

BARRE GAZETTE

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End of year transfers approved by FinCom

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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HUBBARDSTON – The Finance Committee met last Tuesday where they voted to approve year-end transfers to account for budget shortfalls in certain line items ahead of the July 15 deadline to execute them.

At the July 14 meeting, Finance Committee Chair Seth Knipe said the transfers were submitted by town Accountant Marcia Bohinc, who was hired in the winter to help reconcile prior fiscal years' books. Knipe said the estimated amount available for transfer was \$20,020, and the total line item transfers totaled at \$19,621.

Knipe said one of the biggest financial challenges in the last year was a lack of money allocated for debt service, leaving the town with a \$58,000 deficit, which will still be about \$40,000 even after the transfers. Knipe said the town still has a snow and ice deficit of over \$50,000 as well, but it is legal to carry one over.

He said any other negative balances will go onto a recap, where the total of the deficits comes off the top of whatever the state certifies as free cash. He said the total deficit between debt service and snow and ice is over \$90,000.

Knipe said free cash is

See HUBBARDSTON
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Turley Publications photos by Ellenor Downer
Barre Senior Center director Betty-Jo O'Brien and a U.S. Air Force Reserve veteran stands by the colorful red, white and blue quilts presented to veterans on July 11.

Veterans received *Quilts of Valor*

By Ellenor Downer
Editor
edowne@turley.com

BARRE – A quilting group at the Barre Senior Center set about to fill a tall order of ten hand made Quilts of Valor for ten Veterans in Barre and the surrounding area.

It concluded with a Quilts of Valor presentation on Saturday, July 11 at the Barre Senior Center. Veterans receiving

quilts included: W. Robert Bentley, Chuck Carmelo Coppolino, Dennis G. Fleming,

Pamela J. Gonsalves, David R. Hardaker, Scott Lagrant, Ralph Morrison, Anthony P. Musnicki. Betty-Jo O'Brien and Craig Wojcik.

The recipients represented U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Marines, U.S. Navy, U.S. Navy Seabees and Massachusetts Army

National Guard.

Each recipient received a quilt of red, white and blue fabric with patriotic designs. Quilts of Valor Massachusetts State Coordinator Theresa Perreault, filling in for Joan Schwerin, made the presentations to each Veteran, one at a time.

Family members and friends assisted in wrapping the Veterans in their quilts. Perreault said it was "important to use this quilt

and not hang it in a closet."

Members of the Barre Senior Center quilting group included Eileen Bohigian, Linda Eastwood, Pam Hinckley, Cathy Miknaitis, Ann Mitus, Carole Stanley and Judy Wypych.

The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover Service Members and Veterans touched by war with com-

QUILTS page 6

Planning Board hears solar project proposition

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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NORTH BROOKFIELD – The planning board held a public hearing July 8 where representatives from Bohler Engineering and ECA Power presented a plan to install a solar facility and battery energy storage systems on the property of the Valley View School, located at 91 Oakham Road.

Rick May, the executive director of Valley View School, said the school is excited for the project so they can be environmental stewards. He said they already have a recycling program and there is a greenhouse coming.

The representative from ECA Power, Martha Diezemann, said the company is based in Waltham and has 40 completed projects, mostly in Massachusetts, and about 100 more in the works.

The representative from Bohler Engineering said this project is a five megawatt AC, 100 megawatt DC solar program including two BESS systems. He said they have applied with National Grid, and the project is expected to come online in 2028, where the power generated will be sent to existing lines, new poles and sent to National Grid for community use.

He said certain qualified residents would be able to

N. BROOKFIELD
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FinCom approves reserve fund transfers

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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RUTLAND – The Finance Committee met last Tuesday to finalize reserve fund transfer requests before the July 15 deadline for both those requests and interdepartmental transfers.

The two reserve fund requests were presented to the committee to offset deficits for Central Mass Regional Emergency Communications Center wages and an invoice from AT&T.

According to Town Administrator Heather Butler, the wages deficit for CMRECC was \$39,710, and was originally approved as a year end transfer from the health insurance line for \$20,000. She said that transfer is null and void as of the July 14 meeting since the deficit came in larger than expected, and that \$20,000 will appear as free cash.

Butler said the town was going to use the money in the CMRECC procurement line, which had \$29,000 in it to offset the wages, but there were some other year-end transfers that took everything but \$6,000 from that line. She said the town would still

use the rest of that money, but also needed to pull from the reserve fund to complete the payment.

Butler said there will be reimbursements sent to the town through a state 911 grant, which will go toward making the town "whole." She said once the reimbursements come in, the town takes what was committed at the July 14 meeting back.

Butler also clarified that fiscal year 2026 is the last year the town collects assessments from the other towns in the district including Hubbardston, Oakham, Barre and Warren, and fronting the costs. She said the district is going to act as an independent agency from FY 27 forward, and will be adding eight new towns to it.

The committee approved this reserve fund transfer request.

The second reserve fund transfer was an invoice from AT&T, which Butler said was caused in part by incomplete set up of the phone lines with the new provider because of turnover in the town administrator department.

Butler said the former provider, Crocker Communications, is still providing service to three phone lines.

Butler said there is now a \$37,000 bill from AT&T because the line was under

See RUTLAND page 7



This is a view of the Quabbin Reservoir from the visitor's center.

Submitted Photos

Leaders present case for Quabbin Reservoir funding

By Zacharias Fragkiadakis
Staff Writer
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BELCHERTOWN – Local leaders gathered at the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center to present their case to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority board of directors for additional funding for the towns bordering the Quabbin Reservoir.

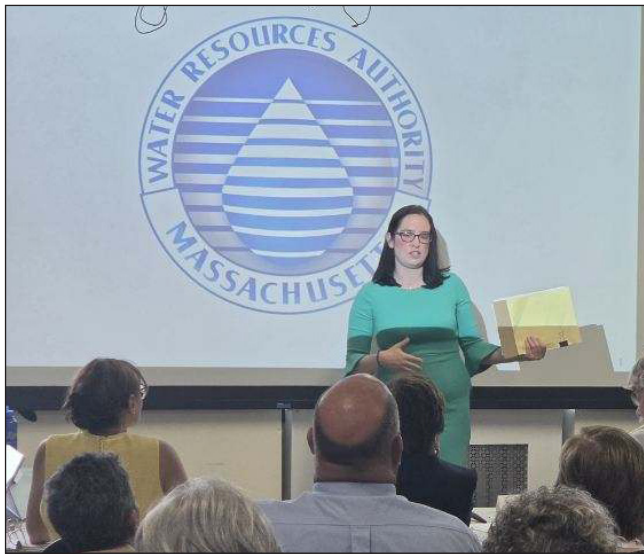
The discussion centered on Senate bill S546 and House bill H1042, which would, in part, create a \$35 million trust fund for the dozen Quabbin towns to receive annual pay-

ments, and give the towns more representation on the MWRA.

Attendees included state Rep. Aaron Saunders, state Sen. Jo Comerford, state Sen. Peter Durant and state Rep. Todd Smola. Members of local leadership such as select boards from several Quabbin towns gave speeches, with the exception of Phillipston and Wendell.

The first to speak was Saunders, who represents the 7th Hampden District, including Belchertown. He talked about how the Quabbin is a water extraction operation, with

QUABBIN page 7



Hardwick Town Administrator Justine Caggiano spoke at the July 10 meeting.



News of the Towns



ROUND TOWN

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Town election set for July 28

The last day and time for voters who qualify to apply for an absentee ballot for this election is Monday, July 27 by noon. All Vote By Mail Ballots must be returned before the polls close on Tuesday, July 28 by 6 p.m. Both polling locations will be open for in person voting Tuesday, July 28 from noon-6 p.m.

Barre Players utions

Barre Players Theater., 64 Common St., will hold auditions on Sunday, July 26 from 3-5 p.m. and Monday, July 27 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. The theater will be performing “A Murder is Announced” by Agatha Chrisite and adopted for stage by Leslie Babson.

Purple Heart Day

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

National Night Out

National Night Out takes place Tuesday, Aug. 4 from 4-7 p.m. at Quabbin Regional High School, 800 South St., Barre. This is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. Businesses and programs from the Quabbin Community are invited to participate. If they are interested in setting up at this fun family event, they should complete a short form, which is found by visiting www.QuabbinCommunityCares.org. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great way to bring communities together to showcase the opportunities that are available in our region for children and families. This event is intended to be a free family event, with activities and fun to introduce children and families to what hobbies, groups, fun, safety systems and varied supports are available in the Quabbin Region. Quabbin Community Cares, formerly known as Q-DRUG, will be providing hotdogs for families who attend, and invite local restaurants to join them in providing free taste tests.

Library programs

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

Lions Club hosts online Pampered Chef party

PETERSHAM – The Lions Club sponsors an online Pampered Chef party now through Monday, Aug. 31. Based on product sales, 20 to 30% will be donated to the Petersham Lions Club. People may visit https://table.pampered-hef.com/par-ty/3486703kyv to order. People may email lynneshaw@gmail.com with non Pampered Chef questions and email sleblanc_pc@hotmail.com for Pampered Chef questions and/ or to book a party.



Ellie Kennedy, a music majors at UMass Amherst, will have the opportunity to guest conduct the Quabbin Community Band this summer.



Submitted photos
Sarah Cox, a music major at UMass Amherst, will also guest conduct this summer.

Quabbin Community Band concert Sunday

BARRE – The Quabbin Community Band has a great reputation as a safe and supportive place fostering young and old musicians alike as they learn an instrument or rekindle interest in playing a horn from their younger days. The band has also mentored college students majoring in music, allowing them an opportunity to study conductors scores and to lead the band in rehearsal and live performance. Current QCB band leader Margaret Reidy had her first opportunity to lead the band on the Barre band-

stand while she was a sophomore at Northern Illinois University in 1983. Over the next two weeks, the band will welcome guest conductors Ellie Kennedy and Sarah Cox, both music majors at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Both students graduated high school from Wachusett Regional in Holden and have been members of the Quabbin Band for three summers. Sunday July 26 will feature, “Bandstand Favorites” and include timeless selections by composers Leroy

Anderson, Cole Porter, Glenn Osser and others. Before intermission, “Instant Concert” challenges audience members to name all the themes heard in a quick-paced arrangement and to close the evening the band will play, “Man of LaMancha” featuring, “The Impossible Dream.” All summer concerts begin at 6 p.m. Should there be rain on any Sunday evening, the concerts are moved indoors to the Barre Town Hall, Exchange Street.

Historical Society sells popcorn and lemonade at Sunday concerts



Photo by Dave Flick
The Barre Historical Society and Museum team man a popcorn and lemonade concession at the Quabbin Community Band Concerts held on Sunday evenings at 6 p.m. on Barre Common. Shown from left are Kay Potter Flick, curator Eileen Bohigian, Sally Bentley and Honorary Director Bob Bentley.



OAKHAM
by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Historical Association holds open house

The Oakham Historical Association will hold its monthly open house on Sunday, July 26 from 1-4 p.m. at the Oakham Historical Museum on 1221 Old Turnpike Road. New and old artifacts will be on display. Admission is free.

MoonGlow Gathering

MoonGlow Gathering for the Buck Moon takes place at Evolve Waterfront Retreat,Route 148 on Wednesday, July 29 at 5 p.m. There will be healthy whole foods potluck bring no flour, no sugar food items. There will be a health/spiritual talk, live music, singing meditation with foundress Shirley McAfee BSN RN. An art show will follow with artist Christina Meriah-Lucia. People may visit www.aPlaceToEvolve.com or call 508-868-5684 for more information. There will be a love offering.

Band concert

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

Library events

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

Senior Center events

Blood pressure/glucose screening will be held Tuesday, July 28 from 11a.m.-1 p.m., no appointment needed. Ongoing activities include puzzling Monday through Thursday at 9 a.m., regularly scheduled yoga Tuesdays at 1 p.m., Zumba Gold in New Braintree Town Hall Wednesdays at 8:45 a.m. \$3 per class and Functional fitness class Fridays in New Braintree Town Hall at 10:30 a.m., \$3 per class Walking groups and weigh in on Thursdays at noon.

Congregate hot meals

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

Editorial deadline reminder

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

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 27. 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 – Garlic herbed chicken, herbed stuffing, spinach, tapioca pudding, diet = sugar free tapioca pudding, dinner roll TUESDAY – Spaghetti and meatballs, Marinara sauce, green beans, blueberry crisp, diet = applesauce, Italian bread WEDNESDAY – Beef stir fry, steamed rice, peas and onions, brownie, diet = Lorna Doones, pumpernickel bread

THURSDAY – Honey mustard pork, seasoned potatoes, carrots, peaches, marble rye bread FRIDAY – *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.

Attorneys Lori Granat and Michelle Murray have moved to Worcester.

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News of the Towns

HUBBARDSTON

by Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com

Citizen of the Year nominations open

The annual Hubbardston Citizen of the Year award nomination window has opened. People may place their nomination for Hubbardston’s 2026 Citizen of the Year. Deadline is Monday, Aug. 31 to submit a nominee. To make a nomination, people should complete a nomination form. This year’s winner will be announced at fall Town Meeting, date to be determined and the winner’s name will be engraved on the plaque in Town Hall. People should visit <https://hubbardstonma.form.transform.civicplus.com/49392> to make a nomination. The plaque is displayed in the Town Clerk’s office and shows winners for the last two years, since the Award’s inception in 2024.

Cable Advisory Committee

Hubbardston’s current cable license is expiring and before the town negotiates a new agreement, the town needs to determine whether the cable company has fulfilled its obligations under the current license and identify what the town and its residents will need over the next ten years. The committee will gather input from town departments and the public, hold a required public hearing and then use that information to negotiate funding, equipment and other terms for the new cable license. The Town is seeking individuals who are interested in joining the Cable Advisory Committee to help ensure the town and residents needs are met during this renewal process. Anyone interested in applying for this important committee should fill out an application and it will get sent to the Executive Assistant/Select Board. They should visit <https://hubbardstonma-hubconnect.app.transform.civicplus.com/forms/hubbardston-appointments?parentTile=HubBRESIDENTS> for the application.

Dinghy Dash

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

Library 5K run/walk

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

Senior Center events

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



Submitted photo

SilverHorizon members, Bryce Broberg (left), Kenny Snider, and Connor MacEachern recently released an album that can be heard on all platforms.

SilverHorizon releases new album

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

BARRE – An alternative rock band known as SilverHorizon recently released their first album this month.

Two of the three members, Bryce Broberg and Kenny Snider, come from Barre, Massachusetts and are excited about releasing new songs and making their way into the music world. The other member of the band is Connor MacEachern, who is based in Boston and is the bassist of SilverHorizon.

Broberg, a graduate of Quabbin High School, started playing instruments when was six years old. He got his first bass guitar at age 11. One year later, he got his first guitar. Broberg and his fellow bandmates have many inspirations, listening to groups such as The Strokes, Jack White, Two Door Cinema Club, Alexsucks, Royel Otis, and Fontaines D.C..

The genres Broberg enjoys listening to and playing are alternative rock, indie rock, and post punk music. He is the guitarist for SilverHorizon, Snider is the drummer, and MacEachern is the bassist. All three members sing when they perform their original songs.

In their first album, Snider sings “It’s My Turn” and “Backyard Shenanigans”. MacEachern sings the songs “Better Than This”, “Make Your Move”, and

“Lost and Found”. The album consists of 13 original songs, and Broberg sings eight of them, including “Where Do We Go” and “Come Down”.

SilverHorizon was formed back in 2024 and was inspired by the beach and views off in the horizon at certain points in the day.

“Also, we thought it sounded cool,” Broberg said.

When the band was ready to share their music with the world, they came up with the idea of creating and releasing an album.

“Ever since we started the band our goal was to make great original music, and showcase it to the world,” Broberg said.

Being huge music fans, the members of SilverHorizon wanted to make their mark on the music world. This 13-song album was the first album the band has worked on, and it took them a little over a year to put it together.

The first song SilverHorizon performed was “Backyard Shenanigans”, followed by “Come Down”, and “Better Than This”. These songs are all original songs written and played by all three members.

The band usually performs one show a month but has started booking more for the future and wants to book as many shows as possible. Shows are done more in the local area and some shows taking place in Boston.

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

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.

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PUBLIC MEETINGS

BARRE

Special Town Election – July 28 from noon-6 p.m.
Conservation Committee – July 28 and Aug. 11 at 7 p.m.
Felton Field Commission – Aug. 4 at 6:30 p.m.
Council of Aging – Aug. 5 at 12:30 p.m.
Water Commission – Aug. 10 at 5:30 p.m.
DPW Commission – Aug. 10 at 6 p.m.
Cable Advisory Committee – Aug. 11 at 7 p.m.
Library Trustees — Aug. 12 at 6:30 p.m.
Barre Housing Authority – Aug. 12 at 1 p.m.
Barre Common Oversight Committee – Aug. 13 at 5 p.m.

HARDWICK

Paige Library Trustees – July 23 at 630 p.m. and Aug. 6 at 7 p.m.
Master Plan Steering Committee – July 23 at 6:30 p.m.
Gilbertville Public Library – July 23 at 6:30 p.m. and Aug. 12 at 3 p.m.
Planning Board – July 28 at 6:30 p.m.
Council on Aging – Aug. 5 at 12:30 p.m.
Town Meeting – Aug. 12 at 6:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – Aug. 19 at 6:30 p.m..

HUBBARDSTON

Select Board – Aug. 3 at 6:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – Aug. 4 at 7 p.m.
MPHN/Board of Health – Aug. 5 at 1 p.m.
P lanning Board – Aug. 5 and Aug. 20 at 6:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – Aug. 7 at 7 p.m.
Board of Library Trustees – Aug. 6 at 7 p.m.
Council on Aging – Aug. 19 at 4 p.m.
Board of Assessors – Aug. 19 at 6 p.m.

NORTH BROOKFIELD

Planning Board – Aug. 19 all day

OAKHAM

Conservation Commission – July 23 at 6 p.m.

PETERSHAM

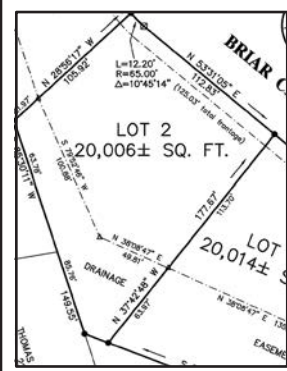
Select Board – July 23 at 5:30 p.m. and Sept.12 at 9 a.m.
Board of Health – July 28 at 6:30 p.m.
Open Space and Recreation Committee – Aug. 4 at 6 p.m.
Conservation Commission – Aug. 4 at 7 p.m.
Council on Aging – Aug. 10 at 10:30 a.m.
Cemetery Commission – Aug. 11 at 11 a.m.
Board of Assessors – Aug. 14 at 9 a.m.
Petersham Historic District – Aug. 20 at 6 p.m.

RUTLAND

Capital Improvement Planning Committee – July 23 at 6 p.m.

Oakham Historical Association to hold open house on July 26

OAKHAM – The Oakham Historical Association will hold its monthly open house on Sunday, July 26 from 1-4 p.m. at the Oakham Historical Museum on 1221 Old Turnpike Road. New and old artifacts will be on display. Admission is free.



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PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

In the Garden
by Roberta McQuaid

Washing the elephant

The name Paul Rogers may ring a bell with some of my readers. Paul was a dear friend of mine, a mentor and acclaimed horticulturist who had amazing influence at Old Sturbridge Village, especially early on in my tenure.

He operated Stonehedge Gardens with his wife Barb in Charlton and for many decades wrote a regular column for the Worcester Telegram and Gazette. Paul also had a radio show, a weekly gardening Q&A on WTAG.

It was with his coaxing that I applied for and got this gig as the Garden Lady for Turley Publications over 20 years ago. He was very well known throughout Central Massachusetts, the Boston area and beyond.

Once I was in Bath, Maine, and to my disbelief someone mentioned that they knew Paul Rogers when I was shopping in a kitchen store of all places. But alas, I digress.

Paul and I would meet every other week at the Village unless he was traveling on some horticultural odyssey. Many times he and I would chat before we took our walks around campus to assess my beds.

I learned all about his trips in great detail and he got to know me pretty well, too. He always knew when I was “down in the dumps.”

During those periods, Paul would say, “you’ve got to wash the elephant.”

At first this made little sense to me, but after a bit I understood. When you are not feeling like yourself, you have to tackle a project, a big, elephant-like project, and afterwards you will feel better.

Of course, his projects were, and mine are, typically garden related.

So this weekend I tackled the iris and rose bed. Or shall I say the iris, rose and violet bed?

The violets were un-welcomed guests in the garden, as were the borers, but we will get to that in a minute.

You see, I inherited this beautiful patch of blue-purple bearded irises when we moved to this house. For years it bloomed effortlessly. I divided it once a few years back and it was nice for awhile.

But this year blooms were sparse and rose suckers began to show up everywhere within the garden. Violet foliage crowded out the vertical spear-shaped iris leaves.

How was I to tame this

mess and do it in the most efficient way possible? My approach may seem unconventional, but if I didn’t do it this way I might still be outside squatting in that very garden.

I took out the lawn mower and adjusted the height to the tallest I could, six inches. Then I mowed down the garden.

After that I got into the bed with a hand trowel and one scoop at a time, dug up the bed. It was easier than I thought, because the irises were in worse shape than I thought. To say it was gross was an understatement.

I had never seen anything like it. As I unearthed the rhizomes I smelled the rot before I found my first borer. To say it was gross was an understatement.

Each rhizome was lifted, inspected and cut back to healthy tissue. Two inch long borers were collected in a yogurt container for the chickens. They ranged in color from light pink to deep mahogany.

To think that I’ve been gardening for so long and had never seen one before! The violet rhizomes were also dug up and discarded, as were the unwanted rose runners and suckers.

Thinning out the apothecary rose will certainly help to dissuade powdery mildew from taking hold next year. This year it’s pretty bad.

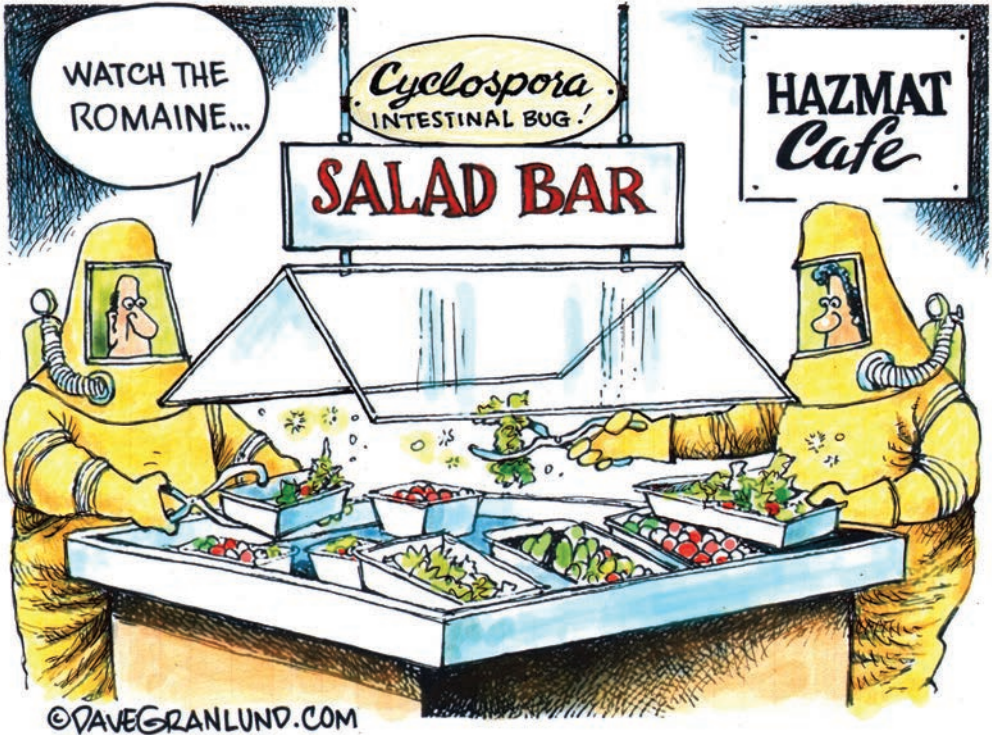
Meanwhile, the irises were moved to a holding bed, also known as the vegetable garden, while I solarize the area they came from to kill off any violet seeds. I hope. They are notorious at self seeding.

I realize I took this project on a bit later in the season than I should have; my irises may not bloom next year, but it was then or never.

So now you have my “washing the elephant” story. And you know a little more about an amazing man who I miss so much and think of often, especially when I am in the garden.

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

Opinion



In Past Pages

Look Back - Golden Age Fair – 1992



Members of the Barre Golden Age Club create a domestic scene from days gone by to greet fairgoers last weekend. Pictured from left are Dorothy Franciose, Louis Keddy, Phyllis Southwick and Victoria Hopkins keeping busy with their sewing projects. The idea for the setting came from Viola Belcher.

5 years (July 29, 2021)

The North Brookfield Board of Selectmen met Tuesday, July 20. School Committee Vice-Chairman Tim Canada notified the board of a recent vacancy on the committee. SelectBoard Chairman Dale Kiley said they received the email from School Committee Chair Maria Tucker. Kiley said the Town Clerk needs a copy of the resignation letter. Kiley said residents interested in filling the vacant seat on the committee should send a letter of interest to the board and School Committee.

Ian McElwee, Associate Planner for the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, along with project engineers Corey Brodeur and Doug Bush, from Lenard Engineering, presented the West Side Infrastructure plan at the Board of Selectmen meeting last Tuesday, July 20. North Brookfield was awarded funds through a Community Development Block Grant to complete an infrastructure project in the area of town located behind the Town House, known as the West Side. McElwee said the

area encompasses about 10 streets. Lenard Engineering completed a survey of the area last summer and the plan was completed this spring. Brodeur said they evaluated water, sewer, drainage and roadways. He said most of the roadways are in rough condition, but some are in fair condition. Brodeur said the total project cost is about \$10.2 million. He said almost all of the water lines need to be replaced, along with many sewer services. He said there was recent work done to repair the sewers, which included adding linings. Drainage systems in the West Side area are also in poor condition, Brodeur said.

The quilting group at the Oakham Congregational Church kept busy doing what they love, quilting.

Not only did they enjoy this hobby, but also they made quilts to benefit others. Their latest endeavor was a donation of quilts to benefit Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease. A group member said, “In honor of a local resident battling this devastating disease, all the quilts will be sold to raise funds for ALS research

through donation to the ‘Hope and Dreams Quilt Challenge’ sponsored by Quilters Dream Batting Corp. Last year, Quilters Dream Batting Corp. donated \$60,000 to ALS research as a result of these donations and sales.” Three of the quilters opted to make mystery quilts. As the name indicated, the quilt makers did not know what the pattern looked like until it was pieced together. Directions told the quilter how much fabric to buy in various values/ shades and how to cut each fabric. The quilts were assembled “one step at a time.” A quilter said, “As each step is completed the next step is given to the maker. The pattern is revealed as it is assembled.”

10 years (July 28, 2016)

Community organizations serving the Barre, Paxton and Princeton areas will be the focus of support from the newly created Barre Savings Charitable Foundation, a Fidelity Bank Endowment. Fidelity Bank, a Leominster-based community bank, merged with Barre Savings Bank in April. The foundation was established as part of the merger process and was

See PAST PAGES page 5

Can my spouse file at 63 and then get half of mine when I later claim?

Dear Rusty:

My spouse is 63 and I am 65. I am planning to take my Social Security benefits at age 70. Can my lower earning spouse take his own benefits now, and then -when I take my full benefits at age 70, can he then file for 50% of mine instead of the lower benefit he is getting because he claimed at age 63?

Signed: Higher Earning Spouse

Dear Higher Earning Spouse:

Yes, your lower-earning spouse can take his benefits based

on his personal lifetime earnings record at any time (i.e., age 63) and, when you later claim your own SS at 70, your spouse will be evaluated to determine whether he is eligible for a “spousal boost” based on your Social Security record.

But to be sure you are clear, if you claim at age 70, your spouse will not get 50% of your age 70 benefit amount.

Spousal benefits are always determined by comparing each partners’ Full Retirement Age entitlement and, if your spouse’s FRA



entitlement is less than half of your FRA entitlement, your spouse will get a “spousal boost” to bring his monthly SS retirement payment up to what he is entitled to as your spouse.

The amount of the “spousal boost” would be the difference between his FRA entitlement and 50% of your FRA entitlement, which would be added

to his own (age 63) SS retirement amount.

And that means that his total benefit amount would be less than half of your age 70 amount (less also than 50% of your FRA amount, because he claimed at age 63).

One caution for your spouse to be aware of: if he is still working and claims at age 63, he will be subject to Social Security’s Annual

Earnings Test, which limits how much he can earn before SS takes away some benefits.

The earnings limit for 2026 is \$24,480 (changes annually) and if that is exceeded, SS will take back \$1 of benefits for every \$2 he is over the limit. FYI, Social Security will “take back” by withholding future benefit payments, so he will not get his benefits for some months if he exceeds the annual earnings limit.

And if the annual earnings limit is significantly exceeded, your spouse could even

be temporarily ineligible to receive SS benefits (until he either earns less or reaches his full retirement age, the earnings limit goes away when FRA is reached).

The only way your spouse can avoid both a reduced personal benefit and the annual earnings test limitation is to wait until his own Full Retirement Age to claim Social Security.

However, if he’s not working full time and needs the Social Security money soon-

See SOCIAL SECURITY page 5

BARRE GAZETTE

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Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

It is raining as I type this and we did need rain.

I kept the windows open as it was not coming in. I went out and deadheaded the day lilies in the morning as the weather was pleasant. Two days we had the smoke from Canada wildfires, but it was clear today.

I went to the doctor and need to have my cataracts removed. That means a lot of appointments and thank goodness for my two daughters, who can help me.

I made a blueberry pie with the wild blueberries my handyman picked for me. It was so good.

I saved a few berries to use in pancakes.

Easy meal

One of the meals I made this week was to take white onions, green peppers and

fry them until soft. I put in a half pound of hamburger and browned that.

Meanwhile cook some pasta and put that in after the hamburger is brown. Sprinkle Parmesan cheese when you serve it. You can put in Italian seasoning if you like.

I have been enjoying the imitation crabmeat in salads and in sandwiches. I just add some celery and Miracle Whip Salad dressing. I use the kitchen shears to cut up the crab meat.

I am still working on cleaning out papers that need to be filed from the garage. Also, I brought down to the cellar some things that do not need to be in the garage.

I keep an inventory of my collections and antiques and spent a part of one day on the internet checking prices on eBay. I have too many col-

lections.

We finally got a new iron water system for the house and it is so nice not to have to use iron out. The old system was not working and it was 39 years old.

This new system does not require salt and I do not have to bail the brine water out twice a week like the old system.

The tomato plants have baby tomatoes so hopefully we will get some off the planters. There are no blossoms on the pepper plants yet.

The Coleus are doing well and I keep taking clippings off of them. I'm also using lettuce from the planters. There are no ripe blueberries yet, but there are a few raspberries.

I hope you are enjoying summer as it goes by quickly.

To Stand the Cost of Loving

*We never thought in days gone by, that loving would have a cost,
It came so freely and felt so good, we thought it would always be,
But little by little, over so many years, the costs can add up.*

*To give my heart to one who cares, was all I needed to feel alive,
Knowing that she cared for me as well was my greatest gift,
Somehow, she found in me a soul worth caring for.*

*How sweet those early days have seemed, but life's not always so,
The challenges of living together lead so many to walk away,
There must be something to the idea that being together can be hard.*

*In time we learned the ways that love can sometimes hurt,
And found the reasons for why we do what we do, or excuses for them,
And realized that it is wrong to ask more of others than we ask of ourselves.*

*Families can be a source of unending joy, but sometimes one of sadness,
So often unrealistic expectations can lead to disappointment and discord,
Sensing when to let go can be the most valuable parental trait of all.*

*They must feel free to strike out on their own and make their own mistakes,
To try, and sometimes fail, but taking ownership of that failure can teach so much,
They need our support and our listening heart to give them courage to start again.*

*In its own good time, the verdant path reveals itself and there their rose can bloom,
The rewards for us can be plentiful with patience, encouragement, and trust.
For some the journey will be longer than others, but in the end, fully worthwhile.*

*To help them on their way is the investment we make in those who spring from us,
It can be ever so trying from time to time, but in the end the reward is worth the effort,
As it brings to us the completion of our journey, To Stand the Cost of Loving.*

— A. B. SPLAINE

PAST PAGES from page 4

endowed by Fidelity Bank with \$1.5 million.

“The wonderful organizations that serve people in these three communities can always use more money to do more,” said Edward F. Manzi, Jr. chairman and CEO of Fidelity Bank. “It is our intention that the foundation will provide funding for deserving local nonprofits in perpetuity.” Former Senator Stephen Brewer was named president of the Barre Savings Charitable Foundation. The foundation will be controlled by an independent board of directors.

After 53 years the Oakham Youth Fair is still going strong. This Saturday, July 25 Eva Grimes will be overseeing the fair once again from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Wright Memorial Field, Ware Corner Road.

Co-founders, Eva Grimes and Doris Warner, started the fair so Oakham youths would have a place to show their cattle, sheep, rabbits, fruits, vegetables and flowers. Doris Warner and her family remained active in the fair until her death in the early 1980s. Eva Grimes along with her nieces and nephews con-

tinue to “run” this fair. When the two women started the fair, the town had active 4-H Clubs and many of the youths came from a farm background. At one time Oakham had an active 4-H rabbit club and many of its members exhibited rabbits at the fair. It has been quite a few years since anyone exhibited rabbits and sheep for that matter. There are still many dairy and beef cattle exhibitors and they come from many Worcester County towns including: Dudley, Charlton, Hardwick, Holden, East Brookfield, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oxford, Rutland, Spencer and West Brookfield.

For 11-year-old Matthew Sands, playing baseball has become a big part of his life. “Baseball is one of those things that just make you feel good,” Sands said. “Whether you win or lose, it’s still great to play.” And being a member of the Quabbin Sinclair Jimmy Fund All Stars team brings a whole different meaning to playing for something as the mission for his team is to raise funds for The Jimmy Fund and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. As a matter of fact, all of the Sinclair baseball teams raise

money for this worthwhile cause, including two others in the Quabbin area. In the case of Sand’s team comprised of other 11-year-olds, their goal is to use food and fun as a way to bring in funds, as they sponsor a pancake breakfast fundraiser and a wiffle ball game next Saturday morning, Aug. 6, at the Hardwick Winery.

38 years (July 30, 1988)

The subcommittee of the Quabbin Regional School Committee addressing drug issues voted at its July 23 meeting to explore the implementation of a district wide zero tolerance drug policy. At the beginning meeting, member Fran Gromelski of Barre proposed achieving this end through the addition of Breathalyzer tests, drug-sniffing dogs and stiffer penalties to the current policy as soon as possible. After an hour and a quarter of an hour focused discussion, his motion was approved, with the addition of mandatory drug testing insisted on by member Tom Tashjian.

Rebecca Phillips of Barre has been hired as principal and spe-

ated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature

Citizens Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisory@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

SOCIAL SECURITY from page 4

er, then claiming at age 63 may be a good choice. In any case, he won’t get half of your age 70 amount.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affili-



Photo by Doug Moore

Juvenile glossy ibis

A Belchertown resident shared this photo of a glossy ibis he took at Lake Wallace.

The glossy ibis is a medium-sized wading bird, 18.9 to 26 inches long, with compact body, long neck, long legs and long, curved bill.

The plumage appears dark, almost blackish, at a distance or in poor light. Up close, the body is maroon with wing coverts showing a metallic green, bronze and violet tones.

Juveniles are a duller brown color with some white streaking on their neck

Glossy Ibis occur in

flocks, both at nesting colonies and when foraging. They typically feed by lowering the bill into water, mud or soil, to feel for prey.

In addition to consuming animal matter, plants may constitute a major portion of their diet during some seasons.

They frequent almost any wetland environment with shallow water or exposed mud and also readily feed in farm fields or open areas where soils are moist.

They inhabit shallow freshwater wetlands as well as brackish and saltwater wetlands, mangroves, and rice fields. Over much of its range,

When flying, the glossy ibis has its neck stretched forward and legs straight behind it. The glossy ibis does not call often, but may make murmuring sounds while foraging.

During the breeding season, glossy ibises will court one another by preening and touching bills. Males and females will work together to build a large nest.

Nesting in tight colonies, glossy ibis nests are often no more than 2 feet away from each other. The female will lay three to four eggs and incubate them for 20-22 days.

Glossy ibises can be found across the globe. Their range has greatly expanded in the 20th century in North America.

This species has gone from a rare and local Florida species to regularly breeding as far north as Maine and occasionally along the east coast of Canada. The first Massachusetts nests were found at coastal sites in 1974.

The oldest recorded glossy ibis was at least 21 years old and lived in Virginia between 1971 and 1992.

Sutton birds

Recently, my brother and sister-in-law hosted a pool party. My brother, Ted, puts out grape jelly for the Baltimore orioles and a nectar feeder for the ruby-throated hummingbirds on his deck.

Birds included male and female ruby-throated hummingbirds for the nectar feeder. Baltimore orioles, red-bellied woodpecker, downy woodpecker and a scarlet tanager came to the deck.

They also have a pond that abuts their backyard. They have a pair of mute swans on the pond. They raised a family for several years in a row.

Great blue heron

I often see a great blue heron wading in Long Pond in Rutland. Every time I drive along Route 122 by the pond, I look for the heron.

People may report a bird sighting by emailing edowne@turley.com or calling or texting 774-262-5882.

Kid’s Corner workshop to be held July 25

WARE – The next Kids’ Corner workshop at Ware Grange will be called “Birds” and will take place on Saturday, July 25 at 10 a.m. at the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road.

Kids’ Corner workshops

are led by preschool teacher, Jen McNally, and teach children about nature and the environment through stories, songs and fun activities.

This workshop will explore the world of birds

and their life cycles.

Children will learn about many different birds, their songs, and their habitats.

Visit Ware Grange on Facebook or at waregrange.org for more information.

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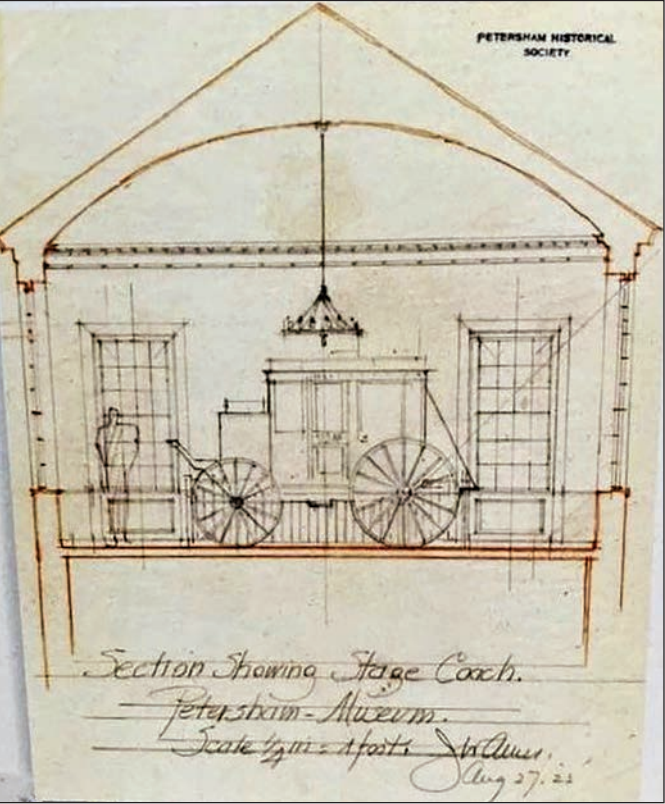
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The Holyoke Sun • Town Reminder • Ware River News • The Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Call Dan today 413.297.5886 or 413.283.8393

Anniversary celebration takes place July 25

PETERSHAM - On Saturday, July 25 from 2-4 p.m. Petersham Historical Society will have a special

celebration, for the 100th anniversary of the building and the 250th anniversary of the Nation.



Photos courtesy of Petersham Historical Society
This plan of the Petersham Historical Society shows the section to house the stage coach.

Special guests will be the Crane's 3rd Continental Artillery Revolutionary War reenactors, who will mingle with and meet folks at the event. They will be performing cannon demonstrations

and a Celebratory Salute with their Revolutionary War-era cannon on Nichewaugh Field from 3-4 p.m.

Visitors can have a special opportunity, if they choose, to fire the cannon

for a \$20 donation. This will be a unique memory during the Nation's once-in-a-lifetime celebration year. All proceeds will benefit the Historical Society for its next one hundred years of prog-

ress.

The 3rd Continental Artillery Regiment also known as Crane's Continental Artillery Regiment became part of the Continental Army on January 1, 1777, as Colone l John Crane's Continental Artillery Regiment.

Jeffrey Cooke, of Royalston, who has been a member of John Crane's Artillery reenactment group for about 15 years, says the group has been visiting many towns this year for celebrations and also participated in Henry Knox's Noble Train of Artillery events this year. The original artillery group, known as the 3rd Continental Artillery Regiment, became part of the Continental Army



This photo is of construction on the Petersham Historical Society Building.

See PETERSHAM page 10



Members of the Senior Center quilting group surprised Betty Jo O'Brien with a Quilt of Valor. She said it was a "complete surprise."



Robert Bentley, U.S. Army was the first recipient of a Quilt of Valor.

QUILTS from page 1

forting healing Quilts of Valor.

Quilts of Valor Foundation began in 2003 with a dream, the founder Catherine Roberts had while her son, Nat, was deployed in Iraq.

Roberts stated, "The dream was as vivid as real life. I saw a young man sitting on the side of his bed in the middle of the night, hunched over. The permeating feeling was one of utter despair. I could see his war demons clustered around,

dragging him down into an emotional gutter. Then, as if viewing a movie, I saw him in the next scene wrapped in a quilt. His whole demeanor changed from one of despair to one of hope and well-being. The quilt had made this dramatic change.

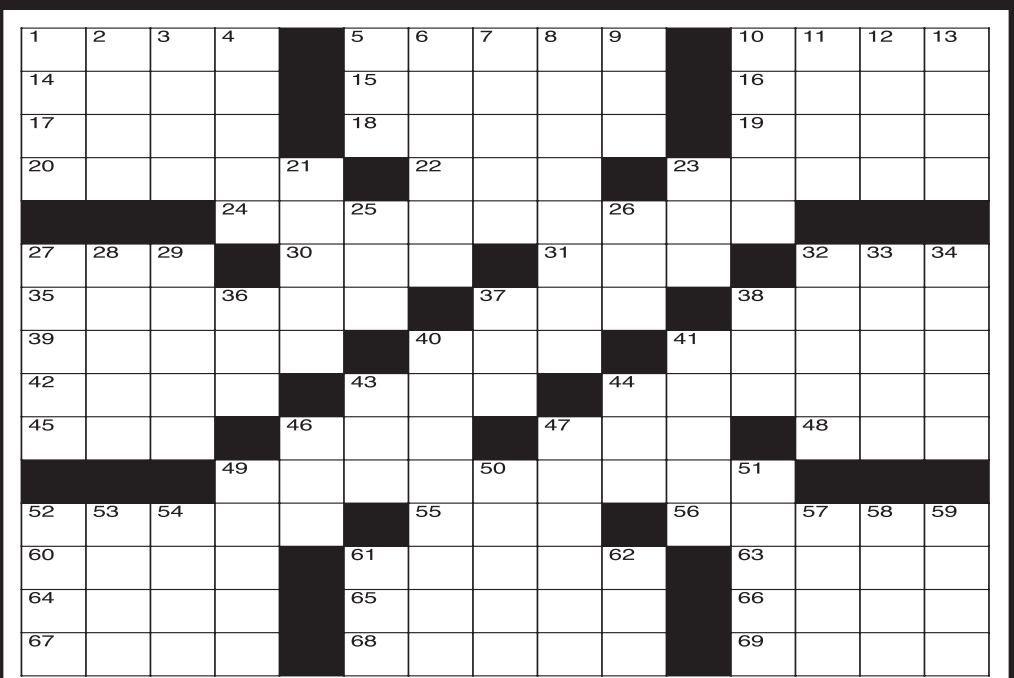
The message of my dream was: Quilts = Healing." The quilt in the dream was named "Quilt of Valor."

From her dream, Quilts of Valor Foundation was born. Volunteer teams donate their time and materials to make Quilts of Valor.

To use the term Quilt of Valor, Quilts of Valor or QOV, the quilt must be a specific size, must have a label with required information, it must be awarded (it is not a gift) and it must be recorded.

A Quilt of Valor® (QOV)

is a quality, handmade quilt that is machine or hand quilted. It is awarded to a Service Member or Veteran who has been touched by war. The Quilt says unequivocally, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation."



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Listen to
- 5. Presents
- 10. A type of guitar
- 14. Actor Idris
- 15. A citizen of Iran
- 16. Pretentiously artistic
- 17. Harness
- 18. Diamond weight measurement
- 19. "Better Call ___"
- 20. Fervent support
- 22. Male cat
- 23. Jewish spiritual leader
- 24. Disposed to venture or take risks
- 27. A way to nail
- 30. Cool!
- 31. Women's ___ movement
- 32. "Losing My Religion" rockers
- 35. Step-shaped recess
- 37. A princess can detect it
- 38. Tractor-trailer
- 39. Leslie and Leon are two

- 40. Color at the end of the spectrum
- 41. Lines where fabrics are sewn
- 42. Dodgers great Hershisier
- 43. Floor covering
- 44. Traveled aimlessly
- 45. Rocker Stewart
- 46. Body art
- 47. Congressman (abbr.)
- 48. No seats available
- 49. Breaks apart
- 52. Hand gesture
- 55. Ballplayer's tool
- 56. Sword
- 60. Baseball team
- 61. Upper bract of floret of grass
- 63. Italian Seaport
- 64. Mars crater
- 65. Tube on a shoelace
- 66. U. of Miami mascot
- 67. South American nation
- 68. Video game series "Max ___"

CLUES DOWN

- 1. German courtesy title
- 2. Ancient Greek personification of mercy
- 3. Jewish calendar month
- 4. Family of long-legged frogs
- 5. Photo
- 6. Delivered a speech
- 7. Lute used in Indian music
- 8. Decorated
- 9. Cease to stand
- 10. The bottom layer
- 11. Member of a Semitic people
- 12. Part of a ticket
- 13. Defunct monetary unit
- 21. Challenges
- 23. Body part
- 25. Tell on
- 26. By way of
- 27. Shady green alcove
- 28. Egyptian city
- 29. ___ and flowed
- 32. Widens a hole
- 33. Eurasian wheat
- 34. Act incorrectly
- 36. "Be back later"
- 37. Al Bundy's wife
- 38. Ocean
- 40. Large root eaten as a vegetable
- 41. Units of subjective loudness
- 43. Music genre
- 44. A way to drench
- 46. Popular hot beverage
- 47. Silk-like cotton fabric
- 49. Rumanian city
- 50. Come back
- 51. Vaccine developer
- 52. Canadian law enforcers
- 53. Wings
- 54. Observational comedian Bill
- 57. Small fry
- 58. ___ Clapton, musician
- 59. Take a chance
- 61. Semi-liquid food for babies
- 62. Consumed food



Turley Publications photos by Ellenor Downer
Chuck Carmelo Coppolino, U.S. Navy, stands by his quilt as it is displayed for all to see before it got wrapped on Coppolino.



Anthony Musnicki stands wrapped in his quilt and surrounded by his family, from left, his granddaughter, Eliza Brown; his wife, Suzanne Musnicki; Anthony Musnicki and daughter, Toni Brown. Betty-Jo O'Brien looks on. More photos will appear next week.

Legislators tour key locations in Hubbardston

HUBBARDSTON – On Monday, July 13 town of Hubbardston local officials invited State Senator Peter Durant, State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume and the State Director of Rural Affairs Anne Gobi to discuss town critical priorities.

State and local officials toured three key locations: Municipal Complex at 48 Gardner Road, Town Center property at 21 Gardner Road and Sand Pit located at Pitcherville Road and Gardner Road

“Hubbardston is very fortunate to have such a great team of State Officials working with us to build a brighter future. There is so much potential that we are working hard to achieve, but we need the help of the state,” said Katie Young, Hubbardston’s Select Board chairman. “I am grateful that Anne Gobi, Sen. Durant and Rep. Berthiaume



State Sen. Peter Durant, State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume and State Director of Rural Affairs Anne Gobi along with town officials toured several town of Hubbardston properties on July 13.

care so much about our Town.”

“We have heard time and time again, Hubbardston cannot cut its way out of our financial challenges—we need to invest our fortunate to have a chance to see our legislative officials here helping us build our economic and civic opportunities to raise revenues and help balance our long-range financial responsibilities,” said Walker.

“Hubbardston has done so much work to advance the Municipal Complex, develop the Town Center property and untap the potential of the sand pit,” shared Interim Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald. “It has been decades since the Town swapped land with the Commonwealth to help advance some Town priorities and it’s now time for



Submitted photos

One of the stops was the sand pit on Pitcherville Road.

action. Hubbardston has critical public safety needs it needs to address and we need broader help from our State and Federal officials as we seek to advance these initiatives. The Sand Pit was scarified and destroyed years ago to help Boston’s Big Dig project. It’s time to remediate this incredible location and help build a safer and brighter future for the town of Hubbardston and the Region,” said Fitzgerald.

QUABBIN from page 1

about 180 million gallons extracted per day.

Despite this, he said, there is little water access in Belchertown, as there is a mandatory water ban in the town. The only town in the state that receives water from the reservoir and currently has a water ban in place is Reading.

Saunders said the drought in Belchertown was enough to cancel sports because they could not irrigate the fields, and there are no facilities for workers in the New Salem police department to use.

Saunders said the Quabbin towns only get three tenths of a percent of the MWRA’s budget, and the new funding per year does not even bring that funding up to four tenths of a percent.

He said the consideration to the towns is “criminally small,” and used Belchertown as an example, saying the state has a value of \$3,800 per acre. The state pays each town a certain amount of money per undevelopable acres of land that are protected for the Quabbin, in a payment in lieu of taxes.

Saunders pulled out \$4,000 from his pocket to illustrate the worth, and said it is “time for wholesale change.”

The second speaker was Smola, who represents the 1st Hampden District, which includes the town of Ware. He said if the Quabbin crumbles, the rest of eastern Massachusetts does as well.

He also brought up the reduced levels at Gate 43 in Hardwick, and said the fishermen and hunters who utilize the Quabbin regularly are the best stewards of the land. He said this in response to attempts to reduce access to the land.

The third leader to speak was Durant, who represents the Worcester and Hampshire District, including the towns of Barre, Hardwick, Phillipston and Ware. He said the residents of the Quabbin towns feel slighted, but are passionate about the environment, as he said it is a resource here.

Durant also criticized the proposed battery energy storage system in Oakham, calling it a “horrible idea.”

The fourth speech was from Comerford, who represents the Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester District, including the towns of Athol, Orange, New Salem, Pelham, Petersham, Shutesbury and



Submitted Photos

Secretary Rebecca Tepper of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, and chair of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority’s board of directors, spoke during a meeting held at the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center in Belchertown on July 10.

Wendell. She said no towns should face a disproportionate burden of cost, but each of the Quabbin towns are receiving just three cents per day, on average.

Comerford said the proposed legislation is not an attempt to tax eastern Massachusetts, but for the MWRA to tap into their billion dollar budget. She said there should be a seat from the Quabbin on the board and the trust fund should be implemented.

Comerford also spoke of PFAS being found in the water of Swift Elementary School and insufficient water to fight a fire in Wendell.

Many leaders from local Quabbin towns also spoke at the meeting, with many of them raising concerns about the amount of undevelopable land and the financial impacts to the towns because of the insufficient funding for that land.

One speaker was Richard Stevens, a member of the Barre Select Board, who said they are seeking equitable funds, and said there is a well water crisis in the town. Lesa Lessard Pearson of the Belchertown Select Board asked the MWRA to uphold their commitment to the towns, and said their economies are connected. She said there are thousands of acres of land that cannot contribute to it.

William Zinni, a member of Hardwick’s Conservation Commission, said the water is at risk over time due to development needs to make money for the town. He said there are 5,800 acres of Quabbin land in the town, and the town receives

just \$33 per acre.

William Tinker of the Hardwick Select Board said there are services gone in town due to the costs

of protecting the water. Tinker said the town was offered \$2 million per year for a landfill, but the town declined to continue pro-



Submitted Photos

State Sen. Peter Durant said the Quabbin Reservoir is an important resource to the towns he represents.



State Rep. Todd Smola spoke about the connection between the towns in the Quabbin Reservoir region, and the eastern part of the state.

Stuart Beckley, the town manager of Ware said the town provides control burn services for the state, and the water quality in the

town is poor, with brown water being common. He said it is safe to drink, but people don’t want to.

RUTLAND from page 1

budgeted. The amount of that cost from the reserve fund was requested to be \$13,000.

The board approved the

request, with a specification brought up by the chair of the Finance Committee, Darren Ross, who said there is a \$298 interest cost, which should be taken off the bill.



<https://tinyurl.com/yje235xsb>

RMV TRAINING

Topics

- Shifting Gears
 - Rules of the road, safe driving tips, license renewals, preparing for driving retirement
- The Driving Decision
 - Age concerns, MA license policies, ID cards, license surrender
- Disability Placards and Plates
 - How to obtain and relevant info

Meeting Info

July 29th
Barre Senior Center
10:30am

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

SPORTS

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St. Joe's suffers late-season loss

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

THORNDIKE – In what might've been a preview of a Tri-Country League playoff matchup, Teddy Bear Pools and Spas broke open the final meeting of the regular season against St. Joseph's by scoring nine runs across the fifth and sixth innings, rolling to an 11-1 victory at St. Joe's Field in Thorndike, last Friday night.

"We split with St. Joe's during the regular season, and we'll probably be seeing them again in the playoffs," said Teddy Bear Pools player/manager Ryan Magni. "The first three innings of tonight's game was almost like a playoff game. Then we were able to break it open against their relief pitchers.

Even though Friday's make-up game was played at St. Joe's Field, Teddy Bear Pools served as the home team because their own field was unavailable. The game ended with two outs in the bottom of the sixth inning due to the ten-run mercy rule.

Teddy Bear Pools entered the final week of the regular season sitting in third place in the league standings with a 13-5-1 record one point behind second place St. Joseph's. The Saints had a 14-4 overall record.

Peoples Bank (15-3-1), who are looking to capture the league championship

title for the 13th consecutive season, was sitting in first place.

Teddy Bear Pools could move into second place with a win against BankESB on Thursday night and if St. Joe's losses their final two regular season games.

The Saints had the opportunity to move into first place if they defeated the DOC Spartans on Monday and Peoples Bank on Wednesday.

The top two finishers in the league standings earn a first round bye and the first place team will get home field advantage throughout the playoffs, which are all best of three series.

Teddy Bear Pools righthander Matt Drobiak, who graduated from South Hadley High School, was the winning pitcher in last Friday's game. He went the distance, allowing one run on just one base hit with three walks and two strikeouts.

"My defense made the plays behind me in tonight's game," said Drobiak. "This is a big win for us, and it feels great. We're hoping to play them again in the playoffs."

Teddy Bear Pools took a 1-0 lead against St. Joe's with two outs in the bottom of the third inning.

Magni, who started in centerfield, drew a lead-off walk. Then St. Joe's lefthander Jackson Hayes retired the next two batters

See St. JOE'S page 10

Mutiny finishes up first dual league season

LUDLOW – Earlier this month, the New England Mutiny, which features soccer players from all over the region as well as some players from out of state, finished up their season, unfortunately failing to reach any postseason play despite playing in two leagues this season.

The Mutiny participated in both the USL as well as the UWS, nearly doubling its number of games this season. The Mutiny hope to have better luck next season with the added schedule.

Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com
Laci Lewis fights to keep possession.



Addyson Earl hustles after the loose ball.

PeoplesBank defeats Teddy Bear Pools



Darien Rosado is safe as he slides home.



Jake Jachym sends a pitch home.



Ray Toth gets the grounder to short.



Alex Gochinski cleanly fields a grounder.



Robert Ninotti fires a throw across the diamond.

Sports

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Athlete of the Month

NAME: Wes Sanderson

SCHOOL: Quabbin

Recently, Sanderson signed a letter of intent to play football for Curry College in Milton. He begins there this fall.

To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

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ST. JOE’S from page 9

before catcher Michael Toth hit a flyball which the centerfielder lost in the twilight. Toth, who graduated from Granby High School, wound up at second base with a double and Magni scored on the play.

St. Joe’s tied the score in the fourth inning.

Designated hitter Mark Jodoin singled leading off the frame before stealing second. He scored the tying run when right fielder Ryan O’Leary hit a sacrifice fly.

Drobiak then retired seven of the final eight bat-

ters that he faced.

“We just didn’t hit the ball very well in tonight’s game,” said St. Joe’s manager Paul Marcinek. “You can’t beat many teams by scoring only one run.”

Prior to the start of the bottom of the fourth inning, righty Jack Feltovic replaced Hayes on the mound.

Teddy Bear Pools retook the lead with two outs in that inning when designated hitter Bailey Griggs hit a ground ball single up the middle into centerfield scoring shortstop Ray Toth (walk).

Teddy Bear Pools scored

three more runs in the fifth inning. Two of the runs crossed the break on RBI singles from Ray Toth and right fielder Sean Rosemond. The other run scored following a throwing error by the catcher.

Holding a 5-1 lead, Teddy Bear Pools scored six more runs in the sixth.

Left fielder Josh Frometa and Magni knocked home a pair of runs with RBI singles, while second baseman Ramon Jomenez added a run scoring ground rule double to center. Griggs also drew a bases loaded walk during that frame.

Digital Photos

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Each

Team Mass Boys & Girls AAU Basketball Tryouts

Serving Central & Western MA for over 25 years!

Cost: \$30 Covers both tryouts (players get t-shirt)
AAU membership needed \$28 (purchase on our website, we'll pull them)

Tryout # 1: Friday, July 31, 2026

Location: Oxford High School
100 Carbundle Dr., Oxford, MA

- Boys & Girls Grades 4th-6th 5:15 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. (3rd grade can try out with 4th grade)
- Boys & Girls Grades 7th & 8th 6:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.
- Boys & Girls Grades 9th-12th 7:45 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Tryout # 2: Thursday, August 6, 2026

Location: North Brookfield High School
10 New School Dr., North Brookfield, MA

- Boys & Girls Grades 4th-6th 5:15 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. (3rd grade can try out with 4th grade)
- Boys & Girls Grades 7th & 8th 6:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.
- Boys & Girls Grades 9th-12th 7:45 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Pre Register/pay on website: teammassbasketball.com
Questions Email: teammassbasketball@gmail.com or call 413-539-1548

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NEW PROGRAMS Fall 2026

Select Teams Boys & Girls 8th-Varsity (12th)

Little Ballers Grades K-3 Please check website for details.

E.P. Wine Propane sponsors summer league teams

Submitted photo

E.P. Wine Propane President Rick Wine meets members of the Quabbin boys basketball summer program. E. P. Wine of Barre sponsored teams in both the Fitchburg and Auburn summer leagues. Shown are from left, Adrian Hein, Brady Patchen, Collin Leclair, CEO Rick Wine, Aiden Crane, Jack Leclair and Jacoby Dilling.

Hardwick libraries bring music to Town House

HARDWICK – Enjoy music by Shenanigans with Friends at the Town House on Saturday, July 25 from 3-5 p.m.

This exciting cover band of western Massachusetts and southern Vermont play old favorites, rock, country, folk and R&B with tight harmonies and danceable rhythms. Band members are; Dan Belmont (keys), Geoff Rice (guitar), Scot Broderick (bass), Mark Cherrington (drums) and singers Rosanna Murphrey, Diana Krauth (percussion) and Gershon Eigner.

This performance is brought to you by the Friends of the Paige Memorial Library and the Hardwick-New Braintree Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Hardwick libraries invite you to sign up for the “Dig In and Read” Summer Reading Program now through Aug. 22.

The Summer Reading Program includes activities and prizes for all ages, dinosaurs, American history and nature. Watch the website paigelibrary.com and Facebook for activities and events.

The Paige Memorial Library, 87 Petersham Road, for the Wednesday morning Story Hour with an art/science activity and play time starting at 10:30 a.m., Paige Book Club, the Cookbook Club, the Friends group, the Ongoing Book Sale, the Paige Writers, the 250th Quilt group, the Movie Festival Committee and programs for all ages and interests.

Watch for a new date for African rhythm drumming with Jafar Manselle and the Wendell Warriors on the Hardwick common and more upcoming events.

In the Classroom

Giampaolo Maneri receives WPI’s Crimson and Gray Award

WORCESTER – Giampaolo Maneri, class of 2026, majoring in computer science, received Worcester Polytechnic Institute’s Crimson and Gray Award during its annual Student Recognition Awards ceremony.

Each year, divisions and departments across campus recognized outstanding student efforts with the Student Recognition Awards. Recipients were either nominated or applied for consideration for these competitive awards.

This particular award recognized students, who demonstrate outstanding leadership abilities within the WPI community and acknowledge the significant contributions they have made to improve the quality of student life at the university. Ideal candidates subscribed to WPI’s Division of Student Affairs and Campus Life core values of advocacy, citizenship, empowerment, inclusion, respect, and support..

Riley Bassett receives Program of the Year award

DUDLEY – Riley Bassett of Gilbertville received the Program of the Year award at the Nichols College annual Student Life Awards ceremony on Monday, April 20.

This award recognizes an outstanding program developed, promoted and executed by a student organization. This year, executive committee members of the Campus Activities Board received the award for the Fels of Scream event.

HUBBARDSTON from page 1

usually certified around late September to early October.

There was also a request to transfer \$13,000 from the Finance Committee’s reserve fund to the unemployment trust fund. Knipe said this is due to there being one claim in the trust being paid out.

The Finance Committee approved both requests. Knipe said the Select Board also voted favorably on them.

Emergency Management discussion

The Emergency Management Director and Chair of the Emergency Planning Committee Judie O’Donnell attended the meeting to give an update on some projects she is working on, and the costs associated with them, including a communication trailer.

She said there was an old trailer that was originally going to be used as a communication center sitting at the Highway Department, but it is now 20 years old and used for storage. She said the goal is to turn it into a mobile center that the Police and Fire departments can access, along with being used as a mobile clinic or to cover large events as a first-aid station.

O’Donnell said the town of Boylston did a similar project recently, and it cost them about \$10,000.

She said Montachusett

Regional Technical Vocational High School has agreed to work on the trailer, which would be labor free though. She said the only costs would be materials, estimated at \$5,000-\$7,000, and said at a future meeting, she would be asking for the \$7,000.

Reorganization and administrative

The board reorganized and nominated Knipe as chair, Charles Reed as vice-chair and Rosemary Southwick as clerk. The board also voted to nominate Southwick as the Hubbardston finance representative to the Central Mass Regional Emergency Communication Center on their board.

PETERSHAM from page 6

in 1777 and served in several key battles, including the Battle of Saratoga, under Col. John Crane, who began his Revolutionary career at the Boston Tea Party.

Petersham Historical Society was imagined by Miss Martha Brooks, Mr. James Brooks, and friends in 1912. Through creative fundraising, such as sponsoring competitions for 4th of July floats, the money was raised to create the PHS building by 1926, one hundred years ago.

The building was designed by the architect John Ames of Boston, who modeled it after the Holden Chapel in Cambridge. It was built by the Taylor Wheeler contractors of Athol. The building was planned purposely to showcase the Petersham-Athol mail coach as the central focus inside the building.

The Museum will be open with special displays, music, refreshments, and good cheer for all. People can help plan a Time Capsule for Petersham treasures, learn about invisible ink used by spies during the Revolutionary War, hear some lively tunes by guest musicians and enjoy a Scavenger Hunt, among other pursuits. There will be a table of Attic Treasures available by donation as well.

The event takes place at the PHS building at 10 North Main Street, 2-4pm, and at the Nichewaug Field across the street from 3-4 for cannon demonstrations.

All are invited to this free and fun event, with the added opportunity to help raise funds for the future.

Church News

Local pastor offers sermon

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

“The Spirit Groans within us as Children of God.”

Scripture Readings: Romans 8 v 12 – 25

I. Introduction
Have you ever felt as though too many crises were happening at once?

So many things may demand your attention: illness, a slow-healing injury, workplace conflict, questions about your life’s journey, a crisis of faith, midlife struggles, other life changes, the weight of world events and more?

Have there been times when prayer felt difficult, or even like an obligation? Have you sensed God’s presence during or after prayer? I’m sure that any one of these scenarios must have been part of your life?

We all face uncertain or difficult times, and we all need to know that there is support, or that God is hearing us, guiding us, and leading us through the valley into the light.

II. The Spirit Groans within us as Children of God

When Paul wrote this letter to the Romans, he had not founded the church there, but he hoped to spread the Gospel throughout the Greco-Roman world.

He wrote to the Roman church, a community of Jewish and Gentile believers founded by Jewish-Christian travelers and merchants. He wrote against the backdrop of his own suffering for his commitment to Christ and the dangers involved in spreading the Gospel.

Paul and Peter would later be martyred in Rome between A.D. 64 and 68. This letter is a carefully written theological piece about the Christian life, the

life of Christ and what it means to be saved through the grace of God and be children of God.

In this chapter he speaks to his readers about the grace of God through the forgiveness that Christ brought to humanity. If they are children of God through Christ’s salvation, then they are led by the Spirit of Christ.

And if they are led by the Spirit, then they have been adopted as children of God and live under the grace of God which provides them with spiritual gifts of love and power, because the Spirit of God is alive in them.

He then goes on to talk about the toll of human suffering that they all will go through, but since they are heirs of Christ, they must remember that He suffered Himself and had been glorified after His death and resurrection and is now residing in the presence of God.

The more they suffer, the more the Spirit will renew them in the inner being, says FF Bruce in his commentary on Romans. The afflictions and suffering they go through are nothing in comparison to the glory to come.

But then Paul talks about the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in them, that as they suffer and do not know how to pray, and as they wander around not knowing what to say, what to do, that the Holy Spirit is groaning inside of them, making their unintelligible prayers clear to God.

The Greek word, Stenagmos, means sighing or groaning, which gives expression to the longings and desires which well up from the depths of the Spirit which cannot be expressed in everyday words, says Bruce. It is at that point that the Spirit of God is praying

on behalf of them, taking all their needs and desires to God.

III. Conclusion
Dear children of God, you may recognize what Paul is explaining to the Christian Church in Rome. You may go through your own unintelligible prayers as you go through your life’s journey, of unanswered prayers, and challenges in your life? We must remember that the Holy Spirit is within us, listening, knowing what we go through, and whispers to us not to worry too much about the correct words or circumstances, but to bring all of it to God in those moments of isolation and fears and insecurities. The Holy Spirit understands the hurts, the abandonment and loneliness in the “desert”, and the uncertainties of the future. And when we surrender it all, God will show up and work it out. God will manifest the miracles, and the divine love and support we need, at the right time, which is God’s time.

As the church of Christ, as children of God, Paul is appealing to all of us to allow the indwelling of the Holy Spirit to take our prayers to God, so that we all fall into the Divine will of God. May God help us to recognize when the Holy Spirit shows up and groans within us, and sighs on behalf of us, and may we give it to God, whatever it is. The Holy Spirit wants to help us to be at peace within ourselves, with one another, and with God. May we listen to that voice and allow God to do the work God desires within us.

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

First Congregational Church welcomes interim pastor

RUTLAND – The First Congregational Church of Rutland, United Church of Christ, welcomes the Rev. Dr. Marcus Hill as its part-time interim pastor.

Dr. Hill began serving the congregation on March 1 and quickly become a valued part of church life. Through thoughtful, inspiring sermons, compassionate pastoral care and a welcoming presence, he has already made a meaningful impact on the congregation.

He has provided counseling and spiritual support, welcomed new members into the life of the church and worked alongside church leaders to strengthen administrative systems, update church policies and enhance church communications.

The Rev. Dr. Marcus Hill is originally from Los Angeles, California and brings experience in both congregational ministry and higher education chaplaincy. He currently serves as Director of the Diversity Center and Spiritual Life and College Chaplain at Curry College in Milton, where he provides pastoral care, spiritual guidance and leadership to students, facul-

ty, and staff.

Dr. Hill previously served as Pastor of Youth and Families at Memorial Congregational Church in Sudbury and currently serves as Youth Leader at TriCon Congregational Church in Concord.

He has also served as a chaplain at Amherst College and the College of the Holy Cross.

Dr. Hill holds a Master of Divinity from Azusa Pacific Seminary, a Master’s degree in Higher Education from Boston University and a Doctor of Ministry from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He is an ordained minister with roots in the missionary Baptist tradition and now serves within the United Church of Christ.

Outside of ministry, Dr. Hill enjoys traveling, meaningful conversation and becoming part of the communities he serves. He and his partner, Andrew, along with their dog, Rocky, are grateful to call Rutland



Rev. Dr. Marcus Hill

home.

Whether over a cup of coffee, at a community event or after Sunday worship, he enjoys getting to know people and hearing their stories. He can be reached by email at marcus@rutlanducc.org.

Sunday worship at The First Congregational Church of Rutland is held every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. with Sunday School offered from September through June.

As an open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ, the Rutland church welcomes people of every age, race, ethnicity, ability, gender identity, sexual orientation, family structure, faith background and life experience.

To learn more about the church and its ministries, people may call the church office at 508-886-4453, email office@rutlanducc.org or visit the church website at <https://rutlanducc.org>.

No matter who people are or where they are on life’s journey, they are welcome here.

Obituaries

Janice M. (Callahan) Orr, 81

W A R E / HUBBARDSTON – Janice M. (Callahan) Orr, 81, died peacefully on Saturday, July 11, 2026 at Rose Monahan Hospice Home in Worcester.

She was born in Worcester, the beloved daughter of the late Daniel J. and Elsie (Johnson) Orr.

Janice married her beloved high school sweetheart, William M. Orr in 1962 and the couple lived in Worcester. They later moved to Texas for a time and then settled in Hubbardston in 1976. Janice would later relocate to Cedarbrook Village in Ware, where she leaves many dear friends.

Janice enjoyed working at the Holden Veterinary Clinic, first in the office, then later as an anesthesiologist. She worked at the family business, Orr Brothers Repair in Rutland completing the bookkeeping. Janice also worked at Rutland Hardware



and Home Center, previously known as the Wachusett Lumber & Building Supply Co., for many years. Janice was very proud of her Swedish heritage and enjoyed spending time with her family. She will be dearly missed.

Janice was predeceased by her beloved husband of 61 years, William M. Orr, Sr. in 2023. She will be lovingly missed and remembered by her son; William Orr of Barre and his wife, Dawn Orr; her daughter, Deborah J. Orr of Oxford; her brother, Robert J. Callahan and his wife, Phyllis of Paxton; her grandchildren, Ashley Orr and her husband, Brendon Toohil, Jamie Orr-Gentile, Zachary Orr, Joshua Orr, Angeline Orr and Tara Connole; her great grandchildren, Rylee Toohil, Rhyan Orr, Regan Toohil and Blake Dodge; as well as several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by brother, Joel Callahan; her twin brother,

DEATH NOTICE

Orr, Janice M. (Callahan)
Died July 11, 2026
Memorial calling hour
July 25 from 11 a.m.-noon
Memorial service July 25 at noon, both at Miles Funeral Home, 1158 Main St., Holden

James Callahan; and her sister, Barbara Callahan.

Janice’s family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to the staff at Cedarbrook Village for the exceptional care that Janice received there.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend on Saturday, July 25, 2026 a memorial calling hour from 11 a.m.-noon followed by a memorial service at noon at Miles Funeral Home, 1158 Main Street, Holden.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Worcester Animal Rescue League, 139 Holden St., Worcester, MA 01606.



St Mary’s Women’s Club

Mary Carey is shown here as she prepares to empty the crib and collect items under, beside and behind the crib, to bring them to Valuing Our Children.

St. Mary’s Women’s Club collects baby items

ORANGE – Each year between Mothers’ Day and Fathers’ Day St. Mary’s Women’s Club sets up a crib

in the entrance to the St. Mary’s Church.

Parishioners are asked to bring in diapers and other

baby clothes and accessories to fill the crib. The items are then brought to Valuing Our Children in Athol.



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BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for the Barre Gazette, please email edowner@turley.com.

Public Safety

Hardwick Police Log

During the week of July 13-20, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 59 building/property checks, 26 directed/area patrols, nine radar assignments, three traffic controls, 15 emergency 911 calls, five citizen assists, one assist other agency, one motor vehicle investigation, one safety hazard, four complaints, one scam, one harassment, one threat, one property damage, one larceny/theft/shoplifting, two stolen motor vehicles, eight burglaries, two animal calls and 19 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, July 13
10:37 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Spoken To
2:09 p.m. 911 Welfare Check, Mechanic Street, Transported to Hospital
2:37 p.m. Complaint, Barre Road, Officer Handled
6:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lower Road, Vehicle Towed

Tuesday, July 14
1:11 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Upper Church Street, Transported to Hospital
9:26 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Church Lane, Transported to Hospital
9:41 a.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Services Rendered
10:30 a.m. 911 Misdial, Sessions Road, Services Rendered
10:32 a.m. Scam, Main Street, Officer Handled
11:05 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, North Street, Transported to Hospital
2:10 p.m. 911 Lockout, Bridge Street, Services Rendered
3:46 p.m. Harassment, Barre Road, Officer Handled

Wednesday, July 15
8:47 a.m. Medical Alarm,

Main Street, Patient Refusal
9:44 a.m. 911 Safety Hazard, Lower Road, Removed Hazard
10:34 a.m. Threat, Czesky Road, Officer Handled
3:53 p.m. Medical Emergency, Barre Road, Transported to Hospital
4:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Barre Road, Written Warning
8:16 p.m. Complaint, Hardwick Road, Unfounded
8:50 p.m. Property Damage, Church Lane, Officer Handled
11:40 p.m. 911 Hang-up/ Abandoned, High Street, Negative Contact

Thursday, July 16
6:12 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Greenwich Road, Transported to Hospital
11:49 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Officer Handled
11:53 a.m. Medical Alarm, Barre Road, Services Rendered
3:53 p.m. Complaint, Church Lane, Negative Contact
7:07 p.m. Fire/Alarm, Church Street, Services Rendered

Friday, July 17
7:47 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Main Street, Citation Issued
10:40 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Petersham Road, Citation Issued
11:16 a.m. Neighbor Dispute, Bridge Street, Officer Handled
12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Petersham Road, Citation Issued
12:55 p.m. Complaint, Broad Street, Negative Contact
2:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Investigation, Lower Road, Services Rendered
5:49 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lucas Road, Citation Issued
6:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Lucas Road, Citation Issued

Saturday, July 18
1:24 a.m. Medical Emergency, Main Street, Transported to Hospital
4:45 a.m. Larceny/Theft/

Shoplifting, Maple Street, Report Taken
5:44 a.m. Stolen Motor Vehicle, Pine Street, Report Taken
6:09 a.m. Stolen Motor Vehicle, Pine Street, Services Rendered
7:55 a.m. Burglary (Breaking and Entering), Pine Street, Report Taken
8:32 a.m. Burglary (Breaking and Entering), School Street, Report Taken
8:40 a.m. Burglary (Breaking and Entering), Pine Street, Report Taken
8:45 a.m. Burglary (Breaking and Entering), Pine Street, Report Taken
8:49 a.m. Assist Citizen, Main Street, Services Rendered
8:53 a.m. Fire/Alarm, Old Petersham Road, Services Rendered
9:10 a.m. Burglary (Breaking and Entering), Ruggles Street, Report Taken
9:35 a.m. Burglary (Breaking and Entering), Pine Street, Report Taken
9:57 a.m. Assist Citizen, Pine Street, Spoken To
10:04 a.m. Suspicious Activity, Pine Street, Report Taken
11:17 a.m. Assist Citizen, Ruggles Street, Services Rendered
11:58 a.m. Burglary (Breaking and Entering), Ruggles Street, Investigated
4:27 p.m. Burglary (Breaking and Entering), Pine Street, Services Rendered

Sunday, July 19
4:38 p.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Ridge Road, Transported to Hospital
8:38 p.m. Medical Alarm, Church Lane, Patient Refusal

New Braintree Police Log

During the week of June 29-July 6, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 17 building/property checks, 22 directed/area patrols, seven radar assignments, four traffic controls, three emergency 911 calls, two citizen assists, three assist other agencies, one complaint, one property damage, three safety hazards, one animal call and six motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, June 29
3:02 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Cusky Pond, Officer Handled

Tuesday, June 30
7:13 a.m. Property Damage, Ravine Road, Report Taken
9:32 a.m. Assist Other Agency, McEvoy Road, Dispatch Handled
8:21 p.m. Medical Emergency, Scott Road, Transported to Hospital
11:52 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Out of Town, Dispatch Handled

Wednesday, July 1
8:54 a.m. Parking Complaint, Oakham Road, Officer Handled
12:35 p.m. Assist Citizen, Oakham Road, Services Rendered

Thursday, July 2
1:23 p.m. Assist Citizen, Oakham Cut Off Road, Officer Handled

Friday, July 3
4:55 p.m. Safety Hazard, West Brookfield Road, Referred to Other Agency
11:02 p.m. Safety Hazard, Oakham Road, Officer Handled

Saturday, July 4
2:06 a.m. Safety Hazard, Worcester Road, Services Rendered

4:30 a.m. 911 Animal Call, Ravine Road, Transferred Call to C3

Sunday, July 5
8:01 p.m. Medical Emergency, Webb Road, Transported to Hospital

During the week of July 7-13, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 20 building/property checks, 24 directed/area patrols, seven radar assignments, two traffic controls, one emergency 911 call, two citizen assists, one complaint, two safety hazards, three animal calls and six motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Tuesday, July 7
11:18 a.m. Assist Citizen, McEvoy Road, Services Rendered
12:56 p.m. Safety Hazard, West Brookfield Road, Services Rendered

Wednesday, July 8
6:24 a.m. Safety Hazard, West Brookfield Road, Referred to Other Agency
2:22 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Friday, July 10
4:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning
5:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning
9:52 p.m. Complaint, Memorial Drive, Officer Handled

Sunday, July 12
7:51 a.m. 911 Misdial, Moore Road, Spoken To
4:26 p.m. Suspicious Activity, Unitas Road, Investigated

During the week of July 13-20, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department

responded to 16 building/property checks, 19 directed/area patrols, two radar assignments, three traffic controls, four emergency 911 calls, two citizen assists, two assist other agencies, one safety hazard, two animal calls and three motor vehicle stops in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, July 13
5:16 p.m. Welfare Check, Tucker Road, Services Rendered

Tuesday, July 14
1:12 p.m. Safety Hazard, Worcester Road, Officer Handled
3:40 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Wine Road, Arrest(s) Made

Wednesday, July 15
7:30 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Transported to Hospital

Thursday, July 16
2:33 p.m. Assist Other Agency, Gilbertville Road, Officer Handled

Friday, July 17
4:46 p.m. Assist Citizen, Barre Cut Off Road, Spoken To
5:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, Hardwick Road, Written Warning

Saturday, July 18
6:26 p.m. Assist Citizen, Memorial Drive, No Action Required

Sunday, July 19
7:16 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Patient Refusal
3:04 p.m. Medical Emergency, Hardwick Road, Patient Refusal

Monday, July 20
6:46 a.m. 911 Medical Emergency, West Brookfield Road, Patient Refusal

Oakham Police Log

Sunday, June 21
12:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Worcester Road, Vehicle Towed
2:22 p.m. Abandoned Vehicles – Parking Issues, Old Turnpike Road, Report Filed
2:30 p.m. Tree Incidents (No Wires), Barre Plains Road, Removed from Scene

Monday, June 22
10:55 a.m. Emergency Medical Service – Breathing Difficulty, North Brookfield Road, Transported to Hospital
11:18 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Worcester Road, Public Assist
11:51a.m. Erratic Operator, North Brookfield Road, Report Filed
1:17 p.m. Larceny or Theft, East Hill Road, Information Taken

3:30 p.m. Property Damage, Old Turnpike Road, Report Filed

Tuesday, June 23
10:33 a.m. Motor Vehicle – Disabled, Tomlinson Road, Removed from Scene
12:38 p.m. Property Damage, Bechan Road, Officer Spoke to Party
7:29 p.m. Fire – Motor Vehicle Collision, Gaffney Road, Transported to Hospital
Summons Stowers, Addison Lee, 26, Oakham
Charges Operating Under Influence – Liquor OR .08% C90 S24(2) (A), Negligent Operation of Motor VehicleC90 S24 (2) (A)

Thursday, June 25
12:03 p.m. Fire – Fumes/ Odor/Gas Leak, Hapgood Road, Investigated

1:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning

1:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
2:16 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning
2:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Written Warning

Friday, June 26
2:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop, North Brookfield Road, Citation Issued

Saturday, June 27
1:13 p.m. Emergency Medical Service – Falls, Sanders Road, Mutual Aid Transport

Public Notices

Sale of Motor Vehicle under MGL Ch 255 Sec 39A
Notice is hereby given by: **Dave's Tow & Transport, Inc** pursuant to the provisions of MGL C.255 sec 39a, that on 8/7/26 at 843 Worcester Rd., Barre, MA the following motor vehicle will be sold by private sale to satisfy the garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges and other expenses incurred, including sales costs.
2014 Subaru Forester
VIN: JF2SJAHC0EH424475
John Francis Tambeau
48B Mechanic St, PO Box 364
Barre, MA 01005
07/23, 07/30, 08/06/2026

PUBLIC AUCTION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF M.L.C. 225 SEC.39A THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD ON August 1, 2026.
AT A SALE TO SATISFY OUR GARAGE LIEN THEREON FOR TOWING & STORAGE CHARGES AND EXPENSES OF SALE AND NOTICE:
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2015 AcuraTLX
VIN 19UUB1F58FA007285
2014 BMW 3 Series
VIN WBA3K5C5XEKT33553
2020 Nissan Sentra

VIN 3N1AB8CV7LY287127
2021 Chevrolet Trailblazer
VIN KL79MUSL7MB153038
2015 Honda Civic
VIN 19XFB2F59FE214729
2018 Hyundai SONATA
VIN 5NPE24AF5JH706590
2008 Nissan Quest
VIN 5N1BV28U98N107538
THE SALE WILL BE HELD AT **Early's on Park Ave. at 536 Park Avenue Worcester, MA 01603**
07/16, 07/23, 07/30/2026



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Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.
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Barre Gazette
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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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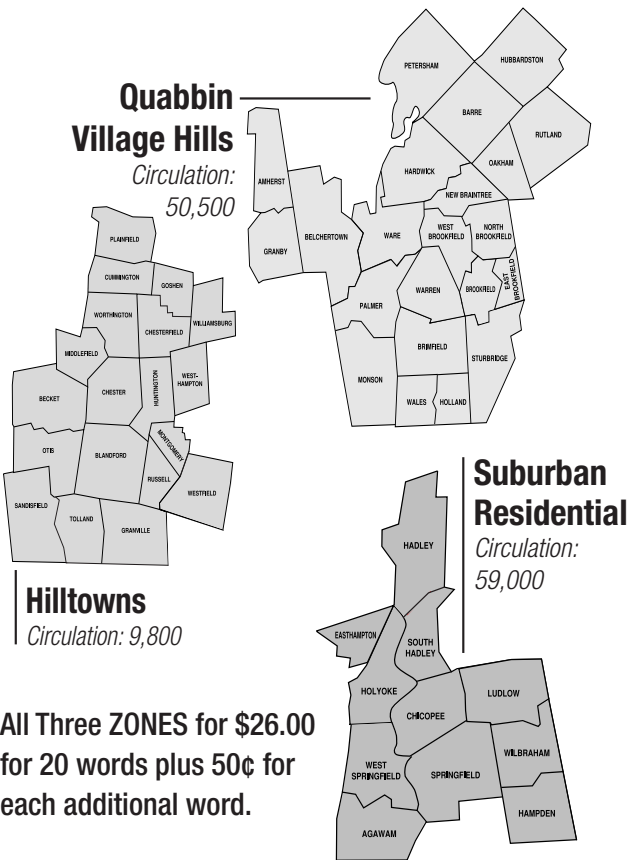
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Second Chance Animal Services receives grant for mobile vehicle

EAST BROOKFIELD – The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals® awarded Second Chance Animal Services a \$150,000 grant to support the purchase of a new Community Support Vehicle, a mobile veterinary unit.

The grant will help Second Chance Animal Services fund this important capacity-building initiative, allowing veterinary teams to bring preventive and basic veterinary care directly into more communities, assisting pet owners, and supporting programs that help keep pets healthy, at home, and out of shelters. The mobile veterinary unit will extend the reach of Second Chance’s community programs, serving pets and families across the region.

“Access to veterinary care should never depend on a family’s ability to travel or overcome transportation barriers,” said Sheryl Blancato, Chief Executive Officer of Second Chance Animal Services. “We are incredibly grateful to the ASPCA for this generous investment. This Community Support Vehicle will allow us to provide basic veterinary care on the road and connect pets needing more advanced treatment to our hospitals. Together, these services help keep pets healthy with the

families who love them, and out of shelters.”

“Lack of access to affordable veterinary care is among the top reasons families are forced to make the heartbreaking decision to relinquish their pet to a shelter,” said Karen Walsh, vice president of animal relocation at the ASPCA. “The ASPCA is honored to provide Second Chance Animal Services with grant funding for a new mobile veterinary vehicle to expand their lifesaving work providing critical veterinary care to the community and helping to keep animals healthy and in loving homes.”

For more than 16 years, Second Chance Animal Services has been meeting pets and families where they are through community outreach programs designed to remove barriers to veterinary care. The new mobile veterinary unit will build upon those efforts by tripling the capacity to bring clinics directly into underserved neighborhoods, assisting pet owners who may not be able to travel to veterinary hospitals, and supporting community-based programs that help prevent unnecessary pet surrender.

The vehicle will be on the road at low-cost vaccine clinics across the state. In addition, it will be instrumental in the nonprofit’s Homebound



Submitted photo

Second Chance Animal Services received a \$150,000 grant to purchase a new community support vehicle, a mobile veterinary unit.

to the Rescue program which brings veterinary care at low- cost or no-cost to senior and low-income communities.

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