In game two, Kristen's Squad won again by a score of 444-437.

In game three, Kristen's Squad won for a three-game sweep over the Gutter Snipes, 488-468. Lori Merriam of Kristen's Squad finished the match with a 125. Marc Vinciulla of Gutter Snipes had a strong showing in game three with a 136. The final score was 1392-1303 in favor of Kristen's Squad.

Clock Barn bowled against the Rolling Stones in week nine. In game one, Rolling Stones won by a score of 432-422. In game two, Rolling Stones won again by a score of 427-410.

In game three, Clock Barn won the last game by a score of 453-439. Rhonda Howe of Clock Barn finished the match with a 108. The final score was 1298-1285 in favor of Rolling Stones.

Quabbin Valley set to host second over-28 fall league

Following up on the resounding success of its inaugural campaign, the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, an over-28 adult baseball league will hold its second Fall League this September and October.

Seeking to create a similar competition environment to its spring/summer league, Quabbin Valley, with contributions from the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League, created a four-team fall league last year featuring the Braves, Dodgers, Cardinals, and Twins.

Those same four teams are set to return and each team tends to have openings on them. Additionally, the league is open to welcoming

more teams in to the league if it finds enough interest.

While the fall league schedule is still under construction, it will mostly feature Sunday morning games played with wood-bat only, which is customary for fall baseball. There could be some Saturday games added to the schedule depending on the completion of the spring/summer season as well as to makeup rainouts, potentially. Games are nine-innings long and there is a small playoff and championship held at the end of the season. Last year's fall season was eight games and that is the goal for this year. Free and low-cost fields are used as well as just one umpire in an effort

to keep the costs lower for players. The cost to play will likely range from \$40 to \$60 for the eight-game schedule. Players from outside the Quabbin League may also pay a small fee for insurance as well.

An interest/registration form, will be forthcoming soon, but until then, to express interest in the league, you can email the coordinators of the league at either GScibelli22@yahoo.com or ikhandfield@gmail.com.

Scheduled and team placement for unaffiliated players will be finalized in mid-to-late August. Please join in the fun this fall.

In the Classroom

Quabbin High School honor roll

BARRE – Quabbin Regional High School announces the honor roll for the fourth quarter.

Grade 9 high honors

Student in grade 9 attaining high honors are Brent Benoit, Abraham Brown, Chloe Howarth, Emma Lindsey, Ellie Poulin, Ava Sobol and Erin Trottier.

Grade 9 honor

Student in grade 9 attaining honor roll are Nicolas Antonio, Anyiah Bergeron, Josephine Buck, Carlmorisia Campbell, Eleanor Carroll, Nicholas Carroll, Brian Colleton, Michael Condry, Aiden Crane, Kayla Curran, Adrien Cyr, Ryan Dailey, Aliyah Edouard, Maya Edouard, Andrew Erickson, Audrey Faucher, Samuel Feldman, Alaina Flynn, Sydney Freeman, Daniella Gaudreault, Callahan Hardy, Matthew Labrousse, Alison LaRoche, Max Melad, Niki Nikakhlagh, John Orsini, Aubrie Phelps, Moira Powers, Juliet Priestley, Lucas Proctor, Carter Stevenson, Haley Stoll, Silas Stukuls Barrieau, Benjamin Thompson and Catherine Tucker.

Grade 10 high honors

Student in Grade 10 attaining high honors are Jacob Bassett, Madeleine Boisselle,

Makenzie Casey, Isabel Doty, Leah Doucette, Tess Dunphy, Anna Hautala, Sadie Kennan and Ellary White.

Grade 10 honors

Student in Grade 10 attaining Honor Roll: Klavdiya Antonian, Skyler Bard, Halo Bissonnette, James Cook, Katelyn Durant, Brody Faucher, Grace Flamand, Alijah Flint, Kathryn Ford, Mia Gleason, Lilian Hinkley, Kayli Howland, Kirk Kaelin, Taylor Kolb, Sierra Lambert, Audrey Laursen, Ailey Majoy, Scarlett Merriman, Anna Metcalf, Jesse Newton, Samantha O'Connor, Charlotte Oliver, Sadie Ouimette, Blake Parmeter, Maya Putnam, Julia Quintal, Sylvan Rector, Camren Robertson, Abigail Rogowski, Jennavicia Roseberry, Emma Ryan, Sienna Shaw, Ash St. Clair, Aubrey Thorpe, Owen Twarog, Grace Vanoudenhove, Caylee Watts, Brendan Welch, Carlo Zolla, Leanna Zou

Grade 11 high honors

Student in grade 11 attaining high honors are Micah Cerezo, Kalina Dyer, Adelaide Harmon, Elizabeth Matheson and Hannah Zereski.

Grade 11 honors

Student in grade 11 attain-

ing honor roll are Owen Breuer, Tricia Bruso, Bailey Burke, Kylee Costello, Annabella DiMartino, Hemily Halaby, Emma Kahlau, Grace Manna, Hunter McQueston, Jayne O'Brien, Aaron Rowell, Madelyn Stauder, Andrew Warfield, Thomas Wigglesworth and Jin Xi Zou

Grade 12 high honors

Student in grade 12 attaining high honors are Matthew Erickson, Adam Faulha, Rachael Fuller, Samuel Guertin, Isabel LaBelle, Lauren Orne, Julia Smith and Jaxon Warburton.

Grade 12 honors

Student in grade 12 attaining honor roll are Eamon Arnold, Jordan Blanchard, Alisyn Bruso, Kyle Clark, Abigail Crawford, Jacquelyn Dahlstrom, Teaghan Earle, Angelina Feliciano, James Q Geary, Kyra Grummell, Rylee-Anne Harty, Mackenzie Holmes, Hunter LaBier, Travis LaRoche, Travis Los, Vincent Marinelli, Alexandra Pease, Nathan Pride, Adelynn Prochnow, Ethan Salvatore, Sadie Sheldon, Hannah Shepard, Sydney Slattery, Isabella Smith, Irene Stolgitis, Vanecia Tarquinio, Richard Tucker, Abigail Ure and Ryan Wreschinsky.

Max Doane enrolls at McDaniel College

WESTMINSTER, MD – Max Doane of Hubbardston enrolled at McDaniel College as a member of the Class of 2029.

Doane is a graduate of Oakmont Regional High School and plans to study political science. McDaniel College, founded in 1867,

is a four-year, independent college of the liberal arts and sciences offering over 100 undergraduate and graduate programs.

McDaniel College is a student-centered community of 1,600 undergraduates. Students can choose from over 100 undergraduate and

graduate programs, including majors, minors, specializations, master's, graduate certificates, and B.A.-to-M.S. pathways.

For more information about McDaniel College, people may visit www.mcdaniel.edu.

PIONEERS from page 9

of reach by scoring four goals in the first half.

"Building a large first half lead allowed us to relax a little bit in the second half," Molinari said. "We played very well tonight."

The Rush have gone 0-7-1 since celebrating back-to-back victories against Black Rock and Boston City FC at the end of May. Any hopes they might've had about upsetting the Pioneers didn't last very long.

The home team took a 1-0 lead following a corner kick goal in the ninth minute.

Defender Gustavo Barbosa booted the ball into the box from the right corner. Then Boadi sent a pass to forward Jose Bustamante who tapped the ball into the net past Albany goalie James Joyce.

A little more than ten minutes later, Matt Cence, who's also a midfielder, delivered a crossing pass from the right wing into the box. Boadi finished off the play by scoring his first goal of the season.

"I've been on a goal

drought for a long time," Boadi said. "I've been working very hard, and it feels very nice to finally score a couple of goals, especially in front of the home crowd. You can't ask for anything better than that."

Cence and Boadi hooked up again in the 24th minute. This time, Boadi blasted a shot into the upper right corner of the net.

While Cence and Boadi are teammates during the summer, they'll be opposing each other at the beginning of September.

Boadi, who's one of the Pioneers veteran players, is also a member of the men's soccer team at Bryant University, while Cence plays at UMass-Amherst.

Aidan Kelly, who's the Pioneers captain and defender, is also a member of the Minutemen men's soccer team

The two college soccer teams are scheduled to meet each other in a non-conference match in Amherst on September 6.

"It's always a lot of fun playing your summer team-

mates during the college soccer season," said Boadi, who would like to play for a professional soccer team after graduating from college next year. "I'm hoping that we can win our game against UMass. We talk about it all the time and I'm really looking forward to that match."

Cence is a first-year member of the Western Mass. squad.

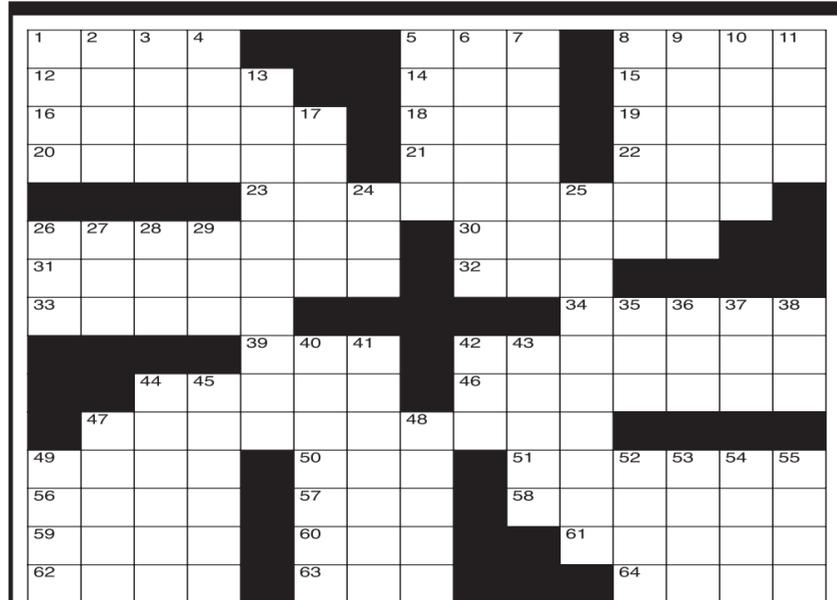
"I'm thankful for coach Molinari allowing me to join the team this year," Cence said. "It has been a great experience and the guys on the team are awesome."

Cence also assisted on the Pioneers' fourth goal, which was scored by midfielder Robbie Lyons in the 34th minute.

The Pioneers had several more scoring chances during the second half.

Bustamante netted his second goal of the match during the 82nd minute. Defender Alejandro Carrillo was credited with the assist.

Goalie Alan Horrocks only had to make a couple of save in recording the Pioneers sixth shutout of the season.



CLUES ACROSS

- 50 percent
- Records electric currents
- Charlize Theron flick "___ Flux"
- More frosty
- Disfigure
- Sky color
- A thoroughfare in a town or city
- Actress de Armas
- Spend time in a relaxed way
- California peak
- Lodging option
- Small amount of a thing
- Expresses sorrow
- Keeps an ear warm
- Babies (Spanish)
- A conceited and self-centered person
- No seats available
- Pouches

- Hip joints
- A place to bathe
- Evading
- Minute, one-celled unit
- Losing one's hair
- A country in W Africa
- One point north of northeast
- Pointed end of a pen
- Extreme
- Norse personification of old age
- Doctors' group
- Member of U.S. Navy
- Mens' fashion accessories
- A way to allow
- Gloomy
- Grads wear one person
- Between south and southeast
- Jaguarundi cat

CLUES DOWN

- Snakes do it
- Hormone
- The standard monetary unit of Turkey
- Fixed charges
- Electronic communication
- Artilleries
- "Strangers on a Train" actor Farley
- Burning
- Makes ecstatically happy
- Greek liqueurs
- Tropical Old World tree
- Someone who takes vengeance
- Style of cuisine
- Select
- Immunized against disease
- Old world, new
- Honorable title (Turkish)
- Court case: ___ v. Wade
- Supervises interstate commerce
- Not divisible by two
- Twelve
- Commentator Coulter
- Encourage
- Plumbing fixtures
- Early
- One point north of due east
- King of Thebes
- Short-tailed martens
- Impose a penalty on
- Consort of Poseidon
- A way to lessen
- Brooklyn hoops team
- Female of a horse
- Do as one is told
- A way to prepare meat
- Unit of measurement

ANSWERS ON PAGE 12

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Church News

Local pastor offers sermon

An Ancient Voice Part 3

In recent days we have noted an ancient text called the Epistle of Mathetes to Diognetus.

This letter is one of the earliest examples of Christian apologetics, dated to as early as AD 130, in which an unnamed author—self labeled as a “mathetes” or “student” of the apostles—tries to explain and defend the faith to a figure named Diognetus. We noted this selection in particular, which addresses the nature of Christianity and the distinctiveness of those who practiced the faith long ago:

“The distinction between Christians and other men does not lie in country or language or customs. They follow local customs in clothing, food, and in the rest of life, and yet they exhibit the wonderfully paradoxical nature of their own citizenship. They live in their own countries, but as if they were resident aliens. They share all things as citizens and yet endure all things as if they were an underclass. Every foreign country is their homeland and every homeland a foreign country. They marry like everyone else and have children, but they do not abort their young. They keep a common table, but not a common bed. They live in the world, but not in a worldly way. They enjoy a full life on earth, but their citizenship is in heaven. They obey the appointed laws, but they surpass the laws in their own lifestyle. They love everyone and are universally derided. They are unknown and roundly criticized. They are put to death and gain life. They are poor, but make many rich. They lack all things and yet have all things in abundance. They are dishonored and are glorified in their dishonor. They are abused and they call down blessings in return. When they are beaten up they rejoice as men who are given a new life. In short, what the

soul is in the body, that the Christians are in the world. The soul lives in the body, but is not confined by the body, and the Christians live in the world but are not confined by the world. God has appointed them to this great calling, and it would be wrong for them to decline it.”

How does this ancient voice characterize those who follow Christ? Of import for this edition, the writer notes that believers lived in a holy, upright manner. Take particular note of this selection: “They live in the world, but not in a worldly way” (Emphasis Mine). That is, believers were not governed by carnal appetites and the passions thereof, though they lived in a world given to gross hedonism. No, they were given to a different Lord and ruling influence: Christ Jesus and Him alone. Such is why they didn’t “abort their young” or “share a common bed”—as was common in their time. They lived differently.

It is the expectation of Christ that His people, saved by grace through faith, live differently in the world as they live for Him:

Titus 2:11–14 (NIV)

11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. 12 It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

As we wind to a close, consider this seminal passage on the topic of holiness or living for God in the midst of an evil world:

2 Corinthians 6:14–7:1

14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and

wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

“I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.”

17 Therefore, “Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.”

18 And, “I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”

I Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

Is your life characterized by moral-uprightness and holiness before God? Have you professed Jesus Christ as your Lord, and does your life evidence allegiance to Him and His ways? If not, why not? Let us not fall prey to the lie that we can believe in Jesus and yet live however we like. Those who would know Christ as Savior must first confess Him as Lord (cf. Rom. 10:9)!

Thank you for taking the time to read this publication. Should you have any comments or questions, feel free to contact me at your convenience using the information below. Moreover, feel free to check us out online at www.NewLifeBarre.org or visit us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. We hope to see you soon.

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

Obituaries

Richard T. Hamel, 75

BARRE – Richard (Dick) Hamel, 75, of Barre passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, July 1, 2025. He was born Dec. 3, 1949 in Lawrence, second son of Margaret (Connors) Hamel and Raymonad Hamel.

He graduated from Central Catholic High School and Merrimack College, where he made friends for a lifetime, Matt D’Agastino and Mike Grenier and many others. He was an English major with a great sense of humor and dry wit that made him infamous among his friends. At Merrimack, Dick was active in intramural sports, softball, football, and basketball with the MGKrebs. He was an avid sports fan, collecting memorabilia and books, and attending as many games as he could, especially Bruins, Celtics, and his beloved Red Sox.

Formerly married to Maureen (Roche) Riendeau, he leaves their sons, Christopher Hamel of Albuquerque, New Mexico and grandson Caleb Hamel and his mom Kim and son

David Hamel and his wife Jenn of Margate, Florida and granddaughter Aubryn. He was a great dad and Peper.

In 1985, Dick married Kirsten (Casey) Hamel, with whom he lived happily until her death in 2015. He leaves his sister in law, Jill Anderson of California.

Dick leaves his siblings, Robert Hamel of New Hampshire; Kathy Hamel Bare of Susanville, California and Michael (Shelly) Hamel of Franklin, New Hampshire and step siblings, Marilyn and Clive McAuliffe, and Jack Ducharme. He leaves many nieces and nephews, including Kim Hamel Parker, Kyle Bare, Jason Hamel, Stephanie Damour and many great nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents, his step mother Norma Ducharme Hamel, nephew Scott Hamel and niece Joyce Hamel.

After working as a night watchman at factories in Lawrence, Dick was drafted into the Army, then was employed at Ralph C. Mahar Regional High School. He then was a teller

DEATH NOTICE

Hamel, Richard T.
Died July 1, 2025
Calling hours July 17 from 2-4 p.m.
at Witty’s Funeral Home,
158 South Main St.,
Orange
Interment in East
Cemetery will be private

at Orange Savings Bank and Winchendon Savings Bank and later became the Clerk of Courts in Winchendon.

After retirement, he traveled to see the grandchildren and much of the world, including more of Salisbury Beach.

Calling hours will be on Thursday, July 17, 2025 from 2-4 p.m. at Witty’s Funeral Home, 158 South Main Street, Orange. Interment in East Street Cemetery will be private.

Witty’s Funeral Home, 158 South Main Street, Orange, is assisting the family.

www.wittyfuneralhome.com

Public Safety

Oakham Police Log

Monday, June 16
3:41 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Barre Plains Road, Mutual Aid Transport

Tuesday, June 17
9:22 a.m. Court Duty, Oakham Police Department, Court Duty

10:09 a.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Adams Road, Report Filed

11:02 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Worcester Road, Report Filed

12:11 a.m. Complaint, Forest Hill Drive, Officer/Chief Advised

1:28 p.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Old Turnpike Road, Removed Hazard

5:02 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, June 18
11:43 a.m. Animal – Wildlife, Barre Road, Animal

Brought to Vet 5:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning

Thursday, June 19
1:35 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Michael Drive, Investigated

3:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning

3:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning

4:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Ware Corner Road, Written Warning

5:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, South Road, Written Warning

7:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning

Friday, June 20
11:21 a.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield District Court, Court Duty

3:51 p.m. Complaint, Forest

Hill Drive, Officer Spoke to Party

4:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning

4:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning

4:39 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Report Filed

5:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning

5:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning

5:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Turnpike Road, Written Warning

7:53 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Maple Street, Transported to Hospital

Saturday, June 21
6:21 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Vernon Avenue, Transported to Hospital

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of June 23-30, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 12 building/property checks, 11 directed/area patrols, three radar assignments, three traffic controls, six emergency 911 calls, one citizen assist, one motor vehicle accident, three complaints, one fire, three animal calls and six motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, June 23
8:09 a.m. 911 Motor Vehicle Crash, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, June 24
2:30 p.m. Complaint/Motor

Vehicle Operations, Barre Road, Officer Handled

Wednesday, June 25
1:59 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital

3:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning

3:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Criminal Complaint

5:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning

5:19 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Thompson Road, Transported to Hospital

6:39 p.m. 911 Animal Call, Unitas Road, Gone on Arrival

Thursday, June 26
5:27 p.m. 911 Assist Citizen, Barre Road, Services Rendered

4:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Old Turnpike Road, Written Warning

Friday, June 27
10:26 a.m. Complaint, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

1:21 p.m. 911 Fire/Other, West Brookfield Road, Extinguished

Sunday, June 29
8:48 p.m. Complaint, West Brookfield Road, Unfounded

More Police Logs on Page 12

Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church holds clothing drive

BROOKFIELD – The Committee for Ecology and Social Action of the Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church is sponsoring a clothing drive through Helpsy, the largest clothing collector in the Northeast.

Textile waste is a fast-growing problem and occupies nearly 5% of all landfill space, but 95% of unwanted clothing can be

reused, repurposed, or recycled. Only 15% currently is.

On July 12-19, the church will be open between 3-7 p.m. so you can bring your old clothing (including slips, bras, underwear, socks) and certain other acceptable items, such as shoes, accessories (including hats, bags, belts, scarves and jewelry), luggage, stuffed animals and linens (including sheets,

blankets, curtains, table linens and quilts).

All items in any condition are acceptable if they are clean, dry, and odorless.

The Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church is located at 9 Upper River St. on the Brookfield Common, near the junction of Route 9 and Route 148.

For more information, contact Barbara Hale at blh.buuc@gmail.com.

Public Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Docket No.
WO25P2186EA
Estate of:
Arlen R Glancey
Date of Death: April 22, 2025
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Charlene Picucci of Jaffrey, NH** a Will has been admitted to in-

formal probate.
Charlene Picucci of Jaffrey, NH

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration

from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
07/10/2025

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Public Safety

Barre Police Log

Sunday, June 15
 9:23 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check Station Road, No Transport Required
 2:47 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Mutual Aid Ambulance, Hubbardston, Transported to Hospital
 5:54 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, School North Street, Information Taken
 6:05 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Station Road, Mutual Aid Transport
 9:16 p.m. Public Assist, Summer Street, Returned to Family/Guardian

Monday, June 16
 12:04 a.m. Assist Other Police Department, Hardwick, Mutual Aid Assist
 4:05 p.m. Juvenile Runaway, South Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 5:08 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Washburn Road, Negative Contact
 10 p.m. Juvenile Runaway, South Street, Report Filed

Tuesday, June 17
 8:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Citation Issued
 9:04 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Citation Issued
 9:33 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Citation Issued
 10:05 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, West Street, Report Filed
 10:12 a.m. Disturbance/Disorderly, Union Street, Report Filed
 10:55 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued

11:02 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Worcester Road, Report Filed
 12:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Citation Issued
 12:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Mechanic Street, Citation Issued
 1 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hubbardston Road, Citation Issued
 1:06 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Pleasant Street, Officer/Chief Advised
 3:38 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, West Street, Officer/Chief Advised
 10:50 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Keene, N.H., Officer Spoke to Party

Wednesday, June 18
 10:18 a.m. Vandalism, Summer Street, Investigated
 5:21 p.m. Complaint, Summer Street, Information Given
 5:58 p.m. Serve Warrant, Main Street, Negative Contact
 Summons Graves, Chad Eric, 36, South Barre
 Charges Drug, Possess Class B, Subsequent Offense
 10:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident – No Fire Department/ Emergency Medical Service Response, Worcester Road, No Action Required

Thursday, June 19
 12:20 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Spring Hill Road, Transported to Hospital
 Summons Doyle, Tyler Jacob, 21, Wheelwright
 Charges Unregistered Motor Vehicle, Number Plate Violation to Conceal ID, Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Operating Under Influence – Liquor OR .08%
 1:35 p.m. Fire – Structure

Fires, Michale Drive, Investigated
 2:19 p.m. Safety Concerns, Winter Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 2:38 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Heat/Cold Environmental, High South Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 7:50 p.m. Animal – Wildlife, Circle Road, Information Given

Friday, June 20
 2:42 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Varney Lane., Ambulance Signed Refusal
 8:06 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Town Farm Road, Negative Contact
 8:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasant Street, Written Warning
 9:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 9:32 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 9:45 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, South Street, Negative Contact

Saturday, June 21
 1:42 a.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, South Street, Returned to Family/Guardian
 4:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Summer Street, Public Assist
 1:24 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Williamsville Road, Unfounded
 2:07 p.m. Illegal Dumping, Worcester Road, Negative Contact
 6:21 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Vernon Avenue, Transported to Hospital
 8:48 p.m. Erratic Operator, Worcester Road, Report Filed

Rutland Police Log

Sunday, June 15
 12:30 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Clealand Circle, Transported to Hospital
 8:23 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Diabetic, Wheeler Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 10:37 a.m. Property Damage, Forbes Road, Report Filed
 11:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Pursuit, Kenwood Drive, Negative Contact
 11:36 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 4:11 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Barre, Mutual Aid Assist
 8:44 p.m. Assist Other Agency/Non-Police, Barre Paxton Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 9:01 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Stroke (CVA), Kenwood Drive, Transported to Hospital

Monday, June 16
 6:50 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Citation Issued
 8:48 a.m. Court Duty, East Brookfield District Court, Court Duty
 10:28 a.m. Animal – ACO Call, Pommogussett Road, Located/Found
 10:50 a.m. Public Assist, Kosta Drive, Officer Took Call
 12:12 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Campbell Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 1:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning
 1:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pleasantdale Road, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Dimarzio, Martin W., 35, West Brookfield
 Charges Licenses Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With Unregistered Motor Vehicle, Inspection/Sticker, No
 3:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Report Filed
 3:41 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Barre Plains Road, Mutual Aid Transported
 4:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road, Written Warning
 4:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
 4:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
 4:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
 5:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 5:24 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
 5:40 p.m. Erratic Operator, Pommogussett Road, Verbal Warning
 5:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
 5:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Wachusett Street, Written Warning
 10:18 p.m. Juvenile Runaway, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party

Tuesday, June 17
 8:26 a.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Main Street, Investigated
 10:07 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, East County Road, Transported to Hospital
 10:45 a.m. Identity Theft, Pleasantdale Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 12:48 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
 1:08 p.m. Evidence Processing, DPW Facility, Removed Hazard
 3:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Maple Avenue, Written Warning
 4:17 p.m. Juvenile Runaway,

Miles Road, Returned to Family/Guardian
 5:02 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Abdominal/Back Pain, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital
 6:46 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Juniper Lane, Officer Spoke to Party
 6:53 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Colonial Drive, Unfounded
 7 p.m. Fire – Fumes/Odor/Gas Leak, Kenwood Drive, Investigated
 8:46 p.m. Noise Complaint, Rutland Heights Way, Officer Spoke to Party

Wednesday, June 18
 2:40 a.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Pommogussett Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 11:32 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 11:42 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Prisoner Bailed
 Arrest: Thibault, Alicia Lynn, 36, Rutland
 Charges Operating Under the Influence – Drugs, Inspection/Sticker, No, License not in Possession
 2:43 p.m. Complaint, Highland Park Road, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Bolduc, Armand J., 59, Rutland
 Charges Municipal By-Law or Ordinance Violation
 2:49 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Fidelity Drive, Transported to Hospital
 4:08 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Woodside Avenue, Officer/Chief Advised
 9:09 p.m. Complaint, Hope Way, Peace Restored
 11:26 p.m. Complaint, Skyline Drive, Officer/Chief Advised

Thursday, June 19
 7:06 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
 10:51 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 11:27 a.m. Animal – Wildlife, Main Street, Officer/Chief Advised
 11:47 a.m. Fraud or Forgery, Maple Avenue, Report Filed
 12:35 p.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Prescott Street, Investigated
 1:35 p.m. Fire – Structure Fires, Michael Drive, Investigated
 1:58 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Sunnyside Avenue, Information Taken
 4:20 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Vehicle Towed
 4:41 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Intervale Road, Negative Contact
 5:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 5:50 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Bleeding (Non-Traumatic) Barre Paxton Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 6:27 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, Holden, Mutual Aid Assist
 8:05 p.m. Safety Concern, Whitehall Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 8:06 p.m. Juvenile Runaway, Miles Road, Returned to Family/Guardian
 8:22 p.m. Erratic Operator, Main Street, Report Filed

Friday, June 20
 12:05 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Allergic Reaction, Maple Avenue, Transported to Hospital
 5:24 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 5:37 a.m. Erratic Operator, Barre Paxton Road, Area Search Negative
 7:47 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Jamie Ann Drive, Transported to Hospital
 10:13 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Pommogussett Road,

Written Warning
 10:26 a.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Main Street, Removed Hazard
 11:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 11:33 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 Summons Carignan, Cameron, 21, Rutland
 Charges Unregistered Motor Vehicle, Uninsured Motor Vehicle, License Not in Possession
 12:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 12:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
 12:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Kenwood Drive, Written Warning
 12:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 1:04 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 1:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 1:20 p.m. Road/Traffic Hazard, Main Street, Referred to Other Agency
 1:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Criminal Complaint
 Summons Cotto, Rose Marie, 41, Worcester
 Charges Registration Suspended, Operating Motor Vehicle With, Unregistered Motor Vehicle
 1:43 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 2 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 2:31 p.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, East County Road, Investigated
 2:38 p.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Hope Way, Advised Civil Action
 2:46 p.m. Complaint, Stevens Way, Officer/Chief Advised
 4:39 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Crawford Road, Report Filed
 5:03 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Chest Pain/Heart Problem, Soucy Drive, Transported to Hospital
 5:55 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Lewis Street, Mutual Aid Transport
 5:55 p.m. Animal – ACO Call, Prospect Street, Information Taken
 7:42 p.m. Animal – Lost and/or Found, Turkey Hill Road, Information Taken
 7:47 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Paxton Road, Written Warning
 7:50 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Inwood Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 7:53 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Maple Street, Transported to Hospital
 9:26 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Main Street, Negative Contact
 10:09 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Barre Paxton Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 10:29 p.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute Stevens Way, Officer/Chief Advised
 11:01 p.m. Public Assist, Birchwood Road, Officer Spoke to Party

Saturday, June 21
 1:14 a.m. Noise Complaint, Laurelwood Road, Officer Spoke to Party
 8:43 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, East County Road, Written Warning
 9:14 p.m. Noise Complaint, Walnut Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 9:23 p.m. Landlord Tenant/Neighbor Dispute, Stevens Way, Officer Spoke to Party
 10:32 p.m. Noise Complaint, Walnut Street, Officer Spoke to Party
 11:07 p.m. Noise Complaint, Walnut Street, Investigated

Hardwick Police Log

During the weeks of June 23-July 7, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 97 building/property checks, 75 directed/area patrols, 13 radar assignments, four traffic controls, 16 emergency 911 calls, eight citizen assists, three assist other agencies, six complaints, one harassment, seven investigations, two fires/illegal burns, two safety hazards, three motor vehicle investigations, eight animal calls and 12 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, June 23
 5:35 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Main Street, Negative Contact

Tuesday, June 24
 1:26 p.m. Assist Citizen, Church Lane, Services Rendered
 4:41 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Main Street, Death/Unattended

Wednesday, June 25
 5:44 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning
 10:18 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Officer Handled
 10:40 a.m. Fire/Illegal Burn, Mechanic Street, Negative Contact
 4:15 p.m. Investigation, Hardwick Road, Negative Contact
 9:23 p.m. Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations, Prouty Road, Spoken To

Thursday, June 26
 6:50 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, River Run, Transported to Hospital
 1:39 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Ruggles Street, Officer Handled
 5:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Citation Issued

5:14 p.m. 911 Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
 7:44 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Lower Road, Officer Handled
 8:14 p.m. 911 Assist Other Agency, Main Street, Criminal Complaint

Friday, June 27
 10:57 a.m. Investigation, Lower Road, Officer Handled
 11:05 a.m. Investigation, Lower Road, Officer Handled
 12:05 p.m. Investigation, Lower Road, Officer Handled
 5:08 p.m. Investigation, Lower Road, Officer Handled

Saturday, June 28
 1:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, New Braintree Road, Arrest(s) Made
 2:06 p.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Dispatch Handled
 7:06 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Petersham Road, Transported to Hospital

Sunday, June 29
 10:43 a.m. Harassment, East Street, Spoken To
 11:57 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, High Street, Services Rendered
 1:23 p.m. 911 Misdial, Patroll Hollow Road, No Action Required
 2:18 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Jackson Road, Peace Restored
 4:32 p.m. Serve Warrant, High Road, Arrest(s) Made
 6:38 p.m. Welfare Check, Main Street, Transferred Call to C7
 10:25 p.m. 911 Disturbance, Grove Street, Services Rendered
 10:49 p.m. Assist Citizen, Ruggles Hill Road, Dispatch Handled

Monday, June 30
 9:04 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Prospect Street, Transported to Hospital

Tuesday, July 1
 12:46 a.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, High Street,

Investigated
 10:59 a.m. Investigation, Jackson Road, Negative Contact
 12:50 p.m. Assist Citizen, Church Lane, Officer Handled
 7:10 p.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwich Road, Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Wednesday, July 2
 6:35 a.m. Safety Hazard, Greenwch Road, Services Rendered
 11:03 a.m. Investigation, Barre Road, Spoken To
 11:09 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, River Run, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, July 3
 1:24 p.m. Assist Citizen, Short Road, Officer Handled
 6:39 p.m. 911 Animal Call, North Street, Services Rendered
 10:45 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Collins Road, Services Rendered

Friday, July 4
 6:09 a.m. Fire/Other, Church Street, Services Rendered
 5:52 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Barre Road, Investigated

Saturday, July 5
 10:30 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Muddy Brook Road, Services Rendered
 6:33 p.m. 911 Complaint, Broad Street, Spoken To
 7:40 p.m. 911 Hang-up/Abandoned, Greenwich Road, Services Rendered
 9:07 p.m. Complaint, Barre Road, Negative Contact

Sunday, July 6
 6:57 a.m. Assist Citizen, Hardwick, Officer Handled
 11:40 a.m. Assist Citizen, Lower Road, Officer Handled
 6:01 p.m. Complaint, Hardwick Road, Spoken To
 7 p.m. Complaint, Joslyn Road, Officer Handled
 8:48 p.m. Fire Alarm, Old Petersham Road, Investigated

Hubbardston Police Log

Sunday, June 15
 11:17 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Gardner Road, Mutual Aid Assist
 2:26 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Unconscious/Unresponsive/Syncope, Burnshirt Road, Mutual Aid Transport
 3:20 p.m. Erratic Operator, Old Boston Turnpike, Area Search Negative

Monday, June 16
 4:22 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Barre Road, Ambulance Signed Refusal
 7:04 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning
 7:22 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Citation Issued
 7:40 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Adams Road, No Fire Service Necessary

8:15 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Gardner Road, Citation Issued
 9:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 3:47 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Barre Road, Negative Contact
 7:05 p.m. Complaint, Pitcherville Road, Area Patrolled

Tuesday, June 17
 8:59 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Madison Way, Public Assist
 11:28 a.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Main Street, No Fire Service Necessary
 12:46 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Welfare Check, Williamsville Road, Negative Contact
 2:33 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Williamsville Road, Information Given

3:28 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Sick/Unknown, Burnshirt Road, Transported to Hospital
 4:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Written Warning
 7:17 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, Hale Road, Transported to Hospital
 9:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Pursuit, Gardner Road, Report Filed

Wednesday, June 18
 1:06 p.m. Complaint, Chippewa Street, Negative Contact
 1:10 p.m. Assist Other Police Department, State Police, Dispatch Handled
 6:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Worcester Road, Written Warning
 9:42 p.m. Safety Concern,

Gardner Road, Negative Contact

Thursday, June 19
 11:24 a.m. Erratic Operator, Gardner Road, Negative Contact
 3:31 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Headache, Underwood Road, Transported to Hospital
 11:36 p.m. Suspicious Person/Vehicle Activity, Madison Way, Building Checked/Secured

Friday, June 20
 9:02 a.m. Public Assist, New Westminster Road, Public Assist
 9:44 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Stroke (CVA), Gardner Road, Transported to Hospital
 11:14 a.m. Fire – Power Lines Down/Arcing, Gardner Road, No Fire Service Necessary
 4:59 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires) Old Boston Turnpike,

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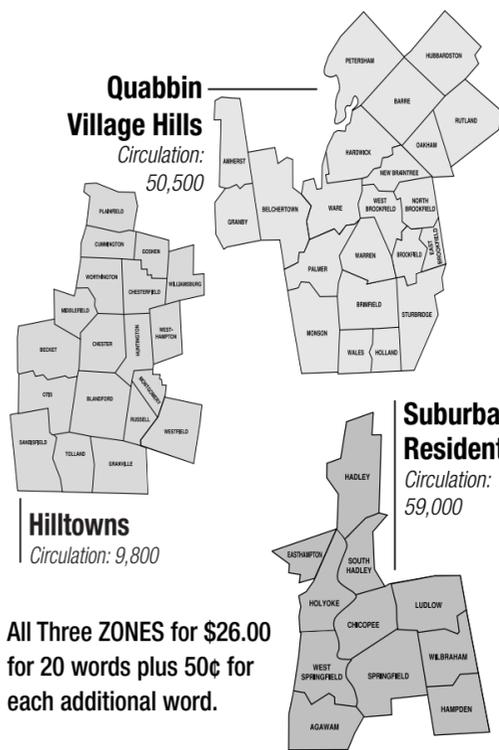
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Stefanie Curtis named to Special Olympics USA Games Team Massachusetts

BOSTON (2025)—Special Olympics Massachusetts announces 16 athletes selected to represent Team Massachusetts at the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games during this year's Summer Games in Boston.

The announcement celebrates 16 dedicated athletes from across the state, who will compete on the national stage in powerlifting, tennis,

athletics (track & field), and aquatics.

To qualify for this honor, each athlete had to have won gold at the 2025 Summer Games, which was held at Harvard University's Athletic Complex from June 7-8. The 2026 USA Games will take place June 20-26 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, bringing together over 4,000 athletes from across the

country for a week of elite competition.

Stefanie Curtis of Rutland will complete in aquatics. These athletes earned their spot through years of dedication, consistent training, and powerful performances in state-level competition. They now begin a yearlong journey of preparation, team building, and fundraising as they get ready to compete in

Minnesota.

The full Team Massachusetts delegation will ultimately include athletes, Unified partners and coaches competing in basketball, bocce, bowling, flag football, golf, powerlifting, soccer, swimming, tennis, track and field, and volleyball. Additional team members will be announced in the coming months.

The 2026 Special Olympics USA Games will be a landmark celebration of ability and inclusion, hosted in the vibrant Twin Cities from June 20-26, 2026. Centered at the University of Minnesota and extending to premier venues like the National Sports Center in Blaine, the Games will welcome over 3,000 athletes and 1,500 coaches from all

50 states. Participants will compete in 16 sports, including Unified events that bring together athletes with and without intellectual disabilities. Supported by 10,000 volunteers and an anticipated 75,000 fans, the event aims to deliver exceptional experiences, celebrate athletic achievement, and leave a lasting legacy of positive change in Minnesota.

Second Chance Animal Services addresses falling adoption rates

EAST BROOKFIELD – Across the country, animal shelters and rescues are facing an unprecedented challenge: adoption rates are falling, intake numbers are rising and more pets than ever are at risk of being left behind.

While the headlines may suggest a sudden spike, those working in animal welfare know the reality has been building for years. Families are adopting less often and surrendering more frequently not because they don't care, but because the commitment feels too great. With rising costs, economic uncertainty and the high price of veterinary care, many potential adopters are saying "not

now" and many pet owners feel they have no choice but to give up their beloved companions.

Second Chance Animal Services, a Massachusetts-based nonprofit, has taken a different path, one that addresses the root causes of surrender and hesitancy to adopt. Through a pioneering Access to Care model, Second Chance offers affordable veterinary services, vaccine clinics, spay/neuter programs and pet food assistance, helping to keep pets where they belong: at home with the people who love them.

"We knew the traditional model wasn't enough any-

more," said Sheryl Blancato, CEO of Second Chance Animal Services. "People don't surrender pets lightly. They do it because they feel out of options. So we decided to give them options – real, meaningful support that can prevent surrender before it starts."

While some larger organizations have turned to free adoptions as a quick fix, Second Chance encourages a more thoughtful and sustainable approach, one that protects smaller shelters and the long-term health of animal welfare services.

"Free adoption promotions can be helpful when used thoughtfully—for exam-

ple, when a donor steps up to cover the fees as a way to inspire more adoptions," explained Blancato. "That kind of support allows us to remove barriers for adopters while still ensuring we can provide quality care for every animal. But when adoption fees are waived across the board, it can put smaller shelters and rescues in a difficult position. These fees help cover essential medical care and prepare pets for adoption—it's about sustaining the work, not profit."

Smaller shelters and rescue groups play a vital role in the animal welfare ecosystem, often serving as lifelines for at-risk pets in under-

served communities. When funding streams like adoption fees are removed system wide, it can destabilize these essential organizations—many of which do not have the fundraising reach of larger groups.

Instead of focusing solely on adoptions, Second Chance has chosen to invest in prevention. By addressing the most common reasons pets are surrendered – unaffordable vet care, food insecurity, and housing-related challenges—the organization is redefining what it means to "rescue" an animal.

"We believe animal welfare isn't just about rehoming pets. It's about creating com-

munities where pets don't have to be rehomed in the first place," said Blancato. "That's the future—and we're already building it."

Second Chance Animal Services is calling on donors, partners, and advocates to support its pioneering approach, which is now being recognized as a national model. With four full-service veterinary hospitals, mobile vaccine clinics, a pet food pantry, and a robust adoption program, Second Chance is saving lives through access, compassion, and action.

"It's not the easiest road," said Blancato. "But it's the one that's working."

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